Highlights

- **Prof. William Kresse** discusses federal crackdown on massive credit card fraud ring on NPR

- **Exec. Dir. For University Ministry Graziano Marcheschi** discusses Pope Benedict's resignation FOX 32 Chicago, WGN 9 Chicago, and CLTV

- **Prof. Faisal Rahman** discusses proposal to raise Illinois' minimum wage to $10 on ABC 7 Chicago

- **Prof. Faisal Rahman** discusses sequester budget cuts on NBC 5 Chicago and CLTV's "Politics Tonight"

- SXU and WGN-TV's Teacher of the Month for February, 2013 – Daniel Briggs

- **Prof. Deb Rapacz** writes column on social media discipline for SouthtownStar

- School of Education hosts pinning ceremony
Saint Xavier University Print Media Coverage – February, 2013

Total: 125
## Saint Xavier University Print Media Coverage – February, 2013

Data from Vocus PR

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<td>SouthtownStar - Online</td>
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<td>2/25/2013</td>
<td>Girls Basketball Class 4A Supersectional: Marian hoping for something different</td>
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<td>Amy Florian: ‘Walk with people all the way to their resurrection’</td>
<td>Tidings - Online</td>
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<td>George likely to enroll in Point Guard U</td>
<td>Glenview Announcements - Online</td>
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<td>Election 2013: Dennis Brennan</td>
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<td>2/28/2013</td>
<td>Around Town (North) for March 3, 2013</td>
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<td>2/28/2013</td>
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<td>SouthtownStar - Online</td>
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Prof. William Kresse discusses federal crackdown on massive credit card fraud ring
02/05/2013  NPR

Prof. Faisal Rahman discusses proposal to raise Illinois' minimum wage to $10
02/06/2013  ABC 7 Chicago

SXU's Graziano Marcheschi discusses Pope's resignation
02/11/2013  CLTV

SXU's Graziano Marcheschi discusses Pope's resignation
02/11/2013  WGN 9 Chicago

SXU's Graziano Marcheschi discusses Pope's resignation
02/12/2013  FOX 32 Chicago

SXU and WGN-TV's Teacher of the Month for February, 2013 – Daniel Briggs
02/21/2013  WGN 9 Chicago

Prof. Faisal Rahman discusses sequester budget cuts on "Politics Tonight"
02/25/2013  CLTV

Prof. Faisal Rahman discusses sequester budget cuts
02/25/2013  NBC 5 Chicago
Rising Economic Inequality in America: Its Causes and Consequences, Part2
02/04/2013    OpEd News

Private Illinois Colleges and Universities Transfer Fair Set For Feb. 28
02/05/2013    Patch

Charity Briefs - Text to Give
02/05/2013    SouthtownStar

The Hypocrisy of the "Secular" Catholic Institution
02/05/2013    Saint Louis Catholic

How would a minimum wage hike affect businesses?
02/06/2013    ABC 7 Chicago

Bulletin Board – Farrell Forum with Prof. Avis Clendenen
02/06/2013    The Beverly Review

Community Briefs - Spring Job Fair
02/06/2013    The Beverly Review

SXU to host living history lesson
02/06/2013    The Beverly Review

Beyond the Golden Key Map: Part 3
02/06/2013    Golden Key's Blog

Feds Bust Huge Credit Fraud Ring
02/06/2013    KUER

CPS' counseling director under fire for alleged LGBT insensitivity
02/06/2013    Windy City Media Group

LOCAL JOBS: Automotive Industry, RNs, CNAs, Administration, Sales, Shift Leaders and MORE
02/07/2013    Patch

What's Going On - Spring Job Fair
02/07/2013    The Reporter

Around Town (North) for Feb. 10, 2013 – Spring Job Fair
02/07/2013    SouthtownStar

McAuley artwork displayed at SXU
02/07/2013    SouthtownStar

Rapacz: A primer on developing social-media discipline
02/08/2013    SouthtownStar
Young Morton Grove artist shows off talent
02/11/2013 Morton Grove Champion

Charity Briefs for Feb. 12, 2013 – Text to Give
02/11/2013 SouthtownStar

Watch: Students Share Their Thoughts on Pope's Resignation
02/12/2013 Patch

THE THINGS COLLEGES DO WELL
02/14/2013 Online Colleges

Cardinal to Commemorate Vatican II at Saint Xavier University
02/14/2013 Patch

McAuley artwork displayed at SXU
02/14/2013 Patch

Chicago Colleges With the Highest Loan Default and Graduation Rates
02/15/2013 DNAinfo

SWD Urethane Hires Gary Grunauer as Regional Sales Manager for the Midwest
02/16/2013 PRWeb

Obituary - Loretta Neufeld
02/16/2013 Quad-Cities Online

Charity Briefs for Feb. 19, 2013 - Text to Give
02/16/2013 SouthtownStar

Sisters of Mercy Colleges, Schools Issue Call for Gun Control
02/19/2013 Inside Higher Ed

Presence Health combines Northwest Side CEO spots
02/21/2013 Crain’s Chicago Business

A Day at the Capitol (Photos)
02/21/2013 Examiner

Stuck on you
02/21/2013 The Reporter

Roosevelt principal moves to Gary schools
02/23/2013 The Gary Crusader

Charity Briefs for Feb. 26, 2013 – Text to Give
02/25/2013 SouthtownStar

Joe Skibinski, MBA/CPA seeks MVCC Trustee Seat
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Darwin's birthday brings storyteller to SXU library
02/27/2013 The Beverly Review
Theology South to feature lecture from prioress
02/27/2013 The Beverly Review

State Reps. Kelly Burke and Renee Kosel visit SXU students
02/27/2013 Patch

Election 2013: Dennis Brennan
02/28/2013 Patch

SXU’s Theology South will discuss homelessness
02/28/2013 The Reporter

Around Town (North) for March 3, 2013 – Theology South with Patricia Crowley
02/28/2013 SouthtownStar

SXU honors future teachers at School of Education pinning ceremony
02/28/2013 SouthtownStar
USF Men's Basketball Falls to No. 9 Saint Xavier
02/06/2013  Patch

USF Women's Basketball Stuns #8 Saint Xavier on Last-Second Basket
02/06/2013  Patch

No. 12 Saint Xavier Keeps Winning Streak Going; Reaches 11 Games
02/07/2013  Patch

West Des Moines Valley Standouts Jake Campos, Peter Jok and 26 Others Sign on National Signing Day
02/07/2013  Patch

Cougars athletes honored for academics
02/07/2013  The Reporter

Lemont High School Seniors Receive Athletic Scholarships
02/08/2013  Patch

USF Stuns #8 Saint Xavier on Last-Second Basket
02/08/2013  Victory Sports Network

Purdue Calumet Peregrine Basketball Women Win
02/09/2013  The Gary Crusader

Knights present colors at Claddagh wheelchair tourney
02/13/2013  The Beverly Review

State champs make it official on Signing Day
02/13/2013  The Beverly Review

Cougars climb into men's basketball top 10
02/13/2013  The Reporter

Roosevelt’s Cedric Ridle reaches 1,000-point mark at Lincoln University
02/13/2013  Northwest Indiana Times

Brentwood Basketball Seniors Headed for Air Force Academy, Bradley University, Others
02/18/2013  Patch

Lee University's German wins national academic honor
02/18/2013  WRCB-TV

Lee’s German is tops in classroom
02/20/2013  Cleveland Daily Banner

Indiana South Bend Women Pull Off Huge Upset; Down #12 SXU On The Road
02/20/2013  Victory Sports Network
Men's relay team to represent Cougars in national meet
02/21/2013 The Reporter

Community sports news
02/21/2013 The Reporter

SouthtownStar Athletes on Campus: Katie Hannemann honored at Illinois-Chicago
02/22/2013 SouthtownStar

Sports Briefs
02/27/2013 The Times Weekly

Community sports news
02/28/2013 The Reporter

Cougars ready for today's NAIA track championships
02/28/2013 The Reporter
Federal authorities charged 18 people for what they called one of the biggest international credit card fraud rings in history that spread to as many as 28 states and eight countries. This elaborate web of fake identities and sham companies stole $200 million in fraudulent charges to acquire luxury cars, gold, and high-end goods. Saint Xavier University Prof. William Kresse discussed the case on Feb. 5 on NPR National News.

Kresse, also known as Professor Fraud, is an associate professor at the Graham School of Management. He is director of the SXU Center for the Study of Fraud and Corruption.
Saint Xavier University Professor Faisal Rahman, Ph.D., discussed Gov. Pat Quinn's proposal to raise Illinois' minimum wage to $10 on ABC 7 Chicago News at 10 p.m. on Feb. 6, 2013. The story also aired on ABC 7 News This Morning on Feb. 7.

Prof. Rahman is the founding dean of SXU's Graham School of Management.
SXU's Graziano Marcheschi discusses Pope's resignation

2/11/2013

Saint Xavier University Executive Director for University Ministry Graziano Marcheschi, D.Min., discussed the surprising resignation of Pope Benedict XVI at 6:30 p.m. on Feb. 11 on CLTV Evening Edition.
Saint Xavier University Executive Director for University Ministry Graziano Marcheschi, D.Min., discussed the surprising resignation of Pope Benedict XVI at 5 p.m. on Feb. 11 on WGN News at 5.
SXU's Graziano Marcheschi discusses Pope's resignation

2/12/2013

Saint Xavier University Executive Director for University Ministry Graziano Marcheschi, D.Min., discussed the surprising resignation of Pope Benedict XVI at 7:15 a.m. on Feb. 12 on FOX 32's Good Day Chicago.

-Top-
Saint Xavier University has partnered with WGN-TV Chicago to highlight the Teacher of the Month program, which honors educators who make a difference in their communities.

The program recognizes outstanding kindergarten, elementary, junior high, high school, vocational, and special education teachers in Chicagoland and northwest Indiana. Daniel Briggs, who teaches music at Brother Rice high School in Chicago, is February's Teacher of the Month. This segment appeared on WGN Chicago's News at Nine on Jan. 30. Teachers of the Month also will appear on the SXU and WGN-TV websites.

One teacher will be selected each month through June 2013 for a total of 10 honorees. Teachers of the Month are chosen based on educational achievements in the classroom, community contributions and innovativeness of the program/techniques used by the teacher. Each Teacher of the Month is featured on the WGN-TV news and will receive a certificate of recognition. Additionally, each Teacher of the Month will receive a $1,000 donation from SXU to purchase school supplies for his or her classroom.

-Top-
Saint Xavier University Professor Faisal Rahman, Ph.D., discussed federal budget cuts due to the sequester on NBC 5 News at 6 p.m. on Feb. 25, 2013. Rahman also discussed the same issue on CLTV's "Politics Tonight" at 6 p.m. on Feb. 25.

Prof. Rahman is the founding dean of SXU's Graham School of Management.

-Top-
Saint Xavier University Professor Faisal Rahman, Ph.D., discussed federal budget cuts due to the sequester on NBC 5 News at 6 p.m. on Feb. 25, 2013. Rahman also discussed the same issue on CLTV's "Politics Tonight" at 6 p.m. on Feb. 25.

Prof. Rahman is the founding dean of SXU's Graham School of Management.

-Top-
The increasing power of the rich to rent seek, which refers to the controlling elite who have considerable power to milk the economy and divert money away from ordinary people and into their own coffers.

Dr. Stiglitz emphasizes that, when it comes to inequality, there are two major myths concocted by the rich: first, the claim that high income is compensation for individuals' bigger contribution to creating wealth and second, the cost of dealing with inequality is too high because it has disincentive effects on investors and the so-called job creators. However, both of these claims are misleading at best. While the beneficiaries of the status quo offer no substantiated justifications for these claims, they may have some validity; no one, however, can get rich in isolation. Individuals as well as companies cannot accumulate sizeable earnings unless there is a steady, strong demand for their products, especially by the middle class. Moreover, without the well-developed infrastructures and the research projects that are mostly funded by government out of taxpayers' money, it is next to impossible to get rich. In view of that, societal support is essential to the buildup of money and wealth. The other refutable argument in defense of income inequality is that inequality is the necessary driver of individuals' resourcefulness, and increasing taxes on the wealthy will have disincentive effects on investment by the rich thus negatively impacting economic growth. However, Dr. Stiglitz disputes that contention as well. He says more, not less, equality is essential for economic progress. No one, of course, expects complete equality; this is neither feasible nor desirable. However, he insists again that inequality is excessive not only in America but also in some other countries around the world. It can no longer be overlooked.

It is natural for individuals to pursue their self-interest; this is the foundation of capitalism and it should neither be shamed nor be delegitimized. However, self-interest should not be an excuse for greed and for the questionable tactics some people use to exploit others, such as deceitful banking practices and predatory lending. There is no question that such practices lead to even more inequality, as indicated by a number of researchers and observations showing inequality is greater in countries with large, aggressively speculative, and weakly regulated financial sector. Dr. Stiglitz reiterates throughout his book that dealing with income inequality is not the task of the market alone. Unless government implements policies to counteract the market forces that reinforce inequality, any attempts to assuage inequality will not likely succeed. To him, inequality really matters simply because of its costly consequences such as: the loss of efficiency and output, high unemployment, and the loss of tax revenue for government which results in the loss
of public investment that puts social programs in jeopardy. Inequality will also contribute to economic as well as social instability which may trigger the collapse of the entire political system.

Undoubtedly, high-income people devote a very small portion of their income to consumption, which is the driving force behind economic activity; the lion's share of their income goes toward speculative endeavors, often abroad. This is not going to help the U.S. mainstream economy. Owing to income inequality, the wage share of national income has declined dramatically in the face of rising inequality, more than a half trillion dollars a year according to the author. Not only has the unbalanced tax system contributed to income inequality in the U.S., but also deregulation has played a pivotal role in economic instability that the United States and many other countries have experienced in recent years. Deregulation is the product of our unbridled democracy. "If our democracy worked better, it might have resisted the political demand for deregulation and might have responded to the weaknesses in aggregate demand in ways that enhance sustainable growth rather than creating a bubble. . . . The irony is that while inequality gives rise to instability, the instability itself gives rise to more inequality" (p. 91).

