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The Ernsdorff Center Dedication by The Board of Trustees, University President and Science Initiative Steering Committee dedicated the new Father Bede Ernsdorff, O.S.B. Center on Thursday, May 9, 2019. This new science facility will house the Department of Math and the Father Placidus Reischman, O.S.B. Department of Natural Sciences, as well as collaborative faculty and student research spaces and teaching labs and classrooms.

Biology students Catherine Dufresne and Kaylin Fosnacht with Dr. Robert Bode, Biology, working on a research project funded by the Murdock Charitable Trust. Determining whether plants with different-sized flowers had different visitation rates by local bees, and whether these visitation rates had consequences for the total number of seeds produced or the number of seeds per seed pod.

Physics Instructor Pavel Bolokhov showing students how to set up and angle their rocket stations.

The College of Arts and Sciences welcomes the new Executive Assistant to the Dean, Ashleigh Withey. She has previously served in the Office of Admissions as office manager, first-year admission counselor, and senior first-year admission counselor, and is very excited for the opportunity to support the faculty and students in the College of Arts and Sciences. Feel free to stop by Old Main 329 to say hi!

Diane Hamilton, Assistant Professor of Nursing, and a new group of nurses at the Nursing Pinning Ceremony.

Congratulations to all students who graduated this past spring and summer! Here are a few students from the College of Arts and Sciences showing off their new diplomas. Hard work pays off!
Tristian Beach  
Lecturer, English

How do you integrate service or service-learning in your courses?

To encourage civic engagement outside the classroom, Tristan Beach requires his students to participate in community events and organizations (typically in, but not limited to, the humanities) either at Saint Martin’s or within the wider South Sound community. For each event or ongoing commitment to service, students are tasked with writing an essay that reflects on what they have learned and how they have been challenged by their involvement.

This semester, Beach co-founded with Dr. Nathalie Kuroiwa-Lewis (Director, Writing Center; Assoc. Prof., English) the Raven Writers Group, an informal writing community that celebrates creative writing and encourages leadership among Saint Martin’s students. The group has met semi-regularly throughout the Spring semester and is poised to continue in the Fall. All students, staff, faculty, and others affiliated with Saint Martin’s are welcome to join.

Beach collaborated with Nicole Swenson (Lecturer) in developing and conducting a writing retreat for ENG101 students at Lambert Lodge, in February.

What off-campus community groups are you a member of? What boards do you serve on or leadership positions related to service? How might these be related with your commitment to service?

Tristan Beach frequently volunteers at Holy Cross Catholic Church, in Tacoma, as a lector, usher, and Eucharistic minister; he also volunteers semi-regularly at Holy Cross’s Food and Outreach Program, assembling food/care packages and stocking the program’s kitchen and pantry. Tristan also volunteers at St. Charles Borromeo Parish, in Tacoma, as a leader in their youth confirmation program, “Teen Nights,” and confirmation retreats.

Mary Jo Hartman  
Associate Professor, Biology

What off-campus community groups are you a member of? What boards do you serve on or leadership positions related to service? How might these be related with your commitment to service?

Dr. Hartman has worked with her students since 2005 to collaborate with South Sound GREEN (Global Rivers Environmental Education Network), which is a watershed education program in Thurston County. Each October and February, Dr. Hartman and her students go to the same site on the Deschutes River to run water quality tests as an ongoing water quality monitoring program of the local watershed. Water samples are also brought back to campus to be tested. Additionally, local elementary school teachers bring their classes’ water samples to Saint Martin’s to be tested and the tests are then conducted by Dr. Hartman and her students. This program is in conjunction with the Thurston Conservation District.

Describe any service or service-learning projects. These can involve students but might also be work that you do on your own. Include a description of the agency or organization you are a part of.

Dr. Hartman has been a board member of the Nisqually Reach Nature Center for the past 10 years. Located in northeast Olympia at Luhr Beach, on the west side of the Nisqually estuary, the Center is devoted to marine and environmental education, protection of South Sound, and citizen science projects.
Robert Bode  
Assistant Professor, Biology

What off-campus community groups are you a member of? What boards do you serve on or leadership positions related to service? How might these be related with your commitment to service?

Dr. Bode serves at a local church (Timberline Baptist) where he teaches Children’s Church and prepares/ serve communion. The second Sunday of most months will find him serving at a local soup kitchen, where he sorts garbage and cleans.

How do you integrate service or service-learning in your courses?

Dr. Bode uses his Field Ecology (BIO359) class as an opportunity for students to remove invasive ivy from Lois Lake park. While doing so, students get a first-hand look at restoration efforts in the watershed shared by Lois Lake park and Saint Martin’s.

Why do you do service and how does it align with your training and/or values?

Dr. Bode believe service aligns well with stewardship. We are given the task of ruling over creation, and we can choose to be despots or gardeners.

How do you explain to your students the importance of service and service-learning?

If students claim that they are pre-med because they want to help people, Dr. Bode tells them that they need to get to know people and serve them before they can operate on people. If students claim they are environmental biologists because they want to help nature, Dr. Bode tells them that nature can use some help today, not only after college. If a biologist claims to love the study of life, they should desire to serve life.

What service do you anticipate doing in the future and how does it relate to your role at Saint Martin’s?

Dr. Bode intends to keep on doing what he is doing, adding slowly as he can find new areas to serve. He has recently joined Arbor Vitae, an on-campus group that manages trees at Saint Martin’s, and intends to add tree planting to his current weed removal projects. Where Saint Martin’s needs help, Dr. Bode will help as he is able.

Emily Coyle  
Assistant Professor, Psychology

How do you integrate service or service-learning in your courses?

Dr. Coyle integrates service learning into various courses. Her Fall 2017 UNI course partnered with the YWCA to host a film event for the International Day of the Girl. Students planned the event, assisted in educational outreach related to the YWCA and International Day of the Girl, and fundraised for the YWCA. From the YWCA USA website, “YWCA USA is on a mission to eliminate racism, empower women, stand up for social justice, help families, and strengthen communities.”

In her Studying Emerging Attitudes and Learning (SEAL) research lab, student interns are involved in community service in several areas. First, Dr. Coyle has a line of research that investigates the experiences of homeless adults in our local community. Related to that work, students organize outreach efforts (i.e., bags of supplies to give to survey participants) and participate in related, non-research service. On April 13, Dr. Coyle and two students (Michaela Monson and Dana Henry) made and served lunch at the YWCA of King County’s Angeline’s Day Center in downtown Seattle (photo attached). This shelter serves approximately 200 women daily who are experiencing homelessness in Seattle. The Center offers meals, shower and laundry access, and access to other social services.

