

Visiting Writers Series returns to Saint Vincent

Delaney Fox, Staff Writer



Elizabeth Elin read her winning poem, "Jade". (SOURCE: LICKONA)

The Visiting Writers Series made its return to Saint Vincent College on Apr. 6 in the Verostko Center for the Arts. A poetry reading featuring Dan Rosenberg and the annual Ragan Poetry Contest winners marked the first event by the series after a hiatus due to the pandemic.

Rosenberg is the author of several books of poetry and two chapbooks, including *The Crushing Organ* and *A Thread of Hands*. He also co-translated Miklavz Komelj's *Hippodrome*, and he is the chair of Wells College's English department.

Rosenberg read several poems from his latest book, *Bassinnet*. Students in

the Poetry Workshop course taught by Michelle Gil-Montero, English professor, had read Rosenberg's book and expressed excitement at the opportunity to meet the author and hear him read the poems.

"So, this book roughly traces a sort of evolution into and through early parenthood. They're discreet poems, and I hope people will find a way to poems that they connect with regardless of where they fall in that trajectory," Rosenberg said.

Throughout the reading, Rosenberg encouraged students to ask questions and described the ideas behind certain

Continued on page 2

CPET lecture ignites controversy

Sean Callahan, News Editor

A talk given at Saint Vincent College by David Azerrad, assistant professor and research fellow at Hillsdale College's Graduate School of Government, as part of the Center for Political and Economic Thought's (CPET) annual culture and policy conference, became the subject of controversy for many members of the SVC community as well as the local community. As of Apr. 15, the content of the lecture and the following controversy has been reported on by local Westmoreland County media such as TribLive and WPXI.

Azerrad's talk, titled: *Black Privilege and Racial Hysteria in Contemporary America*, centered on the idea that black people today hold more "visible" privileges than white people. According to the beginning of his lecture, which can be found on YouTube, Azerrad went on to comment about the "consensus amongst our elites" that "Black citizens should not be held to the same standard of conduct as white people", especially in higher education, and that "standards are continuously lowered for the sake of diversity" in order to fill a quota in universities' desires for a

Continued on page 3



NEWS



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Ragan Poetry Contest winners announced

continued from page 1

poems, structures, and lines. The main inspiration for his newest collection of poems was his son.

Rosenberg also served as the judge for the 2022 Ragan Poetry Contest. The first, second, and third place winners of the contest were invited to read their winning poems at the beginning of the poetry reading event.

and what she imagined competing at the highest level might be like.

"I almost did not submit this poem to the contest," Elin said. "Professor Gil-Montero offered to help anyone who was interested choose two poems to submit to the contest and urged me to submit this one. I'm glad that I did!"

Elin enjoyed every aspect of the

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where they fall in that trajectory."
- Dan Rosenberg**

Oli Grogan, junior English major, took third place with her poem, "Benediction," and Isabel Sicree, senior English major, took second place with her poem, "Without Ear Plugs".

Elizabeth Elin, junior theology and English double major, won first place with her poem, "Jade".

"I read 'Jade' late at night and woke up the next morning still abuzz with the tension," Rosenberg said.

Elin's poem was originally written for an assignment in Poetry Workshop to write a 'collective I' poem. She chose to integrate questions from an interview with a former Olympic champion, centering her poem around "athletic stardom"

poetry reading event.

"It was inspiring to read my poem at the same reading as Rosenberg, and to hear the other winners read their poems out loud as well. It was also wonderful having the reading in the Verostko Center, as this setting blended poetry and visual art in a striking way," Elin said.

Elin is "grateful and honored" that her poem was chosen as the winner of the contest. She would like to encourage students to submit their own poems in future contests.

"It is a great experience and a unique opportunity to share your poetry with a broader audience!" Elin said.

Students and administrators decry talk on 'Black Privilege'

continued from page 1

more diverse student population.

