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SMU

College of
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TABLE OF CONTENTS

2022 Graduation	1-2
Megan Friesen- Educator of the Year	3
Our Common Home Farms	4
Study Abroad- Trip to Italy	5-12
Astronomy Trip	13-14
Psychology Intern Research	15
Social Work News	16
Pac-I Club	16
Nathalie Kuroiwa-Lewis Publications	17-18
New CAS Faculty	19-20



2022 Graduation



*“ The future belongs
to those who believe
in the beauty of their
dreams. ”*

-Eleanor Roosevelt





Dr. Megan Friesen: Educator of the Year

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife recognizes Dr. Megan Friesen as “Educator of the Year”. Dr. Megan Friesen started teaching at St. Martin’s University in Lacey just prior to the pandemic, making it challenging to provide students with hands-on conservation opportunities. Despite this, she has piloted a project to help control African clawed frogs, an invasive species spreading throughout the Puget Sound region that threatens native aquatic wildlife. Over the past year, Dr. Friesen and her students have monitored these frogs and tested new management approaches, including identifying a more effective bait to trap them. Through this work, she has stoked a passion and appreciation in her students for conserving Washington’s wildlife, encouraging many of them to consider careers in conservation.



Our Common Home Farms: Grant Awardees



Our Common Home Farms, a community farming project led by Sam Fox (Biology), Tim Madeley (Accounting), Will Stadler (Criminology and Criminal Justice), and Julia Chavez (English) received two grants this summer to continue the work of addressing food justice issues and modeling environmental stewardship in our local community. A national Victory Noll Small Grant from Catholic Climate Covenant and a local grant from Saint Michael's

Parish in Olympia, Washington, allow us to rent land from Jan and Dean Pigman, who have been farming in the Nisqually Valley for more than 30 years, as well as purchase seeds, tools, and other supplies.

This summer OCHF has donated produce to the Saint Martin's community on Tuesdays and to Community Kitchen on Fridays. They are grateful for all their volunteers, and also want to thank Br. Luke Devine for supplementing their grant ap-

plication with a statement on farming as part of the Benedictine tradition.

If you'd like to get involved, please contact jchavez@stmartin.edu for volunteer days and times. OCHF welcomes individuals, small groups, classes, clubs, teams, and community members!



STUDY

ITALY

“Dante’s Comedy and the Italian City”

This summer, Drs. Stephen Mead and Julia Chavez co-taught a course titled “Dante’s Comedy and the Italian City”. In this summer study abroad course, students studied Dante’s *Divine Comedy* as the work of a man tightly embedded in his city of Florence, and the idea of the city itself

as a means of enacting the kingdom of God. The poet’s travels through the three kingdoms of the afterlife represent the “city” in its current, possible, and idealized iterations. In addition to studying Dante’s three-book poem, students also studied this poet as an inspiration for later artists.

ABROAD

ITALY



INSIDE ITALY: AS CHRONICLED BY STUDENT, ELLIE APANTIPAN

Florence

On our first adventure, I visited the gallery in Florence where I got to see the infamous David. The Ponte Vecchio bridge was a sight to see with built in jewelry shops and of the many bridges it reminded me of the bridge Dante crosses with Virgil in canto 25 in *Inferno*. Then the following day in the Uffizi gallery I got to see Dante himself. Knowing that Florence was the site of Dante's birth, I didn't get the chance to visit his home which was turned into a museum.





Of the many things that I enjoyed in Italy, the trees are what stood out most. The way the bottom of the trees curved made the way Dante describes Purgatory in Canto One is in reference to Italy's nature. In many ways, interpretations of Canto 8 in *Inferno*, the trees are drawn curved which may take inspiration from these trees seen in Italy. I can see how Dante must have liked traveling around Italy and enjoying nature.

On the second day of being in Rome, it decided to rain, but that didn't stop me from touring the Colosseum and the Forum. Going to these places exposed me to a new environment filled with people from around the world enjoying scenery together. It was a humbling experience to learn someone else's language, follow their traditions, and appreciate their culture on a deeper level.

While visiting the Vatican City, it was interesting to learn that I wasn't in Rome for a few hours. Seeing these histori-

cal landmarks shows how important it has inspired artists to build upon these structures for future generations to come.

