

New core, new director

Samantha Hilyer, News Editor



Dr. Jason King recently received the Thoburn Excellence in Teaching Award in November 2020. The award was presented by Dr. John Smetanka. (SOURCE: STVINCENT.EDU)

The last Middle States accreditation prompted Saint Vincent College to assess and revise its core education requirements. As a part of that reconstruction, a new position as core director was a necessary addition.

Previously, the core was determined and run by the Education Policies and Curriculum Subcommittee of Core Governance, which often rotated through different faculty. The new position establishes a consistent person holding responsibility for the core.

The position of core director will be based on an application process

and each core director can serve up to two terms of five years each.

In January 2021, Dr. Jason King, professor of theology, received the title and duties of core director.

"My metaphor for the process is that I'm trying to build the plane while we are flying," said King.

His main duties include developing and staffing the three seminars which feature the themes of listening, learning and loving. He is also in charge of approving courses in the core and assessing how the program is running for the purpose of future improvement.

Continued on page 2

The Covid Effect: 2019-2020 President's Report

Sean Callahan, Arts & Culture Editor

Saint Vincent College's 2019-2020 fiscal year is unique in that its final four months—March, April, May, and June—saw the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in the United States. Meanwhile, the Forward Always Forward Campaign had just raised the college's endowment from \$78.4 million in 2013, to over \$113 million in 2020. But four months of empty dining spaces, residence halls and classrooms calls the health of SVC's finances into question.

Dr. Robert DePasquale, professor of business administration, helped interpret the 2019-2020 President's Report using his decades of experience with accounting.

The Review attempted to contact Richard Williams, vice president of finance and administration, for comment on this story, but did not receive an immediate response.

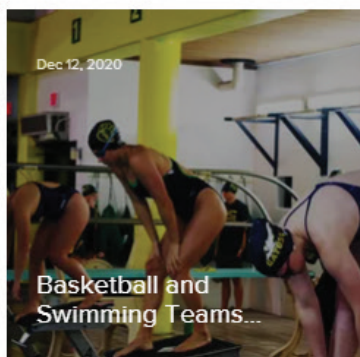
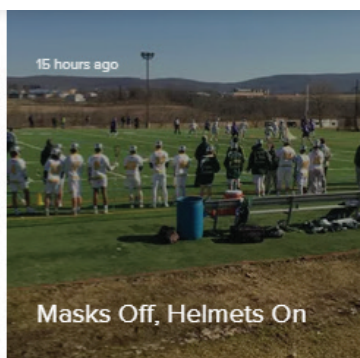
DePasquale clarified commonly used terms in the report, such as "revenue," (money the college takes in), "expenditures," (money the college spends), and

Continued on page 4



NEWS

**Check out
our website
for stories
not printed in
our paper!**



Dr. King named core director

continued from page 1

In addition, King will oversee the new practice of seniors recommending the books that freshmen read the following year. King is hoping to get this particular piece of the new core into place this year, as the freshman class arriving in 2021 will be taking the listening seminar.

However, King reports that he enjoys many aspects of being core director so far.

"I get to work with a lot of great faculty to help make life easier for students," King explained. "So there is creativity, fun and hope in being core director."

**"I get to work with a lot of great
faculty ... to help make life easier
for students. So there is
creativity, fun and hope in
being core director."
— Dr. Jason King**

As the first Saint Vincent core director, King has the unique challenge of leading everyone involved in a new direction. One of King's obstacles in the process is helping Saint Vincent transition from the old to the new.

"The previous core had been in place for almost 20 years, so many people are moving from the certain to the uncertain, which can create anxiety," King said.

King's goals as core director are to build the core and an assessment plan, as well as encourage student and faculty engagement in the new core program.

"I hope faculty are excited about teaching students this synthesis of knowledge and I hope that students will find the new core to be helpful and exciting," King said.

