

2019

## The Falcon 2019-2020

Seattle Pacific University

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## Men's soccer heads to Europe

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How climate change affects people of color  
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# THE FALCON

- SEATTLE PACIFIC UNIVERSITY'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER -

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2019

THEFALCON.ONLINE

VOLUME 91, ISSUE 1

## 2019 WELCOME ISSUE



The Provost's Office, located in Demaray Hall, pictured at dusk.

BLAKE DAHLIN | THE FALCON

# Searching to enhance SPU

## Provost search committee seeks strong candidates

By Julia Batshill  
News Editor

The search for Seattle Pacific's next provost has officially begun. The process is exclusive to a search committee appointed by President Daniel Martin, and led by co-chairs Vice President of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Sandra Mayo and Dean of the School of Theology Douglas Strong. Committee members explained that the search process is still in the early stages, and there will be many more meetings and deliberations before a choice is made, but they feel excited and confident about the progress.

Now, as students arrive on campus and professors finalize curriculum, the committee is defining their goals for the new provost and working diligently towards finding candidates that fit. They also expressed enthusiasm about student input and engagement.

In April of 2019, former Seattle Pacific provost, Jeff Van Duzer, resigned at the request of President Martin.

Van Duzer had been at the university since 2001, and served as provost for six years.

The details regarding Van Duzer's resignation have yet to be fully communicated to students.

Dr. Bruce Congdon, previously the Dean of Sciences, stepped into the role of interim provost on July 1, where he will remain until a new long-term provost is selected.

"We want to be really transparent with the whole process ... if students have interests or thoughts, Dr. Mayo and I would be glad to hear those," Strong said. "We want [students] to feel that they're a part of this process along with everybody else on the campus."

ASSP President Nathan Samayo, the only student on the committee, emphasized his focus on hearing and engaging with students' voices. He said that he feels a responsibility to be active on the committee in order to make student perspectives heard.

He also specified that he is willing to schedule a meeting or forum to hear students' input.

"I will have that conversation and I'll carry that conversation for the whole provost search," Samayo said.

The committee includes professors and administrators from many departments on campus. The search committee is working with national search firm Isaacson, Miller which is appointed to help find and recruit candidates.

"With having such a broad composition, we're hoping to have a wide spectrum and broad spectrum of feedback, as far as what people would want [in a provost]," he said.

Strong also clarified that the committee's role in the process is only to select potential candidates for the new provost. The final selection, he said, will be made by the president.

The committee co-chairs are excited about the potential that lies in this time of transition, and they have many goals in mind as they search for the person who may be SPU's newest provost.

"Ultimately, we are seeking someone who will collaborate well to enhance SPU's academic, co-curricular, and spiritual life and institutional distinction," said Mayo.

"What I've heard consistently from members of the SPU community is that they want a leader who will continue to cultivate trust, enable dialogue, and unite faculty and

staff around a shared vision."

Samayo, who said he has also been attentive to student opinions, explained that he has "been hearing students voices about a desire to be a more equitable and diverse and inclusive campus, so that's definitely the lens that I speak out of [in committee meetings]."

The team is taking care and time to search for candidates and advise the president because, they said, they recognize the importance of the provost position on our campus.

"Though a lot of students may never meet the provost, or don't know who she or he is, they are the person who sets the tone for the academic life of the entire institution, and [are] really, really crucial," Strong explained.

While the role of the provost does not often include direct involvement in student life, Mayo agreed that they do ultimately impact students through the institutional policy work that is intrinsic to their job.

"We know the success of SPU lies in the success of our students," Mayo said. "The student experience is top of mind as we seek SPU's next provost."

## Replacing hesitation with passion

New music director reflects on his path to SPU

By Julia Batshill  
News Editor

Christopher Hanson, Seattle Pacific's new Director of Music Education and Orchestral Activities, did not originally intend to become a teacher. Instead, he discovered through experience that he was always meant to be one.

Starting his first year at SPU - and his ninth year of teaching - this September, he said he cannot imagine his life any other way.

Prior to being hired here, Hanson taught music in public schools. Listening to him talk about it, one would never know that he hesitated to jump into music education.

"As an educator, I don't ever stop working, because it's not work. I love what I do," Hanson said. "I love being a musician, an artist, a teacher — all of those things are a part of who I am. I feel very blessed."

See HANSON | Page 2

### EXCLUSIVELY ONLINE

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- Women's soccer faces unique challenges
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**HANSON FROM PAGE 1**

But Hanson was not always so enthusiastic. He stumbled into his love affair with violin and music education.

“Every time that something entered my mind as an obstacle, there was absolutely a way that God would shift my thinking or change my resources so that I didn’t have a choice,” Hanson said.

Hanson grew up in a “pretty bad neighborhood,” as he described it, on the southwest-side of Houston, Texas. According to Hanson, his mother, a single parent, wanted him to find a productive after-school activity that would keep him inside — and she was willing to do whatever it took to help him find one.

She played classical music, hoping that it would ignite an enthusiasm in Hanson. “Years later, I found out [that it was] quite subversive,” Hanson said with a laugh.

Her plan was successful, and Hanson quickly fell in love with the violin by listening to Antonio Vivaldi play from his mother’s boombox while he swam in the local pool.

“By the end of that summer, I was begging to get a violin and learn,” he recalled. “The first year that I was in the orchestra was in sixth grade ... it’s all I wanted to do, it was absolutely transformative.”

His infatuation with violin and learning continued through middle school and into high school, where his passion for music flourished with the

more challenging materials.

When it came to choosing college majors, however, he thought he should aim for a major with a clearer career path, leaning towards political science or social justice instead. But he was not accepted to any universities as a political science student.

Encouraged by his high school music teacher, he auditioned for, and was awarded, a violin scholarship to study music at Texas Southern University.

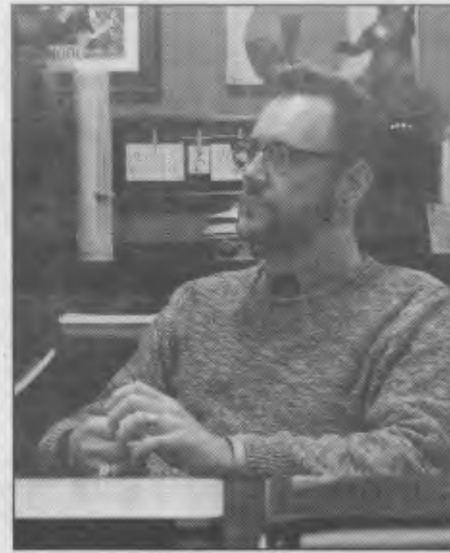
“It was this weird sort of turn of events — from my perspective as a person of faith, it really was God’s providence,” he said. Feeling as though there was no other logical choice, Hanson accepted.

In college, Hanson came to recognize how vital his public music education had been. Becoming interested in trying to help others in the same way, he started volunteering in schools and quickly learned that there are many challenges involved in teaching at a public school.

In the spring of his senior year at TSU, he had a choice to make: pursue teaching or graduate with his BA in music composition. He chose composition and started applying to graduate programs.

Despite good grades, he was not accepted anywhere as a composition student. However, he did get accepted to Texas State University’s music education program, although he had not applied.

He reluctantly accepted, telling



BLAKE DAHLIN | THE FALCON  
Prof. Hanson pictured in his office.

himself he would get around the ‘education’ facet by studying educational theory instead of going into public teaching.

He worked toward his master’s degree in composition and music history while getting more involved in local music education programs.

“I started a community orchestra, started supporting music programs in public schools, telling myself ‘I’m not gonna teach, it’s not gonna happen.’”

When the school where he had started an orchestra lost its director, he reconsidered his stance for the first time. He decided he might try teaching for one semester if it meant helping a program he was so dedicated to.

Eight years later, he was still teaching music in public schools, with no plans to stop.

“I was ready to spend my entire life as a public school teacher. I loved what I had the opportunity to do in public schools,” he said.

In his nine years teaching k-12 he worked in three schools and loved every single class. His tumultuous journey to education, he said, gave him the opportunity to expand his background in music and ultimately made him a better teacher.

Last year, Hanson started to consider the potential benefits of going into higher education. He fell in love with the concept of teaching other future music teachers.

He started applying to jobs at universities and found a job opening for a position at SPU. He was shocked at how perfectly the job fit him and his aspirations.

“I think I will forever remember the moment. I had just put my kids to bed, my wife was on the couch watching tv ... I was standing right behind the couch reading it and thinking, ‘this is amazing, this is everything I could want in a job.’”

Now happily settling into Seattle, he can hardly contain his anticipation for the first day of fall quarter.

“I have been — it makes me emotional — so incredibly overwhelmed by SPU,” he said with a smile. “It has just been incredible. I knew nothing about SPU and then all of a sudden there it was, just this amazing opportunity to serve in many ways that I didn’t even know I could serve.”

# Guiding SPU leaders towards better listening

By Julia Batshill  
News Editor

In 1988, in the police interrogation room of a hotel in Soviet Russia, Patty Burgin had a conversation that stuck with her for decades to come.

Working for a nonprofit organization which brought her to the Soviet Union, Burgin had led a team that aimed to serve people living in an oppressive police-state, hoping to fill the needs of

those who were, in her words, “restless, ambitious and poignant.”

During her keynote speech in Upper Gwinn Sunday Sept. 22, 2019 — more than 30 years later — she told the story of how she was arrested to Seattle Pacific University’s student leaders at this year’s Student Leadership Conference.

The conference, which began on Sept. 21 and ended on Sept. 25, guided SPU’s student leaders in growing their skills and learning new methods of

leadership. In her speech, Burgin talked about the importance of connecting, listening, engaging and respecting.

After being arrested, she and her friend were interrogated with the aid of a translator. Once the interrogators had walked away, the translator turned to Burgin. The young woman paused for a moment, then asked, “So, do you believe in God?”

Burgin weighed her options. “Maybe it’s a trap. Maybe, she is very confident that we’re the only English speakers in the room. Maybe she’s crazy,” Burgin remembered thinking.

“And then I thought, maybe, she is restless, ambitious, and poignant,” Burgin said.

“I looked back at the translator and I said ‘I do, do you?’”

The young woman explained to Burgin that her son had been sent to Siberia; he was alone there, she was alone here, and she wanted to know if God cared.

“In the next few moments ... we had a conversation about stuff that was big enough to matter,” Burgin said. “And I think that even now, years later, there’s an older woman who lives in the city that is now called St. Petersburg who still remembers that conversation”

This experience shaped her understanding of leadership and helped her become the coach she is today.

In 2008, Burgin became a certified Master Coach, and she currently works

at Seattle Coach, an organization she founded in 2003.

Leaders, she believes, are good at looking into the future and planning; she said in an interview that she loves working with student leaders because, “most leaders are pilgrims; they’re not stuck, they’re ambitious about growing. I love that.”

One main piece of Burgin’s advice for the leaders was to engage with people in ways that fit the acronym ‘R.E.A.L.’, which stands for the terms “respect, energy, acknowledgment and listening.”

When asked in an interview about the most important piece of leadership advice she had ever been given, her answer was, “Ask again.” She explained that it is vital to continue to question, challenge and encourage the people that the leaders work with.

She challenged the leaders to use the tools she provided to think about where they are in their quest for good leadership.

The goal of good leaders, she said, is “to be able to support with grace and tell the truth. To be direct when we need to be, when it’s in the best interest of the people we serve.”

“I want you to stand up tall and confident and cultivate that kind of leadership this year,” Burgin said, “and as you go off into the rest of the world, you’ll make it a better place.”

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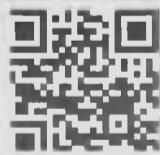
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# University Ministries

Campus Ministries | John Perkins Center

**Worship, Belong, and Thrive...**  
**Cultivate Spiritual Community**

## Upcoming Opportunities

Sept. 29	Sunday Worship	10 am	Upper Gwinn
Oct. 1	Opening Chapel	11:10 am	First Free Methodist Church (FFMC)
Oct. 1	Sharpen Lunch	12pm	Fine Center at FFMC
Oct. 2	Group Evening Worship	8pm	Upper Gwinn
Oct. 3	Church & Ministry Fair	11 -1 pm	Martin Square (rain location: Weter Lounge)

## Regular Opportunities

Morning Prayer	Mondays (8:35 am)	Alexander Chapel
Midday Prayer	Mondays (12:05 pm)	Chaplain Lisa's office
Chapel	Tuesdays (11:10 am)	FFMC
Sharpen Lunch	Tuesdays (12 pm)	FFMC Fine Center
Prayer Tent	Wednesdays (12 pm)	Tiffany Loop (rain location: Alexander Chapel)
Group Evening Worship	Wednesdays (8 pm)	Upper Gwinn
Student Leadership Circle	Thursdays (12 pm)	SUB 207
Communion & Prayer	Fridays (12:30 pm)	Alexander Chapel
JPC Service Engagement	Various days & times	Visit the Perkins Center (2nd SUB) for info



## University Ministries Team

Visit us on the second floor of the SUB!

If you'd like to talk with a Campus Pastor stop by or visit [www.spu.edu/um](http://www.spu.edu/um).

# Dorm essentials you might have missed

## Items for an organized and comfortable dorm this year

By Andrew Stez  
Features Editor

Every year, the Office of Student Involvement and Leadership at Seattle Pacific University organizes a field trip for the incoming freshman class.

In year's past, the university has bussed scores of students to Fred

Meyer, a Pacific Northwestern grocery store chain.

However, this year, students will be frantically pushing carts in the Target located in Northgate Mall Saturday, Sept. 28.

With an endless list of things to buy, items often slip through the cracks. Here are some items to not forget to pick up on Saturday.



### Shower caddy

Shower caddies come in various different types and are helpful as they keep all of your bathroom items in one place.

Typically inexpensive, a shower caddy can make managing the college student's many toiletries much simpler.



### Mini whiteboard

These can be used to plan student schedules, keep track of to-do lists or even add fun personalized decor to a dorm room by doodling art on the board.

These various uses make whiteboards a versatile tool that should not be overlooked for students' dorm rooms.



### Fabric protector spray

Also known as Scotchgard, the spray can protect their belongings from the damp Seattle weather.

This is especially problematic with shoes because as one goes through their day they are destined to step in a puddle or two. Spray makes it easier to remove dirt and other stains from shoes, so they are a great option for those who want their shoes to still look new despite weather conditions.



### Lap desk

Pairing well with the backrest pillow, this allows students to work on homework in bed when working at a desk is difficult due to clutter or discomfort.

They are also great for students who may have a couch and need something that allows them to work when lounging back.



### Large command hooks

This allows you to hang towels, jackets, and other wet items to the wall allowing them to dry out in the open.

This can also help prevent mold and smells as it will dry and not stay wet.

Even better, they make it easier to get items in a rush.



### Shower hook for bathroom

These are typically metal hooks that attach to the top and hang out of the showers in a dorm.

Hooks also prevent items kept in shower caddies from getting soaking wet on the floor, meaning that items that may not be waterproof (i.e., deodorant) can be kept from being damaged.



### Insulated metal water bottle

Metal bottles similar to Hydro Flasks are a great way to keep water or other drinks cold or warm, especially considering students' busy schedules.

These bottles are a great way to stay hydrated, save money and reduce waste.



### Backrest pillow

These pillows make it much easier to work in bed, a must-have for dorm-room studies.

This added support is helpful during the winter months when all one wants to do is bundle up under blankets to stay warm.



### Surge protector

When students have mini-fridges, an assortment of handheld devices, TVs, coffee-makers, water boilers and video game consoles, ports soon begin to be used up.

By investing in a surge protector, students can have more ports so they don't have to unplug devices to make room for others, and keep their devices powered and ready to use.



### A fan

Despite Seattle weather, the dorms can become stuffy due to a lack of circulation. When it's too rainy to leave the windows open, a fan can provide much-needed airflow.

Also, during autumn and spring quarters, there are warm days, so it is good to prepare for those seasons by having a fan at the ready to cool down the dorm rooms.

# Alternative sights to see in Seattle

## Visiting less common sights in the new school year

By Andrew Stez  
Features Editor

When new to the city, many incoming students have the thrill of exploring Seattle and all it has to offer.

With this exploring comes a list of popular attractions such as Pike Place Market, Gas Works or the Space Needle.

While fun, these places are often crowded with tourists. Instead, there is a plethora of other options that, while still popular, may not be the obvious choice for new Seattle res-

idents

— **Kerry Park.** This Queen Anne park is a convenient attraction very close to Seattle Pacific University. A 20-minute bus ride from campus, it is also known for being a great spot for observing the Space Needle and Seattle skyline.

— **Gas Works Park.** Another park close to SPU, this park is home to not only a scene in the movie "10 Things I Hate About You" but also a stunning view of the Seattle skyline reflected off Lake Union.

— **Coffee Shops.** Obviously, Seat-

tle has many coffee shops, yet each has a unique atmosphere and significantly varies in tastes and varieties of coffee and tea.

This makes appreciating Seattle coffee more stimulating than simply going to the original Starbucks in Pike Place.

Coffee shops also provide new places to study or hang out with friends outside of campus.

Some coffee shops, especially in Queen Anne, also offer student discounts. These include The Wick, Storyville Coffee, S & L Cafe, El Diablo Coffee Co. and Caffe Appassionato Coffee Co.

— **Pioneer Square.** Pioneer Square is a district of Seattle near downtown known for being the oldest part of Seattle. This gives it an feeling of being transported to Seattle in a different era.

Art museums in this district hold art walks, and near-by Occidental Park holds an artisan showcase every first Thursday of the month, which are all free and expose students to different local artists.

— **Frye Art Museum.** With free admission, this museum is very convenient to access through bus routes and is close to other destinations downtown.



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Storyville Coffee, located at the intersection of Queen Anne Ave N and Boston Street in the Queen Anne neighborhood of Seattle.

It features art from the 1800s and 1900s, while also featuring modern temporary exhibits covering a variety of subject matters. This variety allows for students to enjoy the art on display no matter what kind of art they are into.

Open Tuesday through Sunday every week, it is very accessible for SPU students despite busy schedules.

— **University Village.** This outdoor mall is located near the University of Washington in the University district.

It has a variety of shops and food options and is also near the University of Washington, so students can walk around the beautiful campus while visiting.



BLAKE DAHLIN | THE FALCON

A man walking through Kerry Park is framed by the Changing Form sculpture, with the Space Needle in the background.

# It Chapter Two Explores Confronting the Past

## A Review of "IT Chapter Two"

By Andrew Stez  
Features Editor

### SPOILER WARNING

27 years after facing Pennywise (Bill Skarsgard) the first time, the "Losers' Club," the protagonists of the "It" horror franchise, risk their lives for the second time as they confront the child-eating clown in "It Chapter 2."

This time, the clown has giant spider-like legs.

History repeats as the Losers' Club find themselves once again facing the fears that nearly took them down the first time: their pasts.

"It Chapter Two" becomes one of the most profound movies of summer 2019 as the characters confront the trauma of their past.

One of the biggest conflicts is adult Bill Denbrough's (James McAvoy) guilt over Georgie's death.

This is seen throughout the movie by his desire to protect a boy he befriended from Pennywise. In one scene, he runs to a carnival in town and enters a house of mirrors in fear that the boy has been harmed by Pennywise. Bill's fears are realized when he finds Pennywise lurking behind the boy.

He blames himself for his brother's death and as a result, attempts to redeem himself by protecting others.

Similarly, in the battle with Pennywise in the final act of the film, Bill is

dealing with his internalized guilt for leaving Georgie to play alone, which allowed for Pennywise's attack.

In the end, Bill is able to admit that he cannot blame himself for his little brother's death.

Both scenes perfectly illustrate how Bill had to deal with his former self in order to truly defeat Pennywise, or rather, his greatest fear.

This greatest fear takes many forms for the different characters.

Adult Beverly Marsh (Jessica Chastain) has to deal with the trauma of abusive relationships, the first incident of which occurs at the beginning of the film when Mike Hanlon (Isaiah Mustafa) announces Pennywise's return.

This leads to Beverly's physical confrontation with her partner while she plans to return to Derry — the town the movie is set in — ending in him accusing Beverly of cheating on him.

This abuse allows the audience to feel for her and reveals that her biggest fear is her relationships with other people.

When she returns to her old apartment to retrieve something she left in her childhood, she finds an old woman now living there. While having a conversation with the old woman, Beverly has flashbacks of incidents of abuse with her father.

Through these scenes, the audience



PHOTO COURTESY OF WARNER BROTHERS

This promotional still features the characters Beverly (Jessica Chastain), Mike (Isaiah Mustafa) and Ben (Jay Ryan) in a moment of panic.

realizes that she has had trauma in her life which she overcomes throughout the film, building her up to be a stronger character capable of holding the team together during the final battle with Pennywise.

Love is another fear capable of holding the characters back.

Adult Ben Hanscom (Jay Ryan) must confront his fear in that he still is in love with Beverly, despite the fact that 27 years have passed.

This is best seen through the letter he wrote to Beverly, which she hid at her old house. When she finds the letter, she becomes enamored with who wrote it, thinking it was someone else in the group but never considering Ben.

It takes Ben the entire movie to finally work up the confidence to admit that he was, in fact, the one who wrote the letter. The transformation of Ben

becoming a confident man embracing his fear becomes one of the most heartwarming plotlines.

The relationship between Beverly and Ben makes the resolution rewarding and provides closure for the Losers' Club because, after having to deal once again with their childhood trauma, the group is finally able to reach a place of peace after Pennywise's demise.

"It Chapter Two" is a story about people overcoming their greatest fears in order to make the lives they want for themselves.

Through the Losers' Club's adversity, audience members can examine their own fears and how they impact their lives. In the process, they can begin to work towards improving their own circumstances in order to feel a sense of peace similar to that of the members of the Losers' Club.

# The privilege of focusing on the future

## People of color are facing the consequences of climate change



By Alex Moore  
Copy Editor

In lieu of the UN Climate Action Summit 2019, and led by the trending 16 year old eco-warrior Greta Thunberg, approximately 4 million people around the world marched on Friday in a global climate strike.

Inspired by Thunberg's own school strike, the march last week was composed largely of youth demanding action and attention from legislators. Young people have recently become the faces of both the climate crisis and the climate revolution as they represent the generations that will be left to feel the inherited effects of rising sea levels, mass extinction and atmospheric erosion.

Children have long been symbols of hope in times of crisis, motivating change so that the next generation may experience a better future. Meanwhile, the children of the climate revolution represent the encroaching reality that the window for achieving the dream of a healthy climate is rapidly closing.

There cannot be a better future if there is no future at all.

While it is true that the impacts of climate change will continue to worsen exponentially, the centrality of "the future" in climate activism ignores the impacts felt right now and erases the experiences of the communities for whom climate change is not a future concern, but a reality that has present physical and psychological effects.

These communities are disproportionately made up of marginalized people, specifically people of color.

Vic Barrett, 20, was one of four youth climate activists who testified before Congress Wednesday, Sept. 18. As a first generation Garifuna American, Barrett called attention to the issue of environmental racism by demonstrating how he has directly been affected by climate change.

Growing up in New York, Barrett explained that he, his family and his school went without power for days as a result of what he called the "climate-change-fueled Hurricane Sandy." As someone who already struggles with anxiety and depression, Barrett also shared that he still experiences "grave anxiety about experiencing another climate-driven disaster like Superstorm Sandy and the harm that these storms will have on myself and my family."

In response to his trauma and the inadequacy of environmental legislation, Barrett joined 21 other youth plaintiffs in suing the federal government on account of knowingly causing climate change in the 2015 *Juliana v. United States* lawsuit.

Barrett's testimony and advocacy speaks for the vulnerable communities for whom climate change is a current threat to survival.

In his testimony, Barrett stated that "these frontline communities are made up of people who look like me young, black and brown, LGBTQ, indigenous identities which place them at a significantly higher risk to experience the impact of climate change than the rest of the population due to their marginalized status in our society."

The National Resource Defense Council analyzed 20 years of data between 1987 and 2007 and found that people of color make up more than half of communities living near toxic waste sites.

The continuing water crisis in Flint, Michigan serves as a reminder that those same demographics are twice as likely as wealthy and white Americans to live without potable water and proper sanitation.

In 2006, the EPA recognized that carcinogenic particles found in air



pollutants — such as car exhaust and city smog — are significant causes of serious respiratory problems including asthma, heart attacks and premature death. According to research done by the *New England Journal of Medicine* in 2017, black Americans are three times as likely as white Americans to die from exposure from air pollution.

Unfortunately, the EPA also has a history of delaying and denying civil rights claims brought by communities of color, including those filed by the Flint community, against corporations causing pollution.

In his 2016 article in *The Atlantic*, Vann R. Newkirk II notes that since its establishment in 1993, the EPA has received over 300 complaints regarding Title VI violations and yet has never made a formal finding of discrimination.

tion published by the EPA details a complaint filed on June 20, 2013 which accused the Orange County Planning and Inspections Department of "intentionally discriminating on the basis of race by denying water and sewer service to the African American residents of the Rogers Road community" in Orange County, California.

On September 11, 2019 the EPA published a Resolution and Closure Letter for this complaint that renders the allegations of environmental racism as moot due to the fact that the community finally received water and sewer services on June 27, 2019.

In other words, the EPA waited six years to respond to this complaint and finally did so only when the problem was already solved. By not investigating the case, the EPA not only denied a community of col-

## True environmental justice is racial justice.

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 is a regulation prohibiting "discrimination based on race, color or national origin in programs or activities which receive federal financial assistance."

In many of these cases, the EPA simply tabled complaints until the 180 day period set in place to ensure prompt responses had expired. Many claims have even been put aside for years only to be rendered moot.

In a 2015 court decision, Federal District Court Judge Sandra Brown Armstrong of California wrote that, "the EPA often takes years to act on a complaint — and even then, acts only after a lawsuit has been filed."

"The EPA has allowed Plaintiffs' complaints to languish for decades," she continued.

The most recent Title VI resolu-

or access to clean water and modern sanitation, but denied them the legal validation of an end retribution for the environmental racism they experienced.

Greta Thunberg is right in her demands for legislators to listen to the scientists who can confirm that climate change is real and getting worse. But it is just as necessary that the voices of the people who are experiencing the worst of climate change right now be heard as evidence to support the legitimacy and urgency of a climate revolution.

True environmental justice is racial justice.

*Alex is a junior studying social justice and cultural studies, sociology and journalism*

# Balancing Inexperience with Leadership

## Volleyball learning to gel together after bringing in eight new players

By Daniel Newman  
Sports Editor

Seattle Pacific University's Volleyball team has begun a new season, and with this season comes many new faces as the Falcons bring in eight first-year players from various cities in the states of Washington, Oregon and Arizona. With four key players from last year's team having graduated, there will be open spaces ready to be filled by these newcomers.

Eight players have returned from last year's team, averaging out the team's collective experience.

"There's a lot of fresh faces and fresh ideas, and everybody brings something important to the team and so there's a lot of new variety and depth to our team," said senior libero Mallie Donohoe. "And that's super exciting and I think all of our girls are really eager to learn, and really eager to listen and go far this season."

It was a rough end to last season, as the team came up short in six of the team's last seven contests. Overall, the Falcons finished the season sixth in the Great Northwest Athletic Conference standings, with nine wins and eleven losses.

"We had a lot of close games last year that didn't go our way," said three-year Head Coach Abbie Wright. "We're looking this year to be really good with our eyes and really good with reading the game and learning that, because I think the better we get at that, the more those tight games have more of a probability of going our way."

Coach Wright wanted to empha-

size the team aspect of the game this year. One of her goals is to have a balanced and well spread out offense with many players helping to score points.

Wright said that, "everyone seeing their role and seeing how important they are no matter what their role is" can help lead to building the comrade of the team and get them to work together better.

According to freshman setter Lindsey Lambert, "You have to get a good pass in order to get a good set and you have to get a good set in order to get a good hit, so just like depending on your teammates is really important and trusting them that they have your back."

Volleyball is also a game of individuals, and one of the individuals the Falcons will be relying on is senior Gabby Oddo.

On Aug. 26, Oddo, an outside hitter, was named to the All-Great-Northwest-Athletic-Conference preseason team for the third time in her career. Oddo also has a total of 1,119 career kills, forceful hits made by a player that the other team cannot return. This is a number that only four other people in the history of Falcon volleyball have ever been able to reach.

Still, Oddo sees team play as the key to the Falcons' success this year.

"I think the biggest thing is just playing as a team and playing cohesively and making sure that everyone is doing their part and once that is done then everything will hopefully just flow together in the end," she said.



JACKY CHEN | THE FALCON  
Alaska Fairbanks players jump to block a spike by SPU's Maddie Batiste during their match on Saturday, Sep. 21st.

The Falcons started the season by recording three wins and five losses in two separate preseason tournaments in California.

The team's first win came in their first game of the season against Cal State East Bay, sweeping the Pioneers and winning all three sets of the match. Junior Maddie Batiste led the team with 14 kills and 10 digs. Oddo had five kills and 11 digs; Lindsay Lambert had 29 assists in her first collegiate match.

After three straight losses, the Falcons bounced back one week later to defeat Cal Poly Pomona in three out of five sets. Oddo and Batiste again led the team in kills with 15 and 13, respectively.

After two more losses, the Falcons beat Chaminade, winning three sets out of four. Taylor Alicuben had 26 assists for the Falcons, and Mallie Donohoe had 22 digs.

The Falcons hit another bump in the road last weekend when the University of Alaska Anchorage and the University of Alaska Fairbanks came into town and the Falcons opened up their conference schedule. In their home opener, Alaska Anchorage bested SPU in three straight sets, their narrowest margin of victory being seven points. The Falcons played Alaska Fairbanks much closer two days later but, again, lost each set to the Nanooks.

From here, the Falcons will go on the road to face Central Washington University Thursday, Sept. 26, and Northwest Nazarene University Saturday, Sept. 28. After this, they will return home to take on Concordia University Thursday, Oct. 3 and Western Oregon University Saturday, Oct. 5.



Delaney Dunham celebrates following a point scored against Alaska Fairbanks on Saturday, Sep. 21st

JACKY CHEN | THE FALCON



# Men's Soccer Gains More Experience Across the Pond

Players enjoyed getting a head start to the season and exploring different cultures

By **Daniel Newman**  
Staff Editor

Seattle Pacific University men's soccer team went on the trip of a lifetime this summer, spending 15 days in Europe, from Aug. 2-17. They not only got the chance to see the different sights that countries like France, Germany, Belgium and the Netherlands had to offer, but they also had the opportunity to play soccer against international teams.

"We got to face a lot of good competition, really strong teams that have played a lot of soccer before," said sophomore midfielder Aiden Chapparo.

They played four full-length matches against the Under 21 teams of Belgian and Dutch teams. They also played in a tournament with shorter games, where the Falcons faced off against teams from Belgium, the Netherlands, England and Denmark.

"We got six or seven games in Europe, so to get those games under our belts for the new guys and for all of us returners, just kind of get the nerves out, get used to playing together," said Falcon defender Travis Swallow.

These matches were especially helpful for the tea, letting them gain an advantage on teams that didn't start playing games until one month later.

"From the beginning to the end we were a different team, and I think from the beginning of the season to the end of the season we'll be very different as well," said Falcons head coach Mark Collings.

But this trip was not all about soccer.

Multiple players said they enjoyed being able to experience the new cultures around them. The team visited the Eiffel Tower in Paris, the Anne Frank House in the Netherlands, and museums in these countries. All of the exploring they did gave players the opportunity to build relationships with their teammates.

"It was really interesting to see all the different cultures, all the different buildings too, because it's just a completely different atmosphere than it is over here in the states," said Forward Jake Ferry.

As the preseason began, the Falcons were trying to remove the bad taste in their mouths from a year ago.

They had four wins and three losses in conference play and were tied for second place in the conference with five games to go. The Falcons ended up losing all five and tied for sixth out of seven teams in the conference.

"I think the big thing for us is that we gave up too many goals last year,"

goalkeeper Lars Hellenen.

Titus Grant's 13 goal season last year was good enough to make the all GNAC First Team last year, and he will be leading the Falcons offensive attack again this year.

"Soccer is about scoring goals, and having Titus coming back after a big year is important for us," Collings said.

This year, the Falcons brought in seven freshman players, as well as three transfers. There is only one senior on the team.

"We're obviously a young team, but I don't think many people know what we are capable of," said sophomore goalkeeper Lars Hellenen.

The team has completed three

Massey and was able to chip it over the onrushing keeper and into the net.

In overtime, Hellenen made four more saves to keep the Falcons tied, but the Falcons were also denied more opportunities to score.

Vukic's goal in that game was the most recent one that the Falcons have scored this season, after being shut out in the next two games.

The Falcons hit the road to take on Colorado School of Mines and fell 1-0. Hellenen had another great performance, making 9 saves, only being beaten on a shot by Lucas King that deflected off an SPU player and into the net. The Falcons also had some good shot opportunities but couldn't get the ball past Goalie Drew Johnson.

The Falcons then faced a tough test against sixth ranked West Texas A&M, losing 3-0.

Hellenen was sidelined with an injury, so Jordan Marwood made his first collegiate start and made 11 saves. The Falcons had more control early in the first half, before the Buffaloes regained control and put more pressure on the team, leading to the three goals they scored. One goal was scored in the first half by Stefan Andjelic, and two later in the second half three minutes apart by Jean-Luc Ramdin and Francesco D'Aulerio.

Next up, the Falcons will be in action back at Interbay Stadium for the next six games. They will begin by facing Point Loma Nazarene University Thursday, Sept. 26 and Azusa Pacific University Saturday, Sept. 28. Then they will open up their conference season against Western Washington Oct. 3 and Simon Fraser Oct. 5.

Even with a rough start to the season, the Falcons have time to turn it around and are confident that they will.

"I think we have a really good team and a really good shot at doing something really special this year," said midfielder Sam Malloch.



Titus Grant fires a shot at the goal.

PHOTO COURTESY OF ANDREW TOWELL

Collings said. "It was tough because we felt like we were doing things right offensively and just couldn't get the ball in the back of the net at times and we felt like we conceded some bad goals."

In an effort to reduce the amount of goals given up, the Falcons decided to move Travis Swallow from the midfield position he played last year into the defensive lineup. He will play alongside Ed Weise and Nik Reierson — both of whom received Great

Northwest Athletic Conference honorable mentions last year — as well as Alex Mejia and sophomore

games so far this season and were winning a fourth before thunder and lightning made the conclusion of the game unplayable.

Sonoma State came to Seattle to open the season on Sept. 5, and the game ended in a 1-1 tie. Hellenen kept the Seawolves off the scoreboard for 88 minutes, making six saves, but midfielder Eduardo Rodriguez scored a goal off a corner kick with two minutes left.

This goal canceled out one by Falcons Forward Mario Vukic, scored 54 seconds into the second half. Vukic received a pass from Alden



PHOTO COURTESY OF ANDREW TOWELL

Titus Grant fires a shot at the goal Mario Vukic attempts to maneuver around a defender.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ANDREW TOWELL

Alden Massey prepares to kick the ball down the field.

Nguyen is a filmmaker, photographer, and theater arts major who film projects in his spare time  
ANGEL ABED | THE FALCON



## Going behind the scenes

Student filmmaker Giao Nguyen discusses his latest project and the importance of freelance filmmaking

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Explaining the rebrand of the Falcon logo

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WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 9, 2019

# The Falcon

THEFALCON.ONLINE SEATTLE PACIFIC UNIVERSITY'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER VOLUME 91, ISSUE 2

## Relationship and reflection in Morocco NEWS | Page 3



PHOTO COURTESY OF SANA HAKIM

The Alhambra Palace in Granada, Spain pictured during the early evening. SPU students had the opportunity to visit the Alhambra and other landmarks in Spain and Morocco during the summer study abroad seminar.

## ASSP pushes for structural changes

Officer core discusses the upcoming year

By Julia Battishill  
News Editor

As Autumn quarter of the new academic year picks up speed, the newest Associated Students of Seattle Pacific (ASSP) Core is making more than enough plans to fill the year.

"I'm just really excited to get out there and really see what we can change for the better," Executive Vice President, Nate Canny, said animatedly.

ASSP Core, six elected students who each lead a division of ASSP and its responsibilities, is the driving force behind ASSP's movements throughout the year. The six positions are president, executive vice president, vice president of ministries, vice president of finance, vice president of intercultural affairs, and vice president of campus activities. They are held this year by Nathan Samayo, Canny, Jose Flores, Liam Smith, Aden Yilma

and Andrew Josselyn, respectively.

When asked in individual interviews about what could be expected in the coming year, all six members were more than willing to weigh in. They each had lists of ideas, plans in the works and goals to achieve, all circling back to one focus: benefiting the experience of students.

ASSP president, Samyo, explained that he will be placing importance on continuing to work towards officially revising SPU's Human Sexuality Statement this year, a goal which he also helped champion last year.

Samyo also hopes to expand Homelessness Engagement Week to encourage conversation about homelessness and food insecurity

ASSP also has significant influence over budgets and finance, and on that front, there are many new plans in the works. Smith, VP of finance, said one of the major goals in his office is to reduce the student ASSP fee by between 5 and 10 percent.

"Across the board, cut for all



Senators: Aden Yilma, Nathan Samayo, Cross Crabbe and Francesca Giraudo listening to the proposed amendment at the ASSP Senate meeting.

students of the price that they pay to ASSP for it to exist," Smith explained. "We want to put more money into students' pockets, we want to be the only body on campus that is actually cutting tuition..."

Smith says he knows that the ASSP budget can take it, knowing their contingency fund of "over 100 grand" will serve to aid in any emergency costs. However, these savings do also come

with ramifications, which Smith recognizes. When there are budget increases in one area, there must be corresponding cuts to another.

In this case, Smith said, the student budget committee will be considering "some budget cuts between a lot of clubs that don't usually spend money, as well as budget cuts to media groups."

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## STEM deans

Wood and Hartje share interim responsibilities

By Julia Battishill  
News Editor

This time last year, Dr. Sandra Hartje and Dr. Derek Wood were happily teaching at Seattle Pacific University while serving as associate deans of STEM and social sciences. They would never have expected that, one year later, they would be not only sitting in the dean's office but sharing it.

For the 2019-2020 school year, Hartje and Wood will both be serving as SPU's interim co-deans of STEM and social sciences. SPU has not had co-deans of any department since a very brief period in 1994-1995, and it was a set of unique circumstances that brought Hartje and Wood to be the first in 25 years.

In January of this year, near the start of winter quarter, former SPU provost Jeff Van Duzer was asked to resign by President Dan Martin. He quickly started

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**SENATE** from Page 1

In addition to SPU-specific financial changes, ASSP Core reports that they are taking into account global issues such as climate change, and are looking into ways they can guide our campus to respond.

"We definitely want to take a more wise view as to how this campus is treating the current climate crisis, and what exactly we can do," said Flores, VP of ministries. "...how can we be stewards of what we have and being wiser in how we're using our resources?"

Flores also touched on the events that ASSP hopes might further engage commuter students this year.

"There's a lot of things on campus that can be used for spiritual formation for students who live on campus, but I want to see what that looks like for people who are off-campus and commuter students."

He is also pairing with other ASSP Core Officers, like VP of campus activities Josselyn, to combine the reach of their offices. They are considering trying to include a ministry aspect in STUB's First Friday events.

Samayo also emphasized the focus on optimizing study spaces to be more useful to students, saying that ASSP aims to create a 24 hour study space on campus this year if possible.

Yilma is also looking to include as much of the campus as possible in her work as VP of intercultural affairs. Last year, ASSP did not have a student in the VPIA role, and Yilma says she is excited to work alongside Catalyst to see what she can accomplish for campus this year as VPIA.

Her plans include "partnering with

other institutions to create multicultural events," as well as creating "campus wide cultural events geared towards empowering diversity and differences within cultures," such as intercultural retreat, which is already in the works.

Samayo summarized that he, along with all of ASSP, have their sights set on making lasting change on SPU's campus.

"The purpose of ASSP is to really leave a structural difference so that their legacy lasts longer than just their term. So, hopefully, structural change is what's going to happen this year" said Samayo.

**STEM** from Page 1

helping the president's office's plan for the coming year's transition.

One vital step was the selection of the previous dean of STEM and social sciences, Bruce Congdon, as interim provost — leaving his dean position empty for the coming year.

Hartje and Wood, who both worked closely with Congdon as associate deans at the time, were each asked in early spring of 2019 to consider the interim dean of STEM and social sciences position for the 2019-2020 academic year.



ANGEL ABAD | THE FALCON

**Dr. Sandra Hartje, co-dean of SPU STEM and Social Sciences.**

"We both said we were interested and willing to be deans for the interim period," remembered Hartje. "And we said that we would like [it] to be a shared position."

It is very rare at SPU to split a dean-

ship between two individuals, but Hartje and Wood have known each other for years and knew that they work well together. They report that their skills complement each other.

"She approaches things more slowly, I approach things more quickly, and between the two of us we approach things at — I think — the right speed. That collaboration is really valuable," explained Wood.

They also share another passion outside of leading their department: they both love teaching, and they were hesitant to give up that aspect of their work at SPU.

If they split the dean role, both could continue teaching classes. They were sold on the idea, and the provost — who makes the final decision on dean selection — agreed.

Now, Hartje and Wood have begun their year of interim co-deanship, and they both report that things are going exceedingly well.

According to Wood, the ability to teach was the primary motivation for choosing to have both deans take the position.

"We both love to teach, and so, if you do this job — and, as I think we're both finding out, even if you do this job part-time — it is hard to find any additional time," Wood said. "So we thought, if we could do it together, we would be able to do some teaching."

Hartje is currently teaching courses in interior design, the department which she has overseen since the early 1990s, and Wood is not teaching this quarter but will resume teaching molecular biology in the winter and clinical microbiology in spring.

Both Hartje and Wood were very

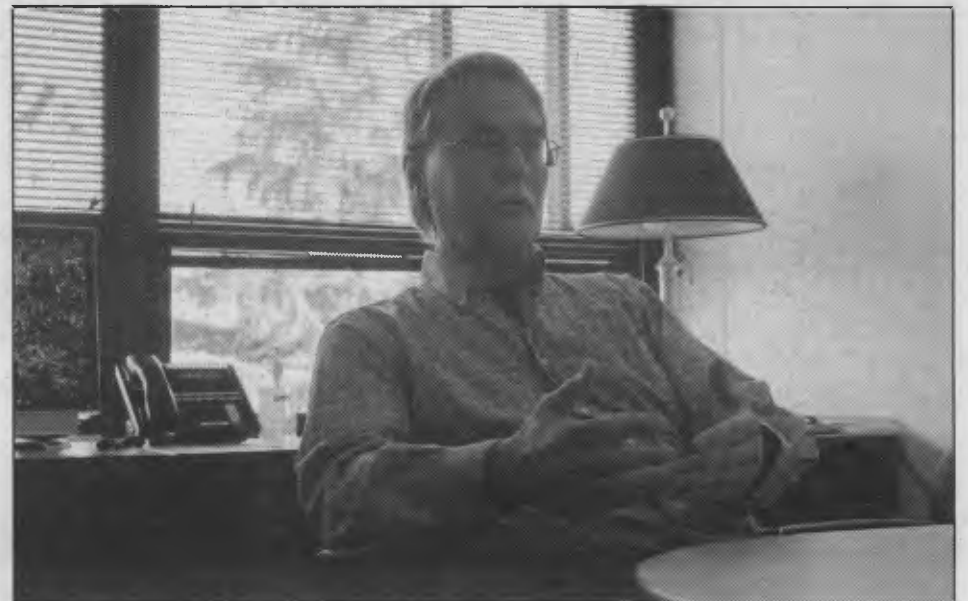
clear that this arrangement has been working, and will continue to work, for one reason: "cooperation."

Specifically, in the area of faculty advancement, Wood and Hartje developed a plan of action to divide the role and its responsibilities.

However, both were willing to take on this new role.

"I sort of like a challenge," remarked Wood.

The interim co-deans have been developing plans and goals for this year, mainly focusing on the success and



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**Dr. Derek Wood, co-dean of STEM & Social Sciences. Dr. Wood will be sharing the deanship with Dr. Hartje for the 2019-2020 school year.**

Hartje explained that Wood is overseeing the faculty of science subjects such as biology and chemistry, while Hartje leads the departments of family and consumer sciences, sociology, integrated studies and math.

Working together has been essential to success as they learn the ropes of their new job, according to both co-deans. Transitioning from being associate deans with very specific roles, to full deans who must oversee the whole program and all its faculty was ambitious.

support of students.

Using BioCORE leadership — a program in which students have peer mentors to support them through challenging science classes — as an example, they plan to support such programs this year and generally remain focused on what their students need.

"What that means is making sure that students have all the right tools and help that they need to be successful," said Wood. "Building community. That's sort of my excitement this year."

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**CRIME REPORT  
OCTOBER 8**

\*\*updated to 10/07\*\*

Malicious Mischief/Vandalism  
10/03 11:09pm-11:30pm  
Area of N. Nickerson

Burglary  
10/04 2:38am-3:03am  
500 W Barrett

Assault  
10/04 7:00pm-8:30pm  
Wallace Field



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# Students experience growth during study abroad trip

By Madison Schoenberg  
Assistant News Editor

Sitting around a purposefully placed dinner table in the middle of a color-tiled courtyard, I felt washed with fullness. The smell of fresh mint tea filled the air while the sound of authentic laughter fluttered past my ears.

In the last week of our stay in Morocco, I, along with three other SPU students, had the honor of eating dinner with Hafsa Bouzekri, a Moroccan college student who soon became our dear friend.

After a long day in the 110 degree heat, a simple meal sounded like a gift in itself. Instead, Bouzekri gave us an experience that taught us hospitality and humility.

She made us feel like a part of her family.

Inviting us into her home, she prepared a traditional Moroccan meal for us. For hours, we sat in deep conversation about culture, community and how it applies to our own lives.

Sophomore Sana Hakim, a sophomore studying journalism, reminisced on how she felt sitting at the dinner table that night.

"You get to be a part of the family for the afternoon, which is a dream," Hakim said. "Those intimate moments made the trip."

The Spain and Morocco study abroad offered me and the eleven other students on the trip enriched experiences similar to this one.

The three-week seminar that took place Aug. 20 to Sept. 8 was led by English and cultural studies professor Dr. Kimberly Segall, who has previous experience teaching and leading students abroad.

I and the rest of the students, all from different majors, found ourselves on the other side of the globe, immersed in a different culture, completely outside of our comfort zones.

Although the group had gathered in a classroom setting during the Spring quarter before the trip to prepare for our time abroad, the consensus was that none of us felt completely prepared or equipped for the journey ahead of us.

"What I did not know at the time of saying goodbye to my wife and family [is] that I would be going on a trip with people who I consider brothers and sisters to me," Ernest Thomas, a senior integrated studies major, said in one of his blog posts on the group's collective study abroad blog page. "You learn a lot about others when you spend weeks with them."

The best part about traveling with a small, tight-knit group of students was that everyone had each other to lean on because all of us were going through the same experience together.

As part of the reflection process, the class was responsible for composing blog posts about the topics that were explored, experienced and felt throughout the trip. The two courses that set the tone for the study abroad were Writing Across Cultures and Arab Spring: Gender, Islam, Democracy. Within the blog, each one of the students wrote about how they returned home with deepened relationships and many stories about experiences of cultural intimacy.

At the beginning of our six-night stay in Meknes, the city we stayed in the longest, Moroccan college students who were learning English invited us to have juice with them. These students immediately made us feel like family, showing



PHOTO COURTESY OF BEN HANSEN

In Meknes, Hafsa Bouzekri, a host of one of the home-cooked Moroccan meals, poses for a portrait in her house.

us the ins and outs of their city and their culture.

In an interview, Thomas also discussed how one of his favorite moments on the trip was the opportunity to have home-cooked, traditional Moroccan meals with local students and their families.

"It was just great because ever since we got to Morocco, it felt like they made us feel like we belong and we had always been there," Thomas said.

The theme of relational and intimate growth is reiterated in each student's stories of hospitality.

While each student took relational leaps, they also experienced self-reflection and growth in the most uncomfortable corners of their personal lives.

"The three weeks of the educational tour in Spain and Morocco changed my life. I felt like my decision to become a teacher was the right course," Thomas wrote in a blog post. "It took one class of teaching English to Moroccan students to let me know that I want to be a person who helps students ignite their passion and never let it be extinguish[ed]."

While Thomas felt he found assurance in his calling, another student, Lucila Morsetto, a senior social justice and cultural studies major, discussed how her "experience leaving was completely different" than when she arrived.

Before the trip, Morsetto was anxious and afraid. Afterward, she felt confident.

"I was sad to be leaving the people I felt that I had connected with, but I wasn't scared at all. And even though I was going alone, I didn't necessarily feel alone," Morsetto wrote.

"I left feeling more intelligent, more knowledgeable, more well rounded."

The majority of our time abroad was spent discussing and reflecting on the

cultural tendencies we were both learning about, and experiencing, all at the same time.

Thomas took the time to discuss why his educational experience was enhanced by traveling abroad. He noted that it was just as important that this trip was a time of reflection and self-growth for him.

"I think maybe recognizing certain

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**I left feeling  
more intelligent,  
more  
knowledgeable,  
more well  
rounded.**

---

privileges I have as a man," Thomas said.

He continued to talk about what privilege could mean in relation to Muslim culture in Morocco and Christianity in America.

"I also took the time to get out of my own comfort zone and be vulnerable with the people I just met," Thomas said.

On the last night of our stay in Marrakech, nearing the end of our seminar, the group sat around in a circle with the sound of a guitar being lightly strummed. Each of us spoke with content, discussing the moments of the trip we were still in awe about.

"It was so intimate, I feel like this trip was just filled with intimate moments ... it's funny how, like, we experience intimacy with total strangers," Hakim reiterated.



PHOTO COURTESY OF SANA HAKIM

The colorful walls of the Medina in Fez, Morocco, which was visited by SPU students as part of a summer study abroad program.



Giao Nguyen edits footage from a film project.

ANGEL ABAD | THE FALCON

# Artistic passion inside and outside of the classroom

## Nguyen demands that freelance films be seen differently

By Kaley Oschmann and Andrew Stez  
Staff Reporter and Features Editor

A student is at a party for what seems to be the first time. She is standing alone with a red Solo Cup; the music is loud, things look blurry and everyone has face paint on.

A stranger asks her how she is feeling and if she feels old yet.

"Yeah, this is what it's like," she replies, sheepishly.

She asks where to get water and gets some from the faucet with a vomit soaked sink underneath. She takes a sip and notices some students watching her with judgemental faces.

This is just one of many films in a series created by Giao Nguyen, a sophomore theater performance major at Seattle Pacific University. Nguyen's project, called "The Mesmerism," has two volumes out currently and has five volumes planned. There are ten episodes in each volume: all just a minute long and all on Instagram.

Nguyen described The Mesmerism as "a series dedicated to tales of the youth from past, present and future."

There is a stigma around the arts and, in his case, theater arts.

It is believed that very few people can make it in the industry, as it is known to be cutthroat. Nguyen, aware of this, will not let anything stop him in the pursuit of his passions: theater, filmmaking and photography.

"I believe that if you work hard enough and know the right people, you can turn an after school activity into what you do for life," Nguyen said.

Storytelling and watching stories told by others has been one of his lifelong passions.

"I just loved going to the theater, going to plays and seeing live-action. I love the performance of anything really: storytelling, fiction or fairy tales. Since then, I never found anything quite as fun or enjoyable," Nguyen said.

Now he seeks to pursue his own career in storytelling.

While being inspired to pursue film through the media he enjoyed as a child, he channels that inspiration through his participation in SPU's theater department and across campus.

Nguyen has seemingly done it all: from photographing weddings and automobiles, to filming music videos. Currently, with the help of friends, he is working on his passion project, "The Mesmerism."

This project was inspired by a play he was in at SPU last

year called "Love and Information." The play was unique in that it was broken into 50 scenes, each with a new character, location and time.

This got him thinking about a stylistically different way to make his own films.

"If I can start with a minute of really good film, who says I can't do 50 minutes of film? Or who says I can't do more?" Nguyen said.

So he reached out to some friends to ask for help and they agreed — thus "The Mesmerism" was born.

"The first few films were impromptu," said Nguyen.

In the beginning, he did not know what the ending would be, or is there would

even be one.

"I like the idea of a mystery and mystique to it," Nguyen said. "But because it is still a work in progress, each one of those minutes you can enjoy completely alone."

He respects the process of creating his films as being unique because it changes with each film. Each actor is different and conducts themselves differently.

In the stories, he does not use names, specific places or time periods because he wants his audience to be able to see themselves in each one.

"These people and places could be anyone and anywhere," said Nguyen.

The inspiration comes from snippets of his life or things he is interested in.

The films themselves are representative of the platform they are on, Instagram, and a wider societal issue. Viewers only see snippets of people's lives.

"It represents social media where you see one photo of someone on their feed and you get the idea but you do not get quite the full story," Nguyen said. "You can enjoy that one photo, but who's to say you really know the person?"

In his work, Nguyen truly values authenticity and originality; it is what drives his passion. His main goal in his work is to be appreciated.

"A lot of the arts go unnoticed because so many people just leisurely enjoy the arts and don't truly understand how much effort it took to get there."

Nguyen wants to be affirmed that he and his work matter because it is important to elevate other artists and give voices to untold stories.

He cannot think of any local people of color who are filmmakers and so he wants his work to empower those like him, as well as those different from him. He wants people to know that there is someone pushing for a greater cause, that it is about more than just a good story.

"You don't need everything you think you need to do it," Nguyen said of film-making. "If you can appreciate some-

thing and be bad at it, that is the key."

Creative people have to put their work out there for the public to see. He wants all artists to know that it is important to share their work with the world. Nguyen advises that they don't be shy.

"The public rarely goes looking for art, they will take what is there and they will eat it up."

View Nguyen's project on Instagram @ [themesermism](#).



ANGEL ABAD | THE FALCON

A film script on Giao Nguyen's desk.



ANGEL ABAD | THE FALCON

Giao Nguyen looks out the window of his dorm.

## New clubs encourage new connections

Creating opportunities to find people with similar interests

By Mason Williams  
Staff Reporter

Every student on campus has their own unique interests, and it can be difficult to find people with similar hobbies, goals or opinions.

Student-led clubs offer students the opportunity to connect with people like them. The number of clubs at Seattle Pacific University has grown and many new clubs offer new ways for students to connect like never before.

### Martial Arts Club

The Martial Arts Club is led by Mysonne Brown, a sophomore at Seattle Pacific University. While he is also proficient in Muay Thai, Brown said he will be teaching mainly Taekwondo. Being bullied as a child, Brown's parents enrolled him in a Martial Arts class so that he could learn to defend himself. He believes that students at SPU can benefit from Martial Arts in a plethora of ways including building confidence, maintaining fitness and physical health, and — most importantly for college students — stress relief.



"I would say to anybody who thinks

they have any slight interest at all, come to one class, two classes — try it out!"

### Students For Life Association

The Students For Life Association is led by sophomore Kayla Mullings who is studying political science.

The Students for Life Association aims to "help young people make abortion unthinkable and obsolete on their campus, in their community and in our nation by transforming both culture and law," Mullings said.



They hope to be able to discuss with the community how they believe abortion harms the unborn, women and the general population, while still providing alternative resources to those who would otherwise turn to abortion by partnering with federally qualified health centers.

