Knight becomes King

BY JANET STENGLE

While traveling through Wonderland, SUA students became “curi ouser and curi ouser” as to who would become this year’s Snowcoming King. At 10 p.m., DJ Scholar paused his mixes for the announcement. Cheers erupted in the field house as St. Francis de Sales senior Stephen Gullette was crowned St. Ursula Snowcoming King. “It feels really cool [to be] king,” Gullette said. “It’s an awesome feeling knowing that I am representing St. Ursula in such an honorable way, and that I’m a part of the SUA community.”

Senior Margaret Rode, Gullette’s date, is thrilled over her newfound royalty. “It’s just funny because I’m not queen materi al,” Rode said, “but my mom’s proud because she’s always wanted to be a queen.”

The extra week of Christmas Break insti gated panic in some SUA students. “From a student council perspective, it was really stressful,” Rode said. Senior student council waited until the Level 3 snow emergen cy passed to complete the interview process.

“At first I was really nervous [for the interviews], but once I got there I had a lot of fun,” Gullette said. “The animal question was the most awkward, but [the question] when I took my socks off was my favorite,” he said. Other candidates performed renditions of “Wrecking Ball” and “Story of My Life” for the senior interviewers. “I had so much fun that day,” said Rode.

St. Francis seniors Johnny Antonini, Ben Steingass, Hank LaValley, and St. John’s senior Alec Angel along with Gullette comprised the Snowcoming Court. “They are all brilliant human beings,” Rode said. “I always thought guys were immature, but they were nothing of the sort.”

The sophomores were also working hard over break to transform the halls of SUA into Wonderland. “The policemen told me they were the best decorations they had ever seen,” said Mr. McGurk, head of student council.

Giant mushrooms, clocks, flowers, cards and the white rabbit greeted students as they walked up the red carpet to the Red Queen’s Castle. Students, dates and teachers danced to DJ Scholar: a new addition to SUA.

“#SUA had some cool teachers though. Some of the coolest teachers I’ve dealt with at a high school dance that I’ve deejayed!” DJ Scholar tweeted. SUA students are looking forward to seeing DJ Scholar again at prom. “Hope to be back soon! You had me hype!” he tweeted after Snowcoming.

King Gullette now leads SUA into the second semester. “Never give up, give every thing you got and fight to achieve your goals,” he advises his subjects.

St. Ursula presents “Joseph”

BY MONICA RUMA

The cast and crew of St. Ursula’s winter musical will present “Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat” at The Franciscan Theatre at Lourdes University. Co-music director, Ms. Liu said that she has enjoyed working on this year’s musical. “We have a really good cast and they all work well together. The chorus works hard, the leads are beautiful, and the brothers are amazing,” said Liu.

Liu has worked with the chorus on other musicals, including some in Malaysia. “Because ‘Joseph’ is a crowd favorite, it’s easier to perform, but it has to be good because the crowd will be familiar with it. In past years we would present the play the same year the rights were released, but this one is different,” said Liu, “I’m expecting better production this year.”

Although she feels the cast and crew are prepared, Liu said there are a few important things the students need to improve. “They just need to review and remember their parts well enough to be able to sing without music,” said Liu. Junior Amanda Decker is in the chorus. “We need to work a little more on the music, but it’s coming together. We have a really good cast, and everyone is working really hard,” said Decker.

Tickets for the musical can be purchased outside the main office. Student tickets are $10 and adult tickets are $15. Cash, checks, credit cards, and student debit cards are all acceptable forms of payment. “Get your tickets as soon as possible,” urged Liu, “because they’re selling fast.” The musical will take place Friday and Saturday, Jan. 31 and Feb. 1 at 7:30 p.m. and on Sunday, Feb. 2 at 2 p.m.
Dancers prepare for competition season
SUADT adds pom, weekend practices
BY MONICA RUMA

In preparation for the regional and state dance competitions that are approaching quickly, St. Ursula’s Dance Team has added weekend practices to its schedule. “I’m looking forward to having a good competition season, and I hope the pom routine does well at regionals, states, and the Ohio State competition,” said senior captain Valerie Joseph.

Mrs. Parseghian has been St. Ursula’s dance team coach for one year. “When I started at St. Ursula almost six years ago, I knew I wanted to work with the dance team in some capacity. Everything fell into place for me this year to coach the team as well as teach dance and business classes,” said Parseghian.

“We’re very excited to add pom to the styles of dance we perform and compete this year,” said Parseghian. The team will be debuting their pom routine at the OAS-Regions on Feb. 1 at Anthony Wayne.

“Pom has been challenging for the dancers, but it is a style of dance that almost all colleges perform, so it will help our dancers who go on to dance in college when they get to the next level,” Parseghian said.

The team will be competing in regionals for the first time this year. “We are competing in all three categories: Pom, Jazz, and Hip-Hop. We hope to advance to States with all three routines, which will be Sunday, March 2 in Columbus. Our biggest competition will probably be Southview since they won Pom and Jazz last year,” said Parseghian.