Strange Signs

Anthony Caporale, Staff Writer



A damaged exit sign on the third floor of Saint Benedict Hall. (SOURCE: CAPORALE)

The residents of Saint Benedict Hall are witnessing some odd happenings. Recently, exit signs appear to be crooked and partly separated from the ceiling. It seems that every floor has at least one damaged exit sign. “What happened?” is the first question everyone asks.

Vandalism seems to be the cause of the damage. Rumors began to spread that a person (or a group of people) may have been damaging property this semester. Prefects confirmed the rumors. During the first week of March, prefects started to relay information to their pods about the damaged exit signs. Prefects also asked residents to report any information that they may have. So far, though, no reports of culpability have surfaced.

On March 5, 2021, the Office of Residence Life sent an email to the residents in Saint Benedict Hall, confirming vandalism. The email announced that the vandalism of exit signs, along with ceiling tiles, are a growing problem in the hallways. The staff are on a search for the alleged person or group that is involved. However, the Office of Residence Life is using another tactic to gain a lead in the investigation. The email stated that if no one comes forward to claim responsibility, the cost of the damaged property will be billed to

the entire hall at the end of the semester. The Office of Residence Life backed its statement with Saint Vincent policy. The email cites page 23 (section 8) of the Saint Vincent Handbook:

“When a responsible party cannot be identified, any costs may be prorated to the floor, the residence hall or campus.”

And as of now, no one has come forward to claim responsibility.

That means that the ordinary resident would have to bear the costs of the damages. The prospect of a bill drew some criticism from Saint Benedict residents.

“I do not feel that we should be punished for someone else’s mistakes,” said Riley Hovan, a freshman engineering major. Hovan said he sees a slightly different solution. He would rather see cameras installed in the areas that are being damaged the most to help prevent future destruction of property.

However, the Office of Residence Life has its reasons. The broken exit signs need to be replaced by new ones, which cost money to buy. The email argues that the cost needs to be paid by someone, whether it is paid by those responsible or the innocent resident. For now, residents of Saint Benedict Hall must wait, unable to find an exit from this dilemma.



**We are always
accepting
submissions
of opinion
pieces, open
letters,
reviews,
critiques and
creative
writing.
Email us at
review@
stvincent.edu
if interested.**

Follow us
on social
media
for more
weekly
stories!



@SVCReview

...



The Review

...



@svcreview

The Covid Effect: 2019-2020 President's Report

continued from page 1

“liabilities,” (debts that have yet to be paid back). He also addressed a 6 percent decrease in auxiliary enterprises, one of the most notable difference from previous years in this year’s President’s Report.

“Auxiliary enterprises are things not directly related to educating students. We have the Rogers Center, where meetings and seminars are rented out by other people. We also have retreats and the Pittsburgh Steelers Training Camp in the summer as well,” DePasquale explained.

DePasquale said that the decrease should not come as a surprise, since many spring events were canceled because of the pandemic. He noted that auxiliary enterprises are expected to decrease in the next fiscal year as well.

The financials section of the President’s Report also listed a reduction in enrollment from 1,867 students during the 2018-2019 accounting cycle, to 1,739 students in 2019-2020.

“Some students took a gap year, and some didn’t want to come back because they were afraid instruction would be remote learning,” DePasquale said. “So enrollment did drop a little this year. That’s tuition you’re not getting.”

Additionally, a bar graph illustrated that student financial aid had skyrocketed from \$1,528,822 in the period of 2018-2019 to \$2,080,141 in the period

of 2019-2020. The Statement of Activities also revealed that \$33 million had been provided in scholarships.

“If you divide 33 by 59 million, they’re giving out almost—on average—half of the cost of the tuition here, in scholarships. We call that the discount rate in college tuition,” DePasquale explained.

Another notable financial change included a decrease of almost \$3 million in the endowment market value, something which had not occurred since the 2015-2016 fiscal year, as the report illustrates.

DePasquale said the decrease in value of less than 3 percent did not surprise him. He explained that, regardless of the pandemic, there is good and bad news for SVC’s endowment.