The SEAL lab is involved in other community outreach as well – they regularly host a booth at the Lacey STEM Fair and in the STEM pavilion at the Thurston County Fair. This semester, interns have been developing an educational outreach program for the Lacey Timberland Library. The first of those events was held at the Lacey Library on May 9th. As a developmental psychology research lab, it is important to connect with the community for several reasons. First, Dr. Coyle wants to build trust and rapport with community members to increase family support and participation in research activities. Second, a lot of research is published in pay-wall journals but doesn’t reach the people who need it – the very parents and families they study! To meet both of these goals, Dr. Coyle and her lab have an emerging presence in the local and regional community to involve families, parents, and teachers in early STEM learning.
How do you integrate service or service-learning in your courses?

During the Spring 2019 term, Dr. Julia Chavez taught an English 210 course that explored Benedictine values and the literary imagination. In addition to reading an eclectic mix of works ranging from The Rule of Benedict to the poetry and essays of Thomas Merton, Flannery O'Connor's short stories, Kathleen Norris' poetry, and Dorothy Day's autobiography, students in the course had a "hands-on," service learning component. In the classroom, we studied the many nature and farming metaphors that permeate this literature. The service-learning component allowed students to connect this imagery with the real work of community farming. By planting seeds in the science lab with Dr. Sam Fox, transplanting the seedlings at Our Common Home Farms, and volunteering at Community Kitchen and the Lacey Senior Center, students were able to enhance our study of literature with a deeper understanding of Benedictine values like dignity of work, stewardship, and hospitality.

What off-campus community groups are you a member of? What boards do you serve on or leadership positions related to service? How might these be related with your commitment to service?

Dr. Chavez is a regular volunteer and member of the leadership team for Our Common Home Farms (OCHF), a community farming project that donates organically grown produce to those in need in the Olympia/Lacey/Tacoma area. During the Spring semester, Dr. Chavez lent a hand with foundational work that will allow plentiful produce donations: planting seeds, preparing soil, transplanting seedlings, mulching, and weeding. In addition to hands-on work at the farm, Dr. Chavez helps to coordinate volunteer opportunities and supervise work parties. Dr. Chavez and OCHF are grateful for the enthusiasm of the Saint Martin’s community volunteers. As of May 4, there have been 38 individual volunteers from SMU and a total of 243.75 service hours at the farm!

STUDENT SHOWCASE

On March 23, 2019, two English majors represented Saint Martin's at the Northwest Undergraduate Conference on Literature (NUCL) at Seattle University. Naomi Gilmore presented a paper entitled, "Masculine Optimism and Feminine Hopelessness: Frankenstein and Prometheus Unbound," and Savannah Schilporeort presented a paper entitled, "Frankenstein in Hotel Transylvania." Both papers originated in a Fall 2018 literature course called "The Age of Frankenstein." Since the conference was so close, Dr. Julia Chavez had the opportunity to accompany the students as a faculty sponsor.
Br. Luke Devine, O.S.B.,
Assistant Professor,
Religious Studies
Trustee

What off-campus community groups are you a member of? What boards do you serve on or leadership positions related to service? How might these be related with your commitment to service?

One of the most active service organizations in the Olympia area is Interfaith Works (IW). It is an organization that is deeply engaged in direct service to those in need, in advocacy to address systematic marginalization, and, in their wide variety of service projects, has initiated collaboration and developed relationships between local religious communities. Interfaith Works is the current iteration of Thurston County Council of Churches, founded in 1969, called Associated Ministries of Thurston County from 1973, to adopting its current name in 2004.

Br. Luke Devine became connected in 2003, after being assigned to serve in Saint Martin’s University Campus Ministry as Associate Campus Minister. One of Br. Luke’s projects was to hold Prayer Services for Peace during a time that students were expressing concern over the imminent invasion of Iraq. His interactions with what was then still Associated Ministries of Thurston County provided insights into the planning of interreligious “liturgical” events. As in cities across America, Olympia’s religious communities had been brought together and strengthened their relationships following the attacks of September 11, 2001 as communities had been gathering in various memorial services intended to provide communal mourning for people of various religions and for those not affiliated with any particular religion. Br. Luke also designed the logo for another interreligious event, an annual World Sacred Music Festival, which was unfortunately discontinued several years ago.

After a hiatus for doctoral studies, Br. Luke has resumed participation with Interfaith Works with regular attendance at their monthly meetings. His participation has been strongest in the area of interreligious understanding. Recently, he has been involved in the planning of several All Souls Day Services and the Interfaith Thanksgiving Celebration of 2016 that hosted several hundred participants in a full Saint Martin’s Abbey Church. The celebration featured musical performances by Olympia Peace Choir, the Olympia Unitarian Universalist Congregation Choir, and our own student chorale conducted by Darrell Born.

Br. Luke has also served as a board member for Monastic Interreligious Dialogue, an organization originating in the 1970s, comprised of Benedictine men and women, including Cistercian and Camaldolese monasteries that have initiated dialogue with other religions emphasizing commonalities in monastic and contemplative practices. In this, there has been a strong tradition of dialogue with the particularly monastic religion, Buddhism. Monastic Interreligious Dialogue is the North American representation of a network of national branches of the global organization, Dialogue Interreligieux Monastique/ Monastic Interreligious Dialogue (DIM-MID), publisher of the online journal, Dilatato Corde.

Aaron Coby,
Associate Dean, CAS
Associate Professor, Biology

What off-campus community groups are you a member of? What boards do you serve on or leadership positions related to service?

In 2019 Dr. Aaron Coby began a three-year commitment on the Board of Trustees of the private, nonprofit NOVA Middle School in Olympia, WA. NOVA is a middle school for highly capable students with a mission to foster the joyful pursuit of intellectual, social, and emotional expansion through a challenging curriculum that nourishes students to develop identity, self-empowerment, and community.

The Board is responsible for the overall sustainability of NOVA Middle School and focuses on strategic planning and the financial stability of the school.
Tam Dinh  
Associate Professor,  
Social Work  
Program Director, Social Work

What off-campus community groups are you a member of? What boards do you serve on or leadership positions related to service? How might these be related with your commitment to service?

The primary motivation for Dr. Dinh to enter the social work profession and ultimately to choose Saint Martin’s University, is her desire to live with meaning and be of service to others. This call to service is rooted in both Dr. Dinh’s Catholic and Vietnamese upbringing. Dr. Dinh volunteers both at the local and state level. As a Governor appointed commissioner with the Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs, Dr. Dinh is a liaison between the community and the Governor’s office.