One of the key points Dr. Stiglitz consistently emphasizes in The Price of Inequality is that public investment confers many more social benefits than private investment. However, the lack of adequate profit and other considerations may discourage private investment in certain areas vital to social welfare. As such, if these kinds of investments are left totally to the private sector, the economy will suffer from underinvestment. To be sure, in modern economies, government-funded researches are indispensable in such capital-intensive and highly ephemeral areas like high-tech and biotechnology. The inequality, however, may obstruct such investments because the wealthy are reluctant to lend their support. They "don't need to rely on the government for parks or education or medical care or personal security, they can buy all these things for themselves" (p. 93). Inadequate public investment can lead to the decline of education and inadequate access to quality education by the children of middle-class people; upward mobility, which depends on quality education, is no longer within their reach. Inadequate income can also force middle-class parents to spend more time in the workplace and less time supervising and caring for their children, or assisting them with their education.

Dr. Stiglitz reverts relentlessly to the main theme of his book--the increasing power of the rich to rent seek, which refers to the controlling elite who have considerable power to milk the economy and divert money away from ordinary people and into their own coffers. To sustain their dominating position, big companies have hired lobbyist to influence not only the course of politics, but also the laws and regulations enacted by the Congress. "There are more than 3100 lobbyist working for the healthcare industry (nearly 6 for every congressperson), and 2100 lobbyists working for the energy and natural resources industries. All told, more than $3.2 billion was spent on lobbying in 2011 alone" (p. 95). Rent seeking creates distortionary consequences for the economy in many ways. One example is higher prices because the high cost of lobbying is passed on to the consumers, especially by pharmaceutical companies that are also shielded by the patent system. Rent seeking by big companies often takes different and sometimes strange forms, such as making business transactions or contracts complicated and less transparent so that consumers cannot fully comprehend the terms and conditions and their obligations. Such tactics work well, particularly for banks, mortgage companies, cable TV, credit card companies, and cell phone providers, to name a few.

Assisted by the knowledgeable lawyers they hire, wealthy corporations can use their financial might to change the outcome of not only the market but also the legal system to prolong inequality. The evidence shows that people living in countries having fewer lawyers are economically better off and the country's economy grows faster. The inverse correlation between the number of lawyers and economic growth has been supported by some research (see for example, http://www.csmonitor.com/1994/0215/15081.html ). Dr. Stiglitz claims that "researches suggest that the main channel through which a high proportion of lawyers in a society hurts the economy is the diversion of talents away from more innovative activities (like engineering and science" (p. 100). Another aspect of this problem is the use of precious resources on frivolous litigations that serve no purpose other than to enrich the corporations and their lawyers. Costly distortions will be created by such litigations, lobbying, and even foreign policy, he adds. "Foreign-policy is, by
definition, about the balancing of national interest and national resources. With [the] top 1% in charge and paying no price for wars, the notion of balance and restraints goes out window. [Thus], there is no limit to the adventures we can undertake: corporations and contractors stand only to gain" (p. 101).

Dr. Stiglitz rightfully makes the critical argument that, if workers feel they are being treated unfairly, it becomes very difficult to motivate them and convince them to work hard for the betterment of the society. Obviously, an effective motivation system is crucial to the efficient functioning of the economy. He argues, however, that the claim of the supporters of incentive pay for CEOs is simply inaccurate because incentive pay is not always necessary to the performance of high-income earners. For instance, "Doctors work to make sure each surgery is their absolute best, for reasons that have little to do with money" (p. 109). There are cases in which incentive pay could produce counterproductive outcomes. We have seen, for example in the financial sector, how bankers and traders engaged in excessive risk-taking simply because they wanted to make more money. Those who really contribute to the welfare and the advancement of society, like scientists and academicians, do not usually work to attain wealth and are not motivated solely by pecuniary rewards.

The costs of inequality extend beyond monetary limits. In the long term, the political system may be in danger of disintegration because of the possible voter upheaval and the conflict between what they have voted for and what politicians actually do. The 2012 reelection of President Obama to a second term presents a lucid example of voters' reaction to such a situation. However, despite the fact that the majority of voters want to see higher taxes levied on the wealthy, Republicans are still refusing to respect the voters' mandate. Yet again, government not only did not do enough to reverse the course of deteriorating income distribution, it even contributed to it by requiring a lesser amount in taxes from the top income earners as well as lowering the tax rate on capital gains. "The top marginal income-tax rate, the most visible metric, has gone from 7% in 1913 to 92% in the 1950s to 28% with the Tax Reform Act of 1986 to 39.6% in the Clinton years to today’s [2012] 35%" (WSJ August 6, 2012). Given that the rich gain a major share of their income through capital gains, about 50% for the top 0.1% of the nation's earners -about 315,000 individuals -- and 60% the Forbes 400, according to Forbes, 11/20/2011 issue. Dr. Stiglitz believes that a lower tax on capital gains provides the rich with significant benefits "each of these 400 on average, a gift of $30 million in 2008 and $45 million in 2007 and lowered overall tax revenues by $12 billion in 2008 and $18 billion in 2007" (p. 72). In addition, the "loopholes and special provisions have eviscerated the tax to such a degree that it has gone from providing 30% of federal revenues in mid-1950s to less than 9% today" (p. 73). The existence of such loopholes enables the rich to minimize their tax liabilities by hiring skilled tax lawyers.

Disenfranchised voters are asking themselves whether there is any purpose in voting if their vote does not matter. Such apprehension is, perhaps, the reason behind waning voter turnout in the U.S., especially for national elections. "What is worrying is that those in the 1%, in attempting to claim for themselves an unjust proportion of the benefits of this system, may be willing to destroy the system itself to hold on to what they have" (p. 117).

Our political system, driven by campaign finance and politicians' indebtedness to rich donors, is getting worse as a greater percentage of wealth continues to go to the already rich, enabling them to spend even more money buying politicians and favoritism. But that's not all. "Another part of this puzzle is explained by the bias in perceptions and beliefs--that the top has persuaded those in the middle to see the world in a distorted way, leading them to perceive policies that advance the interest of those at the top are consonant with their own interests" (p. 137). The majority of American citizens have come to realize that they have not duly benefited from the economic prosperity of recent decades, as indicated by their diminishing real income, as indicated by the chart below. They are beginning to sense a political system that is committed to serving the interests of only the wealthy.
Social and political conflicts and the destruction of good-will capital may arise as a result of public reaction to widening inequality. According to the author, the mistakes made during the George W. Bush administration to engage the United States in two costly wars, one in Iraq and one in Afghanistan, have hurt us dearly. American moral and ethical values and the power of American ideas have consequently been denigrated throughout the world. These wars have served no purpose other than to fatten the coffers of wealthy corporations and defense contractors. "Now our credibility is gone: we are seen to have a political system in which one party tries to disenfranchise the poor, in which money buys politicians and policies that reinforce [party] the inequalities" (p. 143). Albeit still a flaccid economic superpower, America has abdicated its position as the democratic superpower of the world and, if the current economic trends continue, China will unseat the U.S. as the world economic superpower in few years. We seem to have eradicated a system which other countries once envied and strove to emulate. If America wants to keep its democracy and invigorate its global influence, it should restructure its system in earnest.

The privileged elite not only have manipulated our politicians but also force-fed the public with a variety of falsehoods, such as high CEO compensation is linked to their performance, high income is the compensation for individuals' efficiency, and generous subsidies to big companies are needed to encourage creativity, innovation, and life-enhancing researches. Worth noting is that government subsidies are also given to undeserving industries such as electronic-like game developers. One among these is Electronic Arts, a California-based company that developed Dead Space2, a game promoted with the advertising slogan: Your Mom Hates Dead Space2! Obviously, the wealthy have a vested interest in and the means to continue framing our beliefs in such a way that their interests will be safeguarded. Even the American legal system has been predisposed to the clout of the affluent. "Growing inequality, combined with a flawed system of campaign finance, risks turning America's legal system into a travesty of justice. Some may still call it the rule of law, but in today's America the proud claim of "justice for all' is being replaced by a more modest claim of "justice for those who can afford it'" (p. 206).

Even the recent vengeful talks over the national budget are about priorities that would protect the interests of the rich and intensify the inequality in America; these include tax cuts for the wealthy, wasteful expenditures on war in Afghanistan, massive military expenditures, and the Medicare drug benefit that prevents government from negotiating prices with drug companies. If implemented, the proposed austerity measures, mainly backed by the Republicans, will further impoverish the poor because these are focused more on slimming down the public programs and less on the cutting of the deficit. "The one percent has captured and distorted the budget debate--using an understandable concern about overspending to provide cover for a program aimed at downsizing the government, an action that would weaken the economy today, lower growth in the future, and most importantly, for the purpose of this book, increase inequality" (p. 237).

Dr. Stiglitz is not diffident in revealing his dissatisfaction with our the monetary policies and the Federal Reserve System which he believes have not helped the bottom 99% of the population. When the U.S. economy is in recession, the Federal Reserve policy of lowering interest rates has not achieved its intended goal of helping average consumers to borrow money and spend more; that has not happened simply because of high unemployment rate, nearly 8% now, and the lack of optimistic expectations on the part of consumers. In recessionary economic conditions, it is a mistake to think that low interest rates will help ordinary people since such policies only help the commercial banks to make more money. Banks can borrow almost interest-free money from the Federal Reserve to give loans to borrowers, or invest it in other opportunities that make hefty profits for them. The author is also reproachful of the removal of essential regulations, such as the Glass-Steagall Act, that was designed to keep commercial banks and their operations safe and sound. "This deregulation had two related consequences, both of which we noted earlier. The first, it led to the increasing financialization of the economy--with all the associated distortions and consequences. Second, it allowed the banks to exploit the rest of the society--through predatory lending, abusive credit card fees, and other practices" (p. 246). Given the fact that high-risk financial products such as derivatives played a central role in the financial crisis, the
Federal Reserve should have established tougher regulations with respect to commercial banks and their involvement in such risky trades. However, not enough was done to address this issue.

Near the end of his book, the author raises a couple of interrelated questions we should be asking ourselves. First, what kind of society do we want to live in? And second, what kind of government and political system would we like to have that best protect the interests of the majority of citizens and not just the interests of the wealthiest 1% of the population? In recent years, the top 1% has been successful in creating a number of myths such as: what is good for them is also good for the rest of us, more taxes on the rich will harm the economy, the political focus should be on debt and deficit reduction instead of on unemployment, and the privatizing or even the dismantling of the major government programs that are designed to support people in need benefits them. However, such one-dimensional propositions have created nothing but higher unemployment, a decline in real wage for American workers, a wider gap between the rich and the poor, growing inequality, and the polarization of our nation. At the conclusion of his book, Dr Stiglitz offers what he believes are the needed reforms that, if implemented, will make our economic system more equitable with a healthy growth prospect. However, there is a prerequisite that must be met before this can happen. "If these alternatives [that he suggests at the end of his book] are to be implemented, the institutional arrangements through which the decisions are made have to change" (p. 264). If not, America will no longer be the land of opportunity and equal access, especially for young graduates and for the middle class.

Even though Dr. Stiglitz paints a gloomy picture of the economic conditions in the United States, he believes that a happy ending is within reach and there could be light at the end of tunnel. "Another world is possible. We can achieve a society in accord with our fundamental values, with more opportunity, and higher total national income, a stronger democracy, and higher living standards for most individuals" (p. 266). While Dr. Stiglitz is critical of the rich and their attempts to preserve the status quo, he emphasizes that his book is not about "politics of envy," bashing, or class warfare. It is rather about raising the common consciousness about fairness and efficiency, and about an economic system that benefits all and not just the privileged few. Amassing wealth and power through rent seeking is not just and must be dealt with effectively. Government has the power and the resources to change things for the better and this task cannot be left to the private sector alone. We can get to where we want to be, but the road that takes us there will not be smooth. There can be two versions of America, he says. "One is of a society more divided between the haves and have-nots" and the other is "a society where the gap between these two groups has been narrowed, where there is a sense of shared destiny, that commitment to opportunities and fairness" (p. 289). Obviously, the second version is more consistent with the core values of America and that is the one we should aspire to construct. The author ends his book by stating that "it is not too late for this country to change course, and to recover the fundamental principles of fairness and opportunity on which it was founded" (p. 290).
Private Illinois Colleges and Universities Transfer Fair Set For Feb. 28

February 5, 2013

College of DuPage will host the Private Illinois Colleges and Universities transfer fair from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 28, in the Student Services Center Atrium.

During PICU, which is free of charge and open to the community, students can speak with college representatives to have their admissions and transfer questions addressed directly.

“The fair gives our students and graduates a chance to learn about how their associate degrees can transfer, while prospective students can learn about how to obtain an associate’s degree at COD and then transfer into a baccalaureate program,” said Jill Davis, College Transfer Coordinator at College of DuPage.

Participating schools during PICU are Augustana College, Aurora University, Benedictine University, Bradley University, Columbia College – Chicago, Concordia University Chicago, DePaul University, DeVry University, Dominican University, Elmhurst College, Eureka College, Illinois Institute of Art – Schaumburg, Judson University, Kendall College, Lake Forest College, Lakeview College of Nursing, Lewis University, Lexington College, Loyola University – Chicago, National-Louis University, North Central College, Northwood University, Olivet Nazarene University, Robert Morris University, Rockford College, Roosevelt University, Saint Xavier University, Trinity Christian College, Trinity International University, and University of St. Francis.

A similar fair for state universities will be held on Thursday, March 14. For more information about both fairs, call (630) 942-2776 or e-mail: davisj550@cod.edu.

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Charity Briefs

Feb. 5, 2013

Text to Give: St. Xavier University’s Department for University Advancement has announced a new “Text to Give” mobile giving campaign to benefit the university’s Class Gift Fund and the St. Xavier Fund. The program allows donors to make $10 donations using their mobile phones through Give by Cell. You can make a gift to the Class Gift Fund by texting CLASSGIFT with your first and last name to 20222, or make a gift to the St. Xavier Fund by texting SXU with your first and last name to 20222. Donors can give multiple times a month depending on your carrier. Donations are tax-deductible, and pledges are billed through your monthly cell phone bill. Messaging and data rates may apply. For information, visit www.givebycell.com.
The Hypocrisy of the "Secular" Catholic Institution

05 FEBRUARY 2013

Boy, does George Neumayr nail it in this piece on RealClearReligion. The SLU case has been covered here before. So ironic that it may be the one area where SLU has followed Peter--in denying its own Catholicism against the accusations of Satan's boys club, the Masons. Neumayr highlights other examples, and correctly notes that Obama deftly exploits the rifts within the Church to his gain:

Catholic Courthouse Comedy

By George Neumayr

Catching the Church out in another ostensible moment of hypocrisy, the mainstream media reported last week that a Catholic hospital in Colorado fended off a malpractice lawsuit by arguing that "fetuses" are not persons under Colorado law. The lawsuit revolved around a father's claim that the hospital's incompetence had resulted in the deaths of his two unborn children.