“They say your endowment ought to be about five times your annual budget. Ours is around 45 million dollars. Our endowment is currently at 110.8 million. It should be at about 200 million. We’re at about half that.”

While DePasquale maintained that SVC’s endowment would be more ideal at double its current amount, he felt it was in a better position than other small college endowments, considering the economic big picture in March of 2020.

“It’s important to remember that these financial statements are snapshots taken on June 30. And the

Pandemic affects SVC finances

continued from page 4

Continued on page 5

endowment is invested in stocks and bonds,” DePasquale said. “Due to the pandemic, the stock market got hit pretty good in the spring.”

According to the S&P 500 index—a measurement of America’s 500 largest companies’ collective stock performance—market performance on June 30, 2020, was surprisingly close to that of June 30,

most exactly half a semester’s worth. One-fourth of the room and board cost would’ve been refunded or credited,” he said.

DePasquale also mentioned a sizable loss of revenue from student dining, room and board, and building upkeep.

“We didn’t feed anybody. And a lot of the building expenses, from the college’s perspective, contin-

“The question’s going to be, how quickly does this all recover? Maybe there will be more students, because the ones who took a gap year will return. But only time will tell.”

– Dr. Robert DePasquale

2019, measured at roughly 30.0. However, S&P’s peak stock market performance was previously measured at 33.16, on Feb. 14, 2020. It then experienced a steep drop to 23.92 on March 20, 2020, due to the pandemic. This shows that at the time of June 30, 2020 (the end of SVC’s 2019-2020 fiscal year), the stock market was still recovering.

For Saint Vincent specifically, DePasquale emphasized that both expenses and revenue would have dropped.

“We closed down about a week after spring break, so that was al-

ued. You still have to heat them. You’re not going to let the pipes freeze,” DePasquale said. “The building insurance and routine maintenance was still the same, like lot of the other expenses.”

With slight decreases in the endowment and student enrollment in mind, DePasquale looked ahead to the future.

“The question’s going to be, how quickly does this all recover? Maybe there will be more students, because the ones who took a gap year will return. But only time will tell.”



We are always looking for op-eds and letters written by members of the community! Email review@stvincent.edu if interested.

ARTS & CULTURE

UAP Club creates mural in Carey Center

Sean Callahan, Arts and Culture Editor



The UAP Club painted the mural, "Peace and Unity," on the campus' bookstore windows.
SOURCE: CALLAHAN

As students and faculty venture in and out of the Carey Center, they may notice a little something stuck on the window of the campus store. That would be the Uniting All People (UAP) Club's mural, titled "Peace and Unity."

According to Keila Lobos-Hernandez, a senior English major and UAP Club member, several SVC faculty and staff members wanted to find a way to include students in an upcoming art exhibit called The Billboard Project. The staff who contacted the UAP Club include Kelly King, director of service learning and outreach; Andrew Julo, director and curator of the Verostko Center for the Arts; and Lauren Churilla, cura-

tor of the McCarl Coverlet Gallery.

The Billboard Project exhibit is a partnership between the Westmoreland Diversity Coalition (WDC), the Westmoreland Museum of American Art, and Saint Vincent College.

Lobos-Hernandez said that the "Peace and Unity" mural was the UAP Club's way of adding a student perspective to the exhibit's theme of "Making Our Differences our Strengths."

With the permission of Fr. Anthony Grossi, O.S.B., manager of the bookstore, the UAP Club was able to paint on the bookstore windows. Lobos-Hernandez and six other UAP Club members helped to complete the mural on Feb. 25 and 26.

The result is a painting of a large brown hand in the center, surrounded closely by many green handprints. To the right of the handprints is a painting of Bayard Rustin, activist and friend of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Taped below is a paper that details his humanitarian missions and leadership in social movements, including civil rights, socialism, non-violence and gay rights. To the left is a painting of Ella Josephine Baker, a "behind-the-scenes organizer" of the civil rights movement, as the paper below her image reads. It also lists her numerous interactions with notable civil rights leaders, as well as her many lifelong accomplishments.

