

The show must go on

Erin Brody, Arts & Culture Editor



A student plays at the 2017 Homecoming and Fall Family Weekend. (SOURCE: SVC FLICKR)

As winter break wrapped up, many students, faculty and staff wondered whether Saint Vincent College would return for the start of the spring 2022 semester with Omicron cases on the rise. While the school ultimately chose to return to in-person learning, some programs had to adapt their focuses until COVID cases plateau and decrease.

Dr. Thomas Octave, chair of fine arts, explained the shifts in the music program and why these shifts had to be accommodated, as music-related events were deemed a COVID super-spreader. However, the music department has “tried to keep things as normal as possible.”

As Octave recounted, performances were held in person with masked audiences in the fall of 2021. Performers were even able to have actors perform without masks if they tested negative within a reasonable time before the show. According to Octave, “the fall was a little bit better” due to a lower rate of community transmission of COVID compared to the start of this semester.

“Now with this current Omicron surge, we’ve just tried to mitigate more,” Octave said. “We’re trying to keep these two weeks a little more virtual, having ensembles meeting, just keep doing what
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Winter weather whams campus

Sean Callahan, News Editor

Snow showers and frigid winds did not waste any time greeting Saint Vincent College this semester. Winter Storm Izzy, coined by The Weather Channel, dumped more than 10 inches of snow in Latrobe during Jan. 16 and 17.

On the morning of Jan. 17, David Hollenbaugh, Vice President for Institutional Advancement, sent an email to the Saint Vincent Community, informing them that all classes and offices would operate virtually for that day. Some professors did hold class virtually, but others opted to cancel class outright.

Although snowplows had gone through the main streets by the morning of Jan 17., some students still had concerns with the maintenance of the streets, parking lots and walking paths, even days after the storm.

Christopher Bouye, junior biology major, observed several students fall, and almost fell himself, while navigating between buildings following the storm.

“The campus definitely could have done a better job at shoveling snow from the walkways and steps,” Bouye said.

During Jan. 17 and 18, staff were
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NEWS



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SVC music program has no treble in adjusting to COVID protocols

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we're doing with keeping some distance [and] masking."

Both bands and choir wear masks during rehearsals, and choir lessons have implemented a virtual format because the act of singing creates "more aerosols" than speech production. The music program has also continued to reference multiple agencies like the CDC and American Choral Directors

to operate with the current system in place.

"We'll pivot and turn as we need to," Octave said. "But I'm an eternal optimist, so I'm always looking for the positive dimensions of it all."

Octave is "grateful to our students and faculty for working together so well" in an attempt to slow the spread of COVID-19, which is why the music

"There's definite plans, and everybody is just being cautious to move forward; to make sure that everybody's safe, but at the same time, knowing that this will ebb and flow."

- Dr. Thomas Octave

Association to ensure the best plan of action for the SVC community.

"We are sticking to the health and safety plan of the college, really," said Octave. "The industry standard is the mask."

Octave hopes to be back in full swing "in the next week or two," but until then, the music program will continue

program is able to continue with their concert series. Music at Midday, one such series, will continue in February both live and virtually.

"There's definite plans," Octave said, "and everybody is just being cautious to move forward; to make sure that everybody's safe, but at the same time, knowing that this will ebb and flow."

Students describe aftermath of storm

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The walking path leading up to Lot S was still covered in sheets of snow and ice as of Jan. 22. (SOURCE: CALLAHAN)

seen shoveling snow and salting walking paths, such as those leading from Saint Benedict Hall and Rooney Hall, and those between Alfred Hall and the Robert S. Carey Center.

Douglass E. Eppley, Director of Facilities, explained that the FMO grounds crew, directed by the FMO Grounds Supervisor, is responsible for salting sidewalks and plowing snow. When there is a heavier storm, as was the case during Jan. 17, the entire FMO staff, including custodians and tradesmen, work together to keep sidewalks clear.

"The Grounds Supervisor will also determine if and when outside companies need to be called to campus to provide assistance with plowing snow. We called two companies to help us plow during this storm," Eppley said.

community Center and Alfred Hall," he said. "There is also emphasis on the commuter parking lot, as well as faculty, staff and student parking lots."