The court, argued the hospital's lawyer, "should not overturn the long-standing rule in Colorado that the term 'person,' as is used in the Wrongful Death Act, encompasses only individuals born alive. Colorado state courts define 'person' under the Act to include only those born alive. Therefore Plaintiffs cannot maintain wrongful death claims based on two unborn fetuses."

This appears to be a case of a secularized Catholic hospital taking advantage of a pro-abortion definition built into secular law to save money. Of course, the media didn't report it in those terms, as that would undermine the hypocrisy angle. But the story is not all that surprising. Secularized Catholic schools will sometimes play the same game, using a liberal line of defense to their legal benefit.

Jesuit St. Louis University, for example, found itself in a lawsuit back in 2003 with the Masonic Temple Association over a tax abatement the school had received from the state of Missouri to build a sports arena. A group of neighboring Masons didn't feel the school was entitled to government monies since it is a religious institution. To defeat the suit, the Jesuits argued that St. Louis University is not a religious institution and that it is "independent of the Catholic Church."

The case proved a curious spectacle. As the Jesuits vehemently denied the school's Catholic identity -- "Whatever its status in the past, Saint Louis University is not now controlled by any creed" -- the Masons sought to uphold it, noting the school's bylaws, which stated that it is "publicly identified as a Catholic university and a Jesuit university."
But heterodoxy is not always to the legal advantage of secularized Catholic institutions. Sometimes a faked-up conservative line saves them money too. In recent years, Catholic colleges, despite their rosters of pro-union professors, have argued against union formation for adjunct professors on the grounds that the schools are "religious" and thus deserving of an exemption from labor laws. (In 1979, the Supreme Court ruled that the First Amendment protected religious schools from federal labor oversight.)

Usually, these schools, as in the case of St. Louis University, want to be free of the Church. But when they want to save money by hiring a lot of adjunct professors and not letting them unionize, they tell the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) that the schools are steeped in Catholicism. They suddenly discover that their financial interest clashes with their "social justice" and customary secularism.

This has resulted in the comedy of the federal government saying to these schools what many bishops won't: You are no longer visibly Catholic. In 2011, the NLRB told two Catholic colleges, St. Xavier University and Manhattan College (founded by the Christian Brothers), that they displayed no signs of a Catholic identity and therefore could no longer block the formation of a union. The NLRB cited as evidence for its rulings that the schools don't require students to take Catholic theology courses, that the faculties and boards retain just a handful of Catholics, and that their personnel and disciplinary policies generally show indifference to Church teaching.

Administrators at these schools have balked more loudly at these rulings than at the HHS mandate. It is another case of the Obama administration shrewdly exploiting secularization within Catholic institutions to swoop down and essentially control their policies.

Confused bickering among liberals usually on the same side broke out after the NLRB's rulings. The head of Manhattan College argued with a straight face that the school's secularization embodies the religion of the post-Vatican II Church and that the Obama administration was punishing it for straying from the traditional faith. Obama's NLRB, albeit inadvertently, has done more to light a fire under these schools than the bishops. Chalk it up to the accidental collision of motives. The NLRB is forcing these schools to hire more Catholics or unionize. Unlike in the Colorado case, the best legal option here, much to their dismay, is orthodoxy.
How would a minimum wage hike affect businesses?

Wednesday, February 06, 2013

Eric Horng

(CHICAGO) (WLS) -- Illinois Governor Pat Quinn called for a minimum wage increase to help working families.

Not everyone agrees that it would help. Some business owners and experts said it will actually worsen the unemployment problem and could lead to higher prices for customers.

At Pazzo's Italian Restaurant, which prides itself on its pasta dishes, the prospect of a minimum wage hike is giving owner Rocky Aiyash heartburn.

According to Aiyash, a higher minimum wage would mean higher-earning staff would have to be paid more too. And it comes as the restaurant industry is finally rebounding from the recession.

"Business owners are going to be more concerned, start pulling in the reins a little bit, trying to tighten up their ships to absorb some of the expense of it. Ultimately the consumer is going to pay," he said.

Illinois' current minimum wage is $8.25 an hour, one dollar more than the amount mandated by the federal government. Supporters of the increase said that the state's high cost of living make the hike necessary.

The state's minimum wage was last raised in 2010.

Governor Pat Quinn said in his State of the State Address Wednesday that it should be raised to $10 an hour over four years.

"Nobody in Illinois should work 40 hours a week and live in poverty. That's a principle as old as the Bible," Quinn said.

Single mother Noemi Hernandez works in a restaurant while going to college.

She said a few extra dollars a week would help her raise her daughter.

"It would be able to just afford a little bit more, a toy probably or movies," Hernandez said. "Sometimes it's kind of hard to go to a store and have her ask me for something and for me not to be able to give it to her."

However St. Xavier University Dean Faisal Rahman said businesses aren't bluffing when they say higher wages could force layoffs.
"You can make a moral and ethical reasoning why we need to raise the minimum wage, but with the high
unemployment among young people, the high unemployment among unskilled workers, certainly does not help the
employment situation at all," Rahman said.
Bulletin Board

Published as part of the February 6, 2013 edition.

St. Xavier

The John T. Farrell Sr. Forum of St. Xavier University (SXU) invites the public to a lecture by SXU professor Avis Clendenen, author of "Experiencing Hildegard: Jungian Perspectives," on Thursday, Feb. 14, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Butler Reception Room, 3700 W. 103rd St. Hildegard, of Bingen, a 12th century abbess, was declared a Doctor of the Church on Oct. 7, 2012. Hildegard was also a mystic, musician, theologian, church reformer and proponent of holistic living.

For more information, call (773) 298-3000.

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St. Xavier University's office of career services invites the community to meet with employers at the 2013 Spring Job Fair on Wednesday, Feb 13, from noon to 3 p.m., in the Shannon Center, 3700 W. 103rd St. This fair is free and open to the public. About 20 employers are expected to attend the fair and recruit for full-time, part-time and internship positions in various industries. Attendees are advised to dress professionally and bring plenty of copies of their resumes. A full list of employers is available at sxu.edu, keyword: job fair. The list of employers attending the fair will be updated on a weekly basis. For more information, call the office of career services, (773) 298-3131.
SXU to host living history lesson

Published as part of the February 6, 2013 edition.

St. Xavier University will host a special living history performance about the famed scientist and founder of evolutionary theory, Charles Darwin, featuring award-winning actor, storyteller and author Brian "Fox" Ellis on Tuesday, Feb. 12.

The event, "Charles Darwin and His Revolutionary Idea," will be held from 5 to 6 p.m. in McGuire Hall, located in the Warde Academic Center, 3700 W. 103rd St. The event is free and open to the public, and no reservations or tickets are needed.

Ellis steps into Darwin's shoes to tell the tale of the young scientist's adventure sailing around the world on the HMS Beagle. Equal parts dramatic storytelling, stand-up comedy, and show-and-tell, the performance immerses the audience in the intellectual world of one of history's greatest scientific minds.

Ellis will discuss humorous tales of Darwin's training as a naturalist, his insights into South American geology, his discovery of strange creatures on the Galapagos Islands, and the scientific evidence that led to his revolutionary theory of evolution. Ellis also will provide a wide array of fossils, insects, plants, and study skins so the audience can experience the discoveries of Darwin with hands-on analysis.

Ellis has been regaling audiences for more than 30 years as a performer and educator. He is an internationally acclaimed author, storyteller, historian, and naturalist, and has worked with The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum, The Field Museum and other museums across the country.

For more information, call Dave Kohut, associate librarian, at (773) 298-3355 or e-mail kohut@sxu.edu.
Beyond the Golden Key Map: Part 3

On February 6, 2013

Roberta joined Golden Key in March 2011. She grew up in Italy and Brazil. Then she lived in the US, Spain, Finland and eventually ended up in Paris where she resides today. She studied in the US at University of Richmond where she graduated with a BA in Journalism. She worked for a couple of years and then went to Oklahoma State University where she earned a MA in Speech Communication. After that Roberta started to work as a management and communication consultant. A couple of years later, she was able to fulfill her dream of working on her own and started her own consulting business. She then completed an executive MBA in Paris at Saint Xavier University, a Chicago-based university that had opened a branch in Paris. As a consultant and trainer she continued her learning with an online MA in Adult Education and is pursuing a PhD in Adult Education and Elearning online with Trident University. Roberta says her proudest academic accomplishment is “the ability to have studied in different countries in the world in different languages and always passed with very high grades regardless of the efforts required to adapt and often to be discriminated against for being a foreigner”.

In 1998, Roberta became the founder and president of a small private university based in Paris, France called Horizons University. Roberta says, “Horizons University is a on-campus and online university based in Paris, France with students from all over the world and offering programs that meet new trends of thought and at the most interesting tuition fee levels.”

How did you hear about Golden Key?

I joined Golden Key when I was browsing the net for an honor society to join. I liked it for two reasons: first it’s open to everyone that qualifies without having to go through the university chapter, so I applied directly. Second, it is the fact that it offers membership to wide variety of majors. This is great and so inviting. I think honor societies are great motivators.
Feds Bust Huge Credit Fraud Ring

By DAN BOBKOFF

Originally published on Wed February 6, 2013 8:51 am

STEVE INSKEEP, HOST:

We're also tracking a story that federal authorities call one of the biggest credit card fraud rings in U.S. history. Eighteen people are alleged to have created an elaborate web of fake identities and sham companies to steal hundreds of millions of dollars.

NPR's Dan Bobkoff has more.

DAN BOBKOFF, BYLINE: To give you a sense of the scale of this fraud, let's start with some numbers. The fraud lasted at least six years. The 18 people allegedly created 7,000 fake identities. They used these to open 25,000 credit cards. And, all told, they stole at least $200 million from credit card companies.

Paul Fishman is the U.S. attorney for the district of New Jersey.

PAUL FISHMAN: It was an extraordinarily sophisticated scheme at every level.

BOBKOFF: Elaborate is an understatement. Fishman says the defendants created false identities, complete with things like utility bills. At first, the fraudsters would boost the credit scores of the of the fake names by responsibly making payments on the cards. Then, they'd make fraudulent purchases through dozens of sham companies or took out large loans on the cards.

FISHMAN: Schemes of this magnitude are pretty breathtaking.

BOBKOFF: Credit card companies took the direct hit, but experts say the losses could be passed onto consumers, in the form of higher interest rates.

Bill Kresse heads Saint Xavier University's Center for the Study of Fraud and Corruption. He says this case shows a breakdown of the system.

BILL KRESSE: There are only so many credit card companies and banks and issuers, you would think at some point someone would have picked up the pattern of all these phony transactions.

BOBKOFF: But before authorities put a stop to it, the ring managed to send millions to eight countries including Pakistan, Romania, India and Japan. And, many profited nicely at home with fancy cars and electronics. Prosecutors say one suspect had $68,000 in his oven.
CPS' counseling director under fire for alleged LGBT insensitivity

by Stephen Sonneveld

2013-02-06

UPDATE

A representative from the CPS Office of Communications has told WCT that this "allegation from a former colleague" of Barbara Kapouzian is "something that CPS is looking into."

A former colleague of Barbara Karpouzian, the current director of K-12 Counseling and Advising at Chicago Public Schools, is alleging that the educator made offensive remarks regarding religion in the presence of students, as well as homophobic statements to her peers.

Phillip Elkins, a Spanish teacher at Albert G. Lane Technical College Preparatory High School, included Windy City Times in an email sent to CPS CEO Dr. Barbara Byrd-Bennett. The email detailed the allegations.

According to the email, when Karpouzian was also a Spanish teacher at Lane Tech, she "told two students, 'Catholics will not go to heaven.'" Elkins claims that when he excused the students to the hall, Karpouzian told him "never to speak to her 'in that manner' and 'contradict' her in front of anyone again."

The email also asserted: "Rosie O'Donnell was in the news for having married her partner, and Barb began telling colleagues that gay people were going to hell. After I mentioned we should stay neutral, she wrote me a letter inviting me to her house to watch a video on how to become heterosexual."

Elkins wrote that the "unprofessional and inappropriate comments" still distress him. Moreover, "Gay CPS teachers, counselors, and students deserve to hear that Barb is not only being neutral at her job, but she is encouraging LGBTQ themes."

As to the allegation of Karpouzian encouraging conversion therapy, Elkins asked, "Is she on board 100% with The American Psychology Association, The American Psychiatric Association, and The American Pediatric Association who have said that trying to change someone's sexual orientation is harmful?"

A message left on Karpouzian's voice mail this morning was not returned, and WCT has reached out to Elkins to support his claims.

Karpouzian's anti-Catholic rhetoric is curious, as her Linkedin profile indicates she holds an MA from two Catholic institutions, Loyola University of Chicago and Saint Xavier University.
What can be verified is that Karpouzian, who earns an annual salary from CPS reported to be between $99,750.00-100,985.00, has been the host of a cable access talk show, Everlasting Love, for the past ten years. The show's YouTube channel, and also the YT channel for the show's producer, currently publish broadcasts which depict Karpouzian interviewing doctors, athletes and authors about the positive impact of Christianity in their lives, and their efforts at ministry.

However, there is also a 3-part broadcast which debunks Darwin and evolution, and two series of interviews that call the Koran "lies."

In part 3 of "From Islam to Christianity," guest Erol Senses, who was raised Muslim before converting, had the following exchange with Karpouzian:

BARBARA KARPOUZIAN: So do we worship the same god?

EROL SENSES: Absolutely not.

BK: Okay.

ES: Absolutely not.

BK: How do you, how do you answer that question, or how do you deal with that, or how did you deal with that, with your parents?

ES: At that time, I was gentle with them, and even though I did not acknowledge it, in a loving way, I took baby steps—

BK: Sure.

ES: —towards it—

BK: Sure.

ES: —and rather than assaulting the beliefs—

BK: Mm hm, sure.

ES: —by history or knowledge of the Koran, I'd rather just reveal Jesus to them in their love—

BK: Yes.

ES: —we continued down this path.

BK: Yes, mm hm.

ES: If I were to bring up the Koran, and the lies that are contained in it, and the false god that it portrays, immediately, any opportunity for me to minister to them—

BK: Yes.

ES: —would have been closed.

BK: Right.