Lobos-Hernandez explained that each artistic aspect of the mural was purposeful.

"The tree of hands represents the unification of the student body at Saint Vincent. Each hand on the tree is from a different student," she said. "We wanted to show that we all can come together, despite our differences. We can embrace one another and be a strong community."

As for Rustin and Baker, Lobos-Hernandez said that the UAP Club wanted to spotlight lesser-known Civil Rights activists.

"They were chosen because of their strong work ethic and presence in coordinating Civil Rights events. Their work has shown us that we all have a voice and that we can incite change wherever we are," Lobos-Hernandez said.

SPORTS

Dr. Jeff Mallory recalls his pro basketball days

Luke Mich, Sports Editor



Before he was appointed Executive Vice President of Saint Vincent, Dr. Jeff Mallory played college basketball for the school from 2003-2006 and coached the team from 2009-2012. (SOURCE: ATHLETICS.STVINCENT.EDU)

Last summer, Saint Vincent College appointed Dr. Jeff Mallory as its new Executive Vice President. Mallory, a member of Saint Vincent's undergraduate class of 2006 and its graduate class 2013, also spent a great amount of time playing basketball, not just for the Bearcats, but overseas in Europe.

Throughout his collegiate athletic career, Mallory was a defining factor for the Bearcats basketball team. A dominant threat in the middle of the court, he helped lead the team to three NAIA National Tournament appearances, was a starter for four years and is the school's all-time career leader in blocked shots. After his graduation from Saint Vincent as an undergrad in 2006, Mallory went across the Atlantic to play basketball for the Cajasur Cordoba Basketball Club for two seasons in 2007-2009.

"I have great memories of traveling through Spain to play against other teams. Being immersed in the Spanish culture, I was able to become fluent in the Spanish lan-

guage and still speak it on occasion," Mallory said.

He also said that while playing in Spain, he was reminded of the people that got him to that moment:

"To be considered a professional meant a lot to me. While I worked hard during that time, I continued to think of the many people that helped me get to that moment—then and now, it was much bigger than basketball."

Playing basketball in Europe was different than playing at Saint Vincent.

"The European game was more holistic. There was a focus on being very well-rounded, and also individual success never trumped the team's success," Mallory explained.

Another factor Mallory mentioned was the length of the season: "My average season in Europe was eight months as opposed to three months in college. The mental and physical approach was significantly different. I truly appreciated the challenge it posed."

After playing in Spain, Mallory returned to Saint Vincent, where he became the associate head men's basketball coach from 2009 to 2012.

"The college coach I played for was one of the main reasons I decided to later coach for the team. I wanted to give back to the game of basketball, as it transformed my life in many ways," he said.

Mallory added that it was a privilege to help develop the athletes he coached, changing the lives and situations of many: "You can literally work 24/7, 365 days a year as a coach. It truly is what you make it and I wanted to give student-athletes the best chance at achieving success."

After his stint as coach and as SVC's director of campus and multicultural student life, Mallory worked at Duquesne University until he returned to Saint Vincent as the new executive vice president, a position formerly held by President Fr. Paul Taylor, O.S.B. Mallory explained why he returned to Saint Vincent once again.

"The SVC community is very special to my family. I also know first-hand the impact that SVC and the community can deliver to our students. The opportunity to lead the college forward in my role as executive vice president is an honor."

