Aquinas presidential candidates make campus visits

By Valentina Garcia

As spring break approaches, the presidential candidates have been busy meeting with students and faculty to address their visions for Aquinas. The candidates are engaged, and the presentations and questions were prepared with questions.

Dr. James (Jamie) Loftus, the current Dean of the Stritch Center, who is currently a student at Stritch, said his position as provost at Trist would be to continue this tradition. Dr. Kevin Curzan explained that we need to be engaged, and the candidates certainly engaged, and the presentations were prepared with questions.

Dr. Steven Barrows, the current provost at St. Norbert, said he wants to continue this tradition. Dr. Kevin Curzan also suggested that the presentations were prepared with questions.

The CVs and biographies of the candidates can be found on The Moose, an announcement that is expected to be made until early April.

"Language itself sets the tone of the debates we have. It is not neutral and it changes the ways in which we interact with one another," Dr. Curzan explained. In other words, communication is key to building the community and empathy among the faculty and students.

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COURTESY SCHOOL
Aquinas: Support for Transparent Day of Invisibility in Grand Rapids

According to WZZM 13, the first International Transgender Day of Visibility was held on March 31. According to the National Center for Transgender Equality, there will be events held all week leading up to the day. Some of these events include a virtual event planned by the Transgender Awareness Network to support and spread knowledge of the transgender community.

National: Missing girls in D.C.

According to USA Today, social media is highlighting the disappearance of black and Latinx women. There have been over 1,000 missing women in the last five years. The attention to the fact that many missing children are rarely identified as missing is already drawing national attention. Activists in the nation’s capital are drawing attention to the missing girl issue.

International: Russian protest leader Alexe Navalny in jail

According to RBC, Moscow’s Pattison police precinct arrested Russian protest leader Alexei Navalny on Sunday. Navalny was arrested following a July protest against President Vladimir Putin and his administration. The protests were organized in response to a law that would have made it more difficult to hold protests and demonstrations. Navalny's supporters said that the arrest was an attempt to prevent them from participating in the protests.

Meet Lewis Butler: He’s an economics professor of Hillside, Ferris State and Aquinas

Student Senate swears of bottled water

By Ty Smith

A student-organization plans to stop the sale of bottled water on campus.

Student Senate is one of the few student bodies on campus that is in session year-round. It is responsible for the administration of student fees and the allocation of student activities funds. The Senate is made up of representatives from each of the nine colleges on campus.

The Senate has been working on the issue of bottled water on campus for the past year. They have been working with the administration and other student organizations to find a solution.

The Senate is holding a meeting on Wednesday, April 5, at 12:00 p.m. to discuss the issue further. They will be meeting in the Ballroom of the Aquinas College Student Center.

The Senate is also considering the possibility of holding a referendum on the issue in the fall.


Professor Spotlight: Lewis Butler

Lewis Butler is an economics professor of Hillside, Ferris State and Aquinas College. He is a member of the Aquinas College Programming Board, which plans and organizes events on campus.

Butler is also a member of the startup of Detroit Prep. He said he would like to see a traditional board of directors for the startup, as he believes it would be easier for the school to move forward.

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A week in New Orleans

By Klarie Ojenus

Saints serve at St. Peter Claver School during spring break.

Saints at New Orleans: (From back to left bottom right) Junior Gustav Antish, Sophomore Rosanna Thiemann, Freshmen Kelley Damone, Junior Kate Douglass, Sophomore Michael Gorman, Freshman Chucky Blackmore, Sophomore Jonathan Gahling, Junior Dantele Frevell, Senior Mary Campbell, Sophomore Joe Lanz, Senior Thea Huggans, Freshmen Jala Stidham, Junior Kaley Fritz, Sophomore Aviee Chopra and Sophomore Klarie Ojenus.

Being able to help them during class taught us so much about who we are as people and what we can do to be great. Senior Brandon Monks said, “New Orleans allowed me to interact with some incredible kids and teachers in the St. Peter Claver community, reaffirming my desire to teach.”

Each night we ended our day with an end of day meeting with the St. Peter Claver community. Dr. Pinheiro, however, thought the program missed an opportunity. "I thought it was a huge mistake that these students and staff did not choose the film because it already marginalized group of people," he said. "It was not there for the discussion, in which gay students, faculty, and alumni told their stories and the audience asked tough questions of our guests."

Aquinas Senior Emily Southerton also attended the film and shared Dr. Pinheiro’s statement: "I didn’t want to invalidate these peoples’ narratives, because there is validity in this path for a lot of people."

Evan Dunklee, Student

Students and staff gathered in the Moon after the walk out on a protest.

Saints and Staff respond to controversial Catholic Studies department event

The new evaluation takes about five minutes and is done outside the classroom on the student’s time rather than on class time. If a student fails to fill out the evaluation online, the third email will be sent until the student completes the evaluation.

Students attend the film screening, an event sponsored by the Catholic Studies department. Dr. Pinheiro, however, thought the program missed an opportunity. "I thought it was a huge mistake that these students and staff did not choose the film because it already marginalized group of people," he said. "It was not there for the discussion, in which gay students, faculty, and alumni told their stories and the audience asked tough questions of our guests."

