

Sons of Calvary



St. Lawrence Seminary Alumni Magazine

Volume 1 Issue 1

Winter 2015

Inside this issue:

Why I Sent My Son To SLS

The New

St. Anthony

Changes for St. Mary's Hall

What's coming for St. Joseph's Hall

Prepared for College

and much more!

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Editor’s Note	4
Anthony Van Asten ‘01	
From the Rector’s Desk	5
Fr. John Holly ‘71	
Sending My Son To SLS	6
Eric Boos ‘83	
The New Face of St. Anthony	8
Anthony Van Asten ‘01	
Reimagining St. Mary’s	12
Kevin Buelow ‘98	
Replacing an Icon: St. Joseph	16
Timothy Schroeder ‘93	
Hero’s Heroes	20
Kamsi Nwanebo ‘16	
Sebastian Vervaeck ‘00	
Surviving the Winter	21
Kevin Dang ‘16	
Ready for Anything	22
Aditya Alphonso ‘12	
Fooling the Freshmen of ‘54	23
Fr. Bob Wheelock ‘56	
Staff	
Francisco Saucedo ‘02	
Deann Sippel	
Sebastian Vervaeck ‘00	
Photographers	
Bill Burge ‘85	
Craig Hostetler ‘05	
Andrew Nguyen ‘15	
Anthony Van Asten ‘01	
Contact us:	
sonsofcalvary@stlawrence.edu	



Editor's Note



St. Lawrence Seminary has a rich history of which you and I are a part. As sons of Calvary, the roots of our spiritual foundation are buried in the soil on this Hill, though our blossoms may be far away. As such, our spirituality is intertwined with that of the men who have come before us and will be intertwined with those who are yet burgeoning. We are all sons of Calvary—we have a common history and a common identity.

Sons of Calvary has two objectives: it is meant to help you reminisce on your days on this Hill as well as to keep you abreast of what is happening on the Hill today. Past and future. Nostalgia and promise. To do so we will feature stories of history and memory as well as change and progress. I hope you enjoy these articles; I hope they help you recall a carefree adolescence and give you reassurance in the future of the Church.

-Anthony Van Asten '01



Check out the *Sons of Calvary* video series to catch a glimpse of life on campus today!

www.stlawrenceseminary.org/sons-of-calvary

From the Rector's Desk

Welcome! This first issue of *Sons of Calvary* carries on a tradition but also hopes to move us ahead with up-to-date stories of the people and places of SLS from literally all over the world.

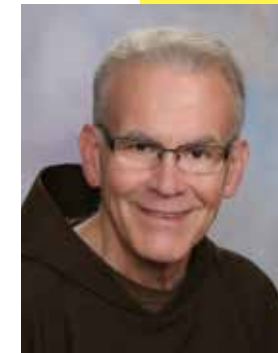
Our new editor, Anthony Van Asten, is a member of our faculty, teaching Freshman and Junior English. I'm grateful to Anthony for agreeing to take on this responsibility. I look forward to the work he will do to keep all of us informed.

The Hill is a busy place these days and, often, the sounds of construction equipment drowns out even the loudest among us. Workers are demolishing the interior of St. Mary Hall while at the same time they are re-bricking the exterior and building an addition, primarily to expand the junior dorm.

As we move toward the first anniversary of the St. Joseph Hall fire, we will gather on March 6th to break ground for the new hall.

Thank you for your support of St. Lawrence. I hope you enjoy this issue of *Sons of Calvary*!

-Fr. John Holly '71





SENDING MY SON TO SLS

by: Eric Boos '83

For most of my adult life, I didn't think there could be anything better than having been a student (79-83) and a teacher (92-95) at St. Lawrence Seminary. I was wrong. There is something better than having attended and taught at SLS, and that's having my son, Zebadiah (Class of 2016), attend SLS. Words can't express the pride I feel for my son and for my alma mater when I attend a sporting event or a Sunday Mass on the Hill. St. Lawrence Seminary is the most complete education a person can attain. The environment at SLS facilitates the education of the complete human person. It challenges all who are associated with the Seminary, but especially its students, to become better: intellectually, morally, spiritually, physically, emotionally, and socially.