Team Standings

Men's Basketball

Team	W	L	Streak
Westminster	8	1	W5
Geneva	7	2	W2
W&J	7	2	W2
Grove City	6	3	W2
Chatham	5	4	W1
Thiel	3	6	L2
Waynesburg	3	7	L3
Franciscan	3	7	W1
Saint Vincent	3	7	W1
Bethany	2	8	L2

Schedule: PAC Tournament Quarterfinals: @ Geneva 3/16 7:30 PM

Women's Basketball

Team	W	L	Streak
Saint Vincent	7	0	W7
W&J	6	0	W6
Grove City	6	1	L1
Westminster	5	4	W1
Chatham	4	4	W3
Bethany	5	5	W1
Geneva	4	5	W1
Waynesburg	3	7	W3
Thiel	1	8	L4
Franciscan	1	9	L6

Schedule: PAC Tournament Quarterfinals: Waynesburg 3/15 6 PM

Women's Volleyball

Team	W	L	Streak
Geneva	5	1	W2
Westminster	4	1	W1
Grove City	3	2	L2
W&J	2	2	L1
Thiel	2	2	L2
Chatham	2	2	W2
Bethany	1	2	W1
Franciscan	1	4	L1
Waynesburg	1	5	L3
Saint Vincent	0	3	L3

Schedule: @Westminster 3/20 12 PM, Bethany 3/25 7 PM, Waynesburg 3/30 7 PM

Men's Volleyball

Team	W	L	Streak
Hiram	2	1	W1
Penn St. Behrend	2	2	W1
Geneva	4	5	W2
Medaille	1	3	L3
Hilbert	0	0	-
Penn St. Altoona	0	0	-
Saint Vincent	0	2	L2
Thiel	0	2	L2

Schedule: @Hiram 3/17 7 PM, Medaille 3/20 2 PM, Geneva 3/24 7 PM

Men's Lacrosse

Team	W	L	Streak
Chatham	2	0	W2
Thiel	2	0	W2
Saint Vincent	2	1	L1
Grove City	1	1	W1
Westminster	2	1	W2
Bethany	1	3	L3
W&J	0	1	L1
Franciscan	0	4	L4

Schedule: Bethany 3/17 4 PM, @W&J 3/20 12 PM, Chatham 3/27 12 PM

Women's Lacrosse

Team	W	L	Streak
Saint Vincent	1	0	W1
Chatham	1	0	W1
W&J	1	0	W1
Franciscan	0	0	-
Thiel	0	0	-
Bethany	0	1	L1
Waynesburg	0	1	L1
Westminster	0	1	L1

Schedule: @W&J 3/20 3 PM, Chatham 3/27 TBA, Waynesburg 4/1 4 PM

Baseball

Team	W	L	Streak
Grove City	4	0	W4
W&J	2	0	W2
Geneva	2	1	W1
Saint Vincent	1	1	L1
Franciscan	1	1	L1
Westminster	1	1	W1
Chatham	1	1	W1
Thiel	1	2	L1
Waynesburg	0	2	L2
Bethany	0	4	L4

Schedule: Bethany 3/20 1 & 3 PM, @Bethany 3/21 1 & 4 PM, @Grove City 3/26 1 & 3 PM

Softball

Team	W	L	Streak
Westminster	6	0	W6
W&J	4	2	L1
Waynesburg	4	2	W1
Geneva	5	3	W1
Chatham	4	4	W1
Grove City	2	2	L1
Bethany	2	4	L3
Franciscan	2	4	W2
Saint Vincent	1	3	L2
Thiel	0	6	L6

Schedule: @Waynesburg 3/20 1 & 3 PM, Geneva 3/23 3:30 & 5:30 PM, Bethany 3/27 1 & 3 PM