The team has already participated in one competition: The Universal Dance Association Great Lakes Dance Championship. “We competed against some of the top rated teams in the country and region. We did much better than expected since this was our first time competing against most of these teams,” said Parseghian.

“We will be selling spirit shirts to support the dance team at the OSU Competition and at States,” she said. The team will be competing in the Ohio State University Dance Competition, held at SUA on Feb. 8. “We hope all SUA students come out to support us that night,” said Parseghian. The competition begins at 6 p.m. The team will be competing in the Ohio State University Dance Competition, held at SUA on Feb. 8. “We hope all SUA students come out to support us that night,” said Parseghian. The competition begins at 6 p.m.

Aqua Arrows push to the finish
BY JANET STENGLE

The Aqua Arrows splashed into competition with a Runner-Up trophy from the TRAC conference meet Saturday, Jan. 18. Junior Zhada Fields, who won both the 200 freestyle and 100 backstroke, was named TRAC female swimmer of the year.

The SUA medley relay placed first, to capturing the opening win. Juniors Mckayla Murphy and Adrienne Kinor placed second and third, respectively, in the 500 freestyle, and senior Janet Stengle placed second in the 100 breaststroke. In the diving competition, sophomore Molly Rounds placed fourth and sophomore Niki Sullinger placed seventh.

St. Ursula’s 200 freestyle relay placed third and the 400 freestyle relay placed second behind Fremont Ross.

The team is preparing to enter their favorite part of the season: taper. A taper involves lighter practices, lots of rest, healthy eating, and minimal exercise out of the pool. But in order for a taper to succeed and drop a swimmer’s time, hard practices must come first.

Over Christmas break, swimmers were “training a lot, putting in a lot of mileage and bonding as a team,” said Murphy. “I’m really proud of how hard the team has been working, because it’s been really hard this season. I hope it pays off at the big meets,” she said, “we all deserve to swim fast.”

Many swimmers have noticed improvement throughout the season. “People don’t laugh at me as much when I dive. Only sort of,” freshman Grace Fawcett said.

The Toledo Invitational will be held next Thursday, Jan. 30, at 6 p.m. at the St. Francis Natatorium. It will be the last swim meet for JV swimmers. It is also senior night, when Monica Ruma, Janet Stengle, Maggie McNeely, Katie McNeely, Veronica Ruiz-Krause, Maddie Krell, and Allison Kinor will be honored.

On Feb. 2, the Aqua Arrows will be competing at Sectionals in Napoleon. Freshmen Lauren Lankard, Grace Fawcett, and Mary Barone are looking forward to “all our hard work paying off at Sectionals.” Lankard is anxious to “improve times and see if taper works.”

After Sectionals comes Districts in Cleveland, then the State competition in Canton. As these competitive meets loom ahead, the team aspires “for everyone to swim their best, even if times aren’t the fastest,” said Murphy.
BY JANET STENGLE

Eight people in the Greater Toledo area have died from the H1N1 flu virus. The victims are:

Female, 47 - Jan. 6
Male in mid-50s - week of Jan. 6
Male, 70 - Jan. 10
Christ Wright, 41 - Jan. 12
Randy Bugg, 60 - Jan. 13
Connie Bucklew, 62 - Jan. 7
James Crosby, 50 - Dec. 28
Patricia Marshall, 61 - Dec. 31

Some of these victims had not received a flu shot, and thus many Toledans are scrambling to receive the vaccine before it is too late.

The Toledo-Lucas County Health Department has been offering vaccinations as the number of H1N1 related deaths rises. Flu shots are also available at many local pharmacies, such as Kroger, Rite Aid, and Walgreens.

Toledo area hospitals have always taken precautions. “I had to get a flu shot for Women in Health Science Professions because we are not allowed on [UTMC campus] without one. You need to have the proper vaccinations to communicate with patients,” senior Megan Hanna said.

With the recent influx of flu victims, hospitals are now increasing safety measures. “Nearly all visitors are being required to wear masks, which I’ve never seen before, in twenty years, really,” said Dr. John Stengele, a general surgeon of Toledo Clinic.

While Lucas County hospitals have not released much information, Henry County hospitals have reported 90 cases of the flu since December. The total of deaths (eight) has already surpassed the record for deaths of the flu season of 2009.

For seniors, it was the seventh grade when the H1N1 pandemic swept across the globe. Nicknamed the swine flu, the virus killed thousands of people within the US alone.

“The Lucas County Health Department came here and immunized everyone who wanted to be vaccinated [in 2009]. They did that all over the schools,” recalls Mrs. Symanski, SUA nurse. Today, H1N1 vaccine strains have been included in the generic flu vaccine to prevent a future pandemic.