I credit SLS and the Capuchin community for all my success in life. SLS helped me develop the critical thinking skills that have carried me through seven degree programs in higher education and into a career as a college professor, attorney, author, public speaker, and Catholic lay missionary. I have been able to do so many things and accomplish so much precisely because SLS gave me the critical thinking and communications skills to succeed and because it also challenged me spiritually and morally to work for justice in all situations.

The only thing better than having been transformed by SLS is seeing my own son transformed by SLS.

By the structure of its environment as a Catholic seminary and boarding school, SLS helped me develop social

(Left) Eric and Karene Boos with their children Zeb, Lauren, Meredith and Ezekiel at the SLS Christmas concert.

skills and communications skills that have served me well in every situation. I am able to read people, communicate with people, and empathize with them because of my lived experience on the Hill of Happiness. SLS helped me become a well-educated and well-rounded person with an undying concern for achieving peace and justice through the Gospel values. Every day I lived at SLS (as a student and as a faculty member), I was challenged to show patience, practice charity, extend forgiveness, and promote justice. I learned valuable life skills, like how to dialogue across cultural, ethnic, social and economic barriers.

The only thing better than having been transformed by SLS is seeing my own son transformed by SLS. Though I secretly hoped Zeb would choose SLS, I was careful not to push the idea. My constant thirst for justice (instilled by the Capuchin community of SLS) took our family all over the world. And though there was always a connection between our mission work and St. Lawrence, it wasn't until my son saw me interact with former classmates and other alumni that he began to ask about SLS. He sensed in us a bond that was strong and purposeful. Though Calvary grads don't often get "rich" with their Calvary skills, they do get "right." Suffice to say, my son wanted a piece of that action. Once he made the weekend visit, it was a done deal. He bonded with the other weekend visitors, and he has since bonded with all the boys at SLS.

In many ways, his bond is stronger than the one I have with my classmates or former students, and that is because St. Lawrence has improved considerably since I was a student, and even since I was a faculty member. The academic facilities are better; the instruction is better; the curriculum is stronger across the board; and the environment is better. It is better partly because the student body is more diverse and smaller in number. When I was a student, there were over 300 boys. Now, with enrollment around 200, it creates a better environment with more interdependence, more responsibility for each boy, more accountability, and a higher quality of interaction. And like when I was a student, there remains a strong emphasis on social justice and spiritual development, but today's students have even more opportunities for ministry and service to others.

I see my son growing and becoming a well-educated, well-rounded, spiritually strong individual with a commitment to peace and justice through Gospel values, and I am proud, both as a father and as an alum. I am forever grateful to St. Lawrence Seminary and the Capuchin Community for making this unique opportunity available. ■



Explore the St. Lawrence Difference

Schedule a Weekend Visit this Spring!

February 12-15

March 19-22

April 16-19



stlawrence.edu 920-753-7570

This summer, put your FAITH into ACTION



LIVING Faith

St. Lawrence Seminary High School
SUMMER ACTION RETREAT
JUNE 22-25, 2015

\$50/
student

for 7th, 8th and 9th grade boys

mass and prayer
field olympics
outdoor games
team-building activities

Get the details and register by June 17:



stlawrence.edu/retreats
920-753-7570



The New Face of ST. ANTHONY

by: Anthony Van Asten '01

On Friday, December 20th, 2013, every student, faculty and staff member at SLS was hard at work, but not in the classroom. It was the last day of the semester: moving day. As snowflakes flurried about, teams of students carried footlockers, shoes, dressers, books, suitcases, bags and Sunday clothes across campus like ants across an anthill. While the procession outside made its way to St. Francis Hall, teachers and maintenance staff inside disassembled beds and furniture. Students carried the furniture away to awaiting trailers. Before long, the whole building was emptied.

St. Anthony Hall has long served as the first “home away from home” for most of us alumni. It has housed freshmen and sophomores, and occasionally juniors since it was first built in 1959. It is where many of us learned how to tie ties and iron shirts, where we learned how to manage our time, study and live with roommates.