The content of the lecture generated conflicting responses from the SVC community. Some found the lecture enlightening and thought-provoking. Others felt its ideas were poorly phrased, racist, and hateful.

A business student, who wished to remain anonymous due to the ongoing controversy surrounding the lecture, attended most of the Apr. 8 lectures, including the one led by Azerrad. The student attendee found Azerrad's talk deeply disturbing. The student felt that, while Azerrad appeared to aim for a theme of "love each other.", the student found this hard to believe due to, "the use of a derogatory phrase towards our Vice President, demeaning the black women who worked at NASA from the movie, *Hidden Figures*."

"It just removed all legitimacy from his point of view," the anonymous student said. "When you say something that divisive and blatantly racist, it completely distracts from your message."

The anonymous student also found it concerning how "a google search" could have supposedly revealed previous examples of Azerrad's alleged hateful comments.

A history student, who also wished to remain anonymous, attended only Azerrad's lecture. The student thought it was an interesting talk, but disagreed strongly with Azerrad's ideas—which the student felt were being used under the emphasis of "racism is wrong."

"The speaker dressed up a commonly used argument in fancy clothes. It led me to believe he has a terrible opinion while being a good person at heart," the anonymous student said.

Faith Taylor, sophomore criminology major, also attended Azerrad's

talk. She was intimidated when she walked into the lecture room full of students, monks, and faculty, some of whom she felt were "definitely overly enthusiastic to very racist things [Azerrad] was saying." She described her discomfort upon hearing that students who hadn't attended the talk defended Azerrad, and expressed anger at the counterargument of college being a place where people are challenged.

"Both sides being shown doesn't apply to this. Racist perspectives shouldn't be shown," Taylor said. "Either you're racist or you're not."

Taylor cited several examples of Azerrad's talk she found problematic, such as his claim that black people have more freedom of speech, and that they can be more anti-Semitic and homophobic. She also reported that Azerrad claimed black people were not prepared for higher education because of the promotion of black underachievement.

Taylor described being proud of the respect and resiliency her friends demonstrated in asking Azerrad questions after the lecture, despite the emotional distress some of them were in. But she remains frustrated by the experience.

"We pay so much to go to this school, to have this experience," Taylor said. "And we're sitting there being yelled at about how we're handed everything and how we have the most privilege in our country."

Following the talk, multiple students across campus sent emails to Fr. Paul Taylor, O.S.B., President of Saint Vincent College, expressing frustration towards the content of Azerrad's talk and the treatment of the students asking questions. Fr. Paul Taylor responded to student emails during the afternoon of Apr. 10, indicating, "[Dr. Gary Quinlivan,

an, co-director of CPET and Dean of the McKenna School,] indicated to me that it was inappropriate and not consistent with our Benedictine values of hospitality and respect." Taylor said he asked Quinlivan "to provide a more thorough vetting process for conferences" in the future.

On that same day, Quinlivan posted a news release statement to the SVC website, addressing the reaction to Azerrad's talk. He echoed Fr. Paul Taylor's sentiment that the talk was "not consistent with SVC's Benedictine values of hospitality and respect" and Quinlivan added that the Center regretted presenting the talk at the academic conference.

"We pledge our continued support for the efforts of all those who in good faith seek to eradicate bigotry as part of their mission to serve God and God's people," Quinlivan said.

The Review reached out to Quinlivan for further comment, but he wishes to let the statement stand as is.

The Review also reached out to Dr. Bradley Watson, professor of political science and co-director of the CPET alongside Quinlivan, for comment. He provided the following statement:

"I was not aware of the formal apology that was issued by Dr. Quinlivan. I was not consulted in any way in its drafting, and I would not have issued it," Watson wrote. "It is clear to me that the administration does not want my input on this matter."