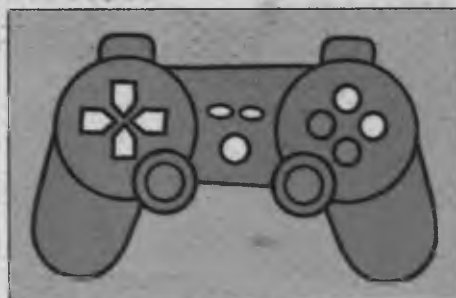
When asked how she would respond to those who are against abolishing abortion she replied:

"While most pro-lifers believe that the foster care system should be reformed and those in poverty should be helped, we can't allow human lives [to] continue to be taken until that point and we don't see abortion as a solution to these issues —

just societal failure to address them. Both life and a better system can be fought for"

### Group Gaming

Group Gaming is a club led by sophomore Nathan Judd, who is studying accounting.



Judd learned through his own experience last year the power of gaming and its power to build friendships. He also noticed, however, these friendships were formed only among his floormates and a few others.

"For a lot of individuals I know as well as myself we only have ourselves and our roommates and a few other people on our floor," stated Judd.

Group Gaming hopes to encourage gamers on campus to get together and meet new people outside of their immediate friend groups and dorms.

"It gives us experiences to — if you want — play with people from other dorms or people you may not know or to just have fun with different people. We are trying to bring these games that people play and get them [students] to play with each other," said Judd.

In the process, they hope to build a broader community of gamers at SPU that can host bigger events, such as tournaments.

### Culture Shock

Culture Shock is led by sophomore Noha Elbahouty who is studying human development and family Studies, and sophomore Laur Lugos who is studying social justice and cultural studies.

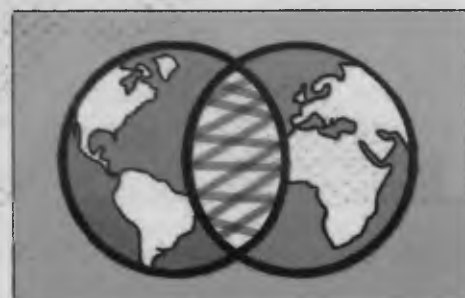
Culture Shock hopes to provide a safe

space for those who are multiracial and/or third-culture (someone who has spent the majority of their life in a country that is different than that of their parents' origin) by providing them with a place to share their stories and be supported.

Those who do not consider themselves to be multicultural or multiracial are also welcome to participate in Culture Shock to learn about all of the various cultures that are represented within the club.

Elbahouty started the club after roaming around Involve-O-Rama as a freshman and feeling that none of the cultural clubs fully grasped or represented her identity.

"Being multiracial puts you in a strange position because, in a society that values labels, it is very difficult to put yourself in a box or even fully understand your identity in general," Elbahouty said.



"I strongly believe that the best, if not the only, way to get to know someone well is to have a conversation — or multiple conversations — with them. Certain prejudices are often inevitable given the environment we live in today, so giving a voice to the people affected by them not only changes your perspective but can also help break down the stereotypes and prejudices, themselves, over time".

This is just a small sample of the many new clubs on SPU's campus.

To see more about Feathers and National Association for Music Education go to [spu.edu/engage](http://spu.edu/engage).

Illustrations by Chloe Guillot and Blake Dahlin

## A stellar performance amidst a lack of substance

Phoenix steals the show but film hardly touches on any other themes that it tries to present

By Sam Everitt and Andrew Stez  
Staff Reporter and Features Editor

### Major spoilers ahead

In the opening scene of "Joker," the cruelty of the world that Arthur Fleck (Joaquin Phoenix) lives in is immediately evident: the streets are filled with trash, the buildings are dilapidated and violence is widespread.

While working as a street clown, Fleck almost immediately gets beaten and robbed by a group of kids. While he lays on the ground in pain we are welcomed to the world of the Joker.

The decay of Gotham City provides a grim backdrop for Fleck's descent into villainy, however, doesn't offer greater substance than a superficial nudge at the economic and politic issues that riddle the city.

In the film, Phoenix puts on a convincing and eerie portrayal of the classic villain. Ultimately, though, "Joker" falls short in its portrayal of complex social issues.

This is due to an underlying sense that the economic suffering endured by the Joker is a catalyst of and justification for evil doing.

Fleck is left without therapy after the city cuts the budget for mental health programs, leaving the audience brutally aware that nobody cares about people who suffer like him.

While the funding cuts are a plot device, there is never any push to really promote how mental health services can help a person. Even when Fleck is going to therapy he reiterates how no one can understand him or his suffering.

This economic suffering is only further exasperated when billionaire and father of Batman, Thomas Wayne, goes on television and insults the lower class while also saying how he knows the solution to their problems.

This leads to mass outrage and protests across the city, as it is once again clear that the world the Joker inhabits simply does not understand the plight of the impoverished.

While the wealth gap is a provocative and relevant issue today, the Joker's solution proves to be where the film loses touch with its message.

Later in the film, Fleck, while on a subway, observes three employees of Thomas Wayne harassing a woman and responds by shooting the men.

The media reports the murders as a planned attack against the wealthy, which spawns social unrest throughout the city.

The Joker himself never demonstrated that this was his intention, which ultimately makes it seem like the message of the film was forced to become a display of his psyche breaking down.

The missed opportunity to create a

meaningful and lasting impression on the audience is further evident in one of the last scenes, when the Joker appears on a talk show.

While it seems like the Joker is psychotic and about to attempt suicide on live camera, the events that transpire subvert



Joaquin Phoenix as the Joker.

this expectation when he instead shoots the talkshow host.

The Joker's murder of the host could have been used as an opportunity to scorn the economic system that had oppressed him for so long.

Instead, it simply cuts to the next scene of him out among rioters once again being ambivalent to the world around him.

The lack of action, and the chain of the Joker's massacres, turn what could have been an easy character to sympathize with into a psychotic maniac.

PHOTO COURTESY OF WARNER BROTHERS

The portrayal of the Joker by Phoenix, while a brilliant portrayal of a demented man, fails to use its platform to be an advocate for those who are impoverished — and, ultimately, loses sight of its power to affect change.

# Capital can compromise public policy

## Corporate lobbies are corrupting America

By Riley Gombis  
Opinions Editor

For as long as I have followed national politics, the conflicts between the spheres of public policy and private enterprise have dominated the peripheries of the news I consume.

On Oct. 3, Garance Burke and Martha Mendoza, both writers for the Associated Press, reported on a story concerning the detainment of undocumented minors entitled "Private sector seeks to profit by detaining migrant kids."

While the maltreatment of not only minors, but immigrants as a whole, reflects poorly on the current administration, it brought to mind the ways in which private interests influence public policy through financial means.

While I agree that entrepreneurs should be rewarded for ingenuity, there must be a point where we consider providing utilities and services for the public good. We need to have a serious

national conversation about corporate influence in our lives.

It's difficult to ignore the widespread nature of private lobbies and corporate interests when observing politics. Companies we see on television commercials every day such as USAA, Aflac and T-Mobile contribute hundreds of millions of dollars every year to various members of Congress on both sides of the aisle with the intention of influencing policy aimed at their respective economies to benefit themselves.



By Riley Gombis  
Opinions Editor

In the modern history of the United States, anyone who has kept tabs on American institutions knows how frequently capitalism has overridden the interests of the public in favor of profit. The private healthcare industry is one of the key players in enacting economic violence on Americans trying to fulfill health-related needs.

Progressives have called for national health care measures since the beginning of the 20th century. Since the 1960s,

conservatives have drawn on the claim that "socialized medicine," harkening to Communist regimes, is a threat to the free market. However, due to private lobbies backed by health insurance providers pushing these narratives, it has been harder than ever to create bipartisan legislation aimed at making health care more affordable.

Lobbies certainly don't stop at health insurance. Over the past few decades, conversation over the federal incarceration economy has grown to become a national electoral issue. Companies like the Corrections Corporation of America and Comprehensive Health Services Inc. seek to profit from government funding within the sphere of incarceration.

Five years ago, private prisons and incarceration services grew to become a 4.8 billion dollar industry.

The rift between public and private interests has affected consumers as well. Last year in 2018, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), headed by former Verizon executive Ajit Pai, suc-

cessfully lobbied Congress to kill "net neutrality," a requirement that internet service providers (ISPs) treat all data equally. By gutting this rule, the FCC ultimately degraded the democratic spirit of the internet and limited access to Americans as a whole.

Clear conflicts of interest were noted, such as Pai's obvious association with one of the biggest ISPs in the country, as well as massive lobbying efforts on the part of Comcast and T-Mobile — among other corporations. In the end, the whole political debacle ended up costing consumers and the public as a whole; with telecom corporations able to charge consumers more for basic services, the average American's communication is ultimately hindered.

Just last year, the healthcare insurance industry spent north of \$158 million lobbying in the House and Senate, all to sway votes for favorable economic policy. When net neutrality was a hot button issue, Comcast alone spent over \$15

See PUBLIC POLICY | Page 7



MAX BRIGGS | THE FALCON  
The FCC ruling on net neutrality would affect tech giants like Google while benefiting telecom companies.

## Entering my 20s



HEIDI SPECK | THE FALCON

## Editor's Note

Almost every year, when a new Editor-in-Chief takes their post leading The Falcon, a new style of layout follows.

Some years these changes are dramatic, while in others the design remains relatively the same as the year before. Just like my predecessors, I wanted to make changes of my own. This change, however, was not limited to the look of the paper.

Changes like a reduction in pages, font choices and the header are easy enough to spot. However, visual changes are an indicator of the other changes going on behind the scenes.

I want the paper to report on different stories than we have in the past. That is a reflection of the campus and the Seattle area, not just a recount of school events. That tells the stories of our campus that don't get a lot of attention but are still important. Stories like the men's soccer team going to Europe, Giao Nguyen's Instagram films and the study abroad trip to Morocco.

The changes in the font are purely a result of my distaste for the fonts of last year. The change of logo is because I'm a sucker for a gothic font and the editorial staff was okay with that. I would also like to note that the header has been elegantly crafted by one of the members on the editorial staff, Chloe Guillot.

The reduction in pages from 12 to eight is a little harder for me to explain.

My logic is that if the staff spends less energy on the number of stories we

produce, we can have a greater focus on the quality of stories we produce. Ideally, by the end of the year, The Falcon will be producing investigative stories that take weeks instead of days to write.

All of these things are a part of the process and, while I wish I could just make everything happen all at once, I can't. The goals I would like to reach will take time. As a result, I have to have patience with myself and with this year's staff who have assembled around the newspaper — and has already surpassed my expectations on multiple occasions.

Those who know me know that "This American Life," a radio now widely listened to as a podcast, has shaped my approach and passion for journalism. My interest in the stories that do not always make big news but that make up people's lives stems from the style of reporting that Ira Glass and his team do. Our little newspaper does not have the resources to find stories that span the country as they broadcasted through the Public Radio Exchange every week. We can, however, find the stories that matter to those around us.

My obsession with the gothic fonts and "This American Life" are important to my story. I look forward to finding out what is important to the Seattle Pacific University community.

Heidi Speck, the Editor-in-Chief of The Falcon, is a junior studying journalism and art.

**PUBLIC POLICY** from Page 6

million, with the telecom industry total coming close to \$100 million.

Corporate lobbies in our state and federal legislatures are hurting the way that we interact with our government and it shows through this repeated abuse of economic power. It's hard for average Americans to gain the kind of represen-

tation these industries do due to the sheer financial force of these industries.

Although there's a world of a difference between being the CEO of a telecom company and owning a privately owned prison, the fact is that there are powerful people and groups profiting not only off of the benefits that lobbying gives them through policy, but also the political gridlock that follows.

I and millions of other Americans want to see practical legislation aimed at breaking the bond between private enterprise and our political system. The more opportunities that private interests have at influencing public policy, the less motivation the representatives in government will have in delivering solid reform. This means eradicating, or at least limiting, the presence of lobbies

in government as well as enforcing more oversight on what companies are contracted by the government.

The more accountability the government has to the American people as a public institution, the more our democracy will flourish.

*Riley is a junior studying classics, history and philosophy*



JACKY CHEN | THE FALCON

SPU Athletic Director Jackson Stava in his office. Stava has served as the athletic director for SPU since 2016.

# Jackson Stava: man of God and sport

## The athletic director of SPU has clear goals for the future of the institution

**Kyle Morrison**  
Staff Reporter

Uprooting one's family from the friendly sunshine of Southern California and transplanting them in the much rainier city of Seattle can be challenging, especially in the middle of the rainiest winter in Seattle history. Fortunately for Jackson Stava, that move was made easy by the opportunity to direct athletics at Seattle Pacific University. "We're managing the weather," Stava said.

Some of the things that led Stava to SPU were the quality of the academic and athletic institutions, along with it being on the west coast.

A man who began his college education studying to be a youth pastor, Stava almost immediately found a passion for college athletics while he was the public

address announcer for a variety of Azusa Pacific University sporting events.

"I fell in love with the development that happens in a student athlete's life through the vehicle of college athletics," Stava said. "College athletics can teach you so, so many lessons that not only prepare you as an athlete and as a student but really prepare you for what's coming in life."

This love for students eventually led him up the ladder of the athletic department at APU where he held the positions of director of compliance and associate athletic director.

Once he became associate athletic director at APU, his ambition and love for his job led him to find the head role at SPU.

"Certainly, I wanted a chance to be a director of athletics, but I wasn't will-

ing to chase that anywhere," Stava said. "I feel very, very fortunate to have gotten the chance to be at a school like Seattle Pacific for my first [athletic director] job."

Stava and his wife have made it a tradition to invite every team in the athletic department over to their house for dinner. He sees this as extremely important in order to get to know his athletes in person. Stava also sees these team dinners as an opportunity to model, "hopefully, how to be good mothers and fathers and spouses and all those other things."

It is actions like these that help Stava "show students the fullness of who God created them to be." This is a method which has had incredible success on and off the playing field.

Since Stava has arrived, SPU athletics has performed well in many differ-

ent sports, winning conference titles in women's track and men's basketball, while continuing to shape a culture of excellence across the board of SPU athletics.

But it's not the championships that he remembers most fondly.

"Being able to be with our rowers last year when they finished fourth in NCAA championship, knowing that that program two years before had really been nonexistent... that was a huge moment."

Stava also mentioned this year's Falcon Fest, which included a 4-3 comeback win for the soccer team, as another one of his favorite memories.

Ultimately, however, Stava conceded that it's the relationships he builds with athletes that really stick with him.

Despite his appreciation for the past, See **STAVA** | Page 8



STAVA from Page 7

Stava has a clear vision for the future of SPU athletics. "I want to find a way to sustain the historic success of the program," Stava said. Stava also strives for "a standard of excellence in how we conduct ourselves. I want us to be a program that clearly knows who we are and can

articulate that." Ultimately, Stava wants athletes to be prepared for life after athletics.

It's these goals that continue to push Stava to be the best athletic director possible on a day-to-day basis. "No one likes budget meetings, but when your mindset is the reason that you're doing that meet-

ing is so you can remove the roadblocks so your coaches and others can impact the lives of students, you work your tail off to do the best you can," he said.

Stava said, when recruiting athletes, he may never be able to offer championships, scholarships or playing time, but he can offer the chance to become better

people who fulfill their potential.

This promise is obviously very enticing as SPU, fresh off a stellar recruiting class in all sports, continues to grow for the future under the steady hand of Jackson Stava.

## Seattle Pacific's intramurals have seen many recent changes



PHOTO COURTESY OF JULIE RENNE

SPU students playing basketball as part of the intramural sports program. Each quarter SPU offers various intramural sports for students to choose from.

By Brandon Bee  
Staff Reporter

As students begin college or return to campus, they also leave behind their various ways of being active in high school and during the summer. While all of the residence halls have their own gyms, going to the gym is usually a solitary activity that doesn't involve others.

For those looking to stay fit and have fun with other students, intramural sports is an option.

Leilani Miller, a junior and student coordinator for intramurals at Seattle Pacific University, talked about her time juggling activities in high school.

"I just knew that I wasn't going to have

the time or the energy to be involved in competing with other schools with major sports here," Miller said. "For me, it's always been something really important and I feel really grateful to be involved in helping other people have access to that because it is something that is a lot less demanding. I feel like it is a nice escape rather than a chore."

She explained how time management can be hard for a lot of students who have different priorities to balance since they don't have time to be in major athletics, with practices everyday and games every week.

"Some kids don't have enough time in their schedule to be a part of a competitive sport and, basically, we just wanted

## Sports and activities made for students who do not have enough time to participate in athletics

to have a really inclusive space where anyone can come and anyone can take an hour or two hours out of their week to kind of let off steam and play competitively, and non-competitively," she added.

Miller explained that intramurals can be a friendly space where students can escape and participate in activities that gives them time to rest their brains and be active once, or twice, a week.

Miller is part of a staff that is replacing recently graduated students, which has a clear vision and focus to moving the program forward.

Miller, along with Lily Morgan, are both co-student coordinators of intramurals. Miller said that their priority right now is getting more students involved and letting more people access information about intramurals.

Last year, Miller wasn't aware of all the information regarding intramurals because it was not as publicized as it is today.

"[We are] just trying to spread awareness that it's there because, in my experience, I was mildly aware that there was much offered in terms of intramurals."

Last year, Miller participated in intra-

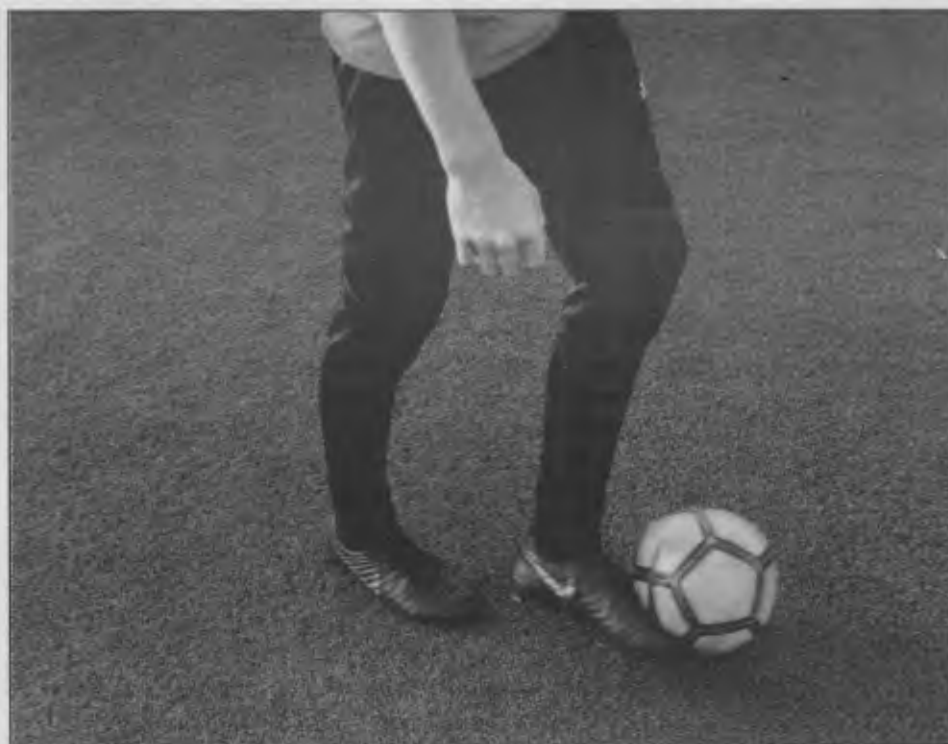
mural badminton in the spring. She also cited Zumba and "Ripped," a workout program similar to crossfit, as activities students should look forward to this year. She said that as demand and participation for an activity or sport increases, the more likely the activity will take place again the next quarter.

Intramurals options that are being offered this quarter include Zumba and basketball on Mondays; soccer and open gym on Tuesdays; volleyball on Wednesdays; soccer on Thursdays; and ultimate frisbee and Ripped on Friday.

Miller and her team are working in order to grow the publicity and attraction of Intramurals so more students learn about the different activities offered and join in.

"I feel like things are going to evolve as student interest evolves," Miller said.

Students can register to play as an athlete or volunteer to be a referee or scorekeeper at [www.imleagues.com/spu](http://www.imleagues.com/spu). For more information, email [intramurals@spu.edu](mailto:intramurals@spu.edu) or follow @spuintramurals on Instagram or Facebook.



BLAKE DAHLIN | THE FALCON

Colby Nelson juggles a soccer ball on the turf of Wallace Field. Nelson has played soccer in the past and is seeking to continue participating in the game by joining intramural soccer this fall.



## Finding art in Fremont

Looking at the statues inhabiting the artsy Seattle neighborhood

FEATURES | PAGE 4

## Murder of Botham Jean

Reconciling with racial injustice in the U.S. court system

OPINIONS | PAGE 6

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 23, 2019

# The Falcon



THEFALCON.ONLINE

SEATTLE PACIFIC UNIVERSITY'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

VOLUME 91, ISSUE 3



MADISON SCHOENBERG | THE FALCON

The A21 Walk for Freedom, an event devoted to fighting human slavery, progresses along First Avenue on Saturday Oct. 19. The silent march was part of a worldwide event.

## Silent walk against human trafficking

### A21 Walk for Freedom brings awareness to global issue

By Julia Herman  
Staff Reporter

The air was filled with excitement as people were preparing for Seattle's A21's Walk for Freedom, which was one of 500 walks happening globally that day.

Seattleites gathered in the lobby of Churchome, a church in downtown Seattle, donning all-black attire and chatting with one another.

A21 is an organization that works to fight human trafficking globally. Annually, A21 hosts walks as a way to spread awareness of this crime. This is the fourth year that Churchome has hosted A21 for this event in Seattle.

According to data gathered by A21, Seattle has one of the highest rates of human trafficking in the United States. A21 partners with organizations in different cities, such as Seattle, as a way to combat issues like this through its strategy of "Reach, Rescue and Restore."

"Reach" meaning to educate the public, "rescue" meaning to help the victims out of their slavery by connecting them with the police and "restore" meaning to help the victims post-rescue with their needs. This strategy was highlighted in the opening speech of the event.

"The solution is you. The solution is all of us together like this

and bringing awareness to do something about it," said Melissa Korrell, one of the lead organizers of the Seattle walk in the opening ceremony.

"Although there are millions trapped in bondage, there is a billion of us, so we can make some noise and bring awareness, bring change to this epidemic happening."

Following the opening ceremony, the participants lined up against the walls of the church in anticipation for the walk.

**"Although there are millions trapped in bondage, there is a billion of us, so we can make some noise and bring awareness, bring change to this epidemic happening."**

Signs labeled with statistics and statements against slavery were being passed out for people to hold as they made their way to Pike Place along First Avenue.

"Raising awareness is the hugest thing. People don't realize and think about it [human trafficking], but it happens," said Eric Christensen. Christensen's wife Yolanda is the founder of Free to

Fly, a partner organization with A21.

This sentiment is echoed by Carolyn Eller, who is part of REST, one of Seattle's A21 partners. She believes that it is her duty to help those who are forced into human trafficking. She believes that no matter how small of a role she plays, she is going to do it anyway.

"I can't not do this work because once you learn about something like this issue, you just can't go back to not knowing," Eller said.

"And so, if I can play a very small role in raising money and raising awareness for individuals to have an opportunity to leave a life of exploitation, then that's what I am going to try to do."

At 11 a.m., the walk began and the participants showed their solidarity with those being trafficked and brought awareness to what was happening.

The participants walked in a single file line, because they walked for "one," being intentionally silent to stand in solidarity with those who are voiceless. Their signs did all the talking.

"I think this is important because there are so many who are enslaved and people are ignorant to the fact that this is something that even exists. Bringing awareness is so important," said Samantha Ortiz, a first-time participant.

Ortiz has been following A21 for a few years now but has never participated in the walk. She has always wanted to show her support and honor the victims, and was excited to be able to this year.

Melissa Korrell has been actively bringing awareness to human-trafficking for over five years now, realizing the importance of doing so after reading an article online about children being trafficked.

"It really broke my heart," Korrell said. "I was devastated. I just remember feeling 'Okay, I am mad, now what am I going to do about it?'"

A few weeks after reading the article, Korrell watched a video showed during a Churchome service that promoted the upcoming Walk for Freedom. She knew she had to get involved.

Since then, Korrell has been participating and volunteering in each year's walk. She feels this issue needs to be brought into the light.

"I think this is important because so many people are unaware that human trafficking is even happening. And because they are unaware and don't know it exists, not enough is being done about it," Korrell said.

"There is so much more we can do about it, and the more awareness that we bring and the more that people know then it can't be as hidden."

## Making a statement

Senate debate arises over cultural posters

By Julia Battishill  
News Editor

In Monday's senate meeting, Vice President of Intercultural Affairs (VPIA) Aden Yilma took the floor to discuss a set of posters she and her office hope to hang up around campus. She was supported by coauthor Mysonne Brown, who serves as ASSP club coordinator.

The proposal, "2019-2020-002 NF Hanging of Cultural Posters," intends to "create an atmosphere of inclusion regarding underrepresented groups at SPU."

Yilma passed the selection of posters around to the senators, who each took a turn viewing and considering the images while she explained that she intends to use the posters to make students of diverse backgrounds feel acknowledged and welcomed at SPU.

The posters, which were all created by artists at Seattle-based, social-change art organization Amplifier, featured images of people of many different ethnicities, cultures and abilities. They also contained slogans like "WOMEN'S RIGHTS ARE HUMAN RIGHTS," "BUILD COMMUNITIES," "BLACK LIVES MATTER," and "HEAR OUR VOICE."

"Being able to physically see somebody who looks like you, or see somebody who you can relate to, will not only create a sense of comfort but a feeling of belonging for new students and current students as well," Brown said.

It was made clear by Executive Vice President Nate Canny that Yilma was not required to ask the support of senate in order to hang posters. As VPIA, Yilma only needs permission from building managers. However, she and Brown clarified that they brought the proposal before senate because they wanted to garner support.

See SENATE | Page 2

SENATE from Page 2

Yilma and Brown stated that they hope future VPIAs and Club Coordinators will follow suit and hang posters of a similar nature, depending upon what ethnic and cultural backgrounds they see present on campus that year.

The proposal ultimately passed, with 11 yeas, 3 nays, and 2 abstentions. However, before passing through senate, it spurred a significant period of debate, which was extended once by motion of Sen. Oliver Armand and seconded by Sen. Hannah Waterman.

The proposal was enthusiastically supported by some senators, but other senators expressed concerns about the “political nature” of the posters, as Sen. Cade Huston put it.

Specifically, he clarified that he was referring to posters such as the one reading “BLACK LIVES MATTER,” and another reading “DREAM ACT NOW!”

Earlier in the meeting, Waterman had asked about the Dream Act poster, and whether there was a precedent for legislation-related commentary from ASSP. Campus Program Director Alli Bautista, Sen. Cross Crabbe and Vice President of Finance Liam Smith clarified that ASSP senate has not previously taken a stance on any national legislation. However, administration and ASSP Officer Core have both publicly expressed acceptance for undocumented students in the past via school-wide emails.

Huston’s concerns were in regard to the

message portrayed by all of the posters, including but not limited to the one referencing the Dream Act.

“I worry that we are pushing a political agenda, and that we as senators, at least for myself, should not push either way,” Huston explained.

Sen. Ben Jenkins also expressed concerns, specifically about the subject matter of the posters and the emphasis that many of the posters place on ethnicity and race.

“I’m compelled to vote no on this because I feel that these posters place a heavy emphasis on race and ethnicity, and I’m not sure that that in-and-of-itself is a particularly good thing,” Jenkins said.

He referenced Martin Luther King several times, in which King expresses hope that he might one day be judged first by the content of his character rather than his race.

“We as senate, and we just as general good people, should include others and love others and accept others. I’m not sure that the heavy emphasis in this manner is the best way to do so,” Jenkins said.

Conversely, several senate members — including Crabbe, ASSP President Nathan Samayo, Waterman, and Sen. Tash Knipp — spoke up in support of the proposal.

“A lot of the posters are just like ‘hey, people are people,’ and if that’s not a message we want to spread on our campus, then I think we’re doing something wrong,” Waterman said.

“We are not trying to put an emphasis on race, society already does that,” Yil-



COURTESY OF ARLENE MEJORADO/SHEPARD FAIREY/AMPLIFIER ART

One of 25 posters proposed by VPIA Aden Yilma to be hung in and around campus facilities as a way to acknowledge minority students. ASSP Senate members debated the “political nature” of the slogan on this poster.

ma said to Jenkins. “We’re just trying to make people feel comfortable in the fact of what’s happening right now.”

Towards the end of the period of debate, Samayo reminded the room that the focus of senate is to be on its constituents, and those constituents might have many

different perspectives.

“To some people this actually isn’t political. That’s a lens that we’re looking at it through, but for some folks this is literally life,” Samayo said.

Brown noted that a political focus is not the goal of the posters. Thus, ASSP plans to hang content cards near each poster, naming the artists and explaining why each poster was chosen. This, he hopes, will eliminate the ambiguity and explain the intention of inclusivity.

Senate ultimately passed the proposal. Yilma and Brown will move forward with this project.

In other business:

Chaplain Lisa Ishihara visited senate to discuss ways that students could be better supported on campus. She asked the senators what their ideas were regarding spaces that promote rest and student support, and senators such as VPCA Andrew Josslyn gave input on accessible locations and convenient times.

Cambria Babbitt was unanimously appointed senator for the school of humanities.

Samayo updated the group about his progress revising the SPU’s Statement on Human Sexuality, specifically that he and the authors of the original proposal met with President Daniel Martin and “several vice presidents.” He and the authors are now discussing holding a public forum to discuss the status of the proposal and new updates.

Uniting people through food

Community Kitchen hosts dinners to serve area

By Julia Battishill  
News Editor

Seattle Pacific University’s Community Kitchen (CK) has a simple mission: to cook meals together, and then to eat dinner in the community.

“One thing that I really enjoy every time we have kitchen night is seeing the joy on everyone’s face when we all are cooking,” Student Coordinator Taavi Moore said.

From their founding in April 2011 to last month’s event, CK’s goal is to serve their community, especially those on a “limited

food budget” as stated by their website, by hosting monthly dinners. They are dedicated to using locally sourced produce and engaging people with nutrition and food preparation.

CK’s student volunteers handle the marketing, recruitment, recipe and menu creation, and more to assure that these goals are reached monthly.

Moore’s role, she said, is to “oversee and make sure that everything is going smoothly” with CK’s monthly events and behind-the-scenes work.

Moore referred to the nights of their events as “kitchen nights.” After the food is cooked, everyone involved eats their finished meal together in community.

She believes that food and cooking are capable of bringing communities together. Moore said that kitchen nights tend to bring in people who may otherwise have never met or interacted, but through making and eating a meal together, they have the chance to connect.

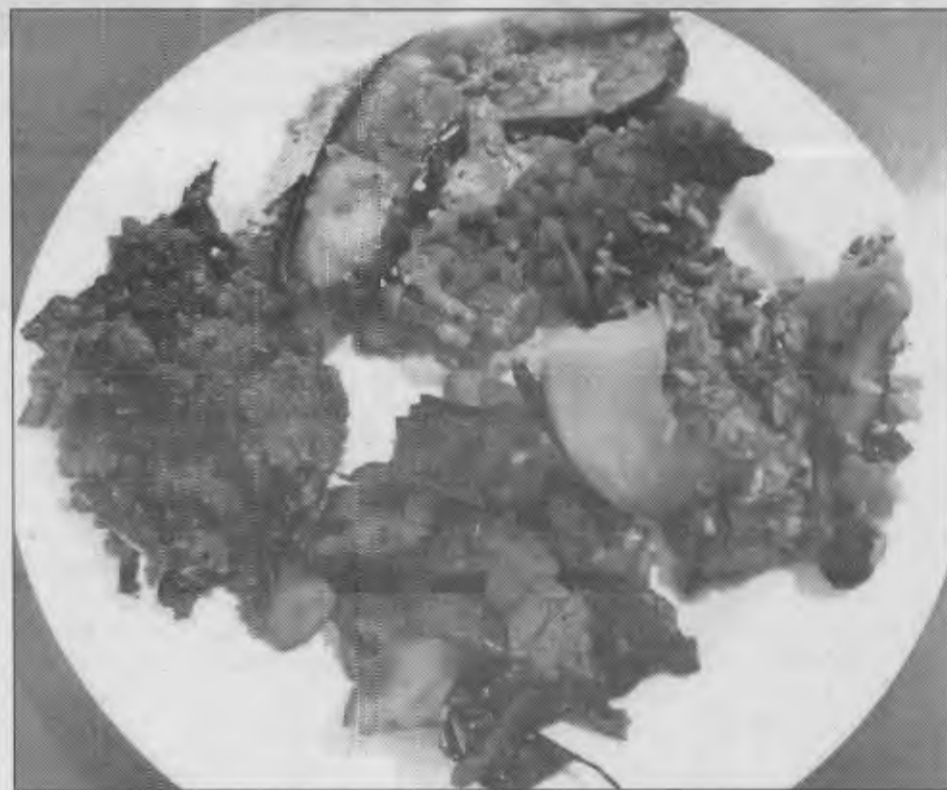
“People who [come] to the kitchen night come from all sorts of backgrounds, so it’s really cool to have people interact that you wouldn’t necessarily see interact,” Moore said. “Doing something together with people who normally wouldn’t be doing something together.”

In order to make that happen, CK’s student team is tasked with recruiting participants for their events from all over the area, hoping to serve their community with healthy meals.

Some participants are students, others are local food bank clients or reside in one of Seattle’s Housing Authority apartments, still others are simply interested Seattle residents.

“It was fun making new dishes, trying new foods, and [being in] a relaxed, joyful environment!” wrote participant Beth Gill on the Community Kitchen’s Facebook wall after an event in June, 2018.

CK’s dinners are comprised of recipes collected by members of the team who



COURTESY OF SPU COMMUNITY KITCHEN

The latest dish served at Community Kitchen, featuring lentil and eggplant lasagna and wild rice stuffed squash.

Moore referred to as “recipe leaders.” These members also make sure all participants understand how to prepare the dishes.

Often, the dinners are themed to the season. Last academic year, CK hosted a Dia de los Muertos dinner in November, an Italian dinner for an “Amore” theme in February and a “Farm Fresh Picnic,” as their blog called it, in May.

The kitchen’s recipe leaders choose about 7 to ten items per month, according to Moore, and on the night of the dinner, everyone comes together in their kitchen space to make the dishes. Two of the dishes are usually made with the intention of being sent home with the participants.

On Oct. 15, they hosted a fully plant-based dinner entitled “Plentiful Plants.” Moore shared that the event was very successful, with many members of the community joining in.

“Everything was plant-based and gluten-free, and we wanted to make sure we

were utilizing seasonal produce,” Moore explained. Some dishes included wild rice with rainforest squash, lasagna made with lentils and eggplant, and roasted root vegetables.

A “full kitchen” of participants is typically comprised of around sixteen people, Moore said, not including the members of the Community Kitchen staff who attend. This month, all sixteen spots were filled and those participants were joined by an additional fifteen CK members.

“It went really, really well. We all enjoyed all of the dishes and it was definitely a well-received kitchen because people are really open to more plant-based food,” Moore said.

Moore believes in the power of food and cooking to bring people together.

“For me, food is much more than just fuel and nutrition, but it’s enjoying the cooking process and bringing people together — bringing the community together,” Moore said.

CRIME REPORT  
OCTOBER 23

Assault  
Hill Hall  
Between 9/28 1:00 a.m. and 10/13 11:59 p.m.

Assault, Simple  
Hill Hall  
10/14 12:20 p.m.-1:00 p.m.

Assault, Simple  
Hill Hall  
10/17 8:41 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Alcohol Abuse Referral  
Emerson Hall  
10/19 11:50 p.m.-10/20 12:36 a.m.

Alcohol Abuse Referral (count 1)  
Emerson Hall  
10/20 12:15 a.m.-3:00 a.m.

Alcohol Abuse Referral (count 2)  
Emerson Hall  
10/20 12:15 a.m.-3:00 a.m.

Drug Abuse Referral  
Emerson Hall  
10/20 12:15 a.m.-3:00 a.m.

Burglary  
650 W Bertona Apartments  
10/22 2:56 a.m.-5:25 a.m.

# Power of a personal story

## How SPU Stories helps fight against stereotypes

By Sam Everitt  
Staff Reporter

The word “Strong” is written on a whiteboard held by a student who is smiling for the camera. “Weak,” also written on a whiteboard, is held by the same person, looking down and away from the camera.

These are examples of the images posted on the “SPU Stories” Instagram page.

“I think labels can be very stereotypical and very hurtful and harmful,” said senior Ashleigh Roth, who works for SPU Stories.

---

“We walk a fine line between acknowledging [stereotypes] in a way that perpetuates them, and acknowledging them in a way that allows us to move beyond them.”

---

SPU Stories gives people the chance to tell their own story, to help resist stereotypes.

The project was developed by assistant professor of psychology, Dr. Brit-

tany Tausen, in her social psychology class. Originally created as a blog, it soon transitioned into the current Instagram page.

It seeks to challenge stereotypes by learning about the personal stories of students in the Seattle Pacific University community.

The page shows the faces and stories of SPU students, holding words that both represent how they believe others perceive them, and words that describe how they perceive themselves.

The deeply personal stories found on the page cover the topic of stereotypes.

SPU Stories seeks to counteract stereotypes by sharing the stories of how people are affected by labels. By giving someone the chance to tell their own story, they allow others to see how people truly feel about the stereotypes that label them.

“We walk a fine line between acknowledging [stereotypes] in a way that perpetuates them, and acknowledging them in a way that allows us to move beyond them,” Roth said.

SPU Stories was inspired by the “Humans of New York” project, an Instagram account that allows people from all walks of life to share their stories with others.

“I think we all see life through a lens — everyone has their own lens... I think through this, [SPU Stories] has really helped me see how I can be an ally,” said Amy Funabashi, a senior psychology student featured on SPU Stories who got to share her story through this project.

By reading these personal stories, people can see how stereotypes affect others in a way they otherwise never know unless they take the time to learn about it.

This is why SPU Stories allows people to share their own personal stories as a way to not only help themselves learn and grow, but to help the commu-



KEATON DIXSON | THE FALCON

Ashleigh Roth speaks about the focus of the SPU Stories blog and Instagram page that highlights the importance SPU student's stories and backgrounds.

nity at large.

“It’s an opportunity to see people at the core of who they are,” Funabashi said.

Through gaining a deeper perspective of fellow students’ stories people are also able to examine their own life.

“It allows you to think about where you’re at in life,” Funabashi said.

At the center of SPU Stories, the goal is to fight back against stereotypes and allow people to show their true selves.

“I think it’s to expand that to the whole SPU community and learn that we have frequently, and constantly, been labeled as certain things that don’t match up with how we see ourselves,” said Roth.

As a community, it can be hard to see everyone for who they are.

Not only does SPU Stories allow people to share their own personal experiences with stereotypes, but it shows others how easy it can be to perpetuate these stereotypes.

“I think it’s really important to just accept that, whether intentional or not, we all have stereotyped and discriminated against people. And I think if we can really accept that, then we can really learn to see the other person’s side,” Funabashi said.

SPU Stories presents the idea that it can be easy to accept the stereotypes of others. That is why sharing these personal stories are so important.

The project gives people on the outside a chance to learn what someone else is going through and how they view themselves on the inside.

“I feel so lucky to be apart of every single story, but I think some of the coolest ones that affect me personally are about people who I know,” Roth said.

Whether it’s a close friend or a stranger, students can never know what’s going on inside someone else’s mind. SPU Stories shows people that it can be easy to stereotype or label people, even if they know them well.

Through the stories shared on SPU Stories, students are able to connect with other students and fight against harmful stereotyping.

By breaking down these harmful labels and stereotypes, SPU Stories hopes to create a more genuine reflection of everyone at SPU.

“I want to break down labels and stereotypes and help us expand beyond that, and that certainly affects me personally, but it affects everyone. For everyone it is really personal,” Roth said.

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# Perfect place to get lost

Artist's republic of Fremont lies within walking distance for SPU students

By Mason Williams  
Staff Reporter

Fremont was not always a part of Seattle up until 1891, it was its own city. Although it may now be just a neighborhood inside a larger city, it has retained a culture distinct from that of the surrounding area.

The "Artists' Republic of Fremont" is home to unique, eccentric, contrarian culture; a place where thinking outside of what's commonly accepted and perpetuated by society is not only tolerated but encouraged.

Fremont allows one to be, find and express oneself — and that is evident in the art on display in Fremont. All within a short walk, the following pieces can be easily enjoyed by students:

## The Fremont Troll

For almost thirty years, an 18-foot-tall troll has lurked beneath the Aurora Bridge in Fremont.

Adorned with a shiny hubcap for an eye, it can be seen clutching a Volkswagen Beetle in its left hand.

According to the Seattle Times, the first publication to write a story about the troll back in September 1990, it was designed by four artists — led by Steve Badanes — and constructed with the help of dozens of community volunteers over the course of seven weeks.

According to Badanes, the troll was meant to be an anti-development statement because outsider development in the area threatened the community, which was traditionally a haven for families and small businesses.

Ironically, the Fremont Troll is a major tourist attraction and has even been featured in the 1999 film "10 Things I Hate About You," which was set in Seattle.



ANGEL ABAD | THE FALCON

"Statue of Lenin" has faced vandalism over the years.



ANGEL ABAD | THE FALCON

The "Fremont Troll," sculpted by Steve Badanes, Will Martin, Donna Walter and Ross Whitehead in 1990 under the Aurora Bridge, was inspired by Scandinavian folklore.



ANGEL ABAD | THE FALCON

"Fremont Rocket," a 53-foot tall statue, has been placed on the Army Surplus store to pay tribute to the Cold War.

The troll is also transformed throughout the year into a meeting spot for various celebrations.

One of these is "Troll-o-ween," a public celebration on Oct. 31 that starts under the bridge and moves out towards other areas of Fremont.

## The Statue of Lenin

A 16-foot bronze sculpture of Communist leader Vladimir Lenin has stood in the middle of North Fremont Place since 1996.

According to the accompanying plaque, it was sculpted by Emil Venkov and installed in the city of Poprad, Slovakia in 1988 — only to be torn down when the Communist Party was overthrown in 1989.

The statue was forgotten until Issaquah local Lewis Carpenter found it lying in a Poprad scrapyard in 1993 and then mortgaged his home to transport it back to the northwest.

The statue has been marred by controversy since the day it was erected in Seattle, facing multiple attempts by community members to tear it down.

It has also been vandalized multiple times and in various ways since it was installed, such as painting Lenin's hands blood red and plastering the word "murderer" across the statue.

The Fremont website defends the statue in a statement, calling it "truly unique."

"It is believed to be the only representation portraying Lenin surrounded by guns and flames instead of holding a book or waving his hat. The sculptor was able to express his vision of Lenin as a violent revolutionary," the website explains.

They see it not as memorializing Lenin and his legacy, but as a grave reminder of a

terrible history that is never to be repeated.

## Fremont Rocket

The rocket sits atop a building at the intersection of North 36th Street and Evanston Avenue North, brandishing the unofficial motto of Fremont: "De Libertas Quirkas," which is Latin for "The Freedom to be Peculiar."

According to the Fremont website, an army surplus store in Belltown was discarding the fuselage of a cold war rocket dating in 1991.

Associates of the Fremont Business Association, a group of local business owners, saved it from the scrap heap.

In the summer of 1993, it was finally finished being redesigned. They added fins, a nose cone, and laser pods to each wing and the nose. Upon activation, steam billows out the base of the rocket.

## Waiting for the Interurban

Off to the side of North 34th Street is the iconic statue "Waiting for the Interurban."

According to Fremont's website, it was made in 1979 by Richard Beyer.

It depicts six people and a dog with a human face waiting for the interurban light rail that once ran through all of Seattle.

The face of the dog is said to belong to Arman Napoleon Stepanian, a Fremont community leader and the so-called "Godfather of Recycling."

Every year the statue is the target of dozens of "art attacks," in which citizens decorate the statue in accordance with the season, holiday or occasion.

Instead of condemning this activity as vandalism or defacement of public property, the Fremont neighborhood whole-heartedly encourages it.

## Dreamer of World Peace

A statue of Sri Chinmoy was built along the Burke-Gilman trail and dedicat-

ed in November of 2010.

Sri Chinmoy started the Sri Chinmoy Oneness-Home Peace Run which has grown to include participants in over 140 countries since 1987.

According to the informational plaque accompanying the monument, Chinmoy not only offered twice-weekly peace meditations to delegates at the United Nations, but also composed more than 22,000 songs, performed at more than 800 concerts and wrote more than 1,600 books on peace, spirituality, music, art and athletics.

Chinmoy wished to be known as a student of peace and lived in the hopes that his legacy would inspire a new era of harmonious living between all people.

Now whenever anyone's running the Burke-Gilman trail and enjoying the stunning view of Lake Union, they too can carry the torch and honor the legacy of this great visionary.

While many have taken to calling Fremont the "Center of the Universe", it really is an entirely different world.

Its unique collection of public artworks encourages visitors and locals alike to get lost in the rich history of the neighborhood, no matter the direction in which one chooses to wander.



ANGEL ABAD | THE FALCON

"Dreamer of World Peace" pays tribute to Sri Chinmoy, an ambassador for peace and world harmony.



ANGEL ABAD | THE FALCON

The dog of "Waiting for the Interurban," sculpted by Richard Byer, is rumored to depict the face of Fremont's "Godfather of Recycling."

# M.E.Ch.A. focuses on advocacy

## Latinx Unidos rebrand emphasizes cultural awareness and social justice

By Kaley Oschmann  
Staff Reporter

Everyone gathered in a circle and clapped slowly at first. Then, gradually, the clapping got faster and faster and everyone declared: "Isang Bagsak."

The phrase roughly translates to "if one falls, we all fall" and was adopted from Filipino farmworkers by Latinx farmworkers when they joined together as the United Farm Workers Union.

This "Unity Clap" is how M.E.Ch.A. begins their club meetings. The declaration is symbolic of M.E.Ch.A.'s deeply rooted commitment to acknowledging where their history comes from.

M.E.Ch.A. is a rebranding of the Latinx Unidos club at Seattle Pacific University and stands for "Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlán" (Chicano Student Movement of Aztlán).

In 1969, M.E.Ch.A. became the student strand of the Chicano and Farm Workers movements in Southern California.

"M.E.Ch.A. started as an organization to promote higher-level education for Chicanos and now all Latinx folks, but all cultural backgrounds are welcome," said Beca González, a senior social justice and cultural studies major and Co-Chair of M.E.Ch.A.

González is a transfer student from Central Washington University, where she was a part of their M.E.Ch.A. chapter and sought to bring the club to Seattle Pacific University.

"I really liked what the organization was about and there are a lot more resources and networking with other M.E.Ch.A. chapters as well as non-profits," González said.

This year, González teamed up with Co-Chair Alé Olmedo, a sophomore social justice and cultural studies major, to turn the previous Latinx Unidos club into a chapter of M.E.Ch.A. on SPU's campus.

The rebranding made sense to González and Olmedo because of M.E.Ch.A.'s national status and cultural history.

Due to M.E.Ch.A.'s nationwide presence, the SPU chapter has a backbone and wider network of support which allows the club to have solidarity with Latinx students all across the nation.

"It was good timing to change into something new that could hopeful-



ALY COTTE | THE FALCON

Joslin Winston hands M.E.Ch.A. members cheerios to play Loteria, a Spanish-language bingo game during the club's meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 15.

ly make this a better community for everyone, not just Latinx students on campus," González said.

The M.E.Ch.A. core team wants students to come and learn about cultures, regardless of their cultural backgrounds.

"We want to show others our cultural backgrounds because that's what shapes us, whether we grew up speaking Spanish or not, we still have that culture running through your blood," Olmedo said.

They plan to foster a family-like community that combines cultural understanding, educational empowerment and social justice elements.

"This space allows for mutual understanding of what it is like to be a minority on campus that others do not have. It makes my heart happy to see younger students find community here too, it shows that there is a need being met" adds Jenni Ferruzca, a senior social justice and cultural studies student and regular M.E.Ch.A. attendee.

One of their goals this year is educational empowerment which will be achieved through advocating for higher education. In spaces of higher education, Latinx individuals have a low retention rate and are often not represented because there are fewer opportunities available.

"Having people we can look up to that have gotten that far in education

This social justice factor is inspired by M.E.Ch.A.'s strong ties to the Black Lives Matter and LGBTQ+ movements across the nation. They want to fight against injustices across all different backgrounds.

To commit to this fight, M.E.Ch.A. has a position on the leadership team called the gender, identity and sexuality (GIS) chair. This job is currently held

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**"We want to show others our cultural backgrounds because that's what shapes us, whether we grew up speaking Spanish or not, we still have that culture running through your blood."**

---

and professional careers shows that we can get there too. We don't really see ourselves in those spaces, but we need to," González said.

M.E.Ch.A.'s core team desires for the club to feel like a tight-knit family. Having this community in a university setting helps with the pressures of being underrepresented in higher education.

Freshman George Juarez, double majoring in Nursing and Spanish, joined the club because he didn't have many opportunities like this where he is from.

"There are few Hispanics where I am from and I feel lucky to have found this community so quickly," Juarez said.

By creating a space to empower their local community, M.E.Ch.A. is seeking to engage in social justice and empower the community around them. They are planning on volunteering at El Centro de la Raza and visiting a detention center.

"We want to show our presence and support here in Seattle and the wider Latinx community," said Olmedo.

by Juan Vargas, sophomore, and is designed to ensure that there is a space for GIS minorities within the Latinx community.

"This group is open to everyone, and it's an honor to have everyone," Olmedo said.

M.E.Ch.A.'s deep commitment to social justice and Latinx culture makes it a unique place for people of all backgrounds to grow.

"We want to fight for equality and equity and make sure everyone has opportunities regardless of ethnicity, gender or sexual orientation," González said.

All are welcome to visit M.E.Ch.A. Tuesdays at 7 p.m. in Weter 201, or any of their upcoming events. They are partnering with the Multicultural Night of Worship on Oct. 23. The club will also be hosting a Christmas party and their annual spring Fiesta. Students can follow the SPU chapter of M.E.Ch.A. on Instagram @mechadespu.



ALY COTTE | THE FALCON

Beca Gonzalez (center), the president of M.E.Ch.A., picks up Loteria cards from the ground with other club members.

# Botham Jean's murder

## Highlighting imbalance in United States justice system

On Sept. 6 of 2018, Botham Jean was shot to death in his home in Dallas, Texas by his downstairs neighbor Amber Guyger.

Jean was a Black man from St. Lucia, an island in the Caribbean. He was an accountant who was heavily involved in his church. Amber Guyger is a White woman who was a Dallas police officer at the time she killed Jean. She was in uniform, off duty and drunk.

Guyger was only sentenced to ten years in prison and if this does not say something about the inconsistency of our justice system, then what does?

Botham Jean did not get the justice he deserved. How did his killer — who invaded his home, shot him, killed him while he was eating ice cream and watching TV, and watch him bleed to death at her hands while doing nothing — only get ten years in prison? Was it because she was white? A woman? A Christian woman? Honestly, I have no clue. But I do know that if this were anyone of a different identity, the case would have been handled very differently. Guyger only getting ten years in prison, highlights the unfairness and injustice that takes place in the American courts.

Last year, I wrote an article about Bernard Noble, a man who was sentenced to 13 years in prison in Louisiana for a non-



CHLOE GUILLOT | THE FALCON

violent drug conviction for two-joint's-worth of marijuana. Even though these cases are not similar in some respects, when these two verdicts are shown in contrast it is an example that highlights the inconsistency of the US justice system. It does not make sense that a woman can be sentenced to ten years for taking a life and another man in a different state can be convicted for 13 years for having two-joint's-worth of weed. America has a problem, and something needs to change. It is time to revisit our laws. Especially when it comes to the lack of consideration for legal precedents.

In an article published by The Guardian entitled, "Amber Guyger case: judge defends hugging officer who killed Botham Jean," the author details how Tammy Kemp, the judge for Amber Guyger's tri-

al, offered her a hug and gave her a Bible while telling her she has a lot of life to live.

Why are more people's lives seen as more valuable than others? In principle, Kemp hugging Guyger and offering her a Bible doesn't matter. What matters what that act represents.

Although it is infuriating that the judge ended the trial this way, it should be more infuriating that our system did not deliver on due justice. What matters is the fact that Jean, the innocent man Guyger murdered, is dead and is never coming

back. He does not have any life to live. His family did not get justice, and most importantly, he did not get justice.

Brock Turner, another infamous case dealing with the rape of Chanel Miller, was only sentenced to six months in prison. Judge Aaron Persky also said

he also had his whole life ahead of him, stating that prison would have a "severe impact" on his future.

Why do judges inconsistently feel the urge to use the 'life-left-to-live' trope when confronted with convictions concerning the identity of the defendant? Who is to say that one experience is more valuable than the other? Life is all we have and all we know. It is, without a doubt, the greatest loss when it is stolen from someone way too young such as Botham Jean, who was only 26 years old at the time of his murder.

The perpetuation of unequally weighted cases throughout the country shows that as a nation, we have a severe justice problem — one that is inextricably tied to race, gender, religion, sexuality and economic status.



By Bella Tollestrup-Wimbish  
Staff Reporter

Bella is a sophomore studying social justice and cultural studies.

# Editorial Comment

## Trump, Kurds and why we all lose

The Falcon can attest to the belief that freedom of speech and the Democratic process are integral in forming a healthier society. When the staff meets before an issue is printed, almost every detail in each section is parsed over and debated among the editors. Debating guidelines and considering the opinions of the team are integral to the function of an institution — President Donald Trump's decision to pull American support from Kurdistan does not live up to this spirit.

This unilateral decision blatantly disregarded the decades-long diplomatic and military cooperation — all of which was available in the form of history and advisors, to inform the President. According to the United Nations, approximately 130,000 Kurds have lost their homes, and another few hundred have been killed by Turkish, Russian, Syrian, Iranian or ISIS forces since Trump's decision.

The current Falcon staff has been skeptical of Donald Trump's administration

since his first day in office. Throughout his term, the president has failed to recognize abuses of basic human rights, both domestic and abroad. His continuous breaches of public trust have made us look to what we consider to be the basic tenets of Democracy: shared responsibility, shared decision-making and the unassailable right to universal freedom of political expression. It is apparent to The Falcon that the president of the United States does not abide by these tenants.

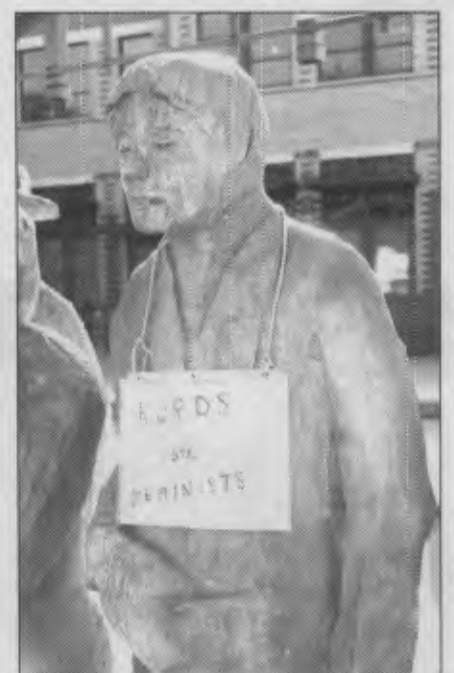
Students and faculty at SPU, and the entire nation for that matter, need to reevaluate what comes naturally to a just leader. After three years in office, the political culture of the United States has almost exclusively revolved around the consistently unethical actions of the President. This phenomenon indicates that the President does not share our values of a Democratic society.