Men's Soccer

Schedule: @Chatham 3/11 7:30 PM, W&J 3/21 1 PM, Franciscan 3/25 3 PM

Men's Tennis

Schedule: @Geneva 3/20 1 PM, Waynesburg 3/27 3 PM, @Westminster 4/1 4:30 PM

Football

Schedule: @Grove City 3/19 TBA, @ Bethany 3/26 TBA, W&J 4/10 TBA

Women's Soccer

Schedule: W&J 3/21 3 PM, Franciscan 3/25 1 PM, @ Bethany 3/31 2 PM

Women's Tennis

Schedule: @ Geneva 3/20 4 PM, Waynesburg 3/27 12 PM, @Grove City 4/6 2:30 PM

Men's Cross Country

Schedule: PAC Championships @Bethany 3/20 1 PM

Women's Cross Country

Schedule: PAC Championships 3/20 12 PM

OPINION

A pope in Baghdad

Kevin Martin, *Opinion Editor*

On March 5, Pope Francis traveled to Iraq, the first international papal trip in over a year. Remarkably, this was the first time a Catholic pope had ever visited Iraq, which is traditionally the birthplace of the Abrahamic religions of Judaism, Christianity and Islam. This papal pilgrimage appears to have had two primary objectives. The first, and most immediately important, was to show support for and draw the world's attention to the persecution of Christians in the Middle East, especially in Iraq. The second was to construct civil and productive dialogue between the Shiite Muslim community and the Catholic Church.

This trip was not without serious risks, however. Pope Francis, along with his Vatican entourage, were well aware of the danger. Iraq is currently experiencing a surge in COVID-19 cases. Pope Francis, as an 84-year-old man, has an acute risk when it comes to this virus. But other concealed threats were also a possibility. For example, there were ample security concerns to consider. Rocket attacks on U.S. targets had taken place in recent weeks. And in January, the Islamic State claimed a double suicide bombing in Baghdad. Even in the face of these perils, Pope Francis was steadfast in his decision to visit the tumultuous country. This shows, I think, his determination to support the dwindling number of persecuted Christians within the nation.

According to the Wall Street Journal, before the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq, the number of Christians living in the country was around 1.5 million. Today, however, that number has plummeted to about 250,000. This decline has come about due to religiously motivated murders of Christians, which drove many of the faithful to flee the country for fear of persecution. The situation worsened when the Islamic State, also known as ISIS, established its caliphate in 2014. In the following months and years, the terrorist organization rapidly expanded the territory they controlled in Iraq and Syria. While dominating these large swaths of land, ISIS perpetrated horrendous acts, such as executions of Christians, the destruction of holy sites and Churches, and many other atrocities. Though ISIS no longer holds territory, they still pose a threat. Moreover, the Iraqi government is in no way a friend of the Christian community. Christians are subjugated to the status of second-class citizens. According to a report by the University of Birmingham, there have been thousands of instances of Christians having their property seized by Iraqi officials, being prevented from practicing their religion, and arbitrarily being arrested and imprisoned. Despite guarantees of constitutional protection, there is, evidently, an acute lack of respect for the rights of Christians in Iraq. The combination of federal disinterest, local hostility,

and the ravages of ISIS and other extremist militias has resulted in the devastation of an ancient people.

During his trip, Pope Francis made a deliberate effort to visit many holy sites and churches that ISIS had destroyed or where religious massacres had taken place. In his public speeches, according to the Wall Street Journal, he fervently insisted on the necessity to protect social, political and, critically, religious minority rights. He called for religious pluralism to be the great goal of the Iraqi government and people. Ultimately, Francis held Iraqi Christians up to the world as an example of a "martyr church."

While Pope Francis' trip was important as a symbolic gesture of support to the martyred church in Iraq, he also met with the Shiite leader Grand Ayatollah Ali Al-Sistani, the most influential leader of Iraq's Shia Muslim community. The meeting set the tone for the continuation of dialogue between the two faiths. The result was a statement by Al-Sistani which stated that Christians ought to "live like all Iraqis, in security and peace and with full constitutional rights." Al-Sistani also noted that it was the duty of religious leaders to protect these religious minorities. After the meeting, the prime minister of Iraq declared March 6 a National Day of Tolerance and Coexistence.

Iraq's non-Christian inhabitants were just as excited as their Christian

Continued on page 10

**Follow us
on social
media
for more
weekly
stories!**



@SVCReview

...



The Review

...