Karpouzian signed off from the final "Creationism vs. Evolution" episode with, "God loves you with an everlasting love. He created you, He formed you while you were in your mother's womb, and He has a plan for your life. God bless you."
It remains to be seen whether CPS will consider such broadcasts as free speech protected under the First Amendment, or as a conflict of interest for the city's top school counselor, a servant in the public sector, to openly declare a bias against religious groups and the very science the schools are teaching.

If Elkins' allegations are to be believed, it would appear Karpouzian's unsubstantiated homophobic comment "that gay people were going to hell" is also intertwined with her religious perspective. Upon review of the Everlasting Love episodes available on YT, however, none of the titles directly address LGBT issues, and the select episodes viewed did not uncover any homophobic comments, religious-based or otherwise.

Though Dr. Byrd-Bennett was unavailable for comment, the CPS communications office promised WCT a response about the broadcasts and Elkins' email.

WCT will provide updates as this story unfolds.

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LOCAL JOBS: Automotive Industry, RNs, CNAs, Administration, Sales, Shift Leaders and MORE

By Lorraine Swanson and Dan Lambert, February 7, 2013

Saint Xavier University is hosting a community job fair from noon to 3 p.m. Feb. 13 in the Shannon Center on the Chicago campus at 3700 W. 103rd St. About 20 companies are expected to attend and for recruit full-time, part-time and internship opportunities, including Chicago Education Project, Citizen Schools, Elim Christian Special Education School/Services, Enterprise Holdings, Echo Joint Agreement, Hoopise Financial Group, Indian Oaks Academy, Ingalls Memorial Hospital, Moraine Valley Community College, Northwestern Mutual, Palos Community Hospital, Prudential, Rush University Medical Group, Standard Bank and Trust Co., TCF Bank, The Menta Group, Tinley Park Police Department, and the U.S. Army Healthcare. Visit Xav’s website for a full list of employers. Attendees are encouraged to dress professionally and bring resumes. For more info contact the Office of Career Services at (773)298-3131.

www.sxu.edu, keyword: job fair.

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What's Going On

Published as part of the February 7, 2013 edition.

Job Fair

Saint Xavier University's Office of Career Services will hold its 2013 Spring Job Fair from noon to 3 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 13 in the Shannon Center at the university's Chicago campus, 3700 W. 103rd St. Fair is free and open to the public.

About 20 employers are expected to attend the fair and recruit for full-time, part-time, and internship positions. Attendees are advised to dress professionally and bring plenty of copies of their resumes. Companies scheduled to attend include Chicago Education Project, Citizen Schools, Elim Christian Special Education School/Services, Enterprise Holdings, Echo Joint Agreement, Hoopise Financial Group, Indian Oaks Academy, Ingalls Memorial Hospital, Moraine Valley Community College, Northwestern Mutual, Palos Community Hospital, Prudential, Rush University Medical Group, Standard Bank and Trust Co., TCF Bank, The Menta Group, Tinley Park Police Department, and the U.S. Army Healthcare. A full list of employers is available at sxu.edu (keyword: job fair).

For more information call (773)298-3131.

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Job Fair: St. Xavier University will host a job fair from noon to 3 p.m. Wednesday at the school, 3700 W. 103rd St., Chicago. Information: www.sxu.edu or (773) 298-3131.

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McAuley artwork displayed at SXU

February 7, 2013

The final projects created by Mother McAuley Liberal Arts High School art students recently were on display at the back of the Visual Art Center Gallery at Saint Xavier University.

The projects were created by girls who participated in an Art Education Partnership, a program that allows art SXU education majors to instruct and assist Mother McAuley art students on various projects, including artist books, paper sculpture, graffiti-inspired drawing and metaphorical table settings.

Participating students included Kasey Matthews, of Homewood; Giselle Villasenor, of Orland Park; Ariel Ojeda, of Evergreen Park; Taylor Covington, Janet Kintner, Sara Hoglund, Sarah James and Sara Schiller, all of Chicago’s Beverly community; and Bridget McCafferty, Sara Dust and Becca Jakob, all of Chicago’s Mount Greenwood community.

The projects were designed and taught by Saint Xavier University students Katelynn Peters, Mary Ellen Nilles, Sandra Rodarte and Cynthia Gonzalez.
Rapacz: A primer on developing social-media discipline

By Deb Rapacz Guest Commentary

February 8, 2013 10:24PM

We may have most of the answers regarding the bizarre story of the fake, dead girlfriend of Notre Dame linebacker Manti Te’o (though we can’t be sure yet). All indications are that Te’o was a victim rather than a perpetrator — taken advantage of in an elaborate scheme by a male acquaintance.

Though the story has faded from the headlines, a curious public will continue to follow it, hoping for more tantalizing disclosures.

But social-media stories such as this are a good reminder that we should review our social-media use and personal rules of conduct.

Social-media platforms provide fun ways to socialize and share a lot of information quickly and easily — allowing us to connect with friends, participate in a variety of online groups and feed our sense of belonging.

But it’s important to take a broader perspective about your online profile. The audience you are sharing information with isn’t just your set of friends. And it changes over time.

Your online profile likely is to be used by employers, club leaders, coaches, admissions counselors, etc. Right or wrong, they are likely to use your profile in deciding whether you fit into a company or organization.

If you’re a high school student, you’re probably not thinking about a human resources department worker for a future employer poking around your Facebook pages in search of something inappropriate.

You are what you post. Everything you do via social media becomes part of your permanent online footprint and works collectively to create an impression about what type of person you are.

Your collection of pictures, posts, comments and “likes” are all used by people to shape an opinion about you. Even the friends you have and their activity affects your reputation.
In the consumer marketplace, brands are very careful about their image in every marketing channel, realizing that every interaction with customers and potential customers creates an impression with the audience. One negative incident may cause damage to the brand that is hard to repair.

Because you control your “personal brand,” you can borrow lessons from corporate marketers to guide your online activity to create a favorable online presence.

In my “Branding You” workshops, I guide people to think about the following questions to establish personal online guidelines:

What image do you want to portray? What is it that you want your audience to think about you? (Remember that your audience is more than your close friends.)

What makes you unique? What mix of school, sports, social causes and individual social activities do you want to share? How can you stand out from the crowd?

Who should you accept in your social circles or as friends? Why? I have different rules for different social-media tools.

For example, I think of LinkedIn as an electronic Rolodex. Anyone I meet who I might want to contact again for business, I accept as a connection. I use more stringent rules for Facebook, only “friending” someone I am willing to have lunch with once a year.

What will you post? Think through what I call the 3 Ts of posting social-media content — type, tone and timing.

What type of photos, likes and comments will you post? When will you post them? What tone or attitude will you use when you write? Will you ever use profanity? How will you react when people disagree with you?

What shouldn’t you post? Avoid posting personal information such as your phone number, address, school ID number, etc., via social media. Use more private channels to share that selectively. Ask yourself if there are certain topics or types of content you should avoid posting.

What privacy settings do you have set? Are you aware of the privacy settings that are available on each of the social-media platforms you use? What rules do you have about sharing data on each tool? How often do you check your settings?

Reflecting on these questions can help you establish personal rules that add discipline to your online activity and work to build the impression you want to create to your online friends and extended audience.

To learn more about shaping your personal brand online, consider attending our free “Branding You” workshop from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Feb. 28. Contact me at rapacz@sxu.edu.

Deb Rapacz is a marketing and communications consultant and a marketing instructor at the Graham School of Business at St. Xavier University in Chicago.

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At the young age of 17, Ashley Walker already has a list of accomplishments.

The Morton Grove resident, a senior at Loyola Academy, was in the Young Rembrandts program while a student at St. Joan of Arc. She was the only high school student admitted to a college art class last summer at Northwestern University.

Two or three of her works will be displayed this month at the Evanston Art Center.

And Walker has been accepted as an art major, something normally reserved for sophomores, at St. Xavier University and Purdue University.

Walker works in a variety of media, from acrylic paint to graphite pencil and water crayon. So far, she said, she has mostly done portraits and most of those from photos. One of her goals is to draw live models, something she expects to do at college.

Though she hasn’t decided yet where she’ll attend, Walker is planning to major in art and minor in pre-med. Her ultimate goal is to become a physician. And with all of that, she has played the piano since age 7.

Q: When did you begin taking an interest in art?
A: I remember even in preschool I made little sketches. I knew even then when I got older I’d end up loving it.

Q: How did you find out you had some real talent?
A: In seventh grade, my teacher would say I was really good at it.

Q: Last year you honored your friend Anton Davis, the 15-year-old Skokie boy who was shot to death in Rogers Park. What prompted that?
A: We played basketball a lot together. He was a really funny person. Two days after he was shot, I drew a portrait of him with the words from the Bible, “Father forgive them, for they don’t know what they do” and put it on my Facebook page.

Q: What did you learn from the class you took at Northwestern, and what was it like in a class with all college students?
A: Our assignment was to draw one drawing each day. Sometimes I was so excited I would draw two or three a day. It was fun. They were all college students. I was the only high school student. I was a little scared at first. It was fun. They were very nice to me.

Q: What do you see as your future in art?
A: I don’t want it as a full-time career. But I want to improve my ability to draw still-lifes. I haven’t done anything with a live model. I’d like to do that a lot. I’m open to learning different things.

Q: How did the upcoming show at the Evanston Art Center come about?
A: My art teacher at Loyola, every year she tries to get her students in the art show. We go the day it opens on Valentine’s Day to set up. I get to miss a day of school.

Q: How do you see your art talent?
A: I feel it’s a gift. But you also have to work really hard. Basically I’m a kid who has had the opportunity to take advantage of that. I feel I have to work hard to pay back my parents for what they’ve done for me.

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Charity Briefs for Feb. 12, 2013

February 11, 2013 1:44PM

Text to Give: St. Xavier University’s Department for University Advancement has announced a new “Text to Give” mobile giving campaign to benefit the university’s Class Gift Fund and the St. Xavier Fund. The program allows donors to make $10 donations using their mobile phones through Give by Cell. You can make a gift to the Class Gift Fund by texting CLASSGIFT with your first and last name to 20222, or make a gift to the St. Xavier Fund by texting SXU with your first and last name to 20222. Donors can give multiple times a month depending on your carrier. Donations are tax-deductible, and pledges are billed through your monthly cell phone bill. Messaging and data rates may apply. For information, visit www.givebycell.com.
Catholics across the globe were reacting yesterday to the unexpected news that Pope Benedict XVI was resigning from the papacy.

Patch stopped by Saint Xavier University to hear how local students were reacting to the news.

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It’s become disturbingly chic to rip on colleges for their shortcomings. ‘College is a waste of time.’ ‘College is a waste of money.’ ‘College is a waste of time and money. But for every criticism of college there is a commendation, for every low a high. If you laid out some of the things colleges and universities really knock out of the park (besides the obvious of educating students), we’d all see colleges in a different light.

Health

For starters, college makes people healthier. For every age group, bachelor’s degree holders enjoy the lowest rates of obesity and the highest rates of exercise. Schools not only educate students on healthy lifestyles, but they reinforce that knowledge with campus-wide fitness campaigns and weight loss competitions, like the “Biggest Loser” challenges at Saint Xavier University and Georgetown University.

College-educated people also smoke at much lower rates than others, and the percentage who smoke has fallen much faster over the last 50 years. Even healthy birth weights are more common among college-educated women than high-school-educated moms. In short, college helps people live longer (as many as nine years), healthier, happier lives.

Economics

The best counterargument to the high price of college is summed up best in a quote from former Harvard University president Derek Bok: “If you think education is expensive, try ignorance.” College may cost a lot, but the way that it increases future earnings classifies it as what some call “good debt.” According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, in 2011
bachelor’s degree holders earned a median yearly income of $54,756, while those with only a high school diploma earned just $33,176. According to the Pew Research Center, in a lifetime a college graduate will earn $1.42 million, compared to high school grads’ $770,000. Colleges also provide the stepping stone to more lucrative careers that can be had with master’s and doctorate degrees, which brought in a median income of $65,676 and $80,652, respectively.

Research

Where would the world be without the innovations developed on college campuses and by people who honed their skills at university? We’d still be here, but we wouldn’t have GPS, plasma screens, wetsuits, Geiger counters, Geckskin, Google, or even the Internet, for that matter, and a host of other inventions. And if we as a society have any hope for hoverboards, flying cars, time cloaks, and robot dance partners, college and university research departments are our best shot.

Fundraising

When it comes to fundraising for worthy causes, no other segment of American society can hold a candle to academia. Colleges and universities raise hundreds of millions of dollars every year that goes to medical research, shelters, food pantries, and more by capitalizing on their students’ enthusiasm, energy, and passion for making a difference in the world. It’s a wonder cancer even exists anymore, with college students continuously throwing themselves into fun-runs for the American Cancer Society, spinning for cancer research, and shooting hoops to raise breast cancer awareness.

College dance marathons have become an especially popular way to encourage community members to give. These events typically require students and other volunteers to get their grooves on for at least 10 straight hours, and some for 24, 30, or more. Penn State’s THON is the biggest, having raised $89 million to combat pediatric cancer in the 36 years since it was created. But Indiana University, Northwestern University, the University of Kentucky, the University of Iowa, and other schools also host their own successful dance-offs each year.

Liberal arts

This strength might also be called “making students well-rounded,” and it deserves recognition in light of the rash of negative feeling toward the liberal arts degree in recent years. The argument to end liberal arts education is flawed. Liberal arts areas of study make students well-rounded enough to excel in a wide range of fields. For example, students in both the humanities and the social sciences saw higher rates of acceptance to medical schools than biological sciences majors, according to the Association of American Medical Colleges. For law school acceptance, philosophy, anthropology, history, and English make up four of the top 10 majors with the highest rates, according to a study out of Chicago State University.

Environmentalism

Cast your eye around a typical college student’s dorm room and at the sight of 18 empty pizza boxes, you might draw the conclusion that that student is a complete slob. You might be right, but it’s just as likely that the student is planning to recycle them all. Colleges have become an epicenter for sustainability thought and practice, and a big part of that is recycling programs.