On Jan. 19, Danielle Hegyes, residence hall director, emailed the SVC community, requesting that people in Lot N move their cars so that snow could be cleared out.

Eppley said that these parking lot requests are scheduled on an as-needed basis, usually after a storm is finished.

According to The Weather Channel, the next winter storm, Jasper, is expected to sweep through the Southeast and the Midwest. As of Jan. 22, it remains to be seen if it will reach SVC.

Caitlin Machuta, senior physics and mathematics major, lives in Aurelius Hall and must commute to a local high school for student teaching during the week. She described dissatisfaction with the path leading to Lot S, as well as the lot itself, even after the storm had ceased and in-person classes had resumed.

"During the storm, I needed to get to my older vehicle, which already has car problems, to get to my job," Machuta said. "I had to go through a path that was icy and snow-covered to a lot that was not shoveled or salted."

Eppley acknowledged that keeping all sidewalks and streets open is an important goal, but that during heavier storms, paths need to be prioritized.

"Our top priority is to have a path from dorms to Carey, Dupre, Com-

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SPORTS

SVC spectator policy updated

Luke Mich, Sports Editor



The basketball team's game against Westminster, the first home game of the season, was played without spectators on Jan. 12. (SOURCE: ATHLETICS.STVINCENT.EDU)

Before the majority of students arrived back on campus for the start of the spring semester, Saint Vincent College announced that spectators were not allowed to attend the upcoming slate of indoor sporting events at the school. The announcement came on Jan. 7, and the revised athletic spectator policy was put in effect Jan. 10 and applied to all events through the first week of school. These events included multiple men's and women's basketball games, as well as a swim meet for both the men's and women's teams.

Dr. Jeff Mallory, executive vice president and chief operating officer, explained why the policy was adapted.

"Ensuring the safe and healthy return of all members to the college community and our requirement for testing upon returning was a main focus of the initial week," Mallory said. "We were also

very aware of the surge in positive cases. With testing, analyzing the results and the need to fully understand any other unique elements with the start of the semester, the leadership of the college collectively agreed it was beneficial to initiate (this) policy."

On Jan. 14, the school extended the policy through Jan. 22, and the policy is subject for a possible extension again as the rate of COVID-19 cases in the Western Pennsylvania region continues to rise. As of Jan. 23, three men's basketball games, two women's basketball games, two swim meets and two men's volleyball games have been played without spectators within this two-week span.

The decision whether the policy will be extended is to be determined, yet Mallory is hopeful it will not be extended or re-instated.

"Updates on the spectator policy [will be] publicized via the Athletics Department and their various media outlets."

Whether or not the spectator policy will be enforced for outdoor events has yet to be determined; however, a possibility remains that the policy will extend to them.

"The need to consider [the policy] would be based on the conditions of the school and society and feedback from our student-athletes and coaches,"

"Ensuring the safe and healthy return of all members to the college community and our requirement for testing upon returning was a main focus of the initial week."
- Dr. Jeff Mallory

Mallory stated.

If the school lifts or does not extend the current athletic spectator policy for indoor events, then the first indoor sporting event to have spectators this semester will be on Sunday, Jan. 30, as the men's volleyball team plays against Elizabethtown at 12 p.m. and against John Jay at 4 p.m.

Team Standings

Women's Basketball

Team	W	L	Streak
W&J	11	3	W6
Chatham	9	4	W1
Westminster	9	6	L1
Bethany	8	5	W1
Grove City	8	6	W1
Geneva	6	7	L2
Thiel	4	6	W3
Saint Vincent	3	8	L1
Waynesburg	1	13	L6
Franciscan	0	12	L12

Schedule: @Waynesburg 1/26 5:30 PM, @W&J 1/29 1 PM, @Franciscan 1/31 6 PM

Women's Swimming

Team	W	L	Streak
Westminster	3	1	L1
Saint Vincent	6	4	W5
Grove City	4	2	W1
W&J	5	4	L1
Chatham	4	3	W1
Franciscan	5	5	W1
Bethany	0	7	L7