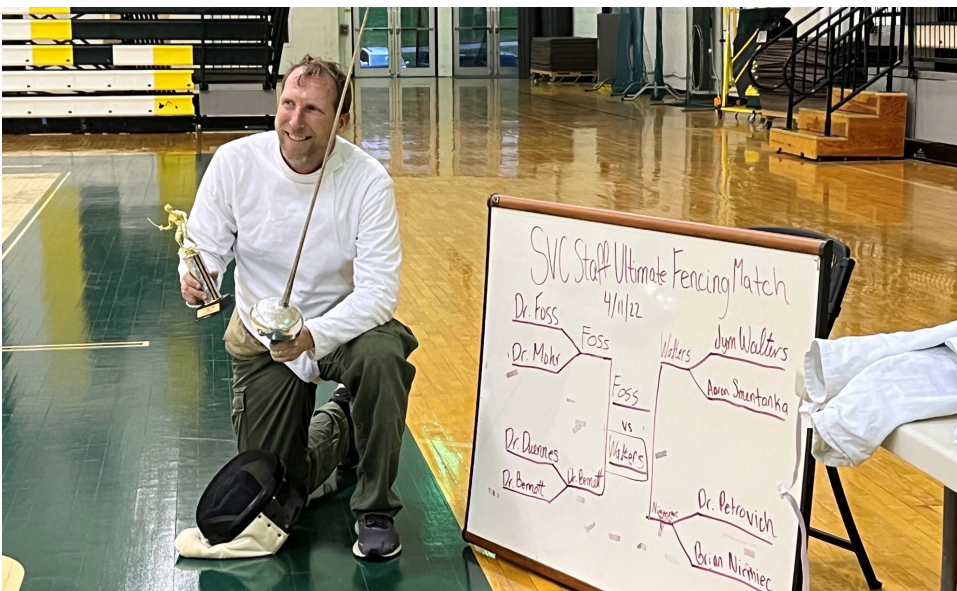
Watson said he will respect those wishes by not giving further on-the-record comments to *The Review*.

As of Apr. 15, the full video of Azerrad's talk is available via YouTube: Black Privilege and Racial Hysteria in Contemporary America by David Azerrad - YouTube (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RFAUeZZQ0vo>).

ARTS & CULTURE

Engarde!

Erin Brody, Arts & Culture Editor



Women's lacrosse coach and fencing tournament winner Jym Walters poses with his trophy. (SOURCE: BRODY)

The sound of metal clashing against metal could be heard over the screams of a blood-thirsty crowd. The heat in the air uncomfortably clung to the competitors who stood doubled over from exhaustion.

This exhilarating scene took place in the Carey Gym courtesy of Saint Vincent College's Fencing Club.

However, this is not the first time SVC has seen professors or coaches dueling against each other. This event is a tradition for the club, but this is the first time eight members of the staff and faculty duelled each other.

"We want to expand to get a greater crowd here and to involve more of the staff at St. Vincent... It was kind of a little challenge to get them [to

fence], but we're happy that so many teachers were interested," Matthew Boyer, Fencing Club President and freshman politics major, said.

The first rounds went to five points and were between politics professor Dr. Jerome Foss (winner) and philosophy professor Dr. Eric Mohr, women's lacrosse coach Jym Walters (winner) and football coach Aaron Smetanka, and business professor Dr. Justin Petrovich and tennis coach Brian Niemiec (winner). Biology professor Dr. Michelle Duennes was unable to fence, immediately moving Dean of School of Humanities Dr. Elaine Bennet to the next round.

The final round was between Foss and Walters. The finishing duel was also the longest duel as the competitors battled to reach 10 points total.

The fencers also tied for points or had to redo matches multiple times, resulting in a restless and passionate crowd.

In the end, Walters was victorious, or so it first appeared. Boyer announced he would duel Walters, resulting in another close match. After that heated duel, SVC's President Fr. Paul Taylor, O.S.B. sat down on the bleachers to watch. His fellow on-lookers began chanting his name in

**"We want to expand to get a greater crowd here and to involve more of the staff at Saint Vincent."
- Matthew Boyer, Fencing Club President**

hopes of getting him to fence.

