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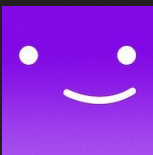
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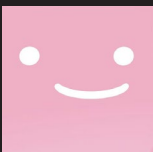


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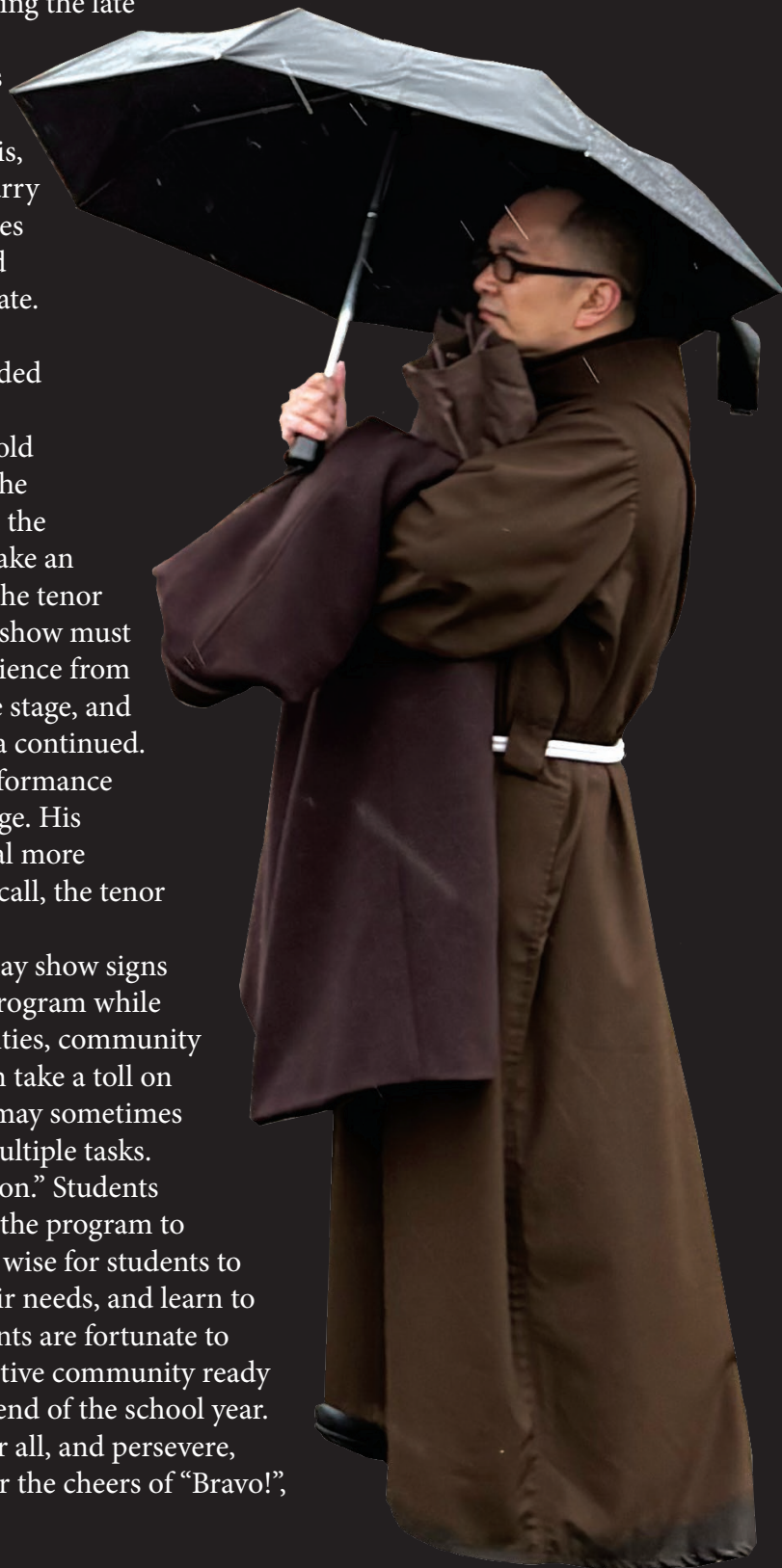
“THE SHOW MUST GO ON!”

