

The Point News

Director of Public Safety Resigns | Adjusted Campus Farm Bill Passes SGA

By DAVE CHASE & STEVE REES
Managing Editor & News Co-Editor

On Tuesday, April 12, Dean of Students Laura Bayless confirmed that former Director of Public Safety Christopher Santiago is no longer employed with St. Mary's College.

Santiago, who formerly served as the Assistant Director of Campus Safety for Keene State College in New Hampshire, began his work as Director of Public Safety on Sept. 7, 2010, making his tenure just over seven months long.

In an email to Student Affairs, Bayless stated that "Dave Zylak, the former director of Public Safety for St. Mary's County, will be our interim director of public safety as we initiate a search for the new incumbent." Zylak, a former St. Mary's County Sheriff, will officially start on April 25, until which time Bayless will serve as the Interim Director of Public Safety.

According to the Maryland General Assembly website, Zylak, a Democrat, was elected as sheriff of St. Mary's County in 2002 and left office in 2006 after he was defeated by current sheriff Timothy Cameron.

In an interview with *The Point News*, Santiago declined to speak about the situation leading to his resignation, and said, "[the decision] was mutually beneficial for all involved. This is an opportunity to be respectful and professional. It's important to not burn bridges."

Urgo said, "there was no dis-

agreement with Santiago's vision, [and] no clash of principles." He added, "I feel fortunate to know Santiago and I predict he will have a successful career."

Though he confirmed discus-

for Public Safety was right on. I really like Santiago, he has a lot of good skills and knowledge."

Santiago did, however, express his desire to thank the students, staff and faculty of St. Mary's for his time on-campus. "I want to thank [Joseph] Urgo, Dean Bayless and Vice President [of Business and Finance] [Tom] Botzman for their leadership and support and the opportunity to be Director [of Public Safety]" he said, adding, "my decision to leave was mutually best for the College, myself and my family."

Santiago described his decision as, "very difficult," and said, "I poured my heart and soul and all my energy into St. Mary's. I am proud of my accomplishments and have learned from my failures."

He added, "When I came to campus the relationship between [the Public Safety] office and students was strained. I worked hard to change that and I hope students feel I heard them."

"I had a vision and there was a lot of work to be done. I am proud of what I had done. I value myself as an educator and that's a part of being at a higher education institution; we are here for you [students]."

Finally, Santiago wanted to thank the Public Safety staff, "for all their hard work and understanding my vision and being open to change."

He said, "I am most proud of leaving the office better than when

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PHOTO BY STEVE REES

Christopher Santiago resigned as Director of Public Safety on April 14, after a seven-month service with the College that began on Sept. 7 last Fall.

sions had been ongoing within the administration a good deal of time before the seemingly sudden decision occurred, Urgo said he could not comment further since it is College policy not to discuss personnel matters.

Bayless, although similarly not wishing to comment on specifics, said, "much of [Santiago's] vision



PHOTOS COURTESY OF KATE CHANDLER

The Campus Farm currently leases a one-acre plot of land in Historic St. Mary's City that shows productivity throughout the entire year.

By STEVE REES
News Co-Editor

In the last Student Government Association meeting, a bill to expand the funding of the Campus Farm and cover expenses for supplies and summer employment was approved, with changes and contingencies given the current economic difficulties of the SGA this semester.

Co-written by sophomore SGA senator Alex Walls and sophomore senator Becky White, the bill brought to light the current funding situation of the Campus Farm, a quarter-acre of land in Historic St. Mary's City officially established in Spring 2010 to grow a variety of vegetables to be sold to the College community. Established by the Sustainability Committee and former Sustainability Fellow Shane Hall, its goals were two-fold: to offer students an opportunity to learn more about farming and to create a sustainable food source for the College.

The Campus Farm runs year-round, growing vegetables in all seasons (including kale in the winter). This also includes during the summer, when volunteers alongside Associate Professor of English and Environmental Studies Coordinator Kate Chandler continue to maintain the farm until the academic year begins. Volunteers include students on campus, faculty members,

and members of the St. Mary's community outside of the College.

However, a decrease in number of volunteer farmers during the summer makes it more difficult to maintain the summer crops, which die without high maintenance and care. While two paid volunteer students (working part-time) and Chandler were enough to maintain the Farm last summer, the Farm will need funding for the hiring of student managers who can also work to maintain the farm this summer. Every semester, the Campus Farm would request for funds from the Finance Board for Fund Appeals to meet its supply demands. But, this practice will be difficult to maintain in future years.

"[Farmers] were basically going to Finance Board for Fund Appeals every semester," said White, "but as a bigger more expensive enterprise with much more potential than the standard student club, Finance Board wouldn't have been able to keep meeting their needs, and it made more sense for them to get their money elsewhere."

In a presentation before the SGA, Walls, White, and Student Trustee Danny Ruthenberg-Marshall explained that funding for the farm for the entire year costs about \$8300. Each Fall and Spring semester requires \$900 for supplies (\$200 for seeds, \$300 for

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Annual Spring Dance Show



PHOTO BY KEVIN BAIER

On April 7, 8, and 9, the Dance Club performed to their theme "Dance to Your Own Playlist," following an introduction by junior and President Maurielle Stewart. The club's second performance this year, this show featured a large host of genres.

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Graduation Order Back to Being Based On Major

By KYLE JERNIGAN
Editor-in-Chief

An ostensibly minor change to how students line up and receive their degree at graduation has led to a much larger discussion between students and administration regarding how students affiliate themselves in relation to their academics.

The proposed policy, which calls for students to process in alphabetical order, was brought forth by President Joseph Urgo upon reviewing the graduation policy earlier this year. Urgo said, "I want to present St. Mary's College as one student body

... not divided into smaller segments." He added, "I've never seen a small college line up by major."

Urgo also said that the system could help double majors, which he said was an increasing segment of the student population, who were torn between their majors. Shortly after knowledge of the change got to students, however, Urgo said that he received a significant number of emails from students, especially Biology majors, expressing their wish to maintain the original policy, which was to process alphabetically by major, with majors

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ODK Hosts Honor Code Discussion, Leads to Campus Civility Dialogue

By STEVE REES
News Co-Editor

A panel of 27 faculty members, after meeting on Feb. 25 for 70 minutes to discuss overall issues on campus, began a conversation of an honor code and civility that has culminated in an emphasis on the St. Mary's Way, a document all incoming students see during orientation but seems to be less emphasized by the College this year with an increase in disrespect among different groups and disregard for civil behavior among students and faculty in day-to-day interaction.

In an email with subject line "On Civility" sent to students and faculty on March 10, College President Joseph Urgo emphasized a troubling observation: "Simply put, word on the banks of the St. Mary's River is that people are becoming less nice."

While this is something that not all students seem to notice outside of recent conflicts regarding the selling of Chick-fil-A sandwiches at the Daily Grind, overall civility on campus has taken a downturn with a rise in what Urgo called "mean-spiritedness."

Students and faculty alike have shown less attention to one another on campus, with less of that inclusive, personal feel that the campus is known to possess. Given increased property damage this year, last year's spray paint tagging issue by Joe Ireland, and what seems to be increased discomfort among members of the College community, Urgo's email is appearing to be even more relevant as the semester continues.

These issues were mentioned before Urgo's email to campus during an honor code discussion meeting on Feb. 25 to discuss overall campus issues. While the meeting

initially began to discuss the College's lack of (and potential need for) an honor code, the discussion turned into a conversation about a civil code, and how the importance of such a code seems more important now

During the meeting, Associate Professor of Psychology Jennifer Tickle found an online version of "The St. Mary's Way," a document given to all incoming orientees as they are inducted into the St. Mary's com-

the community sees during orientation, a large number of students do not remember even receiving this document, or remember its main points.

For the panelists, this seemed to be the workings of an honor code of its own. While its lack of visibility on campus, need for a more concise message, and need for edits were discussed, it became important to the panel for "The Way" to be more emphasized, in Residence Life, new student orientation, and everyday life.

"It shouldn't just be an academic code," said ODK President Mary Walters, head of the ODK committee discussing this issue and part of the Feb. panel. "It's an honor code ... that doesn't directly say honor code, but more sends a subconscious message of integrity and respect, one more attractive and community-based."

The meeting marked a need for an update of "The Way," its modification to be more of the style of an honor code that the community can embody (without being explicitly called an "Honor Code"), and its potential enforcement in the case of major violations after its incorporation in *To The Point*.

"Everyone should be a part of it," said Walters, "and we're hoping that others carry this on [after ODK]."

By the end of the semester, ODK is hoping to give "The Way" more projection in the Campus Center, as well as on campus with flyers of what "The Way" means to students once the College furthers its discussion of the issue. In the meantime, ODK encourages the student body to voice its opinion of "The Way" and the idea of an honor code.

"It's not solely an ODK thing," said Walters.

The St. Mary's Way

St. Mary's College of Maryland lies in a setting of natural beauty and historic meaning which enhances our ability to reflect on our lives in an increasingly complex, technological, and interdependent world.

As a member of St. Mary's College of Maryland, I accept the St. Mary's Way and agree to join in working with others to develop this College as a community:

Where people respect the natural environment and the tradition of tolerance which is the heritage of this place

Where people cultivate a life-long quest for disciplined learning and creativity

Where people take individual responsibility for their work and actions

Where people foster relationships based upon mutual respect, honesty, integrity, and trust

Where people are engaged in an ongoing dialogue that values differences and the unique contributions of others' talents, backgrounds, customs, and world views

Where people are committed to examining and shaping the functional, ethical values of our changing world

Where people contribute to a spirit of caring and an ethic of service.

By choosing to join this community, I accept the responsibility of helping to build on its past heritage, of living its ideals, and contributing to its future.

Welcome to St. Mary's!

than it has in past years.

The panel, hosted by the ODK chapter on campus, was a continuation of honor code discussions hosted by the Student Government Association (SGA).

"The Way" details the importance of tolerance of the ways of others, respect for the environment and community, open dialogue among those with different views, and ethical values. While this is something

Journalist Gwen Ifill Talks Politics During Ben Bradlee Lecture

By PETER SPARKLIN
Assistant Editor-in-Chief

On Thursday April 14 in Auerbach Auditorium journalist Gwen Ifill spoke to a standing room only audience about her experiences in journalism, the present state of politics and media, as well as their potential future.

Ifill was introduced by Todd Eberly, Interim Director of the Center for the Study of Democracy, and began her lecture by speaking about her background in journalism and her current position on *The PBS Newshour*.

She said that at the *Newshour*, "we assume that you can decide what you think if we simply give you the information to work with."

The current state of information and media can be overwhelming, said Ifill, and many commercial news networks are not able to or do not cover stories in depth like PBS can. She explained that when she worked in commercial news an in-depth story was given a little over a minute to be covered, while on the *Newshour*, there are often multi-section, weeks-long investigations and reports on topics that are not covered by other stations.

She brought up conversations with college students about the state of media and the news; she reported hearing frequently that many people get their news from sources like *The Daily Show with Jon Stewart*. To this Ifill responded, "But guess who [Jon Stewart] watches?" and pointed to herself with a grin.