Rome and the Vatican City



Pisa and Assisi

Although not much time was spent in these two cities, I learned a little bit of the Italian lifestyle. I learned that they like to take it easy and enjoy being in the moment. I took this observation into consideration throughout the trip, but it was difficult to accomplish when there was lots of walking to be done in this hot weather. Despite the weather, the pictures turned out great.

Ravenna

When we first arrived in Ravenna, I could feel the spirit of Dante wherever I went. In the picture on the top left corner are images depicting different cantos from the divine comedy and they can be found on many buildings in Ravenna. There are 100 of these plaques representing the 100 cantos in the divine comedy and by scanning the QR code it will direct you to the whole canto.

The first day I did a tour of 5 of the chapels nearby that are known to have these amazing mosaics seen on the bottom left corner. It was incredible to

see how every detail was important and it reminded me of the cantos and how every detail in each tercet is important.

The final day in Ravenna was another day to explore the city. It was the day to finally visit Dante's tomb, the place where he lived out his last years. The gate near Dante's tomb, as seen in the top right corner, reminds me of the beginning of Inferno in the 3rd canto where Dante enters the gates of hell.



Lucca



The center of Lucca is bordered by a wall. The walls were built in the Middle Ages to defend itself against city states. There were shops, restaurants, and towers in every corner that it would be easy to get lost in.

they hosted Dante between the Loggia Dei Mercanti and Terre delle Ore.

In Lucca I did my tour about Dante where he stayed between the period 1306-1308. It is said that Lucca was one of Dante's least favorite places, but with the help of Monna Gentucca, who is mentioned in Purgatory,

Montecatini

Most of our time spent in Italy was in Montecatini Terme, a lovely town in Tuscany. After traveling back and forth from city to city, I enjoyed coming back to Montecatini where I could relax and reflect upon my adventures.

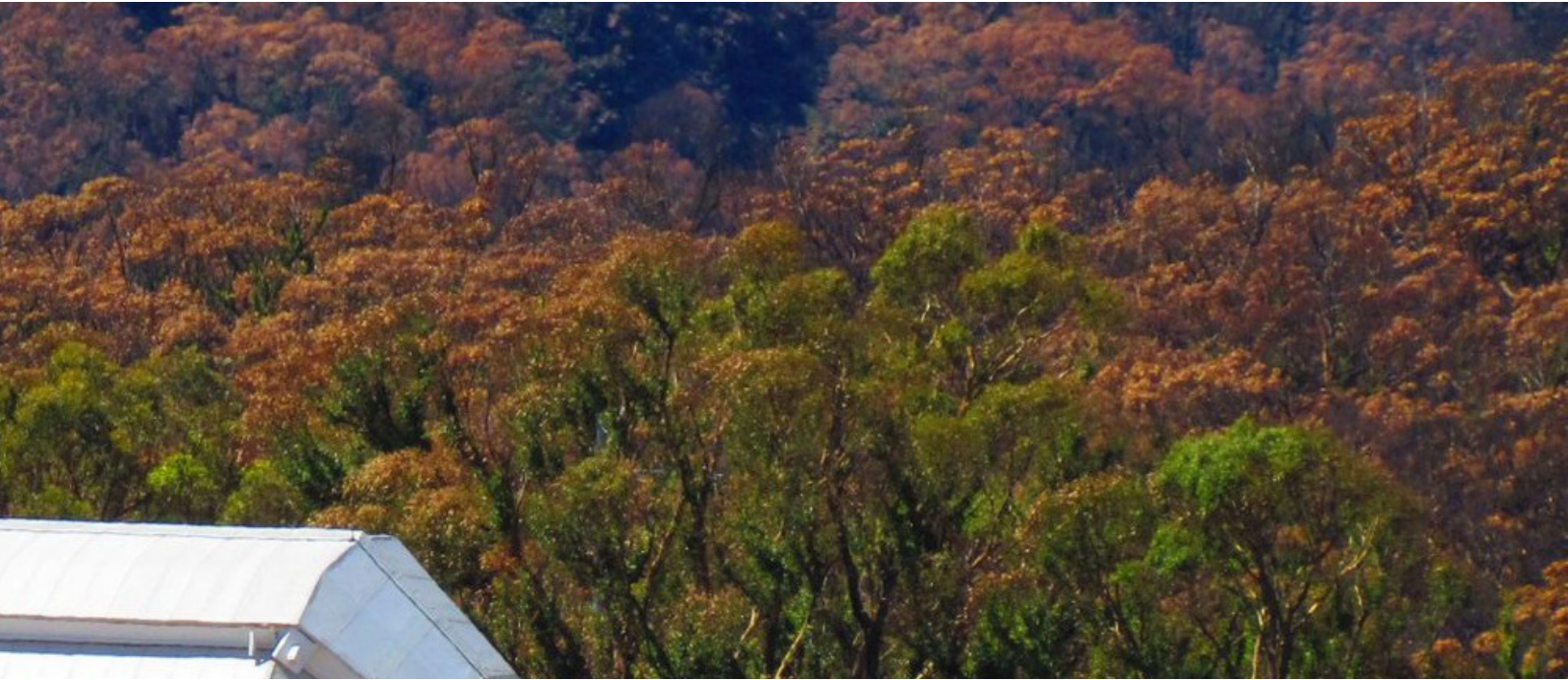
I've always wanted to study abroad and when this opportunity came along, I took it, and I don't regret it. My trip to Italy has brought me fond memories and I hope to find more opportunities to study abroad.