Taylor obliged and dueled Walters, only to prove once again that Walters was the true victor of the event.

Fencing Club meetings take place on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. and new members are always welcome. Updates about the club can be found on the Fencing Club's Instagram page @ svc_fencing_club.

Art majors in the “home-sketch” of the semester

Erin Brody, Arts & Culture Editor



A sign displays the senior artists' names in the Verostko Center. (SOURCE: BRODY)

The Verostko Center for the Arts recently greeted the SVC community and visitors with a blue sign displaying seven names from the class of 2022. Those are the names of art education majors Alexis Chittum and Lauren Hartner, studio art majors Andrew Deaton and Robbie Kollar, digital art and media and studio art double majors Maddy Montefour and Matis Stephens, and studio art and English double major Clair Sirofchuck.

Each artist displayed a different focus in their work, ranging from paintings to clay creations.

Chittum had four items to display that specialize in “earthenware clay, stained glass, wire, and knife painting.” In her artist biography, Chittum said she uses art as a means of understanding the world around her along with herself.

“Through the colors of the heart, my work displays the delicacy, gravity, intensity, challenge, and all shades found in between the highs

and lows of life,” Chittum said.

Similar to Chittum, Hartner also uses art to “[explore] vulnerability and raw emotion,” especially those which show her passion for social issues. Hartner minors in disability studies and hopes her teaching career will show those she teaches that as an educator, she is an advocate “for our youth and environment.” Hartner’s works each strongly display emotions, typically ones many are reluctant to talk about.

“Through my body of work, I aim to increase vigilance about the significance of vulnerability and its relation to a deeper understanding of others,” Hartner said.

Alternative photographer and printmaker Robbie Kollar draws inspiration from his childhood in Latrobe. His work in the Verostko Center “document[s] relationships over the past year” and unique experiences that will never occur again. Kollar’s work is inspired by queer artists who “hold space” for those outside of the LGBTQ+ community in hopes of creating inclusivity.

“My work records moments of intimacy and encapsulates youth while allowing me to observe the ways in which other people perceive themselves and their own ever-evolving identities,” Kollar said in his artist’s biography.

These artists’ various works will be on display in the Verostko Center until Apr. 29.

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SPORTS

Men's lacrosse in strong form

Luke Mich, Sports Editor



Attacker Tyler Condrasky, a graduate student majoring in mechanical engineering, moves around a Muskingum defender in a home game the Bearcats won 10-4. (SOURCE: ATHLETICS.STVINCENT.EDU)

The Saint Vincent Bearcats men's lacrosse team has started out the season very strong and, over a month into their regular season, the team is looking to continue forward in the same manner. Well before their season opener on Feb. 23 against Juniata College, the team met up to prepare for the season and establish their goals.

"Training started in the fall semester with practices and team lifts," Casey Moore, senior marketing major who plays midfield, said. "Over winter break we used group-based workouts to hold each other accountable while being away from school. Upon returning from winter break, we promptly started practice during the first week of classes."

Starting with the game against Juniata College, the team won six games in a row to get off to a 6-0 start. A number of factors led to the reason why they were undefeated through this stretch of games.

"Our 6-0 start starts with the leadership and work ethic that we possess as a team. Our focus on improving ourselves day in and day out lead us to great results in those games despite the challenges that our competitors posed," Moore said.

After their sixth game, a 15-3 win against Allegheny College, the Bearcats faced a tough task against defending conference champions Grove City College on Apr. 2. Unfortunately, Grove City handed the Saint Vincent team its first loss of the season. Yet the team will look back at this result as a chance to improve and work on correcting the little mistakes.

"We went into [Grove City] knowing that the margin for error for us was razor thin. It was one of the best efforts I have ever seen this team put together," Moore said. "In the end it was miniscule mistakes that we made that allowed

Grove City to punish us, and despite our best efforts, we were not able to come back from the deficit. This loss has been a learning experience for us as a team and has allowed us to attack practice with a renewed focus."