Even though the flu shot promises to aid against H1N1, many people believe the shot will not protect against the flu. “That was the first time I’ve ever gotten a flu shot,” Hanna said. “I probably wouldn’t have gotten one if I wasn’t in Women in Health Science Professions, especially with all the stuff going on,” she said.

Flu shots are “not harmful,” Mrs. Symanski reassured. “If you feel that it will give you better protection, then yes, get a flu shot,” she said. But flu shots are not “free for alls” - they do not block everything. “It only protects against certain things,” Mrs. Symanski said.

To keep yourself protected from the flu, Mrs. Symanski urged students to use common sense. “The best thing you can do is keep washing your hands, especially after eating. Keep your hands away from your face,” she warned. (Source: The Blade)

BY MONICA RUMA

Algebra, Spanish, Life Skills, and AP Psychology have one thing in common: they are all subjects that have been studied in the Learning Commons. In just one semester, 69 percent of SUA students have been served by the LC, 43 percent of whom worked directly with a tutor.

“We have 13 tutors on staff currently. Three of them are volunteers, two of whom graduated from St. Ursula,” said Mrs. Johnson, Director of the Learning Commons.

“December of 2012 is when Mrs. Flores and I started having discussions about developing the Learning Commons. There has been a tutoring program at SUA for over 15 years, and sometimes I feel like we’re the best kept secret. We were kind of hidden before, but now we are in the former library,” said Johnson.

“We offer tutoring by appointment and by drop-in,” said Johnson, “I recruited staff to work extra hours, and they were very open to it.” Johnson is extremely proud of the 13 staff members in the LC. “They really go above and beyond to help serve students in tough situations,” said Johnson.

“On Feb. 20, the Learning Commons will be forming a ‘Friends of the Learning Commons’ group whose purpose will be to expand the print resources available to students and teachers. The first project will be a Gently Used Fiction Drive,” said Johnson, “I want to make sure we have a cross-community effort of parents, students, alumni, and staff.” More information about the group will be in the next issue of the Ursuline.

“Mrs. Johnson really helped me improve my Statistics grade,” said senior Kelsey Fankhauser. Students who have not had the chance to visit the Learning Commons can stop in either before school, during seminar, or after school. “The only subjects I haven’t been able to find tutors for are Chinese and Latin,” said Johnson, but nearly half of students who have gone to the Learning Commons have worked with a tutor.
New teachers join SUA
Art and English departments welcome new faculty

BY JANET STENGLE & MONICA RUMA

Ms. Ulmer

St. Ursula’s new English teacher, Ms. Ulmer, began teaching after the extra-long winter break ended. Ulmer grew up in Uniontown, PA and attended Hood College in Frederick, MD. Ulmer is replacing Ms. Kregel as the English II teacher and said that she has enjoyed St. Ursula since being here. “It’s wonderful. Everyone has made me feel so welcome.”

“I saw [the job] posted on the website and sent in my résumé,” Ulmer said. “I interviewed with Mrs. Flores, Dr. Kurt and Mrs. Rode. I was so nervous. I was so excited when Mrs. Flores called to let me know I got the job.” Ulmer graduated from college in May of 2012. “I majored in English and have a certificate in Secondary Education from Hood,” she said.

Ulmer enjoys listening to music, reading and baking. “My favorite band is The Beatles. I really like their earlier stuff,” she said. Her favorite book is “To Kill A Mockingbird.” Ulmer would like to help her students develop a love for reading similar to her own. “I’m hoping the girls will find an appreciation for literature and will improve their writing skills.”

Photo: Monica Ruma

Photo: Janet Stengle

Ms. Duvall

Ms. Tamra Duvall is the newest addition to the SUA art department, graduating from the University of Toledo in 2013 with a degree in art education.

Duvall has enjoyed her first weeks at St. Ursula. “I love the atmosphere of the school. Girls are better to work with,” she said. Previously, Duvall taught art for adults and children with disabilities at various art studios. She has also taught classes at a local art studio, along with substitute teaching for the past months. “I am very active in the art community,” Duvall shared.

Duvall is currently teaching Art I, Junior Academy Drawing and Painting, and a Junior Academy Leadership and Advocacy class. The Leadership and Advocacy class is relatively new to SUA. “It’s about building character and recognizing opportunities to be a leader.” Students learn how to find opportunities to lead at SUA, “bringing it to school terms,” DuVall explained.

Some of Duvall’s favorite artists include contemporary greats. “Mark Rothko is one of my favorite artists,” she said. When listening to music, Duvall keeps it calm. “I listen to a lot of indie, folk, and acoustic,” she said. “It’s mostly quiet, chill music.”

Duvall and her students are looking forward to the next months of classes. “Honestly, just getting to know the girls right now is really nice,” she said. “Seeing where they’re at with their creative skills is fun for me.”

St. Ursula Academy
FATHER DAUGHTER DANCE 2014
COUNTRY JAM
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9TH, FROM 6 TO 9 PM
The SUA Field House

Dinner, Dancing and Games

$25.00 per person (family max $50)
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