Making unilateral decisions and disregarding advice from advisers is not, and

should not be, the values that are sought after in a model leader. The Falcon sees the actions the President has taken in Turkey and Syria and feels that the trust of the American people in the government has nowhere to go but down.

America's institutions have a responsibility not only to its citizens but also to the people they promise to support. Democracy should be a constant uphill battle where political authority is not consolidated, but rather challenged and constructed upon by all voices.

The editorial comment is composed by the opinions editor, the editor-in-chief, and the editing staff. Opinions expressed represent the majority of the group. News and assistant news editors are never involved in the composition.



BLAKE DAHLIN | THE FALCON

The "Waiting for the Interurban" statue in Fremont adorned with a sign reading, "Kurds are Feminists," an apparent display of support for the Kurdish people following President Trump's decision to remove forces from Kurdish held areas in Northeastern Syria. Oct. 14, 2019.

# World Series fever, but not in Seattle

## Examining SPU's interest in the MLB playoffs

By Kyle Morrison  
Staff Reporter

October is known for its colorful leaves, cool weather, scary clowns and, of course, Major League Baseball post-season. Since 1903, playoff baseball has thrilled Americans with its incredible plays, stressful situations and legendary players. 116 years later, baseball is going

Their opponents in the series will be the Houston Astros. In game 6 of the American League Championship Series, Astros star Jose Altuve hit only the fifth walk-off home run to end a series in play-off history, sending the Astros to their second world series in three years.

However, not many people at Seattle Pacific University are interested in find-

SPU students, conducted by The Falcon, 71% said they are not paying attention to the MLB playoffs. Some cited the lack of interesting storylines in this year's playoffs for why they haven't paid attention.

"I only pay attention when something big happens, I paid attention when the Cubs won the world series in 2016," freshman Jon Owen said.

The Cubs won the world series in 2016 for the first time since 1908. Their championship was a cultural phenomenon and hard to beat as far as entertainment value goes.

Predictably those at SPU who are paying attention are pretty much split down the middle on who they are rooting for in the World Series.

Twenty-nine percent of SPU students watching the postseason are rooting for the Washington Nationals, 27% are rooting for the Houston Astros, 23% are rooting for the New York Yankees and 21% are rooting for no one in particular. Those rooting for the Nationals overwhelmingly cited the rarity of their World Series appearance as the main reason for their fan wide appeal.

"The Nationals have never been to the World Series at all and it would be really cool to see them win it all," said Freshman Andrew MacPherson, echoing many Nationals fans.

Rooting for the Nationals seems to be in the best interest of Mariners fans as well.

"I hate the Astros because they are in the Mariners division — so I have to root for the Nationals," freshman Jacob Sprague said.

Those who are rooting for the Astros overwhelmingly cited either hatred for the

Yankees or having family in the Houston area, thus making them sympathetic to the Astros cause.

But why is it that so many people at SPU ignore baseball? Perhaps it's because the Mariners haven't made the playoffs since 2001.

"I support the Mariners even though they suck," Julia Kumai stated.

This attitude was very prevalent amongst SPU students who are not paying attention to postseason baseball. There is a major portion of SPU students like Hawley who do not care for the game because of its lethargic pace, and there are others like Evan King who flatly asked, "What's baseball?"

But for many students, the Mariners have single-handedly made the MLB postseason only something to be dreamt about and not actually participated in.

Most Mariners fans at SPU have not been alive long enough to watch a play-off with the Seattle team involved. In fact, with the Nationals winning the National League Championship Series last week, the Mariners are the only major league franchise to have never appeared in the World Series.

As Nationals and Astros fans watch, both the Mariners and SPU students will be turning a blind eye as the action unfolds.

*The World Series begins on Tuesday, Oct. 22. The first team to win four games wins the series.*



CHLOE GUILLOT | THE FALCON

strong. This year's World Series matchup showcases the Washington Nationals and the Houston Astros.

The Nationals boast one of the best pitching staffs in recent baseball history with four aces in Max Scherzer, Stephen Strasburg, Patrick Corbin and Anibal Sanchez, who have stifled every lineup they have come across in these playoffs.

out who will win.

"I think baseball is boring," said sophomore Colt Hawley when asked if he's been paying attention to the playoffs.

Hawley's lack of interest in the "great American pastime" seems to be shared across the Seattle Pacific University campus.

According to a survey of 142 random

# This week in falcon sports

## Volleyball, women's soccer win as season nears end

By Daniel Newman  
Sports Editor

Before Saturday's matchup, Seattle Pacific University's volleyball team was one game behind Montana State University Billings. After losing the first set to MSUB, they won the next three sets to take the match, equaling the two team's conference record on the season.

The win against Montana State University Billings was the team's second in a row.

"I think anytime you win it builds confidence, but I think even more so it's the way you win," head coach Abbie Wright said. "We definitely had some moments in the last two games that showed we can play at the next level and it's building on the way we were able to perform certain skills that should give us confidence."

The first set was tight the entire way, as neither team was able to take a lead of more than four points throughout. The game was tied 24-24 when MSUB won two straight points to put the game away. The Falcons held a slim 13-12 lead in the second set before going on a 12-2 run to win the set and even the match.

The third set was another tight battle, tied at 15 points each until the Falcons again pulled away to win 25-18. SPU jumped out quickly in the fourth and fifth sets.



Taylor Menkens dribbles the ball downfield during a rain soaked game against Saint Martin's on Thursday, Oct.

BLAKE DAHLIN | THE FALCON





BLAKE DAHLIN | THE FALCON

Sophia Chilczuk receives a pass from a teammate during SPU's 3-1 win over Saint Martin's.

TWIFS from Page 7

nal set and had to withstand a late match comeback to earn the victory, winning the set 25-16.

Junior Maddie Batiste had 19 kills to lead the Falcons, which helped her gain the GNAC Volleyball offensive player of the week

Senior Gabby Oddo had 17 kills and junior Gabi Stegemollar had 13.

The win pulled SPU into a tie with MSUB for eighth in the conference. Both teams have four wins and six losses. The team will be back home this weekend to take on Northwest Nazarene University and Central Washington University,

beginning the second half of the conference schedule, where the Falcons will play all of the conference teams again.

"Since we have played all of these teams once, it's fun to re-scout and try and capitalize on some opportunities that maybe we did or didn't get to last time," Wright said.

Women's soccer held onto second place in the conference standings with two wins this week: first against Saint Martin's University, then against Central Washington University.

After a very defensive half against SMU, the Falcons began to get the offense going early in the second half. In the 52nd minute, sophomore Taylor Menkens pounced on a loose ball after a corner kick and sent a shot past Saints' goalie Sophie Mendoza. The goal was Menkens' first as a Falcon and gave them a 1-0 lead.

The team scored again eight minutes later. Freshman Chloe Gellhaus received a through ball from senior Megan Moore and calmly put the ball into the bottom left corner of the net. After the Saints' Maddison Maffeo scored on a free kick to make the score 2-1, Gellhaus struck again, hitting a long, looping, left-footed shot off the bottom of the crossbar and

into the goal. Gellhaus' two goals gave her the honor of GNAC Women's soccer offensive player of the week, and she now has four goals on the season, tied for the lead on the team with junior Sierra Smith.

Central Washington played the Falcons tougher on Saturday, forcing the Falcons to play into overtime to get the win. The Falcons fired 22 shots at the goal, but only the 22nd went in. Goalie Emily Thomson knocked a Falcon cross-away from the goal, but she knocked it right into the path of Megan Moore, who put the ball into the net to get the win.

There are only five games left for the Falcons before the conference tournament. They will go on the road next week to face the top team in the conference, Western Washington University, as well as MSUB.

Men's soccer only played one game this week and did not fare as well, losing 2-0 to Concordia University Portland. Brandon Laun had both a first and a second half goal for the Cavaliers. Junior Alex Mejia had four shots to lead the Falcons, and Falcon goalie Lars Hellenen had five saves.

Follow #TWIFS on Instagram and Twitter.

## SPU athletes on the road again Life on the road both blessing, curse for athletes

By Daniel Newman and Brandon Bee  
Sports Editor and Staff Reporter

Falcons senior Jaeden Hooker joined Seattle Pacific University's Volleyball team as a Freshman four years ago. Now, after 65 road matches and only four left to go, she is trying to make the most of the time she has left going on the road with the team.

"Every travel trip, it's my last one, so I just try to put a lot more emphasis on it and try to enjoy it as much as I can," she said.

Arby Busey, head coach of the women's soccer team, thinks that everyone enjoys road trips and a lot of planning goes into them by both the coaching staff and the athletic department. Food needs to be arranged, which is Busey's least favorite part of the trip.

"It is difficult to find food that will make 30 people happy," Busey said.

The practices and games also need to be scheduled. Most of the planning around a certain trip depends on where the team's opponent is located. If it is close enough to drive, the team can just bus there. If driving will take too long, then Busey and his staff need to book flights, and sometimes hotels, for the team.

If possible, Busey's team tries to get to the destination the night before, so they can practice in the stadium where they will play. After that, they go out for a meal and have a meeting to discuss their opponent. On game day, the team has a pregame meal about four hours before the game starts and then gets ready to play the game.

For the volleyball team, the trips are a bit shorter, according to Senior Jaeden Hooker. Typically, the team will drive or fly up to the location, play the game and return home on the same day.

Men's soccer also makes most trips a one day event when possible: they arrive about two to three hours before the game and try to get back home on the same night.

"Usually we get back pretty late, with

games being at seven," goalie Lars Hellenen said.

For these athletes, the atmosphere being on the road can be very different than being at home. There is an adjustment that needs to be made while traveling on the road.

"Everyone has their own 'routines' for the day, and when you are on the road traveling those can be disrupted," Busey said.

At games, it can also be difficult to adapt to the culture of the city in which they are playing. Athletes find that it is hard to play on the road at times because of the different atmospheres and different fans. Playing at home also gives athletes energy to play versus opponents.

"Interbay — we are really blessed to have it because it is a big field, a nice turf," Hellenen said. "You just kind of have to mentally adapt, going to different places."

However, Hooker somewhat prefers to play on the road, as she feels the team does better than playing at home.

"Especially like at preseason tournaments... playing two or three volleyball games a day, and we're just like in our groove alone, like doing something else and outside of our atmosphere is what we're really good at," she said.

One of the biggest challenges for student-athletes on the road is finding time to do homework and stay caught up in classes. It is something they have to be on top of from the very beginning of the quarter, making an effort to communicate to professors which days they will be gone.

Working ahead and getting homework done early is something that Hellenen and Hooker have found is helpful. But if homework still needs to be done, some still gets done while on a bus or plane.

"There is usually 'down' time on the road and we'll have our student-athletes use it to study," Busey said.

He also mentioned that most athletes are used to travelling from playing on club and high school teams, so they are also used to doing homework while trav-



PHOTO COURTESY OF LARS HELLEREN

Seattle Pacific University men's soccer team enjoys dinner on Thursday, Oct. 17.

elling and managing time efficiently.

Being on road trips is not all about taking care of business, however. There are moments when players can rest and enjoy the sights of whatever city they are currently located. These athletes travel to many different places where there are new things to see and enjoy.

Volleyball gets the added advantage of going to Alaska, as neither of the Alaska teams have soccer programs.

"Alaska is most of our favorites because it is so different," says Hooker. "The hotel we stay in is called the Captain Cook. It's really huge and it's a cabin kind of feel and it's really interesting."

Hellenen cited the trip to Western Washington University in Bellingham as his favorite. "It's a great rivalry up there and it's a short drive and we get back the same day," he said.

Along with having favorite places to

go play, these players make many memories that last a lifetime. For Hellenen, he remembers a trip to San Diego a year ago. He fondly remembers the drive from Point Loma Nazarene University to Azusa Pacific University. The team also had dinner at a teammate's house and, by the end of the night, had thrown one of their teammates in the pool.

Hooker enjoyed the trip to Hawaii two years ago. After winning a game, the team got to get Hawaiian snow cones and go snorkeling.

Hellenen, a redshirt sophomore, is thankful for the opportunities that being an athlete has given him.

"We're just truly blessed to be able to be given this opportunity to go on the road with some good guys and play the sport we love."

# Overcoming differences

Roommates share stories of understanding at artistic showcase **FEATURES | PAGE 6**

# Power of words

Referring to immigrants as illegal is dehumanizing **OPINIONS | PAGE 8**



WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 6, 2019



# The Falcon



THEFALCON.ONLINE SEATTLE PACIFIC UNIVERSITY'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER VOLUME 91, ISSUE 4

## Dropping enrollment, increased retention

### State of university budget is not as dire as predicted

By **Julia Battishill and Tori McArthur**  
News Editor and Staff Reporter

Seattle Pacific University's finance administrators have established the budget for the year and they are eager to explain how it works and how it will impact campus.

This year, enrollment has gone down while retention of students has gone up, and state-aid for students has increased in both dollar amount and student quantity. All of these factors, and more, affect the year's budget.

Craig Kispert, vice president for finance and business affairs at SPU, and Nate Mouttet, vice president for enrollment management and marketing, unpacked the complexities of the budget.

In terms of numbers, Kispert specified exactly where SPU's money goes.

First, he clarified that over 85% of the total revenue of the university comes from tuition.

"So, when it comes to expenses and the personal nature of the work that we're doing and how we try to deliver education on campus, it all goes [from] one place and that's tuition," he said.

Sixty percent of the total budget pays for faculty and staff, Kispert explained. Another 20-25% goes to all the buildings on campus, "to pay for heating,

cooling, lights, utilities, new roofs, all that." The final 15% is left as "discretionary." Kispert specified that this money typically goes towards conferences, pens and paper, and other such expenses.

Due to how much of the budget pays for faculty and staff members, Kispert said that changes or adjustments to the budget are especially challenging.

"Unfortunately in our scenario, if you want to make an adjustment it usually involves people, because how much is in the budget," he said.

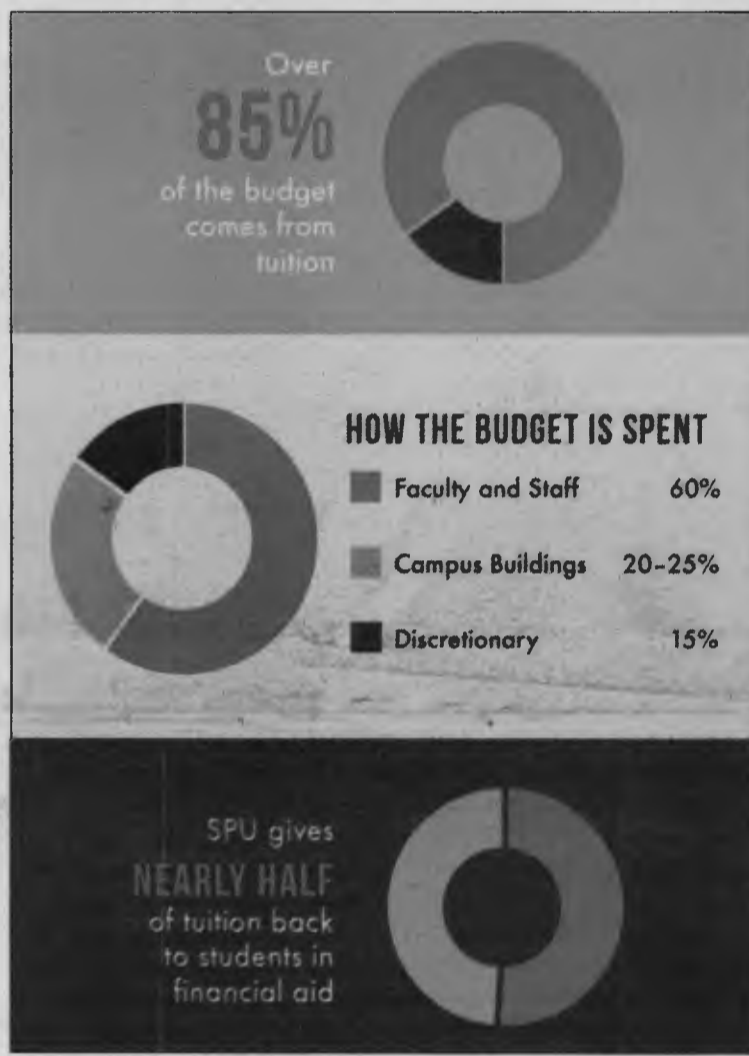
One significant factor in the planning of the budget is the enrollment statistics for the year, and this year those have been particularly complicated.

"It's a little bit of a mixed bag," Mouttet explained about this academic year. "It's lower on the student count than we were anticipating ... because the year before had been, quite candidly, a very positive year."

"On the returning students side, where it's a mixed bag is ... it was actually a better outcome than what we had originally projected," he continued.

He said that, while enrollment is down, it is not as significant a loss financially as the finance team had been expecting. It could certainly have been worse, and the team was preparing for as much over the summer, but they found that it was a more mixed result.

Mouttet emphasized that, while drops in overall enroll-



ment do make budgeting more challenging, an increase in retention means SPU is doing something right.

Mouttet cited programs like Early Connections, Ascent and BioCORE as likely increasing retention by creating community and connection.

"If you're a faculty member and you're doing things that are trying to help a student succeed

and wondering if it's worth it ... it actually is impactful," Mouttet said.

Enrollment and state financial aid go hand-in-hand, and this has been an eventful year for that as well, according to Mouttet. Recent legislature has increased Washington State financial aid for college students.

See **BUDGET** | Page 2

## Finding way forward

### Baby steps to update human sexuality statement

By **Julia Battishill**  
News Editor

ASSP President Nathan Samayo is on a mission. He wants to see the Seattle Pacific University Statement on Human Sexuality change while he is in office, and he is determined to see that vision through.

"If it impacts students' lives, I'm not willing to compromise it," Samayo said. "I'll do as much as I can just to see the whole proposal roll out."

Samayo, along with Lila Fowler and Joseph Cagley, are continuing their efforts to have the Statement on Human Sexuality at SPU revised or replaced to be more inclusive of the LGBTQ+ community. Fowler and Cagley are former ASSP senators and they co-authored the original proposal to revise the statement last year.

"There were three things we proposed: one was to revise the Statement of Human Sexuality and replace it with the Statement of Affirmation. The other one is to revise the non-discrimination title under University Policies to extend protection to sexual and gender minorities, and the last is to revise Section eight under the Student Standards of Conduct," Samayo said.

See **SEXUALITY** | Page 2



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BUDGET from Page 1

“State aid for students was also greater than it has been in previous years, so more students who needed financial help were able to get it from the state and not from SPU,” he said, meaning that SPU allocated less money for aid.

Mouttet said that SPU gives nearly half of its tuition cost back in financial aid to students every year, which is drawn from tuition revenue and a small number of other endowments.

Kispert’s team factors in all of this information, from aid to tuition revenue, to the programs encouraging retention, in deciding on the year’s official budget.

“Broadly speaking, for our budget planning process, the calendar typically starts in late December and runs through with the idea the budget put in place for the board to approve in February,” he explained.

Kispert emphasized that the two groups that help make budget decisions are a group of faculty and students.

The Faculty Stewardship and Budget Committee is tasked with walking through the budget model with Kispert and his team.

The Student Budget Committee is made up of Liam Smith, ASSP VP of finance, Nathan Samayo, ASSP president, Nate Canny, executive VP, two unnamed senators yet to be announced, and one other student.

“SBC primarily serves as a liaison for students and ASSP Senate to participate in the process of adopting the University Budget,” Smith said.

Kispert strongly encourages students to get engaged with those members of ASSP and give their input. In the past, Student Budget Committee has brought issues like multicultural programs, student housing pricing and mental health services to Kispert’s attention.

“The primary work for students is to get engaged and find out who all these student budget committee members are and ask questions of them,” he said.

This year’s budget has once again balanced out, and SPU’s finance team is confident in its choices for this year even as the many contributing factors constantly fluctuate. In only a month or so, they will begin to analyze and plan what they will bring to the board for approval regarding next year’s budget.

# Long distance democracy

## Examining the challenges SPU students face when voting out of state

By Kyle Morrison  
News Reporter

Every year Americans are granted the opportunity to exercise their right to vote. This year, most states and local counties will be hosting elections for state, county and city offices.

With this in mind The Falcon conducted a poll of 100 SPU students who are eligible to vote to figure out how many of them are planning to participate in this year’s elections, as well as which state elections students are participating in. We also asked student voters from various states other than Washington what challenges exist when submitting an absentee ballot from another state.

Kentucky, Louisiana and Mississippi have the most high-level races of the season, as they will be electing governors this year. With only smaller offices up for grabs in other local elections this year, staying up to date on the various races affecting one’s hometown can require much more effort than in years with bigger races.

72% of the 100 eligible SPU voters said they were planning on voting this November. 58% of those voters were from outside the state of Washington.

22% of voters said they were from California and 12.5% said they were from Oregon. The other 23.5% of students who were polled came from Florida, Colorado, Tennessee, Hawaii, Illinois, New Jersey, Montana, Idaho, Connecticut, Arizona, Texas or Nevada.

When asked about the challenges



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A group of students share different perceptions on their experience voting in out-of-state elections.

of voting out of state, every voter from California and Oregon agreed that the voting process was pretty easy, with the only difficulties coming from the mailing process.

“It’s not that annoying, unless they can’t figure out where to send your ballot,” Kat Perez-Smith of California,

I wasn’t aware of how to do it in the last election, I couldn’t get it in.”

While the actual process of submitting one’s ballot can be challenging and confusing, voters from SPU living in more distant states found keeping up with issues in their hometown to be just as frustrating.

Johren Carpenter of Montana admitted that it was “hard to stay informed on Montana’s issues.”

“It’s confusing because I know my home state representatives more than Washington but the political climate here will affect how I vote back home,” Matthew Tsutsui of Hawaii said.

Even with the many challenges associated with mailing a ballot and staying updated on issues back home, most students still had a sense of importance around making their voice heard in this year’s elections.

This rang especially true for states with hotly contested races in 2019.

“It’s really important for me to keep my residency since Colorado is a swing state,” Madison Cooper of Colorado said.

While local elections may not have country-wide consequences like congressional and presidential elections, the officials elected this November will still be able to shape local communities on various issues, giving every vote significance.

Gracie Kavanaugh of California explained her outlook on voting by stating that, “It’s really not that exciting, but I feel like I’m contributing to democracy.”

## 72% of the 100 eligible SPU voters said they were planning on voting this November.

said.

Voters from other states did not see the process as quite so seamless. Anika Steib of Illinois found the entire process so confusing last year that it prevented her from voting on time.

“It’s really difficult to figure out how to go about doing it,” she said. “Because

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# Financial guidelines established

## Senate passes budget accountability proposal

By Julia Battishill  
News Editor

ASSP Vice President of Finance Liam Smith brought his anticipated “Budget Accountability Guidelines” proposal to the senate floor this week and was met by a nearly-unanimous yes, two abstentions, and no nays.

The proposal, officially named “2019-2020-005 NF Budget Accountability Guidelines,” aims to establish a more concrete set of rules regarding financial responsibility of SPU’s operational groups.

“Operational groups,” in this case, refers to Office Core, Catalyst and media groups — KSPU, Cascade, The Falcon and Lingua. Smith clarified in the meeting that the guidelines do not apply any other clubs or groups.

Smith said that these new guidelines include penalties if a group goes over their allotted budget and incentives to finish under budget.

Previously, if a group did not spend their full budget, the extra money went to ASSP’s contingency fund, which they



KEATON DIXON | THE FALCON

Vice president of finance Liam Smith described his new finance proposal.

use in the case of unexpected expenses or “financial trouble” as Smith put it. With the new guidelines, 50% of the extra funds will instead roll over into the organization’s own budget, with the other 50% going to the contingency fund.

Conversely, should a group go over budget, they will begin a two-year pro-

bation period entailing a reduction of funds for the following year and a higher level of financial scrutiny by ASSP. Funds will be reduced by 50% of however much they exceeded budget the previous year.

Executive Vice President Nate Canny invited the leadership of each media group and Catalyst to attend the meeting. During the designated periods of questioning and debate, the representatives were able to ask clarifying questions or make points about the proposal.

K'reisa Cox, business manager for The Falcon served as a representative of the organization during the meeting. Cox asked if roll-over surplus funds would be included in the allocation board’s consideration of a group’s budget for the next year and, therefore, potentially affect the group’s revenue targets.

Smith clarified that it would not; the expectation for revenue would remain the same in the eyes of allocation board regardless of how much of the previous year’s budget had rolled over.

In response to a question by Vice President of Ministries Jose Flores, Smith also explained that, should a group’s new leadership inherit a probationary period due to their predecessors being over budget, they will be able to discuss or dispute that probation with the allocation board.

“Allocation board has the power in this proposal to either forgive probation or discuss aspects of probation with that operational group,” said Smith. He clarified that groups can appeal probation to the allocation board.

Sen. Cross Crabbe asked the guest representatives if they felt uncomfortable with any part of the proposal. Lingua Editor in Chief Sami Ledbetter had some reservations.

“I’m personally just a little unsure because we don’t have our final budgets, or we don’t know the exact numbers. We have our estimates and approvals from last year, but it’s still sort of up in the air,” she explained. “But, the probationary period sounds sound to me.”

Due to the passing of the proposal through senate, the guidelines will go into effect this year and remain in effect until a future senator brings a proposal to change them.



KEATON DIXON | THE FALCON

Andrew Josselyn, vice president of campus activities talked about his ideas during the Monday night senate meeting.



BLAKE DAHLIN | THE FALCON

ASSP President Nathan Samayo is calling for revisions to the SPU Statement on Human Sexuality.

### SEXUALITY from Page 1

Up to this point, Samayo, Fowler and Cagley have had several meetings with members of upper administration discussing the progress of the revisions, but there have been no changes this academic year.

This summer, conversation continued about the proposal. According to Samayo, the Board of Trustees brought in outside help to review the proposal with them and help them reach a conclusion.

“There were professionals who did workshops, or just seminars to unpack the proposal, to give the board of trustees a more [informed] decision,” Samayo explained. “At the end of the day, they said they’re not open to changing it.”

However, the Board of Trustees did not completely close the door on the possibility for Samayo, Fowler, Cagley and supporters to succeed.

“What they are allowing is for us to give them revisions about the human sexuality statement as it stands right now,” Samayo said.

Samayo and the co-authors are currently in conversation trying to find a way forward.

“The heart of it is really to advocate for the identity and the representation and the honoring of students of whatever gender or sexuality that they identify as,” Samayo said.

Last year, Cagley and Fowler brought the original proposal to revise SPU’s official Statement on Human Sexuality to the senate floor. In that meeting, they explained to their fellow senators why acknowledgement of all students is vital.

The proposal passed through senate on Nov. 19, collected signatures and letters of support, and went to the upper administration where it stayed until the school year ended, despite student efforts to push progress forward.

The only success of the proposal was a change of section eight of the Student Standards of Conduct, which removed the word “homosexual” to make the section more inclusive.

Section eight currently states that it prohibits, “Sexual activity outside of a married relationship. Cohabitation between two persons in an amorous relationship who are not married to each other is also prohibited.”

Before the change, it distinguished homosexual relationships from other relationships and marriages.

Samayo also specified that last year’s efforts ended with the Board of Trustees not fully accepting the proposal, but not completely shutting down the team’s ideas.

“Ultimately, the decision was that they didn’t want to remove the statement of human sexuality, but they were open to offers of revising it in some way,” Samayo said.

From the beginning of Samayo’s campaign for reelection, Samayo was clear that one of his major goals was to see the proposal passed this year.

This year, Samayo said, he and the co-authors are not giving up on that dream, but they are hoping for student input and engagement to help them plan their next steps.

“We’re hoping to host a campus-wide forum just for folks who are interested to know the update on this proposal,” Samayo said.

“With the authors and I giving an update on where the proposal stands, and just asking for if anyone has ideas of what we can do next.”

Samayo assured that, even though they are stalled at the moment, he feels that their efforts are nonetheless significant. He thinks that the proposal will result in more engagement with the topic on campus.

“Even if in this exact moment the changes aren’t being made, it’s still leaving space for the conversation to be had.”

Samayo said that he recognizes the weight that this proposal and the conversation surrounding it holds for so many students, faculty and supporters.

“I also think there are people whose identities and lives are at stake,” Samayo said.

He said that not talking about these issues is harmful to students in the LGBTQ+ community, and he hopes to make those students feel comfortable and acknowledged.

“The hope of this proposal is just to honor students and what they identify as their sexual orientation and gender identity,” Samayo summarized.

“I will do everything I can to advocate for the students [for] who that is something they’re exploring, especially at SPU.”



The cast of "Men On Boats" read their scripts with the director of the play, Carol Roscoe.

KEATON DIXON | THE FALCON

## Re-examining race, gender on stage

### "Men on Boats" provides alternate perspective on classic expedition

By Kaley Oschmann and  
Mason Williams  
Features Reporters

Laughter, the sounds of stomping and cries for love of whiskey echoes from the studio theatre at Mckinley Hall.

Despite what these noises may suggest, this was a rehearsal for the Seattle Pacific University theatre department's upcoming production of "Men on Boats." A contemporary play written by Jaclyn Backhaus, "Men on Boats" reimagines the expedition of John Wesley Powell and his ten-man crew through the rapids of the Grand Canyon.

However, "Men on Boats" subverts expectations: while every character in the play is a man, the cast is composed entirely of women.

"It's an effort to reframe history so that we can see it in a new light and humanize these historical characters who we often glorify and see as these heroes of old," senior Abigail Ayulo, who plays the role of William Dunn, said.

Guest director Carol Roscoe hopes that viewers are compelled to question their entire notion of 'exploring the frontier' by reframing the time period in which the American West was explored.

"Backhaus asks us to reconsider who these men were and what their journey was about, but also what the whole notion of frontiering and the American West and the discovery of the West," Roscoe explained.

She believes that this play encourages viewers to reflect on the past and realize that what has been defined as exploring the frontier was, instead, White Americans displacing the people who had inhabited that land for centuries.

As the viewers reflect on expeditions West, the actors have had to reflect on

their modern notions of femininity.

The actors have no small task in portraying characters that are not only members of a society two hundred years removed from their own, but who are also men. In accomplishing this feat, the actors have to unlearn what it means to be a 21st century woman.

"In rehearsal, we have learned that women have these expectations to act and behave a certain way that men don't have," stage manager Ella Weiner said.

For the actors, this means they have to rewrite the narrative of femininity that they have consciously and unconsciously been learning throughout their lives.

"A lot of the time I have had to force myself out of certain habits. As women, we apologize a lot — more than necessary — and we soften our language," sophomore Chloe Newton, the actor playing Major Powell, said.

The cast and crew want to emphasize that the fact that there are women playing men is not meant to be insensitive.

"It is ten women portraying ten men. It's not gender bent or girls in drag, it's that they're simply portraying these men," Weiner said.

This could be insensitive, especially if the play has comedic undertones.

"Some of the things we say are comedic, but it is not about the fact that we are women playing men. That's not the joke. It's the words being used that makes the joke," Newton said.

Even though the story took place in the 18th century, the play is still modern, having commentary that fits today's climate around gender.

"This play really fits the time period that we are in. The language is contemporary and with the cast being all females of different backgrounds, I think it is important that people see us being represented,"

Newton said.

The cast also faces another challenge: the majority of the play takes place on the water.

To get some first hand experience, the cast took a trip to the Center for Wooden Boats museum in Lake Union Park. The trip helped the cast better understand the tensions between the characters.

"When you're navigating a river where there's rapids and so much danger, all you have to rely on is each other," Ayulo said. "You cannot have that kind of conflict. So the main center of attention is this: I don't agree with you, but I have to work with you."

From watching the play, the cast and crew hope the audience will have a different understanding of how history is commonly told.

"It is important to remember that just

because one guy's name, Powell, lead the way, doesn't mean there were not other people involved that there weren't other casualties, sadness and victories," added Weiner.

Working together, the cast and crew compel the audience to re-examine history as they know it and consider how gender roles influence their own identities.

They seek to demonstrate who usually plays the major roles by giving a greater voice to women, people of color and those of differing gender identities and sexual orientations.

"The voyage could have happened to anyone, it could have been people of color or women, and it would still have the significance that it has," Newton said.

"Men on Boats" opens Thursday, Nov. 14, and shows run until Nov. 23.



KEATON DIXON | THE FALCON

Carol Roscoe, director of the 2019 Mainstage production "Men On Boats," spoke with the cast about character monologues.

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**In Their Shoes**  
12 – 8 p.m.  
Upper Gwinn

**06 NOVEMBER**

**ORP Day Hike**  
8 a.m. – 2 p.m.  
Bridal Veil Falls

**ORP Climbing Event**  
7 – 9 p.m.  
Seattle Bouldering Project

**09 NOVEMBER**

**Men on Boats**  
McKinley Hall: E.E.  
Bach Theatre

NOVEMBER  
14, 15, 16-21, 22, 23  
7:30 p.m.

NOVEMBER  
23  
1:00 p.m.

**Instrumental Concert**  
7:30 – 9 p.m.  
First Free Methodist

**15 NOVEMBER**

**Chamber, Concert and Women's Choir Concert**  
7:30 – 9 p.m.  
First Free Methodist

**First-Gen College Celebration**  
12 – 8 p.m.  
SUB Gazebo Room

**08 NOVEMBER**

**News and Nachos**  
11 am – 12:30 pm  
Demaray 150

**21 NOVEMBER**

**ORP Climbing Event**  
7 – 9 p.m.  
Stone Gardens Gym

**Ashton Hall Worship Night**  
7:30 – 9 p.m.  
Ashton Hall

**17 NOVEMBER**

**Lingua and KSPU Fall Party**  
5:30 – 9 p.m.  
SUB Gazebo Room

**22 NOVEMBER**

**Sacred Sounds of Christmas**  
7 – 9 p.m.  
Beneroya Hall

**24 NOVEMBER**

**Lucas Morel on Lincoln and the Founding**  
11:10 a.m. – 12 p.m.  
First Free Methodist

**25 NOVEMBER**

**Thanksgiving Chapel**  
11:10 a.m. – 12 p.m.  
First Free Methodist

**26 NOVEMBER**

# Relationship in opposition

## Roommates with ideological differences embrace discourse

By Andrew Stez  
Features Editor

One person majoring in social justice and the other majoring in social injustice.

This is the joke between roommates Kate Bischoff, a sophomore secondary education major, and Laur Lugos, a sophomore double majoring in music composition and social justice.

This duo has seemingly diametrically-opposed ideological differences on topics such as abortion and racial issues that, in a divided nation, seem hard to overcome.

Through a mutual respect for each other, the two have formed an open dialogue that has allowed them to talk openly about modern issues.

"When you are having a political argu-

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**When you are having a political argument with someone you disagree with, there is a lot of pressure to have all the answers, but with Laur I never really feel that pressure.**

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ment with someone you disagree with, there is a lot of pressure to have all the answers, but with Laur I never really feel that pressure. I know she will forgive me for not knowing everything because we are both human," Bischoff said.

This foundation of understanding is what allows them to remain close despite their differences in political beliefs.

However this truth does not get rid of the fact that both value very different

causes based on their own personal experiences and identities.

Lugos was first introduced to the importance of advocating for social justice through a class she took at her high school, which was primarily composed of students of color.

"That [class] was a big light-switch-moment for me where I was able to see that the world is bigger than the world I can see and that there are systems at play that make it so that the injustices that I see on the news happen," Lugos stated.

Expanding her worldview to more closely examine the injustices occurring, she found that even in her own life and family there were problems stemming from racial issues.

Lugos is of mixed race, which, after noticing injustices in her own community, has turned her towards fighting for racial justice.

"I am mixed race and I have a white mom and a brown dad. I've grown up seeing the ways that people of different races treat each other and I don't like it," Lugos said.

After noticing this injustice in her own community, Lugos has turned towards fighting for racial justice. An example of this is her role as Hill Hall's Social Justice Director and Intercultural Coordinator.

This may seem to be in stark contrast to Bischoff who advocates against abortion due to her experiences and own identity.

"I've always held the belief that the unborn deserve rights and the unborn are human, but it was really after going to this conference in high school, this leadership conference in Colorado where they talked a lot about that (abortion) and the apologetics of the pro-life movement," Bischoff said.

This belief and her experience at the conference has led her to the position as the vice president of the Students for Life of America club on campus to continue advocating against abortion and for alternative solutions to abortion.

Her position on abortion was also influenced by her experience being diagnosed as autistic and how abortion can have serious consequences for infants who may be perceived as having less value than others.

"In short, being a part of this community, everyone who has a disability I kind of see as my people now, and when you predicate human worth on someone's abilities then that maybe inadvertently attacks the special needs community," Bischoff said.

"It says you are valuable not for who you are but what you can do."

These issues may seem like indications of two very different mindsets. It is clear, though, that both Lugos and Bischoff are fighting a similar battle, just



ALY COTTE | THE FALCON

Kate Bischoff at the "Listen" event in Hill Hall on Nov. 1.

with different methods.

"Since I am a little bit more conservative people see social justice as a more liberally charged term and so its like, 'well then what am I a social injustice major?' It's unfair to make that distinction because we both really want what is best for society and humanity. We just see a different way of going about it," Bischoff said.

No matter their differences, there lies the underlying truth that both want to better the world they live in — even if they have different ways of going about it.

To try to open up a dialogue on political issues, the roommates used their shared interest in music.

"I think that art is the foundation of social change. I know that with whatever I am doing, and I do anticipate that it will be with music at this point in my life, I know that I will be shifting atmospheres and social spaces wherever I am and I think that will influence politics and greater social change," Lugos said.

An example of Lugos' belief in the power of arts to create social change is Bischoff's own music, such as her piece "Little Miracle," which discusses abortion.

Music has also been that Lugos and Bischoff have expressed their thoughts to each other.

Lugos expressed that over the summer she was very hurt over the ICE raids that were happening in her hometown of San Jose, and how her friends were endangered by those raids.

In response, rather than get into a political argument, Bischoff expressed herself through music.

"She took a second and was trying to think of what to think and ended up writing a song called 'Felix Culpa,' which means fortunate fall," Lugos said.

"She was trying to relate what was happening to biblical context and she ended up coming to a conclusion in one of her verses that perhaps there were systems of power at play similar to Pharaoh."

By using their love for music as a vessel for discussion, rather than being afraid of discussing hard issues, both have created an environment for meaningful discussion and hope others can create similar environments within their own groups.

"I want everyone in the same room. What I mean by that is that I want people to start considering that the world is bigger than they are," Lugos said.

"I think when you realize how interconnected we are then you can't help but acknowledge that your actions affect other people and that your vote matters."



ALY COTTE | THE FALCON

Laur Lugos playing guitar during the "Listen" event in Hill Hall on Friday Nov. 1.



Sonne Brown sharing poetry at Listen in the Hill Hall lounge on Friday, Nov. 1.

ALY COTTE | THE FALCON

# Differing beliefs, same cause

## Making space for respectful political discussion

By Julia Battishill  
News Editor

In the center of a “stage” outlined by gold string-lights in the dimly lit Hill Hall lounge, Hill Hall Council Social Justice Director and Intercultural Coordinator Laur Lugos and her roommate Kate Bischoff shared words of support and love.

Moments before, they each performed original songs. Their songs expressed opposing beliefs on abortion. At the end of the event, after Lugos had thanked the audience for coming, Bischoff — the president of Seattle Pacific University’s Students for Life club — grabbed the microphone to congratulate her roommate and express her pride in Lugos.

“I love you!” she finished, after the applause from her congratulation had died, and heard an equally enthusiastic “love you!” back. The pair was the epitome of the idea Lugos was hoping to encourage: understanding and listening despite difference.

In front of them, the lounge was full of students. “Listen,” on the evening of Friday Nov. 1, was an event designed to create conversation around different perspectives on issues in hope that students can better listen to, and hear, one another.

Joining Lugos and Bischoff on stage sat artists of all different beliefs and ideologies. That was not by accident. Lugos brought every artist together with the purpose of hearing and facing their differences head-on.

“I know how easy it is to get caught up in the flood of hurt and injustice that we see all around us,” read the forward of the event’s program, written by Lugos. “But

we hold so much more power when we choose to listen to each other, believe in each other, and work together.”

“If our liberties are tied, we better start acting like it. The next hour is just the beginning,” it continued.

Throughout the event, different artists performed pieces that reflected their points of view on a current issue. The artists featured included Lugos, Bischoff, Sonne Brown, Nate Canny, Rebekah Huber, Maureen Dixon and Toni Lee.

Between these artists, the audience experienced a variety of mediums, from poetry to instrumental guitar to song. With varying perspectives, the intention was to encourage understanding.

Lugos and Bischoff’s opposing beliefs were the origin of Lugos’ idea to encourage listening and acceptance, and they served as a perfect example of it during the event.

Lugos performed a piece regarding her wrestling with issues of abortion and what to believe about the concept of ‘life.’ Soon after, Bischoff performed a pro-life piece after announcing her position as the president of SPU’s Students for Life club.

Lugos’ song focused on power and privilege and the complexity of the issue,

while Bischoff’s viewpoint emphasized disabilities and the factors of the disabled community that participate in the conversation. Just moments before her pro-life song (titled “Little Miracle”), Bischoff sang about her experiences living with autism.

Many topics were discussed by more than one performer, but from different viewpoints.

Brown, one of the performers who showcased more than one piece, read his poetry. One piece tackled themes of toxic masculinity, others dealt with issues of racism, another with politics and the current presidential administration.

In one poem, titled “Flower Boy,” which discusses themes of masculinity and breaking the stereotypes often associated with it in the U.S., Brown said “chased away from what I found

pretty I recall I must be ‘A Man’/ Pressure builds and stacks, pretty voids my vocabulary and I am left ‘A Man.’”

Canny, by contrast, did not say anything during his performance about gender. He prefaced it by explaining that he was going to play instrumental guitar, and that he uses it to express his emotions.

“Guys aren’t supposed to feel emotions.

They aren’t,” Canny said. “They can’t feel anything, gotta be tough. So, I’m going to practice vulnerability and I’m about to feel a lot in front of you guys,” Canny said.

Dixon played piano while she both sang and spoke lines she had written about being mixed race, and the racism she sees around her. She played two pieces, titled “Melanin” and “Identity.”

“Melanin,” the first performance of the night, began with the line “Martin didn’t die for this,” which she repeated several times throughout the piece. It discussed the use of stereotyping and racist rhetoric toward Black and biracial people, and racism in America at large.

In “Identity,” Lee joined her as a vocalist in a piece that discussed finding identity as a multiracial person and included the repeated line, “I’m running free,” sung by Lee as Dixon spoke about wanting to be happy with herself despite the odds.

By contrast, Rebekah Huber read prose poetry that told the story of her experience as a white person living in Indonesia, feeling ostracized and like an “exotic bird.”

“Look, there’s the white girl,” she read. “There’s that outsider, foreigner, whose skin tells us she doesn’t belong/ even before her accent can.”

The piece ended with her realizing the complex racial dynamics of the U.S. once she moved back, and the delicate balance that she now navigates in sharing her story. She emphasized that she is always learning how to understand all perspectives better.

“Still trying to figure it all out/day by day, step by step, mistake by mistake by mistake.”

“  
But we hold so much  
more power when  
we choose to listen  
to each other, believe  
in each other, and  
work together.”



## Editorial Comment

Normalcy or Radicalism

Almost every candidate for United States presidency who runs in the wake of political turmoil uses rhetoric that takes advantage of that turmoil. After three years of the Trump administration, candidates Joe Biden and Bernie Sanders are using this national anxiety to their advantage, although in very different ways. Should America opt for a policy of confronting political challenges head-on, or should it attempt to simply endure its problems?

Sanders chooses the more radical approach to taking executive office. Sanders has enthusiastically endorsed Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez's controversial Green New Deal. His rhetoric is centered around major economic reform, environmental justice and a commitment to labor rights. Overall, his policies are the farthest left of all Democratic candidates. His views are controversial, yet his base continues to be the most vocal in their support of him.

Biden, by contrast, is the most moderate Democrat running. Although he supports big ticket issues like a federal minimum wage increase, his focus is more on reforms rather than the restructuring of institutions. A major turn from Sanders' politics is Biden's support for increasing military spending, an issue that Sanders and other left-leaning Democrats have been criticizing for decades. However, as vice president to Barack Obama, Biden has been an obvious choice for establishment Democrats.

The attitudes of their campaigns continue to differ greatly. Sanders opts for a more direct, hard-hitting approach to campaigning, with rhetoric that stirs crowds to support various grassroots campaigns around the country. He wants his political base to be angry at the upheavals that have occurred under the Trump administration, urging his followers to spread awareness of almost every social issue in national conversation. Sanders employs a strategy that makes his followers realize that they have a role in spreading political awareness.

Biden's campaign on the other hand, reflects that of 1920's Warren G. Harding. His campaign slogan reflected the sentiment following World War I that America needed to "Return to Normalcy." Although America certainly needs a new national sentiment, it should be one that invites radical opinions to challenge established institutions. Further, America needs to treat the political turbulence of recent years as a symptom instead of a problem in and of itself.

This sentiment should make America question what it wants. After the Trump administration, does America feel the need to "return" to some mythical Golden Age, or does it need to be drastically altered?

In this next election, America must decide whether it wants a commander-in-chief that will approach our political climate with either enthusiasm or complacency. The Falcon believes that political issues raised during the past administration cannot be overlooked and should soon be approached head-on. Otherwise, the next four years will begin to seem quite similar to the years that America has recently endured.

*The editorial comment is composed by the opinions editor, the editor-in-chief and the editing staff. Opinions expressed represent the majority of the group. News and assistant news editors are never involved in the composition.*



CHLOE GUILLOT | THE FALCON

# No human being is illegal

## Words need to inform and empathize, not tear down

Language is ever-changing and evolving. Every year, new words are added to the dictionary and words that we thought were sufficient, and have been using for years, are changed. We decide that certain words should not be used in particular situations, some words are only allowed to be said by some people and some words should never be said. 'Illegal' is one of those words that should not be used in certain situations, specifically in reference to immigrant people.

The first time I was exposed to the word 'undocumented' was when I applied for DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) in High School. I sat in my immigration lawyer's office, 15 years old and terrified because my secret was no longer a secret. For 20 years of my life, I have kept quiet about my identity and only shared my secret with trusted friends.

Living in a country where you are unwanted is scary. Every day, I lived in constant fear of being exposed, found out, deported and of losing everything I knew.

The lawyer's office was covered with signs that read "no human being is illegal." I had never before been exposed to the word 'illegal' before that moment. My parents told me and my siblings that we could not talk about being from another country. They explained that if we mentioned it to anyone, we would be sent back and would be forced to leave everything behind.

I did not ask questions and I did not

think about it often. I did not have to understand, I just did as I was told. I never spoke about where I was really from and, whenever I was asked, I would simply lie. I could not face exposing myself or my family to danger. I did not fully grasp the idea that I "didn't have papers" until I reached the age where all my friends were applying for jobs. Even after I had been accepted and granted protection by DACA, which allows me to legally work and stay in the United States, I was terrified to tell people I was born in Paraguay and immigrated at a young age.

It is important to note the danger and violence that individuals face as a result of this seemingly simple word choice. The Merriam-Webster's Dictionary defines the adjective 'illegal' as, "not according to or authorized by law." Synonyms include "unlawful," "illicit," "criminal," "felonious," "wrongful," and "lawless." Every time someone makes the choice to call an individual illegal, they participate in the dehumanization and demonization of said individual. Their entire existence is marked as illegitimate, inferior, and criminal.

A human being cannot be illegal. Drugs are illegal. Drinking alcohol before the age of 21 is illegal. However, the individuals behind these actions aren't illegal. Why then, when individuals enter a country unlawfully are they labeled illegal?

This term is racialized and forcibly placed on Latinx individuals, stemming from a racist and white-supremacist ideology. The entire racial group is catego-

rized as dangerous, inferior, and criminal. Labeling a person as illegal, and not just simply their actions, is reinforcing the idea that all Latinx individuals are "rapists" and "bad hombres" as the current President has said.

My first personal encounter with being labelled as illegal left me shocked, offended and hurt. It was by someone I considered a friend.

I stepped back for a moment and considered ignoring it, but decided instead to tell her that I was undocumented — not illegal. I was not able to articulate why it was so hurtful, why it was wrong and why it felt like an attack.

But the only words that I was able to get out were, "No, I'm undocumented," and I carried on with our conversation.

I thought that would be the end of the discussion, yet somehow she managed to find a way to bring up my citizenship in every conversation. This persisted for the rest of my freshman year at Seattle Pacific University and every day I dealt with microaggressions from a "friend" (who no longer attends SPU).

Every time I was called "illegal" by a self-proclaimed friend, I was reminded of my inferiority. I was reminded that I'm still unsafe and that I'm still living in a constant state of fear and danger.

Changing the language we use for immigrants from illegal to undocumented is one small step towards ending the dehumanization of the immigrant population.

No human being is illegal.

*Julie is studying a senior studying sociology*



By Julie Cantero-Valente  
Staff Reporter

# Urban areas need green

## Natural vegetation can help cities



JACKY CHEN | THE FALCON

The Dick's Burger boat is coming back from the UW Huskies football game at Gasworks Park.

Seattle residents likely know that the origin of the city's nickname "The Emerald City" comes from the Pacific Northwest's abundance of natural life. Seattle is different from many urban areas in that it has trees everywhere. Residential areas around the city boast canopies that beautify and actively cool living spaces. But like most cities, Seattle is developing more and more every year. This means a rough road ahead for most of Seattle's tree population.

For many developers — and to the dismay of Seattlites — trees must go if property is to be developed. According to the Downtown Seattle Association, in 2018, 3,780 residential projects were completed. This year, there are 3,535 residential projects currently under construction from Northgate to south of downtown (SoDo). If we want more space for residences, we must give up space that would otherwise be used to house.

If a property is not used, is dilapidated or if the previous tenant could not support themselves, the property is at a higher risk of being developed or redeveloped. In Seattle's current real estate market, there is almost no stopping developers. With more land being used for property development, less land is available for trees and vegetation to counterbalance the urban.

This has dire implications for lower income neighborhoods and the global climate crisis.

Within the past two decades, focus on this crisis has led many experts to highlight the dangers that summer weather poses. Summers will increas-

ingly get warmer and more dangerous as years go by due to climate change.

In 2003, one of Europe's deadliest heat waves killed 15,000 people in France alone. A total of 70,000 people across Europe died as a result of excessive heat that summer, according to a Washington Post article written by Richard C. Keller, titled "Europe's killer heat waves are a new norm. The death rates shouldn't be."

This was 17 years ago, and global temperatures have been increasing since. Unless Seattle wants to suffer a similar fate, something needs to be done.

Green space has the potential to provide healthier environments to urban residents.

The residential areas in Queen Anne serve as a great example. During the spring and summer, natural canopies over residential areas can decrease summer temperatures and chances for heat stroke. According to a North Carolina State University study, a well-placed evergreen tree can prevent sound pollution by up to 40%. Green space also provides a stress-relieving effect, according to a study by the University of Washington's Urban Forestry/Urban Greening Research group. For areas like Queen Anne, residents will be safer and healthier.

But there's a catch when green space is introduced to urban spaces.

As a general rule, the more trees and vegetation an area has, the higher the property value is. Therefore, lower income families and individuals will more likely live in areas that will not have

green space or have trees to provide temperature and health benefits. This puts lower income neighborhoods at a higher risk of heat stroke and a more stressful lifestyle.



By Riley Gombis  
Opinions Editor

This puts these families and individuals at significant risk as the global climate warms. As income is tied to ethnicity, gender and class, the disparity in green space between higher and lower income areas becomes an issue of discrimination and class conflict.

Seattle is quite literally in the green, as it is ranked as one of the world's top tree-canopied cities, according to Business Insider. Locations such as Discovery Park and Greenlake Park offer Seattle residents opportunities to relax. Nevertheless, locations like France and others around the world are beginning to feel the fatal consequences of climate change. Preserving and incorporating green space into urban and residential areas should be a global priority.

Riley is a junior studying classics, history and philosophy



BLAKE DAHLIN | THE FALCON

A building from the remnants of Fort Lawton in Discovery Park.

# Pastors practice what they preach

## Extravagant worlds of megachurches

In May of 2019, Louisiana based Televangelist Jesse Duplantis asked his followers for 54 million dollars in donations to fund his private jet — his three other planes were not cutting it.

"If Jesus was physically on the Earth today, he wouldn't be riding a donkey," said Duplantis in a video posted to his website. "Think about that for a minute. He would be in an airplane preaching the gospel all over the world."

From the outside looking in, Duplantis' spending behavior seems bizarre, but in the Televangelist and Megachurch world, pastors living a lavish untaxed lifestyle is not uncommon.

Atlanta Megachurch pastor Creflo Dollar started fundraiser "Project G650" in 2015, aspiring to raise 65 million dollars so he could purchase a new G650 luxury jet. After public backlash, Project G650 was eventually taken down, but Dollar did not apologize to his congregation, he stated that this was just the beginning.

"If you think a 65 million dollar plane was too much if they discover there is life on Mars," said Dollar. "They gonna need to hear the gospel, and I am gonna have to believe God for a billion-dollar space shuttle because we gotta preach the gospel on Mars."

Texas-based Televangelist Kenneth Copeland is a friend of Duplantis and Dollar — he too owns multiple private jets. On his website, Copeland posted a video of himself and Duplantis discuss-

ing why they need numerous luxury jets. At one point, Copeland referred to commercial airplanes as "a long tube filled with a bunch of demons."

Copeland keeps his jets in his airport that is next to his 6.3 million dollar mansion, which is not subject to income tax because it was all paid for by the Church.



By **Kate Erickson**  
Staff Reporter

The spending of Duplantis, Dollar, and Copeland may be unethical, but it is entirely legal. Churches are tax-exempt, and if they can explain why their purchases are for religious reasons, they are in the clear.

How can these men indulge in luxuries paid for by the Church, all while preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ, a man who was born amongst barn animals and lived a completely selfless and humble life?

The greed that these men exude is not only disgusting and despicable but also distorts Christian values. Tragically, they have a platform where they can spew their disingenuous sermons and brainwash their followers into thinking that their entitlement is what God wants.

How do their followers not see this? How is this allowed? Why isn't everyone talking about this?

Although megachurch pastors reach millions of Americans every Sunday, they are not commonly known outside of the bible belt—a strip of southern and midwestern states that identify as "very religious." In 2015, the Hartford Institute for Religion Research conducted a national study of megachurches. The study

found that the 15 southern and midwestern states that make up the belt are home to almost 75% of the US's megachurches.

These churches have congregations ranging from 2,000 to 22,000 members; these churches are not only individually massive, but they are also often part of a larger group.

Multisite megachurches are churches that are branches of a singular central church—similar to a fast-food chain. The HIRR found that over ten years, the percent of megachurches with multiple sites grew from 27% to 63%, and that number is predicted to continue rising.

At times, members of these churches must feel disconnected. With that, many people pastors can't recognize new members, and they probably don't know the names of the majority of people in their congregation—but these churches continue to grow. If one is searching for a personal relationship with God, will their faith be nurtured in a megachurch, or will they get lost in the shuffle?