CAPAA’s mission is to improve the lives of Asian Pacific Americans in Washington State by ensuring their access to participation in the fields of government, business, education, and other areas. We work in partnership with our communities and state leaders to respond to concerns and bring about positive change and long-term solutions. As a commissioner, Dr. Dinh’s work is to ensure community voices are heard in state government, inform communities about laws and policies that affect their well-being, and advocate for policies and services that support the unique needs of our communities.

In the last year, Dr. Dinh has been on the Suicide Prevention in Higher Education Workgroup and Smart on Juvenile Justice Strategic Taskforce as CAPAA commissioner.

For the last 4 years she has been a board member of Friends of Little Saigon, a nonprofit with a mission to preserve and enhance Little Saigon's culture, economic and historic vitality. Currently we are fighting against gentrification and economic displacement.

Since 2013, Dr. Dinh has also played various roles such as writer to Editor-in-Chief with Xin Chào magazine (http://xinchaomagazine.com/magazines/). Xin Chào is composed of a group of individuals who desire to connect the Vietnamese culture to ourselves and to the world with a mission to provide a platform to enrich the community and to inspire dialogue. Embracing the values of service and responsibility to my community has led to an enduring sense of purpose and fulfillment in my personal and professional life.

Br. Boniface V. Lazzari, O.S.B.  
Associate Professor, Spanish

What off-campus community groups are you a member of? What boards do you serve on or leadership positions related to service?

Br. Boniface V. Lazzari, O.S.B., has produced a small concert/lecture series, Abbey Church Events, since early in 1990. The series, founded by Saint Martin’s/Abbey in 1980, currently presents four classical music concerts by acclaimed musicians, and occasional lectures, each year. In addition, in collaboration with the University Music Department, some of the Church Events artists offer Master Classes or lecturers. Events are gratis, though a donation is suggested. Abbey Church Events brings to Lacey artists who might not otherwise be hear in the area, and they are accessible to all who love music as there is no fixed admission fee. Br. Boniface runs the series with the assistance of occasional volunteers.
Sam Fox
Assistant Professor, Biology

What off-campus community groups are you a member of? What boards do you serve on or leadership positions related to service? How might these be related with your commitment to service?

This past winter, Dr. Fox volunteered at the 'Cold Weather Men's Shelter'. This shelter is open to homeless men during the cold time of year (from November through March. The staff use vans to pick up homeless men from downtown Olympia and take them to Sacred Heart Catholic Church. Dr. Fox and other volunteers welcome the men with warm food and coffee or hot cocoa and then help them prepare a mat with blankets and pillows for them (and the volunteers) to sleep for the night.

Dr. Fox also volunteers regularly at the Community Kitchen in downtown Olympia. Along with his normal Community Kitchen volunteering duties, he also assists on most 1st Friday evenings alongside St. Martin's University students.

Dr. Fox also spent his spring break in Florida with his 82 year old father building houses for Habitat for Humanity. This was a rewarding opportunity for Dr. Fox to apply his carpentry skills to a good cause. Dr. Fox helped out at the clothing pantry giving clothing, blankets and other goods to those in need. Dr. Fox also helped with the food pantry donating food and clothing to those in need. And Dr. Fox is also working with a group aimed at helping people cope with tragedy. He assists people that have lost a loved-one, that are going through a divorce or other difficulties.

Dr. Fox and his family also serve their community by picking up trash around the greater Lacey community. He and his wife take their five children around Lacey armed with gloves and bags to pick up trash around town.

Describe any service or service-learning projects. These can involve students but might also be work that you do on your own. Include a description of the agency or organization you are a part of. (What is their purpose? What is the organization size and reach? What is their history? What is their mission? What are their goals?).

Dr. Fox is involved in the Partners in Science Program through the M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust grant. This unique program pairs high school science teachers with a mentor doing cutting-edge research in an academic lab or a lab associated with another nonprofit institution. Partners in Science work occurs over the course of two summers. After the first summer, partners develop a brief pictorial poster showing their research to date for presentation at the National Partners in Science conference. After the second year of work with their mentors, partners return to the conference to deliver an oral presentation on their progress.

Dr. Fox also serves as a research mentor for Dr. Tacy Russell of Pope John Paul II High School, here in Lacey. Together they worked on the Genetic and physiological characterization of enhanced stress tolerance of in grafted tomatoes. Tomatoes (Solanum lycopersicum) are an important specialty crop in Washington State and worldwide, and are highly susceptible to abiotic stresses (e.g. heat, cold, drought). Plant grafting is a centuries-old practice shown to increase the health, productivity, and stress resistance of the grafted plant. The process entails the splicing of a stem or branch (scion) with market-desirable traits onto a recipient rootstock of another plant possessing tolerance to abiotic stresses. The main goal of this research project is to investigate and gain a better understanding of the genetic and physiological aspects of scion-rootstock relationship in response to abiotic stress.
Andrea Kunder  
Assistant Professor, Physics

Describe any service or service-learning projects. These can involve students but might also be work that you do on your own. Include a description of the agency or organization you are a part of.

Dr. Kunder is frequently asked to give talks at local events. In these live, face-to-face talks, Kunder educates and involves people in the local community, increasing community awareness and understanding of basic physics and our place in the universe, as well as highlighting how Saint Martin’s and their undergraduates are currently solving problems to solve astronomical problems.

Dr. Kunder is the advisor of the SMU Physics Club. This is the first year a Physics Club exists at Saint Martin’s, united by a common interest to talk about and engage in physics. Dr. Kunder participated in a number of service projects under this umbrella. The Physics Club led Boys and Girls Club activities monthly, participated in four Adult swim events at the Children’s Museum in Olympia, and organized a number of campus wide events to discuss physics and/or star gaze using the SMU telescopes.

Dr. Kunder is solicited every three months or so to referee papers for various astronomical journals, both domestic and international. Peer review, or scientific refereeing, is the basis of the academic process; it is a rigorous
discipline.

Dr. Kunder especially enjoys going to local elementary and middle schools in the area to bring science into their classroom. Giving teachers in local public schools another set of hands and bringing in fresh, science demos and ideas is one way to help the next generation of students succeed in learning about science. For Centennial Elementary School’s science fair in March, Kunder led a liquid Nitrogen experiment (see attached photo, which was featured on the Olympia School District’s page). She also brought the SMU hand-held telescopes to Centennial Elementary School to allow all first grade students the opportunity to look at the moon through telescopes. Lastly, she was a guest speaker for the Salish Middle School robotics club in December, where she assisted students on a project designed to remove space debris.

Finally, Dr. Kunder presented at SMU Family Weekend, was on the interview panel for the Act Six Phase III Interviews, and has written multiple letters of recommendation for SMU physics minors seeking admission to graduate school.