She said journalism "is less out of whack than it seems" and that many major advances have been and continue to happen in journalism. She cited the rise in the number of

female news anchors and other important breakthrough candidates in politics, the subject of her recent book.

This book and the criticism that she received for it, specifically that she was too biased to moderate vice presidential debates in the 2008 election, led into the lessons that Ifill has learned and would like to impress upon others.

"I've learned to be a woman, a leader and to be informed."

In response to critics, she said, "You just put your head down and you do your job and the critics will fade away."

An important start, Ifill said, is to "learn how to write and how to challenge authority appropriately" because ultimately, "the search for truth and the search for justice are not incompatible."

At the end of her talk, Ifill fielded questions from the audience, which she said was her favorite part of giving lectures.

One audience member asked about bias in journalism and how decisions are made about what to air or report on. Ifill said that bias mainly comes in the decision about "stories we don't cover, rather than what we do."

Again she lauded the benefits of non-

commercial broadcasting: "we have luxuries we do not have in commercial broadcasting."

Another audience member asked her what she thought was the future of journalism. She explained that with the large amount of media that people are exposed to, the sheer volume of consumable information leads to the need to "create an environment in which we are all more literate in what is the news," as well as the need for

"news consumers who know what news is." Ifill responded to a question about her opinion of punditry; she said, "I don't mind that people engage in a debate ... I just don't want it confused with what I do."

"I always want to be the one asking more questions."

Audience members were impressed with Ifill's lecture. Community member Bob

ordered alphabetically. At the April 12 Student Government Association (SGA) meeting, the SGA also passed a resolution in support of processing by majors.

At a meeting held April 14 to discuss the issue, students from the senior class expressed their concerns in person to Urgo. Many students said that, though they identified themselves as St. Mary's students, they felt a special bond with the people they worked with in their departments.

One biology major said, "We're a pretty tight-knit group of nerds. We've kind of struggled together the past four years." Other students noted that they not only had a strong academic connection, but personal connection to the people in their majors. One student said, "I'm a math major, and about 95 percent of my friends, my close friends ... are from [the math department]."

Students from humanities majors also came out in support of walking by major. One english major said, "I'd rather sit with people who have been in the same types of classes ... I'm proud of my major, and I want to sit with people who

"Gwen was insightful, engaging, and thoughtful...[her lecture] offer[ed] an inside look at true journalism and politics that we would not have otherwise been exposed to."

**-Keisha Reynolds,
Assistant VP of External Relations**

Alldridge said, "I liked her differentiation between media and journalism...and her sense of humor came through" which he said was a stark contrast to her demeanor on *The PBS Newshour*.

Assistant Vice President of External Relations Keisha Reynolds said, "Gwen was insightful, engaging and thoughtful ... [her lecture] offer[ed] an inside look at true journalism and politics that we would not have otherwise been exposed to."

Board of Trustees member Peg Duchesne said, "she's powerful ... [and] thought provoking." Duchesne agreed with the importance of "letting the consumer of the news program make their own choices."

Ifill, the moderator and managing editor of *Washington Week*, is also a senior correspondent for *The PBS Newshour*, a weekly program that gathers important journalists to analyze major news stories.

The lecture was presented by the Center for the Study of Democracy and was part of the Benjamin C. Bradlee Lecture in Journalism series, an endowed lecture that brings important names in journalism to speak at St. Mary's.

Graduating Alphabetically No Longer

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are proud of our major too."

Even double majors, a group Urgo thought might welcome the change, had similar sentiments. One art/art history double-major said, "doing [the procession] alphabetically, I would feel a lot more alienated."

Another double major said that, despite her status, "I'm definitely sure which major I would walk with."

Student Trustee Danny Ruthenberg-Marshall, as a student-designed major who said he may not have ties to people in his major in the way that others do, was the sole dissenting voice.

Although he understood the reasoning behind Urgo's proposed change and personally agreed with it, he added, "I've never heard anyone vehemently for walking alphabetically, and there's a whole group here vehemently [for walking by major]."

After hearing student opinion contrary to his proposal, Urgo noted that he was not particularly attached to either plan and suggested that he would change the policy back to processing by major as students wished. He said, "I really need to know what the class wants to do...this is not a ditch I'm going to die in."

"I've never heard anyone vehemently for walking alphabetically, and there's a whole group here vehemently [for walking by major]."

**-Danny Ruthenberg-Marshall,
Student Trustee**



PHOTO BY RYAN GUGERTY

Journalist Gwen Ifill, from *The PBS Newshour*, discussed her journalistic roots, the current state of journalism, and what she expects in the future for rising journalists.

Director Santiago Resigns from Public Safety

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I arrived.”

Santiago said that he did not yet know where he would work next, but mentioned looking for something local since his wife still works for the College’s Events Department.

Santiago said, “I appreciate and value the students and I will always treasure the relationships I

built with them. I will continue to be a member of the SMCM community as a member of the general public.”

Santiago concluded the interview on a more positive note, and expressed his continued affiliation with St. Mary’s Seahawks. He said, “I am an avid sports fan and will continue to support St. Mary’s athletes.”

New Bill to Curb Amount of All-Student Emails

By EVAN KELLEY
Staff Writer

In less than three minutes on Tuesday, April 5, the Student Government Association (SGA) voted to limit the amount of all school emails that clubs will be able to send out. The bill, which had already been discussed by the SGA, received no opposition.

The bill itself, sponsored by SGA President Marlena Weiss, states that, “All club leaders will no longer have access to all school emails.” The legislation also means to encourage club advisors to not to send out emails to all students and also states

“that an improved events calendar will be created by CTSS with automatic email capabilities which will synthesize all previous all student emails into a single email on a weekly basis.”

Caroline Hall Senator Anna Weil said, “I think the main reason people are doing it is because students just delete the emails anyway. This is not only just to limit the amount of emails people receive, but also to make a more organized way of delivering information so more people will come to events.”

She also said, “I think it’s a good idea, I think at the very least club leaders will find that they have the same amount of attendance as before.”

However, not all students are in agreement. First year Beth Smith said, “We’ve gotten so used to checking

out emails, I don’t think I will want to go out of my way to check a different website.”

In regard to whether or not she actually read all of the emails, Smith said, “I may not read all the emails, but I know what I’m interested in, at the very least I read through all the subject lines to make sure I’m not deleting anything important.”

However, the bill recently passed will try to take into account how successful it will be and states, “This policy will be revised based upon effectiveness at the SGA

Executive Board’s discretion in consultation with the SGA Senate” and more specifically that it will run six weeks before being evaluated.

These changes will not affect a Senator’s ability to send emails to their constituents, which is one of the ways they are allowed to fulfill the requirement detailed in the constitution that states they “shall be responsible for communicating with his/her constituents either through some form of mass communication ... at least twice a month.”

Meetings for SGA are every Tuesday at 8 p.m., with student speakout for those interested in presenting their opinions to the general assembly. For those who are really interested in taking part in SGA, applications, according to an email to all students, are due on April 22 and elections will be on April 28.

“All club leaders will no longer have access to all school emails.”

**-Marlena Weiss,
SGA President,
in All-Student Email
Legislation**

By FLORA CEJKA
Staff Writer

This past Wednesday, Malalai Joya, former member of the Afghani Parliament and an accomplished writer and activist, came to the College to give a talk about the current situation in Afghanistan. Also the author of *Woman Among Warlords: The Extraordinary Story of an Afghan Who Dared to Raise Her Voice*, Joya was expelled from the Afghani Parliament after she denounced members of the assembly for being “warlords and drug smugglers.”

Her previous lecture, planned for earlier in the semester, was originally delayed by the U.S. State Department, who did not grant her a Visa until a grassroots campaign forced the government to change its decision.

Joya spent some time discussing why she thought she was not allowed to enter the country. She said she believes that her view of the war in Afghanistan is one that the American government does not want the public to know. “I know that billions of U.S. dollars are going to the warlords and indirectly to the Taliban,” said Joya.

There were few pleasant words towards the U.S. government and the NATO coalition that are currently fighting the decade long conflict. She described that the U.S. and NATO forces “pushed us from the frying pan and into

the fire.”

According to Joya, this conflict has “not freed women” while over 8,000 civilians have been killed during the last four years of the occupation. She continued by saying that the “10 years of occupation has doubled, tripled the miseries of women.”

Joya stated the “warmongers” within the U.S. government were doing their best to spin the story in a positive light by celebrating the fact that democracy is coming to Afghanistan. However, Joya said that “democracy is nothing more than a thin curtain,” and even though “Western leaders and media like to talk about democracy,” it does not exist in Afghanistan.

When discussing the difference between Presidents George W. Bush and Barack Obama, Joya said that “Obama is a second and more dangerous Bush.”

Joya referenced the surge and how “[President Obama] brought more war and conflict” during his time in office. She even went so far as saying that “[Defense Secretary Robert] Gates and [General David] Petraeus should be sent to court for following bad policies.”

Joya then stated what she believed U.S. and its NATO allies should do next. The “only solution,” in her words would be “to get rid of U.S. troops.” She later added that it would be “better today than tomorrow.”

“It won’t be heaven,” Joya said, “but it would be easier to fight two enemies [the Warlords and Taliban] if the third enemy [U.S. and NATO] left the country.” She continued by saying that if the U.S. left, “the financial backbone of the warlords would be broken.”

When answering a questions about why she didn’t stay in the government and become rich, Joya said that “death is better than being a part of this government; death is better than silence.”

At the end of the talk, many members of the audience were left speechless by the power of Joya’s words. Senior Allison Bailey said that the talk was “excellent and that [Joya] was very inspiring.”

Junior Danielle Doubt said, “[Joya] was a very powerful speaker, I’m honored for her to be here and [she] empowers students to make a difference.”

When she introduced Joya at the beginning of the program, Professor Sahar Shafqat said that this was the “most exciting event I’ve been associated with while at St. Mary’s.” Shafqat continued by saying that “[Joya] has a message that we don’t hear often in the U.S.”

“To me, it is telling that the fact that she was denied a visa by the U.S. and expelled from Parliament makes me think there are a lot of people who want to silence her,” concluded Shafqat, “[it’s] very special and meaningful to have her here.”

Professor Panel Discusses Status of War

By ALEX WALLS
Staff Writer

As part of the political science department’s ongoing lecture series, a panel made up SMCM’s very own political science professors Susan Grogan and Todd Eberly discuss what it means to be at war.

They said that in recent years, there has been a widening “disconnect” between what war is and is not. The U.S. Constitution, Article I Section 8, gives the power to declare war to Congress. However, the United States Congress has not declared war since World War II. In other words, you could say that since 1945, the United States has been at peace.

Yet, in the past 65 years, the United States has been involved with many “armed conflicts” that include but are not limited to conflicts in Korea, Vietnam, Afghanistan, Iraq, and now Libya. This leads to the central questions of the talk: what counts as a war and who determines what it is?

According to Grogan, who gave a brief history of war in the United States, Congress has on several occasions deferred the war-making powers to the President without declaring war. For example, Congress authorized President John Adams to use privateers against

the French government, and President Thomas Jefferson had Congress authorize military actions against the Barbary Pirates.

