

The Collegian

Volume 120 2022

Article 5

5-3-2022

Volume 120, Number 5 - Tuesday, May 3rd, 2022

Saint Mary's College of California

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Recommended Citation

Saint Mary's College of California (2022) "Volume 120, Number 5 - Tuesday, May 3rd, 2022," *The Collegian*: Vol. 120, Article 5.

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.stmarys-ca.edu/collegian/vol120/iss1/5>

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The Collegian

Moraga, California • Yearbook Edition • Tuesday, May 3rd 2022 • SMCCollegian.org • Twitter/Instagram: SMC_Collegian

Saint Mary's Year in Review



As the school year comes to an end, we reflect on the accomplishments of Saint Mary's and its community
(Pictures from *The Collegian*'s booth at APASA's Night Market)

By Kamryn Sobel
Associate Editor

Located in the small town of Moraga, California with over 3,600 Gaels, with students while sporting events opened to all spectators. The Campus Teaching (tie) - U.S. News & World Report: Best Colleges, the 2021-22 school year. At Saint Mary's, the goal of the college is to, "achieve more and do better—in education, in community, and in service". This school year, Saint Mary's did just that, as it returned to campus in fall of 2021 after a year of mostly online and hybrid classes. Students were able to experience normalcy for the first time since the start of the pandemic.

In the beginning of the year, the Farewell BBQ and First-Year Olympics returned for first year students, while sophomores were welcomed back to campus with a makeup BBQ and a second year olympics meant to give second years experiences News & World Report: Best Colleges, they may have missed out on online. Top 10 — Best Colleges for Veterans - Classrooms were once again filled U.S. News & World Report: Best Colleges, The Best 386 from inflatable games on the Chapel Colleges — The Princeton Review, Lawn to a Semi-Formal Dance at the The Best Western Colleges — The Soda Center. January Term was also Princeton Review, and Colleges of filled with compelling courses, such Distinction recognitions for Best Colleges JAN 102-01 Fencing and Swords, JAN 053-01 Ceramics for Beginners, and Career Development.

Congratulations to those who are of Beer. The 19th Annual Expressions graduating and those who have suc-

of Blackness, the Holi Festival, and cessfully completed another academic

Cultural Nights also were seen back year. As another school year comes to

on campus this year. Student life was an end, we reflect on what it means to

in full (Gael) force this school year. be a Gael!

Other achievements Saint Mary's

saw this school year include: Top 5 — Image Courtesy Saint Mary's

Western Regional Universities - U.S. Website

A Year of Student Activism in Review

Student groups encourage political engagement on campus and aim to hold school administration accountable.

By Kiera O'Hara-Heinz
Associate Editor

Over the past eight months, Saint Mary's has seen numerous displays of student activism and political engagement. As a school, we witnessed climate change demonstrations, theater performances, student speeches at open mics, opinions aired on KSMC, campaigns to encourage voter registration, to students tabling for their political beliefs, and posters and flyers criticizing school administration and advocating for causes. For many, pro-

tests and activism are integral parts of the college experience.

Senior Politics major Grace Clinton has been involved with the group Climate Action SMC, since its inception at the beginning of this school year. She describes the group as a campus climate activism group focused on bringing about sustainable change at Saint Mary's, and says that during their first year in existence they have focused their efforts on urging Saint Mary's to divest their shares in fossil fuels.

Sophomore History major Thomas Weldele, also involved with the group Climate Action SMC, describes some of the events the group planned and carried out this school year. He says that the efforts of the group can be seen in the divestment proposal they prepared for President Richard Plumb and the Board of Trustees, the divestment petition that they made and distributed, as well as the events they planned.

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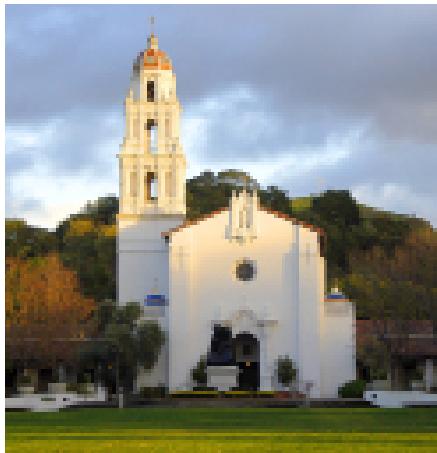


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Collegian Spotlights

NEWS



The Collegian

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"To act upon one's conviction while others wait,
To create a positive force in a world
where cynics abound,
To provide information to people when
it wasn't available before,
To offer those who want it, a choice."
-Ted Turner

A Letter From the Editor-in-Chief

Hello again readers!