Spiritual growth does not coincide with spiritual growth. The HIRR found that over ten years, the number of megachurches that believed their congregations were spiritually vital decreased by 14%. During this time, there has also been a 14% decrease in worship attendance.

God isn't going to give Creflo Dollar one billion dollars for a spaceship. He's not too worried about Jesse Duplantis and Kenneth Copeland's luxury jet collection. The Church should be led by someone who is focused on fostering a community that will nurture the love of God, but when judgment impaired by

greed, the focus can become skewed.

"No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the

---

**The HIRR found that from 2005-2015, the percent of megachurches with multiple cites grew from 27%-63%,**

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other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money," Matthew 6:24 ESV.

*Kate Erickson is a sophomore studying journalism and minoring in computer science*



# New look for women's basketball

## Mike Simonson has a championship mentality



BLAKE DAHLIN | THE FALCON

Redshirt Freshman Bayley Brennan shoots during the third period of SPU's victory over Puget Sound.

**By Brandon Bee**  
Staff Reporter

A new season is starting for Seattle Pacific University women's basketball, and as teams look to compete for the GNAC championship, everyone has the same goal: to hold the winning title at the end of the season.

SPU's women's basketball coach Mike Simonson hopes that the Falcons will be on top of the GNAC standings at the end of the season. "I think, at the end of the day, if we come in and work hard every day, then we could really compete for the top half and even a GNAC championship," Simonson said.

Mike Simonson is headed into his second year as head coach for the SPU women's basketball team. Before becoming a head coach a year ago, he was an assistant coach at SPU for two years which prepared him for a head coaching role. The women's basketball team made the NCAA tournament in his second year at SPU.

Last season, the women's basketball team had four seniors. Those seniors graduated and replacing them are four freshmen that are looking to build upon the culture and the atmosphere that has already been built.

These freshmen include redshirt point guard Bayley Brennan, guard Hunter Beirne and posts Kayla Brundidge and Grace Sterk.

As a team, SPU finished with a record of 8-19 and ended up eighth in the conference last year. This season, SPU was

picked ninth in the GNAC Conference by the conference coaches. Simonson likes the aspect of being underrated so that his team does not experience any pressure and they can just go out and play.

Simonson has two experienced captains, a luxury that most other teams do not have.

Guard Hailee Bennett is coming back to reprise her role as captain as she is going into her junior year. Last season, Bennett averaged 7.7 points per game.

The other captain, Ashlynn Burgess, is a junior transfer from Wenatchee Valley College in central Washington. A season ago at Wenatchee Valley College, Burgess averaged a team high of 18.5 points per game.

Simonson said she has fit well with the team and is ready to lead.

"Every year our main goal is to have a passionate basketball team. That's our core value," Simonson said.

"Every day, we have focus-driven goals where we really try to practice the things of our culture to be passionate people. We really try to instill that every day. And passionate to me is not just on the basketball court, it is also for your life and your academics and all those things."

Simonson expects there to be challenges for his team in the upcoming season.

"We have five new players, so we are a little inexperienced. We have to hit the ground running getting experience early," Simonson said.

"We have to get over that hump. But I do think, from a talent standpoint, we will be just fine. It's just the experience piece that we need to gain."

The Falcons have a chance to gain some experience in their first few games, which are Friday and Saturday, Nov. 8 and 9, at Lumberjack Arena in Arcata, California against Humboldt State University and Fresno Pacific University, respectively.

Humboldt State was in the NCAA West Division II Regional Tournament a season ago."

Simonson said that the first few games will be a "measuring stick" to see how good the team is and will be in the future.

## Going Beyond God the Father

9-10 AM Sundays, November 3 – 17 & December 1



Traditional Jewish and Christian God-language typically refers to God in male terms. This forum series, led by Dr. Lynn Hofstad of Seattle University's Department

of Theology and Religious Studies, explores the side-effects of using solely male language for God, offering redeeming alternatives that draw from the experience of women. We hope you can join the conversation.

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# On the hunt again

## Falcon men's basketball team reloads with new players

By Daniel Newm and and Kyle Morrison  
Sports Editor and Staff Reporter

Looking at the athletes that the Seattle Pacific University men's basketball team graduated last year, including three starters and two key players off the bench, it might be tough to envision them repeating as GNAC tournament champions.

But the Falcons, armed with key returning players and a great recruiting class, they are making it their mission to do just that and win the conference championship in the regular season.

"Last year, there was an urgency to it, because we had so many guys back," Head Coach Grant Leep said.

"This year, we've had to kind of pull back a little bit as we teach our program culture and the team environment the team atmosphere we want to create. We have to make sure that we've communicated that to everybody."

How well the new players are adjusting to the atmosphere will be tested almost immediately, as the Falcons non-conference schedule includes five of the eight teams that were in the NCAA DII West Regional Tournament last year. It begins with Chico State University on Friday, Nov. 8, and Cal Poly University of Pomona on Saturday, Nov. 9.

"If we handle it the way that we're hoping to, and that we think we're capable of, it's gonna do just huge things for us come March when all the rankings and everything else comes out and they select the teams for the Regional," Leep said.

The Falcons were going to begin last year's season against those same two teams, but the games were cancelled due to fires in the California area.



KEATON DIXSON | THE FALCON

The men's basketball team prepares for the first game of the season against Chico State.

the season, they would lose guard Gabe Colosimo for the year due to a knee injury.

The Falcons would begin their season with two wins and three losses, before winning seven in a row. But the Falcons would hit another bump in the road, losing three in a row, including a 29-point loss to Montana State Billings.

But again, the Falcons would put it all together, winning the next ten games to finish out the regular season with a 16-4 conference record. This record would earn them the second seed in the conference, behind only Saint Martin's University.

ern Oregon University 78-66, becoming tournament champions for the fourth time in their history.

The Falcons season ended in the round of 32 of the NCAA DII basketball tournament against Saint Martin's, but it was still a highly successful season for the team.

Despite last year's success, Grant Leep's program remains poised to have an even better season this year.

"We want to keep pushing it, we'd love to be back at a point where we are competing for the conference championship again, we'd love to be in a situation where we are competing for it outright

sults, SPU will need a lot of production from new faces in order to feel the voids left by six graduating seniors who played major roles in last year's conference championship.

Fortunately for the Falcons, they have brought in an incredible class of recruits.

For example, forward Shaw Anderson from Kelso High School was the State of Washington's 3A player of the year last year, and forward Clayton Whitman was the State of Washington's 2A player of the year last year. Also, Zack Paulsen from Curtis High School was a four-time Washington state tournament participant in high school, giving him lots of knowledge on what it takes to be a part of a successful program.

SPU will also bring back a solid core of returning players to help the Falcon's new collection of young talent acclimate to the expectations of the upcoming season.

Guards Gavin Long (2018-2019 second team all GNAC) and Harry Cavell will both return to start for the Falcons coming off of seasons where both players averaged over ten points a game. Guards Sharif Khan, Divant'e Moffet and Braden Olson are also coming back, giving SPU some needed veteran depth.

Some other tough conference opponents that the Falcons will face include Azusa Pacific University, Concordia University-Irvine, Sonoma State University, Point Loma Nazarene University and division III rival University of Puget Sound.

They will also be challenged during conference play by ten teams all looking to knock SPU off their championship pedestal. With all this in mind, it is easy to see that the SPU men's basketball team is going to have an exciting and challenging year.



Jacob Medjo sets his shot behind the 3 point line during practice.

KEATON DIXSON | THE FALCON

That was not the only monumental moment of the non-conference season for the Falcons, as just two games into

After defeating Northwest Nazarene University in the semifinals of the GNAC tournament, the Falcons defeated West-

ern Oregon University 78-66, becoming tournament champions for the fourth time in their history. Leep said.

In order to improve on last year's re-



THURSDAY NOVEMBER 21, 2019

# The Falcon

THEFALCON.ONLINE SEATTLE PACIFIC UNIVERSITY'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER VOLUME 91, ISSUE 5

## Sharing underrepresented stories

BSU leads important  
conversations

By Sam Everitt  
Staff Reporter

Walking into a Black Student Union meeting feels like walking into a friend's home. Music is playing and there are people laughing and talking.

Many universities have Black Student Unions, which are part of a greater organization of the same name. The organization's stated goal is to enhance the quality of life for students, especially students of color.

"I felt like black people weren't promoted at SPU and I wanted to be connected with other students that I could relate to," Club President and junior Anthony Hester said.

Here at Seattle Pacific University, BSU brings people together by creating an inclusive space that gives students the ability to express themselves without judgment.

"The BSU provides a place of rest for students outside of classes, especially students of color because we deal with things on a daily basis that average students don't have to deal with at SPU," Club Treasurer and junior Felix Amenyo said.

During a recent BSU meeting, members took turns telling their own personal experiences dealing with issues related to race.

Part of the BSU's mission is to provide a safe space to discuss these issues with other students going through the same things.

Hester, alongside other members, leads the BSU meetings. Sometimes they will discuss cultural appropriation and their personal experiences with racism. Other times club meetings consist of more light-hearted activities like games and movie nights.

"BSU is an area to not only educate you



KEATON DIXON | THE FALCON

Club Treasurer Felix Amenyo speaks on the effects of racism in his life at BSU meeting.

but also allow you to have fun and get to know each other because if you come to BSU you are going to make new friends, you're going to be more aware of the things we go through," Hester said.

Since white students are the most represented group on campus, some students who come from different backgrounds find it hard to fit in and facilitate relationships in the new environment.

BSU provides a space to discuss important issues, while also being a space that people can come to and feel welcome.

"We don't want people to feel like they have to change who they are or code-switch,

or change the way they talk or change the way they dress or else they would look weird on campus," Amenyo said.

Part of BSU's mission is to spread this environment of inclusiveness beyond the club.

On university campuses, students of color can often feel isolated. The activities that the BSU puts on help these students feel less alone. These activities range from going out to eat as a group or even a big game of hide and seek across campus.

"It's a little harder (being black in a predominantly white school) because people won't walk up to you as easily and try to

talk to you or try to be your friend," Hester said.

It's important to the BSU that the club is a space to come and make friends without having to worry about fitting in.

In the United States, there are many stereotypes about African Americans; the BSU seeks to deconstruct them through the dialogues they have in their meetings.

The BSU encourages people from all backgrounds to come and engage in the conversation, as well as listen to the unique experiences and voices that people who have never visited the club might not know about.

"Since we now don't only have black members coming to the meetings we have topics that are making people more aware of the issues we (people of color) go through on campus," Hester said.

Even though the BSU focuses on topics related to black identity it is not a club meant for only black students.

One of the BSU's goals is to promote people of color on campus which is why they encourage everyone to come, hang out, make friends and discuss important issues. They want everyone to feel known.

"I want everyone, especially students who are not students of color to join us in our meetings this club is not exclusive, this club is meant for anyone and everyone to join us in our meetings and participate in our events," Amenyo said.

BSU still finds time to facilitate a fun environment to de-stress amidst a busy college life.

"We want to be vocal, we want to be active on campus, we want people to know we are here," Amenyo said.

"We want prospective applicants to see that when you leave your hometown and come to SPU, there are people who are here that can talk to you about the same experiences that you will be having."

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# Tackling social change through business

Social Venture Plan Competition empowers students to make meaningful impact

By Julia Herman and Tori McArthur  
Staff Reporters

“Thanks for ruining my college career,” a student told Mark Oppenlander when discussing how the rest of his college career compared to his involvement in the annual business competition at Seattle Pacific University.

Oppenlander, the director of the Center for Applied Learning, continued the Social Venture Kick-Off event Thursday, Nov. 14 by telling interested competitors how this single event has the ability to impact not just business students.

This year’s 14th annual Social Venture Plan Competition invites students from diverse backgrounds and majors to join together and create business plans to create products that impact society in the social realm through helping marginalized groups or the environment.

Oppenlander refers to these ideas as, “an enterprise that pursues both social and financial bottom lines and tackles a social need in a financially stable way using business methods.”

The School of Business, Government and Economics and the Center for Applied Learning compile their resources to award students who place first and second, along with a People’s Choice winner and Herbert B. Jones Grand Prize, over \$15,000 in prize money to move forward with their business plan.

Students involved in the competition are asked to draw teams of two to six people who, together, form a business plan which includes financials, marketing and purpose for their product.

Whether a group is composed of interdisciplinary students or business-minded majors, students are encouraged to branch out and find a team that is connected through a common passion.

Gracie Brown, who was part of the team Evity in last year’s competition, discusses how taking part in this contest has given her a lot of experience in the world of business specific to her passions.



Prospective student-competitors at the Social Venture Plan Competition Kickoff for 2020.

ALY COTTE | THE FALCON

“Most people do not already have business plans and don’t have their school investing money in their ventures,” Brown said. “It gives you a lot to talk about when you’re networking or in interviews.”

Her team spearheaded the difficult journey in finding employment for refugee women with a flexible schedule. The project focused on creating refugee-made undergarments for women who are finding a place after settling into a new environment that allows them to work from home.

Brown hopes to continue this venture in the future with the money awarded from the People’s Choice Award of \$1000.

Soren Stime, a veteran competitor, wished for more diversity in his two-person group focussing on an emergency services product titled the “Human BlackBox.”

“A two-person team is something I would not do again,” Stime said.

“Building the plan, we worked really well together. But I studied management, Jonnie (partner) studied management, Dr. Franz — who was helping us — teaches management. So we didn’t have any diversity in that which really hurt us.”

Previous teams, recalled by Oppenlander, have been made up of the follow-

ing departments: nursing, engineering, communication studies and global development — all bringing valuable frames of mind to the table.

In addition to the allocation of prize money, students can get credit in their social venture plan through a class offered during winter quarter.

an idea.

“We are interested but we are not quite sure what we want to do yet. We have some ideas but nothing set in stone yet,” Rosenthal said.

Whether ideas flow freely or one is curious about the competition itself, Oppenlander invites students from all

“Most people do not already have business plans and don’t have their school investing money in their ventures. It gives you a lot to talk about when you’re networking or in interviews.”

Social Venture Planning (BUS3682), a three-credit class, outlines the process of the work required while also giving tips and testimonies from local business people.

Two prospective SPU students and high school freshmen Mike Hagen and Lindsay Rosenthal, future economics and business majors who attended this information session, were curious about the competition and eager to come up with

departments to attend one of the class sessions and brainstorm social venture ideas.

Oppenlander discussed how students in the past have wanted to create social change, whether it be related to homelessness or the environment, but did not know where to start with it. This is the place to do so, according to Oppenlander.

“Win, lose — students learn something about it,” he said.

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**CRIME REPORT  
NOVEMBER 19**

Fondling  
11/14 6:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.  
Gwinn Commons

Domestic Violence (Cleary Act)  
9/28 12:00 a.m.-11/17 12:00 a.m.  
Moyer Hall



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# Merging loves: theater, medicine

## Performance permeates many threads of Andrew Cheesman's life

By Andrew Stez  
Features Editor

Senior Andrew Cheesman, an applied human biology major and theatre minor, has managed to find a way to combine his passion for theatre with his love of science.

"I've kind of been struggling with the science world and the theatre world in terms of my interests and my likes," Cheesman said. "I love to do the health, fitness and the working out stuff, and I also love performing and the stage — and so finding a way to make that blend was a little tough."

Cheesman has combined these passions by getting involved in Seattle Pacific University's theatre program and teaching fitness classes through SPU's intramurals program — as well as to private clients off campus.

His love of theater, and the lessons he has learned from theater, are threads that permeate many aspects of his life.

"I find that my theater or, in general, having a stage presence, helps in all aspects of your life," Cheesman said.

Cheesman got involved in theater when he was a child by performing in church plays and then in high school by participating in, and becoming president of, his school's theatre program.

Cheesman expressed how it was this involvement in theater and the community he found there that equipped him to deal with many problems he has faced — one being bullying.

"I was an obese kid," Cheesman said. "I suffered from really bad bullying that happened when I was in middle school into high school and it really affected me in so many ways."

While Cheesman was bullied for being obese, his theatre program provided him a community and an environment that would also later help him get into fitness.

This happened when his mom tried to help him lose weight by getting him involved in Zumba.

"I was just on a bad path. My mom had told me to try a Zumba class," Cheesman said. "She knew I loved theater, so anything dancey would have been theatrical for me."

This Zumba class provided a fun, upbeat outlet that, similar to theatre, kept his attention and motivated him to lose weight.

Because of the encouragement of his zumba instructor, Cheesman became an instructor himself.

"Hearing those words from somebody that was teaching what has helped me tremendously already, I was like 'yeah, I have to go do that,'" Cheesman said.

He began teaching Zumba classes at the age of fifteen and ever since has been helping others with their fitness goals, just like the zumba instructor who first inspired him.

When teaching his classes, Cheesman is reminded of how similar it is to his life on stage.

"In terms of group fitness classes, that alone requires alone so much per-



PHOTO COURTESY OF ANDREW CHEESMAN

Andrew Cheesman performing in the Fall 2018 Main Stage production "Love and Information."

formance. It's just you in front of a large group of people and you kind of have to entertain for an hour," Cheesman said.

"Working out, I'll tell you, is a hard thing to do for an hour and so if they aren't entertained, if they aren't really enthused with what is happening around them they are just going to get caught up in the hardness of the tough workout."

Cheesman has found a way to not only apply his love of theater, but use it to help others in the same way theater and fitness have benefited him.

Cheesman said that after college he will not be able to be involved in theater, but will instead use what he learned in theatre in his future career as either a physician's assistant or physical trainer.

"When I do go into clinical medicine, having that theater background — that empathy, that connection that I make with people — having that is going to be so much better than if I didn't do theater,"

Cheesman said.

Cheesman also stressed how combining his love of theater with his love of medicine has led to him being a multifaceted individual.

"I think blending medicine or any kind of science with a humanity study or any kind of performance study creates a well rounded person," Cheesman said.

"I have found that when I talk to my clients, when I'm personal training with my clients and am explaining a concept that is scientifically based to them. I know that I am also approaching it from the viewpoint of not just a boring science major who knows the science and is spewing the information. I explain it in a fun, easy [way] for them to get."

Andrew Cheesman hosts Zumba at 5:45 p.m. on Mondays and "Ripped" at 5:45 p.m. on Fridays in Royal Brougham's lower gym every week.

# Finding purpose, embracing change in life after college

## Welcoming what future chapters brings

By Kaley Oschmann  
Staff Reporter

When Teresa Tsang, a recent Seattle Pacific University graduate, began her internship at Camp Casey over spring break in 2019, she thought it would just be a part-time job.

Through her hard work and passion for creative writing, her supervisors were impressed and offered her a full-time post-graduate job as the program assistant for the Creative Writing Master of Fine Arts program at SPU.

She was not expecting the internship to turn into her first full-time job and Tsang embraced the opportunity.

Life after college is about embracing change and finding one's sense of self in the face of uncertainty.

"If you apply yourself to the things you love and are open to the opportunities around you, good things will come," Tsang, who double majored in English and social justice and cultural studies, said.

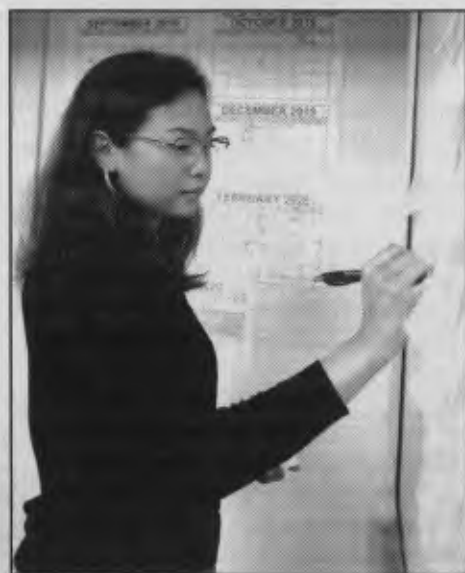
"There is a certain element of just letting what will be, be."

People experience many changes and follow many paths after graduating college, from graduate school to working full-time or just taking time to relax.

Three 2019 graduates, Tsang, Devin

Atsatt and Hayley Cheyney Kané, all took a unique combination of those routes.

Atsatt is using his degree in photography to pursue freelance photography and is working on multiple projects.



JACKY CHEN | THE FALCON

Teresa Tsang, MFA program assistant and recent alumna, updating the MFA department project board.

After taking the summer after graduation to travel, Kané, who majored in physiology, is shadowing at Swedish hospital, presenting her research at conferences and preparing to apply for medical school.

A common thread between the experiences of these three graduates is the shift from an academic world to the 'real world.'

"There was a slump that I have expe-

rienced after college because you kind of have to figure it all out on your own now," Kané said. "In the real world, there is no direct path to success, like there is in college. You have to wrestle with that for a while."

In college, the direct path to success is to graduate. In order to succeed in college, students' lives are filled with homework and deadlines.

But in the real world, the path can become uncertain. It takes some time to figure out what is next.

One adjustment all three graduates agreed on is that having no homework for the first time in life is a very freeing experience.

"I feel like there has been a weight lifted off of my shoulders because of not having so many deadlines. I have way more freedom now," Atsatt said.

Others, like Tsang, use their newfound sense of freedom to pursue different activities like reading and baking.

Eliminating the deadlines of assignments has allowed space in the graduates' lives to find different ways to spend their time.

"To rediscover the things that I enjoy has been one of the best parts of post-grad. I love school but have lost a lot of my identity to it because it has been so consuming," Tsang said.

These alumni had to adjust to a new way of having a social life.

Being in college and, as a result, being in close proximity to others allows a sense

of belonging, so what happens after college is an adjustment.

"I did not expect to become so immediately separated from the SPU community," Atsatt said.

On campus at SPU, there are people around in every building or common space which makes it easy to socialize or hang out with others.

For Atsatt, having more freedom means having more time to be intentional with his social life.

"Now, I have to be intentional about hanging out with people and nobody really told me about that before graduation," Atsatt added.

For Kané, refiguring her social life means letting go of how things used to be.

She describes the changes as being similar to what happens in the shift from high school to college. Often times, friend groups change and become smaller as people move away from one another.

Although graduation season is quarters away, senior year of college can be an emotional time for students and goes by quickly.

"I felt equally terrified and excited. But I now learned that it is okay to be terrified as long as you continue to push forward," Atsatt said.

Graduating is the closing of one chapter and the beginning of the next, so unexpected change is bound to happen, Kané noted.

"Growth and change are always hard, but always necessary."



# Food insecurity hits close to home

## College campuses experience hunger nationwide



Eldon and Reya Moore prepare fig and ginger truffles at the SPU Community Kitchen on Wednesday, Nov. 20.

**By Julia Battishill and  
Alayna Strabley**  
News Editor and Staff Reporter  
Photos by Blake Dahlin

The term “starving college student” is frequently used, often off-hand or jokingly, to describe the lives of busy, financially challenged young adults at universities and community colleges.

But it may be more literal than many realize. Statistically, many college students are doing just what the phrase implies: starving.

“Data from more than 30,000 two- and four-year college students indicate that approximately half are food insecure,” Katharine M. Broton and Dr. Sara Goldrick-Rab wrote in the 2017 study “Going Without: An Exploration of Food and Housing Insecurity Among Undergraduates.”

According to data collected in 2016 by authors James Dubick, Brandon Mathews and Clare Cady for a report titled “Hunger on Campus: The Challenge of Food Insecurity for College Students,”

food insecurity also disproportionately affects students of color and first generation college students over other groups.

Seattle Pacific University, it seems, is no different. Both SPU students and faculty readily admit that food insecurity is directly impacting students, and it is an issue that demands action.

“I never felt full when I was living in the dorms and eating the food on campus,” senior Katelyn McCollor said.

ASSP President Nathan Samayo remarked that it is important to approach the issues of homelessness and poverty through a more nuanced lens, accounting for all possible experiences of nutritional need. He wants to make sure all aspects are being attended to.

“When we talk about homelessness we just think of someone not having a house, which is correct, but there’s also other conversations; some folks have houses, but the other human needs such as food aren’t being met,” Samayo said. “Those things can be scarce for them.”

According to Samayo and many others, food insecurity is not just a national

issue, it directly affects our campus and many of our students. However, administrators, advisors and ASSP alike are beginning to take action to counteract some of that hunger.

Between ASSP plans in the works and under-the-radar actions by faculty, prog-

ress is slowly being made to create more resources.

SPU Dean of Students for Community Life Chuck Strawn said that he has spoken to many students who are, for one reason or another, not getting the nutrition they need.

“I have talked to students for whom food insecurity is very real on this campus, and also a lot of different ideologies of what that looks like,” Strawn said.

Strawn explained that, for some, ‘food insecurity’ means not being able to afford a meal, or groceries. For others, it can mean being too busy between school and work to have time for food until late at night — if at all.

“I think that a lot of people have changed their eating habits for school. Especially for commuters, we have to plan ahead if we need to bring food for lunch or for snacks while we’re at school,” senior Ally Wire said. “A lot of times, this means buying food items that are convenient but not necessarily healthy”

“I feel that when people go to college

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**“Data from more than 30,000 two- and four-year college students indicate that approximately half are food insecure.”**

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SPU senior Thomas Gray is served a lunch of pancakes, sausages and eggs at a Sharpen lunch.



Lola Vann measures flour for pancakes and cookies at the SPU Community Kitchen.



## Food availability in Seattle

1. **Wednesday night dinners at Bethany Presbyterian Church**  
818 Queen Anne Ave. N.  
Bethany Fellowship Hall  
Doors open at 5:30 p.m.  
Dinner served 6:00–7:00 p.m.
2. **Queen Anne Food Bank at Sacred Heart**  
232 Warren Ave. N.  
Monday 8:30–11:30 a.m.  
Tuesday 8:30–11:30 a.m.  
Wednesday 8:30–11:30 a.m.  
Thursday 8:30–11:30 a.m.,  
2:00–4:00 p.m.  
Friday 8:30–11:30 a.m.
3. **FamilyWorks, Wallingford Food Bank**  
1501 N 45th St.  
Tuesday 12:00–2:00 p.m.  
Thursday 3:00–6:00 p.m.  
Friday 11:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.
4. **University District Food Bank**  
5017 Roosevelt Way  
Monday 9:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.  
Tuesday 2:00 p.m.–8:00 p.m.  
Thursday 2:00 p.m.–8:00 p.m.  
Friday 11:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.
5. **Pike Market Food Bank**  
1531 Western Ave.  
Tuesday 10 a.m.–1:00 p.m.  
Wednesday 4:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m.  
Thursday 10:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.
6. **Ballard Food Bank**  
5130 Leary Ave. NW.  
Monday 2:00 p.m.–7:00 p.m.  
Tuesday 11:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.  
Wednesday 11:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.  
Thursday 2:00 p.m.–7:00 p.m.

they eat things like cup of noodles. When you live in the dorms you're less likely to make stuff on your own," remarked McCollor.

"It is definitely something that all campuses struggle with, and we definitely have students that struggle with it here," Strawn explained.

Strawn elaborated that, when he was younger, he experienced many of the same struggles around food that some SPU students, and college students nationwide, are facing today. He said that he understands the perspective of these students.

He noted that Samayo is "especially passionate" about this subject, and while the issue has been discussed for a while, Samayo recently has been taking more steps towards a plan of action.

"It's something he really wants to help our campus get ahold of and wrestle with," Strawn said.

Samayo specified that he has a few goals for the year that he is personally championing, and he is beginning to have conversations about those goals,

but they still need to be agreed upon and set into motion.

"With students' meal plans, I would love to take the excess of the meals that they didn't use at the end of the quarter to make block plans for people the next quarter, especially for commuter students who aren't required to have a meal plan," he said.

For a "more immediate" approach, he would also like to see a meal swipe donation system created for food insecure students.

"People could donate at least one meal swipe, and if twenty students donate one swipe ... that's somebody who [now] has a twenty-meal block plan."

While those goals are being finalized and discussed, there are resources that students experiencing food insecurity can utilize.

Mya Kwon, staff dietician at SPU's student counseling center, spoke to the resources currently available.

"We have a list of local food banks that students might be able to access," Kwon explained.

"There are some churches around the campus that might have certain nights or days where everyone in the community is welcome to come have a meal."

She also noted that SPU's Community Kitchen provides a meal once per month, and is available to all students.

As far as on campus resources, Strawn recognizes that there is a lack of ways to help that do not require the student to ask an administrator.

"Off the top of my head there's not any, and that's part of the problem," Strawn said.

"One of the things we're finding statistically about food insecurity nationally is that it's super embarrassing for people, they don't want to say 'hey I don't have money to buy lunch today.' As someone who has been there, I absolutely understand that."

He mentioned the option of Gwinn guest meals, if students feel more comfortable asking their peers for help.

Third year student Elizabeth Davisson commented that Gwinn is a decent nutritional option, if students have access.

"You also have the freedom to choose to eat healthy foods, there's a lot of those to choose from."

Kwon noted a few places students might be able to go, such as her office in the counseling center and health services, where nurse practitioners are "well aware that this might be an issue in students that they might see in the clinic."

Kwon wants students experiencing food insecurity to know that they have options, and they are not alone.

"That if they don't know of the resources, there are people and departments they can reach out to for that," she said.

In light of this issue, many SPU professors and faculty members have started 'mini food banks' by making free food available in their classrooms, clubs and other student-accessible areas for students to use anytime, no questions asked.

"It's great to know that there are other people on campus that are concerned and are trying to help students out," Kwon remarked.

# Mixed mindedness

## Being multiracial in United States

**W**hat are you?" A question most, if not all, mixed-race people have been asked at least a few times throughout their lives.

While being mixed is more commonly embraced today, society still needs to look at how categorization, labels and biases in communities can impact someone who identifies as multiracial.

Interracial marriage was illegal in the United States up until 1967, when the ruling of the Supreme Court case *Loving v. Virginia* set a precedent that legalized interracial marriage across the country.

The *Loving* case overturned laws that did not allow for miscegenation.

The banning of miscegenation in the U.S. has existed since the Colonial Era. However, multiracial people had existed even before the *Loving* case.

Race 'mixing' has been going on for as long as the invention of the division of races.

The term 'mulatto' was a term created to describe a mixed-race slave with one white parent and one black parent.

Mulatto is an offensive term because it insinuates that white and black people are different species — as if black people are not human. The 'tragic mulatto' is a trope that assumes a mixed-race person to be sorrowful, suicidal or insane since they find it difficult to exist in society.

Many multiracial people do go through struggles involving identity crises, not feeling accepted by one race or having to ignore the other.

But this does not turn them into a tragedy.

Pew Research Center shows that 69% of multiracial adults with a black background have similar experiences, attitudes and social interactions that are more closely aligned with the black community.

A different pattern appears among biracial white and Asian adults who feel more closely connected to their white heritage than to their Asian heritage.

Out of biracial adults who are white and Native American, only 22% say they have more in common with Native Americans, while 61% say they have more commonalities with white people.

There is no shame in being mixed, but there is shame in the history of American society that still impacts how people co-exist today. The mixed life struggles do not come from not knowing who oneself is. They come from others trying to tell them who they are.

When someone asks me, "what are you?" I typically say I am black and white — that is the easy answer.

What goes through my head is how I

am a person whose ancestors were oppressed and were the oppressors; were immigrants that sailed across the seas in search of new land, and the First Nations people who have only known this land as their rightful home.

Not a day goes by when I do not think about what it means to be multiracial. Ever since I was a little girl, people would comment about my hair texture, my skin color — comparing and contrasting my blackness with my whiteness.

Attending a high school composed mostly of minority students helped me gain a better grasp of realizing my race is not what defines me. I was surrounded by many people of color who openly embraced discussions about their ethnic, cultural backgrounds.

"I feel most colored when I am thrown against a sharp white background," author Zora Neale Hurston said.

Seattle Pacific University, being a university with a majority white student body, feels like a sharp white background — often alienating for a person of color.

Rachel Ann Regner, a sophomore at SPU majoring in Economics with a concentration in public policy and an Asian Studies minor, talked about her experience being a white and Filipino woman raised in Texas.



By Bella Tollestrup-Wimbish  
Staff Reporter

"I do not believe in percentages," she commented on how ethnicity is often quantified.

"I believe that it invalidates someone's identity. As a mixed kid, it makes people more confused and feel as if they have to justify themselves."

She explained how her appearance and skin color

have impacted her life.

"The first time I realized I was mixed was in second grade, my dad brought me lunch, and all of my classmates started asking me if I was adopted," she said.

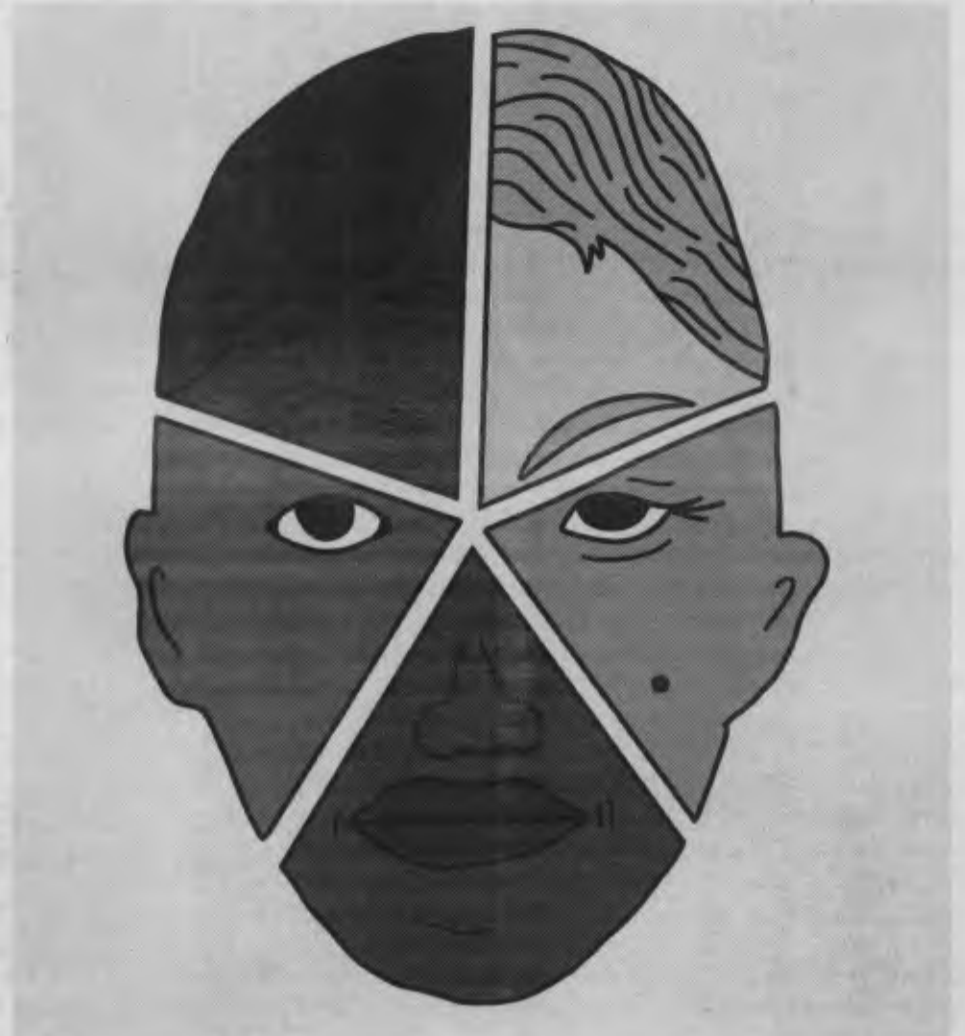
"In Asian culture, skin color is huge. Growing up, I was way tanner than white kids but not as brown as Filipino kids. People would say to me, 'why do you want to be tan? You are white, that is pretty,'" she said.

"But then they would also tell me I needed to be tan to be Filipino. There was one point where I rejected being Filipino. And I focused on my southern culture instead."

What resonated with me most in the conversation with Rachel was that when you are mixed, sometimes it is about "just trying to be enough."

"The only one who can understand being a mixed kid is a mixed kid."

Bella is a sophomore studying social justice and cultural studies.



CHLOE GUILLOT | THE FALCON

## Editorial comment Referendum 88 stalls affirmative action

**O**n Nov. 5, Washington voters had the opportunity to vote on Referendum 88, a policy that would have instituted Initiative 1000, a state policy to institute affirmative action.

This initiative was passed by the Washington legislature in April of this year. But the referendum, called by opponents to Initiative 1000, forced a vote to keep Initiative 1000. It was denied by a margin of about two percent. But it also represents an archaic side of Seattle Pacific University that needs to be changed for the sake of inclusion.

Initiative 1000 was sponsored by the One Washington Equality Campaign and, according to the bill itself, sought to make affirmative action mandatory in the hiring processes of public employment, education and contracting.

The concept of affirmative action — at least in higher education — became a nationwide issue in 2014 as conservative advocate Edward Blum sued Harvard University for alleged discrimination against Asian students. Blum and other conservatives attempted to use these denied Asian students to stop this practice. Affirmative action, from their point of view, gave special attention to disadvantaged populations such as people of color and those with LGBTQ+ gender and sexual orientations.

This perspective carries a degree of color blindness, and it is a gross misunderstanding of what affirmative action is.

Initiative 1000 reveals the true intent of affirmative action. According to the bill, every Washington resident should be free from discrimination based on

"their race, sex, color, ethnicity, national origin, age, sexual orientation, the presence of any sensory, mental, or physical disability, or honorably discharged veteran or military status."

Affirmative action does not drastically alter the hiring process. It simply makes these identities a factor in the process.

Although SPU is relatively progressive in who the institution educates (67% of total students are women and 43% of undergraduates are ethnic minorities, according to the university's website), the Statement on Human Sexuality has not changed since 2005. In one line, the statement reads, "within the teaching of our religious tradition, we affirm that sexual experience is intended between a man and a woman."

Although SPU has made major strides in educating women and ethnic minorities, some of SPU's policies on sexuality and gender identity remain to be addressed by the university's administration. Even though SPU is still a private institution, Initiative 1000 would have put more pressure from the public to change its policies.

As views change on identity, institutions must also adapt — especially if they are to call themselves Christian.

*The editorial comment is composed by the opinions editor, the editor-in-chief, and the editing staff. Opinions expressed represent the majority of the group. News and assistant news editors are never involved in the composition.*

# WWU takes down Falcons at Interbay

## Vikings beat SPU 2-1, season ends with growing team



The Seattle Pacific banner at Interbay Stadium is taken down following SPU's loss to Western Washington during the GNAC Tournament

BLAKE DAHLIN | THE FALCON

By Kyle Morrison  
Staff Reporter

Western Washington continued its dynastic run through the GNAC by winning their fourth GNAC championship in five years on Saturday. Making the loss even more painful for the Falcons was the fact that it came on their home field at Interbay stadium.

Despite the loss, the SPU athletic department is thrilled with a tournament that saw their home team not only make it to the championship, but give the seventh team in the nation a run for their money for all 90 minutes of the match.

On Thursday, the top-seeded Western Washington University Vikings, who owned a dominant 12-0 conference record and 16-2 record overall, took on the Central Washington University Wildcats, who barely squeaked into the tournament with a 6-5 conference record and an 8-8-1 record overall.

The match was surprisingly close throughout.

Western Washington took a 1-0 lead

in the 31st minute off of a Karli White goal, but before they could take a breath, the Wildcats' Bella Brown scored in the 33rd minute to tie it up. This sparked the large contingent of Central Washington fans who made the two-hour drive from Ellensburg in hopes of seeing a remarkable upset.

Central Washington continued to hold on for dear life, until Western Washington's relentless charge turned into another goal in the 65th minute by Dayana Diaz. Western Washington took 23 shots in the match, compared to CWU's six shots, showing that while the match was close, the Vikings were just too much for the Wildcats to handle.

Western Washington won the match 2-1 and advanced to their eighth straight GNAC championship game.

In Thursday's nightcap, the Falcons took on the Western Oregon Wolves.

The Falcons came into the game as the second seed in the tournament with a 9-3 record in conference and an 11-7 record overall. The Wolves were also coming off a very solid season that saw them

go 7-3-2 in conference and 10-5-3 overall.

This game was slated to be a very close, hotly contested game but, fortunately for SPU, two early goals by freshman Chloe Gellhaus and junior Claire Neder in the 24th and 28th minutes tipped off what soon turned into a pretty lopsided affair.

SPU would score two more goals off the feet of sophomore Makena Rietz and junior Sophia Chilczuk and ended up winning the match 4-1, with WOU's lone goal coming in the 81st minute by Malia Napoleon, after the match was basically already decided.

SPU's win set up a classic GNAC showdown between them and the Western Washington Vikings.

With an exciting final scheduled to take place at Interbay, the stadium filled with fans about ten minutes before the game started. Both Western Washington and SPU were well represented in the stands and both fan bases tried to chant over each other throughout the entire game.

SPU took the early lead with a goal from Chloe Gellhaus in the 18th minute. While this goal excited SPU and their supporters, it also seemed to galvanize the Vikings as their intensity on offense almost immediately picked up.

Jordyn Bartelson tied the match up at one-a-piece in the 26th minute with a difficult header coming off a rebound. The 1-1 tie would last for 56 minutes as both teams began playing chippy defense that reminded everyone what kind of a fierce rivalry these two programs have.

Finally, in the 80th minute, GNAC Player of the Year Karli White hit the decisive goal to give Western Washington a 2-1 lead, which the Vikings never surrendered.

Once the game was over, Western Washington celebrated yet another

See **SOCCER** | Page 8



BLAKE DAHLIN | THE FALCON

Marissa Bankey battles with a Western Washington player for control of the ball during SPU's 2-1 loss in the GNAC Tournament final.



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**SOCCER** from Page 7

championship in their incredible five year run through the GNAC.

Normally championship runs like this get labeled as dynastic, but Western Washington head coach Travis Connell down played the dynasty talk.

"I don't know about that, that's real-

ly not for me to say," said Connell. "I am proud of the huge accomplishment to win this game, just to be in this game is a huge accomplishment ... we play in a great conference with teams like SPU."

Despite hope of a possible berth in the western regional, SPU was not selected as one of the seven teams to advance. Instead UC San Diego, Sonoma

State, Western Washington, Cal Poly Pomona, Point Loma, Stanislaus State and Cal State LA will play each other for the chance to be named the best of the west and play for a national championship.

Although SPU's season is over, it consisted of many positives. The Falcon's 9-3 conference record following their 2-4 start shows radical improvement across

the season that bodes well for next season. Along with a roster that includes 17 underclassmen out of a 26 woman roster, SPU is set up to improve a lot between this year and next year.

# Spreading wings in new role

## Becoming enigmatic SPU mascot, Talon

By **Daniel Newman**  
Sports Editor

*Editor's note: To maintain anonymity, the student in this article is referred to as 'Talon.' Talon the mascot is male. The pronouns used in this article do not necessarily reflect the gender of the student inside the suit.*

At any Seattle Pacific University sporting event, there is one thing that fans cannot miss. It's not the players on the court or the field, the cheerleaders doing stunts or the food in the concession stand.

When attending an SPU sporting event, one is sure to see Talon greeting fans, snapping a few pictures and maybe even throwing a t-shirt into the crowd to get the crowd pumped up.

This year, a new Talon has assumed the role, and he is quickly learning valuable information to help him do his job better.

"I never realized how hard it was to throw in a mascot costume until I came here," he said.

When not being a mascot, Talon enjoys walking around his new campus, as well as watching movies or tv shows and knowing obscure pop culture trivia.

Talon also has a deep love for sports, as it was a big part of his family growing up. Talon played soccer, basketball and track as a kid, and now enjoys watching soccer, football and baseball.

When he was unable to continue playing sports, Talon was asked to be his high school mascot during his freshman year. The mascot was new to the high school, so Talon was the first person to wear the suit for that school.

Coming into life at SPU, Talon was not planning on continuing to be a mascot, but he applied for the job anyway and ended up getting to be the one inside the suit.

"I'm really grateful for the opportunity they gave me to do this because I really enjoy it," Talon said.

Talon has always had a respect for college mascots, and that's led him to where he is today.

"They're juggling student life and then, all of a sudden, this, like, different persona," Talon said.

"Putting on the mask, and being someone else, it's a weird but awesome feeling because no one knows who you are under the mask. And then all of a sudden, you're making all of these people's memories happen because you're just kinda dancing around next to them."

The biggest part of being a mascot is the fan interaction, and Talon enjoys contributing to student life on campus and getting students enthusiastic about the games going on.

Talon interacts with many different



**Talon the Falcon gets involved with the student section during men's basketball halftime.**

KEATON DIXSON | THE FALCON

groups of people over the course of a game, including students, staff, alumni, opposing fans and families.

But interactions with little kids can be a mixed bag.

"There are some that are absolutely terrified of Talon, and kids who are like 'this is my new best friend!'" Talon said.

Talon loves working with kids, but because of where his eyes are situated, he does not always see them coming.

"All of a sudden I feel something like brush up against my leg, and I'm like 'what is that?' and the next thing I know, a kid's hugging me," Talon said.

Fan interactions can also be a difficult part of the job as well. Sometimes, people try to look down the suit to see who's inside, or yell "who are you?" at Talon at every sporting event.

Still others try to get a little bit too close to Talon, but in a different way.

"I have had a lot of people — both men and women — flirting with Talon, not knowing what Talon's gender was ... I've gotten a lot of kisses on the beak, that's for sure," he said.

Still, Talon appreciates the love he receives from the fans, especially the love from the faculty of SPU. Talon men-

tioned one of his favorite moments of this year being Halloween, when he got to interrupt some classes and hand out candy to the students.

Everything Talon does is to improve fan experience, and getting gratification from the fans makes it more worthwhile.

The next time you see Talon, you don't have to give him a kiss on the beak. Just smile and wave, and know that inside the mask, he's smiling back too.

"A little bit goes a long way, and it kinda helps make the experience a lot better for me as Talon," he said.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2019

# The Falcon

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SEATTLE PACIFIC UNIVERSITY INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

VOLUME 91, ISSUE 6

## AWAY IN A MANGER?

HOLIDAY SPECIAL EDITION

# Split families: what it means for holidays

## Children of divorce navigate complicated dynamics

By Julia Herman  
Staff Reporter

The winter holiday season is depicted in the movies and commercials as being bright and cheery. They usually show scenes of families sitting together with smiles on their faces by a Christmas tree.

Families tend to be the center of all holiday traditions, spending time and celebrating with one another.

The reality is that for many in America, family situations tend to be more layered and complicated than what is displayed in the media.

According to the American Community Survey, less than 46% of children still live with both of their parents by the time they turn seventeen due to divorce or separation.

"Being a child of divorce is super hard and not talked about enough, especially surrounding the holidays," student Rachel Wilson-Bates said.

Many times in a divorce, the children are left with many hurt feelings, especially during the holiday season.

Student Reyna Camarena has only been through one holiday since her parents' divorce in January 2018.

"It's super lonely and sad because it feels like it's just my dad and my siblings and me alone on the holidays when we have been so used to having my uncles, aunts and cousins over from my dad's side — but now it's not like that anymore," Camarena said.

When Camarena's mom left, the rest of her family left, including her father's side too. The holidays are a difficult time for her because she remembers what it was like before.

The holidays, for many families, are a difficult time that they are just trying to get through.

Even six years after his parents' sep-

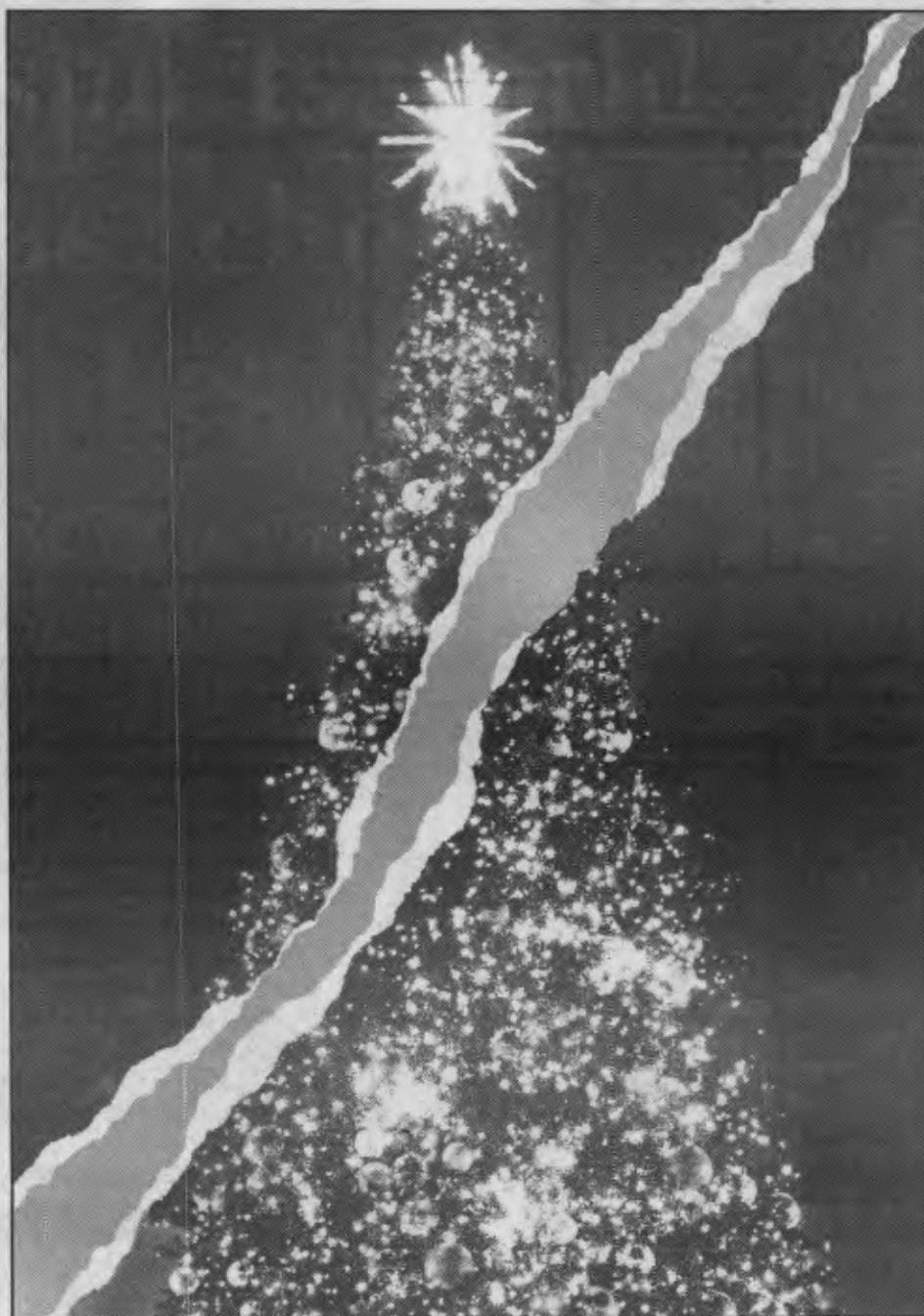


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY BLAKE DAHLIN

aration, student Joseph Avila still has strange feelings that come along with the holidays.

Avila's parents still celebrate Christmas together and, for the most part, they get along for the sake of their kids. However, there is still that worry over what could happen.

"I am sometimes anxious around the holiday season because I'm afraid that my parents will fight over little things, but when they don't, things are good enough for me," Avila said.

divorce," Wilson-Bates said.

For most children that have divorced parents, their holidays are divided. For some, they spend half of the day with one parent and the other half with the other. For some, they have to choose who they spend it with.

For Wilson-Bates, she had to alternate which parent she was going to spend the holiday with every other year until she turned 18 — which, ultimately, became frustrating due to her strained relationship with her father.

"As I got older, every holiday got increasingly frustrating," Wilson-Bates said. "I never wanted to spend time with my dad, and the holidays meant a lot to me since we all loved them so much before the divorce. So, spending them in an unhealthy environment was painful."

For some students with divorced or separated parents, being away from home leading up the holiday makes it easier, and for some, they find it harder.

For senior Shelby Perkins, her parents divorced when she was in high school so, initially, she found herself having a lot of hurt feelings surrounding the holiday time due to the strained relationship between her parents.

"It has been much easier for me when I am away at college because I don't have to think as much about what is going on back home which has been a nice break for me since high school," Perkins said.

Student Rachel Regner shares similar feelings. Since college, she feels she is now more independent and in control of her choices.

"I think it is easier now that I am in college because I am an adult and don't have to follow any visitation schedule anymore. I can go where I want when I want," Regner said.

For other students, such as Camarena, it is especially difficult now to be away from her dad and brother at college during the holidays, due to her associating Christmas as being a time meant to spend with family.

"College is more friend oriented. I can celebrate the holidays with my friends, but it's just not the same as having the family there," Camarena said.

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# National Nordic Museum celebrates Julefest

## Seattlites experience richness of Nordic culture

By Kyle Morrison  
Staff Reporter

As Christmas comes around, many different cultures will begin revisiting the Christmas traditions which make the holiday meaningful to them. Of the many cultures that value Christmas, the Nordic culture has many traditions that make Christmas very special for them.

Julefest is held every year at the National Nordic Museum in Ballard. This festival serves as a chance for the museum to get people from all around Seattle into the doors and allow them to truly experience the richness of Nordic culture.

"It brings out so many people to the museum that wouldn't normally be here," Julefest staff member Wendy Forselius said. "I love the food, I love wearing costumes and playing music and dancing. I love being here."

Forselius was excited about the opportunity to dance in traditional Nordic folk dances which are featured at the museum every year. Dances from Norway, Denmark, Finland, Iceland and Sweden (the five Norwegian countries) are all featured. Dancers dress up in traditional attire from



ALY COTTE | THE FALCON  
Julefest workers preparing the ableskiver, a traditional Danish snack at Julefest.

their specific country and dance to traditional Nordic music.

For those attending Julefest, culture, food and music all bring them to Ballard. "I came here because of my heritage and thought it was cool," Jack Swanson said. "There's a lot of stuff here that pertains to my culture."

One of the many highlights of Julefest is the food. Julefest makes traditional Nordic fare throughout the day and, for many in the area, it is their only chance they get to

eat these dishes without making them at home.

The highlight of the menu is Ableskiver which, according to Noel Povelson is "The viking version of a pancake"

More precisely it is a Norwegian pastry ball, cooked like a pancake and served with jelly and sugar. The line for this dish spread about a quarter way through the building, and many coming to Julefest were just there to eat the delicacy.

The making of Ableskiver also has incredible cultural significance in many Nordic cultures. Most of the women cooking the Ableskiver on Saturday learned how to make the dish from their mothers, and even use the same pans that their mothers used when they were first being taught to cook.

Jolie Bergman, one of the cooks on Saturday explained this cultural phenomenon. "I've been making [Ableskiver] for about 25 years," Bergman said. "My [mother] taught me and I've been making them here since I was 15, all cast iron pots have been passed down for generations."

When attendees finished their food, many proceeded to walk around the museum and marvel at the incredible exhibits throughout the building.

The top floor features a long walkway that documents the entire history of Nordic culture. From the Vikings to World War II, this exhibit shows the story of the Nordic people.

Across the hall and in a different room, there is an entire exhibit documenting the immigration of Nordic people to America. The Museum wants the public to know that over 10 million Americans to some degree descend from a Nordic ethnicity, and that the Nordic culture has played a key role in America's history.