Since 1959 the building has largely remained unchanged. Granted, older alums may recall the three long rows of lockers and beds that ran the length of the building, while younger alums would remember living in more secluded “cubes.” In any event, the building needed a change, inside and out, for both cosmetic and





structural reasons.

Now there is much about St. Anthony Hall you would no longer recognize.

The project was designed by the architecture firm Uhlein-Wilson and the building handled by the construction company C.D. Smith. Being much more than a renovation, the project required the building to be vacant for many months. In the hopes that the dorms would be ready at the start of the 2014-2015 school year, the freshmen and sophomores had to move out. They took over St. Francis Hall as the seniors moved into St. Clare's Guesthouse for their final semester on campus.

The contractors had only eight months. They began by gutting and remodeling the interior, as well as cutting holes for the new windows. Despite the uncharacteristically frigid temperatures of last winter, they began digging and laying the foundation for the addition long before the ground thawed.

When fire destroyed St. Joseph Hall, it displaced a number of offices and classrooms. With St. Anthony Hall under construction, usable campus space was reduced by two buildings. Conditions were tight. As promised, though, St. Anthony Hall was ready on time for the start of the 2014-2015 school year.

The most notable change to the building is the entrance: a sleek, curving, asymmetrical design stacked with glass. This new entrance juts into the courtyard

between St. Anthony and St. Thomas Halls. Though the addition adds no more residential space for students, it does afford them more amenities. In the lounges, for example, students enjoy the view from this curved bank of windows. Each dorm has a kitchenette, new bathrooms and separate laundry facilities. The addition and renovation also allowed the construction of a second supervisor's apartment per dormitory.

The students also enjoy many subtle features of the new dorm. There is more privacy now, as each room has four walls (though no door). Additionally, the windows in each cube now extend far enough down that students can actually see out of them. The wooden lockers have been replaced with dressers, meaning the walls between cubes are thinner and more spacious. And there is a built-in sprinkler system throughout the building.

Tony's Place now has several new meeting spaces: places to study, watch TV and play video games, all with wifi connectivity. Additionally, two of the three racquetball courts were combined to make a sizeable basketball half-court.

The whole building, with the rooms, lounges, recreational spaces and amenities, looks and feels more like a modern college dorm. Students still learn how to tie ties and iron shirts here, and with the new St. Anthony Hall, SLS is even more capable of preparing the next generation of SLS alumni for college. ■

The cornerstone for the addition to St. Anthony's was carved from a stone salvaged from St. Joseph's Hall after the fire.



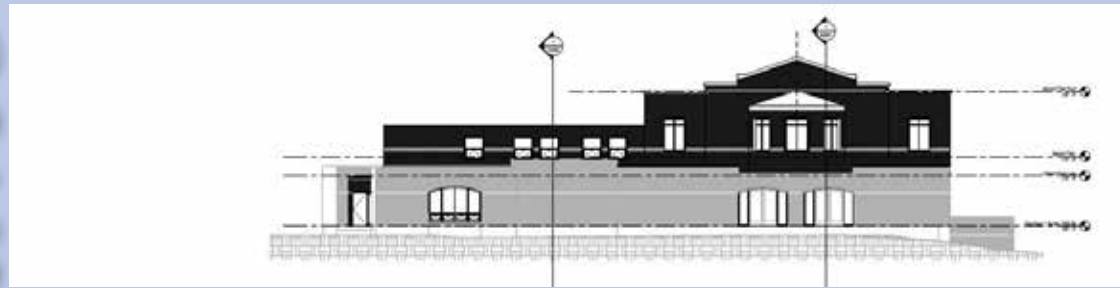
Fr. John blesses the cornerstone to the addition at a school-wide ceremony.



TAKE A VIRTUAL TOUR OF THE NEW ST. ANTHONY'S HALL!



Then and now: St. Anthony's bathroom and living quarters, circa 1960 and today.



REIMAGINING ST. MARY'S

by: Kevin Buelow '98

The year 1951 is etched into the cornerstone of St. Mary's Hall. While the cornerstone has weathered the years well, there are many components of the building that have deteriorated with age.