Welcome to The Collegian's Year in Review or "Yearbook" Edition, where we highlight the triumphs and trials of Saint Mary's students during the 2021-2022 school year. Thank you to Kamryn Sobel, Associate Editor, who has run the publication of this edition in preparation for her and Kiera O'Hara-Heinz to take over as the Editor-in-Chief of The Collegian next year. I have no doubt that these two will carry on the extensive Collegian history and uphold our mission to unite the College community through the exposure of truth and powerful storytelling.

Though I won't say my goodbyes yet (be prepared for our final edition of the year coming out next week), I will acknowledge that this school year has been a historical one. Student activism is on the rise, we have completed two semesters of in-person learning, and SMC seems to be on the cusp of a complete cultural transformation. This year, we welcomed two new faces to our community: President Richard Plumb and Vice President for Student Life & Title IX Coordinator Anthony Garrison-Engbrecht. These changes in two of the most important roles on campus have shifted the overall campus climate, and, paired with none of the first through third years experiencing an in-person Spring semester at SMC, have changed some of the traditions on campus.

Overall, SMC has maintained a lot of the customs from my and other fourth-year students' first year when we returned to in-person classes. The Cultural Nights were a highlight of the year and symbolized an "end-of-an-era" in many ways, as the IC

will shift its focus to a more funded cultural celebration and smaller events throughout the year (please reach out to them for more information). Though this decision was a complicated one, it does not take away from the fact that many fourth-year students were able to perform in the events we only got a glimpse of our first year. Another event that returned to campus was APASA's Night Market, which included bouncy houses, a photo booth, free food and drinks, tables from different clubs, a performance from Sports Band, and more. Collegian writers even came out to write poems for the SMC community.

Other highlights from our year include more activist-centered action. In the fall, Climate Action SMC worked with theatre students to put on a demonstration in response to the dire need for action against the Climate Crisis. The organization also utilized posters and bedsheets to demand SMC divest from fossil fuels. No word yet on whether Saint Mary's will divest and help ensure we use our Lasallian education on a livable planet. More recently, a group of anonymous students has demanded accountability and action on the part of administrators to promptly address sexual assault on campus. Pressure is mounting on Garrison-Engbrecht and Plumb on how the school will react to the demands of the group. Speaking as a survivor of sexual assault, the mission of this group is imperative and should be a priority on a campus that mostly serves female and non-binary students.

The Collegian has had its very own historical semester as well. We will have published twelve print publications this year, which is an astounding

recovery for us after not printing at all when SMC went online for the pandemic. This Spring, I introduced themed editions after seeing a few in the Collegian archives from previous years. We published the "Opinion Edition," where writers were able to voice their thoughts instead of just sticking to the news. We also put out our annual 44 Days Edition to help honor Black History Month and celebrate Black students, staff, and faculty at SMC. Next came our Women's History Month edition, where we featured the excellent Women's and Gender Studies program at SMC. And, finally, who could forget The Collusion, our April Fools edition brought to you by Kiera O'Hara-Heinz. Overall, our staff has grown and bonded throughout the year. This connection we share has manifested some high-quality publications, so shoutout to The Collegian staff for being one of the greatest groups of writers since the paper's founding.

With this being said, I invite you to browse through this Collegian and reflect on memories from this year—both the fun and the difficult. It should be acknowledged that this year was not all rainbows and butterflies. Many students are still struggling with mental health issues and we are living in a difficult, unpredictable world. Nonetheless, I hope readers are able to find comfort in reflecting on shared experiences as a community.

Thank you.

Regards,
Melanie Moyer
Editor-in-Chief

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Some of these events, like the Climate Action Theater event that took place last semester, were authorized events organized through cooperation with several different groups on campus. Others like the divestment day protest that took place on February 17th and included large banners strung across buildings on campus, were more of a grassroots student effort.

Weldele says that student activism is important because it is critical in order to make change.

"Students have a frontline view of what needs to be changed on campus and have the motivation to keep at it, even when things do not seem like they are going quickly," Weldele said.

Clinton expressed a similar view saying that student activism is important at SMC because it has the potential to bring about long-lasting change. She notes that some spots on campus that make Saint Mary's the inclusive and progressive college we enjoy today, like the Intercultural Center and the Center for Women and Gender Equity, were created in part by student activism.

Although student activism has been very influential in the history and climate of the college, it has not been without pushback or difficulty. Clinton says that this year her group has faced an unfortunate lack of response from the administration.

"Whether they are taking two months to respond to emails, canceling on us multiple times in a row, or giving us long-winded patronizing lectures, it does not seem like our initiatives are being taken seriously," Clinton says. "This has been slightly disheartening given the grave and time-sensitive nature of the climate crisis. Our demands have not been unreasonable, yet the administration seems adamant about running out the clock on us."