As far as the rest of the Christmas festival, many Christmas shops were open all across the building. From Norwegian wines, to exotic jerkys, to tricketa galore, there were many ways for attendees to show their Christmas spirit with a Nordic twist.

Overall the museum hopes that having Christmas festivals and other activities at the museum will get more foot traffic in the building.

Rosemary Jones, the head of marketing at the museum expressed her belief in the museum. "I think the neat thing about the museum is it celebrates Nordic culture social justice, and the American immigrant experience," Jones said. "For fun we really celebrate Christmas."

For many Nordic individuals in the Pacific Northwest, Julefest served as an opportunity to experience the history of their culture, while celebrating in the Christmas spirit. But even people just looking for a good time thought the Nordic museum was worthwhile.

As Jim Skrinkle put it, "Good food, good beer, good music and it's something to do in Ballard on a Saturday."

# Starbucks not-so-holiday cups

## Implicit Christmas theme behind brand's infamous holiday packaging

By Tori McArthur  
Staff Reporter

"It's the official start of the Christmas season, and I feel like people decide when it's time to start celebrating Christmas based off Starbucks' holiday cups," sophomore student Patricia Sydenstricker said.

For the last 22 years, Starbucks has been rolling out "holiday" themed cups and packaging as a way to celebrate this time of the year. Employees turn in their green aprons for red ones and wrap the store in décor.

"We came up with this idea of wrapping the stores in holiday joy and wrapping the cups like a gift to our partners and customers," Jen Quotson, vice president of Starbucks' Creative team, said.

Today, in hopes to be more inclusive, "happy holidays" is used by companies like Starbucks, raising the question if their cups feature too much Christmas, or not enough.

In 2015, Starbucks received a huge backlash on their cup designs, some claiming it as a "war on Christmas" after cutting back on the creative front by leaving their cups plain red.

December is full of holidays such as Hanukkah and Kwanzaa. Yet the billion-dollar cooperation narrows their focus to the green and red, neglecting Hanukkah's blue and gold.

For Starbucks consumers world-wide, the rollout of these cups signal signature drinks and a sense of excitement.

This year's cups feature a green and red color scheme alongside typography elements of the words, "Merry Coffee." The company refers to the four current cup designs as the Candy Cane Stripe, Merry Stripes, Merry Dance and Polka Dots.

Quotson's team keeps the holiday cups top secret — even from Lisa Beckman, SPU alumni and director of Global Beverage Innovation and Optimization for Starbucks.

Beckman said, "Our holiday cup design is kept under wraps for the majority of Starbucks partners until very close to launch day. My role is to create our beverages and I typically do not even get to see them much earlier than others."

Throughout the last two decades, Starbucks' creative team has looked back at previous years' cups to help guide the new designs which all feature the green and red color scheme intertwined with Starbucks' logo.

In 1997 and 1998, Starbucks cups sported a warm purple hue with winter themed symbols such as ice skates and snowflakes. This transformed into the 1999 iconic red cup that has stuck with the brand ever since.

Alongside their green logo, the company started integrating ornaments, Christmas trees and presents, all elements of the commercial aspect of Christmas.

"I think they [Starbucks] definitely lean more towards Christmas. But less so than previous years, I can give them that,"



ALY COTTE | THE FALCON

The annual Starbucks holiday cups for 2019.

Samara Sorce, a senior business student, said.

Although the brand does not explicitly state that these are Christmas cups, many design features have historically slanted toward one holiday this time of the year.

In the Metro Seattle Area, Christians account for 52% of the population with the other 48% identifying as Jewish, Muslim, Buddhist, Hindu, or unaffiliated, according to the Pew Research Center.

Today, conversations surrounding the holidays are sensitive, and often filtered to use politically correct terms.

"It [Christmas] is celebrated by people who are not Christians and has become a secular holiday, which creates an interesting dynamic for Starbucks to market their coffee to the population," Katherine Douglass, professor of Theology said.

"Even by just putting Christmas symbols on it they are going to get a reaction and people are going to talk about it which will lead people will buy their coffee."

This idea wasn't an isolated opinion. Gray Kolde, a sophomore physiolo-

gy student, commented, "I am not at all surprised that Starbucks came out with seasonal special cups in these colors; it's another way to milk their faithful customers for another couple bucks, and the inevitable buzz that they generate is great for business."

This reaction is seen when consumers post their cups online or go to Starbucks to collect the cups, all bringing in more foot traffic — and money.

Lauren Kelly, freshman and part-time barista at Starbucks said, "It's definitely busier around the holidays. I really enjoy working there during the holiday season because of the atmosphere. It just all really feels like Christmas."

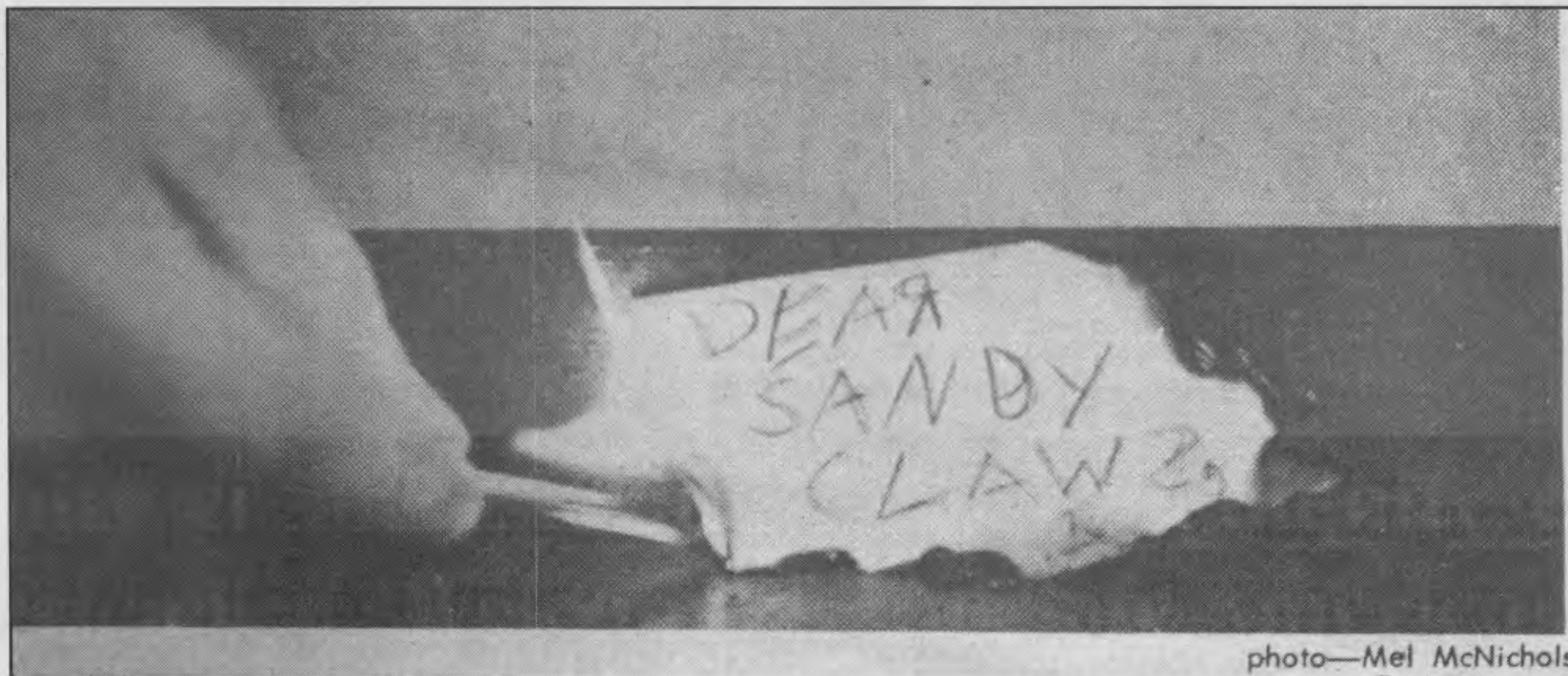
The rollout of these cups may signal the holiday season for some but also bring to attention other social ramifications.

"People that are offended by the design of the cups are in no way obligated to buy their coffee from Starbucks — especially in Seattle. They are free to use their purchasing power to support any product at any company that they choose," Kolde said.



# Modern christmas grows from commercial iconography

## Where did Santa Clause, Christmas trees come from?



photo—Mel McNichols

A photo illustration from the 1967 Christmas Special Edition of *The Falcon*, which ran with an article entitled "To Santa Claus:—Return to Sender."

By **Julia Battishill**  
News Editor

Christmas in the United States is known for a set of seemingly 'universal' and timeless traditions, but the history of these traditions is more varied and complex than one might expect.

Santa Claus himself, arguably the holiday's most emblematic figure, originated in the story of Saint Nicholas. According to National Geographic, Saint Nicholas of Myra, who is said to have been born in what is now known as Turkey near the year 280 A.D., was known as a figure of protection and kindness, especially to children.

He earned this reputation via several well-known legends associated with him, such as saving three sisters by paying their dowries. He was believed to have given away all of his wealth and traveled to serve the sick and impoverished, and was widely associated with piety and compassion.

Saint Nicholas died on December sixth in the mid 14th century, and the date came to be celebrated as his feast day to those who followed him.

The sixth remained the principal day of celebration in association with Saint Nicholas for many years, as Christmas Day was not named the 25th of December until Pope Julius I chose the day to celebrate Jesus's birth.

According to editors at history.com in their article "History of Christmas," "It is commonly believed that the church chose this date in an effort to adopt and absorb the traditions of the pagan Saturnalia festival."

The Saturnalia festival was a Roman celebration during the week leading up to the winter solstice, honoring Saturn, the god of agriculture. They also celebrated Rome's children in Juvenalia during this time, and some upper class Romans celebrated the sun god Mithra's

birthday on Dec. 25.

Once established, Christmas Day came to be connected to Saint Nicholas due to the proximity of their celebrations, and the reputation of Nicholas being protector and gift-bearer to children. The article specifies that continued celebrations of Saint Nicholas's feast day by Germanic peoples helped to popularize the figure across continents.

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**"They've taken the magical gift-bringing of St. Nicholas, stripped him of any religious characteristics, and dressed this Santa in the furs of those shaggy Germanic gift bringers."**

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However, even then, this version of Saint Nick looked nothing like the Santa known today — he was much more elvish, often thin and notoriously harsh toward naughty children — nor did he yet have much of the lore that is as-

sociated with him today. Those came via American poets and writers in the 1800s.

According to National Geographic, "Washington Irving's 1809 book "Knickerbocker's History of New York" first portrayed a pipe-smoking Nicholas soaring over the rooftops in a flying wagon, delivering presents to good girls and boys and switches to bad ones."

"The Children's Friend," an anonymous illustrated poem published in 1821, further crafted the image now associated with Santa Claus and linked him to the Christmas holiday. This poem was highly influential to the modern perception of Santa.

"Here we finally have the appearance of a Santa Claus," University of Manitoba historian Gerry Bowler, author of "Santa Claus: A Biography," said for National Geographic. "They've taken the magical gift-bringing of St. Nicholas, stripped him of any religious characteristics, and dressed this Santa in the furs of those shaggy Germanic gift bringers."

The final piece of this formation was the work that we now know as "The Night Before Christmas," which was originally written as "A Visit From St. Nicholas" by Clement Clarke Moore in 1822. He wrote the work for his six children, but it was anonymously published the next year and has, since, drastically shaped American Christmas tradition.

In 1931, the Coca-Cola company began placing holiday advertisements in magazines. It was decided that a wholesome, family-friendly version of Santa Claus was needed — so the company commissioned illustrator Haddon Sundblom to create images of a personable, marketable Santa Claus.

Sundblom turned to "A Visit From St. Nicholas." According to the Coca-Cola website, "Moore's description of St. Nick led to an image of a warm, friend-

ly, pleasantly plump and human Santa." This image gained traction in the U.S., and is what we now know as modern Santa Claus.

"Sundblom's Santa debuted in 1931 in Coke ads in 'The Saturday Evening Post' and appeared regularly in that magazine, as well as in 'Ladies Home Journal,' 'National Geographic,' 'The New Yorker' and others," according to the conversations staff.

Once established in the U.S., the new legend then made its way back across the pond to Europe, where the friendlier Santa Claus quickly took root with names like Père Noël in France, or Father Christmas in Great Britain.

As far as other well known traditions, such as Christmas trees, history.com specifies that these originated in winter solstice celebrations throughout the northern hemisphere prior to the arrival of Christianity. The shortest days of the year were often celebrated as a return of the strength of sun gods, and festivities incorporated evergreen plants.

In regard to our current conception of Christmas trees, German Christians are credited for first bringing trees into their homes, or sometimes building and decorating pyramids of wood if trees were hard to come by.

For decorations, Martin Luther is widely believed to have originated the tradition of Christmas lights.

"Walking toward his home one winter evening, composing a sermon, he was awed by the brilliance of stars twinkling amidst evergreens. To recapture the scene for his family, he erected a tree in the main room and wired its branches with lighted candles."

Even with these commonly held traditions, countries around the world celebrate Christmas differently, making the holiday as diverse as those who celebrate it.

# Letting go of classic fairytale tropes

## Frozen II develops characters through new villain

By Andrew Stez  
Features Editor

Through facing themselves characters in Frozen II are shone in new light for genre

Arendelle, now a peaceful kingdom, celebrates once again with a grandiose festival. Unlike in "Frozen" (2013), however, they are celebrating the onset of fall, which brings colorful leaves and crowds cheering over the calm peace they have observed after the last film.

Elsa (voiced by Idina Menzel) looks out of her castle overlooking the large crowds on the street. She hears an unfamiliar voice, knowing that once again she will be called out to leave her kingdom to protect it. Elsa must venture forth into a misty, dark forest that is full of mysteries. In the process, she must uncover the long hidden truth of both her past and the past of her kingdom.

This quest to uncover the secrets of the past is one of the most striking components of "Frozen II," Walt Disney Animation Studios' new animated film released Nov. 22, directed by Chris Buck and Jennifer Lee.

"Frozen II" is a fresh take on many of Disney's previous 'princess fantasy' films through its blatant disregard of typical villain archetypes and character development, while also maintaining a remarkable film score commonly expected of this genre.

At first, it seems like the film will be a boring stroll through a forest as it becomes apparent that, unlike the first film in which had Elsa to face up against

Anna's (Kristen Bell) evil prince charming Hans (Santino Fontana), the film does not have a clear villain like many of Disney's classic animated films.

Instead, the film subverts this expectation by making the focus of the movie the history of Arendelle and its past encounters with the forest Elsa is called to investigate.

Elsa encounters people and does have conflict with them. However, they serve as a vessel of how the forest environment is a villain in itself for the protagonists to overcome.

"Frozen II" is not a movie about a woman's sacrifice caused by her falling in love with a prince or having to overcome a scary villain. Instead, the villain is their past and how they must change themselves and their beliefs in order to overcome the obstacles in the forest and rectify past injustices.

This creates a dynamic, refreshing

take on the princess fantasy genre as the character development of both Elsa and Anna continues to paint them as strong, multifaceted characters who must look inward in order to succeed — an uncommon trait in these films.

In what is another genre-defying move, Anna, who is a supporting character, sees the most drastic development throughout the film.

In the beginning, just like in the last film, she is still the protector of her older sister and seeks to keep herself and Elsa together no matter what happens. When Elsa is called to explore the forest, Anna follows after her. However, Elsa is called to uncover the secrets alone and goes out on her own.

This puts Anna, who was more of a follower in "Frozen," in a leading, and ultimately pivotal role — a necessary part of the plot that makes her an equally substantial character as Elsa.

Expectedly, "Frozen II" also excels musically.

While "Frozen" produced the hit song "Let it Go," "Frozen II" had an exceptional score, once again composed by Kristen Anderson-Lopez and Robert Lopez, which, in many ways, outdoes that of the previous film.

From songs like "Into The Unknown" performed by Menzel and AURORA, and "Show Yourself" by Menzel and Evan Rachel Wood, the score proved to once again create perfect music to accompany the journey of the characters, as well as to invite viewers to sing along during pivotal moments in the movie.

It is through the combination of a focus on a less action-packed, and more character-focused story, and great music, that "Frozen II" becomes a powerful successor to one of the most popular Disney movies in recent history.



PHOTO COURTESY OF DISNEY

In Walt Disney Animation Studios' "Frozen II," Elsa, Anna, Kristoff, Olaf and Sven journey far beyond the gates of Arendelle in search of answers.

American Institute  
of Graphic Arts  
(AIGA)  
Christmas Party  
6 - 8 p.m.  
Art Center Room 4

05 DECEMBER

Tradition  
7 - 9 p.m.  
Tiffany Loop

06 DECEMBER

Enchanted Christmas  
4 - 11 p.m.  
T-Mobile Park

22 NOVEMBER -  
29 DECEMBER

Gingerbread Village  
MONDAY - THURSDAY  
9 a.m. - 9 p.m.  
FRIDAY - SATURDAY  
9 a.m. - 11 p.m.  
Sheraton Grand Seattle

23 NOVEMBER -  
01 JANUARY

Snowflake Lane Parade  
7 p.m.  
Bellevue Square and  
Lincoln Square from NE  
4th to NE 8th Street

29 NOVEMBER -  
24 DECEMBER

Garden d'Lights  
4:30 - 9 p.m.  
Bellevue Botanical Gardens

23 NOVEMBER -  
24 DECEMBER

Christmas Break

13 DECEMBER -  
05 JANUARY



Mika Govender is currently a sophomore studying psychology and is planning to travel back to Morocco during break, but wishes she could stay on campus. KEATON DIXON | THE FALCON

# Left alone without housing

## International students made vulnerable during winter break

By Sam Everitt  
Staff Reporter

Sophomore psychology major Mika Govender lives in the dorms on campus, and when winter break starts she has no other options but to either find a place to stay or go home to her family in Morocco.

The Seattle Pacific University dorms are closed during winter break, meaning everyone, even international students, must vacate and find a place to stay until school starts again in January.

"I wish SPU would keep the dorms open, it's not easy to go home when you want to [as an international student]," Govender said. SPU does not offer international students housing over winter break.

This leaves them stranded if they do not have a place to go for the holidays.

"Even if [SPU] wanted to charge us to stay in the dorms over break, I would pay it instead of going home all the time because sometimes there's just no money for it, and then we are stuck. It feels like we are stranded," Govender said.

If an international student doesn't have family living nearby, they either have to spend a hefty sum of money to travel home or find a place to stay over the break.

"Cost-wise it's not great. You either have to pay for a ticket to go home or pay to stay here, and then you have to think about the cost of food, or transportation," Govender said.

Students who cannot fly home want open dorms over the break, and even students who can go home still support this sentiment.

"It would be convenient for the dorms to be open for those who don't have money to go home," Govender said.

Even if some students cannot go home, people like sophomore Eryn Tan, an English major, find ways of staying close by.

"I'd say the only negative impact about

the lack of housing is that I have to spend money every break to travel to Canada," Tan said.

Tan cannot go back home to Malaysia every holiday break, so she has to travel to Canada to stay with extended family and celebrate Christmas there.

With such long distances separating students from their family, it is not feasible for many to return home for every holiday and break.

own culture. This leaves many students missing out on their own family celebrations.

Chinese New Year, for example, is observed at the end of January, meaning that even if people who celebrate it can afford to fly home during winter break, they would miss out on all of the festivities.

"It's sad because the purpose of Chinese New Year is to reunite with family, but I can't go back because I'm studying

to later in the year during their local holidays.

"When I came back home for Christmas, everybody is still working. There is no Christmas break in Taiwan. When I come back to the U.S. everyone [back home] gets a break for Chinese New Year," Wu said.

Wu is the secretary for the International Students Club, which hosts events to commemorate holidays celebrated in students' home countries, such as Chinese New Year, since many of these students cannot go back for the holidays.

"I miss being a part of my family's traditions, and I'm not going to be able to be apart of it for four years," Wu said.

Some students may feel like the lack of housing leaves them on their own especially if they are away from family, but there are still ways of staying connected to other international students on campus.

"The International Students Club hosts a Chinese New Year celebration together, it's a great experience to celebrate Chinese New Year with other international students," Wu said.

Celebrating their own cultures' holidays with others makes international students feel at home, even if they cannot go back during break.

"[Chinese New Year] introduces the culture to people who are not Chinese, and it brings people together to celebrate the event," Wu said.

Going home is typically seen as a relaxing and calming experience. But for international students this is simply not the case.

Having access to housing, as expressed by many international students, could make international students feel at home for the holidays and soothe many who may be missing out on their family celebrations.

"It's disorientating but you get used to it and learn to live with it," Tan said.



KEATON DIXON | THE FALCON

"I miss being a part of my family's traditions, and I'm not going to be able to be apart of it for four years," Yolanda Wu from Taiwan said.

"Before I came to America, I studied in England and Korea so I don't really mind being away from my family — but I do get jealous when some students get home, but it's understandable because I chose to come to the U.S.," Govender said.

Often, the dates of winter break do not match up with those of the holidays that international students celebrate in their

here," Yolanda Wu, a sophomore business administration major from Taiwan, said.

Since break doesn't line up with holidays observed overseas, it leaves students in limbo between school breaks and family holidays.

Students have to fly back home while dorms are closed and their families often don't have time off from work, as opposed

# Identity in tradition

## Celebrating Hanukkah on Christian campus

By Kaley Oschmann  
Staff Reporter

Senior Natalie Goobes walks around Seattle Pacific University's predominantly Christian campus with a different perspective.

As a Jewish woman, Goobes sees the approaching holiday season in a different light than most of her peers. While most of SPU will be celebrating Christmas, Goobes will be celebrating Hanukkah.

"I have felt different than other people on campus but I don't think it has taken me away from Judaism or being Jewish. I still feel free to celebrate Hanukkah," Goobes said.

Although Goobes is on a campus founded in the Christian faith, which she does not practice, she still finds a way to connect to her identity.

Goobes' celebration of Hanukkah brings her closer to family, in the process strengthening her identity.

As Goobes sees it, her Jewish identity, and the history that comes with it, is what makes the holiday of Hanukkah sacred.

This year, the upcoming sacred season of Hanukkah spans from Dec. 22 to Dec. 30.

Goobes said that in the second century B.C., the Jewish people were oppressed under King Antiochus, who invaded and destroyed parts of Jerusalem. They were forced to worship Zeus when King Antiochus took over the Jewish Temple.

Then a Jew and his five sons raised up thousands of Syrians to fight Antiochus and won, reclaiming Jerusalem.

Once they won the Temple back, they wanted to celebrate, but most of the sacred oil used for purifying rituals was destroyed in the battle. They had a days worth of oil left but, miraculously, it lasted for eight.

To represent this miracle, the menorah was created.

The nine candles on the menorah represent the eight days that the oil lasted, and the ninth candle is the one used to light the others. One candle is lit each day to represent each of the eight days.

"That is what makes Hanukkah special to me, it's the celebration of a mira-



Natalie Goobes shares about the traditions of Hanukkah.

ALY COTTE | THE FALCON

"The painful history of the Jewish people makes me feel more connected to my Jewish identity because I feel a calling to come together and to build our community," Goobes said.

That feeling of connection to her Jewish community impacts the way that she appreciates the traditions.

Along with the menorah, another significant tradition is the dreidel. While the dreidel is mostly played with by children, it holds meaning nonetheless.

It was important that the Jewish people still found a way to celebrate their identities even though they were being oppressed.

The dreidel was originally constructed out of clay and used to play Jewish games when the Syrians occupied Jerusalem.

"It was a way to conceal Jewish heritage while under rule," Goobes said.

To celebrate in the modern day, Goobes

snowed in at their house in Renton, WA.

"We were kind of forced to spend time together — more than we usually do which was a blessing and a curse. I was really thankful that we had that time to bond together," Goobes said.

As they were "forced to spend time together," her family had more of an opportunity to pray together, grow together and reflect on the traditions that they share.

"I think having a faith together as a family is really important and I hope to raise my children with Judaism as an important part of who we are," Goobes said.

On the nights in between the first and last days of Hanukkah, her immediate family lights the candles and prays together.

"We usually do presents on the first night, which is more of a modern Hanukkah celebration, and then we do just the candle-lighting and prayer on the days between," Goobes said.

Although the gifts are more of a modern tradition, the dinner has always been a staple.

When they eat dinner as an extended family, Goobes' favorite traditional foods are latkes and sufganiyot.

"Latkes are like fried potato pancakes and sufganiyot are basically donuts with jelly inside. My sister tried to make them one year, but it didn't go well so we just get them from Krispy Kreme," Goobes said.

Goobes and her family have been able to share their favorite foods and faith with Goobes' Christian friends by inviting them over to her house for Hanukkah.

Having friends see the menorah and hear prayers has helped Goobes feel validated in her identity and be confident in sharing who she is with others.

Being able to discuss the rich tradition of Hanukkah and share her identity with friends is crucial to being comfortable on SPU's Christian campus because more people understand her.

"I have had friends come over for Hanukkah that are Christian and sometimes my dad gets out the Torah. It is cool because they get to learn about my religion which is not taught in schools," Goobes said.

One of the ways her family shares their faith is through their holy book, the Torah.

Goobes wishes that SPU had more opportunities to learn about other religions. She believes that, if more religions were taught, there would be a greater sense of cultural awareness on campus — especially around the holiday season.

Acknowledging that not all students celebrate Christmas cultivates understanding and empathy.

"I wish that there was a better awareness of Judaism at an academic level at SPU. I think it's super important to have different religions come together and I don't know if that happens at SPU," Goobes said.

Even though Judaism is not widely understood or represented on campus, Goobes still feels a strong connection to her people, her family and the traditions of Hanukkah.

"Hanukkah is just a time to celebrate and appreciate life together," Goobes said.

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**"I have felt different than other people on campus but I don't think it has taken me away from Judaism or being Jewish. I still feel free to celebrate Hanukkah."**

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cle," Goobes said.

Acknowledging the history of oppression that the Jewish people have endured and survived is important in celebrating the holiday today.

bes gets together with her extended family on the first and last nights of Hanukkah to light the candle, pray, share a meal and exchange gifts.

One of her favorite family memories of Hanukkah is when they all were

# Editor's note: away in a manger?

For the sake of clarity, all of the passages quoted from the Bible in this article are from the New Revised Standard Version.

Mary, the mother of Jesus, most likely gave birth to the son of God standing up, leaning against the midwife's assistants, who would massage her abdomen to help push out the baby. She would not have had the luxury of a birthing stool, like the wealthy women of her time.

Many of those who were raised in a protestant home, such as myself, were not given this story. It would have been watered down, something that Sunday school children and consumer Americans can swallow easily.

For me, the diluted story looked more like this: Mary and Joseph trek to Bethlehem on a donkey and, when finding no room at an inn to stay for the night, they take shelter in a barn, where Mary gives birth to Jesus. Wisemen bring gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh to Jesus, who is still in the barn with his parents, and shepherds gather around to celebrate the baby that has been born.

But this story does not reflect the reality of Jesus' birth. The real story visibly

diverges from the dominant narrative at the forefront of American pop-culture during the months of November and December.

Luckily, after giving birth, Mary would not have had to sleep in a barn with farm animals. The new family would have stayed in someone's guest quarters.

According to ACU scholar Stephen Carlson, the matter of "no room" at an inn is often misunderstood. Mary and Joseph would not have been seeking an inn at all. They would have asked for "kataluma," which refers to guest quarters in someone's home.

The guest quarters Mary and Joseph found were probably too small to give birth in so they relocated to the main room of the house, where animal managers would often be found.

"To you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord," the angels say to the shepherds in Luke 2:12. "This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger."

Unsurprisingly, Jesus was not celebrated by the shepherds and the magi on December 25. But the details of the real date of Jesus' birth are fuzzy, to say the least, because even the Bible's tellings of

Jesus birth — seen in Matthew and Luke — differ.

Some historians, according to National Geographic's "Science of the Bible," Episode One, argue that because Luke cites the reason for Mary and Joseph coming to Bethlehem as a census, Jesus would have been born in 6 A.D. Others argue, though, that because Matthew mentions the reign of King Herod, Jesus could have been born in 4 B.C. or earlier.

And then there is the star. Matthew mentions the star of Bethlehem that guides the wisemen, or magi, to Jesus.

According to an astronomer at Griffith University, John Mosley, this star is not nova or Halley's Comet, as some argue, but instead is a rare convergence of Jupiter and Venus. If so, Mosley argues the date of Jesus' birth to be on June 17 of 2 B.C.

"After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, 'Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him,'" Mark 2:1-2 says.

To acknowledge the elephant in the room, why am I telling this story?

The reason for this, and the reason for

the front cover of this issue, is to illustrate that the way Christmas is seen and celebrated in media is not the Christmas many people know.

The delusion of the nativity story, something reduced to "away in a manger," is one example of the many ways American pop-culture reduces stories that are not about whiteness, privilege and psuedo-Christianity to be about whiteness, privilege and psuedo-Christianity. Not to mention that the American obsession with this homogenized Christmas overshadows other holidays celebrated during the winter months.

In this special edition, we at The Falcon hope to tell at least some of the stories of those who, during the holiday season, do not celebrate the way it is presented in dominant media.

So I end with this — a truthful, however vaguely unsettling, quote from Luke 2:21.

"After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb."

Heidi Speck, Editor-in-Chief of The Falcon, is a junior studying journalism and art.

# Navigating heated conversations

## Talking politics during holidays

Family members can be a gift. For many, they provide support during times of need, they love unconditionally and they help create lasting memories; but this does not mean they cannot have skewed political beliefs.

While the holiday season is a wonderful time of year that brings families together from near and far to enjoy each other's company, holiday reunions may trigger relatives to engage in uncomfortable political conversations.

Maybe it is the racist grandpa, that one cousin who believes that "9/11 was an inside job" or maybe it is you. All families have at least one member that ruins holiday dinner.

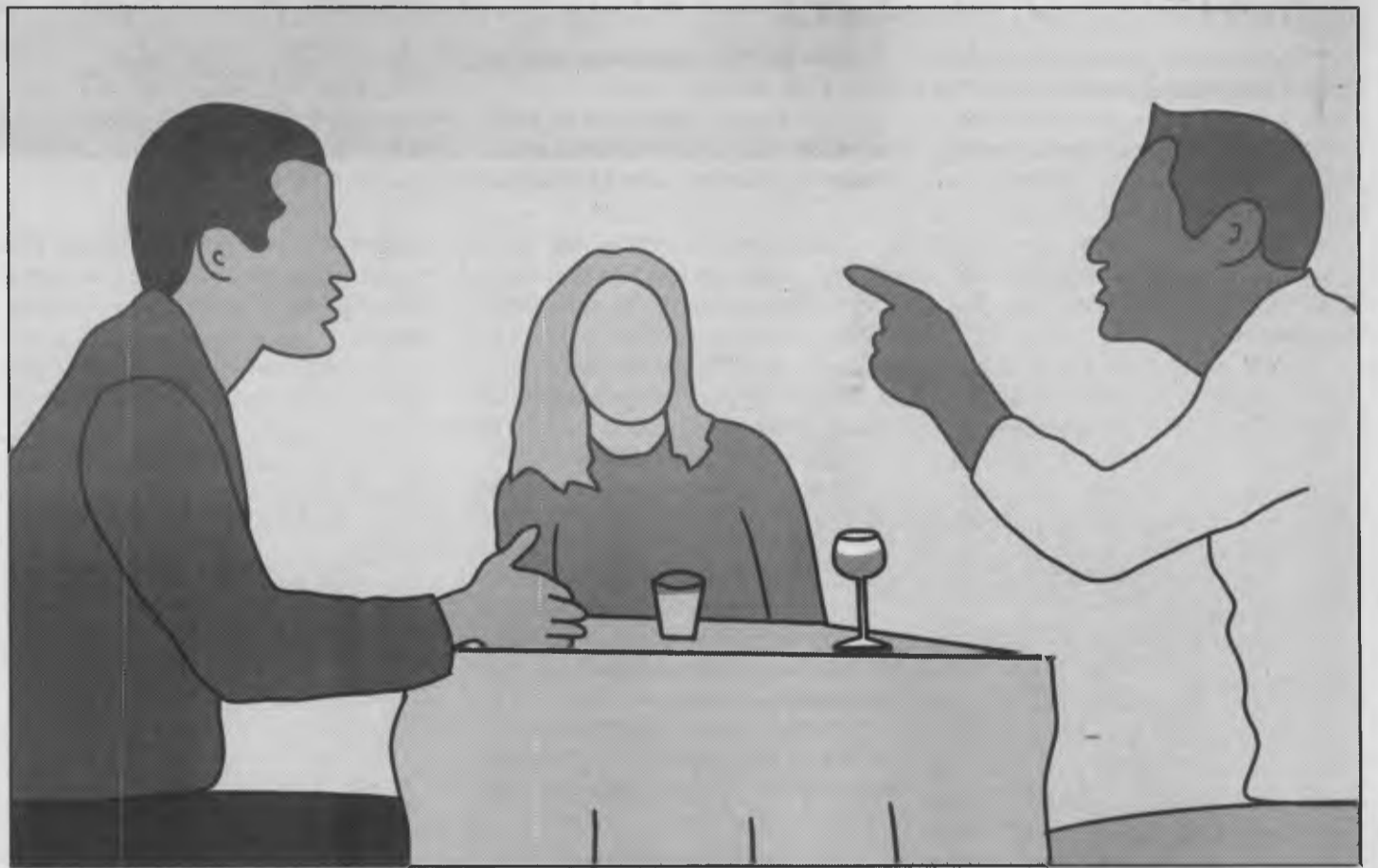
One cannot choose their family, but one can choose what to say to them when a political conversation begins to stir during the holidays.

If venturing into a possibly risky conversation with family, it is vital to keep a few things in mind:

Arguing without knowing the relevant information on a given topic is a bad idea; do some research beforehand. People who aim to argue for the sake of arguing do not bring anything meaningful to the table, literally and figuratively.

To spark conversation, asking relatives nonjudgmental questions is effective. When they answer, absorbing what is being said and asking follow-up questions is a much better response than planning a rebuttal. Going into these conversations with the motive to change someone's mind, will only lead to heightened tensions. Indeed, changing someone's opinions takes longer than a family dinner.

Summarizing the main points being presented, and addressing the feelings involved, is a respectful way to practice



CHLOE GUILLOT | THE FALCON

and exhibit attentive listening. As opposed to constantly looking for a challenge, finding common ground and sharing personal experiences is a healthy way to bond.

Even with a solid frame for conversation, sometimes there are topics of conversation that are better left untouched. Some subjects may be too triggering or emotional, either personally or for family members; it is important not to ignore this. If there is a topic that you cannot discuss without being cool, calm and collected, expressing this politely — yet firmly — can stop a conversation from becoming harmful.



By Kate Erickson  
Staff Writer

The key is to be aware of tone and body language. Being too confrontational will only stifle the festive atmosphere.

A successful celebration is one in which all in attendance have the opportunity to make new friends, catch up with old ones and strengthen bonds. Engaging in political conversation may offer the opportunity to learn something, but it must be recognized that these conversations are a slippery slope.

It is also important to remember that there are conversational topics other than politics, and that relatives have characteristics other than their political af-

filiations. Asking family members about their favorite music, which holiday food they are looking forward to the most or what their current favorite TV show is can also generate fun family exchanges.

The truth matters and it is important to stand up for what you think is right, but minds will not change in a matter of hours. Family members should not be excused when they are wrong, but sometimes it is important to put aside political affiliation and differences to simply love those around you. Family members, no matter how frustrating they may be, are a privilege even if they might not seem like it.

Kate is a sophomore studying journalism and minoring in computer science



CHLOE GUILLOT | THE FALCON

# Restoring immigrant dignity, creating “A Welcoming and Safe America For All” Sanders’ plan sets example for concrete solutions

Presidential candidate Sen. Bernie Sanders outlines what his first day as president would look like if he were to win the election on his website, stating that his first move would be to “overturn all of President Trump’s actions to demonize and harm immigrants on the first day of his presidency.”

On Nov. 7, Sanders released his detailed immigration plan which, while among the first to be released by a Democratic candidate, has not received much media attention.

A topic that has been highly controversial in recent media, it is surprising that this is not an issue gaining more traction in the 2020 national elections. Especially with increased ICE raids, and the U.S. becoming the country with the highest number of child detainees, more attention should

be given to the immigration plans of hopeful presidential candidates.

Sanders’ immigration plan is reflective of the American left’s push for more humanist politics, presenting plans that uplift the dignity of all people and protect individuals seeking refuge and opportunity within the United States.



By Julie Cantero-Valente  
Staff Writer

The progressiveness of Sanders’ immigration plan is unsurprising in light of his other views, such as making college free and cancelling student debt.

Listed below are the key points of Sanders’ lengthy immigration plan, taken directly from his campaign website:

- Institute a moratorium on deportations until a thorough audit of past practices and policies is complete.
- Reinstate and expand DACA and develop a humane policy for those seeking

asylum.

- Completely reshape and reform our immigration enforcement system, including breaking up ICE and CBP and redistributing their functions to their proper authorities.

- Dismantle cruel and inhumane deportation programs and detention centers and reunite families who have been separated.

- Live up to our ideals as a nation and welcome refugees and those seeking asylum, including those displaced by climate change.

If voters who claim to care about issues of immigration and protecting immigrants in the United States actually do care, they should take into consideration what kind of plans and details presidential candidates have — or don’t have.

While Sanders is not the first to come forward with an immigration plan, he is the most articulate and thoughtful. Other candidates must join Sanders by creating substantive plans of their own.

While Sen. Elizabeth Warren seems to agree with much of Sanders’s plan, she does not go to the same extremes that Sanders does in her proposed immigration solutions — namely, abolishing ICE. Sanders is the only candidate with a plan that explicitly and concretely states that ICE will be eliminated.

As immigration is a highly contentious issue, his is a bold stance for a candidate to take. Regardless, Sanders still chooses to endorse a humanitarian philosophy. He is among those demanding justice for immigrants, both documented and undocumented, even though his radical policies might cost him the election.

Sanders’ plan is important and relevant not only to immigrants in the United States, but also to all American residents who believe that the U.S. should be a safe haven for anyone looking for improved quality of living.

*Julie is a senior studying sociology*

## Senate passes pro-protest resolution

President Trump’s insistence on building a trade deal with China came to a potential roadblock in a resolution passed by the Senate on Nov. 19. The resolution, aptly named the Hong Kong Human Rights and Democracy Act, bans all sales of non-lethal crowd control devices and weapons — such as tear gas — to Hong Kong authorities. Further, the bill may jeopardize Trump’s plan in developing a strong trade network with the country. Nonetheless, this bill will test the U.S.’s leadership: Will they value economics over human rights?

This year’s Hong Kong protests have threatened to derail Trump’s hopes. Pro-democracy demonstrators, seeking to limit China’s influence in local politics and retain autonomy, have rioted for

months against authorities — both to the dismay of local pro-China politicians and Beijing.

Trump, through most of his presidency, has regarded China as both an economic threat to America’s interests as well as one of the U.S.’s premier business partners. Since the tech boom of 2000, China’s GDP shot from \$1.2 trillion to \$12.24 trillion in 2017; at the same time, the U.S.’s GDP reached \$19.39 trillion (World Bank). Within the past few decades, China has started to become a more looming figure in international commerce and the Trump administration has jumped on the opportunity to develop a trade-deal with the communist superpower, both diplomatically and economically.

And with the passing of the Senate’s

resolution, it seems as though many people in the United States cannot look past the People’s Republic’s desire to absorb Hong Kong. Viral attention of the situation in Hong Kong has brought human rights abuses to the world’s attention. The extradition law that sparked Hong Kong’s protests, excessive use of force by police, the banning of LGBTQ+ literature and the dissolution of political leadership at the hands of Beijing are examples of these abuses.

It is uncertain whether Trump will approve the bill to sanction China. Nonetheless, the decision is one of many tests that will determine whether the U.S., an economic superpower, may value human rights and real efforts at democracy over capital. Hong Kong critically requires

voices to air their desperation for autonomy.

Power structures that serve to reinforce unjust powers, like that of China over Hong Kong, should be questioned, and the situation in Hong Kong represents yet another fight for human rights and sovereignty abroad. The Falcon encourages the actions of the United States Senate in supporting the Hong Kong protests.

*The editorial comment is composed by the opinions editor, the editor-in-chief and the editing staff. Opinions expressed represent the majority of the group. News and assistant news editors are never involved in the composition of editorial comments.*



Basketball player Braden Olsen video-calling his family during the holiday season.

JACKY CHEN | THE FALCON

## Athletes celebrate season with family

### Falcon athletes celebrate holiday traditions

By Kyle Morrison  
Staff Reporter

For many athletes, winter break will serve as a much needed pause from the rigors of team activities and academics. When these athletes finally get the chance to go home and see loved ones, they hope to be greeted with the familiarity of home-cooked meals and other home comforts that have eluded them for many months.

One aspect of home life that marks the holidays are Christmas traditions. Whether they are performed as a team or as a family, these traditions can be used to bring people together and reminisce on old memories. For some, these traditions are part of the very fabric of what makes the holidays special.

Home cooking is always a welcome aspect of going home, but for freshman mens basketball player Zack Paulsen, one meal holds a special significance during the holiday season.

"My favorite holiday tradition is morning swedish pancakes made by my mom," Paulsen said. "They're pretty legit."

Sports and family can also be intertwined during the holidays. "My family always has the basketball games on throughout the day," freshman women's volleyball player Lindsey Lambert said. The Lambert family also enjoys infusing competition into the holiday season. "We do a gift exchange at my grandparents' house and my grandpa does this game and he makes it up every year," Lambert said. "It can be trivia or anything he comes up with."

It's no surprise that athletes and fami-

lies of athletes enjoy a little competition in each other's company. Women's basketball player Natalie Hoff's family likes to take this competition to the next level. "We always play a big game of picture-ary," Hoff said. "It's with my whole extended family."

Freshman women's soccer player AJ DePinto and her family have a tradition involving Santa Claus that happens annually. "On Christmas Eve we always take our santa pictures," DePinto said. "We do it like every year ... I don't think we've had a year where we haven't done it."

For some athletes holiday traditions cross over with their team experience. Christmas team bonding and activities are good ways to build team chemistry and show appreciation for each other. Sophomore men's soccer players Ed Weise and Aidan Chaparro have a fun christmas tradition they do with the Seattle Pacific University soccer team every year.

"We go to tradition, we take a picture with Santa and then hangout as a team," Weise said.

"It's like 'friendsgiving' except for Christmas," Chaparro continued.

Still, sports like basketball, track and gymnastics will be training over the break — not wanting to lose anytime or ground as competition heats up in the new year. The Falcons basketball team will be playing games as late as Dec. 20 and will be back in action by Jan. 2, making their break an abbreviated one. Though shorter than for other students, winter break is still enough for student athletes to relax before their seasons ramp up when they return to campus.

# Dawgs victorious again

## Huskies win Apple Cup for seventh year in a row

By Daniel Newman  
Sports Editor

Before the big game last Friday, Nov. 29, the atmosphere inside Husky Stadium was buzzing.

Every year, the location of the Apple Cup game alternates between Husky Stadium in Seattle and Martin Stadium in Pullman, Washington. This year, the game was in Seattle, and Annie Symons, an SPU student and Huskies fan, and her family attended the game for her fifth time. She considers the game to be a great bonding experience for her and her father.

"The rivalry definitely heats up more on game day than it does throughout the year, cause this is a really high stakes game, especially this year because both teams had the same record," Symons said.

Both teams entered the game with the same record (6-5); the Huskies lost to multiple conference opponents on the season that many expected them to beat. Meanwhile, the Cougars offense has the ability to put up lots of points over the course of a game, but their defense also gives up lots of points.

By the end of the game, The University of Washington Huskies defeated the Washington State University Cougars 31-13 in the Apple Cup game.

When the game began, The Cougars showed their offensive power as they received the first quarter kickoff and drove 81 yards down the field, scoring

pushing the Huskies lead to 28-10

The Cougars, sensing they were running out of time, then seized the momentum, forcing a fumble and taking the ball away from the Huskies. Slowly and methodically, the Cougars drove to the Huskies' nine yard line. Gordon took the snap and completed a pass to running back Deon McIntosh, but Trent McDuffie hit McIntosh as soon as he caught the ball, forcing a fumble that was recovered by the Huskies.

McDuffie again stepped up on the next drive, intercepting a Gordon pass that put the game to bed.

Symons was sitting behind a few Cougars fans the entire game, and found it funny to observe their reactions.

"It was really funny to see them so hyped up when the Cougars would have a nice drive or make a good pass or whatever, and watch them just deflate when the Cougars messed up," Symons said.

Eason finished with 244 passing yards and one touchdown, while junior Salvon Ahmed led the Huskies in rushing with 85 yards, and Hunter Bryant caught six passes for 96 yards for the Huskies.

On the Cougars side, Gordon had 48 passes for 308 yards, and Max Borghi had 50 yards rushing. Junior Renard Bell led the Cougars in receiving, catching nine passes for 86 yards.

The Huskies fans' cheers soon turned to shock on Monday morning when Huskies Head Coach Chris Petersen announced that he will be stepping down



COURTESY OF ANNIE SYMONS

Symons, second from left, and her family wearing Husky gear before Apple Cup.

a touchdown when sophomore Max Borghi plunged into the endzone from one yard out.

The Huskies answered later in the quarter, showing why the Cougars defense gave up thirty points a game this season, as the Quarterback Jacob Eason ran into the endzone from the three yard line. The biggest play on the drive was Eason's 57 yard pass to sophomore Terrell Bynum.

With a 14-10 lead, big pass plays sparked the Huskies next two touchdown drives as Eason found sophomore tight end Cade Otton for a 25 yard pass play, and junior tight end Hunter Bryant on a 39 yard pass play on separate drives. Running back Richard Newton found the end zone at the end of both drives,

from his coaching role at the end of the season. The 55 year old Petersen cited the need to recharge as his reason for the change, and the Huskies current defensive coordinator, Jimmy Lake, will step into the role at the end of the season.

Both the Huskies and the Cougars have six wins and are both bowl game eligible, so the seasons for both teams will likely continue. But with Petersen stepping down, and Cougars head coach Mike Leach's future uncertain at Washington State, the rivalry could be entering a new chapter as soon as next season.

# No rest for sports world as school takes break

## Sports on and off campus over break



Ed Weise and Alden Massey were disappointed with lack of defense from their favorite soccer team.

JACKY CHEN | THE FALCON

By Daniel Newman and Brandon Bee  
Sports Editor and Staff Reporter

Nearly every student at Seattle Pacific University is counting down the days until dead week and finals are over — when they can enjoy the Christmas season without having to worry about homework, projects and finals. But as school takes a break, the world of sports continues to move on at a rapid pace. Not only are the NBA and NFL in action over the break, the Falcons men's and women's basketball teams have a total of seven games that will be played at Royal

Brougham Pavilion over the break.

Playing games and practicing over break isn't that big of a deal for junior women's basketball player Hailee Bennett.

"... that's how-it has always been for me," Bennett said.

As the women's basketball team takes on California State University Los Angeles on Dec 16, and Academy of Art University on Dec 19, Head Coach Mike Simonson has his team practicing every day until then.

After this, they are unable to practice for seven days during the break, due to

NCAA Division II's winter break rule. During this seven day period, "a student-athlete may not be employed at institutional camps and clinics, may not participate in any countable athletically related activities and may not participate in any voluntary athletically related activities on campus unless the facility is open to the general student-body" according to the NCAA Division II rulebook.

While Simonson wishes he had more time to practice with the team during the break, he is grateful for time to spend with family and friends.

Before coming to SPU, Simonson was an assistant coach for the men's basketball team at Washington State University. WSU is a Division I school, which does not have any winter break regulations. During that span, Simonson went four straight years without spending a Christmas with family members.

Because of the winter break regulation, Bennett says that her break from basketball in college is longer than it was in high school.

Freshman men's basketball player Shaw Anderson said, "Playing and prac-

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**BREAK** from Page 11

ting over the break isn't as bad as it seems." He enjoys the break from school even if it means spending less time with his family.

Bennett also looks forward to the team Christmas party that takes place every year, specifically the gingerbread house decorating contest.

"We each create and decorate our own and then our coach's kids decide who the winner is," Bennett said.

After Christmas is over, both the men's and women's teams can get back to practicing. Both teams will take on Alaska Anchorage University on Jan 2, and Alaska Fairbanks University Jan 4 at home.

Simonson said that games after the week off are always difficult, but both

teams will make their best attempts to come away with wins.

Another exciting sporting event that will take place over the holiday break is the college football bowl season. Based on how well they played over the season, teams with at least six wins will play for bragging rights in a bowl game against another team with similar skill level from a different conference. The four best teams over the course of the regular season are chosen to play in the college football playoffs. Whoever wins the four-team tournament will be named national champions.

The last four weeks of the NFL season are also during the break. As the season winds down, there will be some key games as teams fight for a playoff position. The Buffalo Bills and New England Patriots, who are both on top of the AFC

standings, will meet Dec. 21. The Dallas Cowboys and Philadelphia Eagles will fight against each other Dec. 22 for the top of the division in the NFC East to make the playoffs.

The matchup that sophomore Cade Huston is excited for will happen Dec. 29, when the Seahawks take on the San Francisco 49ers.

"The Seahawks vs 49ers game is the last of the season because it could decide the division and home field and bye," Huston said.

The two teams are currently tied for first place in the NFC West division, but the Seahawks hold the advantage, having beat the 49ers earlier in the season.

NBA on Christmas Day is a big event for basketball fans, and five games will take place on the day.

Two of the key matchups include

the Golden State Warriors taking on the Houston Rockets, and the Los Angeles Clippers playing the Los Angeles Lakers.

The Warriors have had many injuries this season, as top players Stephen Curry, and D'Angelo Russell both are dealing with hand issues. For the Rockets, James Harden is on pace for a historic scoring average this season.

The Lakers and Clippers matchup will be a battle of two of the top teams in the West. Both teams also have two superstars, with LeBron James and Anthony Davis on the Lakers side, and Kawhi Leonard and Paul George on the Clippers side.

While the holidays are a time to enjoy family and friends, there are plenty of big games for sports fans to enjoy as well.

# this week in FALCON SPORTS

## Another victory on road Moffitt scores 29 as Falcons take down Point Loma while away

By **Daniel Newman**  
Sports Editor

Sophomore point guard Divant'e Moffitt set a career high with 29 points, and also added eight assists and grabbed seven rebounds, in a 96-89 win against the Point Loma Nazarene University Sea Lions Saturday, Nov. 29. He was named GNAC player of the week for his efforts. The win was significant for the Seattle Pacific University, as the Sea Lions were the second place finishers in the NCAA Division II basketball tournament last season.

"PLNU is a very good team and have been very efficient as a team on offense all season," Falcons men's basketball Head Coach Grant Leep said. "They shoot and make a lot of threes, and we knew it would be important to guard the

three-point-line well."

The Falcons were behind early, as Point Loma's Ben Okhotin hit a three-point-er to extend the Sea Lions lead to 13-5. From there, the Falcons fought back and eventually pushed into a 29-28 lead. The score continued to be close throughout the half, as Falcons freshman Shaw Anderson fouled Okhotin on a three-point attempt, and Okhotin made all three free throws to tie the score at 46.

In the second half, the Falcons pushed ahead to get a lead of eight point, off of three straight shots made by junior Harry Cavell. Every time the Falcons surged ahead, however, Point Loma had an answer. The Falcons extended the lead to nine thanks to an Anderson layup with 3:24 to go, but another Okhotin three, and a layup and free throw from Kaden Anderson, got Point Loma within three

again.

Luckily for the Falcons, Moffitt scored the Falcons last eight points of the contest off of a three pointer and five made free throws. The free throws made by Moffitt proved to be too much for the Sea Lions to overcome, and the Falcons pushed their record to three wins and four losses on the season.

"Divant'e has worked so hard all season," Leep said. "He has improved his decision making with the ball, his command and ability to run our offense and, with that, his confidence has grown."

The Falcons made 60% of their shots, and out-rebounded the Sea Lions by 14 (38-24).

Some of the Falcons' other contributors in the game included Cavell with 16 points and seven rebounds, and senior Gavin Long with 12 points.

Anderson lead the Sea Lions with 27 points and 10 rebounds, and Okhotin was not far behind with 23 points. Sterling Somers also contributed 17 points.

Next up, SPU's men's basketball will open GNAC play next weekend, taking trips to face Central Washington University Thursday, Dec. 5, and Northwest Nazarene University Saturday, Dec. 7.

Women's basketball will begin conference play with the exact same road trip on the exact same day, taking on both opponents right before the men do.

The gymnastics season is also right around the corner, as the Falcons first meet will take place Jan. 11 in Corvallis, Oregon. The Falcons will compete against Oregon State University and Centenary College, a Division III school in Louisiana.



## Assistant coach promoted

Gymnastics team prepares for season with new leadership  
SPORTS | PAGE 7

## Year in film

Most impactful 2019 movies  
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WEDNESDAY JANUARY 15, 2020

# The Falcon



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CALVIN QUISUMBING | THE FALCON

Elvis tribute artist **Robbie Dee** and band performing during their first set of the winter quarter First Friday.

## Elvis is in the building

Vegas themed First Friday invites tribute artist to share passion  
FEATURES | PAGE 3

# New honors program: modern, diverse

## Student voices heard to change SPU's honors program

By **Julia Battishill and Julia Herman**

News Editor and Staff Reporter

Come autumn quarter 2020, Seattle Pacific University's honors program University Scholars will launch a completely revamped curriculum. Spearheaded by Program Director Christine Chaney, the new program will place a larger emphasis on being accessible to, and inclusive of, all students and on diversifying the curriculum.

The program has been a significant presence at the university since 1969 as a faster-paced alternative to the general education courses that are offered.

Since the creation of the program, the curriculum has stayed relatively the same, offering alternative sequence classes in place of general education classes. The program has not experienced many changes in the last 50 years until recently, when there have been major changes in the way the honors program is sequenced and run.

"It is a complete reboot of the entire program," Chaney said. "Honors 2.0, for sure."

These changes, while significant, have been a long time coming.

In 2012, students brought forward a petition calling for the

program's curriculum to be more diverse and flexible. Students were beginning to drop out of the program due to a lack of interest and schedule availability.

"The program that exists now has been around for 20 or 30 years and so certain things with education and the world have changed," John Goodhew, one of the junior UScholars program assistants, said.

"There were a lot of feelings that this was starting to get outdated, not necessarily as far as

**"There were a lot of feelings that this was starting to get outdated, not necessarily as far as the information that was being taught, but rather that it could be more relevant, modern and globalized."**

the information that was being taught, but rather that it could be more relevant, modern and globalized."

The honors program faculty

took the students' advice seriously, and got to work making the students' requests a reality.

The revisions began in 2012, under previous director Jeff Keuss, who currently serves as an SPU professor of theology and ministry.

Starting in 2018 under Chaney, the honors faculty began to have workshops, which started the process. In spring 2019, they presented the major ideas and changes to the Dean's cabinet.

One such change: before, many classes were co-taught by two professors. In the new curriculum, all classes besides Faith and Science will be led by only one professor. These changes came not only out of student desires, but also out of necessity.

"It became very clear to me, that not only did people want it to change or that should it change, but it had to change because of SPU's situation with budget cuts," Goodhew said.