Time has necessitated that some work be done. So St. Lawrence Seminary has partnered with Uhlein- Wilson Architects from Milwaukee in re-envisioning St. Mary's Hall as they did with St. Anthony Hall. Many people met many times to create a plan to completely remodel the building.

The solution?
An addition that will create roughly 4,200 square feet of new space on each floor.

The discussions included the need to create a dormitory area for the junior class that allows for similar space as the freshmen and sophomores now enjoy. The solution? An addition that will create roughly 4,200 square feet of new space on each floor. The addition will lie to the building's northeast corner.

The renovated and expanded dorm will now house laundry facilities, a larger lobby, a study area and a kitchenette, while the additional space on the main floor will allow for the creation of meeting room space and an enlarged refectory. Additional bathrooms will also be added on the main level to accommodate the meeting rooms and refectory.

The fire that destroyed St. Joseph Hall displaced many departments on campus. The addition to St. Mary's Hall allows the development office to relocate to the lower level of the remodeled building.



The addition is being made to the northwest corner of the building, adding over 4,000 sq. feet to each level. This is the floorplan for the junior dormitory.



St. Mary's Hall over the years: (Counter-clockwise from top) Artist rendering of St. Mary's Hall with its new facade; St. Mary's Hall this winter with cut-outs for the additions; St. Mary's Hall as it appeared this fall-as most alumni would remember it-prior to the beginning of renovation and construction; and St. Mary's Hall circa 1960.





ing. This level will also now house the student publications office, the student health office and the junior study hall.

Preliminary work began this past summer in the refectory, with workers installing a new serving line, salad bar, and beverage stations; the work continued in the fall with brick removal on the southern and eastern exterior walls.

Beginning in January, full scale construction commenced as crews from C.D. Smith Construction Services and many subcontractors moved into the building. The juniors have been relocated during construction into St. Anthony Hall and the guest house, and other offices that were housed in St. Mary's Hall have found new temporary homes. The refectory and kitchen will remain usable throughout most of the school year.

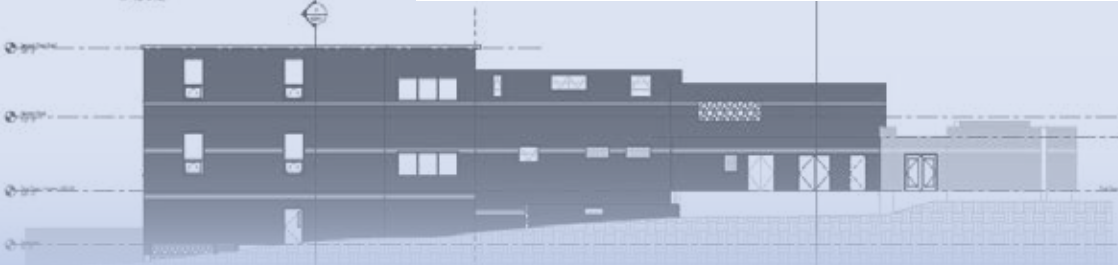
The new St. Mary's Hall will reopen in late 2015, in time for second semester. ■