Other recent displays of student activism have been in the form of the Instagram page @SMCSurvivors, which describes themselves as an anonymous group of Saint Mary's students who are survivors of sexual assault. Over the past three days, the group has hung signs reading messages like "SMC PROTECTS RAPISTS", "BELIEVE SURVIVORS", and "DO BETTER", and posted anonymous student testimonials of sexual assault and harassment taking

A Year of Student Activism in Review

place at SMC.

The group has got the attention of Vice Provost Anthony Garrison who emailed the SMC community saying "As the Title IX Coordinator, I want to thank our students for holding us accountable and take this opportunity to share updates on what we are doing to build a culture rooted in respect for each other and reaffirm our commitment to prevent and respond to incidents of sexual misconduct."

Clinton says that this Instagram page and the conversations it is instigating on campus are true examples of student activism.

"Right now we are seeing student activism in action with the important work being done by the anonymous group SMC Survivors who are working to bring attention to Saint Mary's pernicious and pervasive assault culture," Clinton said.

We at The Collegian, view our work as a form of activism, and hope that our articles covering school events and policies, and investigating issues in our community, help keep students engaged and informed on matters that affect them. We encourage all members of the Saint Mary's community to come to us with any and all stories they think should be covered or investigated by The Collegian.

THE INSIDE PAGE

A Year In Review: COVID-19 and SMC

The ever-changing protocols of COVID-19 made normalcy seemingly impossible to obtain

By Riley Mulcahy
Opinion Editor

In a global pandemic, the first aspect of normal life is indicated by the notion that health safety is no longer a primary concern. In college, students are free to experiment with their personal and academic life, and it is a time of immense growth for most students. In the fall, masking was expected for all students inside of the classroom and the gym cheering while on the SMC Gaels, however, there was a struggle to enforce all of the rules.

An email from Anthony Garrison, Vice President of Student Life on Nov. 15 stated, "As a reminder, the college is very pleased to have students back at UCU Pavilion, but in order for us to keep playing in front of our loyal students, we have to follow the county mandate and wear a mask indoors."

While there was an understanding that SMC was taking masking seriously, there were still students not socially distancing and wearing masks at off-campus events. School officials cannot keep track of everyone's social life.

However, the handling of the return to school for Jan Term was a perfect example of how the school could have made testing and safety the priority. Though mixed messages made it difficult for everyone to understand the protocol.

Students may recall the January COVID spike, and as SMC was dealing with off-campus cases from winter break, school officials released a statement reading, "In response to the spread of the Omicron COVID-19 variant, Saint Mary's has implemented a number of measures in an attempt to ensure as safe a return to campus as possible this January.

Listed below is a recap of those measures along with instructions on logging your negative COVID test and move-in instructions for residential students. All students are required to provide proof of a negative COVID test taken 48 hours or less before returning to campus in order to attend classes, access campus facilities, and move into the residence halls. Students will not be allowed to return to campus without proof of a negative test."

The college's response to the spike made students aware that the follow-through planning that was done last academic year, was not shown throughout Jan Term. Although the first week of class was virtual, there was still chaos. Students who showed up to campus had professors move to virtual classes due to the increase of COVID cases.

Although the college dealt with many chal-

lenges before this semester, students were generally unchanged by the number of cases, and therefore daily reporting was no longer needed in Saint Mary's. On March 15th, Saint Mary's released a statement, saying in part, "In an effort to keep our community as safe as possible in required classroom settings, protect at-risk members of our campus community, and do all we can to ensure continued in-person instruction during the spring semester, Saint Mary's will continue to require masking in all classroom settings and the library until further notice. Wearing a mask also remains strongly recommended in all other on-campus settings."

There must be a question of when it is okay to wear a mask or when not to wear a mask. Of course, everyone must make a personal decision now that SMC is loosening guidelines, but some students wonder why they must wear a mask in the classroom while they can go to Oliver Hall or the pavilion and cheer on without a mask.

Overall, it is hard to grade SMC on their job during the pandemic, however there were some obvious missteps that made it difficult for the community to understand their communication style.



More pictures from the Night Market.... because we're cute :)

CULTURE

Fall vs. Spring, Semester Experiences at Saint Mary's

By Ariana Perez
Opinion Columnist

I like to think of the fall semester as the obligatory semester of transition, of breaking out of a routine set by three months living under the grueling summer heat and setting yourself up for the school year. In other words, it's a semester of firsts and new experiences. Whether it's new classes, new professors, new roommates, or maybe even your first job or first internship, the fall semester is a major period for fresh beginnings.