The most impressive authorization without a declaration of war from Congress was the Civil War. According to Grogan, the Civil War was not a legal war and that the name is actually a misnomer; a better name for the conflict would be “The Great Suppression.” Eberly seconded this comment by saying that the Civil War should really be called the great “Civil Police Action.”

Eberly then discussed the two opposing views within political science about if the President should have the power to use the military and force without authorization of Congress. On the one hand, it could be argued that the world has changed and that the country needs a President who can make quick decisions about the use of force without waiting for Congress to debate. On the other hand, there is the belief that even if times have changed, one can not run around the Constitution.

“If we like the [President having more war-making powers], we have to change the Constitution,” Eberly said, “the Constitution is the law.”

Even though the Congress in the past has authorized the use of force,

in the present case of Libya, President Obama has not asked for authorization from Congress, thereby skipping the branch entirely. There is now questions whether this was the legal move.

Eberly continued by saying that he is, “hung up on if American force in Libya is legal or constitutional.”

After the discussion ended, several members of the audience asked questions. One concerned student asked, “can we fix this problem by defining what ‘war’ means?” Grogan answered by pointing to the War Powers Act. This act was Congress’ attempt to regulate the President’s power after Vietnam; however, it did not work. This act has opened the door to a greater increase of power, since the President is allowed to send troops for a set period of time before he must ask for re-authorization.

Grogan ended the talk by saying that in the end, if Congress wants the power, it must fight for it. “Congress doesn’t call the President out,” concluded Grogan.

Sophomore and former student in Eberly’s American Politics class Kristen Diehl said she “found [the talk] very interesting, including the question whether its right or legal for the President to send troops into conflict without Congress’ approval.”

Campus Farm Receives Some Funding

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tools, and \$400 for soil), and \$6500 is needed for two student summer employees to work 30 hours per week at \$7.25 per hour.

“The Campus Farm is getting funding from the Sustainability Office and the ENST (Environmental Studies) committee that Chandler heads. The former will be committing \$2000, and the latter \$1000,” said White. “The legislation itself stipulates that we pay the Campus Farm per semester...to come out of the SGA’s Special Carryover Fund.”

In the legislation, Walls requested for two years of funding, \$5300 per year. “I wanted to find a source of stable funding for the Farm,” he said. “Without stable funding, especially to pay people during the summer to manage it, the Farm will cease to exist.”

While the SGA passed the bill to give the Campus Farm funding for the 2011-2012 academic year, which will include this summer’s expenses, funding for the following year was not approved. Matt Smith, junior and SGA Treasurer, mentioned during the proceedings that the Special Carryover Funds were low due to the recent economic constraints of the College,

and that funding for two years would be a heavier investment than the SGA would reasonably be able to make.

“The reason we were only able to commit to funding the Farm for one year is that we are simply not sure how many more hits Special Carryover can take,” said White.

Further complicating the issue was the recent loss of funding for the Terrified Pedestrian Bike Shop by the Office of Planning and Facilities. Without a higher budget for College clubs, the SGA will not be able to successfully fund the Bike Shop and Campus Farm once other clubs are funded.

To aid in funding for College clubs, Walls, White, Ruthenberg-Marshall, and the rest of SGA is pushing for a referendum (to be included in the SGA Elections on Blackboard, starting on April 20 at 8:00 a.m.) that will increase student fees by \$25. With a student body of almost 1900, this increase would allocate an additional \$47,500 for club funding, which would loosen the tight restraints on College clubs while also allowing for stable funding of the Bike Shop and the Campus Farm until it can sustain itself as an organization.

“I can’t thank [the SGA] enough,” said Chandler. “The SGA has been

incredibly supportive of the farm...I think what it’s doing is impressive.”

Besides being a sustainable food option for the College, the Campus Farm has very quickly taken on academic uses. “Dr. Gorton’s Biology 101 class forms part of our one acre,” said Chandler.

Beyond community involvement and academics, the Farm itself is becoming more stable, expanding its size with a one-acre lease from Historic St. Mary’s City and making an agreement with Bon Appétit’s manager of operations Dave Sansotta.

“[Sansotta] agreed to purchase all the produce we grow,” said Aaron French, who designed his St. Mary’s Project around the Community Garden and its connection between the Campus Farm and the county, “which is a huge step towards a sustainable food system on this campus.”

After the SGA Elections and the approval or denial of the \$25 increase, the SGA will determine the future funding conditions of clubs, including the Bike Shop and Campus Farm.

“I do believe that the Farm has the potential to be something great,” said Walls, “but we need to get through this period of uncertainty.”



PHOTO COURTESY OF ROBERT PAUL

St. Mary’s biology majors and seniors Amanda Liebrecht and Chelsea McGlynn were recognized for their academic research during the Atlantic Estuarine Research Society Spring meeting.

SUBMITTED BY ROBERT PAUL
Biology Department

Seven SMCM biology majors presented their research at the Spring Meeting of the Atlantic Estuarine Research Society (AERS) at the Calvert Marine Museum in Solomons over the weekend of April 9.

They were among the 30 students from New York to North Carolina who gave either oral or poster presentations. Students who presented were: Maddie Gillis, Elizabeth Lee, Amanda Liebrecht, Chelsea McGlynn, Erika Schmitt,

Katie Studholme and Mike Studivan.

Chelsea McGlynn won the Best Undergraduate Presentation for: “The Effect of Claw Characteristics on the Interactions of Male-Red-jointed Fiddler Crabs (*Uca minax*)”, and Amanda Liebrecht won the Best Undergraduate Poster for her work: “Are Salicylic Acid and Hydrogen Peroxide Involved in *Zostera marina* Defense Against Wasting Disease?”

Advisors and professors Chris Tanner and Bob Paul, from the Biology Department, also attended the meetings.

Patricia Hill Collins: “Push Back on Behalf of Those Not in Power”

By PETER SPARKLIN
Assistant Editor-in-Chief

Patricia Hill Collins, a well known social theorist and author, spoke Friday April 16 in Cole Cinema on her life's work and the her perspective on issues like social justice, education and the effect of the intersection of race, class, gender, sexuality and nation on society.

The event was sponsored by Feminists United for Sexual Equality (FUSE) and the title of Hill Collins' lecture was *Cultivating a Sociological Imagination for our Time*. Hill Collins described the concept of the sociological imagination as “understand[ing] ourselves in the context of our times,” an idea from sociologist C. Wright Mills.

She said our culture “encourages us to develop as individuals [by separating] from our social selves”, but that realizing society's influence “one might move forward effectively from the here and now into the future.”

Much of the rest of the lecture reviewed Hill Collins' experiences as an educator at a community school in Boston for black children, at the University of Cincinnati and currently at the University of Maryland, College Park.

The community school was organized and run by a diverse group of individuals who all had similar goals of providing a better education for students who were not being served well by the traditional educational system in Boston.

“There was conflict [among those

running the school]...but we put our own individual agendas to the side.” There was strong focus in the school for “education as a site of empowerment.” The school empowered not only the students but the educators, helping them realize societal influence and different ways to work towards changing oppressive aspects of society.

Hill Collins said, “We have to realize our sense of safety [within our society]. If we are not constantly vigilant, it can be taken away from us.”

Hill Collins also covered her experiences at the University of Cincinnati. While there she continued to “cultivate the sociological imagination” which gave her “the space to ask new questions.”

While teaching, Hill Collins engaged her students to question their beliefs and the formation of those beliefs. She asked, “What does it mean to be anti-racist? What does it mean to commit to a social justice agenda?” She said that everyone needs to ask these types of questions of themselves to understand who they are and how they were formed by their society.

Hill Collins then opened up the lecture to discussion with the audience. Questions ranged from the issue of women's reproductive rights, how to inspire or get others involved, and the difficulties of fighting against large, seemingly intractable problems.

She said that “reproductive rights were going to be a ground zero for

women forever” and that is was important to “push back on behalf of those not in power.”

Later, she said that activists for any issue who are trying to get others involved need to “recognize how people are differentially positioned,” to recognize the value and difference in every person's experience.

Hill Collins also had advice for actively fighting against oppression and facilitating change. She said that “visionary pragmatism” is “foundational to social change;” that is, “committing to a set of principles that is bigger than yourself” and asking, “what little piece can I chip away at?”

She concluded, “My philosophy is that I can't possibly know everything, [but] I'm hopeful and that keeps me going.”

Faculty, staff, students and community members responded positively to Hill Collins lecture and encourage words towards effecting change.

Senior Wesley Watkins said, “I was really satisfied with how she's able to be intellectual and pragmatic at the same time.”

Other students echoed this sentiment. Senior Sarah Shipley said, “She was just really inspirational...[she is a good example of] how to work with all types of students no matter what the system tell you how or what you should teach.”

Sarah ‘Sadie’ Pyles Remembered at St. Mary’s as a Genuine Soul

By ZACH ESER
Staff Writer

Earlier in the semester, the campus community was stricken with shock at the loss of a student whom everyone knew for brightening up their day on the path, in the classroom, and during her shift at The Daily Grind.

Sophomore Sarah “Sadie” Pyles' passing has truly had an impact on students and faculty as she was remarkable individual in every sense of the word.

At the memorial service held at the College, friends and family reminisced with one another and shared their memories and thoughts of Sadie.

Throughout the evening, individuals described her as “sweet,” “impulsive,” and a “die hard Lady Gaga fan.”

She had “empathy for the underdog” and, as one friend put it, “we could go into a gas station and she'd always be overdressed.”

Sadie's friends and family remarked how she would always be smiling, how she would always be there for you regardless of whether or not she knew you, and she'd always be game for making a quesadilla on her quesadilla-maker which was nicknamed Alejandro.

One student, Junior Kate Brown, shared the first time she met Sadie: “I was crying and I really didn't know any of the people I was with and she walked in, looked at me, and said, ‘I'm just

going to hug you, okay’?” said Brown. “Then she made me a quesadilla.”

Sophomore Patty Romaine, Sarah's roommate, had a similar story about living with Sadie. Romaine said, “even when I got mad at her for leaving her socks lying around on the floor, she made me a sock puppet.”

One of her closest friends even said that there was a time she remembered when Sadie randomly showed up at her college on a surprise visit and demanded that she go out with her:

“Sadie said, ‘you will put on these pants and you will go out with me.’ Sure enough, I put on those pants and I went with her.”

Her friends and family at the service remembered her as determined, thoughtful, vibrant and always smiling.

They added she always worked extremely hard to be as adventurous as humanly possible and to live her life to the fullest.

According to President Joseph Urgo, who also spoke at the service, Sarah's flash drive had a quote by Gandhi on it: “live as if you were to die tomorrow,” which he felt summed her up.

Sophomore Delia Rose, emcee for the event, said she had been deeply affected by her friendship with Sadie.

She added, during her closing remarks, “it's not often at this age that you meet someone, and make friends with them, who makes you learn so much about yourself.”

