

Dr. Mallory explains continuing construction

Erin Brody, Staff Writer



The Dale P. Latimer Library underwent an expansion between 2018 and 2021.
(SOURCE: SVC FLICKR)

The clattering sounds of construction have become typical noises to students as they pass behind the kitchen or take a glimpse at Saint Sebastian's Garden, but why exactly are these renovations taking place?

Construction has been occurring off and on at Saint Vincent College for nearly a decade since the completion of the Dupre Science Pavilion in 2011. More recently, the Dale P. Latimer Library underwent renovations between 2018 and 2021, and currently, the cafeteria continues to

be revamped.

Dr. Jeff Mallory, executive vice president and chief operating officer, assists in the direction of the ongoing construction on campus by supporting communication between groups, meeting deadlines, and facilitating various other tasks.

"The expansion of the Dale P. Latimer Library continues to receive great praise from members in the college community—our students in particular," Mallory said.

Mallory also reported that in May
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Sisters at Saint Vincent

Delaney Fox, Staff Writer

In their travels about the Saint Vincent College campus, students frequently see the monks of the Saint Vincent Archabbey. This semester, though, students could also see a new group on campus: sisters.

Campus Ministry, Women's Ministry, and Fr. Paul Taylor, president of SVC, worked together to bring the sisters to campus. The sisters, in turn, have been working to help Campus Ministry.

"The sisters are all very actively involved with Campus Ministry. They each have been assigned different parts... [The sisters] are very enthusiastic and work hard to attend all of the Campus Ministry activities," said Bridget DiVittis, assistant director for spiritual formation.

The sisters share their enthusiasm with their fellow students, too, according to DiVittis.

"We are blessed to have them here at Saint Vincent. They are the added female religious presence that we needed. They have fit in well at the dorms, and when they are walking around on campus, the SVC students always greet them [with] smiles and cheerful hellos," she said.

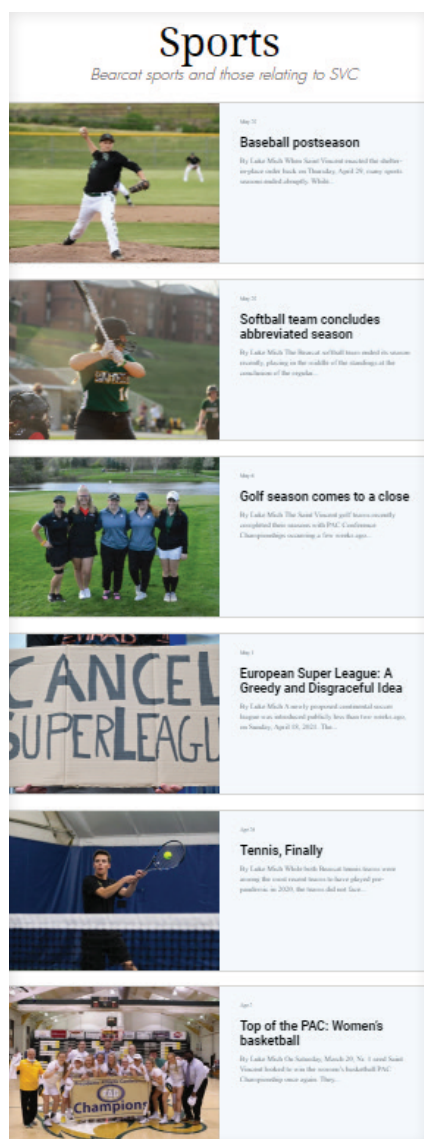
The Saint Vincent community has also contributed to both bringing the sisters to campus and welcoming them.

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NEWS

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Construction aims to improve dining experience

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of 2021, an idea for an Athletics and Convocation Center was discussed in a public meeting held in the Fred Rogers Center.

Mallory referred to the future

The second and final phase of construction on the Student Life and Hospitality Hub will focus on renovations to the Community Center. Students can look for-

“The expansion of the Dale P. Latimer Library continues to receive great praise from members in the college community—our students in particular.”
- Dr. Jeff Mallory

Athletics and Convocation Center as a “state of the art facility” that will “provide great value to all campus members.” He is also leading the construction of the new center.

The current construction around the Community Center revolves around the Student Life and Hospitality Hub, which recently completed its first phase of construction with the building of the new Seminary dining area, DiPadova Hall.

ward to a more spacious cafeteria, updated kitchen equipment, and a more efficient traffic flow through the dining area when the renovations are completed. Construction around the Community Center is scheduled to finish in the spring of 2022.