As a transfer student at Saint Mary's, there were a lot of firsts for me during the fall semester. I went from two semesters of zoom classes to finally living on campus and attending classes with actual people I only previously knew as boxes on a screen.

Surprisingly, I was fairly well prepared for living independently and setting my own routine. However, what I was not prepared for was figuring out how to juggle a social life with academics. A late bloomer, introverted, and naturally anxious, I've always struggled with socializing effectively. Not to mention that when it comes to schoolwork I tend to get tunnel vision. Never one to wait till the last minute to do anything, my homework often took precedence over going to campus

events and hanging out with other people.

My schedule didn't help either, with a senior capstone on top of three other classes that demanded a lot of reading that I wasn't willing

telling myself that I just needed to get through one more week and the stress would wear off.

That's not to say there weren't any good times sprinkled into the emotionally messy cake that was the fall



(Image Courtesy of Ariana Perez)

to skim or skip, I felt major pressure to do everything to the fullest extent. Looking back, as someone about to graduate it wasn't ideal, with the whole semester feeling like one major adjustment period. A good chunk of my semester was spent writing, reading, and researching in the library like a hermit, October through November,

semester. Between the transfer student A's game, and the Intercultural Center's dance Bring Back the 90's, there were a couple amazing moments. These minor events improved my mental health and were my first insights into the importance of socializing and getting out beyond my dorm and library.

Thankfully, things improved greatly

with the coming of the spring semester, with a lighter load and different mindset I felt more open to the experiences Saint Mary's had to offer, including actually having a social life. Even if it was just a quick late night dinner, drinks at Roundup, or a jog around Moraga, it was a world of a difference compared to last semester. Compared to the fall the events the spring semester offered seem to explode in amount and variety, piquing my interest and attention. The student-run events were spectacular, from the APASA Night Market to the Cultural Nights. But the one event that stands out the most to me still was the Angel Island excursion offered by CAB. Though the original event promised a hike and got sidetracked by the weather, I still got to ride a ferry for the first time and explored a bustling San Francisco farmer's market with a friend, heading back to campus with a free book and free lunch.

This all led to a major improvement in my mental health, getting more involved with clubs made me realize just how greatly they can improve your social life, and how academics shouldn't be overly prioritized, since socializing is equally as important for developing into a well rounded adult.

Overall, my time at Saint Mary's may have been brief, and the lessons I learned may have come a little too late, but I'm thankful for the good memories I was able to make in the short time I was here.

A Reflection on Transferring to SMC Mid-Pandemic

Experience as a transfer student to SMC, transitioning from online learning to on campus for the first time in the third year of college.

By Theo Zittel
Visiting News Reporter

When I was first accepted into Saint Mary's, I was beyond excited. After attending a year at my local community college, it was time for my journey to begin as a true college student, where I would be able to live on campus and away from home for the very first time. However, the second half of my freshman year was cut short due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This made me anxious as my plans to move to Moraga at the end of the summer were in limbo. Along with the majority of the SMC community, I had no other choice but to remain at home for the remainder of that academic year. Come August, I was set to move onto campus, where I would be in a single room by myself due to the living situation at the time to maintain a healthy social dis-

tance between each student who lived on campus. Due to the circumstances of the pandemic, classes remained online for the entirety of my first year at SMC. Therefore, I decided living on campus at the height of the pandemic was not for me.

Living at home and attending classes on Zoom full-time was definitely a challenge. Engaging with online lectures and class participation remained to be the biggest of these challenges. I just did not feel comfortable being on a laptop for hours on end, sitting in the same room at home for my entire first semester—something that most students can agree with.

However, my third year of college was one of many firsts for me. Amongst these firsts was the ability to live on campus for the very first time. I finally had the opportunity to experience dorm living. The communal living ex-

perience has certainly been interesting, especially considering I had already finished two years of college without ever leaving home. Halfway through the school year, my roommate decided to transfer to another college, which left me with a double room to myself for the entirety of Jan Term, until a new roommate was placed in my room.

The move to campus allowed me to meet other students in my classes; I no longer had to worry about the awkwardness of break-out rooms and lack of conversing with others during my year of online classes. I could make actual connections with other students, especially those who could relate to transferring to SMC during the pandemic. I also learned what it was like to live on campus during the second wave of COVID and how strict, quiet, and boring it was. Another perk was being able to catch up with acquaintances

from high school and friends from my hometown who I did not talk to while taking classes from home.

Another obvious first was the access to the amenities located on campus. I could use the recreation center, eat at the dining hall, and enjoy a coffee at Café Louis, to name a few. Attending basketball games with friends was also an activity that I was not able to do since high school. On-campus living also allowed me to speak to professors 1:1, both during and outside of class, which was nearly impossible when classes were online. I no longer had to deal with quirky schedules and talking to them through my laptop screen. Lastly, writing for The Collegian most likely would not have been possible if I were not on campus. Through a reflection on my two years of attending SMC, I have to say that it has not been what I expected it to be like, whether for better or for worse.