By: Father Zoy Garibay

In March 2015, while spending winter break with my family on the East Coast, I traveled to New York City to see a performance of Verdi's Don Carlo at the Metropolitan Opera at Lincoln Center. Don Carlo is a grand opera known for its spectacle, unsurpassed drama, and sublime music. The story of Don Carlo is set in 16th-century Spain during the late Renaissance and the height of the Spanish Inquisition. It tells of King Philip II and his son, Don Carlo, who are at odds over the love of the same woman: Elisabeth de Valois, who truly loves Carlo but was forced to marry the king. It is a powerful drama that explores themes of love and sacrifice, friendship and loyalty, and conflict between church and state.

During the fourth act, I noticed the tenor struggling with his singing. His voice sounded strained. He seemed to be intermittently short of breath. He could barely reach or hold the high notes. Before the final act began, the General Manager stepped out from behind the curtain and stood on the proscenium to make an announcement. He told the audience that the tenor was ill but wanted to continue because the show must go on. He asked for understanding and patience from the audience. The General Manager left the stage, and the audience burst into applause. The opera continued. The tenor bravely barreled through his performance with support from his fellow singers on stage. His struggle even made his character's portrayal more convincing. In the end, during the curtain call, the tenor received a standing ovation.

After seven months in school, students may show signs of struggle. Fulfilling the demands of the program while balancing academics, extracurricular activities, community life, prayer, ministry, and personal time can take a toll on their physical and emotional health. They may sometimes appear drained or barely able to manage multiple tasks. But as the saying goes, “The show must go on.” Students must meet the requirements and complete the program to advance to the next grade or graduate. It is wise for students to recognize their struggles, acknowledge their needs, and learn to seek help. At St. Lawrence Seminary, students are fortunate to have an understanding, caring, and supportive community ready to help them as they barrel through to the end of the school year. When students are determined, give it their all, and persevere, they can ultimately enjoy the applause, hear the cheers of “Bravo!”, and find satisfaction in a job well done.



H CELEBRATING CATHOLIC EDUCATION

By: Conner Mills ('27)

Catholic Schools Week celebrates the importance of Catholic education in shaping the hearts, minds, and spirit of the students. SLS celebrated Catholic Schools Week on Friday, January 30th by celebrating a special mass and hosting an SLS community banquet to honor its dedicated staff. Awards were handed out to the staff based on their number of years of service, with the longest serving being Mr. Dave Bartel ('78) and Mr. Lou Wappel, each with more than 35 years of dedication. When asked why he has devoted so many years to SLS, Mr. Bartel stated, "It's because of my belief in the school's mission and that student's resolve to be part of that mission." When asked the same question, Mr. Lou said, "Because I enjoyed sharing art, literature, and music through my teaching. And because of that, I'm glad to have my classroom in the basement, far from the other classes, so we do not disturb others while doing strange things like singing." After eleven years, one of SLS's most committed leaders, Father Zoy Garibay is completing his final year at SLS. He shared, "This final year is bittersweet. I enjoyed working with the staff to help students in their faith the most. It's a collaborative effort with all the staff, including the nurses, spiritual directors, guidance teachers, and benefactors." In all their years of service, these individuals remind us that the heart of SLS lies in the people who give so generously of themselves

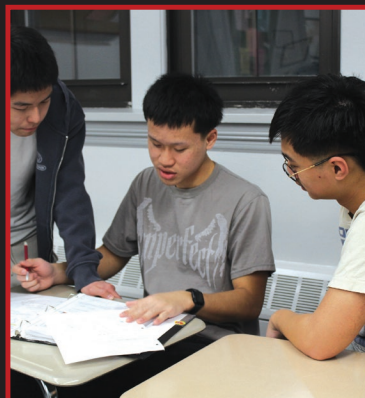


THE SHOW OF HONOR

By: Alan Mora ('26)

St. Lawrence Seminary always encourages its students to try their best. Even then, there may be moments when they encounter a problem or assignment that requires extra support. That is where the members of the National Honor Society (NHS) come in, an organization which recognizes junior and senior students who demonstrate the traits of scholarship, leadership, character, and service.