Schedule: @Lycoming 1/29 1 PM, PAC Championships 2/9 7 PM

Men's Indoor Track & Field

Schedule: @Mount Union 2/5 10 AM, @Baldwin Wallace 2/11 4 PM, PAC Championships 2/24 1 PM

Results: 6th at Pioneer Invitational

Women's Indoor Track & Field

Schedule: @Mount Union 2/5 10 AM, @Baldwin Wallace 2/11 4 PM, PAC Championships 2/24 1 PM

Results: 11th at Pioneer Invitational

Men's Basketball

Team	W	L	Streak
Chatham	10	1	W4
W&J	13	4	W1
Waynesburg	10	5	W2
Westminster	10	6	L1
Geneva	8	6	W3
Grove City	6	8	L2
Franciscan	4	8	W1
Saint Vincent	2	12	L3
Bethany	1	11	L7
Thiel	1	11	L6

Schedule: @Waynesburg 1/26 7:30 PM, @W&J 1/29 3 PM, @Franciscan 1/31 8 PM

Men's Swimming

Team	W	L	Streak
W&J	5	2	W4
Grove City	4	2	W1
Westminster	3	2	W1
Saint Vincent	2	7	L1
Bethany	1	6	L5
Chatham	0	6	L6

Schedule: @Lycoming 1/29 1 PM, PAC Championships 2/9 7 PM

Men's Volleyball

Team	W	L	Streak
Mt. Aloysius	2	0	W2
Thiel	1	0	W1
Hiram	2	1	W2
Geneva	3	4	W2
Medaille	1	4	L2
PSU Altoona	0	0	-
PSU Behrend	0	2	L2
Saint Vincent	0	2	L2
Hilbert	0	5	L5

Schedule: @Midway 1/29 12 PM, @Carlow 1/29 2 PM, Elizabethtown 1/30 12 PM

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ARTS & CULTURE

A Catholic congressman's call

Delaney Fox, Staff Writer

From Jan. 15 to Jan. 21, various offices, organizations and clubs at Saint Vincent College planned events to commemorate "Life in Christ Week." One of these events was a talk given by former Congressman Daniel Lipinski, organized by the Center for Catholic Thought and Culture.

Students were invited to listen to the talk in the Fred Rogers Center at 7:30 p.m. on Jan. 19. Lipinski's talk, titled "Witnessing to Truth Over Power: A Catholic Congressman's Call," focused on his experience as a pro-life Democrat in the House of Representatives.

Lipinski never set out to become a leader in the pro-life movement. He began his career as a representative for Illinois' third district in 2004. Due to the Catholic presence in the district, Lipinski believed that it was the only one he had a chance of ever winning in.

As the general political atmosphere changed, so did media coverage on Lipinski. The Democratic Party shifted to a more pro-choice outlook, and Lipinski maintained a firmly pro-life stance. The media emphasized Lipinski's dissent from his party.

In 2009, Lipinski was one of few Democrats in Congress who were opposed to the Affordable Care Act due to language that might permit taxpayer money to fund abortions. Revisions were made to add pro-life language to the Affordable Care Act, but this motion had to be approved by the Senate.

The Democratic Party lost a seat in the Senate that year and therefore did not have enough votes to overcome

a filibuster. The Democrats in the House of Representatives were told that they needed to pass the act as is, as it was unlikely to pass in the Senate again.

Lipinski and about nine other Democrats maintained their refusal to vote for the unrevised Affordable Care Act. Lipinski was called upon by other representatives and party leaders, including President Obama, to change his mind.

The representatives were offered an executive order that would prohibit taxpayer money funding abortion; about seven representatives tentatively agreed with the stipulation of seeing the language of the order. After it was shown to each dissenting Democrat, Lipinski was the only one who continued to insist on the inclusion of pro-life language in the Affordable Care Act itself. It passed without revision in early 2010.

By 2017, it was clear to Lipinski that pro-choice groups would be advocating against him throughout 2018, before the next election. Many corporations and organizations contributed to campaigns against Lipinski and for his opposition.