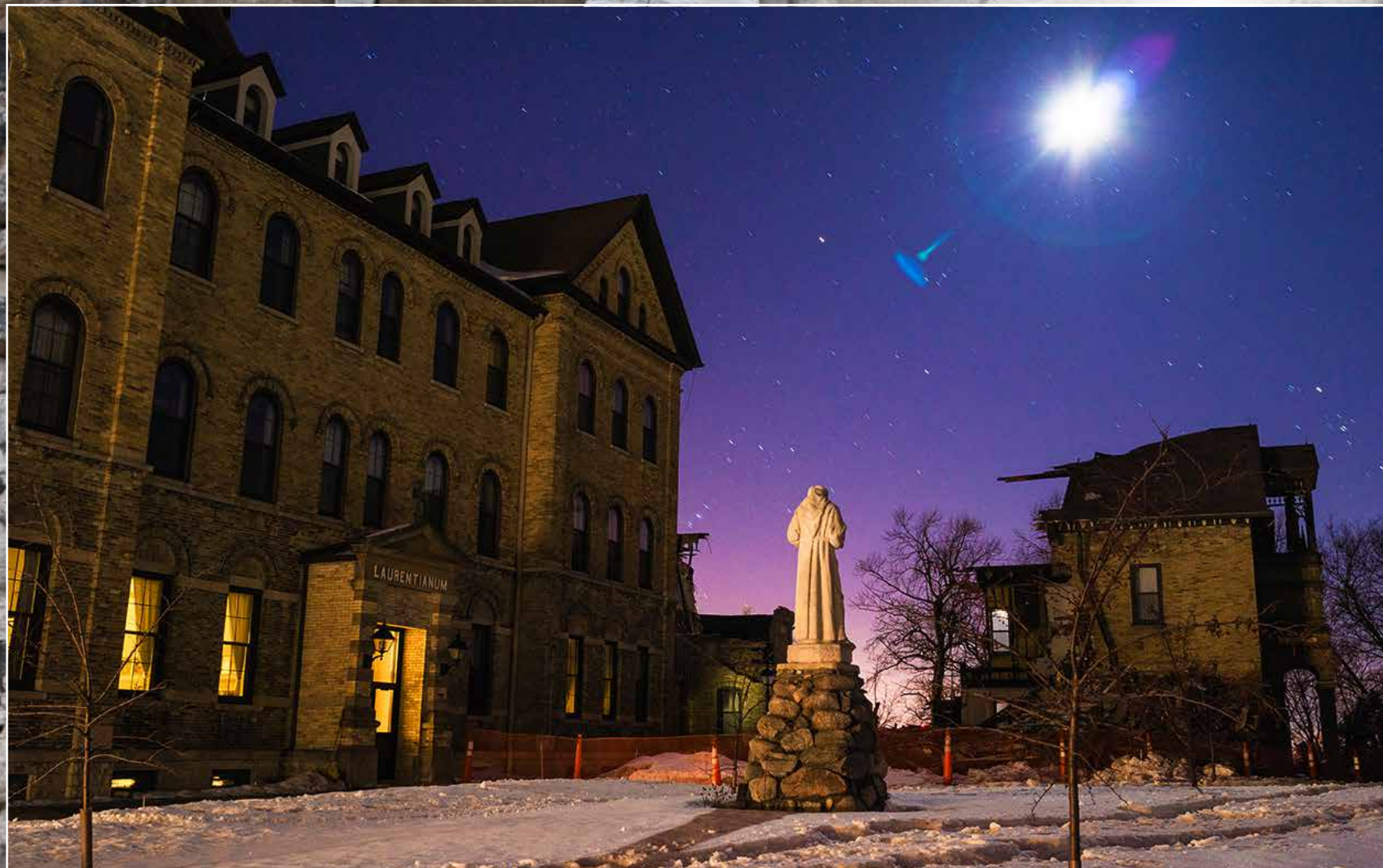
(Top) The initial construction project in 1951.
(Left) The remodel and new construction this winter.
(Bottom) The junior dorm will feature many more windows.

(Top to bottom) Workers remove the old cladding and replace it with new brick.



(Top to bottom) Workers scrape, dig, pour and build the foundation for the addition.





REPLACING AN ICON

BY: TIMOTHY SCHROEDER '93

March 8, 2014, was a tragic day for the SLS community as campus fire alarms sounded, emergency vehicles and their sirens echoed throughout the countryside, and students, staff, local residents and alumni gaped at the sight of St. Joseph Hall being consumed and lost to flames. In all, 41 area fire departments assisted in fighting, containing and preventing the fire from spreading to our beloved Laurentianum. It is estimated that almost 500,000 gallons of water were used to stop the fire. Through the Lord's protection, no one was injured. For this, we all give thanks.

The immediate days following the blaze were fast paced, emotional and challenging for all on the Hill. Extensive smoke and water damage

throughout the Laurentianum required quick analysis and action on relocating all offices and classrooms. Within 24 hours professional remediation crews were onsite and hard at work. Within several weeks the entire building had been professionally cleaned, all carpets removed and replaced, all walls cleaned and repainted, HVAC infrastructure replaced, computer

servers replaced, temporary office space created, and so much more. Crews labored day and night to bring the Laurentianum back to safety and operational standards. When the students returned from their Winter Break, they returned to their classrooms. For this, we all give thanks.