Every year, a select group of faculty members meet to consider possible applicants for the prestigious program. A student must have at least a 3.3 GPA or higher and have shown acts of leadership and responsibility to apply. When an SLS student is inducted into the NHS, the new member undertakes responsibilities that include assisting and tutoring fellow students, supervising the Breakfast Club, and offering individual tutoring outside of school hours. During the induction ceremony, several senior students delivered speeches about what it means to be members of the NHS, highlighting the four traits. Mrs. Katie Daane, Dean of Studies and SLS English teacher was the guest speaker and shared her own definition of an NHS member. She commented, "By recognizing leadership among the students helps not only those students being recognized but also the rest of the student body to have someone to look up to." As new members take on their responsibilities, they help continue the tradition of scholarship, leadership, character, and service at St. Lawrence Seminary.



SEMINARIAN SWEETNESS

By: Donovan Blattner ('28) & Jonah Lim ('26')

As winter begins to fade and the snow slowly melts away, students at St. Lawrence gear up for the annual Maple Syrup Project. Now in its seventh year, the project has become a cherished tradition that gives students the opportunity to experience the hands-on process of making maple syrup. Any student interested can participate. The process is supervised by Mr. Anthony Van Asten ('01), English teacher, who has much personal experience to help guide the students.

Typically, the project begins about a week before Winter Break with the tapping of the maple trees and continues for about four weeks. Each day, participating students collect sap from the trees that have been tapped. They then bring the sap back to the boiler, where it is cooked and boiled down into syrup. Finally, they filter the syrup until it is pure and golden, and then it is ready for bottling. Reflecting on the project, Mr. Van Asten shared, "The most interesting part of the project is sharing one of my favorite hobbies with students who might not have the chance to do this."

Seamus McCarthy ('26) said that "Being part of the Maple Syrup Project allows me to use God's creation the way it was intended. It is also a great gift to share with friends and family, and it is a unique skill to have." Students are rewarded for their participation with bottles of maple syrup, based on how often they help. The students also design their own labels, adding a creative, personal touch to each bottle. This is about more than just the final product, the project brings students together and strengthening friendships through shared work and a deepen sense of community.



DANCING AND DREAMING

By: Tam Tran ('28)

As the winter season comes to an end, students at SLS are brimming with anticipation. Some look forward to sports; others just want to enjoy the weather. However, for those involved in the annual school play, there is a different kind of anticipation. This year, a musical, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* returns, nearly two decades after it last took the stage at SLS. *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* is a through-composed musical that retells the story of Joseph the Dreamer from the Book of Genesis. The musical features a soundtrack that spans an extensive mix of musical genres such as rock and roll, calypso, and jazz. Audiences can also look forward to inventive interpretations of biblical figures such as Joseph's brothers and the Pharaoh.

Under the direction of Mrs. Andrea School, Mr. Daniel Matthew ('15) as musical director, and Mr. Martin Vu ('17) as choreographer, the students rehearse daily to refine their dances and songs in preparation for opening night. The SLS maintenance staff has also been working hard to build stage props, and Mrs. G. (Mrs. School's mother) has been laboring on all the unique costumes for the show. Paul Nguyen ('28), a student involved in the musical, stated, "This musical definitely takes a lot of work, but it's fun to watch everyone learn and really immerse themselves in their roles." Preparing for a musical is no easy task; however, the Hilltoppers are working hard to deliver a performance that promises to be a blast.



ORIGINAL WILLKOMMEN ZURÜCK!