At Pepperdine University, for example, 78% of the refuse generated on campus is diverted away from landfills. College of the Atlantic’s thorough recycling program oversees the composting of all uneaten food and soiled, compostable tableware on campus and touches “every floor of every building” so that students and staff can properly dispose of printer cartridges, glass, tin, and aluminum products, and more. Some schools, like Chatham University, won’t even sell plastic bottles anymore, instead encouraging students to employ the reusable bottles they’re given at the start of the year.
Using the classic ‘make-a-game-out-of-it’ approach, colleges have given the world RecycleMania. What started in 2001 as a friendly contest between Ohio University and Miami University to see which school could recycle the most has become a national tournament with 630 institutions of higher education in the U.S. and Canada competing by 2011. That year, 7.5 million college students and employees helped prevent the release of 127,553 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent into the air with their recycling of paper, cardboard, bottles, and food waste. In 2012 this number rose to 148,897 metric tons.

Furthering the cause of the green movement goes hand-in-hand with recycling, and colleges excel here as well. Energy efficient dorms and buildings have been popping up on campuses, like the Clarke and Hood residence halls at Ithaca College, with their zoned heating, energy-efficient boilers, and “eco-reps” who encourage their fellow students to go green in their daily lives. Campuses like those of the University of Illinois at Chicago, Swarthmore College, and Sarah Lawrence College offer just a few of many collegial opportunities to see green roofs in action.

Adapting to online learning

Although this is still evolving territory for traditional colleges and universities, most of them have acknowledged that online education is most likely the future and have adapted, or are currently adapting, to carry their education mandates into cyberspace.

Colleges have been instrumental in the growing movement of open education resources (OERs) and are moving into massive open online courses (MOOCs) at an increasingly fast clip. MIT’s Open Courseware is now 10 years in and makes over 2,000 of its courses freely available. It is also one of dozens of schools forming partnerships with MOOC providers like Coursera and Udacity to provide both college-aged and lifelong learners with institutional-grade educational material.

What they can do better

Much as we enjoy bragging on colleges, there’s always room for improvement, as the saying goes.

- **Communication skills.**
  If you ask them, employers will tell you with one voice that colleges need to do more to improve students’ communication skills. In a 2012 survey of 225 employers, 91% responded that communications skills were both their most important and hardest to find college graduate ability. Of course, some of the blame could fairly be laid at the foot of high schools, with a fifth of high school seniors scoring “below basic” on a recent exam as part of the National Assessment of Educational Progress. But as many students’ last chance to learn to communicate properly, the buck has to stop with colleges.

- **Civic engagement.**
  Surprisingly, colleges may not do as good a job as was once thought at increasing students’ civic awareness and political engagement. A 2009 report by political science professor Benjamin Highton of University of California, Davis tracked the answers high school students gave to a survey gauging their political knowledge, and the answers they gave eight, 17, and 32 years later. The only differences in college graduates’ and nongraduates’ answers from their high school years were their understanding of Democrat and Republican party platforms, and even those differences did not remain permanently. A study the year before by researchers from UC Davis and Vanderbilt University had determined college was merely a “proxy for pre-adult experiences and influences, not a cause of political participation.”

- **Cultural awareness.**
  College may not even be all that great at making people more tolerant and culturally aware, a longstanding belief held by many. A recent study out of the University of Chicago’s National Opinion Research Center (NORC) found significantly more students became less interested in “personally helping to promote racial
understanding” after four years of college than the other way around. The researchers’ advice for colleges was to “take steps that promote environments conducive for cross-race friendship and other forms of positive interaction.”

Despite these and other shortcomings, it would be difficult to imagine a world without colleges and universities. For hundreds of years, they’ve been the lifeblood of American exceptionalism and academic discovery. Replacing them would take a system that is truly revolutionary, and while edutech has given us many exciting developments to ponder of late, we see nothing currently on the horizon that could fill in for good old college.

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The Xavierite

Cardinal to Commemorate Vatican II at Saint Xavier University

February 14, 2013

By Tony Bara

Francis Cardinal George will cap off a week at Saint Xavier University commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Second Vatican Council.

The Cardinal will deliver his address entitled “Vatican II and its Consequences, Intended and Otherwise” on Friday, March 1 at 6:30 p.m. in the Butler Reception Room. In the days leading up to this event, the Office for University Ministry, together with the Department of Religious Studies and the Sister Josetta Butler, R.S.M. Fund, will be hosting a number of events.

An art exhibit featuring the Second Vatican Council-themed works of Franklin McMahon on Monday, February 25 will launch the commemoration. Tuesday will feature a Vatican II trivia game in the student diner. On Wednesday, a traditional “Tridentine Mass,” completely in Latin, will be held in McDonough Chapel at noon. Dr. Edward Hahnenberg, a notable theologian, will deliver an address on Thursday evening. Finally, on Friday, a noon Mass and Latin Benediction will precede the Cardinal’s address later that evening.

All events will be open to local Catholic parishioners, the SXU community and the general public.

Graziano Marcheschi, Executive Director for University Ministry, hopes that the Vatican II commemoration will help students understand what he calls “the single most important religious event of the 20th century.”

The Second Vatican Council took place between 1962 and 1965 to address a number of issues involving the Roman Catholic Church and the modern world. It ended up making a number of dramatic changes regarding church practice.

Marcheschi discussed what he felt were the three most significant changes that the Council brought.

The first, he said, was that Vatican II decided that all people “are called to holiness through whatever vocation God gives them.” No longer did the priests and other clergy have a monopoly on being “holy.”

He said a second major change was the shift from the universal Latin Mass to the vernacular Mass, in which everyone could celebrate in his or her own language. “The Liturgy has become more accessible to the people.”
Finally, he cited the Catholic Church’s “openness to other faiths” as a third result of Vatican II. Irrespective of religion, “The salvation of Christ was made universally to all people of good will,” said Marcheschi.

When asked whether the Catholic Church is once again approaching a turning point right now in the world, Marcheschi maintained that in terms of dogma and practice, the Church is not about to change. He does believe, however, that the role of the laity is rapidly transforming. As the number of clergy is decreasing, the role of ordinary Catholics is increasing. “I think that is where the future is going,” he believes.

For more information regarding specific events, dates, and times, contact Saint Xavier University Ministry at 773-298-3900 or universityministry@sxu.edu.

Be sure to visit The Xavierite’s official website at www.sxustudentmedia.com.
McAuley artwork displayed at SXU

February 14, 2013

The final projects created by Mother McAuley Liberal Arts High School art students recently were on display at the back of the Visual Art Center Gallery at Saint Xavier University.

The projects were created by girls who participated in an Art Education Partnership, a program that allows art SXU education majors to instruct and assist Mother McAuley art students on various projects, including artist books, paper sculpture, graffiti-inspired drawing and metaphorical table settings.

Participating students included Kasey Matthews, of Homewood; Giselle Villasenor, of Orland Park; Ariel Ojeda, of Evergreen Park; Taylor Covington, Janet Kintner, Sara Hoglund, Sarah James and Sara Schiller, all of Chicago’s Beverly community; and Bridget McCafferty, Sara Dust and Becca Jakob, all of Chicago’s Mount Greenwood community.

The projects were designed and taught by Saint Xavier University students Katelynn Peters, Mary Ellen Nilles, Sandra Rodarte and Cynthia Gonzalez.

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Chicago Colleges With the Highest Loan Default and Graduation Rates

February 15, 2013 6:20am

CHICAGO — Within three years of getting their diplomas, more graduates from DeVry, East-West University and the Illinois Institute of Art default on their loans than from any other four-year schools in the city, the federal government says.

The highest monthly loan payments are made by students after they've studied at Columbia College ($302), DePaul ($283) and Loyola ($276).

Those comparisons and more are available through a new website launched by the White House. Chicago college students — and would-be students — can find loan default rates and average monthly loan payments, along with such other essentials as real-cost tuition and graduation rates.

The “college scorecard” will help students “get the most bang for your educational buck,” President Barack Obama said during his State of the Union address this week.

Critics say some data on the interactive site is a few years old, but the administration said the information helps empower families "to make smart investments in higher education."

The tuition listed is not the sticker price, but the cost an average undergraduate student pays after grants and scholarships are subtracted from the total cost of attending.

The graduation rate is the percentage of first-time, full-time students who received their bachelor’s degree within six years.

The default rate is the percentage of borrowers who defaulted on their federal student loans within three years of entering repayment.

The median borrowing number is what the student who borrows the average amount for that school will have to pay per month for 10 years after graduation.

Here are the details on Chicago four-year colleges and universities:
American Academy of Art
Tuition: $24,719
Change between 2007-09: -13.2 percent
Graduation rate: 44.3 percent
Loan default rate: 14.8 percent
Median borrowing: $258.25 per month

Argosy University - Chicago
Tuition: $21,059
Change from 2007-09: None
Graduation rate: NA
Loan default rate: 13.4 percent
Median borrowing: $106.10

Chicago State University
Tuition: $14,797
Change from 2007-09: +20.8 percent
Graduation rate: 21 percent
Loan default rate: 15.2 percent
Median borrowing: $215.78

Columbia College
Tuition: $27,934
Change from 2007-09: +5.9 percent
Graduation rate: 41 percent
Loan default rate: 11.4 percent
Median borrowing: $302.09 per month
DePaul University
Tuition: $24,205
Change from 2007-09: -1.8 percent
Graduation rate: 66.3 percent
Loan default rate: 4.4 percent
Median borrowing: $283.39

DeVry University
Tuition: $25,041
Change from 2007-09: +11.3 percent
Graduation rate: 33.1 percent
Loan default rate: 24.1 percent
Median borrowing: $227.28 per month

East-West University
Tuition: $24,859
Change from 2007-09: +15.9 percent
Graduation rate: 7.7 percent
Loan default rate: 21.8 percent
Median borrowing: $75.79

Harrington College of Design
Tuition: $24,463
Change from 2007-09: +1.9 percent
Graduation rate: 41 percent
Loan default rate: 12.2 percent
Median borrowing: $224.41

Illinois Institute of Art-Chicago
Tuition: $30,084
Change from 2007-09: +9.6 percent
Graduation rate: 30.8 percent
Loan default rate: 18.7 percent
Median borrowing: $227.30

Illinois Institute of Technology
Tuition: $19,456
Change from 2007-09: -2.5 percent
Graduation rate: 63.6 percent
Loan default rate: 4.6 percent
Median borrowing: $258.29

Intl. Academy of Design and Technology
Tuition: $21,110
Change from 2007-09: -11.6 percent
Graduation rate: 18.1 percent
Loan default rate: 28.6 percent
Median borrowing: $241.67

Loyola University
Tuition: $28,976
Change from 2007-09: +5.7 percent
Graduation rate: 69.6 percent
Loan default rate: 5.7 percent
Median borrowing: $276.19

Moody Bible Institute
Tuition: $13,378
Change from 2007-09: zero percent
Graduation rate: 67.2 percent
Loan default rate: Zero percent
Median borrowing: NA

National Louis University
Tuition: $11,965
Change from 2007-09: +43.5 percent
Graduation rate: 25.9 percent
Loan default rate: 6.9 percent
Median borrowing: $191.79

North Park University
Tuition: $19,535
Change from 2007-09: -11.2 percent
Graduation rate: 52 percent
Loan default rate: 10 percent
Median borrowing: $235.91

Northeastern Illinois University
Tuition: $13,373
Change from 2007-09: +14.3 percent
Graduation rate: 23.1 percent
Loan default rate: 10.1 percent
Median borrowing: $126.59

Northwestern University
Tuition: $27,113
Change from 2007-09: +3.6 percent
Graduation rate: 93.6 percent
Loan default rate: 1.8 percent
Median borrowing: $195.39

Robert Morris College - Chicago
Tuition: $18,157
Change from 2007-09: +18.6 percent
Graduation rate: 43.7 percent
Loan default rate: 8.3 percent
Median borrowing: $226.04

Roosevelt University
Tuition: $25,011
Change from 2007-09: +2.8 percent
Graduation rate: 46.5 percent
Loan default rate: 6 percent
Median borrowing: $212.19

St. Xavier University
Tuition: $16,027
Change from 2007-09: -1.5 percent
Graduation rate: 52.2 percent
Loan default rate: 8.4 percent
Median borrowing: $221.61

University of Chicago
Tuition: $29,924
Change from 2007-09: -10.2 percent
Graduation rate: 91.9 percent
University of Illinois at Chicago
Tuition: $8,697
Change from 2007-09: +11.1 percent
Graduation rate: 54.5 percent
Loan default rate: 4.2 percent
Median borrowing: $195.64
SWD Urethane Hires Gary Grunauer as Regional Sales Manager for the Midwest

SWD Urethane announced the recent hiring of Gary Grunauer to the position of Regional Sales Manager for the Midwest.

Mesa AZ (PRWEB) February 16, 2013

SWD Urethane recently announced the recent hiring of Gary Grunauer to the position of Regional Sales Manager covering the US Midwest region. Gary Grunauer joins the SWD Urethane team after most recently serving as a Sales Development Leader for Dow Chemical. “It’s exciting to be with SWD,” shared Grunauer, “They have great quality polyurethane and polyurea products for construction, OEM and geo-technical markets.”

As a trained chemist, Gary was especially interested in SWD Urethane, a privately held systems house located in Mesa, Arizona because, “They have a great record of innovations and advancements. I am looking forward to working with our customers to show them how these innovations make their businesses better.”

Prior to SWD Urethane, Gary had spent over 20 years with Dow Chemical, as the North American Sales Development Leader. Based out of Coal City, IL, Gary received his B.S. from the St. Xavier University of Chicago.

Commenting on the hiring of Gary Grunauer SWD President, Jim Perkins stated, “Gary brings more to the table than your typical salesman. He has experience as a development chemist which gives him a unique understanding of the products and the industry.”

“SWD is a great company and a great opportunity,” said Grunauer, “I look forward to meeting with current SWD customers as well as new potential customers, and showing them how a partnership with SWD really can benefit their business.

Gary may be reached at gary(dot)grunauer(at)swdurethane(dot)com 602-882-4260

SWD Urethane is located in Mesa, Arizona. Founded in 1972, SWD is celebrating 40 years of polyurethane foam. Questions or comments may be directed to craig(dot)mathews(at)swdurethane(dot)com 800-828-1394.
Loretta Neufeld

Posted Online: Feb. 16, 2013, 9:40 pm


Graveside services are 11 a.m. Friday, at Mt. Calvary Cemetery, Davenport. Arrangements are by Halligan-McCabe-DeVries, Davenport.

Loretta moved to California to be closer to her children, Richard, Grover Beach, Lori Beckstrand, Spring Valley, and Mary Fran Cornick (deceased), of La Mesa. Loretta left 15 grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren.

As a graduate from Saint Xavier University Chicago, Illinois in 1939, she was one of four who participated in the first integrated baccalaureate program of nursing in Illinois.