*Astronomy Students Visit
Siding Spring Observatory*





Siding Spring Observatory, on the edge of the Warrumbungle National Park near Coonabarabran, Australia, is one of the premier optical and infrared astronomical observatories in the world. Dr. Andrea Kunder and three of her summer research students, are operating the 4-meter Anglo-Australian Telescope there, collecting spectra of thousands of stars

in the center of Milky Way galaxy. Their goal is to confirm two new globular clusters in the Milky Way galaxy as well as to identify remnant stars from the newly discovered Gaia Enceladus collision.

Because it is winter in Australia, the nights are 13 hours long, and the air is frosty and cold. A highlight for the students is seeing kangaroos hop-

ping around the telescopes at dusk and meeting the friendly observatory staff who have been showing them every nook and cranny of the observatory. One night of time on the Anglo-Australian Telescope costs \$16,500, and Dr. Kunder was able to purchase five nights from two different grants of which she is the PI.





Summer Research: Psychology Interns

Dr. Emily Coyle and her summer research interns were busy collecting data with families at the Thurston County Fair in July. The Fair, returning after a 2-year COVID hiatus, is a special opportunity to build rapport with Thurston County families, and the whole lab was thrilled to be back working with families face-to-face. Their project used Foldscoopes, low cost (\$1) origami paper microscopes, in an experiment with children 5-12 years old to test whether children identified more as scientists and had better self-efficacy for science after matching everyday household objects (vs. objects stereotypically associated with science) with their microscopic image. Dr. Coyle

and her students will co-author multiple conference submissions from this work with the aim of presenting the research regionally and nationally. Summer student research interns also developed a project to evaluate burnout in healthcare workers during the pandemic, a continuation of research Dr. Coyle has been doing with students on two other projects since the start of COVID (Families in Quarantine, which assesses the pandemic impact on family life, and Students in Quarantine, which assessed pandemic impacts on college students' learning, self-efficacy, and mental health). Lastly, summer student interns helped to standardize a training system for future interns needing to

use the programming language and statistical software package, R, and assisted with materials development for an open education resource (OER) related to Sesame Street-themed modules to teach child development, soon to be published via the SUNY Buffalo State Digital Commons. Dr. Coyle is co-authoring two publications related to the Sesame Street project, one accepted for publication in the *Professors at Play Playbook* due out this Fall and a pedagogy article currently under review at a teaching journal.

Social Work News

Allison Weide (BSW '23) was recently elected as the NASW-Washington Chapter's BSW Representative. The Washington State Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers is a membership organization with a dual mission of enhancing the profession of social work and promoting diversity, inclusion and social justice. Allison is currently completing her BSW with concentrations in both Substance Use Disorder and Trauma Studies, and is also the President of the newly formed Student Social Work Association here at SMU. In her position on the Executive Board for NASW-Washington Chapter, Allison will gain immeasurable leadership experience while representing Saint Martin's University. She is the third SMU student to be elected to a board position in this organization.