Despite his agreement with the Democratic Party on nearly every other issue, there was a media frenzy surrounding Lipinski. He was accused of being anti-women and being friends with then-president Donald Trump; a photo of Trump with Lipinski in the background was used as evidence.

Even so, Lipinski managed to win the 2018 election by a narrow margin. He expected the media campaigns against him to resume as 2020 ap-

proached, but he remained firm in his pro-life stance. He became the lead Democratic cosponsor on a prohibition on abortion after 20 weeks and spoke at the March for Life. However, Lipinski ultimately lost the 2020 election.

"I thought only about how my entire life, really for 15.5 years, had revolved around being a member of Congress. It is an all-encompassing job... I was lying in bed thinking it was sort of all gone. What is my purpose?... It felt very empty," Lipinski said.

Lipinski began working on his concession speech the morning after the election. He wanted to ensure that he emphasized the message that he would rather stand by his principles than betray them to win an election.

After delivering the speech, Lipinski began to receive calls and texts thanking him for his courage in sticking with his principles. In losing, he saw that he had been given an opportunity.

"I felt, with God's grace, I had done the best that I could. While losing an election is painful, I felt like I had not failed God... it seemed that in losing, I may have provided greater witness for others," Lipinski said.

Lipinski argues that Catholics need to be builders with a positive vision, changing hearts and minds and helping to reach compromise, which is essential in politics and in democracy.

Lipinski also gave a speech at the March for Life on Jan. 21. In the speech, Lipinski gave a shout out to Saint Vincent students who attended as part of the celebration of "Life in Christ" week.

Honest and humorous Abe

Jacob Rzempoluch, Part-Time Staff Writer

When discussing the legacy of American presidents, the focus is usually on their impact and their actions. Often overlooked, however, is how the presidents' personal attributes, such as their sense of humor, made them a more effective and relatable leader. Dr. Eric Sands, an associ-

ated professor of political science at Berry College in Georgia, recently gave a lecture at Saint Vincent College that described how Abraham Lincoln's personal attributes — specifically, his sense of humor — contributed to his legacy as President. "Humor was one of the ways that helped Lincoln relate... to the common man," Sands said. Throughout his lecture, Sands in-

**"When I started studying Abraham Lincoln as part of my dissertation, his humor was one of the things that came up."
- Dr. Eric Sands**

cluded many of Lincoln's original jokes and stories, demonstrating the various ways a political leader could use humor as an advantage. He also mentioned other presidents that were known for their sense of humor, including Teddy Roosevelt, Franklin Roosevelt and Ronald Reagan.

Students particularly enjoyed this aspect of the lecture. Nick Walters, sophomore politics and English double major, said that he found the lecture interesting, as it related Lincoln's jokes to more contemporary presidents.

Joel Loomis, sophomore business management and political science double major, attended "to get a

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CPET lecture shines light on President's humor and legacy

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Dr. Eric Sands of Berry College recently gave a lecture in the Fred Rogers Center on President Abraham Lincoln's use of humor in his politics. (SOURCE: ASHBROOK CENTER)

good look on Lincoln's interpretation of politics" and was not disappointed. He reported leaving the lecture with a fuller view of this significant American historical figure.

In some cases, Lincoln used humor to ridicule an opponent or their argument. Just as frequently, Lincoln would use humor to relieve the inherent tensions present in political discussions.

"When I started studying Abraham Lincoln as part of my dissertation, his humor was one of the things that came up," Sands said. After completing his dissertation, Sands continued his research as a general Lincoln scholar, but he never forgot the humor he found in Lincoln's personal documents and the stories of others. While presidential humor is not a specific academic focus of Sands's work,

when studying the words and writings of presidents, humor is often present.

A specific example of Lincoln's humor that Sands discussed was his retort when Congressman James Ashley remarked that Lincoln's use of anecdotes was excessive and taking the political establishment "not a mile from [Hell]." In response to this comment, Lincoln jested that the Capitol was only about a mile away from the White House. This witty exchange is often mirrored by today's politicians as well, as humor remains a classic tactic for public speakers.

The Center for Political and Economic Thought hosts lectures at least once a month. Emails will be sent in advance to notify students of these lectures and other campus events.

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