As the team moves past the halfway mark of the season, the team has a good position in the conference standings. The Bearcats squad has the best overall record in the PAC (as of Apr. 9) with their 6-1 start. They are looking forward to making the conference playoffs for the first time since the 2019 season as COVID-19 had prevented them from participating in the playoffs for the last two seasons.

However, the most important factor to the lacrosse team's success is the remainder of the regular season. The game against Grove City kicked off the stretch of the season where they play all of their conference opponents. This time period is crucial since the conference record determines who makes the playoffs, not the teams' overall records. Even with the opening conference game resulting in a loss, the Bearcats team's morale has been sky-high so far this season.

"Team morale has been fantastic all season. I attribute this to the leadership of our captains and coaches," Moore said.

So, lastly, what does the team need to do to maintain not just a winning record, but crucial positioning in time for playoffs?

"One thing we need to work on moving forward as a team is remaining on the path we're on," Moore said. "The ability, the positivity, the accountability that we have is leading us in a great direction. If we stay on that path, the sky is the limit."

Team Standings

Baseball

Team	W	L	Streak
W&J	18	6	W12
Westminster	16	7	W4
Saint Vincent	15	8	W11
Grove City	16	8	L1
Thiel	9	15	W1
Waynesburg	7	18	L5
Chatham	8	14	L2
Bethany	13	11	L2
Geneva	8	16	W2
Franciscan	10	12	L4

Schedule: @Bethany 4/19 1 and 4 PM, @Waynesburg 4/23 1 and 4 PM

Softball

Team	W	L	Streak
Westminster	21	2	W12
Saint Vincent	17	3	L2
Waynesburg	17	6	W1
Geneva	12	10	L1
Bethany	10	11	L3
Grove City	10	12	L1
Thiel	7	7	W2
W&J	5	7	W1
Franciscan	5	13	W1
Chatham	7	17	L1

Schedule: W&J 4/19 3 and 5 PM, @Waynesburg 4/23 3:30 and 5:30 PM

Men's Tennis

Team	W	L	Streak
Grove City	11	2	W8
Franciscan	7	6	W3
Saint Vincent	9	4	W2
Westminster	7	3	L2
Waynesburg	5	5	L1
Geneva	3	6	L1
W&J	2	7	W1
Thiel	0	7	L7

Schedule: Grove City 4/19 4PM

Men's Outdoor Track & Field

Schedule: @Bethany 4/20 2 PM, PAC Championships @WVU 4/28-4/29, @Allegheny 5/12

Women's Outdoor Track & Field

Schedule: @Bethany 4/20 2 PM, PAC Championships @WVU 4/28-4/29, @Allegheny 5/12

Men's Golf

Schedule: @Westminster 4/18, PAC Championships @The Jones Course 4/23 10 AM

Results: 8th at Grove City Invitational, 3rd at Thiel Invitational

Women's Golf

Schedule: @Grove City 4/21, PAC Championships at Cedarbrook 4/25 10 AM

Results: 1st at Saint Vincent Invitational

Women's Lacrosse

Team	W	L	Streak
Grove City	11	2	W1
W&J	5	4	W4
Chatham	6	3	L1
Thiel	5	3	W2
Saint Vincent	7	6	W3
Franciscan	5	5	L3
Bethany	6	7	W1
Westminster	2	6	L4
Waynesburg	0	9	L9

Schedule: Bethany 4/19 4 PM, @Thiel 4/23 12 PM, W&J 4/27 4 PM

Men's Lacrosse

Team	W	L	Streak
Saint Vincent	8	1	W2
Grove City	9	4	W7
Westminster	7	3	W1
W&J	5	4	L1
Bethany	5	5	L3
Franciscan	4	5	W1
Thiel	4	7	L1
Chatham	2	9	L4

Schedule: @W&J 4/20 7 PM, Chatham 4/25 4 PM

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