A sister's experience so far

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The sisters attend the 9/11 prayer service in Melvin Platz. (SOURCE: SVC FLICKR)

"Saint Vincent opened to welcome me first," said Sr. Maria Hoa, one of the sisters currently studying at Saint Vincent College. "I had an opportunity to come to visit Saint Vincent, and I was touched by the way the Benedictine brothers and some students welcomed me. I [felt] at home when I came to visit."

Hoa is currently majoring in psychology. During her time here, she plans to focus on her studies, her spiritual life, and working with Campus Ministry.

"I have not yet finished my first semester here, but [I] have gained a lot of experience. For example, I have learned many new things about psychology that help me understand myself as well as the people around me," Hoa said.

Hoa also reported that she enjoys meeting and getting to know other students around campus.

"My favorite part of life at Saint Vincent is to hang out with Jesus and

students," she said. "I like to do extracurricular activities at Saint Vincent. I get the chance to know more about students... to get more energy and feel younger when I meet them."

The sisters have faced a few difficulties since arriving. For Hoa, the most difficult part of life at Saint Vincent has been finding a balance between the two major parts of her identity: student and sister.

"I always [am learning] how to become flexible to keep a balance between them," she explained.

Overall, her experience so far has been positive.

"Saint Vincent makes people feel at home. From president to professors, staff, and students, they... always show their sincere care to [help] you get a successful and happy life," said Hoa. "I continue to keep Saint Vincent in my prayers. I wish Saint Vincent... will gain more success and always grow in God's will and God's love."

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COVID-19 guidelines for fall 2021

Elizabeth Van Pilsum, *Part-Time Staff Writer*



Vaccines are available at five different locations within a three-mile radius of Saint Vincent College. More information can be found at vaccine.gov. (SOURCE: [STVINCENT.EDU](https://stvincent.edu))

As the new school year begins, one thing is certain: COVID-19 is still a risk to the Saint Vincent College community. As the semester kicks off, students must continue to be responsible for staying safe and protecting others. While many of the strategies for slowing the spread of coronavirus remain valid, rules regarding COVID-19 safety at Saint Vincent have been updated for the 2021 fall semester. Luckily, the staff at the Wellness Center has answers to frequently asked questions about the changes in campus coronavirus regulations.

Coronavirus regulations at Saint Vincent have relaxed from the spring semester. Students are now allowed to visit each other's residence halls, a change many students welcome, according to Gretchen Flock, director of the Wellness Center. Masks are also no longer required outdoors, as long as social dis-

tancing can be maintained.

Flock states that SVC is continuing to follow the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines concerning positive test results and isolation, which have been updated in response to the availability of a coronavirus vaccine. The college will isolate anyone with a positive COVID-19 test and quarantine their unvaccinated contacts for ten days. Vaccinated contacts will not be required to quarantine but will be tested three to five days after exposure.

As of Sep. 24, there are only three positive COVID-19 cases on campus, decreased from the nine active cases recorded on Aug. 27. If a student starts experiencing symptoms, they can be tested here on campus at the Wellness Center. Daily health monitoring should be a top priority, and any symptoms can be reported to the Wellness Center at

724-805-2115 or SVCWellness@stvincent.edu.

Furthermore, cooperation with calls for surveillance testing—testing on randomly selected individuals in order to assess infection rates—is important. The Delta variant of COVID-19 is a relatively new strain of the virus and the most prevalent one in the United States, according to the CDC's website. The website also states that the Delta variant is more than twice as contagious as the original COVID-19 strain, so extra precautions are necessary.

Vaccination is a critical step in preventing coronavirus outbreaks as well, according to the CDC. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved the Pfizer vaccine, which is proven to be incredibly effective in slowing down the spread of the virus, reducing the risk of contracting COVID-19 by 90 percent or more, according to the CDC's website. The vaccine also underwent extensive research not just to determine its efficacy but also to determine its safety, and the FDA is confident that the Pfizer vaccine is safe for most healthy individuals twelve years and older. Flock encouraged anyone interested in getting vaccinated to go to vaccine.gov, which will find five different locations within a three-mile radius where vaccines are offered.

If the Saint Vincent community works together and follows these guidelines, students and faculty can stay safe and healthy this year. The year and a half since the pandemic began in 2020 has been a long one, and while the battle against COVID-19 is not over yet, these guidelines will help to mitigate the spread of coronavirus and bring about an end to the pandemic.