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Charity Briefs for Feb. 19, 2013

February 18, 2013 12:50PM

Text to Give: St. Xavier University’s Department for University Advancement has announced a new “Text to Give” mobile giving campaign to benefit the university’s Class Gift Fund and the St. Xavier Fund. The program allows donors to make $10 donations using their mobile phones through Give by Cell. You can make a gift to the Class Gift Fund by texting CLASSGIFT with your first and last name to 20222, or make a gift to the St. Xavier Fund by texting SXU with your first and last name to 20222. Donors can give multiple times a month depending on your carrier. Donations are tax-deductible, and pledges are billed through your monthly cell phone bill. Messaging and data rates may apply. For information, visit www.givebycell.com.

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The presidents of 17 Sisters of Mercy colleges, along with educators at 32 secondary schools and 9 elementary schools affiliated with the order, have issued a letter calling for new measures to promote "a culture of non-violence" in American society. "The unspeakable use of a military assault weapon to massacre elementary school children compels us as leaders in Mercy education to speak, to say ‘enough.’" says the letter. It calls for "sensible gun control measures" and "robust funding of mental health services." Further, it says that "for the sake of our children and young adults, we reject the overly simplistic belief that increasing armed security personnel in schools will increase student safety."

The letter was signed by the presidents of these colleges and universities: Carlow University, College of St. Mary (Nebraska), Georgian Court University, Gwynedd-Mercy College, Maria College (New York), Marian Court College, Mercyhurst University, Misericordia University, Mount Aloysius College, Mount Mercy University, Saint Joseph’s College of Maine, Saint Xavier University (Illinois), Salve Regina University, Trocaire College, University of Detroit Mercy, University of Saint Joseph (Connecticut) and Mercy College of Health Sciences (Iowa).
Presence Health combines Northwest Side CEO spots

By Claire Bushey February 21, 2013

Presence Health said today that it will combine the top jobs at two Northwest Side hospitals, a step toward streamlining services at institutions located just a few miles apart.

John Baird, CEO of Presence Resurrection Medical Center, will also lead Presence Our Lady of the Resurrection, four miles away. Meanwhile, Martin Judd, the CEO at Our Lady, is taking the top post at Presence Sts. Mary and Elizabeth Medical Center in Wicker Park.

Chicago-based Presence, with revenue of $1.2 billion during the first nine months of 2012, was formed by the 2011 merger of Resurrection Health Care Corp. and Mokena-based Provena Health, creating one of the largest health care networks in the Chicago area.

Presence operates 12 hospitals in the Chicago area, including the 360-bed Resurrection, 7435 W. Talcott Ave., in the Norwood Park neighborhood, and the 269-bed Our Lady, 5645 W. Addison St., in Portage Park.

The two hospitals draw on the same areas, with about 3,400 patients annually transferred from Our Lady to Resurrection for specialty care, the statement said. About 40 percent of the medical staff at Our Lady also practices at Resurrection, Presence says.

As CEO of the combined hospitals, Mr. Baird is expected to lead a planning effort that will include how to integrated the two hospitals to cut costs while improving care.

Mr. Baird, 47, became chief executive at Resurrection Medical Center in September 2011 after six years heading Des Plaines-based Holy Family Medical Center, which was part of Resurrection, according to a press release. The Elmhurst resident played a key role in converting the 188-bed Holy Family into a long-term acute care hospital, from a general acute care facility. He holds an MBA from Duke University and is an avid runner, competing in triathlons and marathons.

Mr. Judd, 52, has spent more than 22 years at Sts. Mary and Elizabeth, including serving as vice-president of professional services. He became CEO of Our Lady in 2011. He holds an MBA from St. Xavier University in Chicago.

Mr. Judd is replacing Margaret McDermott, who announced she was stepping down two weeks ago, after 10 years on the job. The 387-bed medical center is located on two campuses on the near Northwest Side.

Mr. Baird starts his new assignments on April 1, when Mr. Judd shifts to Sts. Mary and Elizabeth, where he will assist Ms. McDermott until her retirement in July.
"It is physically impossible for two men or two women to consummate a marriage, even when they share a deep friendship or love. Does this mean nature is cruel or that God is unfair? No, but it does mean that marriage is what nature tells us it is and that the State cannot change natural marriage. Civil laws that establish “same-sex marriage” create a legal fiction. The State has no power to create something that nature itself tells us is impossible."

-- Cardinal Francis George of Chicago

Yesterday, February 20, 2013, I braved 9 degree F weather and bundled up at 6:00 a.m. in the morning to head down to Springfield, Illinois, in order to visit my state government. I carpooled down there with other Chicago area residents to spend a day at the capitol. Why? The Illinois state government seems to have a peculiar set of priorities in mind this month. So what is the most pressing concern for state legislators -- is it the skyrocketing gas prices in Illinois, the lingering unemployment, the flow of companies out of our state, the continuing pension crisis, or Illinois' inability to pay its own bills? Nope. Apparently the biggest issue out there this month is ensuring two people of the same gender can call their relationship a "marriage", as legislation to "fast track" same sex marriage is moving forward in Springfield now.
On Wednesday, February 20, 2013, at least 3000-4000 Illinois citizens for traditional marriage demonstrated at the state capitol building in Springfield.

The Illinois Senate has already passed the bill, so the Illinois Family Institute invited citizens from across Illinois who believe in traditional marriage to visit Springfield for Defend Marriage Lobby Day on February 20th.

I was the lone Catholic in the car that day, and we noticed a steady flow of other vehicles heading to Springfield on the highway, many with banners showing they were there for Defend Marriage Lobby Day. The official start of the event was 10:30 a.m., and we were fortunate to arrive about an hour earlier when there was still room to park around the state capitol complex and enter the capitol building without having to wait in line. A mere three trips through the metal detector and a brief search, and I was on my way inside the building.

The IFI had booths set up on each side of the hallway with instructions (one side was for citizens who already knew who their state legislator was, the other side was for those who didn't), and they passed out information packets about how to effectively lobby your legislator, and a signed letter to give to them. We were also invited to take a yellow "Marriage: One Man, One Woman" button, with the IFI explicitly stating that the buttons were limited to one per person so there would be enough to go around.

It was a long walk to my legislator's office, and I finally located her office around 10 a.m. My lobbying effort actually went very smooth at that point. I simply walked through the door, introduced myself and stated I was a constituent, and asked to speak to her. The secretary told me that wouldn't be a problem and that she was currently speaking with someone else, but they would put me down on the list next and that I could see her in about 10 minutes. I had a seat on the sofa and waited.

My State Rep. is Kelly Burke (D-36) of Evergreen Park, and she remembered me from brief face to face encounters we had before. She warmly welcomed me into her office with a cheery "Hi, Bill!" She then told me it wasn't necessary to come all the way to Springfield to see her, as she is available in her Oak Lawn office every week, and asked what I had on my mind.

What followed was a back and forth exchange for about 10 minutes about SB10, the bill to legalize "gay marriage" in Illinois. I expressed numerous concerns about the legislation, and told her I thoroughly disagreed with the arguments that it was a "civil rights" bill, or that "young people" favor gay marriage and that it's "inevitable", noting that I am under 35 and certainly do not support the legislation or see it as "civil rights". I also noted that I was highly offended by the tactics of pro-gay marriage groups in calling proponents of traditional marriage "homophobic" and "bigoted", since I am friends with many openly gay people and have no reservations about visiting, working, or interacting with them, and I do not "hate" them or attack them for their gay relationships.

My state representative claimed to be undecided on the legislation, and says she has heard arguments for and against the bill, and is weighing all options. She agreed I made some valid points, and the rhetoric and bully tactics of others was unwarranted and she does not question my sincerity. She also agreed the legislation was being considered perhaps too hastily, and noted that there's a chance the bill might not get called for a floor vote at all, given that so many people are reacting strongly to it.

When I noted that the legalization of same-sex marriage in Massachusetts had lead to Catholic Churches being sued for "discrimination" if they refuse to "marry" a gay couple, my state rep. was quick to point out that the Illinois legislation was different from the Massachusetts version and the Illinois bill exempts churches opposed to gay marriage from performing same sex marriages. Yes, I acknowledged, but then pointed out that it does not exempt religious schools, organizations or businesses owned by persons who are religiously opposed to same sex marriage to opt out of services involved with same sex marriages. As an example, I noted St. Xavier University, a Catholic institution, would be forced to
recognize a gay "marriage" and accommodate them as they would a traditional marriage. My State Rep. acknowledged this could be a problem, but said such universities and hospitals had opened themselves up to that because they serve non-Catholics who do not share their religious beliefs.

Another topic we discussed was the fact that if "marriage" is defined as "love between consenting adults", then legally the government would have to open up marriage to incestuous and polygamous couples. My state rep. did agree this was problematic, but cited examples where such unions wouldn't be recognized, such as barring a son from marrying his mother because of concerns about genetic problems with their offspring. What if the son wants to marry his mother and she's over the age of 50 and went through menopause? I offered. I stated my position that same-sex marriage is actually impossible because they are biologically incompatible and cannot consummate a marriage. "Neither can couples over 70", my state rep. suggested. I concluded our discussion saying they probably couldn't reproduce, but two people over 70 consummating a marriage is certainly possible.

The one issue I noticed my state representative kept talking around was the idea of why the government felt the need to call it "marriage" at all. Less than two years ago, Illinois legalized "civil unions" which granted the exact same benefits to gay couples under law that heterosexual marriages get, the only difference being it didn't use the word "marriage" to describe the same-sex relationship. Furthermore, politicians at the time said it was a "compromise" measure that would satisfy everyone, and that if they got their way, they wouldn't move to introduce gay marriage next. My State Rep. acknowledged my points and offered no answer to these questions.

Around 10:30 p.m., the Defend Marriage Rally took place on the grounds of the state capitol by the Abraham Lincoln statue. It was quite overwhelming to see the turnout of Illinois citizens who converged on the capitol complex, as at least 3000-4000 Illinois citizens for traditional marriage were in the building or on the capitol grounds at that moment (people had lined up for about a block to get into the capitol building; and the capitol hill police had to close the door when it had reached maximum capacity. Perhaps the biggest surprise was the large turnout from African-American and Hispanic churches. About a quarter of those wearing the yellow buttons were black Illinoisans, so their presence was noticeable and they were very energetic and passionate during both the rally and in the capitol building to visit their legislators. Hispanic congregations were quieter but "very sweet and friendly", as one blogger noted.

Catholics parishes represented a large percentage of the concerned citizens, and we spoke for a while with five of the brothers from St. John Cantius Church. About an hour later, I spotted my pastor, Fr. Thomas J. Loya, on the second floor of the rotunda and I met up with him and some other parishioners for lunch, as well as taking a break to give both a TV interview in the camera and speak on the phone live for a radio interview. Other pro-life and pro-family conservatives I encountered during the day included David Smith, the President of IFI, lobbyist Ralph Rivera, central Illinois conservative activist Liz Eilers, and Eric Wallace, a black conservative activist and current Republican candidate for Illinois' 2nd Congressional District.

Overall, the most interesting part of the day was the whole tone of the event. While gay marriage proponents routinely call anyone who disagrees with them "hateful", at no point did any traditional marriage proponents use profanity or expressed a hatred of those on the opposite side of this issue. No one threatened anyone or became obnoxious or angry. Traditional marriage proponents simply prayed and sang patriotic songs. Only two or three pro-gay marriage counter protestors were there that day, mostly to mock our crowd. About 1:00 p.m., the Defend Marriage Day was seemingly drowned out by a much smaller but much, much louder crowd of SEIU (Service Employees International Union) activists, clad in purple ski caps. There were several hundred of them in the capitol rotunda for their own indoor rally, which consisting of screaming slogans like "WHAT DO WE WANT?! HEALTH CARE!!! WHEN DO WE WANT IT?! RIGHT NOW!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!" over and over again. My pastor remarked that they were so loudly screaming that the only words you could make out is "WANT" and "RIGHT NOW", which is why they get their way.
I found out later that many people in Illinois ended up with a very different conclusion from Defend Marriage Day than how my day went. The Chicago media reported that several "hundred" Illinoians showed up at the capitol complex to protest "marriage equality" (nope, there's no liberal bias in the media, I'm sure they'll be referring at the next big Obamacare event as a "small, anti-religious freedom gathering"). Furthermore, it seems the vast majority of traditional marriage proponents who attempted to meet with their state legislator that day came up empty handed -- they were told their legislators were "in committee meetings" and there was no knowing when they would be available. I have to give my State Representative credit for being very kind and taking time out that day to meet and listen to me.

In any case, I was glad I went that day and did my part, since politicians are supposed to work for us (we the people), and not the other way around. Rather than oppose SB10 because the Bible tells me so, I am motivated by a quote from Edmund Burke: "The only thing necessary for evil to triumph is for good men to do nothing"

-Top-
Stuck on you

Published as part of the February 21, 2013 edition.

Saint Xavier University student Aldo Quinones of Oak Lawn shows his enthusiasm at the SXU School of Education's first Pinning Ceremony held Feb. 5. The ceremony was held in honor of the university's teacher education students earning candidacy status in the School of Education, the first major benchmark in the program leading to teacher licensure.

For an online gallery of photos from the event visit the "Saint Xavier University News" Facebook page.
Roosevelt principal moves to Gary schools

By Carmen M Woodson-Wray

Story Posted:02/23/2013

Roosevelt Career and College Academy Principal Terrance Little has quit his job for a position with the Gary Community School Corporation. The Gary School Board hired Little as the Transformation Specialist for Culture, Climate and Special Education within the first year of him being named principal of Roosevelt by EdisonLearning, Inc.

EdisonLearning, Inc. was contracted with by the state of Indiana to take over Roosevelt after continued years of poor academic performance reflected by their test scores. The Gary School District has hired him after he applied for the position to transform the district’s struggling schools. Hired as principal of Roosevelt in May of 2012, Little was never under contract with EdisonLearning, Inc.

With a vote of 5 to 2, the Gary School District hired Little at a salary of $90,000, close to $40,000 less than what he was making as principal of Roosevelt.

Board members Nellie Moore and LaBrenda King-Smith were the nay votes in the hiring of Little, saying the district should not be hiring in the midst of teacher and other employee layoffs and in the middle of the school year.

Charmella Greer, Public Information Specialist for the Gary Community School Corporation, said Little applied for the position and is expected to start his new job by the first of March.