St. Mary’s Alumni Return to Serve Advancement Office

By ALEX WALLS
Staff Writer

The recent staff changes in the Advancement Office have brought new faces and fresh ideas to the forefront within this important part of college administration. The reorganization spearheaded by the new Vice President for Advancement Maureen Silva has lead to the recent hiring of many new staff members but the most noticeable change has been the number of alumni who now work in the office.

The College has invited Kaitlin Hines '10, Nezia Munezero '08, Kelly Hernandez '08, Michael Carver '05, and Keisha Reynolds '96 to work at the College in a number of different capacities throughout the Advancement Office.

They also join alumni David Sushinsky '02, Karen Raley '94, and

Nancy Abell '73 who have also seen their titles and responsibilities shuffle around.

Some of the changes that have affected the new Advancement Office have been the creation of new positions such as the Assistant Vice President for External Relations, Senior Development Officer, and Alumni Relations Officer, along with others, as well as the movement of Web Services from the Tech Department to Advancement.

The changes have also lead to new priorities within the office. The most pressing is the fundraising for the scholarship fund.

The creation of new positions have lead to a more effective means to delegate responsibility, thus allowing the staff to focus more on gifts and donations.

Another priority has been developing the College's public imagine and mission out to a wider audience. A

new streamlined process that flows through the office of the Assistant Vice President for External Relations will hopefully be able to produce new ideas to help the boster the public image of the College.

However, all of these new positions have one thing in common: they are being filled with former students of the College. Each had their reasons to return to St. Mary's; however, these reasons speak volumes about the nature of St. Mary's students from the past through the present. After being active in campus life and with the creation of the popular International Club,

“Coming back [to work with the Advancement Office] was my way to give back to SMCM”

-Nezia Munezero, '08

Munezero said “coming back was my way to give back to SMCM.” She continued by saying St. Mary's is “where I want to be.”

Sushinsky remarked that one of the unique things about working at the College was the people. “The people who work here are really loyal,” said Sushinsky, “they work to see it thrive.”

Sushinsky's point was best captured by Raley, who said “at the end of the day, I feel good about helping the College.”

Even recent graduates can be found working at the College including Hernandez and Hines. “[By coming] you can see what you didn't before when you were a student,” said Hernandez.

Hines decided to come back since she “still doesn't know what [she] wants to do after college.” Hines believes that working at the College gives her time to develop work ex-

perience without the stress of moving to a new city.

These alumni also have stories that sound a lot like those of current students. Abell was a commuter student just as the College was becoming a four year institution. Pushed by parents who wanted her to attend college, Abell played on the basketball team during her two years at the College.

Raley's biggest accomplishment during college was her dedication to the sailing team, which included going to championships all four years. Sushinsky finished his SMP on time while surviving Dorchester Hall for 3 years.

Hernandez believed that graduating on time with a major in biology was a nearly impossible task but in the end it was “very fulfilling.”

Hines and Munezero both worked hard on their SMP and were proud of the results.

Carver summed up most students' concern when he stated that his biggest accomplishment was “building a close network of friends that he still counts on today.”

Each staff member had only glowing reviews about their time in higher education and suggested to all current students that they may want to consider such a path.

“Go for it if you want to and have the opportunity,” said Abell. Sushinsky added “if you don't know what to do but you love SMCM, why not?”

Several staff members remarked that they had not considered coming back to the College during their time as student, but they were lucky to have kept an open mind to the possibility.

“Gain a lot of experience while you're here,” said Munezero, “and take advantage of every opportunity.”



PHOTO BY KEVIN BAIER

Nancy Matus reads a selection from *Free Like a Bird* during her lecture for Hillel.

By KEVIN BAIER
Advertising Manager and Online Editor

On Wednesday, April 6, Nancy Matus spoke to the Hillel Club and members of the public in Schaefer 111. Matus, a retired dermatologist from Easton, PA, is now a Maryland resident and is promoting her debut novel *Free like a Bird*.

Free like a Bird features Yosef Matsevitsky, a Jew, as the story's protagonist and Ivan, a gentle, Yosef's friend and later antagonist. Matus described the book as a coming of age tale filled with adventure elements.

The book's setting is 1913 Ukraine. Seven-year-old Josef learns of his father's plan to immigrate to America from Ukraine in hopes of finding a better life. The story follows Yosef and his family over ten years as they struggle to reunite with the father amidst war, revolution, and anti-Semitism.

The story's climax occurs when the Bolshevik Revolution forces Josef to return home from Kiev to confront Ivan's betrayal.

The story is a fictionalized memoir, based on real events which occurred during Matus' father-in-law's childhood.

Matus used her father-in-law's memoirs and stories to create the characters and situations of the novel. She said she wrote the book in honor of her father-in-law and to educate her grandchildren and great-grandchildren about their Jewish heritage.

Junior Karina Mandell said writing to teach Jewish heritage helps people “understand the context of some of the scenarios. I'm sure it helped her writing and gave it more authenticity. It might have even helped her step outside her culture/familiarity and see how things used to be from a historian's perspective.” When describing her initial reactions to the author and her book, Junior Gabrielle Cantor said, “I was impressed and curious [about] the amount of detail... [and I] was also impressed by all the different events that she summarized, which occur to this

young boy.”

Although her use of a fictional narrative allowed for more literary creativity, Mandell thought

“her use of narrative took away from the authenticity of Josef.” Matus played a cassette tape of her father-in-law speaking about his bar mitzvah, which Mandell said, “had much more gore” than the account in the novel.

Matus said one of the difficulties of writing the book was the inability to travel to the cities in the novel to experience the culture and atmosphere. Most of the towns and buildings described in the story were destroyed over the course of both world wars.

Junior Ariel Webster thought that “having gone there [Matus] might have acquired a feel for the landscape at least. At the same time I don't think it would have added all that much if she had.”

Cantor said, “I have heard many stories similar to this one, but every one is unique and this story is no exception.”

An Alternative Spring Break in D.C.

SUBMITTED BY JENNIFER KUNZE & GLENN WONG
Class of 2012 & Class of 2014

Imagine begging for money to buy food while people walk past without a second glance, brushing you off as a burden to society. Imagine a day in school where you can't focus because your stomach is empty and, though it is only 9:00 a.m., the boys a few desks behind you have already gotten into three fights. Imagine cleaning houses for only \$10 each, in a country that doesn't want you around because of the language you speak and the place you were born.

On the other hand, envision the hope evident in the smiles and greetings of your friends around you, and the feeling of community throughout the neighborhood. This is a taste of what we encountered during our alternative spring break trip to Anacostia in Southeast Washington, DC. Organized by InterVarsity Christian Fellowship, the DC Urban Plunge brought students from diverse ethnicities, hometowns, and political views to learn about homelessness, poverty, racism, and immigration in our nation's capital.

We had the privilege of sharing lunch with two homeless people who, in

return, shared their stories with us. We met John, a veteran from Chicago in his 50s who hopes to sort out paperwork with the Veteran's Administration, and Ruby, a widow from California in her 70s who is working on paperwork with the Social Security Administration and trying to uncover corruption in her hometown branch. Through these conversations, it struck us how often we overlook homeless people in the streets, stereotyping them and forgetting they are people we are called to love.

We also had the opportunity to work with students at a GED tutoring center who had not received the academic background necessary to pass high school. One woman barely remembered what fractions were in the morning, but was soon adding and subtracting them with ease – and enjoying it. She was clearly intelligent, but simply had not been exposed to the same educational experiences that we had. Hearing from our friends who assisted at a nearby elementary school helped us understand why. They reported large classes, frequent fights and other disturbances, as well as meals with no nutritional value. This experience helped us understand the obstacles many people must overcome to get a good education.

Similarly, we spent a day working at Kids Club, an after-school tutoring program in Alexandria serving 30 elementary school children, mostly from Honduran and Salvadorian backgrounds. Each of us had a student to play with, help with homework, and just spend time getting to know. The people who run this program try to help their students succeed in school and build a community in the neighborhood.

Throughout this trip, we learned a lot about the issues that people in our own backyards face, from racism to economic inequality, and from poor nutrition to poor educational opportunities. We learned about the connections between these factors, and what people are doing to eliminate them. After having the opportunity to serve the people of D.C., we want to be part of a conversation about working with and learning from people in St. Mary's County with students who already have such a heart for service. We invite everyone, no matter what religious background, to join us at D.C. Urban Plunge next spring break. We hope that these experiences, whether in D.C. or St. Mary's, can be as transformational for others as they have been for us.



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY JENNIFER KUNZE & GLENN WONG

Students spent their Spring Break in Southeast D.C. as part of InterVarsity Christian Fellowship.

Journalism and Our Attention Spans

BY ALEX WALLS & KYLE JERNIGAN
Staff Writer & Editor-in-Chief

In the year's final Paul H. Nitze lecture, Nitze fellow and *New Yorker* senior editor Nicholas Thompson spoke on how, though the internet may have seemingly killed attention spans and long-form journalism, the new age of iPads and tablet computers might be reviving the endangered art.

The lecture, titled *The Future of Journalism*, focused on the way technology has fundamentally impacted how news articles are written and consumed. According to Thompson, pre-internet newspapers and magazines tended to have more of what he termed "narrative journalism," which consists of highly-researched and developed articles that were typically between 20,000 to 30,000 words. "These stories were thought provoking" said Thompson, "they helped start national discussions."

Thompson, to illustrate his point, referenced two exemplars of the form: the 1946 *New Yorker* article "Hiroshima," which encompassed an entire issue of the magazine and follows the aftermath of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima, and the 1966 *Esquire* article "Oh My God - We Hit a Little Girl," which focused on civilian casualties in the Vietnam War. These articles were written for the purpose of creating a dialogue as well as getting news across to the public, and were "not just dry encapsulations of events ... [they] almost had a cinematic quality," said Thompson.

According to Thompson the advent of the internet changed all of that. He noted that, at first, there was a lot of optimism about the internet's ability to provide a multimedia experience and easier access to articles. "People who like narrative essays thought that the Internet would be great," Thompson said, "anyone could access it anywhere."

However, the internet posed major challenges to narrative journalism. Many were simply economic: people generally refuse to pay for anything online, according to Thompson, and internet advertisement is not lucrative. Web advertising does not bring in enough money to sustain the sort of

effort and time that goes in to writing, copy editing, and fact-checking long-form articles.

Money was not the only problem that narrative articles faced on the internet. The average U.S. American, according to Thompson, only has the attention span for around 800 words. He added that they "won't remember those 800 words anyways." Thompson said that this was due to the number of distractions present on the internet, including email, Facebook, and instant messaging.

Thompson said internet news today must be "short, snappy, and snarky," and well below 2000 words, to be relevant.

Internet news today must be "short, snappy, and snarky," and well below 2000 words, to be relevant.

Despite all of this, Thompson indicated that he was hopeful about the future and the fact that not everyone is following the trend towards short-form journalism. He noted, for example, that the *New Yorker* and, after having gone through a period of more vapid journalism, *Rolling Stone*, continued to publish quality long-form narrative articles even in the internet age. Thompson said, "the solution [for newspaper and magazines] is 'let's be less like the web ... let's just talk about things that [are] interesting.'"