SPORTS

Fans return for indoor sporting events

Luke Mich, *Sports Editor*



Outside hitter Kaelyn Staples, a freshman, lofts the ball over in a match against Pitt-Greensburg. Saint Vincent won the match 3-0. (SOURCE: ATHLETICS.STVINCENT.EDU)

For the first time since the 2019-2020 school year, spectators are now permitted to attend Saint Vincent college sporting events that take place indoors this fall. On Aug. 25, the Saint Vincent College Athletics Department announced its updated attendance policy for sporting events, with full capacity allowed for all home games. While some COVID restrictions are still in place, such as the requirement of wearing a mask for indoor events, fans are now permitted to attend athletic events in person.

Volleyball was the first Saint Vincent sport to have fans attend since the 2019-2020 basketball season.

Women's volleyball Head Coach Sue Hozak was very happy to have fans return.

"Having fans back is amazing! We were very grateful to be able to play last spring, but we certainly missed the support of the fans," Hozak said.

Additionally, Sara Ellis, a senior secondary math education major and setter for the team, reported that she was joyful to have spectators come back.

"This year having fans again has created positive impacts for the team. It is great to post on social media and tell our friends about [home] games again," Ellis said.

Ellis reported that the absence of fans was a unique challenge, requiring the team to find alternative sources of motivation.

"Our spectators in past years helped bring the energy to the court. We as a team could feed off their energy. So, without them, we really had to come together and create a good high energy space so we could thrive," Ellis said.

Since Oct. 1, the volleyball team has played seven home games. Each of the games has acquired a large turnout of fans, and for good reason.

"We are very fortunate to have enthusiastic, good-sized crowds," Hozak said. "Volleyball is a momentum sport, which makes it exciting to watch. Additionally, a team is never out of a game until that 25th point is scored."

Ellis agreed that many fans have come to spectate the volleyball game so far.

I think everyone is excited to get back to normal, and this is a way to come together on campus," Ellis said.

Overall, students are appearing in greater numbers at Saint Vincent sporting events, now that there are no limits on crowd capacity for indoor and outdoor games. Hozak said the team was fortunate to have such enthusiastic spectators.

"Saint Vincent fans are the best," Hozak concluded.

The team's next home games are Oct. 7 against Penn State Altoona and Oct. 14 against Franciscan, both at 7:00 p.m.

ARTS & CULTURE

Ethics, etiquette and equality at Saint Vincent

Delaney Fox, Staff Writer



Students, faculty, and monks attend the first Ethics, Etiquette and Equality Dinner. (SOURCE: KAREN FOSS)

Saint Vincent College's Center for Catholic Thought and Culture has made a goal to foster civil discussion of sensitive subjects such as politics and ethics in the Saint Vincent community. To achieve this goal, the Center is working to encourage dialogue through a new program: Ethics, Etiquette and Equality Dinners.

The first Ethics, Etiquette, and Equality Dinner was held in the Fred Rogers Center on Sep. 23. Attendees included students, faculty, monks and friends of Saint Vincent from the local Latrobe community.

Throughout the dinner, attendees were directed to unfold a series of

five discussion questions. The question topics covered simple introductions to other attendees, the namesake subjects of the dinner-- ethics, etiquette, and equality-- and the Benedictine Hallmarks.

These questions included texts and prompts such as the 'equality' question, which featured excerpts of Alexis de Tocqueville and Frederick Douglass's works. Attendees were then asked to explore their opinions on the current state of equality in America with those at their dinner table. Discussions were held for approximately 15 minutes per question.

Dr. Jerome Foss, director of the

Center for Catholic Thought and Culture, explained the motivation behind starting the program.

"The ultimate goal is to strengthen the friendship on campus... to encourage conversation between people who might not always see eye to eye and give people an occasion to see each other as friends," said Foss. "Everyone at Saint Vincent is here because we're searching for truth, and we're doing it together."

The idea for these dinners originally arose in a conversation between Foss, Dr. Michael Krom, professor of philosophy, Samantha Firestone, coordinator for the Center of Catholic Thought and Culture, and David Hollenbaugh, vice president of institutional advancement. Foss and Firestone were the primary executives of the concept.

"The idea... came about because [over] the last year and a half or so, there's been a lot of incivility in the general culture. Not so much at Saint Vincent, but it is always something we can do better at," said Foss. "[The goal was to show] how a dinner like this could be done in a way perfectly consistent with and, in fact, emanating from our mission as a college."