Greer said, “Little was hired by the interviewing panel because he was the best qualified. He will be paid out of a Title I and II Fund and not the General Fund.”

In a statement released to the parents of students at Roosevelt Vanessa Ronketto, Superintendent of the Theodore Roosevelt College and Career Academy said the situation was a personnel matter and they were limited in providing details. She did state that a new principal has already been named.

The following is an excerpt of the letter sent to the parents: “We are pleased to announce that Donna Henry, who currently serves as Director of the Collegiate Academy of Theodore Roosevelt, has been appointed Interim Principal of the school. Ms. Henry is an accomplished teacher and administrator, who served as Academy Director for the Chicago International Charter School’s Longwood Campus prior to coming to Gary. She holds a Master’s degree from St. Xavier
University in Chicago, and a Bachelor’s degree in Education from Illinois State University. Her experience and knowledge perfectly positions her to take on this new role.

In addition, the entire leadership team of Theodore Roosevelt College and Career Academy will adjust their responsibilities to maintain the seamless operation of the school during this transition. We appreciate the contributions made by Terrance Little, and recognize the significant role he has played in helping to establish a foundation for quality learning at Theodore Roosevelt College and Career Academy. Everyone associated with Theodore Roosevelt wishes him the very best in his future endeavors.

Several attempts to reach Little were unsuccessful.
Text to Give: St. Xavier University’s Department for University Advancement has announced a new “Text to Give” mobile giving campaign to benefit the university’s Class Gift Fund and the St. Xavier Fund. The program allows donors to make $10 donations using their mobile phones through Give by Cell. You can make a gift to the Class Gift Fund by texting CLASSGIFT with your first and last name to 20222, or make a gift to the St. Xavier Fund by texting SXU with your first and last name to 20222. Donors can give multiple times a month depending on your carrier. Donations are tax-deductible, and pledges are billed through your monthly cell phone bill. Messaging and data rates may apply. For information, visit www.givebycell.com.
Joe Skibinski, MBA/CPA seeks MVCC Trustee Seat

On February 26, 2013

Please let me introduce myself, I’m Joe Skibinski. I am asking for your support on April 9th in my efforts to join the Board of Trustees at Moraine Valley Community College. I am seeking to fill a two year term that was recently filled by appointment.

Everyone understands the importance of a strong education that provides them with the solid skills necessary for a job, trade or business today. The hard part is delivering it at a price that the student and taxpayer can afford. MVCC is a tremendous and affordable asset for our community. Unlike the large universities downstate or downtown, MVCC students remain in our community long after graduation. Their better lives strengthen our communities, bettering our lives in the process. Many would not be able to learn a trade, retrain for a new career or even consider college if it were not for this institution. I want to make sure that no one’s dreams are ever destroyed for the want of affordable tuition. Furthermore, I want to make sure that you, the taxpayer, get the most for your tax dollar.

I grew up in Oak Lawn. I graduated from Richards, Loyola and DePaul. I’ve spent the majority of my life in a classroom on either side of that desk. My interest in learning attracted me to my now expiring term as an Oak Lawn Library Trustee. During my two years there we have added summer Sunday hours during the depths of our recession so residents could use our computer center to look for work. We’ve invested in innovative technology to keep our future costs and taxes in check. We’ve expanded services to junior high school patrons, keeping good habits intact when so many new distractions are entering their lives. We’ve expanded our programming and outreach efforts. We are even a leading participant in the Chicago Federal Reserve’s “Money Smart Week” program for consumer education. The Oak Lawn Library and it’s staff are a cornerstone in our strong community.

I am a Licensed Certified Public Accountant with DeMarco Sciaccotta Wilkens and Dunleavy in Oak Brook. Our practice focuses on financial audits and corporate tax. The numbers really do matter. Before that I was in the futures industry downtown and worked on the floor at the Chicago Merc. I understand risk. However, my passion is education. Over the last 25 years I have taught accounting and finance classes as an adjunct faculty member at Saint Xavier University, University of Phoenix and most recently Governors State University.

I see so much potential in the future of MVCC, for local residents, businesses and students. I would like see MVCC more directly involved in the community, expand their industrial arts programs, which are a mainstay of our community’s future and make their credit and noncredit classes even more accessible and affordable, for everyone. Everyone has dreams, regardless of your age, occupation or circumstances. Whether you are a student, a mid-life career changer, retiree or a local entrepreneur, let’s make those dreams real!

-Top-
A girl recently saw her school assignment come to life.

A teacher had asked students in the fourth-grade class in Denver to write a letter to someone who was both famous and dead. And right before the annual commemoration of his birth on Feb. 12, British naturalist Charles Darwin talked to the girl about her interest in his life.

"She was tickled that, a few weeks after the assignment, Darwin came to town, and she could come and meet him and talk to him and ask questions," said Brian "Fox" Ellis, who offers first-person monologues on historic figures such as Darwin.

"So, that makes it all worthwhile for me." "So, that makes it all worthwhile for me."

That is the kind of reaction Ellis strives for as he takes on the personas of well-known people.

Ellis gave his presentation as Darwin at St. Xavier University (SXU) in Mt. Greenwood on Feb. 12, Darwin's birthday. Many people and organizations commemorate this date as Darwin Day. Overseen by the International Darwin Day Foundation, the annual event began in 1995 at Stanford University.

A professional storyteller and former science teacher, Ellis has also performed in character as individuals such as St. Francis of Assisi, John James Audubon, Edgar Allan Poe and Walt Whitman. Ellis' presentation was organized by David Kohut, associate librarian at the SXU Robert and Mary Rita Murphy Stump Library.

"Last October, we had Ellis on campus to portray Edgar Allan Poe. He was so well received that we wanted to bring him back," Kohut said. "Although he portrays a number of [historic] figures, I chose Darwin because it's a popular program on college campuses, and we're always trying to attract students."

A revolutionary idea
While portraying Darwin, Ellis lays out the life events and discoveries of the renowned scientist. He discusses Darwin's five-year voyage around the world aboard the HMS Beagle beginning in 1831, which prompted him to research his ideas on evolution through natural selection.

At first controversial, Darwin's work would alter the course of all natural sciences and eventually elevate Darwin to a true legend in his field.

Ellis also notes how Darwin's grandfather, Erasmus Darwin, published a book-long poem laying out his own ideas on evolution long before the young scientist took up the subject. But as Ellis tells his audience, the poem is a philosophical work rather than scientific.

Ellis said he began performing as Darwin several years ago when he was commissioned by the Field Museum of Natural History in Chicago. The museum was opening an exhibit on Darwin, which ran from 2007 to 2008, and Ellis led tours through the exhibit as Darwin.

In researching Darwin's life, Ellis came across correspondence between Darwin and entomologist Benjamin D. Walsh. The letters are kept at the Field Museum for research. Walsh became an ardent supporter of Darwin's work on evolution.

"He was a friend of Darwin's from college who immigrated to Illinois in 1838. At first [he] lived in Chicago for a short while and then moved on farther west near the Quad Cities," Ellis said. "[Walsh was] a brilliant entomologist and the first American scientist to use his original research to confirm Darwin's theory. So, I think it's a name people should know. I've been adamant about that in the beginning, middle and end of the show."

A clash of concepts

Just as noteworthy as Darwin's work on science was his lifelong interaction with religion. Ellis points out in his show that, in Darwin's day, ministers and theologians were the people who pursued scientific research because they had the educational background, and since they only worked on Sundays, they had the time.

Darwin studied for the ministry at Christ's College, Cambridge, but his true passion was examining the natural world. His work on evolution, which culminated in his book "On the Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection," was opposed by many in the religious establishment because it challenged people's view of a supernatural force driving the development of life on Earth.

Most modern societies in the world have long since accepted evolution through natural selection as the foundation of all life sciences. Although he eventually abandoned his religious faith and considered himself an agnostic, Darwin, when he died in 1882, was buried with honors inside Westminster Abbey near Isaac Newton.

The Church of England issued a formal apology to Darwin for opposing his conclusions on evolution, albeit 126 years after his death.

In the United States, however, religious belief remains the primary motivator behind people's reluctance to fully accept evolution. A Gallup poll conducted last year showed that about 46 percent of Americans believe humans in their current form were created by a divine being.

Jerry Coyne is a professor of biology at the University of Chicago. A leading authority on the topic, he countered "One of the biggest misperceptions people have about evolution is that they say it's 'only a theory.' They don't understand how the word 'theory' is used in science," Coyne said.
The term "theory" is defined in science as a well-substantiated set of empirical observations, facts and principles based on rigorous testing through the scientific method. But many people believe the word "theory" is interchangeable with "hypothesis," even using it as a replacement for "hunch." So they often frame evolution as nothing more than an educated guess.

"The problem with people accepting evolution is not a lack of good education," Coyne said. "The opposition to evolution is religious; it always has been."

An encounter with history

As a naturalist and educator, Ellis was motivated to develop a show on Darwin because of his significance in the field of science. Ellis said he adds a new character to his repertoire each year but keeps some around due to their continued popularity.

Kohut believes bringing people like Ellis to the SXU campus complements the school's mission.

"Our primary goals in holding events are to entertain and educate simultaneously. For example, last November we had an astrophysicist address a popular topic-the great 2012 end-of-the-world scare. But along the way, the audience learned something about astronomy," Kohut said. "Ellis' Darwin fit right in; the presentation was both engaging and informative. Also, I was pleased with the response; it drew students, faculty and staff as well as the public."

Learning more facts about historic figures is one reason Ellis enjoys researching their lives. But conveying his enthusiasm for topics such as history, science and literature inspires him to carry on his performances.

Ellis schedules engagements and sells books and CDs through his company, Fox Tales International.

"I think it's fascinating for folks to get at least the sense that they could spend an afternoon with-fill in the blank," said Ellis, alluding to the many people he has portrayed over the years. "It's a character they probably read about or are somehow enamored with the ideas, the intelligence, the discovery that this character presented."
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago Prioress Patricia Crowley, OSB, will discuss the issue of homelessness on Thursday, March 7, at St. Xavier University's Theology South series in the Butler Reception Room, located in the Warde Academic Center, 3700 W. 103rd St. The lecture, "We All Need a Home? A Perspective on Homelessness in Our Times," will begin with coffee at 9 a.m., and the lecture and question-and-answer session are scheduled from 9:30 to 11 a.m. It is open to the public and costs $6. For more information, call Donatta Yates at (708) 422-1635.
State Reps. Kelly Burke and Renee Kosel visit SXU students

February 27, 2013

State Representatives Kelly Burke (D-36) and Renee Kosel (R-81) visited Saint Xavier University's (SXU) Chicago campus on Tues., Feb. 12 to give a presentation to students in Senior Fellow and former 19th Ward Alderman Virginia Rugai's class. Other recent guests included Cook County State's Attorney Anita Alvarez, 34th Ward Ald. Carrie Austin and 39th Ward Ald. Margaret Laurino. Rugai’s class explores the historical evolution of the role of women in the U.S. political system, with particular emphasis on Chicago and Illinois governments. This course will examine how this history has impacted women’s entry into government and election to political office, and includes presentations from many notable female politicians and executives. Students will study how and why women have organized to have a greater role in politics, as well as the skills women need to fully participate in politics and policy making.

-Top-
Dennis Brennan is one of eight candidates running for the District 86 Board of Education in the 2013 election.

Name: Dennis A. Brennan

Position sought: Hinsdale Township High School District 86 Board of Education

Website: www.D86vote.com

Email address: Brennan@d86vote.com

Hometown: Hinsdale

Family: Wife Mary; son Michael, 23

Education: Bachelor's degree in mass communication from St. Xavier University, law degree from The John Marshall Law School.

Occupation: Managing Member and General Counsel, Illinois Energy Aggregation LLC

Years in District 86: 18 years

Previous elected offices: District 86 school board, two terms, six years as president; District 60 school board, one term, two years as board secretary; Merrionette Park village trustee, one term; Alsip-Merrionette Park Library District trustee, one term; DuPage County Board of Health, 14 years.

Applicable experience qualifying you for the position: I have been an attorney and businessman for over 25 years. During the course of that time, I've been involved in the community volunteering as a manager in the Burr Ridge-Willowbrook baseball organization and then as a school board member. I've served both at the elementary school district level at Maercker District No. 60 and for the last eight years on the District 86 Board of Education.

Over the course of those many years, I've had the pleasure to work with fine dedicated administrators, parents, community members, board members, students, and teachers to maintain and build upon the excellence in District No. 86.

What is the primary reason you are running for this office?

Our school district has an excellent reputation. While a lot of work has been done to build on the excellence of the district over the last eight years, the board has additional work to do during the next four years. There are some people that want to “change” things at the school. For many years, the Skoda/Barrett group has attempted to fix what isn’t
broken. I represent the views of the majority of the people in the district that moved to the area for the excellent schools and who do not want to see the district lose its academic standing.

**What will be your single most important priority if you get elected?**

My priority has always been to maintain the academic excellence at District 86 in a fiscally responsible manner. The academic indicators during my tenure have risen and the district maintains a very rare “AAA” Credit rating that few governmental agencies, not alone school districts, earn.

**What sets you apart from the other candidates?**

Experience is the first word that comes to mind. I’ve been on the board for eight years and I’ve had to make both easy and tough decisions. Secondly, my view of the school board is that we set the policy and ask the professional administrators and teachers to carry out the policy. Others disagree with this philosophy and would seek to run the day to day operations. I don’t agree with those that seek to micromanage the schools from the boardroom rather than continuing the process that has worked so well for our children.

I view the job differently than my opponents. I don’t want to micromanage the schools. I believe that the school board has three main responsibilities:

- Maintain and improve academic excellence at both schools
- Provide our students and staff with safe and functional facilities.
- Provide academic and extracurricular programs within a fiscal responsible manner

I believe that board members have to be reasonable in their approach to issues that may arise in the future. For the last 8 years, I’ve tried to be reasonable and work toward solutions. The board has accomplished great things during the last four years and I would like to be part of the process for the next four years.

**What do you believe is District 86’s biggest strength?**

The district’s greatest asset is its students and their families. Most of us moved to the area because of the outstanding educational opportunities available for our children. District 86 has a supportive family structure that ensures that the students that are enrolled in our schools have the distinct advantage of knowing that people care about their futures. The students are motivated by their parents and teachers to reach their full potential. At the same time, our students are also self-motivated to succeed.

During my tenure, we’ve reduced costs by $1.6 million dollars and we’ve maintained eight consecutive balanced budgets eliminating deficit spending.