It was important to Chaney that the honors program be more open to all students, and more easily accessible to anyone interested. For that reason, students can now apply at any time, not just as admitted freshmen.

"We don't want the perception that it's elitist, or separate ... we are creating all kinds of new on-ramps and off-ramps to the



BLAKE DAHLIN | THE FALCON

**Faith & Science 1**, the only co-taught class in the new honors curriculum, meets in the UScholars Lounge in Weter 201 on Thursday, Jan. 9.

program, including to existing students," Chaney said.

She admitted that the program has been perceived as more exclusive in the past, and she hopes that the new curriculum will break that stigma.

"It's something wonderful that I feel is too isolated. It's a wonderful opportunity for any student at SPU and any faculty member from any department, to come and be part of this larger liberal arts question of 'what does it mean to be human?'"

Senior UScholars program assistant Erinn Campbell said that this new inclusivity is one of the changes she is most excited about.

"My experience in honors has been incredibly valuable, and it's

about time we extend this opportunity to a broader swath of the SPU student body," Campbell said.

Chaney explained that honors will be hosting a forum during spring quarter explaining the new curriculum before it launches in Autumn 2020.

One of the biggest changes is the ability for students to tailor the program to their needs. A student can now aim for a major or minor in Honors Liberal Arts, or to just take a few classes.

A Bachelor of Arts would require taking the full program, while the minor is 30 credits and, according to Campbell, "basically equivalent to the first two years of the program."

See **HONORS** | Page 2

**HONORS** from Page 1

"[This makes it] way easier for transfer students, way easier for people with credit already, and way easier for people who may want to take some classes but maybe don't want to do an honors thesis because they have other things going on in their lives, other projects," Chaney explained.

She recognized that students had been leading this movement since the beginning, and it was their ideas driving the change.

"Students started it. It began with the

student petition and it has always been lead by student desires. We, faculty, took that really seriously," Chaney said.

Chaney, alongside the other 14 honors professors and their students, searched for the best ways to integrate SPU's values into an honors curriculum.

"Honors programs tend to be very campus-specific. There's loose guidelines, but they all look like the campus they're a part of," Chaney explained. "So, we wanted this to look like SPU and be the things that people like about [SPU],

which is, especially, its community aspect."

As such, the curriculum emphasizes service and student leadership, which Chaney and her students see as integral to the university's campus.

It also makes changes to the structure of classes. They will now focus on themes such as "history and representation," rather than on historical eras.

"This approach is designed to encourage more focused, in-depth discussions than are really possible when you're try-

ing to fly through an entire era in ten weeks," Campbell said.

Chaney and the honors students are excited for the new start and to see the results of the years of research, discussion and revision that led to the new curriculum.

"What I hope is that it is definitely honors for the 21st century," Chaney said. "[An] interdisciplinary curriculum that speaks to the world we live in and the lives you guys are leading now, instead of something old fashioned."

# Serving country, gaining education

ROTC, active military members juggle school, service

By Kyle Morrison  
Staff Reporter

For the average college student, it may seem unimaginable to add something as time intensive and personally challenging as military service to their already packed schedules. Yet, for Nikki Au and Mariah Kelly it's a challenge and a sacrifice they happily accept. Nikki Au is a member of the Air Force ROTC at the University of Washington, while Mariah Kelley is a member of an army unit that reports out of Spokane, Washington.

Both joined the military in part because of the financial benefits received for being enlisted. Both receive payment in the form of scholarships and possible paychecks. While this an obvious perk, both Kelley and Au have much more meaningful reasons for choosing a military life.

"I wanted to join the military because it would mold me into an overall better person mentally and physically," Au said.

"It allows you to gain leadership experience unlike any other program," said Kelly

While both believe they are gaining a lot from their military choices, there are obvious sacrifices which other college students do not have to worry about.

"I have different commitments and obligations I have to adhere to that no one else does," Kelley said. "Being in the reserves, I leave once a month to go to Spokane for my unit, and juggling classes as well as paperwork and duty is difficult at times."

Both Kelley and Au also have packed schedules, "Monday, Wednesday and Friday we have physical training at the University of Washington," Kelley said. "We leave SPU at 5:20 a.m. and get

back to SPU at 8:00 a.m., sometimes barely in time for classes."

Both students also have mandatory leadership classes on Thursday, with field exercises on the weekends.

In the presently polarized political climate of the United States, both Au and Kelley are forced to consider their roles in the military before openly expressing their opinions on the country's leadership.

"As a member of the armed forces you're not allowed to disparage your superiors," Au said. "So I wouldn't be able to get on social media and say 'This president sucks!' or 'This secretary definitely sucks.' But just like a regular citizen I can discuss politics and my opinions on such things, but there is always an appropriate time and place and a need to be professional."

Both Kelley and Au are forced to be level-headed and to think hard before speaking on politics and other issues. This professionalism can make them an asset in class discussions.

"People look at me for a different perspective, but in order to be respectful I have kept quiet on my own things," Kelly said.

"The tensions in Iran affect ROTC by causing cadets to be more aware of their surroundings and having better situational awareness with the general public when it comes to showing affiliation in the US military," Au said when asked about the current conflict with Iran.

Despite their packed schedules and the many other sacrifices the active military life imposes, both Kelley and Au are appreciative of the opportunity afforded to them. Both encourage other students to join an ROTC or active military branch.

"If I were recruiting someone into ROTC, I would inform them of all the financial and educational opportunities that are offered for cadets," Au said. "This goes for schooling as well as the overall experiences and free career training that the military can give you."



JENNA RASMUSSEN | THE FALCON  
After Physical Training, sophomore Nikki Au sets down her training gear and steps out of her uniform into her identity as an SPU student. Her commitment to her training and school work is what drives her to get through a strenuous Tuesday.

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# Double life of modern day Elvis

By Alex Moore  
Copy Editor

Robbie Dee never guessed he would be a stage performer.

Nor did he guess that singing in front of an audience of college students while wearing a rhinestone encrusted jumpsuit and a bouncy black wig would be a normal part of his life.

Even after being a professional Elvis Presley tribute artist for five years, Dee noted that he remains in disbelief about his career.

"I still consider myself more of a fan than a singer, a performer," Dee said.

Dee, a sales manager in his thirties, embodied "the king" of rock and roll at Seattle Pacific University Friday, Jan. 10 for the Student Union Board's Winter 2020 "Fabulous First Friday."

This was the first time that a First Friday event included live performances as a main attraction, adding to the Las-Vegas-inspired theme.

The Main Gym at Royal Brougham Pavilion was transformed into a pop-up casino complete with poker tables, a VIP "mocktail" lounge and ambient aerial acrobats spinning on 30 foot silks.

The usually fluorescent and shiny gymnasium was made classy with dim lighting. A gold and silver color scheme and an optional dress code led to the majority of students in attendance to be decked in ties and heels.

The theme was carried throughout the large gym and Dee's singing rang throughout the space, enhancing the illusion that students had been transported for the night to a ritzy spot on the Las Vegas strip.

"It's really kind of a dream come true to get to share something like that that I love with Elvis fans and the general public," Dee said.

After winning first place at the 2015 Seattle Elvis Invationals, an annual amateur Elvis impersonation contest, Dee's career as an Elvis tribute artist took off.

"I would sing along with the Elvis music when I would hear it, as I would do with other stuff but I didn't really think much of it," Dee said, recalling how when he was a teenager, his family told him that his voice resembled Presley's.

He made his debut on a public stage at



Robbie Dee, Elvis tribute artist, applying makeup and finishing touches before the show.

CALVIN QUISUMBING | THE FALCON

a karaoke night. Egged on by his friends, Dee nervously sang "Viva Las Vegas," expecting nothing more than average approval from his fellow karaoke-goers.

Instead, Dee was met with rapturous applause. — a feeling that stayed on his mind from that day forward.

"People really liked it, so it was really fun. And then I didn't do it again for a while, but I always had it in the back of my mind," Dee said.

In 2013, Dee's impression of Presley was heard by a Seattle Elvis Invationals organizer when he spontaneously sang as part of an Elvis tribute exhibit at Bumbershoot, a Seattle music festival.

The exhibit had Elvis-themed art and memorabilia, but it was also a small karaoke stage. Working up the nerve once again, Dee waited for people to trickle out of the exhibit until only one audience member remained.

After singing one song, Dee was stopped on his way out by his sole listener, who happened to be one of the

impersonation contest organizers. She invited him to participate in that year's Invationals.

At his first contest, Dee was just as excited to meet other fans and tribute artist as he was to compete.

After that first serious performance in his home-made jumpsuit, Dee was hooked.

He returned the next year, in 2014, and won third place.

In 2015, he became the best Elvis tribute artist in the Seattle-Tacoma area, and he now travels with a full band to share his talent with all sorts of audiences.

"I do a lot more eightieth birthday parties than fortieth birthday parties, but ... it really varies."

Dee cherishes the fact that his most popular audiences come from older generations.

After his regular performances at retirement homes, Dee is approached by listeners who were quiet during the show, but eagerly inform him afterward

how they were reminded of beloved, and sometimes forgotten memories.

"People associate a lot of things with music," Dee said.

Off stage, Dee is reserved. Although he wears a baseball cap and a t-shirt both emblazoned with his flashy logo, Dee is otherwise unassuming.

Dee lives with his wife in Everett, Washington and works a day job as an advertising sales manager at the Seattle Times. While most of the people in his life know that he spends an unexpected amount of time impersonating a deceased entertainer, it is not something he flaunts; although he is proud.

"I guess it used to be a little more private, but enough people know now," he said. "It's kind of a funny thing to talk about because it surprises a lot of people."

He still pinches himself often and thinks back to the burgeoning young fan he once was.

"I still get nervous before every time I go up there."

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EXCLUSIVELY ONLINE

### NEWS

- SPU's inclement weather policy

### CRIME REPORT JANUARY 14

#### Car Prowl

Campus Streets: 3rd Ave West  
01/02 5:30 p.m. - 01/03 8:00 a.m.

#### Auto Theft

Campus streets  
12/16 12:00 a.m. - 01/15 7:00 a.m.

#### Stalking

Off campus - half mile plus  
12/28 12:01 a.m. - 1/29 11:59 p.m.

#### Malicious Mischief / Vandalism

Nickerson Studios  
01/05 12:23 a.m. - 12:27 a.m.



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ILLUSTRATION BY CHLOE GUILLOT

# Giving credit where credit is due

## Reflecting on 2019 films

By Andrew Stez  
Features Editor

Every year in cinemas across the globe, films are released featuring a diverse array of characters, plots and themes. While these films vary in topic and style, each film is a representation of the year in which it was released.

This was no different in 2019. This year saw a wide selection of films being released varying from biopics, to comedies, to horror meets social commentary and much more.

These are some films that, while still very popular, people might have missed in 2019. Blockbuster films like "The Joker", "Avengers: Endgame" and "Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker" are excluded in order to discuss films that might have been overshadowed by the hype for those blockbuster films.

**Us**

"Us," directed by Jordan Peele, explores the Wilson families' return to the Santa Cruz boardwalk, a place where the mother, Adelaide (Lupita Nyong'o), met her doppelganger years ago.

What follows is a creepy and frightening film that's entertainment comes not just from the action, but from the hours audiences can spend trying to figure out the deeper message of the film.

At the heart of this film it is an explo-

ration of the past traumas African Americans have had to face in American society such as slavery and segregation, but also how it relates to contemporary issues they face like mass incarceration.

**Booksmart**

"Booksmart," directed by Olivia Wilde, explores what happens when two friends, Amy (Kaitlyn Dever) and Molly (Beanie Feldstein), realize on the dawn of graduating high school that, despite their hard work, they missed out on the aggrandized partying scene of high school like their other classmates. They decide to do the impossible and do everything they missed in one night.

This funny comedy serves as a commentary on the glamorized high school experience through exposing the absurdity of the partying scene and the search for social acceptance. Also, "Booksmart" plays on the tropes common to obscene male-centered teen comedies. Notably, Wilde subverts the plotline of the 2007 film "Superbad" by centering the story of her film around the teenage friendship of two young women who have deeper interests and problems than boys.

**Once Upon a Time... in Hollywood**

"Once Upon a Time... in Hollywood," directed by Quentin Tarantino follows the story of Rick Dalton (Leonardo DiCaprio), an actor whose popularity is declining and Cliff Booth (Brad Pitt), his

stunt double during the Golden Age of Hollywood and the Sharon Tate (Margot Robbie) murders.

While being a fictional story, Tarantino does an outstanding job recreating the time period and what it would be like to be an actor in Hollywood in the late 1960s. While not being a film that delves deep into current social issues, like some of the other films on this list, Tarantino makes a film that is one of the most entertaining and brutal films of the year.

It also serves as a departure from his typical film style. While it has brutal fight scenes, most of these are not until the last third of the movie. This means that for the most part, this film focuses more on the human relationship between an actor and his stunt double. They must deal with fading fame and the tragic juxtaposition of what happens when one's fame gets too big through the story of Sharon Tate.

**Jojo Rabbit**

"Jojo Rabbit," directed by Taika Waititi, is a comedy-drama film that fuses the whimsical world of a little boys mind in the context of the devastating and hopeless landscape of Nazi Germany near the end of World War II.

"Jojo Rabbit" accomplishes this primarily through showing how Jojo (Roman Griffin Davis) has to overcome his Nazi beliefs, depicted by his imaginary friend

Hitler (Taika Waititi), when he encounters a Jewish girl that his mother (Scarlett Johansson) has been hiding.

Waititi successfully makes a film that while about the 1940s is relevant to modern day and calls audiences to question their own beliefs just as Jojo must.

**Knives Out**

"Knives Out," directed by Rian Johnson, surrounds a family as they come together in the wake of the family's patriarch, Harlan Thrombey's (Christopher Plummer), death and an accusation that a member of the family murdered him. While it seems like a simple detective story, the film makes a conscious effort to focus on the inner workings of family dynamics and also social issues such as class disparities and microaggressions.

The film incorporates a fresh perspective through Martha Cabrera (Ana de Armas), Harlan's caretaker: She is an outsider to the rich upper class lifestyle of the rest of the family who is soon thrust into the center of "attention as she was the last to see Harlan alive. It is through Martha that much of the social commentary and familial tension in the film is presented.

While not a complete list of the best films of the year, these five 2019 films represent some of the most impactful and game changing movies that define film in the year 2019.

# 'Little Women' get everything

## Heroines of reimagined classic do not compromise



PHOTO COURTESY OF SONY PICTURES

Meg (Emma Watson), Jo (Saoirse Ronan), Amy (Florence Pugh) and Beth (Eliza Scanlan) locked in an embrace on Christmas day.

By Heidi Speck  
Editor-in-Chief

Jo March (Saoirse Ronan) announces to her decrepit Aunt March (Meryl Streep) that she plans "to make her own way in the world."

"Little Women," a film based off of the book by Louisa May Alcott, with the screenplay written and film directed by Greta Gerwig, is about the women of the March family. In order of age, there is Meg (Emma Watson), Jo, Beth (Eliza Scanlan) and Amy (Florence Pugh) — and the matriarch of the family — Marmee (Laura Dern).

This scene epitomizes that, while the "little women" in this film often are at odds with one another, their conflicts more often manifest in their lack of, or de-

sire for, freedom, love and independence. Throughout the film, they battle to find a way to have all those things — something Gerwig argues they should not have to fight for in the first place.

"No one makes their own way, not really," Aunt March says to Jo in response. "Least of all a woman. You'll need to marry well."

"But you're not married, Aunt March," Jo argues.

"Well that's because I'm rich," Aunt March says, talking over her.

Gerwig rearranges the original story, essentially following two timelines at the same time.

The film opens on the sisters' adulthood, which lacks the warmth that the other timeline, childhood, has. The filter of the shots are colder and much greyer

in comparison; sharper and realistic. In contrast, their childhood is shrouded in warmth and connection. It's shot with a filter that has a "golden glow," as Gerwig described in an interview with Vanity Fair. In describing an endearing scene when young Jo and Laurie unreservedly dance, Gerwig said "it has a very snow globe quality."

The March family home, which plays a huge role in cultivating the beauty of the March sisters' childhood, is filled with warmth. The sisters snipe and challenge one another in affectionate ways about their aspirations of wealth, love and fame. Social awareness, empathy, art and culture are just as much a part of the March women's lives as each other are.

The audience gets wrapped into the charming childhood of the March sisters, and becomes as attached to it as Jo does.

One of the greatest examples of how Gerwig accomplishes this, and an example of Gerwig's directing prowess, is of the scene when Laurie Laurence (Timothée Chalamet) is first introduced to the March family.

The first time Laurie enters the March home, it's teeming with life and warmth. The sisters talk over one another with complete disregard for social grace in front of the stranger in their home. The camera moves from moment to moment, always missing a little of the disorder happening in another part of the room. By the end of the scene, Laurie is swept up by the emphatic chaos of the March home — and the audience gets swept into the story of the "Little Women."

Gerwig's rearranging of the original

story makes it retrospective and reawakens an old story. But "Little Women" is much more than a magnificent retelling of a good story.

"Little Women" is one of few period pieces about a creative, independent woman that gives its heroine an ending where she keeps her independence, makes her own money and finds love. Gerwig gives her heroines an ending that is not limited to either independence or love or wealth, which is a refreshing change of pace.

Throughout the film, the March women, like the women of their time, are trapped. Gerwig asserts that her heroines reject the notion that they have to choose between wealth, independence and love.

In the end, the sisters get more, they get everything — the way Gerwig argues women should.

"I just feel like women, they have minds and they have souls as well as just hearts," Jo says to Marmee, "And they've got ambition and they've got talent as well as just beauty and I'm so sick of people saying that love is all a woman is fit for. I'm so sick of it."

Jo and Laurie dance on the patio of a house while a 19th century soirée roars on inside. They spin and flail and laugh with one another, completely devoid of decorum. Meg taps on the glass of a window and tells Jo she's hurt her foot and that they have to go home. Laurie offers the sisters a ride home in his carriage, as Meg cannot walk home with her foot in the condition it is.

When Jo and Laurie carry the injured Meg home to March's house, Amy, Beth and Marmee rush to Meg's aid while Jo clears a path. Marmee grabs an ice bucket for Meg's hurt foot with Amy and Beth tending to her other needs. Making eye contact with Laurie, Jo takes off her skirt and asks Theodore "Laurie" Laurence, "Can I call you Teddy?"

# War in vivid detail

## '1917' provides woeful portrayal of World War I

By Andrew Stez  
Features Editor

Germans roam the streets of the French city of Écoust as Schofield (George MacKay) silently walks about the streets dodging German patrols. Then he is spotted and has no choice, he must jump into a river barely escaping with his life.

"1917," directed by Sam Mendes, tells a fictional story based off of stories Mendes' grandfather told him as a child.

During WWI, two British soldiers, Lance Corporal Will Schofield and Lance Corporal Tom Blake (Dean-Charles Chapman) are sent on a mission. They must venture into former German territory to warn the second battalion to disengage their attack on the new German lines. To make matters worse for Blake, the mission is personal: his brother is in the second battalion.

At first glance, this film seems similar to stories like "Saving Private Ryan" (1998) that feature phenomenal action scenes and emotionally gripping stories.

This movie diverges from those films in that it does not shy away from displaying the sheer brutality of war while also having a story that is one of the most disheartening stories of the past few years in the war genre.

"1917" accomplishes this primarily through not shying away from showing

the damage war has done and going to an extent rarely seen previously.

In some of the first moments of the film, the audience is introduced to the scary aftermath of what the trenches and the soldiers in them experienced.

When Schofield and Blake end up crossing into no man's land, the film unapologetically shows the products of warfare: dead rotting horse carcasses, human bodies yet to be collected and rusting tanks surrounded by muddy craters left behind from consistent shelling of the terrain.

This graphic depiction is something that previous war films have either not attempted or not been able to pull off due to technical, financial, or rating limitations. Consequently, "1917" stands out as a depiction of WWI that undoubtedly captures the atmosphere of warfare and creates an understanding of the strain the characters undergo.

The cinematographic approach of using one continuous shot also helps build this graphic depiction of warfare. There are no cuts. Even in the quietest moments of the film what the audience sees is the action on screen unfolding as the characters experience it.

The struggle Schofield and Blake have to go through to deliver the orders is also one of the most impactful parts of the film. While the movie, for the most part,



PHOTO COURTESY OF UNIVERSAL PICTURES

Schofield (George MacKay) looks outside trench as fellow British soldiers hide from incoming shells.

featured less action due to the German retreat leaving the area mostly abandoned, "1917" was still able to capture a tense and suspenseful story.

Walking into the unknown and not having any intelligence other than the fact that the Germans pulled out, these men have to go through trenches, hills, churches and cities once occupied by Germans.

At each of these obstacles there is something left by the Germans, whether a trap, German pilots or stragglers remaining in the unoccupied territory.

Schofield and Blake truly do not know what they will have to face and, as only two men in a territory where there could be still hundreds of men, their fears and inner conflicts are evident.

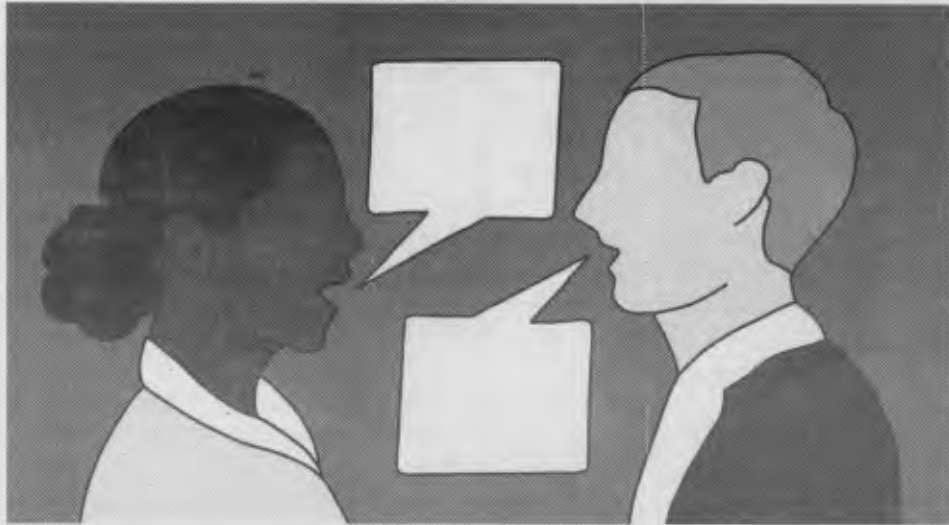
They also must deal with the very real possibility of running out of time as the attack on German forces happens the next

morning giving them only one night to reach the 2nd battalion and save thousands of lives. This added piece of a race against the clock, while not an unusual method to move the plot forward, is cleverly used in "1917" to build tension and keep the action going even in some moments when it starts to seem like nothing is happening — similar to the 2017 WWII film "Dunkirk." It leads to a feeling that, even when the most dark and shocking moments of the film occur, the characters have to continue on in an attempt to make their sacrifices worth it.

Through the combination of the grave, vivid depiction of WWI warfare and the emotionally distressing story of Schofield and Blake, "1917" is an outstanding war film that pushes the genre outside of its norms while also staying true to its foundation: emotion and grit.

# Gender has material impact

Linguistic distinctions between genders should be reexamined



CHLOE GUILLOT | THE FALCON

In reference to the restrictions language can create, Whoopi Goldberg said in a 1986 interview, “An actress can only play a woman. I’m an actor, I can play anything.”

Today, most female actors refer to themselves as actors, not actresses, and gender-neutral terms in general have been picked up in popular discourse.

These conversations are occurring in regard to English, but non-conforming Spanish speakers are creating space for dialogue within their language, like coining the term “Latinx,” instead of utilizing the binary Latina or Latino. But because Spanish is a “gender language,” it is less accommodating than English.

“Gender languages,” as defined by behavioral economists Pamela Jakiela and Owen Ozier in their 2018 research piece “Gender Language,” are languages that divide nouns into either a masculine or feminine category. Spanish, Arabic, Hebrew, Portuguese, Amharic, French and about a dozen others are considered gender languages.

According to their research, Jakiela and Ozier estimate that 38.6% of the world’s population natively speaks a gender language.

A plethora of academic literature confirms that women who speak a gender language are more societally restricted than women who do not. Jakiela and Ozier analyzed 4,336 living languages (99% of the world’s languages) and explored the relationship between grammatical gender, women’s labor force participation, women’s educational attainment and cultural attitudes towards gender.

Their research found that women whose native tongue is a gender language are 18% less likely to be in the labor force than women whose native language is not a gender language. It was concluded that the use of gender languages has a hand in keeping at least 125 million women out of the workforce globally.

Economist Victor Gay found that men who spoke a gender language were 6% more likely to be involved in the labor market, compared to gender-language-speaking women, who were 6.3% less likely to be in the labor force. It was found that women who speak gender languages are more likely to work few-

er weeks and work shorter hours, while men who speak gender languages are more likely to work more often and more intensively.

In 1875, John Beames, scholar of linguistics and Indian history, noted that “the masculine is used to denote large, strong, heavy and coarse objects; the feminine weak, small and fine ones” within the Indo-Aryan gender languages he studied.

Beames’ work leads to this question to be posed: Is it detrimental when languages gender nouns in a manner that mirrors historical views on how that gender performs?

As the included literature and data reinforces, it is.

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean reported that in 2018, at least 3,529 women (9.6 per day) were victims of femicide: the killing of women on the basis of gender. Latin America and the Caribbean continue to have the highest rates of femicide in the world, and the most spoken languages in both regions; Spanish, Portuguese and French, are all gender languages.

It is extremely detrimental to a woman’s quality of life when she is not in school or a workforce participant due to gender marginalization. UNICEF’s website notes that “an extra year of schooling for girls reduces fertility rates by 5 to 10 percent,” and that in India, “the infant mortality rate of babies whose mothers have received primary education is half that of children whose mothers are illiterate.” Additionally, girls with access to education are less likely to experience teen pregnancy, sexual abuse and violence, incest, domestic violence, exploitation and poverty.

In the fight for true gender equality, it is easier to begin diagnosing and mitigating these social issues by acknowledging language as a contributor to the restraining of women’s upward mobility. The uncovering of the restrictions gender languages create are only the surface of the deeply-rooted inequality present in so many cultures across the globe.

Laila is a senior studying journalism and sociology



By Laila Mckinley  
Staff Writer

# Editorial Comment

America’s attack on Iran follows historical

The assassination of Qasem Soleimani came to the national forefront on the morning of Jan. 3. Like many issues, Americans rushed to one of two responses: either justifying the general’s death or condemning his killers. Users on social media questioned the motives for Soleimani’s assassination and wondered why there was little political conflict — and even less military conflict — to warrant his assassination.

This question of justification of Soleimani’s assassination reflects a historical record of the United States in Middle Eastern affairs; one that sets a precedent for unwarranted military interference.

Tensions between Iran and the US started in 1953 with a coup backed by the American CIA and the British MI6, taking power from Prime Minister Mohammad Mosaddegh. Mosaddegh attempted to introduce reforms to nationalize the oil industry in Iran, transitioning the industry from British owners into the hands of the Iranian government. As a

took advantage of the political vacuum in the region, and the group became more powerful with the withdrawal of military forces from Iraq by President Obama in 2011.

Earlier this month, the United States took another step of political recklessness by assassinating an Iranian military official on the grounds of what President Trump deemed “bad business,” providing little evidence of an imminent offense.

“I think it would have been four embassies, could have been military bases, could have been a lot of other things too. But it was imminent,” he told Fox News on air.

A precedent has been set by history showing the United States not as a victim of foreign aggression, but as an actor that has its hand in the destruction and rebuilding of unfavorable governments. Although Iran should not be seen as a noble victim of American militarism, Americans should not be taken aback by Iranian political statements of frustra-

# Americans should be far from surprised to see the US recklessly interfering in foreign affairs

result, he was deposed after two years in office, and relations between Iranian monarch Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi and Western powers flourished.

The Iranian Revolution of 1979, also supported by the United States, deposed the Shah, and Grand Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini took power after the reformation of the former monarchy into an Islamic republic.

One hostage crisis, a series of embargos and a plethora of sanctions later, Iran was becoming more politically alienated from the United States.

In October of 2002, then-president George W. Bush’s administration managed to convince Congress to pass a formal declaration of war against the country of Iraq based on scant evidence that the country was developing Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD). The next year, Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein was deposed and captured. Officials could find little to no evidence of WMDs in the country. In the following decade, ISIS

tion.

Americans should be far from surprised to see the US recklessly interfering in foreign affairs that could escalate into armed conflict, a possibility many are fearing. Foreign governments, therefore, should be blameless in assuming ill-intent from the United States. The coups of the Middle East have resulted in warranted distrust of US motives and actions.

The editorial comment is composed by the opinions editor, the editor-in-chief, and the editing staff. Opinions expressed represent the majority of the group. News and assistant news editor are never involved in the composition



BLAKE DAHLIN | THE FALCON

Helena, who declined to provide a last name, marched with the Refuse Fascism group in Downtown Seattle on Saturday, Jan. 11 to protest President Trump’s recent military action in Iran.

# Assistant now at helm

## Marshall steps in, Falcons flip to second-place finish

By Daniel Newman  
Sports Editor

When Seattle Pacific University's Gymnastics team took to the mat for

the first time in the 2020 season on Friday, Jan. 10, it marked the first time in 44 years that Laurel Tindall was not the head coach of the team. This year, that designation will go to Sarah Jean Mar-

shall, a former Falcon gymnast and longtime assistant coach of the team.

Marshall began competing as a gymnast in early grade school, and gymnastics was the only sport she ever partici-

pated in.

Early on, the competition and her drive to be successful motivated her to continue in the sport. But as she got older and became the oldest person on her club team, Marshall began to be motivated by the idea of competing on a college team.

"When I watched college teams and it was a group of girls who were really connected and working together, that was really appealing to me," Marshall said.

Marshall travelled from Salem, Oregon, to attend college at SPU, where she continued to grow as a gymnast under Coach Tindall. Her career as a gymnast culminated in her senior season in 2007, when the Falcons hosted the USA Gymnastics Collegiate Championships at Royal Brougham Pavilion.

Marshall led the Falcons to a second place finish and became the NCAA Division II Gymnast of the Year shortly after.

"We did really well as a team, and to be here in Seattle and have our friends and family and everything here to finish up our career as seniors ... was just something that I will carry with me always," Marshall said.

After graduating, Marshall moved to New Orleans, thinking her gymnastics days were behind her. But Marshall soon returned to the Pacific northwest to attend graduate school at the University of Washington, working on her Masters of Education in Intercollegiate Athletic

See GYMNASTICS | Page 8



Head Coach Sarah Marshall discusses the upcoming meet with Corrin Coons and Jadacie Durst.

MARISSA LORDAHL | THE FALCON

# Monumental victories and conference defeats

## Men win eleventh in row, women get first win over break

By Kyle Morrison and Daniel Newman  
Staff Writer and Sports Editor

While for most Seattle Pacific University students winter break is a chance to recharge their batteries, catch up on sleep and spend time with family and friends, the SPU women's and men's basketball teams were called to action.

The men's team played three games over winter break, coming up victorious in every contest as they rebound nicely from a tough start to the 2019-2020 campaign. The break was also a successful one on the women's side as the team went 3-1, including a much needed conference victory against Alaska Fairbanks.

As the SPU women's team finished finals, they all were missing one important thing: a win on the court.

The Falcons entered the break and their game against the Golden Eagles of California State Los Angeles with an 0-8 record, and badly needing to get a win under their belts. Fortunately, they did just that, beating Cal State LA 80-67.

The Falcons started off slow as they trailed 12-11 following the first quarter. Despite trailing, the team kept on fighting and held a slim one-point lead through three quarters before pulling away in the fourth. The team was led by junior guard Hailee Bennett's superb 29-point, 9-rebound performance, while junior forward Ashlyn Burgess dropped a 14-point, 10-rebound double-double.

Head Coach Mike Simonson pointed to the plays of Bennett and Burgess

as one of the reasons for the wins over break.

"They were steady scoring threats in all of our wins. They took a lot of pressure off of the rest of the team and allowed everyone to break free," Simonson said.

After a 76-50 win against the Academy of Art, and a 78-47 loss to the University of Alaska Fairbanks, the Falcons were given a chance to rebound two days later as the Nanooks of Alaska Fairbanks came to Royal Brougham.

The beginning of this contest did not go the Falcons way as Fairbanks took an early 26-14 lead. Despite the rough beginning, the Falcons flipped the script over the next three quarters and finished with a resounding 83-70 victory.

SPU was led by their stars as Ashlyn Burgess and Hailee Bennett scored 27 and 23, respectively. Burgess also contributed 11 rebounds to give her two double-doubles in four games. Freshman post Kayla Brundidge also collected a solid 10-point, 12-rebound double-double to add her contribution to the successful effort.

Meanwhile, the men continued their winning streak over the break.

After a 103-74 win against the University of Puget Sound, the men faced the University of Alaska Anchorage. The Seawolves came to Royal Brougham on the second day of the new year for a critical early season matchup of GNAC's elite. Both teams came into the contest undefeated in conference play with the

Seawolves holding a 9-4 record, as opposed to the Falcons 6-4 record.

The game was a nail-biter at the start as the first half finished with the Falcons having a tight 38-36 advantage. Fortunately for the nerves of the Falcon fans in the building, Seattle Pacific pulled away and ultimately won the game 83-76, without incredible drama in finishing it off, always maintaining a safe lead by making clutch baskets down the stretch.

The Falcons were buoyed by sophomore guard Divant'e Moffitt's 18 points and 5 assists, along with junior guard Harry Cavell's near double-double with 14 points and 9 rebounds. They would score another victory against Alaska Fairbanks two days later, as freshman forward Shaw Anderson scored a career high of 33 points.

While students recently returned to campus, the basketball season continued.

While the women had some success over break, they were unable to come away with a win on their road trip up north, facing Simon Fraser University and Western Washington University and losing 71-54 and 73-60, respectively.

Senior Madi Hingston led the Falcons in scoring for both games with 14 points, then 15 points.

"Unfortunately in both games we played well for three quarters but not a complete game," Simonson said. "This week we are focusing on getting defensive stops followed by scoring possessions. Back to back possessions of stops

and scores are important to stop opponent runs and start our own," Simonson said.

The Falcon men continued and extended their winning streak to 10 games after defeating Concordia University and Western Oregon University 80-55 and 98-88 in overtime.

The Falcons began by dominating Concordia, the team in last place in the GNAC. Senior Gabe Colossimo had his best game since returning from injury, scoring 17 points off the bench. In the game against Western Oregon, one of the top teams in the conference, the Falcons were down 67-57 with 9 minutes to go before they made their comeback and forced overtime.

In the overtime, it was all Falcons, as sophomore guards Divant'e Moffitt and Braden Olsen worked together to score 14 of the Falcons 22 overtime points. Freshman Shaw Anderson set his new collegiate career high for scoring, scoring 17 of his 34 points in the first half.

The team would again win on Tuesday the 14th, as they defeated Saint Martin's University 87-63, marking the eleventh straight win for the team.

This week, the men will take on Montana State University Billings on Saturday, Jan. 18 at 2 p.m. at Royal Brougham Pavilion. The women will take on two conference opponents at home this week in Concordia Portland Thursday, Jan. 16 at 7 p.m. and Western Oregon Jan. 18 at 4:15 p.m.





Head Coach Sarah Marshall gives her athletes directions on the uneven bars as they prepare for their first home meet of the season.

MARRISSA LORDAHL | THE FALCON

**GYMNASTICS** from Page 7

Leadership, which she would obtain in 2010.

Upon Marshall's return, Tindall asked her to be an assistant coach for the next season.

"I told her that I would do that, and it worked out with my internship and my graduate program, but after I graduated I had some other plans and that I would only be committing to a year," Marshall said.

That statement eventually proved to be incorrect, because after ten years as an assistant under Tindall, Marshall is ready to step into her new role as the head coach. Marshall knows that this new role requires a greater amount of responsibility, and while it is good to listen to her assistants' input, she now has the final say and the ability to make the final decisions that she did not have before.

Another advantage Marshall has in

her corner is that as a former SPU student, she knows what her athletes are going through.

"I think college is hard for anyone," Marshall said. "I think being a collegiate athlete definitely adds to that difficulty... I still remember how hard that is, but also know that it's possible to get through and it's possible to have a really amazing experience even when it's hard."

They began the competition part of their season with the first meet of the season against Oregon State University and Centenary College, and it went fairly well. The Falcons ended up posting a total score of 189.525, finishing second at the meet.

At a collegiate gymnastics meet, there are four events: bars, beam, vault and floor exercise. Six athletes on each team compete in an event, and receive a score out of ten points. The lowest score from each team is dropped, and the other five are added together to give the team a to-

tal score for the event.

In the first meet of the season, Darian Burns tied for first place in total score individually, racking up a score of 36.775. Her best scores of the night were both 9.725, which she achieved on the uneven bars and floor exercise. Burns was an All-American gymnast last year, finishing in first place in the all-around competition at the USA Gymnastics Collegiate Championships.

"Darian's showmanship on floor is definitely worth watching, she draws people in and has a really fun time on that event," Marshall said. "Her dynamics in her gymnastics as well as her form just make her stand out from other competitors."

Senior Lena Wirth tied for third on the vault with a score of 9.800 and sophomore Kayli Tran participated in the first meet of her college career, finishing with a 9.800 score and a fourth place finish in the balance beam.

While the Falcons finished six points behind Oregon State in the team score, the only team score that they are worried about is their own. There are not many teams in their division on the West Coast, so they will not see those teams until nationals, as long as they can remain in the top eight teams in the USAG rankings.

"Our goal is to stay together as a team, to support each other and work on our consistency so that we can really showcase what these girls are capable of. They're extremely talented and we are gonna work on growing by gaining that consistency," Marshall said.

The Falcons will take on the Air Force Academy in the first of their three home meets of the season Friday, Jan. 17.



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THURSDAY JANUARY 30, 2020

# The Falcon



THEFALCON.ONLINE SEATTLE PACIFIC UNIVERSITY'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER VOLUME 91, ISSUE 8

## Swipe Out Hunger

SPU and Sodexo provide meal swipes for students in need

By **Tori McArthur**  
Staff Reporter

The ramen noodle diet has become synonymous with college life. For students, a 12 pack of ramen retails for a little under five dollars and dinner is served. Access to food in college is very different from previous high school years. Students enter campuses withdrawing from home cooked meals and transitioning to providing for themselves.

Living on campus means dining hall food that is prepared for them and relatively easy.

See **SWIPE** | Page 2



ILLUSTRATION BY MARISSA LORDAHL

## Assessing campus accessibility

DSS, facilities, safety security work to support students

By **Julia Battishill**  
News Editor

Students at Seattle Pacific University complain daily about being out of breath, and it is not hard to see why — the campus is built into a hillside, requiring the use of stairs or steep hills to get around. As residents of Ashton Hall may know best, this can be challenging.

Along with hills and stairs come an issue that may be less obvious to some: accessibility. Some students are unable to take the stairs, which can add time and difficulty to the process of getting to campus buildings.

Not all campus buildings have elevators—the Student Union Building, Demaray, and Hill and Moyer Halls do not, for instance. Additionally, many buildings are difficult to access due to the many sets of stairs surrounding them.

"We are like many other colleges located in Seattle and around the state, some of our spaces are accessible and others are not as much," Annabell DuMez-Matheson, assistant director of SPU's Disability Support Services, said.

SPU has made recent improvements to accessibility, such as curb cuts in Tiffany Loop and between the SUB and the bookstore, which DuMez-Matheson said she is grateful for.

But some students with injuries that limit their mobility said that they wish that our campus was more accessible, an issue that can also affect some students with disabilities.

Junior student Kylie Reese, who has had several injuries to her ankle during her time at SPU, has used crutches and a scooter to navigate campus during these times.

"It's actually extremely difficult when I was on crutches and a scooter," Reese said.

She lived in Hill Hall during one of her injuries, which does not have an elevator. While DSS, with facilities, did offer to move her room, she thought that moving her things downstairs would be too much of a hassle.

"The center for disabilities helped me move my classes and offered to move my dorm room, so it was fairly easy — it just took a while," Reese said. "Like, it wasn't automatically, but they

were very supportive."

The hardest part, she said, was navigating the hills and stairs between upper and lower campus.

"When I was on a scooter, to go from the gym to Gwinn you have to actually go up the hill next to Demoray, and then around to get to Gwinn. There's no direct way and it's really hard to get up that hill on a scooter," Reese said.

Zack Paulsen, a freshman whose recent surgery caused him to wear a boot, agrees that the hills and stairs are the most serious issue.

"It's definitely not as easy with the stairs, I have to scoot up hills, but having a scooter is definitely easier than having crutches," Paulsen said.

He chose a scooter over crutches due to the layout of the campus and how difficult crutches can be. He said that adding ramps to SPU's many sets of stairs would be a good start to making improvements.

Student Ashtyn Winter, whose ankle reconstruction put her in a cast and on crutches, had similar things to say about Demaray Hall as the others.

"I wish Demaray was more accessible because there aren't any elevators in that building and the only way to access it was by stairs or a huge hill," she said.

DuMez-Matheson said that SPU facilities has been helpful

in making modifications for students who may need them.

"They are great to work with, and even though sometimes it takes longer than I would hope, I know they are continually working on improvements and aiming at making this campus as good as

"Safety and security helped me," Reese said. "I lived in Ashton the second year when I was on crutches ... they were very helpful in coming and picking me up and taking me wherever."

Winter recalls OSS coming to help transport her, but feeling



CALVIN QUISUMBING | THE FALCON

Disabilities Support Services office in lower Moyer Hall is accessible via wheelchair lift. This is one of only two wheelchair lifts on campus.

it can be," DuMez-Matheson said.

"I have seen great progress in my time here and I hope to continue to see more, we are constantly evolving."

Whenever a student is scheduled in a classroom that is not accessible, the DSS office will relocate their classroom to a place that is accessible to that student, with the help of facilities and security. OSS can also pick up students and drive them to class if needed.

stressed due to the time it took them to come and pick her up.

"When they do pick you up they, for the most part, aren't very helpful. Trying to get in a car with a backpack, crutches and a huge cast is very hard and I always felt very rushed," she said.

According to DuMez, the reason so many buildings on campus are not accessible is because they are old; they were built before 1990.

See **ACCESSIBILITY** | Page 2

**ACCESSIBILITY** from Page 1

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) was signed in July 1990 and prohibits discrimination against people with disabilities in all facets of public life, including buildings open to the general public. Meaning that all newer SPU buildings are accessible but older ones are not, unless they have been renovated.

For students whose classes are in located inaccessible buildings, DSS will

move their classroom to a more accessible location. They also work to combat other problems with accessibility that students come across.

“Because each person’s needs may be different than the next, we often have to think of creative ways to try to accommodate a student, and work towards solutions when we discover unknown barriers that exist,” DuMez-Matheson said.

DuMez-Matheson recommends that if

students want to advocate for their peers who need more accessible options, start by being aware of the accommodations that exist, then checking their functionality.

“Know the wiggle routes, know where elevators in buildings are, support continued growth of our accessibility on campus by reporting malfunctioning door openers, by noticing when something is blocking an entrance, or an accessible bathroom stall,” she said.

“Think beyond your own ability and into the lived experiences of those who have different abilities.”

DSS is unable to provide the names of students who use their services, and efforts by the Falcon to come into contact with such students were unsuccessful. We recognize that students with disabilities are real and important voices on our campus, with unique perspectives on its accessibility which are missing from this article.

**SWIPE** from Page 1

For those not living on campus, dinner-time means a ramen meal or asking an underclassmen friend to swipe them into the dining hall, desperate for a meal that they do not have to make for themselves.

“I swipe my sister in all the time when she doesn’t feel like making dinner,” freshman Austin Ibane said.

Sodexo and Seattle Pacific University are partnering to tackle insecurity on campus by partnering with Swipe Out Hunger, a non profit working toward minimizing college food insecurity.

“One in three college students face food insecurity, looking at campus that still is a lot of people and Swipe Out Hunger hopes to tackle hunger here,” Hannah Waterman, student coordinator for Swipe Out Hunger, said.

Sodexo is addressing food insecurity by partnering with Swipe Out Hunger, which is working to provide “two free meals for every full-time meal plan sold.”

Addressing food insecurity on campus has been in the works since early 2019 and next week Swipe Out Hunger will have its pilot debut.

At a private liberal arts school where

70% of students receive need-based financial aid, a food initiative like this may be effective.

“Even on a campus in a nice Seattle neighborhood, food insecurity is still very much a reality,” Waterman said.

SPU is one of 13 schools that will pilot the program starting next week to address college students’ lack of access to food.

“It is something that is going to lead to more conversations about what it means to provide students with basic needs as a human being before we can support them as students,” ASSP President Nathan Samayo said.

**“There is some stigma and shame, so we are trying to make it as easy as possible.”**

Swipe Out Hunger has impacted many schools such as Ithaca college where 1,678 guest swipes were donated in the 2018-2019 school year.

With numbers like that, Sodexo and SPU hope this initiative will do well on campus.

For some, Sharpen’s post-chapel Tuesday meals provide one meal a week, however Swipe Out Hunger hopes to reach an even wider audience at Seattle Pacific.

Starting next week, Swipe Out Hunger will begin its meal swipe bank on campus where students can self-apply or be nominated by a friend or professor to receive meals.

“We have an email and website set up where people can make a request on their own or submit a request for a friend or classmate,” Chuck Strawn, Dean of Students for Community Life, said.

Through this online interface, privacy is prioritized for students in need.

“We are asking folks to give a bit of information about what is going on for them — it’s a confidential private submission that only I have access to. This allows me to understand who our students are and how the University can better support them,” Strawn said.

After entering into the website, students will apply for meals and can be accessed through the Falcon ID card. Shortly after, an email will be sent to the student stating, “you have been approved to have x meals donated.”

“There is some stigma and shame, so we are trying to make it as easy as possible,” Strawn said.

Together, Sodexo and SPU plan for a two-day turnaround where the five block swipes will be put onto a student’s card.

In the future, Strawn hopes for an interface where students with excess meal swipes can donate them to the meal bank.

“I’ve always had leftover meal swipes so the possibility to be able to donate those to help those in need is such an amazing opportunity,” sophomore Taylor Hiroyasu said.

Students are allowed to apply for as many meals as necessary but, in hopes of tackling a larger issue, Strawn and SPU picture a conversation taking place to provide further assistance in students’ lives.

This bank of meals is donated by Sodexo and Swipe out Hunger anticipates to kick-off this initiative with 1,300 meal swipes in a bank reserved for students in need.

“I hope it will become a reliable part of SPU life for students,” Waterman said. “So if they are in need, Swipe Out Hunger is there to catch them.”

# Building future of journalism

SPU alumni, professor and student reflect on importance of student journalism

By Julia Herman  
Assistant News Editor

Students listened intently, nodding their heads along as one of Seattle Pacific University’s journalism professors, Karen Rathe, gave a lesson on the importance of writing accurately to her Reporting and Storytelling class.

Classes in the journalism major, such as this one, prepare and equip students who aspire to become journalists with skills like media literacy, writing and effective communication.

The hard work that student journalists put into their major and activities, such as student newspapers, are celebrated every year on Jan. 29 with Student Freedom Press Day.

Student Press Freedom Day, according to the Student Press Law Center is, “a national day of action when we celebrate the contributions of student journalists and highlight the need to support their independence without censorship or threat to their advisers.”

Those connected to SPU’s journalism

program see student journalism as worth celebrating because of the way it is preparing students for the future of journalism and giving them a platform to learn and share.

Rathe enjoys being able to help her students with teaching the necessary skills to help them continue their journey to become journalists.

“I am glad to see young people in journalism. I have been really impressed with the students in this program. They are all impressive and I hope to see a lot of them go into successful internships,” Rathe said.

Tegan Johnson, a second-year journalism student in Rathe’s class, plans on going into publishing and feels that what she is learning in her classes now are valuable for her future.

“I think student journalism is important because it teaches aspiring journalists on how to do good reporting,” Johnson said.

“[In] the classes that we have to take we learn the ethics behind it, we learn how to write a good story, how to keep it true and make it what makes professional journalism so good.”

This sentiment was echoed by SPU alum Manola Secaira, who graduated in 2018 with a degree in journalism. She worked for The Falcon for three years and

now works for the Seattle online newspaper, Crosscut.

“It was so important. Some of the first big stories I wrote that felt big to me were at the student newspaper. Having a teacher there to really guide me was really important,” Secaira said.

“I feel like a lot of people who want to write, it’s hard for them to share their work publicly for the first time. And writing on a student newspaper allows you to do that in a really safe setting.”

Her high school student newspaper and The Falcon were where Secaira got her start as a reporter. To her, student newspapers are a place where aspiring journalists

can start and learn the ropes. They are able to try and fail, and then learn from their mistakes to do better.

“I feel like everybody needs a place where they can publish their first work and have it be a safe space for them to do that and really explore their interest,” Secaira said.

The Falcon was a safe space to try writing for Erin Beattie, another SPU journalism alum. She originally wanted to go into music therapy, but after discovering that she enjoyed writing, she joined The Falcon as a features and opinions writer.

She now works as a social media director for the Northwest Institute on Intimacy, where she utilizes the technological skills that she gained through the journalism program.

She believes student journalism is worth celebrating because of the impacts that it has on campuses and because it is preparing the next set of professional journalists for the world.

“I think student journalism is worth celebrating. I think it’s important to be aware and look at the past of student journalism and see the impact that it truly has on college campuses,” Beattie said.

“I am hopeful for the future of journalism. I think that education is the key and that’s what student journalism is doing — preparing for the future.”



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# Mastering money through budgeting

Professors discuss personal experience with finances, strategies for SUCCESS

By Andrew Stez  
Features Editor

A college student checks their bank account balance on their phone to find that there are only a few dollars left. They stand there panicking, not knowing how they are going to pay for their food, tuition, and a stack high of other bills. While a stereotype of college students, this remains an unfortunate reality.

This is an experience that professors in the School of Business, Government and Economics Randy Beavers and Charlotte Qu can relate to even though they are no longer in college. Through living the painful reality of college and living on a limited budget, they learned how to deal with the stress of managing finances.

Beavers recalled his freshman year when he did not work and had to make his savings last until he got a job later in college.

"My freshman year I did not work but it was extremely stressful because I only had ... less than a thousand dollars in a bank account ... after I paid for books, it was pretty much like we could get a once a week splurge," Beavers said.

"As I kind of progressed through college I did start working more and more. Some of it was for money and other parts of it were for enjoyment."

Qu had a similar experience once she moved to the United States from China for graduate school.

When she got to the U.S., it seemed like everything was double the price due to the difference in value between the Chinese yuan and the U.S. dollar.

She described one of her most terrifying financial moments was when one of her roommates had to move out of their apartment, leaving her and her other roommates to scramble to pay the bill until the friend later reimbursed them.

Afterward, she learned that it was necessary to spend less and look for ways to cut costs in order to save money.

"You look for free food on campus and free events," Qu said. "Cooking by yourself saves so much more money than eating out."

Like Qu, Beavers had to learn about budgeting through anxiety-inducing avenues.

Beavers was raised in a Christian family which, he said, ingrained in him the importance of saving and being content with what he was given. He also watched how



Jack Parisi, a junior studying business marketing, buys in bulk to stretch his food funds at Cash & Carry.

JACKY CHEN | THE FALCON

financial struggles had forced his parents to live paycheck to paycheck. Dr. Beavers also experienced travesty after he lost everything in the Tuscaloosa, Alabama tornado that hit in 2011 and destroyed everything he had.

"I'm not going to spend more than I have because I've seen what happens when you do," Beavers said.

Because of their backgrounds, both Qu

seem disappointing, it can also make someone feel happier by making them focus on what they really need to consume, according to Qu.

"It feels good to just spend and forget about the number, but it also feels good when you are planning and then being smart and more conscious about what you really need," Qu said.

Both Qu and Beavers also had advice

the actual happiness it brings.

"You could draw a chart of the amount of utility something brings you and then the cost and then look at both and decide the areas where you can cut back the most," Qu said.

She also said that having a savings account separate from the account one uses to make purchases can help.

"You can create a savings account and send the \$50 to that savings account at the beginning of the month and then live on the rest ... Assume you don't have it."

Most importantly, when dealing with personal finances students should consider what brings them happiness. Then, they should leave room in their budget for what they enjoy, even if they can only afford to do it in moderation.

"You want to balance your utility versus the amount of savings," Qu said. "You don't want to kind of abuse yourself, so if someone just really likes eating out and not eating out causes a lot of misery on that person, I wouldn't advise a person to never eat out."

For students looking to understand their finances better they can take Beavers' section of BUS 3950: Spirituality and Business, which focuses on faith and finances and covers topics like debts, budgeting and retirement issues each quarter. Students can also take FCS 3410: Personal Finance and BUS 3250: Business Finance. Students can also visit [cashcourse.org](http://cashcourse.org) for assistance.

---

**"It feels good to just spend and forget about the number, but it also feels good when you are planning and then being smart and more conscious about what you really need."**

---

and Beavers have strategies for dealing with limited financing.

"Just being patient and focusing on the long term. It is kind of hard sometimes to have that perspective when it's like 'man I haven't gotten to go to a movie or go do anything fun in a while,'" Beavers said.

Qu also suggested that students find lower cost alternatives to expensive items. For example, buying used furniture or investing in a Keurig instead of daily Starbucks runs.

While, in the moment, budgeting may

for students when it came to creating a model for budgeting.

Beavers described zero based budgeting, which divides money into specific spending categories even if someone does not know what it will be spent on.

"Basically, see what you spend your money on and every dollar, even if you don't necessarily know when you start off with where it will go, you assign it somewhere," Beavers said.

Qu suggested a similar method that involves comparing the cost of something to



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# Journalism: basis of communication

## Maintaining a functional community through newspapers

By Aaliyah Gholamipour  
Staff Reporter

Despite journalism's original purposes, the newspaper has developed in a way that is important to maintaining functioning communities, both for students and society as a whole.

"Day-to-day communication is best done through a newspaper," communications professor Matthew Bellinger said.

He hopes to help his students understand what he thinks is the key to living peacefully with others as a healthy community: communication.

Bellinger is a researcher in communication theory; more specifically, the relationship between communication and technology and how that relationship becomes routine for a majority of the population in a constantly changing society.

Throughout all of the technological advancements humans have made in the last few centuries, Bellinger believes newspapers have not drifted from relevancy in systems of communication.

Newspapers serve as a source of information for everyone involved, ranging from young to old, students to professors, anyone willing to learn from the media. It creates an interactive community that can both reaffirm old ideas and introduce new ideas to a diverse group of people with ever-changing perspectives.

Students have the freedom to express ideas, thoughts and reviews on events happening on campus. Faculty and staff members have a means to be responsive and receptive to student concerns.

As an accessible form of discussion, the newspaper ties the entire community together.

"There is a hope for faculty to see it as a voice for the student body," Bellinger said.

Students can use a newspaper as a way to express their thoughts, and share them with the community. The medium creates a space for political and social movements, such as policy change, marches or any events that promote awareness of topics that are harder for most to hear, process and accept.

Bellinger said that journalism was not always used for the purpose of communication, though.

Newspapers were first propaganda and tools for political parties, focusing on powerful political players: literate and wealthy people. This was notably used by political figures like Alexander Hamilton, among other founding figures of the United States.