@svcreview

A pope in Baghdad

continued from page 9

neighbors. Francis was warmly welcomed throughout the nation. Omar Mohammed is a historian from the city of Mosul, the former Iraqi capital of the Islamic State, who rose to fame for secretly documenting life there during the ISIS occupation. When Francis visited Mosul, where he prayed amidst the rubble and was greeted by cheering locals and children waving flags, Mohammed was overjoyed. He saw the visit as an opportunity for his city to break free from the painful memory of ISIS and return to a hopeful vision of the future.

"Many Muslims," Mohammed tweeted, "have said that today is the day when we can truly celebrate the liberation of Mosul, finally today we have lowered the black flag through the eyes of the people."

"No one ever in years was able to tell us such beautiful words like Santo Padre," he added. Later, Mohammed posted an image of Francis on the plane ride out of Iraq. In the pope's hands was a book with a piece of paper. The paper? A letter of thanks Mohammed wrote for the Pope.

This trip is nothing less than historical, on par with Pope Paul VI's trip to the Holy land in 1964, which was the first time a Pope had left Italy in centuries. It displays a proactive Pope taking not only the time but also the risk to stand beside a hurting flank of his flock. This journey is a step towards a more civil and peaceful relationship between the Islamic and Christian worlds.

But the Pope's pilgrimage is not

only significant for those oppressed in Iraq or other parts of the Muslim world. In truth, it is important for any group that may be a religious minority in any country on Earth. This trip will not stop the evil persecutions that the Iraqi Christians have suffered, nor will it restore them to where they were just a decade ago. But I think it is a step in the right direction, an example of what a leader of the Catholic Church ought to be doing in these difficult times.



**We are always
looking for op-eds
and letters!
Email *review*
@stvincent.edu
if interested.**

\$15 to work at McDonald's?

Dr. Andrew Herr, *associate professor of economics*

Efforts to raise the federal minimum wage have intensified in recent months. In January, House Democrats re-introduced the Raise the Wage Act, which would gradually raise the federal minimum wage to \$15 per hour by 2025. The House included the \$15 minimum wage in its COVID-19 Relief Bill, which passed in late February. Later that month, the Senate stripped this provision from its version of the relief bill. On March 5, the Senate voted instead on a separate bill that would mandate a \$15 minimum wage. This, too, failed to garner the requisite votes to pass, temporarily derailing the planned increase. Democrats have vowed to continue the fight, leaving its future uncertain.

Is the \$15 minimum wage a good idea? Advocates see it as a critical policy that would raise wages for millions, reduce poverty and address racial and gender pay gaps. Employers, they argue, have the upper hand in wage negotiations, resulting in depressed wages for the most vulnerable workers. The Economic Policy Institute estimates that “nearly one-third (31%) of African Americans and one-quarter (26%) of Latinos would get a raise if the federal minimum wage were increased to \$15.”

Furthermore, supporters argue

that an increase is long overdue. Congress last increased the minimum wage in July 2009, nearly 12 years ago. Since then, inflation has eroded the purchasing power of the minimum wage by nearly 20 percent. The Raise the Wage Act would address this problem by tying the minimum wage to inflation. After reaching \$15 per hour in 2025, the minimum wage would automatically increase each year at the same rate as median hourly wages after it reached \$15 per hour in 2025.

So why would anyone oppose a \$15 minimum wage? Quite simply, critics worry that raising the minimum wage to this level would destroy jobs. Many of you reading this article work for less than \$15 per hour. How would your employer react to a \$15 minimum wage? Would you and your coworkers continue to get as many hours as you currently do? Would your employer pass the additional costs to customers through higher prices? Basic economic analysis predicts that businesses will respond by cutting back on workers and increasing prices.

A recent report by the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office (CBO) attempts to quantify the tradeoff between the benefits of a higher minimum wage (higher

Continued on page 12

Check out our website for stories not printed in our paper!



Dec. 12, 2020

Basketball and Swimming Teams Prepare for Early 2021 Return

By Luke Mich With health concerns a priority, the Saint Vincent basketball and swimming teams will begin their...



Dec. 8, 2020

Spikeball Club Hosts Annual Tournament

By Luke Mich On Oct. 25, Spikeball Club held its annual fall tournament on the intramural field behind Reaney and...