What off-campus community groups are you a member of? What boards do you serve on or leadership positions related to service? How might these be related with your commitment to service?

Dr. Kunder is a member of the Westminster Presbyterian Church. She serves as a leader for the Children’s Music Ministry, playing guitar and singing songs with the youth during Godly Play every Sunday.

How do you integrate service or service-learning in your courses?

In Dr. Kunder’s upper level astrophysics class (PHY365), she introduces an astrophysical problem that is of current interest to be solved, in which the answer is not already known. The students, therefore, are engaged in research, and make progress on developing new knowledge to further the field of astrophysics. The students present their results at the Murdock College Science Research Conference. This is a service opportunity in which they disseminate to others the new knowledge in astrophysics that they have created or discovered.

How do you explain to your students the importance of service and service-learning?

Dr. Kunder believes in leading by example when explaining to her students the importance of service and service-learning. This is why she is the advisor of the Physics Club, a club that has devoted the majority of their activities to bringing fun, educational, and learning physics opportunities to the community. This is also why Dr. Kunder gives a number of talks around the community, inviting her students to attend and encouraging her students (e.g., those in her PHY365 class) to do the same.

What service do you anticipate doing in the future and how does it relate to your role at Saint Martin’s?

As Dr. Kunder builds up experience teaching her classes at SMU, she anticipates she will increase her time given to service. In particular, she anticipates increasing the public observing capabilities (using various SMU telescopes) on campus, to students and to the community. In this regard, Dr. Kunder has been meeting with faculty from PLU and UPS who have been involved in building small observatories at their campus, to get concrete numbers, examples, and other such details relating to setting up observatories on undergraduate college campuses. To obtain start-up capital for building and equipment funds for an observatory, Dr. Kunder has attended training sessions put on by the National Science Foundation (NSF) on how to successfully apply for The Faculty Early Career Development (CAREER) Program, which is a grant designed to contribute money directly to education and outreach (such like an observatory would provide). Next year, Dr. Kunder accepted an invitation to join the board for the Community Science Cafe, where she will begin a public observing program in conjunction with the Science Cafe series.
Irina Gendelman
Associate Professor,
Communication Studies

Describe any service or service-learning projects. These can involve students but might also be work that you do on your own. Include a description of the agency or organization you are a part of.

With her UNI 101 students this past year, Dr. Irina Gendelman volunteered at the Thurston County Food Bank, made food for the residents at Quixote Village, held eco-friendly DIY Christmas present making workshops in Parsons Hall, worked in the campus garden, printed letterpress posters at Pope Press studio, helped dig out potatoes in the Department of Ecology’s Food Bank Garden, and organized the Salmon Cookout in solidarity with Indigenous Peoples Day.

In collaboration with Dr. Jeff Birkenstein, Dr. Gendelman obtained an MLA grant to partner with Nisqually tribal members and Media Island International, to develop a storytelling course with a focus on foods of the Pacific Northwest. Gendelman also co-authored a chapter (with Birkenstein) titled *Teaching Travel through Wandering and Food* in Carlinta Green’s book, *Foodscapes*. She organized a panel about Hip Hop’s visual history, which included the author of the book *Contact High*, the curator of the Northwest African American Museum, and the manager of a local media non-profit.

As the Learning Garden director, Dr. Gendelman supervised student workers and volunteers, organized workshops, and coordinated with the ESL Service Learning students and faculty to plant starts and hold a plant sale in SMU’s Learning Garden. As the advisor of the student Sustainability Club she joined her students in a Climate Action rally hosted by regional tribes and attended the South Sound Climate Action Convention. Dr. Gendelman also served three weeks on jury duty and became a foster mom to a 16-year-old girl.

Victor Kogan
Professor, Criminal Justice and Sociology

This past spring, the American Sociological Association accepted Dr. Kogan’s paper titled, “The Boiling Pot with Heating”. The paper focused on the history of the United States struggle between forces of unity and forces of diversity; the Immigration Act of 1965 open door to the Universal Nation; identifies how politics made Universal nation look like a boiling pot; and how demographic changes woke up the populism, with its interest to majority and its sense of being mistreated that works as the pot heater.

The ASA is a non-profit 501(c)3 membership association based in Washington D.C. and is dedicated to advancing sociology as a scientific discipline and profession servicing the public good.
Dr. Nathalie Kuroiwa-Lewis is actively engaged in the local writer’s community. She is a board member of the Olympia Poetry Network (OPN), a leading poetry organization in the area with over 27 years of history of supporting and promoting the best of poetry in the South Sound. Dr. Kuroiwa-Lewis is a fervent supporter of the arts and humanities and is proud to serve on the board. The network sponsors a monthly featured reader series and an open mic. It also hosts workshops and in the past has sponsored poetry contests in the area. Recently, she gave an OPN poetry writing workshop titled “Writing with the Greeks,” in the Olympia Community Center and is happy to share her love of poetry writing with fellow poets in the area. Dr. Kuroiwa-Lewis believes that it’s important that literature be accessible and shared and celebrated with the public and that writers be supported by their local communities.

How do you integrate service or service-learning in your courses?

Dr. Kuroiwa-Lewis sees a direct link between her teaching, writing and work on the board and strives to weave writing resources and connections to her classes and sees this as an important part of her service at Saint Martin’s University. When possible, she invites guest writers to her classes, and enjoys giving students the opportunity to meet and learn from writers in the local community. She is especially pleased to see that on September 21st, OPN will be hosting a WA state Poet Laureate fest at the Norman Worthington Conference Center at Saint Martin’s University. All former WA state poet laureates, along with the current poet laureate, Claudia Castro Luna, will be participating in this event.

In addition to her relationship with OPN, Dr. Nathalie Kuroiwa-Lewis is building relationships with the Olympia singer songwriter’s group in town as well as the Writer’s Guild. In the past, she has read and taught select workshops for SMU’s Summer Creative Writing Institute. She looks forward to participating in the Port Townsend Writers Conference at Centrum this July. In addition to her work serving on the board of OPN, Dr. Kuroiwa-Lewis continues to concentrate on her academic and creative writing projects and considers the act of writing as valuable service to the community.

David Price
Professor, Sociology and Anthropology

Describe any service or service-learning projects. These can involve students but might also be work that you do on your own. Include a description of the agency or organization you are a part of.