CULTURE

Work In Progress: Summer '22 Anthems

By Isabelle Delostrinos

Culture Columnist

Time to get your playlists ready, summer is almost here! It's time to compile your best songs for all of your future roadtrips, parties, kickbacks, vlogs, and Tik Toks. Here are a few songs you could add to get your playlists started.

As It Was - Harry Styles

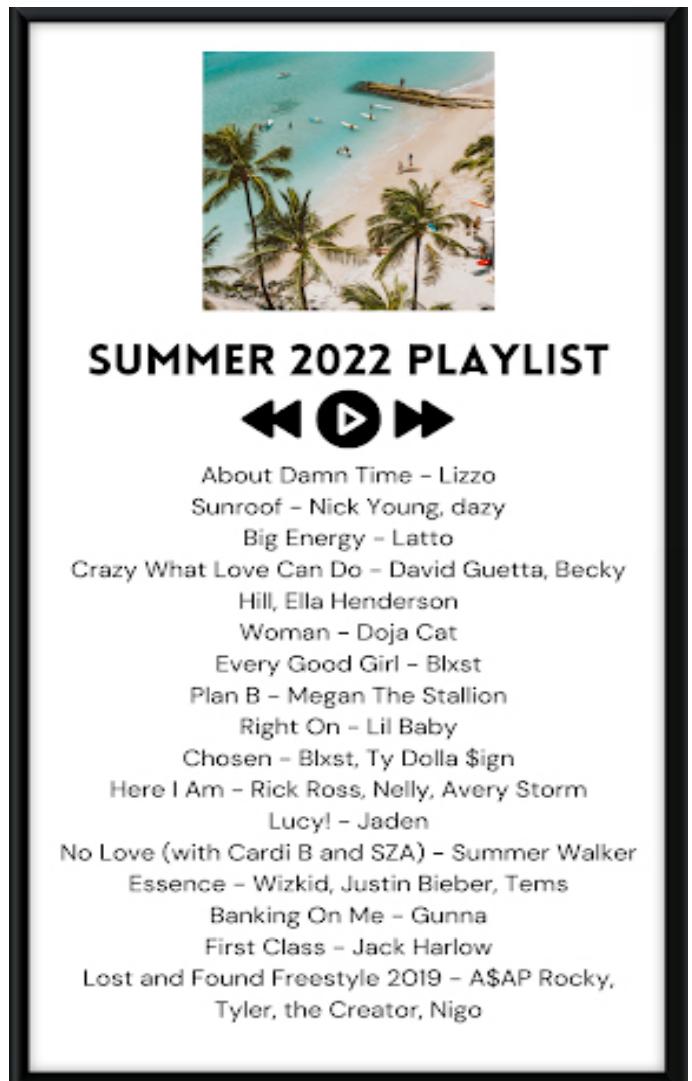
Continuing his Fine Line run and headlining Coachella, Harry Styles can't be stopped with his latest single, As It Was. The upbeat, 80's reminiscent song instantly became a hit and broke the Spotify record for most streamed song with over 16 million plays within the first 24 hours of its release. This track is bound to bring in the summer vibes and is perfect for the drive to the beach or through the sky scraper lined streets of a new city. If you're looking for a movie feel, main character song, this might be one to think about.

Sweetest Pie - Megan the Stallion, Dua Lipa

The rising stars of pop and hip hop have joined forces to produce a strong contender for this year's summer anthem. Megan the Stallion and Dua Lipa released Sweetest Pie in early March to give us the perfect blend of each of their strengths. The bright, fun beat and catchy chorus acts as Dua Lipa's signature, complemented by Megan the Stallion's flow. The mix of both genres make for an epic feel good song that can uplift any event or party. Both artists have familiarity with creating summer anthems like Dua Lipa's Levitating and Megan the Stallion's Hot Girl Summer, so this one will definitely be a song you hear throughout the summer.

One Right Now - Post Malone, The Weeknd

Artists Post Malone and The Weeknd are veterans in the music industry and have not missed the mark with any of their singles. The duo came together for the first time to produce One Right Now, a synthpop, contemporary R&B masterpiece. Its chill beat and melodic vocals make for a perfect kickback, bonfire song to play for those late night hang outs with friends. Although it was released in November of 2021, the song has maintained its popularity with 24 weeks on the Billboard Top 100. With this record, hopefully more collaborations between the two will be on the way.