Attendees were sent email invitations to register for these dinners in advance. Foss explained that the invitation system ensured diversity in

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A dinner focused on diversity and dialogue

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the attendees, which was one of the goals of the Ethics, Etiquette, and Equality Dinners.

Each table consisted of a group of students—with various majors and ages—faculty, administrators, monks, and friends of Saint Vincent, a diversity which helped advance the Center of Catholic Thought and Culture's goal of encouraging civil

with an appreciation for both his fellow attendees and for the thought-provoking conversation inspired by the discussion questions.

"The discussion on equality, in particular, has remained in my head for the past week and likely won't be going away... Getting to know five people in an entirely new way was exciting, and I hope to contin-

**"Pairing food and intentional conversation in order to discuss topics that can be difficult and to encourage solution-minded thinking was an excellent choice."
- Vincent Lombardi**

discourse and strengthening friendship on campus.

Vincent Lombardi, a sophomore undeclared major and student attendee of the dialogue, agreed on the success of the dinner.

"Pairing food and intentional conversation in order to discuss topics that can be difficult and to encourage solution-minded thinking was an excellent choice," he said.

Lombardi said he left the event

ue to get to know them [better after] the dinner," said Lombardi. "I would certainly attend another one given the chance."

The Center for Catholic Thought and Culture is currently planning another Ethics, Etiquette, and Equality Dinner in the spring semester. Attendance is by invite only but interested parties can send an email to the Center at cctc@stvincent.edu for more information.

Father Maximillian becomes new Campus Ministry director

Sean Callahan, Arts & Culture Editor

Saint Vincent College has seen many changes in the past two years alone, from the renovation of the Dale P. Latimer Library to an unexpected pandemic that altered campus life. Among these recent changes is the transfer of leadership in Campus Ministry to Fr. Maximillian Maxwell O.S.B.

The previous director, Fr. Kilian Loch O.S.B., is now the prior of the SVC monastery—a full-time commitment to the leadership and operations of the monastic community. Maxwell explained that these assignment changes were coordinated by Archabbot Martin de Porres Bartel.

Since Loch was to serve as the prior of the SVC monastery, a new director had to be chosen for Campus Ministry, and de Porres Bartel appointed Maxwell to the position.

Maxwell has been active in SVC's monastic activities since 2007, during which time he worked alongside Loch in Campus Ministry and once held three full-time jobs: assistant to Archabbot Douglas Nowicki, director of liturgy, and vocation director. However, Maxwell left the SVC campus in 2020, when de Porres Bartel provided him his assignment at a high school in Georgia.

Now, in 2021, Maxwell reported that he is very humbled by his current assignment as director of Campus Ministry at Saint Vincent. He said he is grateful to God, de Porres Bartel, and Fr. Paul Taylor,
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Future goals for Campus Ministry

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Father Maximillian Maxwell presides over the 9/11 prayer service at SVC. (SOURCE: SVC FLICKR)

president of SVC, for providing him with the opportunity to serve in his current position.

Maxwell said that he views new assignments as another step in God's path for him, and for his fellow monks in the monastic community.

"Every monk has an assignment that is given to him by the archabbot. But it's not in what we do, it's who we are," Maxwell explained. "The assignments change, the monks do not."

During his current assignment, Maxwell hopes to continue improving Campus Ministry. Specifically, he wants to see clear evidence of students growing in their faith through their participation in Campus Ministry activities. Maxwell also stressed his desire to tailor Campus Ministry to each class of students.

"How does a freshman learn to apply their faith as adults? I think one thing that happens in high school is we learn to take the test and then we move on," he said. "I think the church today needs to show young people how to apply what they learn in the

classroom and what they learn in church."

But Maxwell's goals extend beyond a student's four years on campus. He explained that he wants to help Campus Ministry participants have a seamless transition into the Christian faith after graduation.

"As they mature throughout the years, Campus Ministry needs to assist the senior in preparing to move into a parish, to move out of Campus Ministry culture into parish life," Maxwell says.

Maxwell is hoping to facilitate this transition for graduating students by providing an off-campus retreat exclusively for seniors in early April.

"We would try to administer good programs that would help faith mature through matriculation," Maxwell said.

Maxwell's goal in catering to each of the different classes is to help any student at SVC find a home in Campus Ministry. He said that Campus Ministry should include more than the monastic community; it should be geared towards the student community as well.

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