More intriguing, however, are the examples of long-form narrative journalism that synthesize what is good about the web with what is good about the internet. Thompson pointed out an article/experiment he contributed to during his time at *Wired* magazine, in which contributor Evan Ratliff concealed his whereabouts from readers trying to fake his own death. Thompson said that *Wired*, using a set of cryptic clues and a \$5000 reward, encouraged readers to create Facebook and Twitter groups directed at deciphering the clues and finding the "vanished" Ratliff.

Thompson also said he was hopeful about the potential of the iPad as a "chance to reboot" the connection between long-form narrative journalism

and modern technology. He added that the iPad and the nature of its application system is far more friendly to a subscriber model and provides an overall better reading experience than personal computers or laptops.

Thompson also mentioned the "Atavist" application, created by himself and Ratliff, which focuses exclusively on long-form narrative articles and uses a "layering system" to integrate fact-checking details and multimedia without detracting from the content.

Thompson noted that those interested in long-form reads could find more via the #longform and #longreads Twitter hashtags, concluding, "It turns out [narrative journalism] still exists and that there are still opportunities for it."

Students seemed generally inspired by Thompson's discussion. Sophomore Alex Roca said, "I'm going to try and find more of those [long-form] articles personally." Sophomore Emily Wavering said, "I'm really impressed with the ways we're bouncing back from the almost set-back of the internet." She added, "I think we will be able to go back to long-form."

Vacation and Travel: Ireland to Venice

BY ANNA DAVIS
Staff Writer

One thing that I have learned while traveling around during my semester in Ireland is that there is a big difference between traveling around with friends versus traveling around with parents. I am sitting in a five-star hotel room in Venice, Italy right now while writing this article, with my mom lounging on the bed next to mine. If I were in Venice with my friends, we would probably have decided to stay at the cheapest hostel in the city, and I definitely would be without a laptop and Internet access.

When I went on a four-city, weeklong trip with a group of friends in March, we had to spend days researching our trip. We had to compare flight and hostel prices, research where we were going, learn how to use public transportation, look up directions to and from train stations to our hostels, and generally worry about running out of money. For this trip to Italy, my dad booked the whole trip

Explaining Quantum Physics to Your Dog (Or an English Major)

BY STEVE REES
News Co-Editor

As part of the Natural Science and Mathematics (NS&M) Colloquium series this semester, Union College professor Chad Orzel discussed his new book *How to Teach Physics to Your Dog* and how to relate the basics of quantum mechanics to everyday examples in his presentation *What Every Dog Should Know About Quantum Physics*, given in Schaefer Hall last Wednesday.

Orzel was introduced by Assistant Professor of Physics Josh Grossman, who had gone to Williams College with Orzel. Orzel had also been a teaching assistant in one of Assistant Professor of Mathematics Alex Meadow's classes at Williams.

Orzel began with an introduction of the history of quantum physics. Max Planck, known as the father of quantum physics, was the first to propose a theory of quantum mechanics with his own law, which precisely described the energy radiated by a black body (black object), per unit time, area, solid angle, and frequency. What is unique about the theory is that the graph generated by the law predicts answers with absolute precision, a property of many quantum physics models.

"Its results are tested to unbelievable precision," said Orzel.

Also in the world of quantum physics was Niels Bohr's model of the atom as a solar system-styled structure with a positive center of protons and neutrons with circulating orbits of negatively-charged electrons. Einstein, with his work on quantum photoelectric effect theory, came up with one of the first theories of quantum mechanics.

At this point, Orzel explained the point of his most recent book. In the book, Orzel's dog Emmy asks questions (humorously imitated by Orzel for the audience) related to her own personal interests, such as chasing rabbits and getting treats, and tries to defend her reasoning with quantum physics. Orzel, through his correction of Emmy's understanding of quantum physics, explains concepts that the readers can more easily follow, teaching them the basics of the expansive world of quantum theory.

One of the chapters, discussing Erwin Schrödinger's thought experiment of quantum entanglement (more commonly known as Schrödinger's Cat), Emmy tries to describe how one treat, behind Orzel's back in one of his hands, really must exist in both hands, since the outside observer does not know for certain if the treat is one hand or another. Orzel corrected her by saying that this is more of a probability issue, since he knows which hand holds the treat and there is a 50 percent chance that it is in the left hand and 50 percent chance that it is in the right.

But, he then explains that in Schrödinger's model, a thought experiment basically trying to determine if a cat is alive or dead if in a closed box, the observer has no ability to determine if the cat is alive without opening the box. The Copenhagen Interpretation holds that the cat is neither alive nor dead, but in some superpositional state (or quantum entanglement) of being alive and dead at the same time. Once an observer makes a measurement of the system (or opens the box), the superpositional state crashes down into one of two definite states (one with the cat being alive, and the other with the cat being dead).

In the end, Orzel has two treats, one in each hand, and gives them both to Emmy for being such a good dog.

Orzel used this presentation style to explain the behavior of particles as waves, with increasing mass having smaller wavelengths (so that while everything essentially behaves like a wave, a large mass like a dog or human has such a small wavelength that it is impossible to measure its wave-like properties). He also explained some popular quantum physics experiments, including the double slit experiment, and the electron experiment to explain wavelike patterns of light and electrons, and even atomic fusion in the Sun, where hydrogen atoms fuse into helium atoms.

However, the wide applicability of quantum theory has led to some corrupt uses in today's world, as a means of making money or appearing to have magical abilities. Ideas of quantum healing and quantum attraction are what Emmy would call "evil squirrels," ways to misinterpret quantum theories to manipulate the uninformed public.

"Some people are confused or manipulate [the theories]," said Orzel, "but they're all wrong; in reality, it's math, it's systematic."

Orzel concluded with a discussion of the Many Worlds approach, an alternative explanation of quantum entanglement, where multiple universes exist and are created to explain different definite states. For the Schrödinger model, the cat would be dead in one universe and alive in another, which allows all cases to exist in multiple universes at once.

"I thought it was riveting; it was dogtastic," said sophomore Galen Hench, who attended the lecture. "Seriously though, I thought it was really interesting, and I learned a lot."

"It was an interesting take on a complicated subject," said junior Sam Berry. "It was broken down to simple ideas we can relate to, with a bit of humor tossed in."

The final NS&M lecture, The Post-BP Spill Assessment by William and Mary College professor Robert Diaz, will be on April 20 in Schaefer 106, at 4:40 p.m.

and my mom did all the research. All I have to do is follow along, take tons of pictures, and just have a great time.

While my last trip with my friends was hectic and stressful, this trip has been very relaxing and much easier. I barely managed to get five hours of sleep a night last time, while here I am getting at least eight. While traveling with my friends, we were "super tourists" (a term coined by my friend Emma). With my mom, we do whatever we feel like doing. We spend a lot of time wandering around taking in the sights instead of feeling obligated to see every attraction listed in one of Rick Steve's travel books.

Traveling with friends was a ton of fun, and it was an experience that I definitely never want to forget. I would not trade it for the world. However, traveling with family is a much more meaningful and rewarding experience. After having been away from home for almost four months, it has been a really special experience to get to show my mom

around Dublin and then tour Italy with her as well. It is one thing to come home to family, but another thing completely to have them take a transatlantic flight just to come visit. I would be lying if I said that this semester abroad has been free of feelings of homesickness, so it's nice having my mom here—like having a piece of home here with me in Europe.

Having to plan out an entire trip without the help of an adult and navigating huge cities without my dad was definitely an educational experience. But, when traveling like that, there is never time to take a break. It sure is fun, but also exhausting. That kind of a trip feels like an adventure, while this trip feels more like a vacation. And a vacation was definitely what I needed right now, after just finishing up my lectures at Trinity and turning in my term papers. I know I will be wishing I were back here relaxing in my hotel room in Italy when it comes time to sit my final exams in May. Definitely not looking forward to that. . .

World Carnival Showcases Virginia Coalition and Best of Coffeehouse



PHOTO BY BRENDAN LARRABEE

Jarrett Nicolay, bassist for the Virginia Coalition, played to a small crowd in St. Mary's Hall for the 18th annual World Carnival on April 16.

By ZACH ESER
Staff Writer

The first day of World Carnival 2011 kicked off with a menagerie of musical acts performed under the Main Stage tent. The festival, which has been a major event at St. Mary's College for 18 years, had a Friday night line-up just as appealing as the Saturday show, and showcased musical acts at a smaller scale than those to appear on Saturday night. In years past, there have both been Battle of the Band runner-ups and a Best of Coffeehouse set that highlights musicians which were met with praise during the school year.

This year's World Carnival kept up with what was done successfully last year by offering a Best of Coffeehouse set which saw the likes of 2/3 Goat, Pie Boys Flat, The Five One, and Pearl and the Beard. Each band brought a unique flavor to the table at the event and the crowd, which got larger throughout the evening, was largely receptive and in high spirits throughout most of the evening.

The Five One, a D.C. based rap group which performed at the college routinely during the Spring 2009 semester, opened up the event with their blend of alternative and indie rock infused with clever lyrics about fame, growing up, and the power of the individual.

After The Five One was the act

2/3 Goat, a country-folk outfit from New York that performed earlier this school year. The performers also took the time to explain each song and how they came to fruition, a noble attempt at connecting with the audience which had its hits and misses. 2/3 Goat's lead singer, Anallyse McCoy, discussed the cause that they as a band are supporting, ending mountaintop removal, and what it meant to them. Referencing the performance, junior Chris Page said, "They sang the best song about West Virginia mountaintop removal I've ever heard."

The next act of the evening, New York City's Pie Boys Flat, which is partly comprised of members of 2/3 Goat, played a polished set comprised of blues, rock, and reggae which got the majority of the audience up on their feet and moving. The stage dynamic was also very strong as each performer was able to instinctively go on any and all improvised solo work which was no doubt the result of hard work and raw talent.

The final act of the evening, New York's Pearl and the Beard, was for many the most anticipated act of the evening, following a very successful set earlier this year. Consisting of a trio of Brooklyn natives in vintage clothes and glasses, they played to the largest crowd of the evening and performed a very energetic, folk inspired group of songs. The crowd consistently talked to the band, danced together, and were grinning from ear to ear. The musicians, who made it very clear how lovely the reception was, could not have been more enthusiastic on-stage and also spent the majority of their set in the heat of the moment. "It was amazing. Their musical talents are just so awesome," said first-year Shannon Starcher of the Pearl and the Beard's performance. "There's nothing else I can say!"

Due to inclement weather, Saturday's World Carnival for the most part had been shut down, save for some of the performances which were originally scheduled to be under the Main Stage tent. Even though many of the World Carnival events planned for the afternoon were cancelled, students were still given the opportunity to enjoy acts such as the SMCM Step Team and Caribbean Steel Drum band in St. Mary's Hall on South Campus that

evening.

In addition to the acts which were rescheduled and moved to St. Mary's Hall were Three Man River Band, the winners of the Battle of the Bands contest held in March, and Virginia Coalition, the headlining act for this year's World Carnival. The events, unfortunately, had low turnout due to the location change caused by the weather which was itself an issue as there was a tornado watch issued for the county.