Dr. David Price, along with Dr. Jeff Birkenstein helped coordinate the small-group service projects of over 40 first year Saint Martin’s students last fall as part of a co-taught First Year Seminar. One of the service projects Price has contributed to this last year involves working with members of a National Science Foundation sponsored workshop meeting in Washington, D.C., in coordination with the American Anthropological Association, developing ethical guidelines for ethnographic research transparency and data sharing.
Fr. Kilian Malvey, O.S.B.
Professor, English
Professor, Religious Studies
Trustee

What off-campus community groups are you a member of? What boards do you serve on or leadership positions related to service? How might these be related with your commitment to service?

Fr. Kilian’s only off-campus service includes several parishes in the Archdioceses of Seattle by celebrating Mass, hearing confessions, giving conferences and homilies, and occasionally, retreat work. Fr. Kilian serves on the National Alumni Board.

Describe any service or service-learning projects. These can involve students but might also be work that you do on your own. Include a description of the agency or organization you are a part of. (What is their purpose? What is the organization size and reach? What is their history? What is their mission? What are their goals?).

Fr. Kilian does not have any service-learning projects underway at the moment. He frequently witnesses the marriages, funerals and baptism of many of Saint Martin’s alums and their families. This goes back to the early 1960s.

How do you integrate service or service-learning in your courses?

In both of Fr. Kilian’s English classes and Religious Studies classes the subject of service often comes into play. Such subjects as racial and cultural prejudice, questions of gender identity, economic and social justice, as well as political and religious bias are often the topic of discussion. Fr. Kilian tries to encourage his students to think seriously about how they live out these issues in service of others in their daily lives for a better, more humane and just world. Fr. Kilian also tries to get them to think about the real purpose of their education and how a truly educated person must live for others as well as for oneself; and this often takes the form of service.

Why do you do service and how does it alight with your training and/or values?

Fr. Kilian does service because it is a natural response to my role as a human being.

How do you explain to your students the importance of service and service-learning?

Fr. Kilian explains the importance of service and service-learning through class discussion, through the literature, poetry, letters, novels, as well as from the scripture found in the Hebrew and Christian bible, as it pertains to the universal questions of how one lives a life in service to other.

What service do you anticipate doing in the future and how does it relate to your role at Saint Martin’s?

In the future, whatever future there is for Fr. Kilian after retiring from the classroom, he would like to be of service to wherever there is a need. Fr. Kilian would consider working at rescue shelters for the homeless, for abandoned and abused animals and other such places.

John O’Leary
Lecturer, Physics

What off-campus community groups are you a member of? What boards do you serve on or leadership positions related to service? How might these be related with your commitment to service?

John O’Leary leads the Wood Ministry Team at Westwood Baptist Church. A group of 5-10 adults meet every Thursday morning at 8am to harvest wood that has been donated. They split and store wood for six months then give it away to widows, single parents and families in need.

Why do you do service and how does it align with your training and/or values?

John believe we are called to serve others in any capacity we are able. Serving those in need in our community is showing God's love to them. Many are strangers that have reached out for help. All are very grateful for the gift of wood to heat their homes during our long cold season here in Olympia.

Serving with others also builds bonds beyond what casual friendships can. Working together on projects shows others commitment and willingness to put others' interests above your own. We include prayer time and support each other on the team. Some have health issues (or their spouse has). Sharing concerns, praises and life stories allows us to grow together and become some of our best friends. Students are welcome to help on Thursday mornings but most have classes/labs. Students have helped in the past.
Lori Sirs
Assistant Professor, Social Work
Director of Field Education

What off-campus community groups are you a member of?

Dr. Sirs is involved in Pierce County Counseling Association (PCCA), her local church, and the Seattle Latvian School, housed within the Seattle Latvian Community Center.

What boards do you serve on or leadership positions related to service? How might these be related with your commitment to service? Describe any service or service-learning projects. These can involve students but might also be work that you do on your own. Include a description of the agency or organization you are a part of.

Dr. Sirs serves on the executive board for the Pierce County Counseling Association (PCCA). The mission of PCCA is to offer opportunities for continuing education, networking, mutual support and counseling resources for professional counselors in Pierce County. Service consists of attending monthly Board meetings, and General meetings, which also involve presentations that provide continuing education units (1.5 CEU’s monthly) for attendees. PCCA boasts approximately 100 members.

In her capacity as a Board member, Dr. Sirs instituted a Student Day as part of the regular calendar for PCCA, inviting pre-service learners from various local universities and colleges, including Saint Martin's University, to be guests at the February PCCA meeting. This allows students to begin networking with local professionals, who will be their future colleagues – in effect, supporting and creating community. Recognizing the importance of relationship and mentoring was the driving force behind creating Student Day as an annual event.

On-campus, Dr. Sirs serves on the Behavior Intervention Team (BIT) and Assessment committees. Dr. Sirs is also the faculty advisor for Phi Alpha Honor Society (honor society for social work students). Participation in a service project is a component of our chapter. This project is student-driven, with guidance and oversight by Dr. Sirs as Saint Martin’s Chapter Advisor.

How do you integrate service or service-learning in your courses?

As part of the social work courses in the BSW program, Dr. Sirs coordinated the effort for her students to attend Lobby Days at the Capitol. Participation in service, and service-learning activities are encouraged, both on and off campus, including for extra credit.

Why do you do service and how does it align with your training and/or values?

Service is in line with not only Dr. Sirs’ personal values and training, but her profession as a social worker. As social workers, the value of advocating for social justice, and being active within our community is instilled beginning with our undergraduate education. Our Code of Ethics holds service to our community and each other as an ethical obligation, which is easy to fulfill, because the values of the profession are what drew her to it in the first place.

How do you explain to your students the importance of service and service-learning?

Dr. Sirs introduces and reinforces these principles throughout her coursework, in part through discussions around NASW’s Code of Ethics. Particular attention is given to social and political action, serving the underserved, and working on behalf of the disenfranchised. Social work is a profession that has long been associated with service and social justice, and its rich history is celebrated across nearly every course, as are the values associated with recognizing the worth and dignity of each person, integrity, and recognizing the context of relationship as a vehicle for change.

What service do you anticipate doing in the future and how does it relate to your role at Saint Martin’s?

Dr. Sirs plans to continue service to the Saint Martin’s community through work on committees, as advisor to Phi Alpha, and her work to continue to grow the social work program. She anticipates ultimately building a service learning component into her Introduction to Social Work course, as well. At next year’s Lobby Days, she intends to have her students play a more active role, having them meet with their elected representatives and present information about a student-selected topic. Given her role as Field Director and assistant professor at Saint Martin’s, these aspects of serve are a natural fit.
Teresa Winstead  
**Assistant Professor, Society and Social Justice**

Describe any service or service-learning projects. These can involve students but might also be work that you do on your own. Include a description of the agency or organization you are a part of.