Bellinger explained that, as literacy was hardly close to being widespread at the time, the partisan press leaned on the wealthy, who supported the press and fueled this extension of campaigning. In the 19th-century, multi marketing strategies were introduced in the press and newspapers began to be supported by ad revenue, not just the rich.

News became less about politics, and more about the money.

"The 1940s was a period of reflection on commentators and the press' role in democracy," Bellinger said.

According to Bellinger, the introduction of social media in modern society brought changes in both freedom of press and freedom of expression, with greater access to various populations and opinions for most to see.



JACKY CHEN | THE FALCON

*Bellinger, Assistant Professor of Communication, believes that the newspaper is a vital part of healthy community discourse.*

With social media, the ease of the internet gives readers direct access to journalists as well as outside sources and opinions, so why do students still create and read newspapers? He questioned whether those who choose not to read printed newspapers consumed news through social media platforms instead, if at all.

Modern journalism, both on and offline, has allowed for the existence of "communicative capitalism," Bellinger said, referencing Jodi Dean's working theory on the topic.

"Contemporary journalism creates a circulation of messages within a community that has less care for quality and content, which disincentivizes slower,

bigger projects and focuses more on the attention-grabbing ones," Bellinger stated.

Bellinger, again in reference to Dean's work, suggested that a press' apathy for quality content, and their increased motive for financial success, creates a focus on shorter stories and clickbait that will grab an audience's attention.

Both national and student journalism have goals to communicate with their audiences and provide information otherwise inaccessible to their communities. But, while the national press holds financial interest, student journalism is a product of a desire for a functioning system of communication, and a healthy community.

# Ante Up prepares to share passion

## Preparation, excitement for this year's Talent Show

By Hannah Flores  
Staff Reporter

The anticipation is almost tangible as the members of the dance crew, Ante Up, prepare for Seattle Pacific University's annual Talent Show, to take place in a couple weeks during the university's Homecoming and Family Weekend.

"Seeing everything come together will be really exciting," sophomore and captain of Ante Up, Christy-Anne Villanueva, said.

Ante Up is a dance group on campus that offers classes weekly for students of all skill levels. Their next performance to be at this year's Talent Show.

The group is working tirelessly to ensure their performance is at its best and expressed their excitement to share their passion with the public.

Villanueva and Quinn Laulainen are sophomores in their second year as performers with Ante Up. Both share a great



ILLUSTRATION BY JENNA RASMUSSEN

passion for dancing and have become great friends through the group.

Both Laulainen and Villanueva have been dancers for most of their lives and love that Ante Up is an avenue through which they can continue their passion.

"Dance is a really different expression of art and emotions, and you get to meet so many different people all focusing on one

passion," Laulainen said.

"This club was initially built as a hip-hop club because of the diverse culture and dance style," Villanueva said.

There are various elements of the preparation process and weeks of hard work that go into a performance at this level.

One aspect of preparation involves auditions that, while a lengthy process, allow the team to bond through their many hours of practicing.

"We had auditions for performance group last quarter and have been meeting since the second week of school to prepare for the show," Villanueva said.

Delving deeper into the creative process, Villanueva shared how they planned their performance.

"This year we wanted to do more of a storyline," Villanueva said. "We had a theme based on what we wanted to showcase and, based on that, we picked the music."

Ante Up is primarily a hip-hop dance group, meaning the style of music is focused on '90s and 2000s era hip-hop and R&B. The group plans to include music from that era as well as current artists like Lizzo whose musical style pays homage to

the earlier artists.

"The title of our piece is called Juice Box and it's basically about bringing people together to have a great time through music," Villanueva said.

Through this performance, the group plans to spread a message of unity, and Villanueva explained that the dance is high energy.

"We really tried to bring a vibe of people having a good time together," Villanueva said.

Villanueva said that her passion for dance comes from the ability it has to bring people together.

"Dance is very universal and it's really cool to have that community here at SPU," she said.

Ante Up hopes to convey this sentiment to the audience with their routine.

"Seeing it all come together, and seeing everyone have a great time," Villanueva said when asked about the most exciting part of performing for the talent show.

"You don't always know how a routine will turn out, but in times where everyone has full-faced makeup, with the costumes and lighting ... that's when your adrenaline is at its highest."

# Curiosity in conversation

“No Small Thing” podcast prompts listeners to think deeper



COURTESY OF INSTAGRAM @NOSMALLTHING

Scott Gronholz (left) and Macie Mooney (right), the hosts of the “No Small Thing” podcast, focus on having thought-provoking conversations on niche topics.

By Emme Tucker  
Staff Reporter

Scott Gronholz and Macie Mooney, educational ministry graduates of Seattle Pacific University, host the podcast “No Small Thing.” They discuss a diverse range of topics that anyone can enjoy listening to, and they seek to inspire their listeners to not be afraid to chase their curiosity.

Currently, both Gronholz and Mooney work at churches in Seattle, but they said that discussing topics like theology in college led them to realize they enjoy long conversations about niche topics. They were told to start a podcast and have been publishing episodes weekly for the past year.

“We want to encourage people to live a less certain, more curious life,” Mooney said in an interview.

They discuss a wide variety of topics on their podcast including music, art, philosophy, theology and personality tests. Through their podcast they strive to inspire listeners to have more analytical and inquisitive conversations.

One of these topics is the Enneagram Test, which they said they enjoy learning about because it gives them insight into who they are as people.

“The Enneagram and defense mechanisms are two topics that help us to be a little more introspective. I love any topic that helps us get critical ... that turns the microscope onto ourselves to learn about who we are and why we do what we do,” Gronholz said.

Mooney says having in depth conversations with one of her closest friends has been an experience she can grow from. Scott says that because they are different ages, they have different perspectives on



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topics and they can both share and learn from each others ideas.

“Everybody has something to teach everybody,” Mooney said.

Gronholz and Mooney also want to focus on recording a casual and entertaining conversation that is accessible to anyone.

“One of the things we think about when recording is the idea of tyranny of taste. Meaning, we let our taste dictate how we are going to make our podcast,” Gronholz said.

By talking about a wide variety of topics and questioning all of them they hope to

inspire listeners to become more curious.

“If people became more curious by listening to our podcast that would be gold,” Gronholz said.

Mooney emphasized they hope people take that curiosity and turn it into conversations with those in their lives.

“I would hope that people are encouraged to have these kinds of conversations,” Mooney said.

Mooney reminisced about how attending college launched her journey in thoughtful conversations about life purpose, religion and a number of other topics.

“I remember coming into college with a very particular lens that brought me towards more black and white thinking. College opened me up to the grey area.”

“This idea of embracing the mystery of both life and divinity grew its roots in my studies at SPU. I remember coming into college with a very particular lens that brought me towards more black and white thinking. College opened me up to the grey area,” Mooney said.

Mooney described how it was unnerving coming into this new mindset of not always knowing the answers. The new way of thinking was, at times, difficult.

“In college, while I was being moved towards this way of thinking it was really scary,” Mooney said.

“My encouragement is that you can find stability in that space, but it’s also okay to be lost and confused.”

Mooney said this grey area is also what their podcast revolves around; there can be lots of ways to view one thing. She emphasized that it is important to find people to lean on during times of uncertainty throughout college and in life.

Gronholz discussed how the American school system requires kids to know who they are and even determine their career path from a young age. By the time they get to college they should know what they want to do with the rest of their lives.

Gronholz disagreed with this theory commenting how students should instead use this time to experiment.

“College is a perfect time to try on different friendships and personalities. That is a healthy thing.”

Mooney and Gronholz hope their show leaves listeners questioning what they believe.

“We want people to leave feeling pleasantly disoriented. We want people to feel intrigued,” Gronholz said.

He hopes that the podcast makes listeners feel included and provokes their own deep conversations.

“From the beginning we have hoped that this isn’t just a Scott and Macie thing, that ‘No Small Thing’ is more of a group and a gathering. It’s about community and people coming together to be more curious,” Mooney said.

To listen to the “No Small Thing” podcast, go to <https://nosmallthingpodcast.com/> or visit podcast streaming services such as Apple Podcasts. For more information, visit their Instagram @nosmallthing or email [nosmallthingpodcast@gmail.com](mailto:nosmallthingpodcast@gmail.com).

## Practice what you preach

### Church's fight for LGBTQ+ inclusion

The LGBTQ+ community and the Christian faith historically have been diametrically opposed, with one side claiming that their love is equal and should be embraced by society, while the other saying it is a sin that should not be embraced by the church.

But in recent years some churches have begun to shift their views to one of affirmation and acceptance of LGBTQ+ people, a necessary shift in order for churches to truly practice what they preach.

Denominations such as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the Episcopal Church and other smaller denominations have affirmed LGBTQ+ individuals, and many of these denominations have loosened restrictions on LGBTQ+ people serving in leadership roles within the church.

According to the New York Times, the United Methodist Church has created a proposal that, if passed during their May conference, would see one of the largest denominations in the United States split into two churches. The more progressive churches would remain the United Methodist Church and the more traditionalist churches would break away to form their own denomination.

This proposal is a monumental shift in United Methodist policies that, just last year, reaffirmed penalties for pastors who officiated same-sex marriages and for LGBTQ+ leaders within the church.

This change seeks to finally rectify a situation that the church has long had to gripe with: the long debate of whether LGBTQ+ individuals are to be affirmed by the church or cast away from their church communities.

Pastor Tom Peterson from Sand Point Community United Methodist Church provided his perspective as a progressive searching for the affirmation of LGBTQ+ individuals on the potential for a split in the church.

"I don't think the progressives want to see a split as much as they want to see the LGBTQ community included in the life of the church with no restrictions, but that is just not going to happen as the conservatives are concerned," Peterson said.

However, "inclusion" is still a term that, for many in the LGBTQ+ community, is a complicated word. Many churches use words such as "affirm" or "welcome" without necessarily being clear what that means within their church community.

Peterson's approach is one of openness to LGBTQ+ individuals, whether they are members of the church or member of the church leadership.

"The LGBTQ community should be a part of church as who they are without having to hide who they are. That has been the case for many, many years," Peterson said.

"To me it's about whether the church will be inclusive or exclusive."

This is why the split into two denom-

# Editorial Comment

## Are some questions worth asking?

Many people in the United States do not believe the Holocaust happened. According to the Anti-Defamation League, only 55% of Americans believe the recorded history of the Holocaust is accurate.

Does that mean that this awful episode of human history is in dispute? No. There is a mountain of primary evidence for this genocide. It is simply undeniable.

With the advent of near universal use of the internet and online forums, the "marketplace of ideas" — the concept that all ideas are equal, all should deserve to be argued and that the best ones



BLAKE DAHLIN | THE FALCON  
At a Refuse Fascism protest in Downtown Seattle on Jan. 11, several individuals attended waving Soviet flags. Demonstrations such as this are protected under the First Amendment.

will inevitably win over others — has fully emerged. While in some ways the democratization of internet users' ideas is productive, the transition from that online "marketplace" to the real world is entirely different, and the value that all ideas are equal can lead to marginalized identities being unjustly questioned.

This marketplace has an implied rule: since all ideas are equal, everything is up for debate. This claim has led to the upheaval of certain rightfully taboo subjects being put into the limelight.

For example, the infamous "flat-earth theorists" who claim that the Earth is flat and that the government wants to keep this secret from us, for one reason or another. A more sobering example has also appeared as time has gone on, as we grow further and further from World War II: the Holocaust never happened.

Over time, this trend of hyper-criticism has started to invade conversations on ethnic, gender and sexual identities.

In early 2017, in the midst of President Trump's election, then-infamous far-right speaker Milo Yiannopoulos was forced to cancel a scheduled talk at the University of California's Berkeley campus due to protests. This obstruction of speech posed an ominous threat to the American principle of free speech and provoked the question, how far is too far for speech?

Yiannopoulos was not simply an intellectual seeking a platform to express his ideas in the "marketplace." He touted homophobic, transphobic, racist and sexist rhetoric that reflected the ideas of his audience. At the University of Wisconsin Milwaukee campus, Yiannopoulos showed a picture of a trans UW student in front of his audience.

"Have any of you come into contact with this person?" he joked. "This quote unquote nonbinary trans-woman forced his way into the women's locker rooms this year."

Ideas are not the only things that have become subject to universal criticism: people have become questioned, too.

His statements were able to spread across the internet and reach a global audience. More and more people were coming into contact with his arguments, and when engaging and acting in the real world, those arguments came out through the growth of white nationalist movements. According to a Washington Post and ABC News survey in 2017, about 22 million Americans thought it was acceptable to hold white supremacist views, views that directly threaten people and lead to physical persecution.

Not all ideas are the same. Everything under the sun is not up for debate.

To echo Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s invocation of the Declaration of Independence, "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal." People of any identity should not have to argue over their existence. Existence is indeed self-evident. The rise of far-right movements and hatred somewhat stems from this dangerous trend that everything — including people — are up for debate.

The editorial comment is composed by the opinions editor, the editor-in-chief, and the editing staff. Opinions expressed represent the majority of the group. News and assistant news editors are never involved in the composition.

lessens the level sexuality plays in determining one's fitness to serve both their church and God.

"We can't make sexual orientation the only determining factor in whether or not they can capably serve the church and God and, right now, [in] The Book of Discipline, that is the main factor," Peterson said.

People must also question how they interpret scripture, which has been one of the main reasons why traditionalists have been against affirming LGBTQ+ individuals.

Peterson pointed to two commandments that Jesus, himself, said were the two most important in the Bible: love God with all your heart and love your neighbor. He argued that many traditionalists were doing the opposite of this by judging LGBTQ+ people for something

many ancient Jews would have had little knowledge of: modern day human sexuality.

"I would really encourage my brothers and sisters in Christ to see that all people — not just the gay community — through the lense of those two verses."

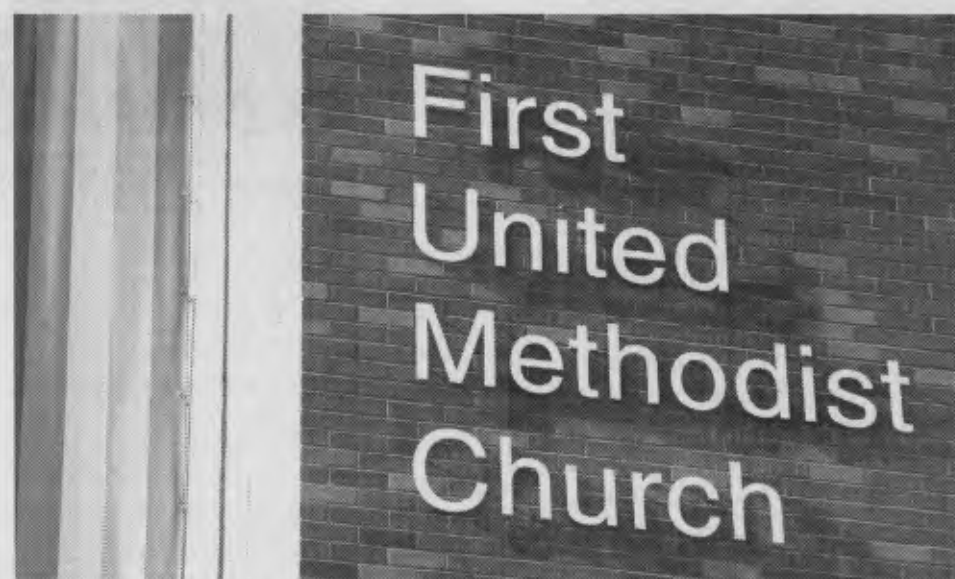
While the split in the United Methodist Church may seem like an ironic fate for a unified church, it actually could be the catalyst to bring together a church that, for years, has faced internal struggles in regards to LGBTQ+ issues.

If the resolution passes, soon it will be able to focus on what God called upon everyone to do: serve God by loving everyone equally, regardless of their identity.

Andrew is a sophomore studying business administration and marketing.



By Andrew Stez  
Features Editor



CALVIN QUISUMBING | THE FALCON  
First United Methodist Church of Seattle located in downtown Seattle.

## KOBE BRYANT 1978-2020

# Remembering the Black Mamba

Kobe Bryant and his daughter Gianna, along with seven others, died in a helicopter crash early Sunday morning

By Daneil Newman, Sabrina Jiles, Brandon Bee and Kyle Morrison  
Sports Editor

When TMZ reported that basketball legend Kobe Bryant had died in a helicopter crash on Sunday, Jan. 26, most people were hoping it was just a hoax.

But when NBA reporter Adrian Wojnarowski confirmed the news on his twitter, there was no going back. This was real.

Bryant, 41, his daughter Gianna, 13, and seven others were heading to Gianna's basketball practice via helicopter. The helicopter never reached its final destination, instead crashing just outside of Los Angeles, California in Calabasas, and catching on fire. There were no survivors.

Throughout his 20 years in the league, Bryant established his place in history as one of the best players to ever lace up their sneakers, put on a team jersey and play on an NBA court.

Bryant's early career was probably as typical as one would imagine a 17 year old's role would be on an NBA team. Especially with an established team of veterans and the legacy of greatness that the Los Angeles Lakers had.

Later, his greatness would become more clear when he helped lead the Lakers to three straight NBA championships with the help of Shaquille O'Neal and legendary coach Phil Jackson.

Bryant's greatness never stopped there. His drive to win was never satisfied because he always looked to achieve greatness, not just for himself but for his team.

Bryant was the type of player to do whatever it took to win — in some cases, that meant taking over the game. Throughout the entirety of his career, Bryant demonstrated that he was defi-

nately one of the few basketball players to have a clutch gene, the ability to make the right play when the game was on the line.

Even in the biggest moments of his career, when the lights were shining the brightest, Bryant proved to have ice in his veins. Never shying away from a challenge, but instead facing it head on and challenging it himself. Never crumbling when times were tough, but rising to the occasion. Never fearing the greatest players in the world, but making the greatest players fear him.

It's as simple to say that Kobe played like Kobe. There is nobody that people can compare Bryant to because he played his own way and his own game.

During his 20-year career, Bryant stayed in a Lakers uniform and played in two different numbers — wearing number 8 for the first 10 years of his career and ending his last 10 years as number 24.

Bryant adapted nicknames throughout his career like Kobe Bean, because of his middle name, or his most famous name, The Black Mamba. Bryant was also known for his signature move, his fadeaway jumper. He also established the honor as being one of the greatest Lakers of all time.

Bryant was not just the great basketball player everyone knew and loved, but

he was also a father, a husband, a brother, and a son. Bryant was the son of former NBA player Joseph Bryant and Pamela Bryant.

He was married to his wife Vanessa Bryant for 19 years and the two share four daughters: Natalia, Gianna, Bianca and Capri. His 13 year old daughter Gianna shared the same love for the game of basketball as her father. Bryant was

proud to share his belief that Gianna would grow up to be an amazing basketball player in the near future.

During Bryant's lifetime, he garnered many accomplishments.

Bryant was a five-time NBA champion, two-time scoring leader,

one-time MVP of the league and two-time finals MVP. He also made an All-NBA team 15 times in his 20-year NBA career.

Not only was he a great offensive player, but a great defensive player as well, getting on an All-Defensive team 12 times. He also selected 15 times to an NBA All Star team. Not only did he have basketball accolades inside the NBA, but he was also a two-time Olympic Gold medalist as well, winning in Beijing in 2008 and London in 2012.

After Bryant's retirement from the NBA, his journey was not done.

He continued to be an inspiration for many more to come. Bryant loved the idea of teaching and storytelling to many

people. He released a book in 2018 entitled *The Mamba Mentality*.

That same year, Bryant won another trophy but, this time, it was not for the NBA. It was an Oscar for the best animated short category. His short was based off of the poem he had written impending his retirement in 2015 called "Dear Basketball."

The death of Bryant scarred and dumbfounded a world of sports fans. At SPU many students are grieving the loss of a man that was an icon to so many.

"Kobe was very influential in virtually any area he chose to delve into, whether it be the NBA, social media, his family and ventures outside the NBA," Seattle Pacific University freshman Rylan Ellis said. "He was such a beloved player on and off the court and it's such a tragedy to see him gone so soon."

Part of the fabric of SPU is its large California population. For those that grew up in the Golden State, Bryant's death hit very close to home.

"Being from Southern California he meant a lot more, he was such a part of the community, everyone I know has a Kobe story," freshman Andrew Macpherson said.

Even for those who did not consider themselves huge basketball or Bryant fans, his tragic death led to a moment of reflection and appreciation.

"I wasn't a huge Kobe fan but, for some reason, when he died it was super devastating because he did a lot of good off the court stuff as well," sophomore Nick Godoy said.

Bryant placed his mark on the game of basketball and his impact on the game will live on forever. The legacy of Kobe Bryant will live on forever.

“  
Kobe was very influential in virtually any area he chose to delve into.”

## Job brings joy to sports information directors

### Lepse, Moschetti prepare weekly news for Falcon fans

By Brandon Bee  
Sports Reporter

Head and Assistant Sports Information Directors Dan Lepse and Mark Moschetti have been at their jobs since 2008. As sports information directors at Seattle Pacific University, the pair covers each and every Falcons team and updates the Falcon fans on how the teams are performing.

With their job also comes the passion and love for sports. Moschetti and Lepse both fell in love with sports at a young age.

"Growing up, until sixth grade, I had no interest in sports," Moschetti said.

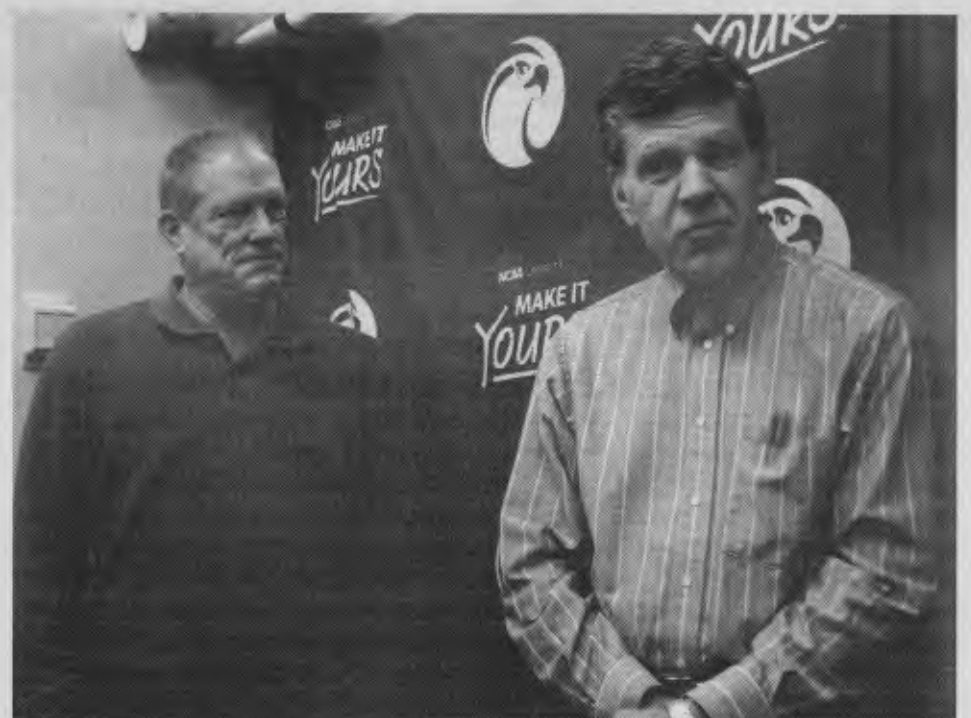
But that eventually changed.

"One night, I was 12 and my mom had a Sonics vs Portland Trail Blazers game on TV. I had come home, and they were just starting the second half. I started watching it and kind of got hooked. From then on I have been a sports fan."

Growing up, baseball was a part of Lepse's childhood. He is a big fan of the Chicago Cubs, where his love of sports began. When he was seven, he went to a Tacoma Cubs game. A year later, he went to a double header at Wrigley field and he said he also "was hooked."

As sports information directors, they do many things behind the scenes such as cover the SPU teams, as well as work

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JACKY CHEN | THE FALCON

Dan Lepse (left) and Mark Moschetti, SPU's sports information directors, are responsible for news, updates and stats on Falcon athletics every week.



**DIRECTORS** from Page 7

ing with others from around the conference offices to collaborate on things like awards, and sending them whatever information is needed

For their job, there are processes that they must take each day so that they can be prepared for any sporting events are happening during the week or, typically, weekends.

They will put together notebooks like packages that include previews on the upcoming games and a quick report on the Falcons opponents. These go up on the website and they also have printed game programs as well for people attending the games.

Lepse started his career as a sports information director at the University of Washington while he was a college student. He was aware of the SID position at UW, but did not pay much attention to it.

"I didn't start until my last 2 years over there. I went in, and asked if they

needed any help and they had some students and it was great," Lepse said.

Eventually, the travel schedule for the University of Washington was no longer ideal for Lepse, and he took the open position at SPU in order to spend more time with his three daughters and wife.

Moschetti, who has lived in Seattle his whole life, worked for a newspaper in South King County for 33 years before getting a job at SPU.

"In 2006, the paper was sold. It was a daily. The new company converted to a twice-weekly," he said.

He ended up staying a little bit before moving on from the newspaper. Right after he left, Moschetti started to look for a new job, which is when he came across SPU's position of assistant sports information director, which was recently created.

Moschetti and Lepse have covered some memorable moments during their time at SPU, whether it be for big titles or achievements by the student athletes.

**"I came here and I can't imagine being anywhere else."**

Moschetti talked about a moment that happened two years ago in Volleyball with a former athlete named Hannah Lauterbach. The first match of her college career, she got a game-winning kill versus Concordia University Portland.

"I was talking to her for a future story, we talked about that a little bit and she said we thought that it would be cool if she got the kill on match point on the very last match of her career which was also at Concordia-Portland. Sure enough, she did," Moschetti said.

Lepse remembers his first Fall at SPU when the women's soccer team won the national championship.

The game had gone into overtime and everything was on the line for SPU. During that year, they had played an undefeated West Florida team in the 2008 national championship.

"It was phenomenal. It was scoreless in overtime. It started raining in overtime. And a gal named Janae Godoy kinda spun and fired and ended the game with the goal," Lepse said. "It can't get much better than that. It was amazing to watch."

All in all, Moschetti is completely satisfied with the decision he made to join the staff at SPU.

"To me, I get to come to work everyday. I don't have to come to work, I get to come to work. And I figure if you can say that, you are in the right job ... I came here and I can't imagine being anywhere else."

# Chiefs versus 49ers in Super Bowl LIV

## SPU students prepare for Super Bowl despite the Seahawks absence

By Kyle Morrison and Sabrina Jiles  
Sports Reporters

Two weeks ago, the city of Seattle tuned into the divisional round of the playoffs with unbridled anticipation and excitement for a possible Seattle Seahawks Super Bowl appearance.

Despite having a team that was destroyed by injuries — forcing the team to sign legendary running back Marshawn Lynch, who was straight out of retirement and fresh off of serving tequila shots to Oakland Raiders fans the week before — Seattle was one win away from a rematch with the San Francisco 49ers in the NFC championship.

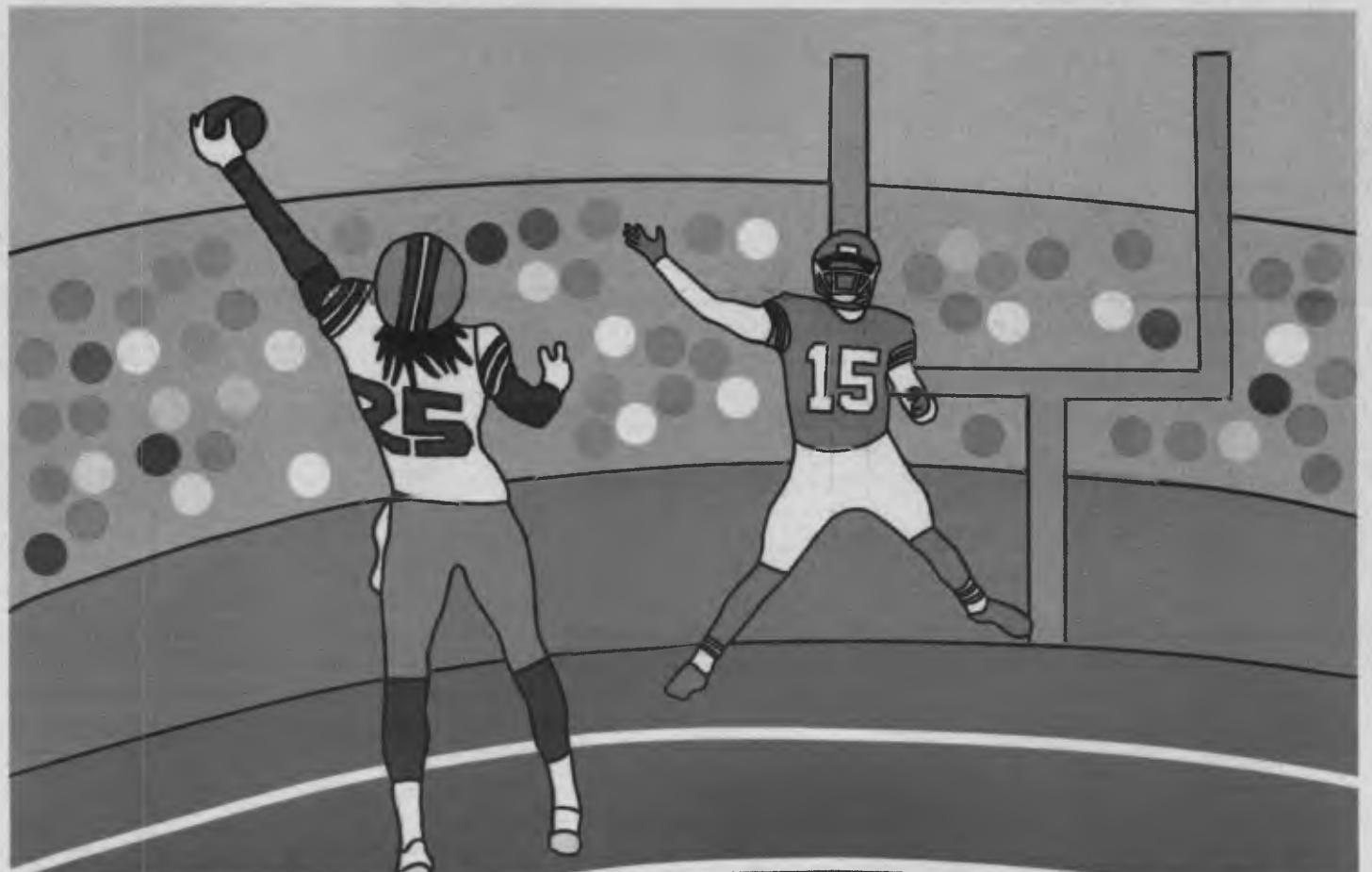
Instead of an NFC championship appearance, the Seahawks were overwhelmed early by the Packers. And despite a second half comeback, the Seahawks season ended with a 28-23 loss. A week later the Packers were gashed 37-20 by the 49ers who were looking to win their first Super Bowl in 25 years.

The 49ers and the Chiefs are the two survivors of the 2019-2020 NFL season and will receive the privilege of playing in one of the most watched and glamorized pop culture events in America.

For Seattle Pacific University stu-

**"I'm rooting for the Chiefs because the 49ers beat us and I'm still salty about that."**

dents, the big game brings on a variety of rooting interests and emotions. According to a poll of 100 SPU students, 43% of those students will be supporting the Chiefs on February 2, 32% will be supporting the 49ers and 25% don't care either way.



CHLOE GUILLOT | THE FALCON

Among those polled, there seemed to be a consistent hatred for the Seahawks/49ers rival.

"I'm rooting for the Chiefs because the 49ers beat us and I'm still salty about that," Josiah Cowart said.

"Something about the 49ers, I just can't like," Nathan Campbell echoed.

Despite being in enemy territory, there are many 49er fans at SPU still holding faithful.

Cecilia Krause took a social justice angle in her super bowl rooting interest.

"I want to support the first woman and first LGBT coach in the superbowl," Krause said, referring to 49ers coach Katie Sowers.

Super Bowl LIV will be the final game played during the anniversary of the hundredth season of the NFL. With the matchup living up to the excitement that this NFL season has brought, there is no doubt that this matchup will be a game to see.

Both teams are led by two of the top quarterbacks this season, with Patrick Mahomes II leading the Chiefs offense and Jimmy Garoppolo at the head of the

49ers.

Both of these teams have well equipped offenses for scoring and a question mark is placed on which team will dominate on defense. Whichever team does that will be the champions of Super Bowl LIV.

Defense will be the key to this game. The question is whether the Chiefs defense, led by safety Tyrann Mathieu and a defense who has intercepted 16 passes on the season, hold up against a 49ers offense who put up the second most points in the regular season this year? Or will it be a strong San Francisco defense, led by cornerback Richard Sherman, who has dominated all throughout the season, but has had some struggles playing against elite offenses, giving up 48 points to the New Orleans Saints in the regular season, the best offense in the league.

This game will also come down to the quality of play-calling on both teams.

With both teams having two of the best coaches this season, fans cannot help but wonder which team will make the right calls and which calls will be question after the game is said and done.

The Chiefs' play-calling is left in the hands of Andy Reid, who has been coaching in the NFL since 1992 and played a hand in leading many teams to a conference championship game. Or will it be the coach of the 49ers Kyle Shanahan, son of former NFL coach Mike Shanahan who has been on a coaching staff in the NFL since 2004 but got his first head coaching position in 2017 with the 49ers.

The Chiefs and 49ers have had two weeks to prepare for the biggest game of the season. There will be multiple press conferences and interviews for both teams and their players for the week leading up to the big game. With all the distractions both teams are experiencing from the media and fans, the biggest challenge will be keeping their focus on their main objective: winning a championship.

Super Bowl LIV will be played on Feb. 2 at Hard Rock Stadium in Miami, FL. The game is set to kickoff at 6:30 pm ET and will be aired on Fox.



## Falcons got talent

Students put on big performances for Talent Show FEATURES | PAGE 5

Rowing to success  
Rowing team prepares to kick off season SPORTS | PAGE 7-8

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 12, 2020

# The Falcon



THEFALCON.ONLINE SEATTLE PACIFIC UNIVERSITY'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER VOLUME 91, ISSUE 9

## Something in the air

Despite report of no mold in Moyer Hall, former resident's asthma aggravated by living there



Moyer Hall, the oldest dorm on campus, has a reputation for causing higher rates of sickness among students.

By Julia Battishill, Kyle Morrison  
News Editor, Staff Reporter

Daniella Muhlebach woke up nearly every morning last quarter gasping for breath. She was having an asthma attack. Instead of a basic inhaler, Muhlebach had to use her nebulizer to treat the attacks.

"It's what they give you at the hospital when I don't have time to get to the hospital. I have one just in case," Muhlebach said. "I had to

use that every time."

But she was not surprised. She knew before she had unpacked her bags in September that she would not do well in Moyer hall.

"The first day, before anything was even unpacked, already I had breathing issues in the dorm," Muhlebach said. "Even my family and my boyfriend, who don't have breathing problems, had problems in the dorm."

When Muhlebach and her roommate received their room assignment this summer, she sus-

pected immediately that an older building might trigger her asthma and allergies. As Moyer is the campus' oldest dorm, she worried about dust and the potential for mold.

"So I had to email [campus housing] saying 'listen I have very severe asthma and allergies and I don't do well in old buildings, I can't be in an old building,'" Muhlebach said.

But she was not moved to a different dorm until the end of last quarter, months after her

trouble breathing escalated. As soon as she moved into her new room in Emerson, the asthma and allergies exacerbated by the old room declined dramatically.

"She had been right, she realized. The conditions in Moyer created the problem.

Her asthma attacks increased throughout the fall quarter she lived in Moyer. All the while, she tried to get the attention of Disability Support Services (DSS) and housing. She knew something in Moyer was causing her

health conditions to flare up.

"Over the course of the quarter that I was there, I had asthma attacks three to four times per week in the dorm, when I wasn't doing anything that would ordinarily cause one," Muhlebach said.

"That is not normal for me."

"Daniella would wake up almost every morning with an asthma attack," Ana Julian, Muhlebach's former roommate in Moyer, recalled. "And she'd wake me up with her breathing issues."

Over the summer, Muhlebach was given a disability form to file with the university. But when she tried to bring it to her breathing specialist in San Francisco, they realized there was nowhere to write "asthma."

"The questions seemed more wheelchair based," Muhlebach explained.

She was unable to complete the form, so she started to email DSS and Residence Life Coordinators.

DSS asked for proof of her disability and a completed form, which she said she struggled to complete because her specialist insisted the form did not include a section for breathing issues like asthma and allergies.

In the meantime, she waited and lived in the room. Muhlebach did everything she could to be able to breathe somewhat normally. She cleaned the room constantly. She made sure to capture every particle of dust. The room was as clean as she could make it. But nothing worked.

She spoke to her RA when she noticed strange markings on the carpet near her central heating unit and on the ceiling, which worried her about water damage, mold and mildew.

See MOLD | Page 3

## Seasonal affective disorder hits campus

### Changing of seasons impacts SPU students in winter months

By Emme Tucker  
Staff Reporter

It's that time of year. When students and faculty walk to their classes in the dark and people yearn for long summer days and celebrate when there is a glimpse of sun in the sky. They start to feel lethargic and depressed. These symptoms are

common of the winter onset of seasonal affective disorder or SAD.

Seasonal affective disorder is caused by the lack of sunlight in late fall and winter. During this time, people's serotonin levels drop which can trigger depression. Symptoms of the disorder become less severe in the spring and summer.

Stephanie Armes, a professor of marriage and family therapy in the School of Psychology, Family and Community at Seattle Pacific University, said that it is important for students to recognize the signs and seek treatment.

"Students who think that they may have seasonal affective disorder should not self-diagnose themselves, instead they should

seek care. A great place to start is the student counseling center."

Students who are feeling like they are the only ones suffering from these symptoms should know that they are not alone and that there are resources available on campus to help them.

One of many students who has been impacted by symptoms of seasonal affective disorder,

but has not been diagnosed is Jade Hemmings. Hemmings, a freshman interior design major, grew up in Puyallup, Washington.

Despite being in her home state, Hemmings still struggles with symptoms, especially due to the transition from home to college life.

See SEASONAL | Page 4

## Healthy guidelines

How to avoid sickness this quarter

By **Tori McArthur**  
Staff Reporter

After several reports of the coronavirus infecting Washingtonians, Seattle Pacific University officials are stressing the need to practice healthy habits. Here are ways to avoid getting sick:



1. Frequently wash hands with soap and water or use hand sanitizer.

"It's quick, it's simple and it can keep us all from getting sick. Handwashing is a win for everyone, except the germs," according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. For more information, go to [www.cdc.gov/handwashing/index.html](http://www.cdc.gov/handwashing/index.html).



2. Avoid hand contact with your mouth, eyes and nose.



3. Practice safe sick techniques like covering your mouth when coughing and sneezing.



4. Avoid contact with people who are sick and do not work when you are sick.

"Stay home while you are sick and avoid close contact with others," Jeff Jordan wrote in an email to the university.



5. Get plenty of rest. "In fact, the adults who averaged five or six hours nightly during the study were four times more likely to catch the cold than people who slept at least seven hours per night." Allison Aubrey said on NPR.

# Breaking down the three final provost candidates

By **Julia Herman**  
Assistant News Editor



COURTESY OF GEORGE FOX  
MARKETING COMMUNICATIONS

## Laura Hartley

Laura Hartley currently serves at George Fox University as associate provost for student academic success and Dean of the College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences.

Being a dean has allowed Hartley to be a part of the academic leadership team at George Fox, where she and the seven other deans work together to plan academic programs and initiatives.

Hartley has years of experience in the education field, serving as associate dean at Templeton Honors College of Eastern University prior to George Fox. At Eastern, Hartley was also an associate professor of language and culture. She earned her bachelor's degree of interdisciplinary studies at Wheaton College, and both her masters and Ph.D. at Michigan State University for Linguistics.



COURTESY OF GEORGE FOX  
MARKETING COMMUNICATIONS

## Roger Nam

According to bios given to The Falcon by President Dan Martin, Roger Nam currently serves as the dean of Portland Seminary and professor of biblical studies at George Fox University.

While serving as a dean, Nam built an ethnically diverse faculty and helped with the growth of enrollment in the seminary program. He has also received institutional grants that add up to over 2.5 million dollars.

Nam has a broad resume, serving as a pastor in Seoul, Korea and as a financial analyst in California. He studied economics at UCLA, received his masters of theology and divinity at Fuller Theological Seminary and General Assembly Presbyterian Theological Seminary respectively. Nam holds a doctorate in Near Eastern Languages and Culture from UCLA.



COURTESY OF ASHLAND  
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

## Mignon Jacobs

Mignon Jacobs served as dean, chief academic officer and professor of Old Testament at Ashland Theological Seminary from 2017-2019.

Prior to Ashland, Jacobs worked for twenty years at Fuller Theological Seminary where she served as associate provost for accreditation and educational effectiveness from 2013-2017. She also served the roles of professor of Hebrew Bible, coordinator of assessment, and accreditation liaison.

Jacobs has also taught abroad in Brisbane Australia and in St. Petersburg, Russia.

She studied psychology and biblical and theological studies at Bethel University for her undergraduate degree. She earned her masters of divinity at Fuller Theological Seminary and holds a doctorate in religion from Claremont Graduate University.

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- Examining cancel culture
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### CRIME REPORT FEBRUARY 11

Malicious Mischief/Vandalism  
Crawford Lot  
02/05 6:57 a.m. - 02/06 7:15 a.m.

Harassment  
Residence Halls  
09/30 12 a.m. - 02/05 12 a.m.

Fondling  
Campus Wide  
02/01 12 a.m. - 02/06 12 a.m.

Theft: By Other  
Royal Brougham Pavilion  
02/06 08:02 p.m. - 02/06 08:15 p.m.



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## President Dan Martin, members of search advisory committee discuss candidates

The three finalists, Laura Hartley, Roger Nam and Mignon Jacobs, visited campus the last two weeks, meeting with students, staff and faculty. The three candidates create a pool with their different strengths and backgrounds.

"The three candidates are very different from one another and that was intentional. The committee liked the idea of people that brought different gifts and different backgrounds," Doug Strong, one of the chairs of the search advisory committee, said.

With a background in both economics and theology, Nam brings a more entrepreneurial skill set that is outside of the academic realm, which the advisory committee and President Dan Martin felt would be beneficial to the position.

"Dr. Nam brings innovation. He brings creative new ways of delivering education models," Strong said.

Of the three, Hartley has the most experience in the academic field, following what would be seen as a typical path: starting off a professor and moving up to different administrative positions. She is the only one of three to have undergraduate

"Hartley brings an amazing competence. She is arguably the most experienced. She has many years of academic administration," Strong said.

The final of the three candidates, Jacobs, stood out to ASSP President Nathan Samayo because of her willingness to be inclusive with all people and recognize all backgrounds.

"Jacobs brings great awareness of how to transform and create programming and policies that will uplift every member of campus, pushing for equitable changes and support for students, staff and faculty with different ethnic, cultural and socioeconomic identities," Samayo said.

Jacobs focused on ways to make SPU more inclusive to all during her interviews, which the search advisory committee took notice of her ways to be inclusive.

"Dr. Jacobs's strength is — which she calls — 'inclusive excellence,' which means academic excellence from inclusive manner," Strong said.

All three candidates are said to know the importance of making students feel welcomed and heard.

"None of them would have reached this point if they weren't willing to talk about these issues," Strong said, referring to the discussion surrounding the inclusion of the LGBTQ+ community and the lack of diversity among faculty.

Martin emphasized the importance of moving forward.

"We're going to continue to work. Dr. Mayo is our VP of diversity, inclusion and equity," Martin said. "We do see an

opportunity for Dr. Mayo to be a strong partner with the new Provost and consider perhaps some new ways, some various strategies in which we can better reflect the kingdom of God and the place that we want to be on our campus."

The candidates are by far the most diverse group to be considered for this position.

"The candidates that came are a very different mix of what people have seen in the past," Annette Lee, co-chair of the search advisory committee, said. "There was a white female as one of the candidates, a woman of color ... and a man from South Korea."

Strong insisted that no matter who Martin ends up choosing, he feels that they will fit into SPU.

"All of them are very good. We feel very confident about all of them, that's why we chose them."

MOLD from page 1



JACKY CHEN | THE FALCON

Moyer Hall was inspected for health hazards such as mold by a third party industrial hygienist, who found no health hazards.

Her RA filed a report, and building analysts came out to inspect the room.

According to Director of Residence Life Gabe Jacobson, this is the protocol for complaints made by students.

"Anytime we get the concerns, we do have someone coming in," Jacobson said. "We always work with a third party industrial hygienist."

Anytime they find any issue, he said, they give a full report to facilities. According to Jacobson, he has never seen facilities fail to complete the list of recommendations.

Additionally, in response to the reputation Moyer has among some students for making its residents sick more often than other buildings, he said that buildings are regularly checked for air quality.

"[There are] full scale assessments of the materials in the building — taking air quality samples. There's a lot that goes into it."

The analysts told Muhlebach that there was no mold in her room. The mark on the ground was from fixing the carpet, and the stain on the ceiling was water damage from a leak in the roof.

"They didn't find any mold but they tried to pin it on me a bit, saying things like 'maybe you don't clean your room as much,'" Muhlebach said. "Then they inspected my room and they were like 'this is the cleanest dorm room I've seen.'"

Despite the inspection and Muhlebach's efforts, however, she and Julian — who also has asthma — were unable to breathe well in the room.

"It was always musty in the room, we had a dehumidifier and an air purifier but the air felt super gross and we had to keep windows open to breathe," Julian said.

She was finally able to move rooms at the end of the quarter, after she was informed of a change in policy which allowed students to change rooms on the first request.

Her breathing issues have significantly decreased since she moved to Emerson and she is grateful to be able to breathe easily in her new room.

"I just wanted to get out of there as quickly as possible," she said. "I think part of it was the fact that I had been talking about this since summer trying to get it changed for so long."

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SEASONAL from Page 1

"It's been hard to be away from my family for such a long period of time," Hemmings said.

College is not easy. Students leave their families to sit inside and study for nine months, and the winter weather in Seattle can make it difficult for students to keep their spirits up.

"I know the weather is always depressing in Washington, especially in the winter, but it never really affected me to this degree, let alone affecting my grades and work ethic," Hemmings said.

She began to notice a significant mood change around the second week of winter quarter. It began in the winter months while during other seasons of the year she felt no mood changes.

"Doing everyday things was harder for me than usual. Getting out of bed was not as easy for me and I just wasn't as motivated in my everyday tasks," Hemmings said.

She also found she was less productive and motivated to work. It felt mostly due to the weather, but also because of her mood.

She knew about seasonal affective disorder, but never thought she could be impacted by its symptoms.

"Seasonal affective disorder had always kind of been on my radar because my RA sent out an email talking about how it can really affect some students," Hemmings said.

When Hemmings was creating her schedule for winter quarter her counselor explained that her math, science and writing credits might feel like an unusually heavy workload because students often become less motivated during winter quarter.



ILLUSTRATION BY JENNA RASMUSSEN

Hemmings found this to be true and she plans to pick easier classes or electives that she can look forward to during future winter quarters, instead of just crossing requirements off her list.

"I feel like it's difficult to complete my work because none of my classes right now are for my specific major, so it makes it harder to have motivation," Hemmings said.

Hemmings said she has always cared a lot about her grades and this sudden lack

of ambition has been difficult to adjust to. Even though her classes are hard, Hemmings has found fun things to look forward to. She spends time with friends and watches "The Bachelor" on Monday nights.

Although students should not diagnose themselves if they notice a mood change during the autumn and winter months, resident advisors, student ministry coordinators, and staff in the Student Counseling Center.

**"While it is difficult right now, it's nice knowing that the winter is not forever, it's only temporary."**

Hemmings talked with her RA about her mood change and drowsiness and her RA recommended trying a "happy lamp," otherwise known as light therapy. According to the Mayo-Clinic, light therapy uses lamps that emit a light that mimics natural sunlight. Students can check out light therapy lamps by talking to their SMCs.

Hemmings looks forward to sunnier weather, knowing that spring quarter is getting closer. Knowing she is not alone in feeling this way is reassuring and has allowed her to push through winter quarter.

Hemmings said she also looks forward to studying on the grass in Tiffany Loop when spring finally arrives.

"While it is difficult right now, it's nice knowing that the winter is not forever, it's only temporary," Hemmings said.

Although students should not diagnose themselves, if they have any questions or wish to seek counseling, they can visit the SPU Student Counseling Center located on the First floor of Marston Hall.

# Uncaged bird sings

## Harley Quinn's emancipation brings film DC needs in mind bending movie

Andrew Stez  
Features Editor

Harley Quinn (Margot Robbie) is behind the wheel of a gas truck hurling towards a power plant. It is a part of a plan to display her relationship status to all of Gotham City: newly single. Soon the truck and its tons of fuel ram into the power plant creating a hurl of rainbow colored smoke and explosions.

In "Birds of Prey" (2019), directed by Cathy Yan, Harley Quinn is left without the Joker after an abrupt breakup and has to fend for herself in a city that is rearing to take revenge on her. At the same time, an opportunistic supervillain named Roman Sionis (Ewan McGregor) goes to extreme efforts to try to obtain a diamond that holds the key to him having control over the city of Gotham.

Soon Harley Quinn is put in the crosshairs of what will become an unconventional team: Helena Bertinelli (Mary Elizabeth Winstead), known by her alter ego the Huntress, detective Renee Montoya (Rosie Perez), a child pick-pocket named Cassandra Cain (Ella Jay Basco) and Dinah Lance, known as the Black Canary (Jurnee Smollett-Bell).

They are all forced to work together to take down Sionis despite them seem-

ing like a cacophony of random assorted chocolates. Similarly to the film itself, which is based on one of DC's wackiest villains, the team works without explanation.

"Birds of Prey" aptly has the absurdly long subtitle "the Fantabulous Emancipation of One Harley Quinn," as the film is DC's love letter to it's freedom to do whatever it wants in a film. The film is a whimsical, sometimes confusing, story told through the eyes of one of its most scatterbrained villains: Harley Quinn.

The film opens with an animated scene reminiscent of Harley Quinn's first appearance in "Batman: The Animated Series." It depicts the breakup of the Joker and Harley Quinn and fills in the gaps between the endng of "Suicide Squad" where Quinn is set free by the Joker.

This scene opens the film up in a way that is drastically different from other DC superhero films, creating a tone that makes it seem like a journal following the thoughts in Quinn's chaotic mind.

The film is also heavily stylized through its use of narration by Harley Quinn and time-jumps that takes the audience further into Quinn's reality. Sometimes these storytelling devices can seem cliché, like a subpar teen ro-



COURTESY OF WARNER BROTHERS PICTURES

Rosie Perez as Renee Montoya, Mary Elizabeth Winstead as Huntress, Margot Robbie as Harley Quinn, Ella Jay Basco as Cassandra Cain and Jurnee Smollett-Bell as Black Canary in "Birds of Prey."

mance film in which the main character details the latest gossip in their life. However, in "Birds of Prey", these details create a comedic tone that gives the film a confusing and comedic flow through Quinn's stream of consciousness commentary and recollection of the film's events.

"Birds of Prey" is an emancipation of Harley Quinn not because she has the

freedom to do whatever she wants, but because her mind is the focus of the film. The wacky, whimsical world of Harley Quinn's psychotic mind is the world as the audience experiences her battle with past and current struggles.

Ultimately, she is no longer caged by her long stint as the Joker's sidekick, but is left to embrace her own eccentric psyche in a world just as crazy as her.

# Performers astonish audience at Talent Show

## Students practice self-expression through music, dance

By Hannah Flores  
Staff Reporter  
Photos by Marissa Lordahl

The crowd roared and cheered as students took the stage Friday night in Royal Brougham Pavilion for Seattle Pacific University's Talent Show.

The night began with a comedic introduction from the hosts, and the audience was promised an evening filled with exciting performances and the students more than exceeded the expectations.

The show was put on by the Student Union Board (STUB) and provided a night of entertainment that was a highlight in SPU's Homecoming weekend.

STUB's co-chair for the Talent Show, Marissa Thompson, shared that the shows served as an important outlet of self-expression on campus.

"I think it's a good way to see individual talents shine, but also seeing the SPU community come together to celebrate each other is really special," Thompson said.

The performers shared that the night was special because it allowed everyone involved to shine and show off their skills.

"I've always loved performing, but especially for this audience because a lot of them are my friends and peers. It felt extra special, like getting up in front of family," junior Aseda Bekoe-Sakyi said.

While each act was able to express their talents, the 2020 People of Promise Awards were given to recognize accomplished students both in and outside the classroom.

The People of Promise Awards are voted by the student body and presented to students on campus who exhibit SPU's core values.

People of Promise recipients display a faith commitment, an attitude of service towards SPU and the community, are involved in extracurricular activities on and off campus, as well as being committed to outstanding academics. There were two recipients from each class, except for the freshman class, which didn't receive enough nominees.

This year's winners included sophomores Hailey Echan and Charis Doi, juniors Aseda Bekoe-Sakyi and Serina Dawa, and seniors Peirce Salave'a and Shelby Perkins.

Tapestry, a band of five friends - Bekoe-Sakyi, junior Alia Haro, junior Nate Canny, sophomore Rachael Fasano and sophomore Eric Peterson - put on an enthralling performance.

Their covers of "Chariot" by Mega and "Come Together" by The Beatles were



Ante Up snagged first place at the Talent Show Friday with their engaging performance, mashing up a variety of popular songs.

lively with the band jumping around the stage and belting the lyrics. They also encouraged the audience to clap along to the beat.

At the peak of their performance, during "Come Together," the audience roared with praise and many sang along. This praise led Tapestry's performance to win them second place for the night.

The group members come from all different backgrounds but have been able to connect through their shared passion of music.

"We're all really good friends so the message of the song was whenever we're feeling down or going through it, we'll be there to guide each other home," Bekoe-Sakyi said.

Beyond singing, the event also showcased talents of students such as sophomore Jason Woolley and his electric violin, which captivated the audience and earned him third place overall.

Woolley's performance of "The Arena" by Lindsey Stirling was an exciting fusion of rock and classical music genres. His movements were fierce, and the combination of such differing music genres had the audience on the edge of their seats.

Woolley shared that the night was unlike anything he had ever experienced before.

"Because I love this music so much, I wanted to be able to share it with other people. It's not to win or anything, I just liked the feeling and had fun," Woolley said.

Woolley also shared that the event allows those with lesser known talents to showcase their skills.

"I think it's really to showcase some things that aren't so obvious to people. There might be people that didn't know the performers were good at dancing or singing. It lets people shine and have their moment," he said.

Although there were many musical acts, the show also featured many dancers, one of which was Ante Up.

The eight member dance group featured freshman Jessica Bedolla, freshman Ryson Casupang, sophomore Christy-Anne Villanueva, sophomore Quinn Laulainen, sophomore Jade Arichita, sophomore Ada Campos-Sanchez, sophomore Delina Stifanos, and Bekoe-Sakyi.

They performed an exciting hip-hop number to a medley of songs that highlighted popular music over the last decade. Their piece, titled "Juice



Returning to the Talent Show once again, Alia Haro performed an original song.