Those who did attend the headlining event, however, were given the opportunity to enjoy a very energetic set by both Three Man River Band and Virginia Coalition.

Three Man River Band, a group of musicians comprised of seniors Jimmy O'Keefe, Aaron Mirenzi, Nathan Hesse, and Keith Brown, played a very polished and well received set which focused mainly on songs on their forthcoming album which will be released later this spring. Their blend of folk and rock and jam band aesthetics, which has gained them notoriety and a dedicated following on campus, was at an all-time high during their performance.

After the opening act, the crowd grew significantly smaller throughout the evening despite a very entertaining set by Virginia Coalition which boasted some crowd favorites and covers of songs like "Lean On Me" and "I Want You Back." This could arguably be due to the locale of the concert, St. Mary's Hall, which isn't necessarily the most conducive environment for a dance party as it is a sit down venue. Regardless of the politics surrounding the audience turnout, Virginia Coalition, who is noted for their high energy antics on stage during performances, did not disappoint: there were multiple percussion solos by both the band's lead singer and the pianist, comedic interludes, and moments of audience interaction that had the crowd in what the lead singer liked to call "The Groove."

Overall, those who attended said they had a good time and a wonderful experience. "I thought it was an awesome concert," said junior Caitlin Cromer. "Virginia Coalition was amazing, they had fun regardless of how many people they were playing for, and put on an awesome show."

TFMS Dept. Promotes Student Work

By TESS WIER
Staff Writer

The first Theater, Film and Media Studies (TFMS) Student Video Festival took place on April 5 at Cole Cinema. A variety of student films produced in the Media Production classes of Spring 2010 were shown. The films ranged from light-hearted and goofy, to experimental and dreamy, to serious and investigative. According to Media Production professor and assistant professor of TFMS David Ellsworth, the films were "self-selected for the showcase by the students who made the films, which means that the students who feel good about their work want to show off their hard work, but the films that maybe students didn't feel as good about, they didn't necessarily want to show theirs." Senior Aaron Siegel said after the festival that it was a "good showing... it seemed like these were the students' very best efforts."

Many of the films focused at least tangentially on the natural beauty of the St. Mary's campus at varying times of year, with one specifically documenting the intense snowstorms of Spring 2010 and another highlighting the calm and tranquility of the St. Mary's River after the daily stresses and anxieties of a typical student's day. However, in most films there were extended shots of the scenery of the path and academic buildings. Ellsworth commented that student films often are "little snapshots of the school." Many students might recognize, for example, the conflict that the final film of the evening, "Whose Beach is it Now?" focused on two students escaping to the Historic St. Mary's site colloquially known as 'Daffodil Valley', and the perhaps understandable desire to have it all to yourself all of the time.

Three films of the evening were portraits of specific TFMS faculty members, interspersing shots of the daily life of

the TFMS department with interviews of the faculty about their journey into teaching. The portraits showed how TFMS classes can be much different than other academic departments, and highlighted the strengths of the faculty and the shows that the department has put on over the past year.

Another film in the documentary section focused on perceptions of marijuana use at St. Mary's College, featuring interviews from a variety of students, administrators, and staff. Between students, and administrators there seemed to be very little agreement about how much students actually use marijuana, and furthermore, how much of that use is indeed problematic.

Ellsworth said that while he wished more students had been able to come to the event, for the first showing ever he was pleased with the turn-out and reception, and that "hopefully we can do this again next year."

Student Showcase Their Own Playlists at this Year's Dance Show

By JESSY SCHROEDER
Arts & Entertainment Editor

The biannual St. Mary's College Dance Club showcase occurred this month on April 7, 8, and 9 in order to showcase the hard work, as well as the fun, that the members of the Dance Club have put into their respective dances during the weeks of this Spring semester.

Beginning the night off with the traditional introduction from the club's president, currently junior Maurielle Stewart, who acknowledged that the Dance Club is a way that various different types of people on campus can come together and have fun. "We're all rolled together with our desire to dance," said Stewart.

With the theme this semester of "Dance to Your Own Playlist," the show was compiled of twenty-two student-choreographed performances, including five senior spotlights that showcased the dancing abilities of nine of the club's graduating seniors.

"After I graduate," said Stewart, "I don't have a choice but to continue dancing! Dance has been a part of my life since I can remember and it just wouldn't be right to stop. My spirit won't let me stop dancing."

The show consisted of a large spectrum of genres including belly dancing, hip-hop, contemporary/

modern, and jazz. Not only did all of the dancers look excited to be dancing on stage in front of their fellow students and friends, but they also looked much more professional with the increase of catalog-purchased costumes, instead of the homemade ones of years past.

Along with the increased number of fouetté turns attempted and the incredibly impressive intermission acts performed by groups from outside of the Dance Club, there also seemed to be a large increase in creativity within the choreography this semester.

"My favorite dance was either 'Mario Kombat' because it was very entertaining and creative or the 'Reach and Feel my Heartbeat' dance because it was so powerful and intense, both the dancing and the message," said junior Emily Sillcox, who has been a part of the Dance Club for these past two years.

First-year Kia Krondorfer, who received the chance to choreograph the final number of the dance show, said, "It gave me a chance to be creative. For my choreography I wanted to do a dance where the audience built a relationship with the dancers and became fully involved with the dance as a whole."

Despite the fact that some criti-



PHOTO BY KEVIN BAIER

Students come together to perform at the Dance Club's biannual end of the semester performance.

cize Dance Club's end of the semester shows of upperclassmen favoritism, it still gives the chance for different types of students from all over the St. Mary's campus to come together, meet friends, and have fun.

Not only can it be a great physical and emotional experience, but it also can help students in other ways. Sillcox said, "I joined Dance

Club because I love dance and it gives me an opportunity to dance regularly. Dance also helps me deal with the stress of homework and school, if only for an hour at a time."

With her first term of being Dance Club president finished, Stewart excitedly awaits for next year's new challenges. "I knew about all my responsibilities

beforehand," said Stewart, "but juggling so many tasks was much more difficult once I sprung into action.... I met so many amazing people, served a club that has tremendously cultivated my artistic talents, and learned a lot about leadership in the process. The experience was invaluable and I'm glad to do it again for two more semesters!"

"Seahawk Sprint" Regatta Tests Crew's Endurance

By KEVIN BAIER

Advertising Manager and Online Editor

On Saturday, April 9, the St. Mary's crew team held its "Seahawk Sprint" down at the waterfront on a cloudy and chilly afternoon.

The Seahawk Sprint is the second regatta the team participated in this spring semester and the seventh regatta the team has participated in during the 2010-2011 school year.

St. Mary's captured three first place races during the Seahawk Sprint which included the Novice Men's 4, the Varsity Men's 4, and the Varsity Women's 8 races.

Crew is a sport of rowing whereby either four- or eight-rower boats are directed by the coxswain and race over a certain distance in hopes of completing that distance with the shortest time.

Describing her role as a rower, senior Melina Vamvas said she "sits 8 seat, which is the stroke [seat]" and "is only affecting the boat in a positive way."

Junior Molly Dougherty, a coxswain, said "as a coxswain you're a motivator...

no issues are left off the water."

Dougherty added that she makes sure everything is taken care of, addresses problems, and makes people comfortable.

However, she said she must "draw the line" between the role of conciliator versus motivator.

This past school year, the St. Mary's crew team obtained many

accolades during their regattas.

At the Wye Island Regatta, the Women's and Men's Mixed 8 and Mixed Double teams claimed first place in their four respective races.

At the Occoquan Challenge, the Varsity Women's 8 team finished second.

Crew Coach Kristin Conlin said she gets her players to succeed through "repetition and focus" and that crew is "not about brute force but pursuing the sport intelligently."

Conlin added she feels rewarded "when I know the workouts or technical drills positively affect the rowers."

But the crew team has not always been the perennial contender it is today. Its status as a club sport means it lacks the funding and administrative support varsity sports are given.

Until 2007, the crew team had no full-time paid coach. Conlin started coaching in 2007 saying she "wanted to give back to the team" and the team would "die" without a permanent member, i.e. a coach.

Vamvas said before a coach was present the team was more of a casual group of rowers with much less determination and dedication. "Coaches made it a team and not just a group of people" said Vamvas.

While club status offers the crew team fewer restrictions and more leeway, it also denies it school funding, out-of-school practices,



PHOTO BY BRENDAN LARRABEE

The women's crew team powers through the Seahawk Sprint, the penultimate regatta for the crew club this year. The final regatta, Mid-Atlantics, is scheduled for May 1, and will mark the eighth competition in which the team has participated during the 2010-2011 athletic season.

and official recruiting. Dougherty said "we work really hard and there is a lot of dedication and talent on this team... [but] it's not recognized by the school."

Conlin echoed Dougherty's sentiment, and said "what the team needs is not just support from the College in words, they need some type of standing influence to make sure we're able to progress."

Although the crew team has faced some obstacles over the years, progress is still being made. "Ten years ago the team could not have imagined [this] caliber of athletes and coxswains," Conlin said.

Vamvas commented that "[the crew team] turned into a varsity team without being a varsity team."

CREW IS "NOT ABOUT BRUTE FORCE, BUT PURSUING THE SPORT INTELLIGENTLY."

-Crew Coach Kristin Conlin

Men's Lacrosse Strives for Championship

By ANNA AGARUNOVA

Sports Editor

The No. 20 St. Mary's Men's Lacrosse team currently stands at 5-8, and looks forward to improving their standings as the CAC championships draw closer.

In their game last Thursday, April 14, the Seahawks defeated Hood College, securing the fifth seed in the upcoming 2011 Capital Athletic Conference Men's Lacrosse Championship Tournament.

The season began turbulently with two consecutive losses to Roanoke College (7-20) and Dickinson College (7-15).

St. Mary's Seahawk's first win of the season was against McDaniel

College (12-6).

After three more losses early in the season, the lacrosse team began their comeback with another recovery win against Frostburg University (13-8).

The April 14 game opened with a goal by first-year Gordy Long, and a quick answering goal by Hood.

From then on, The Seahawks continued to score on Hood well into the end of the third quarter with St. Mary's 13 - 2.

The Seahawk offense was led by senior attackman Dennis Rosson with four goals and two assists along with junior attackman J.P. Lennon, who continued his multiple-goal streak with three points.

The defense restrained Hood, who

only managed to make three points in the first half, out of a total of 16 for the game, along with 31 turnovers, many of which were forced by the Seahawks.

Notably, both senior attackman Chris Becraft and Rosson made two goals in the second quarter. St. Mary's then posted consecutive 3-1 runs in the third and fourth quarters for the 16-3 final.

The Seahawks ended the game with 42 shots and six ground-balls.

The Seahawks aim to keep the winning streak going as in the coming championship games.

The first round of the CAC Tournament will be Sunday, April 17 at 2:00 p.m. against York College.