Attention quickly turned to the question, "What next?" SLS administration knew the importance of re-

building. St. Joseph Hall housed essential ministry programs – band and choir, spiritual direction, development (fundraising), accounting/human resources/finance, and both marketing and admissions. At the same time, the SLS administration knew the dangers of rushing and acting emotionally. Building for building's sake would not be prudent and would not be a wise use of benefactor gifts. The conscious decision was to slow down, reassess the tragic events and employ the services of a professional architectural firm – Uihlein-Wilson Architects. Countless listening sessions, feasibility groups and meetings took place. Points and counter-points were shared. Discussion, analysis, updates and changes took place. Changes upon the changes even occurred. For this and for patience, we all give thanks.

I am pleased to update that the Seminary's patience appears to be forming an exciting final product.

A new St. Joseph Hall will be built. The ground breaking will be March 6, 2015 – just two days shy of the one year anniversary. For this, we give thanks.

So what can we, as alumni members, along with the future alumni, expect with the new building?

For starters, the building will afford the community a "front door" that is easily identifiable, accessible to all and inviting to guests. The exterior will pay homage to the classic style of the Laurentianum yet also provide a warm and inviting contemporary feel by connecting the building to the Laurentianum. Another key element is that the building will be larger. Current draft plans call for an approximate 29,000 square foot structure. The prior building was a bit over 20,000 square feet. Mechanical systems will be installed that achieve high efficiency to create low energy consumption for electrical, heating and water.

An exciting design element is that the new building will bring new instructional space and several new science labs. The new space allows the Seminary to enhance its academics and meet the demands of today's curriculum and college preparatory needs. Once completed, all classrooms, excluding physical education — of course—will be housed between the new St. Joseph Hall and Laurentianum. Like the former St.

Firefighters battle the blaze as an excavator demolishes the building to rout out hotspots. (Below) The band room piano sits amid the rubble.



BUILDING TOMORROW'S CHURCH



SCAN TO WATCH THE FIRE VIDEO



OR LEARN MORE AT

stlawrenceseminary.org/saint-joseph-hall



Joseph Hall, the building will house Spiritual Director offices, which will benefit each student in his discernment process. Both the Seminary's marketing and admissions and accounting/human resources and finance function will reside in the new building as well. Remembering our past is essential. Elements of the St. Francis mural along with a new Heritage room will be incorporated within the design. For all of this, we give thanks to God.

Some have asked about insurance. I am pleased to share that the Seminary's insurance provider has been collaborative and helpful ever since the day the fire occurred. However, in any such situation, insurance has its limits. Undoubtedly, additional fundraising will need to happen to offset the project's overall costs. As building plans become more finalized and the contractor bids are received and accepted, fundraising and giving opportunities will arise. In the meantime, we give thanks... ahead of time.

Please be on the lookout for updates, pictures and further information not only through *Sons of Calvary* but through the St. Lawrence Seminary High School Facebook page, Twitter, alumni email blasts and the mail. ■

Most of the school's and students' instruments were lost in the fire, along with equipment and music.

In response, SLS received flutes, clarinets, trumpets, trombones, saxophones, drums and cymbals from more than 70 donors.

Seven pianos have been donated, including a 1919 Steinway grand.

Area schools, both public and private, raised money for our program at various concerts. Others gave music stands, music and money.



(Left) What had been St. Joseph's Hall (right) is now-vacant space temporarily being used as a parking lot.



Renderings of the new St. Joseph Hall from the east (above) and west (below). The building will be four stories tall and will connect to the Laurentianum at every level.

HERO'S HEROES

STORIES OF STUDENT STRIFE AND SUCCESS



Despite never having played soccer before, Anthony Coompson '15 was named 1st Team All-Conference. He explains how...

Q: What were your reasons for joining the soccer team?

A: At first I wasn't sure of whether or not I wanted to do soccer, but with a little push from my classmates, I decided that I had to help support the team, this being my senior year.