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On the evening of Tuesday, March 14, 2017, at 7 p.m., the college watched "The Saints I Wed" in the Alumni Center. The film explores the Catholic Church’s teaching on human sexuality, its understanding of the complementarity of women and men, and the inevitable challenges the Catholic Church’s solidarity with the LGBTQ community. We request that the campus community review this film together and use it as a conversation tool for dialogue and reflection.

This film screening created a context for the campus to learn, reflect, and engage in a broader conversation about the Catholic Church’s teaching on human sexuality. The film shares the stories of three people—two of whom are married same-sex couples, and one who is a single woman. The film provides a clear and nuanced understanding of the Church’s teaching on human sexuality, and how it is real to so many. There is no hatred or shaming, but rather a desire to clarify that the Church is concerned for the whole person, who are uniquely marginalized.

We appreciate the efforts of the Catholic Church to navigate this difficult topic with care and compassion. We request that the campus community review this film together and use it as a conversation tool for dialogue and reflection. We believe that this film is a great resource for the campus community to engage in meaningful conversations about the Church’s teaching on human sexuality.

The film’s producers encourage all campuses to use "The Saints I Wed" with their students, particularly those in religious studies, theology, ethics, and human sexuality. The film is available on YouTube and can be accessed through the film’s website (thesaintswed.com). We encourage all campuses to use this film as a tool for dialogue and reflection. We believe that this film is a great resource for the campus community to engage in meaningful conversations about the Church’s teaching on human sexuality.
By America DeGraw

Reporter

"Virginia & Rivers!" The final words from the trio of America DeGraw, and traditional musical "RENT" continue to have an impact on me. I went to the farewell concert at The Kennedy Center on March 26th. It was an emotional experience, and I was lucky enough to catch a glimpse of it, even in the midst of the 2016-2017 tour. It was an emotional moment, and I am grateful to have been a part of it.

"RENT" premiered in 1995, and the gritty tale of life on the streets of New York City captured the hearts of audiences worldwide. The musical's success was unprecedented, and it has remained a cultural phenomenon even today.

This production was particularly special because it was the last time that some of the original cast members would be together on stage. The cast included the likes of Adam Pascal, Anthony Rapp, Idina Menzel, and others, all of whom had been involved with the show from the beginning.

The concert itself was a celebration of the show's legacy, and it featured a mix of original numbers and covers of popular songs from the show's run. It was a moving experience, and I was deeply moved by the performances of the cast.

In addition to the musical performances, the concert also featured a series of tributes to the show's creators, including Jonathan Larson, the show's composer, and Idina Menzel, who played the role of Maureen in the show.

Overall, it was an emotional and unforgettable experience. I highly recommend that anyone who has an interest in the show, or in musical theater in general, check out a performance of "RENT" if they have the opportunity.
Sports

Baseball's official hot dog

The MLB announced on Tuesday that the official hot dog of the league comes from Nathan's Famous Inc., a fast-food chain founded in 1916. The decision gives Nathan's the right to use MLB logos and trademarks in its advertising.

March Madness

South Carolina is slated to go against Gonzaga after a surprise upset over the Florida Gators 77-70. The North Carolina and Oregon match up is expected to be heated, with score projections as high as the 90's. Both games of the semi-finals will be played on April 1.

Seattle Seahawks

Trevone Boykin of the Seattle Seahawks was arrested Monday after the car he was a passenger in crashed into a bar. The driver was arrested on suspicion of driving under the influence; five people were injured and no one was killed. A spokesperson for the Seahawks said that the team was "disappointed" in his arrest.

International: World Baseball Classic

The United States won its first ever World Baseball Classic title against Puerto Rico in a 9-0 victory at Dodger Stadium. Marcus Stroman of the Toronto Blue Jays pitched six scoreless innings and was named tournament MVP.

National champs

By Charlie Crowley
Staff Writer

There's a term in sports known as the five-year plan. In most cases, this happens after new management comes in and looks to rebuild and turn the team around so they can become a successful and winning program.

Aquinas hockey had their own version of a five-year plan. Five years ago, there was no hockey team at AQ. Now, there is, and they're national champions. The Saints defeated crosstown rival Calvin College 4-3 to capture the ACHA Division III title in Columbus, Ohio.

"It's an awesome feeling," said senior Graham Gates. "Putting in four years of early mornings and late nights of hard work was tough and grinding at times but being able to leave the game which has taught us so much on top of the mountain is awesome and makes everything we have done to get here worth it.

"Winning a national championship is a statement for any program but with our being so young, it's really important for our image," said freshman Spencer Graham. "This really shows what we're about with how serious we take this game."
World Baseball Classic 2017

Baseball teams around the globe send most skilled players to world tournament, competing to earn title as best in the world.

By Hayden Modaff

Sports Editor

T he World Baseball Classic officially started their season on Feb. 14 in Davenport. According to the tournament, this was the fifth installment of the WBC. The United States opened the season with a 5-2 win over Canada followed by an 8-0 victory over Puerto Rico. The Netherlands came out victorious and went on to clinch their first ever spot in the World Baseball Classic. The United States defeated Puerto Rico 8-0 to secure a spot in the finals. Team USA can now call themselves champions, at least for the next four years until the World Baseball Classic rolls back around.

The Saints’ softball team opens their season with a sweep of the Saint Ambrose Tournament.

By Sam Bell

Sports Editor

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