Fashion Trends That Got Us Through the School Year

A snapshot of fashion trends from our first year back on campus.

By Isabelle Delostrinos

Culture Columnist

We did it, Gaels! A full year of in person classes and events! This year we got to ditch Zoom and the sweats we have been living in during 2020. We finally had the chance to rock all of our quarantine purchases and actually put on a complete outfit every single day. What better way to express ourselves and our styles than through our clothes? Here are some of the fashion trends that got us through this school year.

The overwhelming trend of white Nike Air Force 1s in 2019 has held strong throughout the school year and will probably still be relevant this summer. The simple silhouette and basic staple of an all white shoe

pulled different types of outfits together. They pair perfectly with thoughtful outfits like a good pair of denim and light outerwear jacket. But they also hold down the fort for lazy outfits like sweats and a hoodie. Whether they are a new, crisp pair straight out of the box or a beater pair that survived another night of running through the city, white Nike Air Force 1s have



(Image Courtesy of sassydaily.in)



(Image Courtesy of wordfootwear.com)

been a go to for many.

In an effort to adjust back to regular life and things like commuting or actually leaving the dorms to go to class, athleisure was a common outfit on campus. Staying true to Bay Area fashion and the Silicon Valley formula, leggings and sweats paired with a

comfy jacket were spotted in almost every class this year. Whether it was a Lululemon Scuba jacket with black leggings or an SMC hoodie with sweats, comfy was the name of the game when it came to making it on time to an early morning class.

Honorable Mentions

Platform Converse, Old School Vans, Doc Martens

Baggy, straight legged denim pants with basic tees

Cargo pants and shorts with simple, graphic tees

Crew socks with Birkenstocks, athletic slides, or Crocs

CULTURE

Saint Mary's: 100 Years in Review

Benjamin Noel
Contributing News Writer

The sharply dressed freshman class of 1934 moved in, eager to start their undergraduate studies at Saint Mary's, an all-boys Catholic university known for football, and a disdain for Cal. Few boys knew, besides those with older brothers, about the welcome ritual they were about to find themselves thrown into. The freshman boys were all gathered together, unaware of the fate that awaited them. All the while, the upperclassmen took to the rowing building to secure some paddles and various odds and ends to equip themselves for the night of hazing ahead. Not much is known about the specific activities that took place during this weekend of welcome, but one can connect the dots. According to an August edition of the Collegian, the orientation activities of 1930 went smoothly, for the upperclassmen that is. As the hazing drew to an end, the upperclassmen ushered the freshman class into the basketball gymnasium, the venue of the freshmans' first smoker. A night of camaraderie ensued as a tobacco haze filled the gym, fueled by cigarettes courtesy of the sophomore class.

The mid-20th century marked an era of frequent formals, dinners, and dances for the students of Saint Mary's. Big basketball games were often followed by dances or other events for the students to let loose. Some dances would take place at the high class Oakland Hotel, then a spot frequented by former presidents.

Later in the century, the formals gave way to semi-formals, and oftentimes, the students needed more than just music to get grooving. Enter Gaelstock, an aptly named Woodstock-inspired music festival. This event attracted flocks of students, and if the pictures do the event any justice, it was a proper Burning Man, Moraga-style. Other annual events like Oasis and Gaelapalooza drew in huge crowds with live music, DJs, and free-flowing drinks. Allegedly, these events were discontinued after many students left pale, vomiting, sometimes in an ambulance.

In the 80s, students could often be seen picnicking on their balconies in De La Salle Hall. New fountains at school were sometimes christened by students swimming laps, or splashing around rather, in the shallow waters.

This year the senior class threw a tailgate for Saint Mary's season-ender basketball

game versus the Gonzaga Bulldogs. Randy Bennett's Gaels, aided by the electric student body section, broke away from the first whistle and held onto their lead the whole game, going on to humble the Bulldogs 67-57.

One can only hope that as the current pope eases up on the doctrines of the Church, so will the faculty of Saint Mary's. However, to all you students, take some initiative!

Make Saint Mary's yours. If any of these traditions inspired something in yourself, make it happen! Rally your peers, talk to a brother, bring up ideas to your class president Juniors, organize a senior formal.

If this article has piqued an interest in Saint Mary's history, take a look at the yearbooks on the second floor of the library, on a shelf facing the Dante quad. The books date back to the 1920s, chronicling Saint Mary's student life every year till the last edition of the Gael from 2008.

I'm graduating in a few short weeks, but in the upcoming years I hope to hear news of some old Saint Mary's traditions making a comeback. Maybe not a smoker, or freshman hazing, but hearing about a semi-formal, or a senior class prank would make my day.