This past April Dr. Winstead was invited to give a presentation at the Healthy Futures Conference, held from April 17-18, in Grand Mound, WA, to help educate public health professionals about the importance of responding to the Opioid epidemic with a Harm Reduction approach. The conference was hosted by the organization TOGETHER! which is a nonprofit organization founded in 1989 to serve youth and families in the South Sound with a mission to advance the health and well-being of all young people. Together offers direct service youth programs, mobilizes communities through coalitions, advocates for healthier laws, norms and systems and promotes health through community and individual education. TOGETHER! has been igniting change across the South Sound and beyond since 1989 with health promotion, youth development and prevention initiatives. Specifically, Dr. Winstead shared overdose prevention data from the Syringe exchange program she works with and discussed how important the non-coercive, non-judgmental approach, based in the principles of Harm Reduction, is in terms of effectively reaching the population of people who inject drugs with disease prevention and overdose prevention strategies.

Dr. Woo was just re-elected as an Ad Hoc member on the National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners (NAPNAP) board and works with NAPNAP chapters to represent their concerns to the national board. It is rewarding to serve on a board that represents nurse practitioners who care for children across the US.

*How do you integrate service or service-learning in your courses?*

Nursing as a discipline is service to patients and the community. Dr. Woo is excited to incorporate service-learning into the BSN curriculum, with planned activities working with elders in the community, homeless and vulnerable populations. The first BSN students enter Fall of 2019 and students will be involved with serving the community from the first semester.

Teri Moser Woo  
**Director, Nursing**

What off-campus community groups are you a member of? What boards do you serve on or leadership positions related to service? How might these be related with your commitment to service?

If it is Sunday morning, you may find Dr. Teri Woo, Director of Nursing buttering hundreds of slices of toast or dishing up breakfast for the downtown Tacoma community. Dr. Woo attends Urban Grace church in Tacoma every Sunday morning and began volunteering at the Community Breakfast soon after joining the church five years ago.

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In addition to the academic-oriented service Dr. Stadler has provided to his discipline, he has volunteered with several different community organizations, including as a grief support group facilitator with Solace House, an organization which provides support service for children who have lost loved ones, as a board member for Patriot Outreach, a non-profit dedicated to helping active duty military and veterans struggling with post-traumatic stress, and as a committee member for two different non-profit organizations devoted to raising awareness and resources for behavioral health services in the community.

Dr. Stadler is also a member of Rails-to-trails Conservancy, a nonprofit organization that works with communities to preserve unused rail corridors in the U.S. by transforming them into walking and cycling trails, as well as the Adventure Cycling Association, which promotes and supports better and safer cycling in the U.S.

Describe any service or service-learning projects. These can involve students but might also be work that you do on your own. Include a description of the agency or organization you are a part of.

Dr. Stadler has been actively working as an advisor to the criminal justice club at Saint Martin’s to create its inaugural chapter of the National Criminal Justice Honor Society. This mission-driven organization is dedicated to supporting students who wish to pursue high achievement in academic studies and possible careers in the justice system. Along with these goals, this national organization is deeply committed to supporting and promoting student engagement in community service as a way to strengthen bonds within a local community and help those in need.

How do you integrate service or service-learning in your courses?

Dr. Stadler is currently developing a Restorative Justice course which looks to integrate multiple service-learning opportunities for students who wish to learn about social justice and gain experiential knowledge from working with at-risk and in-need individuals involved in the justice system. This course is intended to help students apply their understanding of community justice principles to real-life scenarios that have implications for individuals and the local community.

Why do you do service and how does it align with your training and/or values?

Dr. Stadler’s approach to service is deeply rooted in his life-long education and experience in the Roman Catholic faith. Beginning in high school with his first opportunity to engage in academically-oriented service-learning, Dr. Stadler discovered the power of community engagement and service to others. Since that humbling experience, he has continually sought to promote and pursue service as an avenue toward fulfilling the Catholic mission of helping others to improve the human condition.

How do you explain to your students the importance of service and service-learning?

Service positively impacts individuals, communities, and the world. Each opportunity to engage in service will yield dividends in the lives of those involved as well as lifelong-learning. Service creates fosters compassion and empathy and creates a more cohesive, supportive environment for all who inhabit a community.

What service do you anticipate doing in the future and how does it relate to your role at Saint Martin’s?

As a relatively new member of the community, Dr. Stadler is excited to start engaging in more service related to the university, including volunteering at Our Common Home Farms, a project to provide food, education, and ecological resilience to the local area and engaging in more collaborative work with local justice system agencies to offer service-learning and volunteer opportunities that advance the cause of social justice. Dr. Stadler also has plans to join some other community organizations dedicated to improving conditions in the local area.
Dr. Cameron Sweet came to the Saint Martin’s University community this school year from Pullman, WA where he was an active member of Emmanuel Baptist Church. While there, he served as a university ministry life group leader, teaching students to listen to, read, study, memorize and apply God’s Word. Dr. Sweet would also intercede for the church and community with the prayer team. He helped form and propose annual budgets to Emmanuel Baptist Church for supporting ministries and staff, and reviewed weekly income and expenses as a finance committee officer.

Describe any service or service-learning projects. These can involve students but might also be work that you do on your own. Include a description of the agency or organization you are a part of.

The university student ministry group Dr. Sweet worked with found service projects for one of their meetings each month. These included distributing food to families through Second Harvest food bank, collecting and donating baby food and supplies to Care Net, and cleaning up debris along Paradise Creek. Emmanuel Baptist Church was founded as a Northwest Baptist Convention Mission 500 church in 1969 to reach students at Washington State University and University of Idaho.

Dr. Sweet also served as a volunteer host with Family Promise. With Emmanuel Baptist Church, he helped families looking for housing and work by welcoming them to spend the night in the church building, visiting with them in the evening and staying with them overnight to help in case of emergency. Family Promise is committed to building stronger communities and strengthening lives by helping homeless and low-income families achieve sustainable independence. The organization has affiliates in 41 states and has hosted 62 families on the Palouse as of 2018.

During the Fall 2018 semester, a small group Dr. Sweet is a member of at Lake City Community Church organized and packed clothes and supplies to send to an orphanage in Malawi. The service project is called Cram the Crate, since a crate containing requested supplies including cooking utensils, gardening tools, furniture and a small tractor are sent to the orphanage. The crate is also designed to be used as a building for the campus.

How do you integrate service or service-learning in your courses?

Dr. Sweet has shared university service opportunities, such as reminding eligible students to stay informed and vote, as part of class announcements. He also encourages students to responsibly apply statistical methods in their professions to help solve problems. An example of one of his students that has done so is a veterinary medicine student who collected data on toxin levels of a species of fish to report lakes in which toxins exceed safe levels.