Seahawk Schedule

4/20 Men's Tennis CAC Final	TBA
Men's Lacrosse vs Stevenson	3:30 p.m.
4/21 Women's Tennis vs Goucher*	3:00 p.m.
Men's Tennis vs Goucher*	3:00 p.m.
4/22 Women's Tennis CAC Final	TBA
4/23 Baseball vs Shenandoah*	1:00 p.m.
Men's Lacrosse CAC Championship*	2:00 p.m.
4/25 Men's Tennis vs Lancaster Bible*	3:00 p.m.
4/26 Baseball vs Washington	3:00 p.m.
5/1 Women's Lacrosse vs Chris. Newport*	3:30 p.m.

*Home game

Compiled by Peter Sparklin

Two Minute Drill



Men's tennis won the fourth seed in the 2011 Capital Athletic Conference Men's Tennis Championship Tournament as the Seahawks blanked Hood College, 7-0 in the final conference match of the season on Friday April 15.



St. Mary's women's tennis won their match against Frostburg State University on Wednesday April 13. The St. Marys team won an important 5-4 victory in the 2011 Capital Athletic Conference Women's Tennis Tournament. The Seahawks (7-9, 3-2 CAC) are now tied for third in the conference standings with York College of Pennsylvania.



Baseball lost to Frostburg State in the second round of the 2011 Capital Athletic Conference Tournament after an undefeated record on Friday April 15. St. Mary's was seeded third and Frostburg was seeded second. The game was a 6-5 victory for Frostburg.



St. Mary's women's lacrosse team lost to York College of Pennsylvania in their first game of the 2011 Capital Athletic Conference Women's Lacrosse Tournament. Fifth seeded York College won the game 10-7 in the first round of the conference Sunday April 17.

Compiled by Tess Wier

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The Heated Debate Over Student Fees

Recently, a debate has erupted over the merits and disadvantages of raising student fees at the College an additional \$25. The two following opinions, both by SGA Senators, address the issue.

Why Students Need Student Fees

SUBMITTED BY KYLE MCGRATH
Class of 2011

There's been a lot of talk lately about fees at the College. With the coming tuition increase, transcript fees, and graduation expenses, many students are asking more questions about where their money goes.

Well, I can't tell you what's in the College's financial books, but I can tell you plenty about one little part of the money you pay every year: the \$235 Student Activities fee that forms a part of your yearly \$2,305 Mandatory Fee as a full-time student. This is the fee that funds all sorts of student activities and initiatives on campus.

When most prospective students hear the words "Student Government Association," they think of the group in their high school that decided their class colors and the theme for their prom. At St. Mary's College of Maryland, the SGA's dilemmas are a bit different: we decide what to do with tens, sometimes hundreds of thousands of dollars.

What do we do with that money? The answer is relatively simple: whatever you ask us to. We support all of the clubs on campus with funding every semester, funding that helps pay for everything from food and equipment to event tickets and lodging. Through the Programs Board, we provide free movies in Cole Cinema (and sometimes the Admissions Field!), guest lecturers, comedians, and countless other on-campus events. We also support important orga-

nizations like SafeRide, and on some occasions, such as with the floating docks at the River Center, we have even stepped in to help the College when its own budget falls short. This year, at the behest of the student body, we stepped in to save the Bike Shop in Waring Commons when its funding was cut, and just a few weeks ago we granted the Campus Farm funding to ensure its survival for the com-

BUT THE SGA BUDGET IS IN THE RED BY ALMOST A THOUSAND DOLLARS THIS SEMESTER AND OUR SPECIAL CARRYOVER FUND, THE "NEST EGG" WE USE TO FUND ALL THESE MAJOR PROGRAMS, IS STRETCHED THIN: THREE YEARS AGO WE HAD ROUGHLY \$500,000 IN IT, AND IN THE TIME SINCE THEN WE'VE SPENT AROUND \$430,000.

ing year. The SGA is a place full of positive energy and great ideas: the things I've rattled off above are just a handful of examples on a long list of things we've done for the student body. Every cent of that fee goes into on-campus programs and events for the student body.

Here's the catch: we've been asked to do a lot, and the time has come to pay for it. Programs and Finance board, and our Treasurer, have been very careful with our budget, and worked with club leaders to make all the reasonable cuts they can. But our budget is in the red by almost a thousand dollars this semester, and our Special Carryover fund, the "nest egg" we use to fund all these major programs,

is stretched thin: three years ago we had roughly \$500,000 in it, and in the time since then we've spent around \$430,000 of that.

What happened in those three years? Again, the answer is pretty simple: we did a whole lot more stuff than we used to! The number of clubs has skyrocketed, and students have asked us for funding for numerous projects, which we have granted. While the things the SGA has been asked to fund have increased over the years, our Operational Budget has not been increased in nearly a decade.

Now, without additional funding, the programs we fund—specifically, the Bike Shop and the Campus Farm—are at risk. Without backing by the student body, neither of these could survive.

So, the time has come, as they say, to "put your money where your mouth is." If the student body wants to have a Campus Farm and a free Bike Shop, they have to be paid for. The SGA has approved a referendum in which students will vote on whether or not to increase student activities fees by \$25 a year. That \$25 per person will give us additional funding to the tune of \$45,000 a year, with which we can support student programs.

As a Townhouse Senator, I take my orders from the constituents I represent. It isn't my place to tell you how to vote, or what to do. I can only tell you the facts of the situation we are faced with, and allow you to decide whether or not you are willing to pay that \$25. Choose wisely.

What Good's a Student Fee Anyway?

SUBMITTED BY BECKY WHITE
Class of 2013

If you care to examine your bill on the St. Mary's Portal, you will see a line for a Mandatory Full Time Fee, \$235 of which is your Student Fee. And if you've been paying attention to campus affairs recently, you may have heard a lot of hubbub about increasing that fee.

In a financially tense time, how can the SGA possibly think this is necessary? How far would an extra \$25 go anyway? Well, as it turns out, miles.

For starters, many students may not realize just how comprehensive the Student Government Association's budget is. We cover everything from *The Point News*, the club trainer, SafeRide, start-up money for the freshman class, Cofehouse, the Green St. Mary's Revolving Loan Fund (GSMRF), the Professional Fellowship program, the Nest, the microwaves in your dorm to the Hawk Radio, World Carnival, the movies on the weekends, right down to the office supplies in the Club Room (for a truly

exhaustive list, see SGA Treasurer Matt Smith). Not to mention we fund every student-initiated club on campus. Some of these we are constitutionally obligated to fund, while others, such as SafeRide and GSMRF, were built into the budget as a response to student demand. So pretty much if you are a sentient being at this school, you have benefited from SGA funding.

Over the past few years, members of Finance Board and the Treasurer have been able to identify

IT IS SAFE TO SAY THAT WITHOUT A RESOUNDING "YES" FROM THE STUDENT BODY ON THE REFERENDUM [TO RAISE STUDENT FEES], EITHER THE BIKE SHOP OR THE CAMPUS FARM WILL BE STRUCK FROM THE BUDGET AND FORCED TO FIND MONEY ELSEWHERE.

a trend of more clubs wanting to do more things, with memberships expanding as rapidly as ambition. A classic example is Ski & Snowboard

Club, whose every trip admits the maximum number with a waiting list of up to 43 students. Ski & Snowboard Club is also one of our inherently more expensive clubs (others include Sailing Club and Equestrian Club), so while current president Mike Young has done a commendable job of reducing costs, he, and by extension you, would undoubtedly benefit from

a larger allocation.

The biggest strains on the SGA budget, however, manifest in the form of new additions.

This past year, both the Campus Farm and the Bike Shop have been forced to ask the SGA for money for their mere survival. The Bike Shop was originally housed under another budget and was then ousted, while the Campus Farm, being a relatively new project, had yet to establish a long-term funding model.

We voted yes on both because both appeared to be meritorious causes that directly benefit the student body. I'm sure many of you would agree.

However, the budget is unsustainable with current revenue levels. Our Special Carryover Fund is severely depleted, and it is safe to say that without a resounding "Yes" from the student body on the referendum, either the Bike Shop or the Campus Farm will be struck from the budget and forced to find money elsewhere. Reflect on the difficulty of this task, considering they came to us as a last resort.

This is why we collectively implore you to come to the polls in a few weeks and determine once and for all what we as your governing body can give you.

Before instinctively checking the "No" box, we further implore you to consider the stakes.

Seniors Want to Walk With Majors At Graduation

SUBMITTED BY ROZ KREIZENBECK
Class of 2011

After reading the Point/Counterpoint articles in the April 5 edition, not only did I feel the true spirit of informed discussion was being disregarded, but also that the reasoning behind Urgo's change to the walking order at graduation was not addressed.

From what I have been told, Urgo's reasoning for changing the long-standing tradition of walking with majors is that we, as graduates of St. Mary's, have been a part of a liberal arts experience.

This experience is ostensibly defined not by one's major, but by the broader knowledge gained from familiarity with a wide range of subjects.

Additionally, as noted in the Point/Counterpoint article by Steve Rees, Urgo's decision was also based on his observations of campus life at St. Mary's, where students freely mingle between majors in groups of friends based on common interests rather than academic schedules.

While I feel this side of the debate is reasonable, I personally do not agree with it. Although my major may not matter in twenty years, I currently spend hours, days, even weeks, of my life completing theses and other class requirements for my major.

Graduating is not about receiving a diploma and moving on, but about being recognized for achieving excellence in an area of study.

As liberal arts students, we must complete math, science, art, and other requirements, but it is in our major that we express our personal interests and passions.

Unlike News co-editor Amanda

Zelaya, I do not believe this issue is just about whom you will sit next to on graduation day.

Rather, graduation represents the final opportunity to celebrate and remember the accomplishments of the past four years.

Who better to do this with than someone who has shared your experiences? Walking and sitting with a fellow major upholds the bonds of community that Urgo is rightfully concerned with.

GRADUATION REPRESENTS THE FINAL OPPORTUNITY TO CELEBRATE AND REMEMBER THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE PAST FOUR YEARS. WHO BETTER TO DO THIS WITH THAN SOMEONE WHO HAS SHARED YOUR EXPERIENCE?

This issue of community brings me to my biggest concern with the article by Zelaya intended to defend the change to walking order. Although the Chik-fil-A debate is men-

tioned in the article, it seems the author has missed the biggest issue the debate has stirred on campus—the issue of civility.

In order to have a productive debate, both sides must recognize the validity of the other, even if they do not agree with it.

By labeling the debate surrounding the graduation debate as laughable, or as a distraction from "more important things, like homework," the spirit of discussion fostered by the Point/Counterpoint section of our school paper is undermined.

I think that we, as a community, can have a mature discussion about the issues at hand and come to a mutually beneficial conclusion without resorting to mean-spiritedness or incivility.

As May 14 nears, this topic becomes increasingly pressing for those who will be walking this year.

Although disappointed by some members of our community, I still feel a courteous, informed debate will help us reach a conclusion favorable to all.

Campus Farm Not as Expensive as It May Seem

By TESS WIER
Staff Writer & President of the Campus Farm

As the student fee increase is being currently debated, one of the most talked about items that will be receiving the funding is the Campus Farm. While I understand why members of the SGA are emphasizing the importance of new additions to the overall

FUNDING THE CAMPUS FARM FOR ONE YEAR IS COSTING ABOUT \$2.50 PER STUDENT, WHICH IS LESS THAN 1% OF THE TOTAL STUDENT FEE.

budget as a way to justify the fee increase, I can't help but feel that there is serious misrepresentation of how much money the Campus Farm receives from the SGA and how relevant the Campus Farm's needs are to the current SGA budget conundrum.