Cultural Nights In Review

Remy Zerber
Culture Columnist

There are so many interesting cultures in the world, it is important that everyone explores them so they can experience the beauty of diverse cultures. Learning about the various cultures makes for a more well-educated person as it also helps defeat stereotypes and racism. Put on by the Intercultural Center and different clubs, cultural nights at SMC celebrate different cultures. The cultural nights at SMC help shine a light on the represented cultures and the issues they have.

The BASH

One of the cultural nights at SMC is the BASH. It is a celebration of LGBTQ+ culture. Students who identify as queer put on a show to entertain and educate people about the LGBTQ community. Students did different sets throughout the show. For example, some students showed a video, some talked about their coming out stories, and others did dances or sang songs. This year's theme was "Over The Rainbow".

Expressions of Blackness

"Expressions of Blackness" is a cultural night that celebrates Black students and culture. This year's theme was "Homecoming". I attended this year's show and it turned out to be a beautiful event. There were students who sang songs, shared about their home countries, and performed dances. Specifically, one person who played the drums and another played the piano.

Latino Cultural Night

Latino cultural night celebrates Latinos and Latino culture. The theme this year was "The Mountains Around Us". There was music, dancing, and even speeches. For example, there were Ballet Folklórico dancers and someone dressed like a mariachi. All the participants showed their culture through their sets.

Asian Cultural Night

The theme of Asian Cultural Night was "Discovering The World Through Our Lens". It celebrated all Asian cultures. There were people who sang songs and did skits from their cultures. There was a cultural fashion

show, showcasing traditional clothes from different Asian cultures including: Indian culture, Malaysian culture, Filipino culture and many others. Some students dressed up in a Karate Gi from Japan. There was also a Kabuki skit from Japan where a student wore a Kabuki mask.

Middle Eastern And North African (MENA) Cultural Night

MENA's theme was "Hidden Gems". This night had a lot of participants. There were musicians, dancers, singers, and storytellers. One student played the guitar, and a few students wore their native culture's clothes. One of the students also read from a storybook.

All the cultural nights were a huge success. It was interesting to see everyone's native cultures and how diverse they are. Each cultural night taught the audience something new about another culture and they got to widen their perspective of the world. Overall, it is important to learn about different cultures so we can be respectful of them.

SPORTS

New Experiences as a Student and an Athlete

Madison Sciba
Sports Columnist

COVID hit during the last semester of my senior year of high school. I thought I was just getting an extra week of spring break, not losing prom and graduation. In March of 2020, I had no idea where I was going to go to college. A month into quarantine I decided on Saint Mary's. It wasn't my dream school choice, but a practical one. Saint Mary's checked all the boxes of criteria I had for schools. Small school? Check. Close to home but not TOO close? Check. Not in a big city? Check. Gave me a scholarship? Check. And the final criteria, has a rowing team? Check.

I had been a swimmer my whole life, swimming on a club team for 10 years and for all 4 years of high school (even though both of my senior seasons were very short). After doing sports my whole life I knew I wanted to continue that in college, but I knew college swimming was just not my thing. So the question remained: what sport can I do? The answer became rowing. My cousin rowed at UCLA and recommended that I reach out to the team at Saint Mary's and be a walk-on, just like she did at UCLA. So I did. I reached out to the assistant coach and was given paperwork to fill out and told to have a sports physical. Next thing I knew, I was on a team of a sport I knew barely anything about.

Because of COVID, there was no competition of any kind in the fall, so I decided to save money on housing and stay home for my first semester of college. When Jan Term finally came around I moved onto campus and was at my first practice a week later. Almost two months after seeing a racing boat for the first time, I was racing every weekend at a different racecourse on the varsity crew. No spectators were allowed and COVID rules were strictly



Starting a new school and a new sport during COVID. Women's Rowing Second Varsity 8 Crew racing at Lake Natoma in 2022 (Image Courtesy SMC-

enforced. Masks were always required unless you were actively rowing, frequently tested, and sanitized everything.

Sophomore year was vastly different. There were events on campus, no more required testing, and we finally had a fall season of racing. It was a whole new kind of racing, with different courses, different rules, and new experiences. Spring semester was where things really picked up. Masking was only required in classrooms and the library. Teams were finally able to do weight training without sweating through their masks and spectators were finally allowed. My parents were finally able to come and watch one of my races. It was a really big deal for me, I had sent photos and told them all about it but now I had people shouting my name from the shore.