Why do you do service and how does it alight with your training and/or values?

When Dr. Sweet meets God, he hopes to hear him say, “Well done, good and faithful servant” (Matthew 25:23). In becoming a good servant, Dr. Sweet seeks to do the work God has called him to in helping others. God has gifted Dr. Sweet with a calling and passion for learning, sharing knowledge and helping others as a mathematics teacher to meet the world’s growing need for STEM workers. Dr. Sweet discovered his calling to teach through his high school volunteer service interests of teaching children God’s Word with church Bible studies, teaching outdoor and life skills as a Boy Scout leader, and tutoring students on algebra, geometry and calculus.
How do you explain to your students the importance of service and service-learning?

To encourage focused discussion at the beginning of one session this semester, Dr. Sweet asked his students how many of them had observed or experienced problems. With every student affirming that they are aware of problems in the world, and expressing a few math jokes, he then asked them if the following statement is reasonable: “In a world full of problems, be the solution.” As students thought about this question, Dr. Sweet asked if anyone can be the solution to all the world’s problems?

The classes concluded that no one is equipped to manage all the world’s problems, and that many problems are too extensive to be solved by a single individual. Dr. Sweet reminded students that while no one can do everything, everyone can do something. He encouraged students to find what acts of service they are called to with these words from Frederick Buechner: "The place God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet."

What service do you anticipate doing in the future and how does it relate to your role at Saint Martin’s?

Dr. Sweet looks forward to continuing to encourage Saint Martin’s University students to apply statistical methods to help solve some of the world’s quantitative questions. This school year, he has been visiting and networking with local churches to consider forming young adult discipleship ministries and plans to enthusiastically invite students to participate when they get started.

Julie Yamamoto
Advisor of Second Year Senior Lecturer English and Business Advisor for The Belltower

How do you integrate service or service-learning in your courses?

Julie Yamamoto believes that we are all called to service every day as part of our presence in the community, both inside and outside Saint Martin’s. As service is one of the Benedictine Values, it is important that students take part in service-learning while here. It is especially useful if they can apply it in their fields of study so they can integrate service into their everyday lives once they leave SMU.

The Professional Writing course (English 306) this past spring semester presented a perfect opportunity for students to offer service in practical application. Students chose one of three local nonprofit organizations that, with the help of Campus Ministry, signed on for the project: CIELO, Alaffia, and Our Common Home Farm. They met with coordinators from each organization and defined writing projects that would help the organizations promote their activities through newsletters, blogs post, and other promotional information. Julie plans to continue connecting writers to service organizations when the course is offered each spring. She also plans to integrate a similar project into her Business Communications class in the future.
Drs. Mary Jo Hartman and Katherine Porter were one of 116 presentations selected out of 518 applications to present at The Teaching Professor’s Conference in June in New Orleans. Their presentation was titled, “How do I keep myself and my students engaged and excited in the learning process?” and was well received by colleagues.

The BSW program is pleased to share that Jase Kugiya (BSW Class of ‘18) who recently completed his MSW at University of Michigan has been admitted into the University of Texas at Austin Ph.D. in Higher Education Leadership program to begin in Fall 2019. Jase was an active leader during his time here as a student at Saint Martin’s University, and he will make an undeniable impact in the greater community. Congratulations, Jase!

Irina Gendelman, Ph.D. (Communication Studies) and Jeff Birkenstein, Ph.D. (English) have secured a contract with Lexington Books for an edited collection tentatively titled, Designing, Teaching, Leading & Theorizing Out-of-the-Box Student Travel. This book intends to argue for unique and innovative forms of undergraduate student travel, experiences that eschew the sadly ubiquitous pre-packaged and overpriced programs so typical of such university offerings. The book is scheduled to be published in Spring 2020.

Dr. Nathalie Kuroiwa-Lewis’s poems “Skipping in the Vortex” and “On the Bus” have been accepted to publication in Oyster River Pages and The Windhover and are forthcoming this summer or fall. Dr. Kuroiwa-Lewis will be attending the Port Townsend Writers’ Conference at Centrum this July and looks forward to honing her poetry and fiction writing skills at this conference.

She is on the board of the Olympia Poetry Network and is pleased the OPN is coordinating the WA state Poet Laureate fest and that Saint Martin’s is serving as a major sponsor for this event, which will be held at the Norman Worthington Conference Center at Saint Martin’s on September 21st. Former WA state poet laureates such as Sam Green, Kathleen Fenniken, Elizabeth Austen, Tod Marshall, along with the current poet laureate, Claudia Castro Luna, will be participating in this event. The LaureateFest begins with a roundtable panel focused on the state of poetry from 1:00—3:00 and is followed by an evening reading from 7:00—9:00. Books from the poets laureate will be available for sale at the event. The event is free to the Saint Martin’s community and general public.

Joe Mailhot, Associate Professor of Mathematics, organized the Olympia Free Jazz Festival this summer as part of his research into connections between mathematics and music. The event spanned five days from Thursday, July 11th through Monday, July 15th and occurred at six venues around Olympia, including workshops at Saint Martin’s Kreielsheimer Hall. Eleven different bands from San Francisco, Portland, Olympia, Seattle, and Vancouver B.C. performed during the festival. Professor Mailhot presented a workshop on Alternative Notation and Large Improvising Ensembles, and performed in several of the groups. Monday night, the Joe Mailhot Jazz Unity closed the festival at the Rhythm and Rye. This included the debut of his composition Project 1, performed by the large improvising ensemble Circus Aurelius. Project 1 was the focus of his workshop presentation.
Dr. Andrea Kunder, Assistant Professor of Physics currently has four peer-reviewed papers and two papers in press of interest to the scientific community (not peer-reviewed). Kunder attended the M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust Founder’s Day celebration in June, where they commemorated surpassing $1 billion in cumulative grants being made since 1975. The participants were given tours of the new Murdock office on the waterfront of Vancouver, WA. Of note is that a photo of Kunder’s students collecting astronomical observations at the Kitt Peak National Observatory is prominently hanging in their corridor, with the caption, “Saint Martin’s University.”

Of particular note is Kunder’s peer-reviewed paper “Are the double-mode bulge RR Lyrae stars with identical period-ratios the relic of a disrupted stellate system,” which she published alongside three Saint Martin’s undergraduate students—Alexander Tilton, Dylon Maertens, and Jonathan Ogata—who carried out astrophysics research with her in the summer of 2018. The students travelled to the Kitt Peak National Observatory to collect observations for this paper and are second, third, and fourth authors, respectively. In this paper, Kunder and her team investigated the claim put forward by the Optical Gravitational Lensing Experiment (OGLE), that a group of double-mode RR Lyrae stars traveling through the inner Milky Way are part of a disrupted stellar system. Tilton carried out calculations of these stars’ velocities and did not find evidence that these stars were part of a stellar system that was recently disrupted. This null result is important as astrophysicists try to determine what fraction of the Milky Way is built up by smaller, disrupted sub-systems.