Christy-Anne Villanueva performing the dance that she choreographed, which earned Ante-Up a first place prize at the Talent Show on Feb. 7.



Nate Canny, Tapestry's lead guitarist bopped around the stage during their set Friday night.



Junior Aseda Bekoe-Sakyi is an RA, 2020 person of promise, and performed as a member of both Tapestry and Ante Up.

Box," featured hits such as "Juice" by Lizzo, "Run It!" by Chris Brown and a snippet from Beyonce's 2018 Coachella performance.

Ante Up won first place overall for their performance. After a close vote from the audience which resulted in a 1% difference, the group also won the title of People's Choice.

"We just wanted to show that we were having a fun time," Villanueva said.

"It's a great opportunity for SPU students to be able to show their talents," she said. "Even if they aren't in a music major, they're still able to show their skills. There are so many diverse talents and it's cool to see the different performances."

# White students need to talk about race

## “I should not feel bad for sticking up for myself”

When sophomore Bella Toll-estrup-Wimbish walks around campus, she is greeted by mostly white faces and every day she is reminded that she is different. What makes her feel isolated is not the mere presence of white people, but rather the lack of diversity and the recurrence of inappropriate comments about race that she overhears and experiences.

“As the frustration continues to build up, I keep on wondering to myself, why am I paying to be uncomfortable?”

White students on campus need to realize seemingly insignificant comments can be harmful to students of color. Although discussing racial issues on campus can be uncomfortable, it is not just the job of people of color to talk about them: everyone needs to participate in the conversation.

While it is an uncomfortable topic, many white students come up with various excuses to avoid talking about race. Senior Omni Lott described one of the many times he has experienced this blatant avoidance two years ago when two students of color wanted to apply for RA positions. The two were talking about how it would be exciting if they ended up on the same floor when one of their peers asked if incoming students would be uncomfortable having RAs of color on the same floor.

Although there were no ill intentions, not meaning to say something racist

does not change the fact that it is racist. Lott later brought up this incident to his fellow Student Ministry Coordinators and they responded that he should “pray about it” and then maybe he would get some clarity.



By Kate Erickson  
Staff Writer

“This is something that should not have been said from the get-go,” Lott said. “I don’t think God is going to give me the answer in a month’s time and tell me to think ‘okay, now I have to say something.’”

These small comments and actions are called microaggressions.

“To me, microaggressions are when others highlight

Asian aspects of myself when it is irrelevant to the conversation,” sophomore Charis Doi said. “I want to educate people when they say things that are not correct, but it gets exhausting to repeat myself over and over again.”

A few weeks ago, Doi, who is of Vietnamese and Japanese descent, coughed in one of her classes and the boy behind her decided to say “watch out she has the coronavirus.” Not only was this joke not funny, but if this boy was able to get into college, he is probably capable of processing the fact that not all Asian people are Chinese and not all Chinese people are sick.

People of color do not only have to confront classmates, but also friends about racist comments. For the most part, when Doi confronts her friends for saying something racist, they are com-

passionate, apologize and do not make those comments again. But for others, it is not that simple.

She shared that a friend once called her a racial slur and when she told them that it was not okay for them to say that, they got extremely defensive and argued that, because they were friends, it was okay for them to say that.

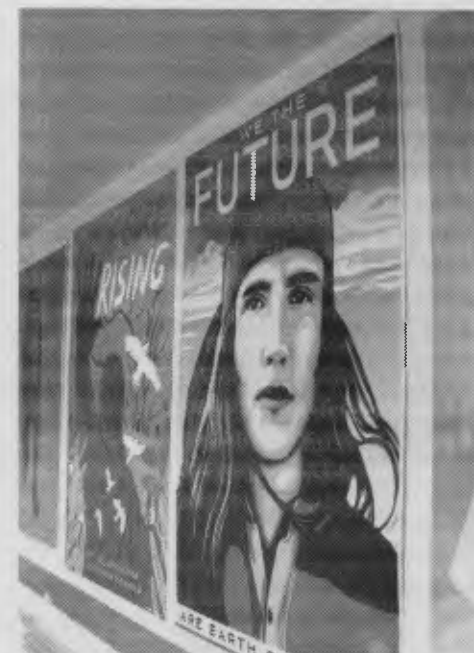
“People of color always have to prove to white people why comments make them feel bad and, often, they get defensive and victimize themselves,” Doi said. “I am so sorry that I am the one that hurt you for calling you out. I should not feel bad for sticking up for myself.”

The constant battle of trying to prove that racist comments are racist is exhausting.

Sophomore Giao Nguyen also found that he knows many people of color who are tired of constantly talking about race. It is not something they want to do but, rather, a burden that they feel obligated to carry because if they do not, who else on campus will?

“They [students of color] don’t want to explain what white privilege is again,” Nguyen said. “This is an issue white people don’t face. They can choose if they want to talk about it or not. We don’t have a choice. We have to.”

Talking about race can be intimidating for white people, but it is crucial to push past the discomfort. It is like a muscle, Nguyen explained. The only way to make these conversations stronger is to be consistent and keep having them, even if they might not seem like much



CALVIN QUISUMBING | THE FALCON  
One of many posters in the ASSP office that feature a people that face political, racial or religious social struggle.

at first.

Standing on the sidelines is not an option for white people. Combating racial issues is not the sole responsibility of people of color, and everyone must take part in the conversation — especially white people. Students of color deserve to feel comfortable on their campus and, unless white students are actively trying to make a change, they are a part of the problem.

Kate is a sophomore studying journalism and minoring in computer science

# Editorial Comment: Stop gutting public transportation

## Growing public transportation issues in Seattle are not unsurprising

It is no secret that commuters wish public transportation needs an overhaul. More investment in light rails, buses and metros are primary ways to alleviate traffic congestion. For proponents, these investments are no-brainers. For opponents, an argument seems to spring from a dead horse: taxes.

Every now and again, a Seattle Pacific University student might comment about wait times between buses, the quality of transportation or the total amount of time spent commuting, and the same negativity can be heard about commuting in a car through Seattle. The density of streets and parking can create traffic jams and bottlenecks throughout the city.

For years, politicians have appealed to the middle class through the attack of taxes. After the Washington State General Elections in November last year, Initiative 976 passed by a margin of 6%, with almost two million voters taking part in the ballot. This initiative capped the price of car tabs at \$30, lowering taxes and making registering a car margin-

ally less expensive.

Tim Eyman, who filed the initiative, has developed a career in advocating for anti-tax initiatives in Washington by starting a political action committee called Permanent Offense. Meanwhile, Governor Jay Inslee has directly opposed the initiative, citing Washington’s increase of “urgent transportation needs.”

Ultimately, the initiative will only hurt the public.

According to King County Metro, the tax revenue taken from car tabs helps fund 175,000 hours of service on 74 routes within the City of Seattle, multiple transit projects, special needs transportation funding and more services covered by the Metro.

According to the Metro website, the service could lose up to \$20 billion dollars through 2041 as a result of the initiative.

In 2017 alone, King County Metro served over 122 million riders, leading the service to be one of the top ten largest public transportation services in the country by annual ridership. This num-



MARISSA LORDAHL | THE FALCON

Buses are an integral part of living in Seattle. Many city dwellers use them as their main form of transportation, reducing traffic and their carbon footprints.

ber shows that public transportation is a necessity for Seattle.

Actors on the national level all also trying to disrupt public transportation development.

In a New York Times article titled “How the Koch Brothers Are Killing Public Transit Projects Around the Country,” author Hiroko Tabuchi examined how local movements, similar to Permanent Offense, are funded by private interests to curtail public transportation projects.

“One of the mainstay companies of Koch Industries, the Kochs’ conglomerate, is a major producer of gasoline and asphalt, and also makes seatbelts, tires and other automotive parts.”

Koch Industries also profits from the production of asphalt, making their source of profit contingent on personal automobile use. For this company, and many like it, it is in their interest to make

as many people drive cars as possible.

This motive has the latent effect of boosting carbon emissions in cities, leading to unhealthy smog and aiding climate change. Increasing funding for public transportation allows commuters to spend less time getting to work, lowers carbon footprints and boosts economic productivity within the city.

If a healthier, less congested city is to be developed, public transportation needs to be overhauled without the setbacks of those seeking to sabotage that development.

The editorial comment is composed by the opinions editor, the editor-in-chief and the editing staff. Opinions expressed represent the majority of the group. News and assistant news editors are never involved in the composition

# Dreaming bigger with basketball

## Shaw Anderson shares his inspirations on court, beyond SPU

By Brandon Bee  
Sports Reporter

Standing at 6'6", the freshman Forward Shaw Anderson is having an exceptional start to his collegiate basketball career at Seattle Pacific University, averaging 13.3 points per game, and is leading the Falcons to a record of 17-5 which is first in the GNAC conference.

Anderson's basketball journey goes all the way back to when he was a little boy in Kelso, Washington.

The first time that Anderson had picked up a basketball was when he was six years old. At the time, he did not have the same passion for the sport that he does today.

Once Anderson got into the game of basketball a bit more, he realized how much fun it was.

"I didn't love it until middle school," he said. "I just wanted to play because my friends played."

Still, for Anderson, life is bigger than being on the court and it is bigger than basketball. His hopes and dreams are to be playing basketball for some time after college but wants to help the younger generation grow.

"I want to be able to play basketball after college," Anderson said. "Then if I can, come back to my hometown and help the community, help basketball. Do



CALVIN QUISUMBING | THE FALCON  
Shaw Anderson, a Forward on the men's basketball team has averaged 13.3 points per game this season.

something that helps the area out."

Anderson went to Kelso High School where he was the Washington Class 3A State Player of the Year in 2019. He led his team to back-to-back Greater St. Helen's League Championships along with back-to-back sixth place finishes in the state.

While at Kelso High School, Ander-

son broke scoring records. He had scored 48 points in a single game and then, a couple games later, he put up the same scoring total. In the 3A state tournament, he broke another scoring record by putting up 122 points in just four games, and broke yet another in the trophy round of 39 points in a single game.

With the many accolades Anderson garnered in high school, basketball was destined for him. When choosing what university to attend, Shaw felt right at home when looking at Seattle Pacific University. Kelso is around a 2-hour drive from Seattle.

"It was pretty close to home," he said. "That is a big reason."

"The biggest decision was I liked the coaches a lot. I talked to them and they were pretty neat," he said.

Anderson had his best game versus Western Oregon University in the middle of January, when he put up a career high 34 points on 7-9 from three and shot 11-16 from the field. That game ended up going into overtime with the Falcons coming out on top 98-88.

Anderson is shooting 57% from the field in 2019, which is a team high. He also is shooting a very efficient three point shot this season in college, shooting around 60% from beyond the arc.

Anderson is always focused on accomplishing big goals and is unphased

by a lot of challenges. Growing up, Anderson also had some people who inspired him to be the person he is today.

"I was really inspired by LeBron," he said. "Especially because he is so nice. He is good on the court, but what he does off the court — he has a school for kids. He is a lot bigger than basketball."

This is something Anderson also wants to embody.

"I would want to teach what I know and what I have learned. Life lessons or basketball lessons, and also try to donate too."

Not only does Anderson have a hero who is an athlete, but someone in his everyday life.

When Anderson spoke about his inspirations, he mentioned his mom who he really looks up to. She set an example for him and inspires him to be who he is today.

The future for Anderson is looking bright and he still has a long way before his journey is over. He is hoping to carry out his love for basketball by continuing to play and grow the game.

"Hopefully after college I can play professionally somewhere," he said. "I don't know where, but that is what I want to do after. Hopefully five more years or ten, if I can, after college."

# Celebrating successes, building for future

## SPU regatta opens women's rowing season, rowers pushing for stronger year

By Daniel Newman  
Sports Editor

In the summer of 2016, the athletic department at Seattle Pacific University faces a time of major changes. When athletic director Jackson Stava was hired by administration, he was facing a rowing program without a coach.

Before hiring Stava, administration had decided to relieve the former coach of both the Men's and Women's rowing teams, Keith Jefferson, of his duties after 26 years.

The administration had also decided to completely forgo the Men's rowing team at this time.

When Stava made the head coaching decision for the women's program, it was the beginning of a new era of Falcon rowing. Stava decided to bring Andrew

Derrick on from Central Oklahoma University.

The hiring of Derrick and the decision to focus solely on the women's rowing turned out to be a beautiful combination for the Falcons, as last year, in Derrick's third year as head coach, the Falcons qualified for the NCAA Women's Rowing Championships for the first time since 2011.

In these championships, both the Falcons eight person crew and their four person crew finished in fourth place.

"We were really excited for our team members," Derrick said. "Every team out there works really really hard, but there was something special about our team... and finishing fourth in the country was just a great cap to what was a really exciting and kind of groundbreaking season for us."

It was a huge performance at the championships for the Falcons, as even they themselves may not have been expecting that high of a placement.

Assistant coach Patrick Pappalardo said that the team outperformed their expectations last year, but also said that the team isn't wanting to be complacent and stop trying to achieve bigger things. Pappalardo said that the unofficial motto for the team this year is "Podium 2020," as the team wants to be one of the top two standing on the podium at the National Championships in Oak Ridge, Tennessee at the end of the season.

But in order to get to the end of the season, the Falcons had to begin somewhere. The Falcons opened up their 2020 season with a short race as the novice crew took on a team of alumni.

It was a clear and quiet Saturday

morning as the two sixty foot long boats glided across the canal. The alumni team got off to a quick start, but it soon became clear that they were no match for the novice team, who rowed past them and finished the 1000 meter race in first.

"This is just a chance for some of our youngest team members to connect with some of our former team members... and just a little taste of, on a very lowkey level, of what it's going to be like to line up against other teams," Derrick said.

After the race, both teams carried their boats to the shellhouse in the underground of Royal Brougham Pavilion, while athletes, alumni, and family members enjoyed a morning breakfast of muffins, pastries and coffee.

While the crowd mingled, both Der-

See **ROWING FUTURE** | Page 8

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**ROWING FUTURE** from Page 7

rick and Stava addressed the crowd for a short while.

"It's been incredible to watch the culture of the program grow and change. Obviously, we're thrilled about the future," Stava said while talking to the crowd.

But Stava isn't only setting his focus on championships.

"Certainly we hope that we can bring

some hardware home from a championship regatta, we hope that we're really successful, but at the end of the day, what I'm really excited about is I know for those young women who are seniors on the team now, regardless of how the end of the year plays out, we're gonna have succeeded because of who these young women are," Stava continued.

The Falcons brought back almost their entire crew of rowers from last year's championship performance, and

most of these women are now seniors.

The season will officially kick off on Feb. 21 and 22, as the Falcons will take on Gonzaga University at the canal. Then, the teams will sail through competitions including one against last year's champion, Central Oklahoma University on Mar. 14, the San Diego Crew Classic on April 4-5, the Windermere Cup at the University of Washington on May 2, all culminating in the GNAC championship race on May 16 in Gold River, California

This will be the first time the GNAC conference has offered a championship for the conference. If they win that race, and the Falcons will be one step closer to their goal of hitting the podium in 2020.

The four teams in the new conference are Western Washington University, Central Oklahoma University, Humboldt State University and SPU.



The women's rowing team warming up before their race against the alumni team early Saturday morning.

CALVIN QUISUMBING | THE FALCON

# Spotlight shines on women in sports

## Despite loss in intense showdown, athletes celebrate

By **Sabrina Jiles**  
Sports Reporter

On Thursday, Feb. 6, the Falcons faced off against their rivals, the Western Washington Vikings at Royal Brougham Pavilion.

Thursday night's game, however, was not just about women's basketball. The game was also meant to be a celebration to honor the powerful women not only in SPU sports, but also the women in sports that are present in the community.

With signs up in every building on campus and constant posting on the SPU sports social media, there was no missing what the meaning of this night was. During halftime of Thursday's game, groups of women walked to half court and presented a rose, the crowd cheered and clapped for the women as each of their achievements were announced. The presentation at halftime brought down both the SPU women's rowing team and women's cross country team, female coaches, special Olympic participants and many more.

Behind the scenes, SPU's fan engagement and corporate sponsorship manager, Stefanie Kosco, saw her vision come

to life for this year's celebration.

Kosco said that the celebration of National Girls and Women in Sports Day dates back to when former president Ronald Regan signed the event into action. This night is typically held on Feb. 5.

"I started this vision back in October, knowing that it could be a really cool opportunity to not just celebrate our women that are playing how great they are, but celebrate the whole community and all the amazing women involved in sports," Kosco said.

This night to Kosco not only meant celebrating the women of our community but also bringing awareness to the point that there needs to be more equality in sports for women.

The celebration of this night made the women's game against Western Washington intense, with packed stands, loud cheers, and a close, physical game. The Falcons kept the score very close in the game with the third ranked team in the conference, all the way until the middle of the third quarter.

The Vikings went on a 12-0 run against the Falcons that lasted six minutes, making the score 56-43, and from there, the



PHOTO COURTESY OF ANDREW TOWELL

Guard Ashley Alter shoots near the three point line during the Falcons game against Western Washington on a night when National Girls and Womens in Sports Day were celebrated.

Falcons could not catch back up.

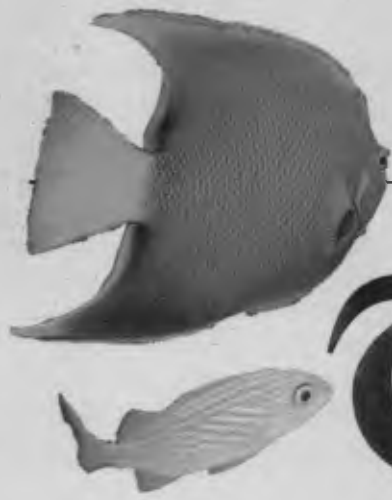
Falcons Coach Simonson said that he believed the team executed the offense very well in the first half with big plays from Ashlynn Burgess down the stretch.

"The third quarter we hit a dry spell and Western was able to capitalize with interior scoring, we were in catch up mode the rest of the game," Simonson said.

The Falcon's lost 77-62, with SPU's leading scorers being from junior Ash-

lynn Burgess with 15 points and five rebounds, sophomore Ashley Alter with fourteen points and four rebounds, and seniors Madi Hingston and Hailee Bennett each contributing seven points.

The Vikings were led by senior Lexie Bland with seventeen points, junior Kelsey Rogers with sixteen points and senior Anna Schwecke with fifteen points.



## Going global for education

Student stories of studying abroad

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## Art and "alt-right"

How classical art has become

a symbol for hate

OPINIONS | PAGE 6



WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 26, 2020

# The Falcon



THEFALCON.ONLINE SEATTLE PACIFIC UNIVERSITY'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER VOLUME 91, ISSUE 10

## New provost appointed

### Hartley announced to fill provost position

By Julia Battishill  
News Editor

As interim provost Bruce Congdon puts it, Seattle Pacific University has been poised and ready for a big change all year. With the announcement of Dr. Laura Hartley as the new provost, that change has begun.

"That's what this year has been like. Student success efforts, and counting down to the new provost taking office," Congdon said.

"This is a really exciting time now to know who that person is, and expect to start interacting with her a bit."

University President Daniel Martin announced Hartley's appointment as SPU's next provost via campus-wide email on the afternoon of Feb. 20. Hartley will officially take office July 1, 2020.

"First and foremost, I would say [I am excited about] being at a Christian university that is as diverse as SPU is, and that is really trying to be intentional about what it means to live into that diversity," Hartley said.

"I know there's work to be done there, and I know there's good people doing that work ... I'm excited to join in that, and make SPU a more welcoming and inclusive community for all students, as well as faculty and staff."

She was one of three candidates selected from a larger pool by the



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Provost Search Committee, with Martin making the ultimate choice to appoint Hartley from those final three.

"Some of the things that stood out in Dr. Hartley were her deep commitment to diversity and ensuring that there was both an opportunity for enhanced learning, as well as a deep commitment to [a] collaborative spirit," Martin said.

For the committee, it was a matter of looking at the qualities each candidate held, and trying to discern which matched the best with our institution. They wanted

candidates who understood the unique community at SPU.

"For me, I think it was a commitment to liberal arts Christian education, that this person understands what kind of school we are and what we're trying to be," Neuhausner.

"[Also] someone who is committed to collaborative decision making...you need people to be pulling in the same direction, or it doesn't work."

Neuhausner also noted an emphasis on Hartley's experience in Christian higher education and

administration, which was an important point for the search committee and Martin alike.

Hartley currently serves as an assistant provost at George Fox university, where she is also a dean of arts, humanities, and social sciences. She holds masters and doctorate degrees in linguistics, and a long history in higher education.

She began at Lesley University in Massachusetts, when she was invited by their provost to become a grant writer. Hartley had opportunities to teach at Lesley, while also working in the administrative sphere of higher education, and she fell in love with both.

"I realized that I enjoyed teaching very much...but I also really enjoyed the academic administration type of work," Hartley said.

When her husband finished his doctorate degree and got a job as a professor in Philadelphia, she moved again to Eastern University.

Eastern was her first experience at a Christian-affiliated institution, and she spent several years in that position as Director of University General Education. She found that she especially loved doing administrative work at a Christian university.

After Eastern she moved on to George Fox, and from George Fox to its sister school, SPU.

"The breadth of experience she has, in terms of both teaching but administrative experience as well, certainly gave us great confidence that she is a very strong and capable administrator," commented Martin.

Hartley is excited for this new opportunity at SPU, and by all the unique qualities our school has to offer.

"I think there's a real commit-

ment to the community, the culture, and the mission of the institution. So that's exciting for me," she said.

As a Methodist, Hartley also looks forward to being at an institution that aligns with those values, though she says she understands and appreciates the wide variation of religious beliefs among SPU's students.

Hartley said her goals for her time at SPU are to guide and strengthen our sense of mission, and lead campus towards the future.

Congdon, with his multiple experiences in the provost seat, noted that the vision for leading SPU into the future is a difficult, if rewarding one.

"It is a challenging, exciting but very challenging, set of things that we're trying to do," Congdon said. "So my hope for SPU is, under the new leadership and in the future, we can continue to do that with the energy and commitment that we have to this time."

Congdon and Martin both noted that this transition will be a steep learning curve for Hartley, but expressed confidence in her ability to adapt to our campus. Her fresh eyes, according to Martin, will likely be a strength to the university.

"Our team and the broader campus is committed to working alongside her," Martin assured.

"My plan will be to enter and really spend time in the first quarter to really try and get to know the community, to listen to the faculty and get to know some of the students," Hartley said.

"To hear what some of their hopes and dreams, as well as their frustrations are, so we can craft a vision together."

## Struggling between passion and finances

### Student leadership's compensation falls short, no money for pay bump

By Julia Herman  
Assistant News Editor

Compensation for the work of student leaders is not a new issue.

According to the Association of Students of Seattle Pacific Constitution, student fees fund ASSP, groups overseen by the Office of Student Involvement and Leadership (OSIL).

Student leaders do not have

time to pursue other methods of making money. While their positions as leaders are valuable, sometimes that experience is not enough.

"Like it's enough for me to pay for my food, but not for books," said Cascade Editor-in-Chief Audrey Easley said. "It's hard because I want to get another job, but it's just very consuming."

Currently, there is a struggle

to find a balance between students pursuing their passions through leadership but also finding financial stability within that. Many students are unable to pursue leadership because of this.

Bear in mind, the information presented here is a sliver of how Seattle Pacific University handles student leadership pay. While student fees funds all of the student leadership positions,

according to the ASSP constitution less than 44% of student fees are used for student leadership compensation.

According to the Director of OSIL, Whitney Broteje, student leadership compensation is recommended by the Allocation Board and approved ASSP. Those student leadership positions are all ASSP core positions, ASSP Club Coordinator, ASSP IT Co-

ordinator & Webmaster, ASSP Publicist, Catalyst coordinator positions and student media positions (Cascade, KSPU, Lingua and The Falcon).

The pay of the ASSP core members seems to be historically larger than other leaders who are both under ASSP and OSIL.

For example, there are six positions within ASSP core and each

ASSP | Page 2

## ASSP from Page 1

core member is paid \$8,500 a year, a total of \$51,000. Between the four media groups on campus, the compensation for non-coordinator media positions — meaning editor-in-chief or station manager — is split between Cascade, KSPU, Lingua and The Falcon is \$90,956.

That said, there are many other factors that determine compensation for student leadership. But for many current student leaders, there is a tension between the desire to lead in a role they are passionate about, and the necessity of taking on an additional job in order to meet their financial needs.

"I don't want to ever be put in a space where students feel like they are being used or taken advantage of because of their time in leadership," Broteje said.

Cascade, which creates SPU's year book, has seven paid positions, including the editor-in-chief, two editors, two photographers, a business manager and a copy editor. Easley said she is paid just under \$5,000 for the year.

She is constantly sending emails, works with scheduling and checks in with her team to make sure things are getting done on time. The amount of hours she works varies from week to week.

"My hours definitely change based on what we are doing, so there will be times where I'm working 20 to 30 hours a week. And then times where I just work a few hours," Easley said.

The position is important to Easley, but can also cause financial stress at times due



MARISSA LORDAHL | THE FALCON

ASSP, under OSIL, approves of budgets for student leader compensation.

to the fact that the time she puts into Cascade does not feel equivalent to her pay.

Easley emphasized how grateful she is for her position with Cascade because she believes it offers great resume experience, but wishes it would be enough to help her be financially stable.

"It's hard because I appreciate this position so much and I am learning so much," Easley said. "But I will say as a senior design student — and I am taking twenty credits, and on top of all of that with Cascade — I can't get another job. So the amount I am getting paid is not enough for me, personally."

Like Cascade, KSPU is another group that is overseen by ASSP. Micahel Miller,

the station manager, said his pay is around \$5,000.

Miller's main responsibilities are helping with coordinating events, checking in with the other staff members, answering emails and budget management.

Miller said that his hours vary week from week, depending on how busy the station is.

"I would say that my pay is pretty equivalent to the hours I work," Miller said.

"I have this job, I work at the library on campus and I write for a bunch of other websites, so it's nice when I get paid for that," Miller said in response to whether he needed a job outside of KSPU.

Lhakpa Sherpa, the coordinator of Outdoor Recreation Program, shares similar

sentiments as the other two student leaders.

Sherpa works around twelve hours a week, helping coordinate events, answering emails and helping with social media posts and gets paid \$5,049 for the year.

Sherpa loves working for ORP, but, like many other student leaders on campus, he had to get another job outside of ORP because of how little he gets paid for his position.

"Based on the time that I put in, I don't get enough for what I do. But I really enjoy it, so I try to think of it like 'wow, I'm getting paid for something I really love to do,'" Sherpa said.

According to Broteje, ASSP is overseen by OSIL, along with groups like STUB and ORP. But whether or not student leaders' compensation is handled by ASSP or OSIL, there is a tension between getting involved at SPU and receiving completely equitable compensation.

"In an ideal world, I would love to pay people equitably for their time," Broteje said.

For students like Easley, Miller and Sherpa, it can be hard to reconcile wanting to make more money and still wanting to do something they are passionate about.

"Of course, everybody would say they wish that their position is paid more," Easley said.

"There are definitely times where I wish that I got paid more, but I also try to think about the fact that I am getting experience. It's a very valuable experience but it makes financial experiences harder."

## Beloved Campus Ministries advisor retires

### Deb Nondorf's work will continue after leaving SPU campus

By Jacky Chen  
Staff Reporter

Deb Nondorf's day starts with waking up at 5 a.m. and hopping on to a two hour cross-county metro bus to her office on the second floor of the Student Union Building.

"Hold things lightly and get out of God's way," Nondorf said, regarding the leadership she has been passing down to her student leaders in her time at the University Ministries.

"You can call me Deb," excited yet soft-spoken Nondorf, Seattle Pacific University's advisor said. At 66 years old, she is transiting out of her role of advising the campus student ministry coordinators and Sharpen ministries to retire this upcoming August.

Every Tuesday, during the weekly "At The Table" Sharpen lunches, Nondorf is in the back of the Fine Art Center kitchen located on the upper First Free Methodist Church, rolling up her sleeves as she hand-washes greasy pots and pans.

While she does the behind the scenes responsibilities, the Sharpen core team can focus on their lunch with students who live off-campus or in on-campus apartments.

Nondorf hopes her legacy will live on in what she has passed on to students leaders and peers while she was at SPU.

Jose Flores, vice president of ministries for the Associated Students of Seattle Pacific, was eager to attribute these wise words to his success in his role.

"It lets me give up control about things

that I shouldn't be worried about and trust that God is sovereign enough to take care of things," Flores said.

Justin Eble, who was Nondorf's campus hall ministry coordinator eight years ago, cannot imagine his experience at SPU without Nondorf.

The cozy room, with a coffee brown couch and the ventilating fan running steadily in the background, is where students would often come with challenges and adversity.

Nondorf's work has been a fundamental part of guiding many students' spiritual journey.

"Through her eclectic faith background, she showed me so much of the variety that makes up Christianity," Sharpen core member Eren Dodd, said. "I could see that there was more than one way to express one's faith."

Growing up, Nondorf aspired to work in an environmental learning center someday, where she would host cycles of fifth graders in the state of Washington for a week-long outdoor submersion. She also never intended to marry or have offspring of her own.

Prior to being located here in SPU's community, Nondorf held roles in cooking up burgers at McDonald's, running a daycare center from home, responding to emergencies as local jurisdiction dispatcher, guiding young adults as a youth pastor and crunching numbers at the Snohomish County Assessor's office.

"God has a sense of humor, and my life is an evidence of that," Nondorf said. As she puts it, she was never in control of her life as God is.

Nondorf brought students into student ministry by fostering relationships. Take Jack Parisi, another Sharpen core teammate, for example.



CALVIN QUISUMBING | THE FALCON

"God has a sense of humor, and my life is an evidence of that," Nondorf said.

"Deb pulled me aside and told me that she could tell just by the way I interacted with those around me that she wanted me to be a part of the team," Parisi said.

After the Sharpen team spontaneously invited him to their luncheon, the rest was history.

In the ten years Nondorf has overseen Sharpen, she has not once ordered her stu-

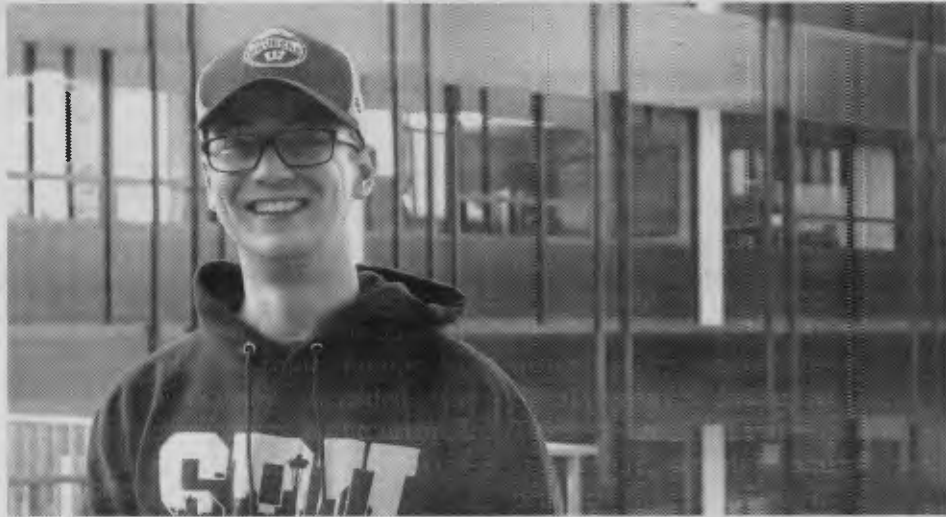
dents to do or advise any of her idea changes. Instead, she would sit with open hands and ears and get out of God's way.

Nondorf's legacy of encouraging those around her to trust God will not end when she leaves SPU.

"I don't understand retirement. Do you just work and all of a sudden stop?" Nondorf said.

# Preparing students for leading changes in society

## Exploring the relationship between political science and social justice majors



BLAKE DAHLIN | THE FALCON

Cade Huston, a sophomore majoring in Political Science.



BLAKE DAHLIN | THE FALCON

Laur Lugos, a sophomore majoring in Social Justice and Music Composition.

By Emme Tucker  
Staff Reporter

Hannah Waterman, a sophomore majoring in political science and social justice with a classics minor, was inspired by her parents work as missionaries in Tijuana, Mexico and is now passionate about immigration.

Laur Lugos, a sophomore majoring in social justice and music composition, recalled her first class on social issues.

Cade Huston, a sophomore majoring in political science, remembered the day that he jokingly claimed he would run for president of the United States.

"It was kind of like an epiphany moment where I said 'You know what? This is actually what I want to do,'... a lot of people don't get that with their calling," Huston said.

Because of their unique experiences, all three of these current Seattle Pacific University students became passionate about social issues and now study political science and social justice to prepare them for a future in political and social advocacy.

Waterman understands how these majors are similar and different, but she feels that she needs both of them because they will help her build the skills she need to get involved in politics one day.

"One of my driving beliefs is that policy makes changes and lasting ones," Waterman said.

The two systems, while similar in theory, have different purposes in societal change, Lugos said.

"Social justice focuses on how we adjust

our existing systems ... and political science focuses on how to work with the existing system," Lugos said.

Director of Social Justice and Cultural Studies Kimberly Segall said that there is a partnership between social justice and political science. At the base of both of the majors are questions of power.

Both majors often focus on the topic of equity.

Associate Professor of Political Science Ruth Ediger explained what equity looks like.

"Here's four people and here's four bicycles ... equity means that if the goal is to have everyone ride a bike, making sure the bike fits each person."

Lugos remembered a time during her senior year of high school when she took a class on contemporary social issues in race and gender that piqued her interest in social issues.

"I didn't know that was an option for something you could study in school and so the fact that I got to take that class my senior year of high school was something that just kind of set off a lightbulb," Lugos said.

Like Lugos, Huston strongly believes in giving everyone an equal voice. He is an advocate of free speech and works on campus by trying to make sure everyone's voice is represented through his position on the Student Senate.

Huston said there are not many people in the Student Senate who have similar political opinions so it can feel difficult to voice his opinion. He said he understands there is

a whole political spectrum on campus. Huston said he takes responsibility in representing the side of the spectrum that does not get much representation.

Similarly, Waterman hopes to take on social issues like equity in her involvement in politics. She said having the classes and skills from both of these majors develop the knowledge and skills she needs.

Huston is solely focused on political science, but he sees the connection between the two majors because they both focus on social issues. He also acknowledges there is often a gap between the two majors because political science is often seen as the conservative major while the social justice major is seen as more liberal, especially in terms of faculty.

"I would love to see the gap bridged where we can live together and totally disagree, but be able to discuss things without a chair getting thrown at someone," Huston said.

Huston said his goal in coming to a university like SPU was to learn how to use his voice to speak out. Huston said that in order for the gap between the two majors to narrow, an active discussion needs to happen. He explained that in order to create change and find the truth, people have to listen to each other.

"We can't find the truth through silence," Huston said.

Even with this attempt at active and respectful discussion, Waterman said that the two majors can be quite polarized. She said that a crossover with classes between the

two programs would be useful in making them more interconnected.

Huston said while the political science professors express more conservative views in class, they can also point students in the direction of outside sources that express a more liberal viewpoint.

Huston described how one of the political science professors, Dr. Henry, voices his political opinion but knows where to direct his more liberal students if they disagree with him.

Huston explained that if faculty at SPU can be open-minded to political and social issues, this mindset will trickle down to students.

Lugos also expressed that it often seems that there is a disconnect between the two majors. Political science is often seen as the conservative major while the social justice major is seen as more liberal.

Lugos said that within both majors there should be a balance in political opinions. She said it is important to study a number of diverse opinions to understand the whole picture of societal issues.

Waterman said she hopes by majoring in both social justice and political science, she will get a well-rounded view of social issues and learn how to put policy in place to change systemic problems.

"A lot of the things that social justice majors are looking for is systemic change in issues where we see injustice, and political science majors have the ability to work towards those systemic changes because they are in positions of power," Lugos said.

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### EXCLUSIVELY ONLINE

#### NEWS

- ASSP candidates announced

#### FEATURES

- Wind-erasable illustrates minority voices

#### OPINIONS

- Privilege of unpaid internships

#### SPORTS

- SPORTS

### CRIME REPORT JANUARY 14

**Car Prowl**  
Campus Streets: 3rd Ave West  
01/02 5:30 p.m. - 01/03 8:00 a.m.

**Auto Theft**  
Campus streets  
12/16 12:00 a.m. - 01/15 7:00 a.m.

**Stalking**  
Off campus - half mile plus  
12/28 12:01 a.m. - 1/29 11:59 p.m.

**Malicious Mischief /Vandalism**  
Nickerson Studios  
01/05 12:23 a.m. - 12:27 a.m.

Guides and professors take students out on daily snorkeling trips, some crew members stay on the boat and are available to help anyone with gear or seasickness.



Dr. Long points out various types of sponges and corals that students will eventually be quizzed on as a part of their ecology curriculum.

Dr. Nelson, a certified dive master brought housing and lighting for his cameras. He is comfortable with deep water photography, and helps to guide students as they get more familiar with snorkeling.



A local fisherman harvests spotted spiny lobsters. Frequently the catch of the day ended up being a part of students dinner.



Two boats were one of the main sources of transportation for the trip from the mainland to South Water Caye and during snorkeling excursions.

# Cultural engagement around the world

SPU's study abroad program allows students to experience new cultures

By Hannah Flores  
Staff Reporter  
Photos by Marissa Lordahl

Diamond Tate is surrounded by her friends and host family as she celebrates her birthday. She gets the opportunity to celebrate with many of the friends that she has made on her trip thus far. She feels pure elation, surrounded by new friends who she loves.

"I wanted to study in Costa Rica because I thought it would be a great place to practice cultural studies. Being here has been a great experience, getting to see the island (Costa Rica as a whole) and connecting with all these new amazing people has been incredible," Tate shared in a phone interview.

Students at Seattle Pacific University explained that their trips abroad have introduced them to new cultures and helped broaden their perspectives on the world, and even on the social climate back home in the United States.

Janessa Fong, a third year student double-majoring in clinical counseling psychology and Asian studies, with a minor in youth ministry, shared about her experience at Korea University (KU) in Seoul, South Korea. She studied there during the 2019 fall semester.

Her transition to life in South Korea was smooth and she was able to acclimate to the new environment quickly.

"I had some Korean friends growing up and they taught me the language. I learned some phrases and they also got me into the music culture and the TV shows, so what I learned from them cushioned my culture shock and it wasn't as bad," Fong said.

Tate is currently on a year-long trip studying in Costa Rica

and described her experience living there as similar to the U.S.

Tate explained that living in the city has made her transition to the new environment smoother and, because of this, she has not experienced much culture shock.

Tate shared that she is originally from Texas and moved to Seattle for college. This experience has helped her to easily adapt to new places.

She also explained that living in the city is very reminiscent of her life in Seattle.

"I think it's more similar to the U.S. than I was expecting, especially living in the city ... There are at least 8 fast food restaurants down the street to my university, so it feels a lot like home," she said.

Tate also shared that for the most part, the culture is similar to that of the U.S. although there were a few aspects that surprised her.

According to Tate, it is more common for mothers to take sole responsibility of tasks such as cooking and cleaning. Tate considers herself an independent person, and being part of a homestay program, this dynamic has taken some getting used to.

Fong explained that while she experienced little culture shock during her trip, she faced struggles when reacclimating to the United States upon her return.

"I think coming back here was very shocking, and made me more aware of the [racial] discrimination I have lived through up until now," she said.

She also shared that since her return to the U.S., she has felt uncomfortable at times.

"It [returning to the U.S.] was the biggest shock for me because living in a homogeneous society for four months showed

me what it's like to not be discriminated against, and that was very comforting," Fong said.

Both Tate and Fong shared that their experiences allowed them to connect with people from cultures other than their own, and expressed the importance of these relationships.

"There are a lot of opportunities to meet and get to know new people. It's been cool to establish new relationships," Tate said.

Fong shared that meeting others is what broadened her perspective on the world.

"It was very interesting. I don't think I expected to meet so many different people from so many different places. I think that was a highlight, getting to meet all these people and learn about their cultures as well," she said.

The students also shared the importance of studying abroad, and encouraged others to take the opportunity to study abroad as well.

For Fong, that time abroad can facilitate personal growth.

"If people can, go to a non-english speaking country. I think going to a non-english speaking country is one of the biggest challenges you can face and it helps open up your mind and broaden your perspective on so many things," she shared.

Similarly, Tate explained that getting to spend time with her host family and the other students in the program has allowed her to connect with a culture outside of her own.

Ultimately, the students expressed their gratitude for their trips abroad and are thankful for the value the time has added to their lives.

"It was great getting to learn so much about other people and their cultures and how we differ," Fong said.

# White supremacists absorb classical art

## Alt-right's co-opting of classical era fuels racism

Reported distribution of white supremacist propaganda hit a high last year, and college campuses in particular have been a main target for advertisements.

Groups like the American Identity Movement (formerly Identity Europa) distribute and display flyers and posters promoting the establishment of a white ethnostate. The imagery used by these groups often features classical Greek and Roman architecture and statues, while the messages warn against a loss of Western culture.

The Alternative Right, more commonly referred to as the alt-right, is defined by the Southern Poverty Law Center as a "set of far-right ideologies, groups and individuals whose core belief is that



By **Lilyanne Hamacher**  
Opinions Writer

'white identity' is under attack by multicultural forces using 'political correctness' and 'social justice' to undermine white people and 'their' civilization."

It was reported in 2014 that only 2% of professional academics in the classics field were minorities, and this may not come as a surprise to some. Europe has historically heralded the classical era as the origin, if not the peak, of Western civilization.

The idealization of Greek and Roman sculptures and architecture is not a new phenomenon — the genre has been historically assumed to be the pinnacle of Western art. Essentially, white supremacist movements have attached themselves to classical antiquity

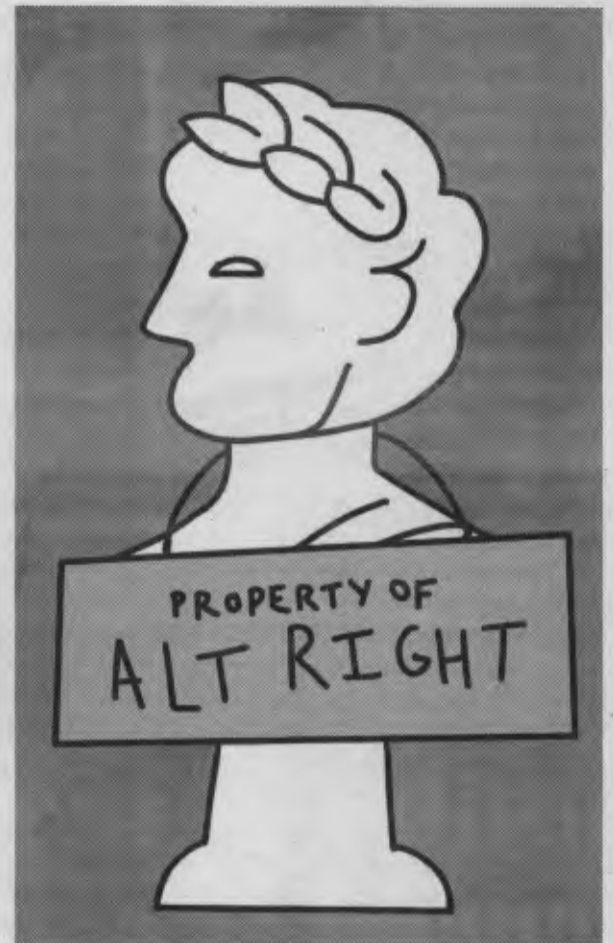
rather than other traditional forms of European art because of the widespread acceptance that this period was the pinnacle of Western and, to them, white civilization.

Poignantly, Adolf Hitler's preference for Greco-Roman art styles were institutionally enforced during the Third Reich. All forms of architecture, sculpture and painting were required to demonstrate this particular aesthetic style.

Hitler and the Nazi movement were disgusted by the modern art of the times, which we now refer to as Cubism, Dadaism and Surrealism. While these styles are now considered to be a deep and symbolic expression of the warped realities during and after World War I, many Europeans of the time considered them a form of degeneracy.

A failed artist himself, Hitler craved a return to formalist art styles, art that he believed had not yet been "corrupted" by the Jewish people.

Rather than instilling a return to traditional Nordic art, the cultures of Greece and Rome were interpreted by German historians of the time as a form of Nordic history. Nordicism holds the origins of Hitler's racist thought, that the Nordic peoples were of racial superiority to all



CHLOE GUILLOT | THE FALCON

## Editorial Comment

### Bloomberg's big bucks

#### Despite PR investment, Bloomberg's past bites back

Former New York City mayor and billionaire Michael Bloomberg has spent more than 230 million dollars simply on digital and television ads alone. For him, this amount is as inconsequential as pocket change. It is about .3% of his wealth.

Nonetheless, the Bloomberg campaign has been buying ads across platforms, such as YouTube, Twitter and television news channels.

In late January 2020, the Bloomberg campaign started buying ads from social media influencers, such as meme Instagram accounts like @tank-sinatra, an account with over 2.3 million followers. One meme featured a fake chat between the account and the official Bloomberg campaign account.

"Mr. Tank," one message read. "I've been waiting for my meme for so long that I learned how to make memes myself in photoshop."

That one meme alone garnered over 48,000 likes, with more accounts on the platform sharing the meme across the internet.

This approach to social media is certainly a smart one. Young people and politically active folks are more likely to look for information online and will be more likely to see memes such as these; humor will only make such posts more popular.

Ultimately, it brings more attention to the campaign.

But at the end of the race, the winner will not be determined on who bought the most ads, and any publicity is not necessarily good publicity in politics.

Thursday, Feb. 13 was a far cry from good publicity for Michael Bloomberg.

Bloomberg was hammered with attacks from the whole debate stage in the Nevada Democratic debate, with Senators Elizabeth Warren and Bernie Sanders being his main adversaries.

Like many debates for most candidates, past choices can come back to be used as ammunition against them, and no amount of money can distract a live audience from that.

Senator Warren cited Bloomberg's misogynistic comments of calling women "horse-faced lesbians." Minutes later, Senator Sanders rebuked an economic system which allowed the billionaire to have "more wealth than the bottom 125 million Americans."

Further criticism has been drawn from Bloomberg's infamous "stop and frisk" policy that negatively affected people of color in New York. The policy allowed police officers to search pedestrians on the street with no probable cause.

According to the New York Civil Liberties Union, over 5 million police stops and interrogations have taken place since 2002, and communities of color are disproportionately targeted using these tactics.

Although Bloomberg has tried to buy his way into the election by pumping millions into PR and cultivating his national image, communities of color in New York still feel the effects of his policies.

Advertising and marketing may be an integral part of supporting a campaign, but that effort does not go long as long as opponents have reliable criticism. Michael Bloomberg may buy all the advertisements on television and the internet, but unless he can make legitimate attacks against him disappear, his campaign will not make it far.

*The editorial comment is composed by the opinions editor, the editor-in-chief, and the editing staff. Opinions expressed represent the majority of the group. News and assistant news editor are never involved in the composition.*

## Europe has historically heralded the classical era as the origin, if not the peak, of Western civilization.

other races.

Nazi theories upheld this idea, which stated that the Nordic race came from an area of Europe which no longer exists, thought possibly to be the lost city of Atlantis. These original Nordic Europeans migrated throughout Europe, Iran and India. Hitler eventually abandoned this ideology, replaced by an ethnonationalist theory with Germany at its center.

Sarah Bond, Professor of Classics at the University of Iowa, has sparked conversation around the white marble of ancient statues and its connections with idealization of racial whiteness as the truly beautiful.

In response to American Identity Movement propaganda, she felt it important to remind the world that the now marble-white statues of antiquity were once painted with color, as was their world. While the Greeks and Romans did not conceive of race in the same modern notions we have, the reality of diverse skin tones was not ignored, and much art from the period of antiquity represented clearly varied ethnic groups.

In addition to the usage of Greco-Roman art forms, symbols used by the Roman government have been used by many different movements and institutions throughout history.

The fasces, a bundle of wooden rods surrounding an axe, serves as a symbol of strength achieved through unity and an excellent example of co-opted Roman imagery. The symbol was used by French revolutionaries to identify each other, and signal to others their group solidarity.

The United States has also used the fasces extensively as a political symbol: it can be found in many official capacities, such as the official seal of the United States Senate, the Lincoln Memorial and the Washington Monument. And yet, the Anti-Defamation League now has the fasces marked officially as a hate symbol.

Since its time being used by Benito Mussolini's fascist Italy, the fasces is now seen by some hate groups as a more publicly acceptable way to identify themselves than a swastika.

The alt-right appropriation of classical imagery, borrowed from fascist groups before, is ideologically inconsistent as well as being a well-worn and ratted red flag.

White supremacists cling to classical antiquity because Europe has clung to classical antiquity as its cultural legacy, while picking and choosing what aspects of this culture to misinterpret or idealize and which aspects to entirely sweep under the rug.

# The Farewell Tour

## Seattle Pacific's star gymnast Darian Burns hopes to "appreciate gymnastics" during her last year

**Kyle Morrison**  
Sports Reporter

Darian Burns walked into Weter Hall on Feb. 17 with a smile on her face and a backpack full of school work. To many she seemed like a normal college student going through the challenges of senior year, but what many people don't realize is that she has meant so much more to the Seattle Pacific University and the SPU gymnastics program, which have been her home for the last four years. Spending time with her, one will almost always notice, a bubbly smile and an undeniable sense of dignity and accomplishment.

Darian Burns should be a household name and face for Falcon fans.

As a freshman, she won the floor exercise individual title for the United States of America Gymnastics division, sharing the gold medal with Briana Comport from Bridgeport College.

Last year, Burns claimed the most illustrious individual trophy in the USAG by winning the all around title. She is the fifth SPU gymnast ever to win a national title and is by far the most decorated athlete on campus.

Despite all her individual accolades, Burns is dedicated to her team first and foremost.

"I never go out with the intention of individualism when I'm competing," Burns said. "Club gymnastics is very individualistic...when I got to college it became a lot more fun when it wasn't just about you and what you did."

The road to greatness for Burns started in Detroit, Michigan which was her first home before moving to Atlanta at the age of six for the latter part of her childhood. Her love for gymnastics



CALVIN QUISUMBING | THE FALCON  
**Darian Burns gives sophomore Kayli Tran a pep talk before her beam performance.**

spurred from what she deems as a "random decision."

"I got into gymnastics when I was five or six...I had done a karate class once but that didn't work, I had done ballet but all I'd do is cry all the time. One time my mom was like, 'Hey we can try gymnastics,' and we went and signed up at Armington Hills Gymnastics," Burns said. "I liked it and my mom was like, 'Of course you like the most expensive sport. Okay, cool.'"

Up until college, Burns bounced around from gym to gym, competing in the club gymnastics scene around the Atlanta area. She attributes her decision to come to SPU to her love for the city of Seattle as well as her love for her teammates — most notably, former Falcon Carly Kano.

"I absolutely loved Carly. I was like 'anything you tell me to do I want to do

because you told me to do it,'" Burns said.

Since coming to SPU, Burns has become a gymnastics legend, and she's looking forward to capping off her career in a very special way.

"I think this team is very special...The goal is for us to, bare minimum, qualify to nationals as a team. We have never done that in my four years at SPU," Burns said.

As far as her personal goals for the rest of the season, Burns is taking a very holistic approach to her individual season.

"While I still think I can do great things and I hope for those things to happen, my goal for this year is to appreciate gymnastics as its whole being because it's my last time, these last moments doing this sport," Burns said.

Burns had a very special final moment at Royal Brougham last Friday as she re-



CALVIN QUISUMBING | THE FALCON  
**Darian Burns getting ready for finals in her usual study spot in Weter Hall.**

corded the second best floor exercise in Falcon gymnastics history with a score of 9.925. This ties her with Corrie McDaniel (2002) and Ariana Harger (2016) on the all-time list. She only trails the 9.950 recorded by Callie Filed in 2000.

Looking forward, Darian Burns hopes to move back to Atlanta and pursue her master's degree in public policy, which she hopes will lead her to a career in housing policy.

No matter what she does going forward, Darian Burns has left a lasting impact on the SPU gymnastics and athletic program, and the story of her illustrious career is not over yet.

"I've done a lot of great things in my gymnastics career, and if I had to leave that today for any reason, I would definitely be satisfied," Burns said.

## Women's basketball pink-out game honors warriors

### Cancer survivors walk center court to encourage those still fighting, promoting awareness

**Brandon Bee**  
Sports Reporter

As the crowd walked into Royal Brougham Pavilion on Saturday, February 22, they saw the Seattle Pacific University women's basketball team warming up for their game against Montana State University Billings wearing pink t-shirts in support for breast cancer awareness.

Cancer survivor Felicia Roach, along with other cancer survivors, were called down to center court before the game. Roach was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2017 and entered remission the same year.

"It is really important for people to be aware of breast cancer and being able to know how to check for themselves and, then, also to celebrate women who have been able to make it past it and cheer them on and give them encouragement for the future," Roach said.

SPU women's assistant basketball coach Sasha Anderson also encountered her own battle with cancer back in 2017 and talked about why this event was so important.

"This event has become extremely



BRANDON BEE | THE FALCON  
**Women's basketball introducing a cancer survivor from Seattle as they walk to center court to receive flowers Sat, Feb 22**

personal and dear to me," Anderson said. "There is something about being invited by others that makes a person feel seen and not forgotten. Battling disease is a long, often discouraging and lonely journey and moments like these can go so far in a person's life to remind them that they aren't alone and that there are many people who care about what they are struggling with and want them to live a long, healthy life."

Redshirt Freshman Bayley Brennan also spoke about the importance of the

event.

"It is really important to remember those who were lost and those who fought through it and won," she said. "The shirts that we wore that said 'warriors,' that captures exactly why we are remembering them. It was cool in the beginning to see them and honor them and play for them."

"It also helps us keep our lives in perspective as we recognize those who are currently fighting," senior Hailee Bennett said. "So many people who are fighting cancer have such an amazing outlook on life that the rest of us should strive to emulate."

According to The American Cancer Society, in 2019, there were more than 1.7 million new cases of cancer in the U.S. alone. Over 600,000 of those cases were fatal.

During the game, the Falcons did not hit their stride as their defense did not compete with the quick offense that the

Billings provided throughout the game. During the second half, the Yellowjackets started to pull away, with a score of 24 points in the third period and 30 in the fourth to close out the game.

For the Yellowjackets, Jeannan Lemelin scored 32 points and was on fire from the field shooting 11-13 including 10 three-point makes in the game. Every possession, it seemed like Lemelin would hit another three to extend the Yellowjackets lead. Hannah Collins also had a suburb scoring night with 16 points on her own. TyLee Manuel had also added 14 for the Billings off of the bench.

For the Falcons, Senior Hailee Bennett scored 21 points on an efficient 7-10 shooting from the field, Sophomore Natalie Hoff scored 11 points and grabbed 8 boards, Redshirt Freshman Bayley Brennan scored eight points and Sophomore Ashley Alter scored seven points off the bench.

A string of losses for the women's basketball team has now eliminated them from playoff contention and now they will look to close out the season strong with two more games left against Northwest Nazarene University Feb. 27 and Central Washington University Feb. 29 at Royal Brougham Pavilion.





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