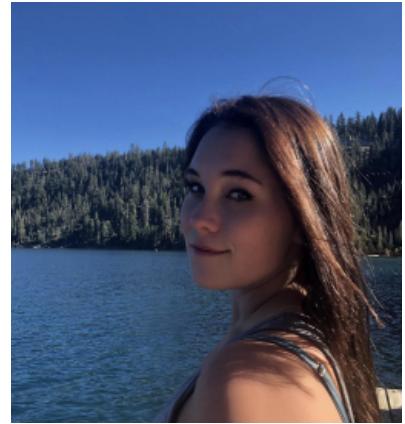
All sports are finally getting the seasons and spectators we so greatly need. I cannot imagine how weird it must have been to go from loud screaming fans at basketball games to empty silence. The infamous Gonzaga game was just an example of that. When I told my family and friends that I was going to go to Saint Mary's, everyone mentioned the basketball team and how legendary the student section was. Freshman year, I had no idea what they were talking about. No one was allowed at games because of COVID. When that was all lifted in 2022 there was a packed house, people practically on top of one another, ready to support. It was an incredible experience watching and supporting our team as they beat the best in the country. It also made me sad, thinking about what else I had missed out on my freshman year.

SIGNATURES

Have a great summer!
<3 The Collegian staff

Collegian Spotlights

Meet Some of the Staff!



Isabelle Delostrinos has been a Culture Columnist for The Collegian since Spring semester of 2021. She never thought she would have so much fun writing articles in her free time, but she did! She loved sharing her perspective with you all on things like the Kardashians, Euphoria, and Instagram, and she hopes you enjoyed it too. She wishes you all a great summer and better years to come at SMC. This senior is out!

Riley Mulcahy is the opinion section editor and a senior English major at Saint Mary's. He enjoys writing stories on politics and social justice issues, as well as campus events and campus culture. He is grateful for his time at The Collegian, as it has become his SMC community as a COVID transfer.

Remy Zerber is a Culture Columnist for The Collegian. She is a junior and a Communications major with a Cinematic Arts minor. Her favorite memory at school is when she went to the Harry Styles concert with her friends. A fun fact about her is that she ski's. Remy says you should join The Collegian because it is good practice if you want to write after college and it looks good on a resume.

Jenevieve Monroe is a sophomore. She is a News Reporter for The Collegian. She is a Politics major with a minor in Philosophy. Jenevieve is also from Lake Tahoe, NV.



Theo Zittel is a current third-year student here at SMC majoring in Global and Regional Studies and minoring in Spanish. He was born and raised in the Sacramento area and coming to Moraga has been one of the biggest moves he has ever had to make. A few fun facts about him include, studying abroad in the south of Spain next semester, and as well as having a Golden-doodle back at home who has been around since he was just 6 years old. As a member of The Collegian team, he primarily writes as a News Reporter, covering pieces on both global and on-campus news. In other editions, he has written as a guest Opinion Writer on topics of interest. Theo's favorite piece that he wrote this semester was for our "Collusion Edition", where he completed an article on a made-up student here at SMC who supposedly was an expert on the Russia-Ukraine conflict. He felt like he could relate to the character in a sense as he is intrigued by global issues and current events, and his classes allow him to explore a myriad of topics. This semester Theo has appreciated being a part of The Collegian team and having the opportunity to voice his passion for writing!



Melanie Moyer is the Editor-in-Chief of The Collegian for the 2021-2022 school year. She began writing for the paper as a second-year in the Opinion section and later acted as the Associate Editor. She is an English major with minors in Women's and Gender Studies and Music, and is also the Editor-in-Chief of the English Department's literary magazine, riverrun. Melanie prioritizes student voices and activism and is devoted to uplifting the voices of marginalized identities through The Collegian at SMC. She plans to become a writer after graduating, so she recognizes the importance of student-run publications on college campuses. However, she apologizes for literally having no idea what is going on with the sports team at SMC.



Kiera is the Co-Associate Editor of The Collegian, and has written for the news section for the past two years. She likes reading, baking, and running. Her favorite Collegian edition is last month's April Fools Collusion.

Not pictured: Ariana Perez is a graduating senior at Saint Mary's College of California. Her hobbies include reading, writing, drawing, and watching the raccoons outside her dorm dumpster dive.



Kamryn Sobel is the Co-Associate Editor of The Collegian. She began writing for the paper in fall of 2021 as a News Reporter, and continued on to the associate editor position in 2022. She is currently a sophomore and is majoring in Communications. Apart from writing, Kamryn enjoys surfing, snowboarding, traveling, and attending music festivals. Kamryn will be spending fall of 2022 in Florida, where she will be an intern for Disney. Her favorite edition was the April Fool's themed paper, where she got to explore her writing in a creative light. She says that being a part of The Collegian can lead to amazing opportunities and has allowed her passion for writing to grow even more.

Want your club/department/organization to be featured in the next edition of *The Collegian*? Email mkm16@stmarys-ca.edu to collaborate!