Dr. Emily Coyle’s Studying Emerging Attitudes and Leaning (SEAL) Lab research interns are busy this summer working with local families. In May, they had a booth at the Lacey STEM fair with LEGO and tinker toy building challenges. They also put on an event at the Lacey Timberland Library in May, reading the Magic School Bus and conducting human body systems-related activities with preschool children. They will be collecting data with families at the Thurston County Fair July 31-August 2. This project researches how children use a new paper microscope called a Foldscope, and whether play with Foldscopes can build interest in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM). Girls and women are underrepresented in most STEM fields, and rural children may be especially likely to miss out on early science opportunities. This project is in partnership with faculty and student researchers at Washington and Lee University in Lexington, VA.

The BSN program is pleased to share updates from the following BSN Alumni:

Diana Wilcox (BSN, 2017) has been accepted to the Gonzaga University, Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Program and will begin taking classes in August.

Thongsamouth Louangamath (BSN, 2016) will begin graduate school at Gonzaga University in August, studying to become a Family Nurse Practitioner.

Soledad (Fratis) Maldonado (BSN, 2014) is currently enrolled at Gonzaga University, earning her Master’s degree as a Family Nurse Practitioner.
Assistant Professor of Mathematics Ben Peet, Ph.D. has been published in *Annales Mathematicae Silesianae*. His paper is titled “Finite, fiber- and orientation-preserving group actions on totally orientable Seifert manifolds.” He also has a follow up paper accepted for publication in the *JP Journal of Geometry and Topology*, as well as two papers currently under peer review in the areas of combinatorics and math education. He will present the math education paper (titled “Integrating puzzles and general problem-solving techniques into undergraduate mathematics classes”) at the MathFest conference in Cincinnati, OH in July, where he will also participate as a Silver ‘19 dot fellow of Project NExT. Dr. Peet is working with undergraduate students Joe Phinzee, Miguel De La Melena, and Eric Murari on an undergraduate research paper on finite geometrics that they hope to submit to an undergraduate research journal in the fall.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Two students, Hannah Salapka and Daisy Garcia-Rivera, have been working in the new labs with Dr. Brandy R. Fox this summer to understand the catalytic behavior of silver and bismuth systems. Look for their work to be presented at the spring meeting of the American Chemical Society!

Robert Hauhart, Ph.D., J.D.
Professor, Criminology & Criminal Justice

Has been visiting and lecturing at universities across Europe on behalf of Saint Martin’s while posted to his Fulbright assignment in Ljubljana, Slovenia. Dr. Hauhart has given public lectures at Bogazici University, Istanbul, Turkey; the University of Cyprus and the University of Nicosia, both in Nicosia, Cyprus; the University of Eastern Finland in Joensuu, Finland; and the University of Bucharest in Romania where he has colleagues developed through books he and Jeff Birkenstein—Saint Martin’s Professor, English—have edited over recent years. In Ljubljana, Dr. Hauhart has given public lectures at the Research Centre for the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts, with which he is associated under the Fulbright program, and to the Slovenian Society for Foreign Relations at their headquarters across from the Slovenian Parliament.

(Left) Dr. Hauhart with Associate Professor of Comparative Literature, Rossitsa Terzieva-Artemis, after his lecture at the University of Nicosia, Cyprus.

(Right) Dr. Hauhart with Sirpa Salenius, Senior Lecturer in the Department of English Studies and Culture, after his lecture at the University of Eastern Finland, Joensuu, Finland.
Dr. Sam Fox of Biology presented his work at the annual Plant and Animal Genome Conference in San Diego in January. The international conference had more than 3,000 attendees. It was a great experience for Dr. Fox to present the research of many of his undergraduate researchers.

Check out their work: “Gene Expression of Winter and Spring Wheat in Response to Cold Stress” Anna Belford, Matt Geniza, Abby Limov, Netania Craig, Steven Smith, Pankaj Jaiswal, and Samuel Fox.

Dr. Sam Fox of Biology also led a group of four Saint Martin’s students to Medellin, Colombia for a study tour. The Colombia study tour was the culmination of a spring semester Genomics and Bioinformatics class. In the course, students used genetic information to address ecological, biodiversity, and evolutionary questions. Dr. Fox partnered with Dr. Juan Daza, a research colleague in Colombia. When in Colombia, the students were able to work closely with Dr. Fox and Dr. Daza in the Andean jungles, identifying and collecting numerous herpetological specimens (frogs and lizards). The students were then able to visit the University of Antioquia to process and catalog the specimens. In addition to the research, students also enjoyed meeting local people and eating the terrific Colombian food.

Dr. Stephen Parker (Physics) and Dr. Cameron Sweet (Mathematics), along with four engineering faculty, traveled to the North China Institute of Aerospace Engineering (NCIAE) to teach in a mechanical engineering collaborative program this summer. This three-week opportunity helped introduce NCIAE students to learning in English and experiencing a Saint Martin’s classroom. Classes were co-taught with a faculty member from NCIAE. The freshman classes had 71 students, while the sophomore classes had 55. The goal of this program is to have students from NCAE transfer to Saint Martin’s after their second or third year to finish their degree. A picture from the farewell dinner at NCIAE is shown below. In the photo, you may recognize Scot Harrison, former Dean of the Library at Saint Martin’s. He currently teaches English at NCIAE and can be seen on the far right side of the second row from the front.

Dr. Parker was invited to give a talk as a part of the Science and Technology Week in Beijing. His presentation took place at the China People’s Revolution Military Museum and was a part of the Foreign Experts Science Classroom series. Six foreign experts gave lectures to teenagers about “cool science” of their choice. Dr. Parker chose to present on Einstein’s special relativity. After picking the topic, Dr. Parker learned that the audience would actually be primary school students who were about thirteen years old.

Nevertheless, he was able to give students a taste of what special relativity was about, and his talk was well received by both the organizers and the students. In fact, a newspaper (the Science and Technology Daily, the official newspaper of the Ministry of Science and Technology in China) ran a story about the presentation and a magazine (International Talent Exchange Magazine) is currently working on a story to be published in the near future as well. The picture to the right shows Dr. Parker doing a demonstration of the classic “Pole in the Barn” Paradox with students from the audience.
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