March, 2026

By: Jonah Lim ('26)

▶ PLAY

+ MY LIST



On March 6th, Fr. Zoy Garibay, Rector and Mr. David Naegele, the German teacher, and nine students embarked on a journey to North Rhine Westphalia, Germany, as part of the school's annual exchange program. The group had been learning German for several years and wanted to use what they had learned from class. They traveled to the village of Ostbevern to attend the Collegium Johanneum Gymnasium, also known as "die Loburg." During their stay, students attended classes, deepened their understanding of German culture, and experienced daily life at our partner school. Each student was welcomed by a host family, where he had the opportunity to immerse himself in a different culture and experience German life firsthand.

Throughout the week, the students attended classes at die Loburg alongside their German hosts. They also visited several English classes, where students from different grade levels interviewed them about what life in America is like. By following their hosts' schedules and participating in different subjects, the students were able to observe how German schools operate and compare them with their own school experience. This immersion helped them strengthen their language skills and gain a deeper understanding of the culture.

Outside of the classroom, the group participated in a variety of activities with their host families and classmates. Students spent time playing sports, baking waffles, and exploring the surrounding area. These experiences helped them build friendships with their German peers and create lasting memories. Alan Dominguez ('27) said, "Going to Germany was a major culture shock for me. My favorite parts of the trip were spending time with my host by going to the Münster Fair, visiting a castle, and walking around a lot."

On Wednesday, the group visited the Capuchin community in Münster, where they learned more about the Capuchin ministries in Germany. On Thursday, they traveled to Cologne, one of the country's most renowned cities. There, they explored the city and received a guided tour of the Cologne Cathedral. Decklan Stier ('28') mentioned, "This was my first time traveling outside of the country. Exploring Cologne blew my expectations especially the cathedral which was massive and very intricate." Overall, the exchange program was a meaningful and enriching experience, which strengthened the partnership between the two schools while also leaving an impact on all who went.





1. THE AIRPORT

Our Hilltoppers begin their journey to the land of Germany.



2. NEW TRADITIONS

The group of students attend classes and learn about German culture.



3. BACK TO THE HILL

After a long journey throughout Germany, our students return to the Hill of Happiness.



STAY TUNED!



By: Khan Nguyen (26')

It's the time of year when SLS students showcase their musical talents., The 2026 District Solo & Ensemble competition was held at St. Mary Springs High School in Fond du Lac. The event is a major high school musical competition involving hundreds of students from 15 area schools. Each musician presents either an instrumental or vocal performance in pursuit of qualifying for the state level.

SLS students spent several months preparing for this event, working during their 5th and 9th periods, and dedicating time outside of school. With the support of SLS's music director, Mr. Danny Matthew ('15), many students reached new heights in their respective areas. Mateo Padron ('29), played the trombone and stated, "Preparing myself for Solo & Ensemble has made me become a better instrumentalist." During the event, students performed their pieces in front of a judge who gave helpful and insightful feedback on their performances. During the day, many fellow SLS students sat in and enjoyed watching other Hilltoppers perform and cheered them on. Numerous students were recognized for their efforts, with 20 of the 54 pieces entered advancing to the state level.

New this year, each class decided to create their own vocal ensembles, combining students from both the band and the choir, and spent considerable time practicing. Each ensemble, as hoped, earned a spot at the state level. Theom Sajeev ('27), a member of the Junior ensemble, exclaimed that he had great fun singing with his fellow classmates from the band. Additionally, Eliseo Guzman ('29) commented, "Singing with my classmates low-key made us bond a little more." This year's District Solo & Ensemble competition was a great success for SLS students overall. Many students were able to demonstrate their musical ability and were rewarded for their hard work.



GET SET, GO!