Q: Could you describe your role as "sweeper"?

A: A sweeper is often called a "non-glory" position. Your job isn't to try and score goals but rather to try and keep the defense locked in order to prevent the other team from scoring.



Senior Anthony Coompson deftly stops an advance on the goal.

Q: How would you explain the rapid growth of your ability despite little practice?

A: I had a little experience from playing pickup games of soccer. Once I joined the team, I worked hard on and off the field in order to improve.

Q: What are your thoughts regarding your selection for 1st Team All-Conference?

A: Throughout the season, I never expected myself to get any rewards for my efforts. Once I read about it in the newspaper, I felt both surprised and nonchalant at the same time. I was happy that I received recognition but I feel my lack of surprise was due to the fact that I attributed everything to my hard work.

Q: What advice would you give underclassmen preparing for next year's soccer season?

A: In order for your team to win, you have to be a selfless person. You should always remember that you're playing as a team; it's not an individual sport. You have to set aside your differences for the sake of the team. ■

by: Kamsi Nwanebo '16

Soccer Season Re-cap:

The 2014 soccer season got off to the worst start in program history. This was due, in part, to starting our season almost two weeks later than most other schools in the state as well as facing a series of non-conference opponents from higher divisions early on. Nevertheless, the team was able to pull together in the second half of the season and end with a respectable 10-9 record and 5th Regional Championship. ■

by: Sebastian Vervaeck '00
Assistant Varsity Soccer Coach



Watch the team win the regional championship for the 5th time in program history!

Save the Date: Saturday, September 19th
2015 Alumni Reunion at the
38th Hilltopper Cross Country Invitational

How Did You Ever Survive the Winter?

by: Kevin Dang '16

Throughout the annals of St. Lawrence Seminary history, there are three constants: Capuchins, young men (or boys hoping to become young men) and ungodly temperatures that go beyond the definition of "cold." But even though being cold isn't fun, students have always found ways to have fun in the cold. In the gym, hoops swishing and soccer balls being kicked are common sounds that are met with the aroma of pizzas baking in the canteen downstairs.

But the fun isn't limited to the indoors; throwing snowballs, building snowmen and sledding down the massive hills on campus are common pastimes for the Hilltoppers. Creating an atmosphere of friendly (and cold) competition, Winter Carnival is a tradition on campus. For 42 years it has helped students and faculty break out of the winter blues and enjoy the cold. So how did you ever survive the winter at SLS? ■



Over the years students have found many ways to stay busy during the long winter months. What was your favorite way to keep active?

Ready For Anything... Even College *by: Aditya Alphonso '12*

I had never considered myself a particularly risky person. As a child, I often shied away from the more adventurous ice cream flavors, avoided any and all roller coasters at theme parks, and stayed within my clique all through ten years of my schooling in Dubai. The summer after my sophomore year of high school my dad met a friend whose son attended SLS and an opportunity arose for me to leave Dubai and move to Wisconsin – a place I had only heard of because of the TV comedy *That 70s Show* – for the last two years of my high school life. For some unknown reason, I decided to take the risk and I confidently believe that it changed my life forever.

I arrived at SLS not knowing what to expect and what I found was incredible. I was surrounded by people from places I knew nothing about, playing sports I had never played before, studying things I had never considered studying and finding a spiritual environment that I had never found before. In due time I visited Milwaukee, learned how to shoot a basketball, dipped into the amazing world of post-Classical humanities and I un-

derstood what it meant to be in touch with myself and with God. I adapted to the environment and the people welcomed me. My teachers and my peers supported me in everything I did; they were the ones who took me to their homes, taught me about the sports I'd never played, helped me with the work I did not know how to do and showed me how to look inside myself and reflect. I cannot attach a value to the things I learned at SLS, for the experience I had was priceless. Before I knew it I loved ice cream flavors of all kinds, I had been on and loved the

SLS is a school and a community like no other

Raging Bull roller coaster at Six Flags and had no clique but instead friends from all walks of life. More than this article, my testimony to that is my brother, Dhruv Alphonso, who is currently part of the Class of 2016.