Nov. 20, 2020

European soccer sparks interest at SVC

By Luke Mich Soccer is known as not just “the beautiful game,” but also for being the most popular sport in the...



Oct. 27, 2020

Frisbee Still Occurring Despite Limitations

By Luke Mich Most recently, attention to SVC sports has been given towards football practicing in the afternoon...



Oct. 15, 2020

PAC Releases Spring Schedules

By Luke Mich On Sept. 17, at roughly 3 p.m., the Presidents' Athletic Conference announced the tentative...



Oct. 9, 2020

Football practice resumes with new guidelines

By Luke Mich You may have noticed recently that the football team has been practicing on the various fields...

Benefits and drawbacks of a \$15 minimum wage

continued from page 11

wages) and its costs (job losses). The CBO estimates that as many as 27 million Americans would get a raise if the minimum wage were increased to \$15 per hour by 2025 and that this would lift 900,000 Americans out of poverty. On the other hand, it estimates that 1.4 million Americans would lose their jobs.

Is there a way to capture some of the benefits of an increased minimum wage without such massive job losses? Perhaps, if the minimum wage supporters focus their efforts more locally. A key weakness of the federal minimum wage is that it fails to recognize the vast differences in wages and cost of living between different locations. Consider Seattle and Latrobe. Seattle's average wage is 40% higher than Latrobe's and its cost of living is more than double Latrobe's. Thus, an employer in Seattle is better able to absorb a \$15 minimum wage than an employer in Latrobe.

Cities and states are free to set minimum wages above the federal minimum. In fact, 29 states and the District of Columbia currently do so. Seattle has gone even further, setting its minimum wage at \$16.39, the highest in the country. Rather than pursuing a drastic increase in the federal minimum wage, a more flexible approach would be to set the federal minimum wage as a true minimum wage, index it so that it rises with inflation and encourage states and cities to set higher minimum wages that better reflect local conditions.

Such a proposal is currently on the table. Senators Mitt Romney (R-UT) and Tom Cotton (R-AR) recently introduced the Higher Wages for American Workers Act, which would gradually raise the federal

minimum wage to \$10 and index future minimum wage increases to inflation. The CBO estimates that 3.5 million Americans would receive a raise under this proposal with virtually no job losses. Stay tuned to see whether this more modest proposal will garner bipartisan support.

Follow us on social media for weekly stories!



@SVCReview



The Review



@svcreview

The Review Staff

Editor-in-Chief

Jonathan Meilaender

Production Manager

Ellie Powell

Copy Editor

Julia Snyder

Business Manager

Ashlynn Bryer

Digital Media Editor

Michael Park

News Editor

Samantha Hilyer

Arts & Culture Editor

Sean Callahan

Sports Editor

Luke Mich

Opinion Editor

Kevin Martin

Staff Writers

Anthony Caporale

Kyra Lipetzky

Faculty Advisor

Dennis McDaniel

The Review office is located next to the Wimmer Bridge.

Office Number:

724-805-2513

Contributions, Comments,

Questions, Advertising:

review@stvincent.edu

Website:

stvincentreview.com

The Review is a member of the

Associate Collegiate Press

www.studentpress.org/acp

Editorial Policy

The Review always welcomes input from its readers, including all students, faculty, administrators, Benedictines and any other members of the SVC community. With regards to contributed, non-solicited works, The Review reserves the right to choose to accept or reject any submitted stories or letters to the editor for publication as well as the right to edit said pieces.

Mission

The mission of Saint Vincent College's student-run newspaper, The Review, is to accurately and responsibly report campus, national and international news with integrity, fairness and objectivity. As a college newspaper, we assert that we will report on topics that interest our community, such as sports, popular culture, art & entertainment, politics and campus news. We affirm that each issue of The Review will reflect the diversity of the Saint Vincent College campus with respect for cultures, ethnicities, traditions, beliefs and views.