Pacific Islander Club

This may, the SMU Pacific Islander (PAC-I) Club performed at University of Washington Tacoma's L 'au.w

“Our club is a safe space for Pacific Islander students and is also a place for students who are interested in learning and appreciating the Pacific Islander culture.”

-Mario Norman (PAC-I club member and incoming sophomore)



Poetry Publications: *Dr. Nathalie* *Kuroiwa-Lewis*

Over the summer, Dr. Nathalie Kuroiwa-Lewis published her poem “Aeolus At Hanford” in Vol. 12, no. 2 of *Cirque: A Literary Journal For The Pacific Rim* (see page 107). Here is the link to the journal: <https://cirquejournal.com/>. She also has a poem, “Saint Matthew’s Rectus Femoris,” coming out soon in a poetry podcast for Viewless Wings. The link to the journal can

be found here: <https://viewlesswings.com/>. In addition to these accomplishments, Dr. Kuroiwa-Lewis helped organize the “Laureates in Lacey” event, sponsored by Saint Martin’s University, The Olympia Poetry Network and Humanities WA. Rena Priest, the WA state poet laureate, Ashly McBunch, the Olympia poet laureate and Cynthia Pratt, the Lacey poet laureate read their poetry.





New CAS Faculty!

Sailaja Arungundram; Assistant Prof Chemistry

Ph. D. Chemistry, University of Georgia, Athens, GA,
Her Thesis Title was “A Modular Approach for the Synthesis of Heparan Sulfate Oligosaccharides”.

She has had a Postdoctoral Research position at the Department of Medicinal Chemistry, University of Utah, Salt Lake City. And most recently was a visiting assistant professor in chemistry at Pacific Lutheran University.

She brings the department a much-needed Biochemist with expertise in biosynthesis.

Michele (Shelly) Burdette-Taylor; Associate Prof of Nursing

Dr. Burdette-Taylor received her Ph.D. in Nursing Education from the University of San Diego, California.

Most recently she was an Associate Professor of Nursing (2018 – 2021) at the University of Alaska, and then the Regional Associate Dean at Oregon Health Science University in Portland, OR, (2021 – 2022).

She has enumerable Licensures and Certifications that generate a long list of letters after her name (it's worth a look).

Keri Graham; Assistant Prof of Women's, Gender and Ethnicity Studies

She is working towards her Ph.D. of Leadership Studies from Saint Martin's University (ABD). Her project examines a community history of Olympia focusing on the punk feminist Riot Grrrl movement of the 1980s and 1990s.

She received her Masters from University of North Carolina, her BA from Saint Martin's University; and has been teaching as an instructor for the college since 2016.

Gabriela Hyre Visiting Assistant Prof of Social Work; Field Director

Ms. Hyre received her Masters of Social Work from University of Nevada. She has more than 10 years experience in social work with expertise in gerontology, trauma, end-of-life and community organization.

Rebecca McClinon; Assistant Prof Exercise Science

Dr. McClinon received her Doctorate of Athletic Training in 2017 from the University of Idaho, Moscow, Idaho.

Her Dissertation title was “Effects of Mulligan Techniques on MRI Confirmed Meniscal Tears: A Comparison to Arthroscopy and Traditional Physical Therapy.”

She also has a Master of Arts in Kinesiology and Athletic Training from San Jose State University, San Jose, California.

Most recently she has been teaching full time for us in our rapidly growing Exercise Science program.

Joseph Scott; Visiting Assistant Professor of Music

Dr Scott received his Doctor of Musical Arts with an emphasis in Instrumental Conducting at the University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland.

Most recently Dr Scott was Interim Director of the Wind Ensemble & Orchestra at College of the Holy Cross, Worcester, Massachusetts.

Yunchen Tian; Assistant Prof Political Science

Dr. Tian received their Ph.D. from the Department of Political Science at Johns Hopkins University, 2022.

Their Dissertation title was “Making Migrants Locally? Contention and Cooperation in the Multi-Level Governance of Migration in Japan.”

Dr Tian’s area of research interest is International Politics and Migration.

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