SLS is a school and a community like no other – my brothers of 2012 will always be near and dear to me, but eventually it was time to leave. I



am currently in my third successful year of undergraduate education at the Villanova University School of Business. Those years are the reason I am able to take advantage of my college education, as they ensured I arrived at Villanova knowing that I could speak to and relate to anyone from around the world and that I would be ready to face any challenges my peers or my academics would throw at me. Most importantly, my two years at SLS proved that I should be willing and ready to jump at any opportunity that came around, no matter how risky – even maybe the roller coasters at Six Flags in New Jersey. ■

Fooling the Freshmen of '54

by: Fr. Bob Wheelock '56

When I arrived at SLS in 1954 I came as a “special student” as a high school junior. Classes were “first to sixth” because we had four years of high school and two years of college. The “special” student was a student who had not studied any Latin prior to coming to SLS. My bishop sent me to SLS because it had this special program.

The superior of the friars was called Fr. Guardian and his name was Fr. George. Fr. George had the hobby of capturing birds in nets and then banding them and setting them free.

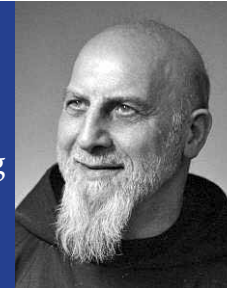
Older students had a dirty trick they pulled on new students and freshmen, especially. They would find one or two freshmen and tell them that Fr. George wanted some students to help him band some birds at the bottom of the Hill near where, at that time, we had a swimming pool.

The perfect time for this was as it was getting dark, because that is when,

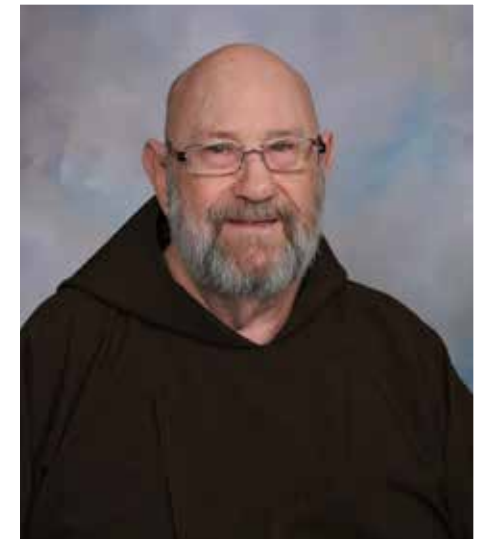
according to the upperclassmen, banding birds was the best. Never mind that night prayers were just minutes away.

The freshmen would be excited about helping Fr. George, so they would go down the Hill to help. Fr. George was not there, of course, and as they looked for him, it got dark and they realized they would be late for night prayers. They nearly trampled each other as they ran up the Hill to keep from being late.

Fr. George had the hobby of capturing birds... banding them and setting them free.



The upper-classmen knew why they were late but the Rector did not. When they told the Rector what had happened he knew that the poor freshmen had been tricked. The Rector was



kind to the frightened freshmen but not so kind to the older students who would get a lecture on not doing that ever again. Nevertheless, we pulled that trick on the freshmen several times in a year.

Almost every student would be one who told the freshmen about Fr. George wanting them to help him, or were one of the freshmen who were sent to the bottom of the Hill. Eventually all the freshmen came to know that Fr. George did not net birds at the bottom of the Hill at night. ■

*Have a memory of campus you'd like to share?
Contact us at: sonsofcalvary@stlawrence.edu*



Aerial photo of campus in the mid-1950s. Note the newly-constructed St. Mary's Hall and the absence of St. Anthony's Hall.

St. Lawrence Seminary presents:



Reconnect with us!
St. Lawrence Seminary Alumni Association



www.stlawrence.edu/alumni/index.php



ST. LAWRENCE
SEMINARY
HIGH SCHOOL

COLLEGE PREP-SPIRITUAL DEPTH

301 CHURCH ST / MT. CALVARY, WI 53057

Nonprofit
US Postage

PAID

St. Lawrence
Seminary
Mt. Calvary, WI