By: Luke Joseph (27')

As spring approaches, so do spring sports! Here at SLS, there is a variety of different spring sports to choose from, one of them being track and field. Both new and returning students look forward to the track season for the thrill of competition, achievement of personal records, and overall team bonding. Track has different competitive athletic events that focus specifically on running, jumping, and throwing. The track coach here at SLS is Mr. Phil McCabe. For training, Mr. McCabe has his athletes do various running drills, as well as plyometrics. The distance runners, sprinters, jumpers, and hurdlers do specific drills that help with each of their respective events. These drills help the SLS track athletes to perform well during meets, which are quite long and typically range from 4 to 5 hours in duration. Mr. McCabe's goal for this year's track season is for the returning athletes to improve from last year and for the new athletes, it is to support them so they can give it their best effort. He says, "As long as I keep seeing improvement, that's a win." All that's left now is to hit the starting line and let the season's excitement run.



SWINGING INTO SPRING

By: Ethan Thomas (26')

"It's going, it's going, it's gone!" With the crack of the bat and the arrival of warm spring weather, baseball season is finally here. Baseball remains a classic American pastime, with teams competing to score runs by connecting the bat with a ball and advancing around the bases in hopes of reaching home plate to score a run for the team. The game is filled with quick moments of action, careful strategy, and, at times, a slower pace. As Coach Matthew Bahr explains, baseball is made up of "short bursts of intensity broken up with long defensive battles." Team chemistry plays an important role in any sport, and at SLS, many players come from diverse backgrounds - something that can make building a cohesive team more challenging. Coach Bahr noted that many players begin with little knowledge of the game, but over time they learn from one another and improve together. As the season begins, the team looks forward to strengthening their skills, building unity, and seeing what this year on the field will bring.



A NEW MINISTRY

By: Joshua Choi ('26)

Ministry is a cornerstone of St. Lawrence Seminary students and reflects deeply on the school's commitment to service. Among the many ministry opportunities offered to students, one of the most popular is the St. Francis Home ministry. The ministry takes place on Fridays and is reserved primarily for upperclassmen. It offers juniors and seniors a special opportunity to engage with the home's residents, connecting with them and providing entertainment through a variety of activities. Rung Thang ('26) commented on his time there saying, "I really enjoyed seeing the smiles we bring to the residents faces." A game that is often played with the residents is Bunco, a dice game involving 2 dice and a lot of luck. Chris Vu ('26), visited the home and reflected, "Signing up for this ministry helped me take a break from school, while still allowing me to help others, and it was fun being able to play Bunco with the residents."

While other SLS ministries students participate as an individual, the St. Francis Home ministry is a group effort: everybody plays together, building a sense of community with the residents. One resident

commented that she thinks the students have as much fun as the residents. This ministry has been a wonderful addition to the SLS ministry program, bringing joy to residents and students alike while giving students a chance to relax and connect with others.



AWAITED SEQUELS

By: Christopher Vu (26')

Second semester brought back alumnus Mr. Micah Wood ('24). He returns to the Hill as a residential supervisor. In addition to aiding in the supervision of student in the dormitories, he works the canteen counter, supervises the library during evening study hall, and watches over St. Fidelis Hall. He also served as the assistant varsity basketball coach. When asked about what brought him back, he said, "I came back to SLS because my college tuition was raised and I needed to take a break to help raise funds to cover costs." As an alumnus, Mr. Wood continues to give back to SLS, helping with supervision around the campus and contributing his time to extracurricular programs.



By: Yubal Vazquez (28')

From behind the curtain of Green Bay, Wisconsin, Mr. Peter Hall ('19) was called back to SLS. As a former student, his return was hardly unusual — the Hill is famous for drawing alumni back. But unfortunately, there are several missing chapters in his tale. After graduation Mr. Hall headed down to Florida to play football for Ave Maria University. Upon his return to Green Bay, he finished his college career and returned to SLS for a year as a dorm supervisor. One particularly important milestone since graduation was his marriage last summer.

His happiness strongly encouraged his decision to return to his Alma Mater once again. He returned to the Admissions Department, as an Admissions Coordinator, where he is actively recruiting future Hilltoppers. "I'd like to keep building for SLS's future glory," he explains. In the future, Mr. Hall hopes to continue to work in educational leadership. "In life, it is great to move on from things you are comfortable with, but it's even better when you can circle back to where it all started and give back."



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