Just to put things in perspective, the Campus Farm requested on average about the same amount of money or less than each of the following clubs: SEAC, FUSE, FGS, the Equestrian Club, the Sailing Club, SMUT, WSMUT, *Avatar*, Crew, and the Clay Shooting Club, among many others. Some clubs in that list have even received considerably more in one semester than the farm received for the entire year, including during the summer.

And yet these clubs are not having their names called upon, their relevance questioned or their existence put on the line to justify the fee increase (nor should they).

The only way that the Campus

Farm differs from the above organizations in financial terms, is that like the Bike Shop and SafeRide (which receive, respectively, three times and four times the amount of money than the Campus Farm received), we use the money we receive from the SGA to pay workers over the summer, something clubs funded by

Finance or Programs Board are not allowed to do. The SGA was previously funding the Campus Farm through the Community Garden Club, and yet this was not seen as cause for considerable budget discussions.

Funding the Campus Farm for one year is costing about \$2.50 per student, which is less than 1% of the total student fee. While the Campus Farm does qualify as a new addition to the budget, it is not requesting that much more money than it did while it was a club. We just want to use the money differently than other clubs.

We don't represent a burden on the SGA's budget more than many other clubs, and would ask that people consider this before they question the farm in light of the fee increases. Fees need to go up anyways because they haven't gone up in almost ten years; it certainly isn't just because of the Bike Shop and the Campus Farm asking for tiny percentages of the SGA budget.

The Point News *Opinions* section, intended to be a forum for campus discussion, would like to represent all opinions; should an oppositional voice be raised and submitted, we will gladly review it for publication. In other words, we would love to have your feedback.

Dance Club: The Good, The Bad... No, Just the Ugly

SUBMITTED BY EDEN CARSWELL
Class of 2011

Everyone knows that Dance Show is one of the most popular events on campus. Every semester Dance Show draws in hundreds of attendees, all expecting an exhibition of student-choreographed work that displays an artistic side of the SMCM student body that's not often seen in the classrooms and lecture halls. Dance Show is generally good for the campus, but internally it looks like a mix between a bad Tyler

Perry film and a three-ring circus. There are kinks within Dance Club that need to be worked out if people are to continue supporting one of SMCM's favorite traditions.

1) Favoritism: From the choreographers that are selected for the show, to "pre-selecting" friends to use in their dances (even though it's prohibited), to "Exec Board Members" and choreographers treating friends fairly while others get the finger, favoritism runs rampant through Dance Club. The fact

is, fairness means treating everyone the same, judging dancers based on the choreography and their skill levels, and giving HONEST critiques for everyone. Picking buddies for a dance, or showing certain people extra attention or praise alienates the other dancers, and makes the whole operation look like its in cahoots. Get it together!

2) Attitude: Another problem is the way dancers and tech crew are being treated. Choreographers and Exec Board members shouldn't be insult-

ing, yelling and cursing at dancers or tech crew! It's not necessary. What will come out of screaming at a dancer for not pointing a toe correctly? Quitting the dance and making a trip to a therapist maybe, but nothing good. Dance Club is not the New York City Ballet! Whether choreographing for fun or to put something on your resume, disrespecting dancers isn't the way to win the "Best Choreography Award" at the Tony's. Similarly, being rude to the tech crew (people that help as a favor, by the way) will only lead to a music-less, tech crew-less show... Pretty boring. There's a way to lead and teach without being volatile or unpleasant to others. Remember: Unless you're getting paid for it, or your life depends on it, you should probably relax.

3) Personal Issues: Favoritism and Attitude are good ways to slide into this problem of bringing personal issues center stage. Sometimes people that don't like each other end up in Dance Club together--DUH. That's life! We end up in class, at work, or at social events with people that grind our gears all the time! But turning Dance Show into an episode of Maury isn't going to help productivity, especially during tech week. The whole ordeal is already tiresome, strenuous, and time-consuming. Why make things worse? Dance Show is about dance, and dance only. Leave smart remarks, eye-rollin' and childish behavior off the dance floor.

Yes, working with other people can be very stressful, and at times evil demons come out when we least expect them. But for the sake of everything DANCE, I just hope Dance Club cleans that up so that the behind-the-scenes attitudes and behavior match the enthusiasm and positivity that students bring to the show every semester.

Punching Babies

BY HEATHER PRIBUT
Cartoonist



Giving What You Can to Keep St. Mary's Great

SUBMITTED BY DANNY
RUTHENBERG-MARSHALL
Student Trustee



A girl I know turned to me and said that this was her last semester, she couldn't afford to come back. Two days later, a guy stopped me on the path, to ask about financial aid possibilities, saying he was working twenty-hour weeks on top of school and still not making ends meet. Five days later, another person said she was taking twenty-four credits this semester, in an effort to graduate early to avoid additional debt. The next day, I heard from another student who had transferred to College Park already, unable to afford St. Mary's College.

In nine days I heard from four different students in extreme financial difficulties. At other times throughout the semester, I heard from more than a dozen others in similar situations. Earlier this year, I wrote about what was happening with tuition, and why. I talked about the declining percentage of general budget funds coming from the state, and rising expenses despite austerity efforts. The school

is working on solutions, from pushing the state for more money to increasing fundraising efforts for scholarships. Yes, both the school and the state need to work harder, and I'm pushing them on that, but sometimes we can't wait for others to act. We must act now.

Some of us have been lucky enough to have a parent or other relative or funding source pay for the entirety of our education. We are the ones not struggling to make tuition payments, who take merit-based aid as a nice bonus, rather than as necessity. I am among this group, as many of you reading this article are. That is not to say that I personally have a great deal of money; on the contrary, my bank account is quite small. But what is there isn't needed to pay for my education. It's all discretionary funding, and while saving up for post graduation is necessary, maybe I can do with one less new shirt, or one less pack of "Natty Boh."

At the end of last semester, I made a \$200.00 donation for need-based financial aid. As mentioned in an

WHAT WE NEED NOW IS EVERY STUDENT ON THE FINANCIALLY STABLE END OF THE SPECTRUM, THOSE OF US WHO CAN AFFORD IT, TO GIVE WHATEVER WE CAN TO HELP OUT OUR FELLOW STUDENTS.

earlier *Point News* article, another student made a \$1,000.00 anonymous donation for need-based financial aid. That is an incredible start. What we need

now is every student on the financially stable end of the spectrum, those of us who can afford it, to give whatever we can to help out our fellow students. If all you can give is five dollars, then do it. If you can give more, do it. If you have well off relatives, ask them for money if you're comfortable doing so. If you have time, write to the legislature and tell them how

Ask Miss Meghan: What's (Not) Up With E.D.?

BY MEGHAN ROOT
Resident Sexpert

Dear Miss Meghan,
I was hooking up with someone last weekend and I couldn't perform. This is not the first time this has happened. Do I need to see a doctor or get Viagra?

-Down and Out

Dear Down and Out,
Erectile Dysfunction, especially in folks under the age of 60 who do not have a pre-existing medical condition, is typically a psychological issue. In laymen's terms, it may be performance anxiety. One lost erection, whether due to alcohol, lack of sleep, stress, feeling dejected, or a lack of desire, can trigger a fear of it happening again.

If this fear takes root in your brain the next time you try to get aroused, then your focus is the fear, not the pleasure and aroused feelings that typically trigger an erection. Once this cycle starts, it can be difficult to break. Taking a pill can actually help perpetuate this cycle as well.

Plenty of folks lose or can't get an erection at times and it is VERY NORMAL. Both men and women struggle with arousal at times and it is important to listen to your body.

If a penis is not erect or a vagina is not swelling or lubricating, it may be your body telling you that having sex right now isn't the best idea. If you try to force arousal, either by taking Viagra, using a pump, or over stimulating the area, you can cause trauma to the genitals which can make the next encounter even less enjoyable, and in some cases painful.

I know we live in a highly masculine society that pokes (ha, pokes) fun at men who can't "perform" and perpetu-

ates the stereotype that you are "less of a man" if not at full attention when the time comes and it can be difficult to acknowledge out loud a problem regarding one's "manhood." That we even refer to the penis as the place of ones "manhood" keeps the stereotype going.

We also have a medicalization of sexuality, which gives the impression that sexual performance can be fixed by taking a little blue pill.

If you are having difficulty, you absolutely should talk to your doctor and get a full assessment of any physical issues that may be contributing. Sadly, however, doctors frequently don't assess about any mental or emotional issues playing into arousal and just write a script for Viagra.

This does not address the underlying issues and can create long-term health issues with circulation and blood flow. This is also true for folks who take it for recreational purposes who want a longer lasting erection. When it comes time when you actually need a pill to help get an erection, it might not work. Plus, there are risks associated with taking it that you need to be aware of.

I suggest going to talk to a therapist. You MAY have a sex therapist who works on this campus in the counseling center (oohhh, I wonder who? Hint: her name starts with Me) who can assess for, and help with, any mental barriers that may have developed.

It can be a difficult thing to talk about with friends or family so talking to a therapist along with a doctor is a great idea, prior to or while taking a supplement.

Sincerely tooting my own horn in the last paragraph,
Miss Meghan

much we need additional funding. Anything you can give, and anything you can think of outside of direct giving, is helpful. Together, we can help keep every student who wants to stay at St. Mary's financially capable of doing so.

All it takes is a little force of will and a determination as a student body to not let our peers fall by the wayside. Give everything you can, and we can do it.

So open your wallets and open your hearts. Let's do this thing!

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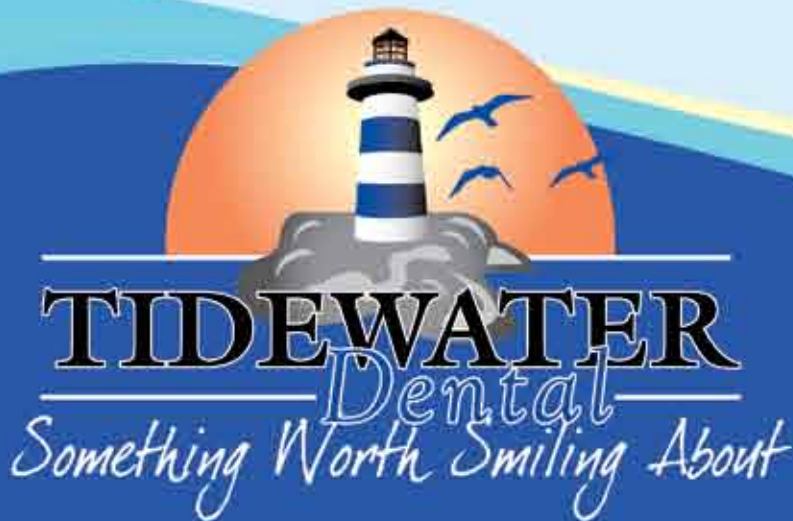
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