**What do you believe is District 86’s biggest weakness?**

The greatest weakness is the fact that our district must depend almost solely on property taxes for its funding. The State of Illinois provides only $218 per student for our school district, while providing Chicago Schools and some other districts as much as $6,300 per student. Despite the disparity, District 86 is recognized as the second highest performing school district in the state while its funding per pupil ranks twelfth. We are doing more with less.

**Do you support the district’s ruling in favor of Hinsdale South staff on a parent’s curriculum objection last year of the showing of American Beauty and Brokeback Mountain? Do such movies have a place in high school classrooms?**

The board acted correctly and courageously in supporting parental control of the curriculum. Mr. Casini and his running mates sought to substitute their judgment for the parents of each and every student in this elective class. As board
members, we should not be interfering with a parent’s decision. In this case, every parent, including Mr. Casini signed a parental consent form for the movies. Every parent had the right to withdraw their son or daughter if they found it objectionable. It is unfortunate that some people, with the support of outside organizations, have chosen to make this an issue.

In terms of a school district, how would you describe a board that is fiscally responsible? Does District 86 currently have a fiscally responsible board?

The definition of fiscal responsibility includes balancing budgets, creating reserves for emergencies, actively improving the facilities through long-term financing while adjusting to ever increasing federal and state mandates while producing a quality education for the students at a reasonable price for the taxpayers. Absolutely, the board majority is fiscally responsible. We’ve maintained reserves at a level of about 25% while providing necessary mechanical improvements, security improvements and air quality improvements to both campuses at a cost of about $27 per household for three years. The board instituted cost containments in the amount of $1.6 million during my term while improving test scores, academic growth numbers, and AP exam participation. 96% of our students go to college. This election truly is a story of “If it isn’t broke, don’t fix it”.

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SXU's Theology South will discuss homelessness

Published as part of the February 28, 2013 edition.

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago Prioress Patricia Crowley, O.S.B., will discuss the issue of homelessness on Thursday, March 7 at the next lecture in Saint Xavier University's Theology South series.

The program will take place in the Butler Reception Room, in the Warde Academic Center at SXU's Chicago campus, 3700 W. 103rd St.

The lecture, titled "We All Need a Home … A Perspective on Homelessness in Our Times?," begins with coffee at 9 a.m., and the lecture and question-and-answer session are scheduled from 9:30 to 11 a.m. It is open to the public and costs $6.

Crowley became a member of the Benedictine Sisters of Chicago in 1958. From 1991 to 2004, she served as executive director of Deborah’s Place, a not-for-profit organization that provides shelter, supportive housing, and services to homeless women in Chicago. Under her leadership, Deborah’s Place became the largest provider of housing and shelter for women in Chicago.
Thursday | 7

Theology Series: St. Xavier University. 3700 W. 103rd St., Chicago, will host Patricia Crowley, for “We All Need a Home...A Perspective on Homelessness in our Times” from 9 to 11 a.m. Thursday. Cost is $6. Information: (708) 422-1635

-Top-
St. Xavier University’s School of Education hosted its first pinning ceremony on Feb. 5 in honor of SXU’s teacher education students earning candidacy status in the School of Education, the first major benchmark in their program leading to teacher licensure.

Illinois Superintendent of Education Christopher Koch attended the ceremony, which took place at the university’s Chicago campus.

“This ceremony is a way to celebrate the achievements of more than 200 SXU education majors that have reached the first major benchmark in their educational journey,” School of Education dean Beverly Gulley said.

Each student pledged to follow the Illinois Educator Code of Ethics throughout their careers, which contains five core principles providing a foundation for the responsibilities and commitments of all professional educators.

These core principles, including meeting the educational needs of all students, are considered fundamental to the profession SXU candidates have chosen to enter.

For an online gallery of photos from the event, visit the “Saint Xavier University News” Facebook page.

Information about SXU’s School of Education is at sxu.edu, keyword: education.
USF Men's Basketball Falls to No. 9 Saint Xavier

Posted on February 6, 2013 at 10:05 pm

Saint Xavier University's Anthony Grant scored a game-high 22 points to lead the ninth-ranked Cougars to a 68-41 win over the University of St. Francis in Chicagoland Collegiate Athletic Conference men's basketball action Wednesday night at the Sullivan Center. | Box Score

The Cougars (23-4, 19-2 CCAC) took a 7-6 lead 3:16 into the game and remained on top the rest of the way.

Leading 32-24 at the intermission, Saint Xavier opened the second period with a 14-2 run to open up a 46-26 advantage. The Cougars maintained at least a 20-point gap for the game's final 8:06.

Grant connected on 11 of 12 attempts from the field while collecting three assists and three steals.

Brad Karp and Roosevelt Green joined Grant in double digits with 12 and 10 points, respectively. Green handed out a game-high six assists.

Freshman Edvinas Presniakovas (Plainfield, Ill./ Plainfield South) was the lone Saint to tally double figures, finishing with 12 points. Senior Michael Cole (Chicago, Ill./ Manley) led USF with eight rebounds in 18 minutes off the bench.

USF, which dropped its fourth straight game at the Sullivan Center and its second in a row overall, returns to action at home Saturday at 7 p.m. against Holy Cross College.

-Top-
USF Women's Basketball Stuns #8 Saint Xavier on Last-Second Basket

Posted on February 6, 2013 at 10:04 pm

JOLIET, Ill. – Senior Marissa Draper's (Joliet, Ill./ Joliet Township) tip-in with less than one second remaining in the contest gave the University of St. Francis women's basketball team a 57-55 upset victory over No. 8-ranked Saint Xavier University in Chicagoland Collegiate Athletic Conference action Wednesday night at the Sullivan Center. | Box Score

With the Saints trailing 55-54, sophomore Katie Gonnering (Seymour, Wis./ Freedom) drew a foul and went to the line for two shots with :02 left to play. After making the first attempt to tie the game, she missed the second, but Draper snared the rebound and with time about to expire sent it into the basket to give the Saints (12-14, 11-8 CCAC) the come-from-behind win.

Saint Xavier (21-5, 15-5) built an early 17-4 lead, but the Saints trimmed the deficit to 33-30 by halftime.

USF took its first lead of the second half, 38-37, at the 15:08 mark on a three-pointer by freshman Alexis Brown (Shiloh, Ill./ Belleville East), who finished the night with four treys and a team-high 14 points.

The Saints held a 50-49 edge with 3:40 remaining when Saint Xavier went on a 6-1 run to go up 55-51 with 1:21 left in the game. Brown's fourth three-pointer of the night brought USF to within a point, 55-54, just 12 seconds later.

Suzie Broski paced Saint Xavier with 12 points, while Niara Harris finished with 10. Morgan Stuut pulled down a game-high 17 rebounds.

Freshman LaTrece Harris (Chicago, Ill./ Bogan) added 10 points for the Saints, who completed a season series sweep of Saint Xavier. USF downed the Cougars 74-68 in Chicago back on Dec. 16.

USF snapped a two-game overall losing streak and a three-game skid at home, while Saint Xavier suffered its first road setback in seven games.

USF returns to action at home Saturday against Holy Cross College. Tipoff at the Sullivan Center is set for 5 p.m.

-Top-
The No. 12 ranked Saint Xavier University men’s basketball team has been on an absolute tear as of late winning their last 11 games and 19 of their last 20 contests. SXU added another two wins since January 30 and are now sitting at a record of 22-4 overall as well as an 18-2 record in the Chicagoland Collegiate Athletic Conference (CCAC).

Senior point guard Anthony Grant scored 14 points Saturday. The Cougars defeated Judson University (Ill.) on the road on January 30 by the final score of 75-67, and then Saint Xavier returned home for a match-up against Purdue University Calumet on Saturday, February 2; a game SXU won, 94-86. The Cougars used balanced scoring and a tough defense to win both conference battles.

Beginning with the most recent contest for Saint Xavier, SXU found themselves in a tough battle with the visiting Peregrines from Purdue University Calumet (Ind.) on Saturday, February 2, at the Shannon Center in Chicago. The Cougars prevailed in the contest by the final score of 94-86.

Saint Xavier had four players reach double figures on the night led by sophomore guard Jack Krieger who had a career-high night. Krieger shot a perfect 13-of-13 from the free throw line and ended the afternoon with a career-best 27 points to go along with 10 rebounds and three blocks.

“I had been working on my free throw shooting during practice this week and that was something that I wanted to stress so I made sure I knocked those down. This was a hard fought game for us, but all that matters is we came out with a W,” said Krieger.

Senior point guard Roosevelt Green posted 24 points and four assists in 35 minutes of action on the afternoon as well. Senior point guard Anthony Grant and senior forward Dominique Harvey each reached double figures as Grant chipped in 14 and Harvey added 12 points off the bench.

“This was a tough game and we really did not play the way that we had wanted to. We played a good first five minutes where we jumped out to a big lead, but we have to continue that play for the following 35 minutes. We just have to play better going forward,” said Grant.

The Cougars only found themselves tied one time in the early going at 2-2 and from that point forward they never looked back en route to the eight point victory.

Saint Xavier defeated Judson University on Wednesday, January 30, 75-67 following four players scoring in double figures for the visiting SXU. The Cougars were led by Grant who scored 20 points in 32 minutes of action.
Sophomore guard Jack Krieger had a career-high 27 points Saturday afternoon.

Harvey recorded a double-double in the game with 15 points and 11 boards. Green and Krieger also tallied double digit games with 13 and 10 points, respectively.

Saint Xavier trailed in the game by 10 points with under four minutes to go in the first half at 30-20, but SXU used a 26-0 run over the final minutes of the first half and the first seven minutes of the second half to take a 46-30 lead over the host Eagles. The game was a seesaw battle all the way throughout that saw six tie scores as well as nine lead changes in the contest.

Junior guard Brad Karp did not play in the contest due to a minor leg injury, but the Cougars rallied in the game and pulled out a hard fought victory. Saint Xavier shot a blistering hot 58 percent from the field in the second half after shooting just 35 percent in the first half of action.

Saint Xavier travels to Joliet, Ill., to take on the University of Saint Francis Fighting Saints on Wednesday, February 6. The game is set for a 7 p.m. tip-off.

There are only four more regular season games left for the Cougars and the next home game will be “Senior Night” for SXU on Wednesday, February 13, against Purdue University – North Central at 7 p.m. Come on out and support your Cougars!

For more Saint Xavier News and Sports, visit sxustudentmedia.com.

-Top-
West Des Moines Valley Standouts Jake Campos, Peter Jok and 26 Others Sign on National Signing Day

Students will play football, basketball, baseball, softball soccer, golf, and run track and cross country for University of Iowa, Iowa State University and a host of other public and private schools.

By Beth Dalbey Email the author February 7, 2013

Nearly 30 West Des Moines Valley athletes – including the Tigers’ Jake Campos and Peter Jok, standouts on the gridiron and the hardwood, respectively – signed letters of intent Wednesday on National Signing Day.

Here’s the list from the West Des Moines Community School District’s web site.

Ben Miller: Baseball at University of Nebraska
Tanner Hinkle: Baseball at University of Iowa
Nick Carlisle: Baseball at Simpson College
Peter Jok: Basketball at University of Iowa
Wesley Brown: Basketball at Morningside college
Jake Campos: Football at Iowa State University
Andrew Marshall: Football at St. Ambrose University
Tanner Stine: Football (school not specified)
Holden Kramer: Football at Iowa State University
Alex Langer: Football (school not specified)
Nicolas Brennan: Football (school not specified)
Clint Boffeli: Football (school not specified)
Sam Raridon: Football at University of Wisconsin
Lucas Tang: Football/track at U.S. Air Force Academy
Isaac Vandersee: Golf at Indian Hills Community College
Broc Everett: Golf at Augusta State University (Georgia)
Lauren Stillman: Soccer at Simpson College
Grace Nichols: Soccer at Hamine University (St. Paul, MN)
Maddie Vincent: Soccer at Montana University
Gabbie Risolvato: Soccer at St. Xavier University-Chicago
Callie Brown: Softball at St. Xavier University-Chicago
Alex Maxfield: Softball at Benedictine College
Joshua Henaman: Track at University of Dubuque
Tyson McQuerry: Track (school not specified)
Melissa Shepherd: Track at Northwest Missouri State University
Ben Anderson: Cross country/track at University of Iowa
Lee Scott: Cross country/track at Wartburg College
Lydia Saggau: Cross country/track at University of Kansas

Top
Cougars athletes honored for academics

Published as part of the February 7, 2013 edition.

SXU sports summary

These student-athletes pay attention to more than just playbooks.

With six members of the women's volleyball team leading the way, St. Xavier University placed a total of 18 individuals on the Chicagoland Collegiate Athletic Conference All-Academic squad for the fall semester. To be nominated, a student-athlete must have been enrolled at his or her respective conference institution for a minimum of one academic year, completed at least 30 semester hours and carry at least a 3.25 cumulative grade-point average.

Chosen from the Cougars' volleyball team were seniors Desiree Aramburu (Mother McAuley), Christine Bowe, Kelly Knudsen (Oak Lawn), Kayla Mullaney and Colleen O'Hara and sophomore Kelli Shaffer. Representing SXU's women's soccer squad on the allacademic team were seniors Sara Cervenka, Sam Formella and Nancy Schueth, junior Molly Sheehan (Stagg) and sophomore Danielle Inzinga (Marist).

Men's soccer players selected were sophomores AJ Pfatschbacher and David Rodriguez. Recognized from the Cougars' two cross country programs were seniors Ricky Olmedo and Ashley Shares, junior Shane Kenney, and sophomores Mark Catania and Amanda Magee.

In total, the CCAC honored 305 student-athletes from its 15 member institutions. The 2012 class of award winners represented an increase of 31 over that of 2011, when 274 student-athletes were recognized.

WOMEN'S TRACK

Seniors Rachael Dean and Ashley Shares (Stagg) both improved their "A"-standard qualifying times to highlight the Cougars' appearance at Illinois Wesleyan University's Bob Keck Invitational last weekend in Bloomington.

Dean won the indoor mile and set a school record with her time of 5 minutes, 6.07 seconds. Her previous- best clocking was 5:10.41. Shares finished second overall in the 5,000-meter run by completing the race in 17:57.43, an improvement of 16.21 seconds over her previous qualifying effort.

Dean, Shares and SXU's other qualifiers will take part in the NAIA Indoor Track & Field National Championships that begin Feb. 28 and run through March 1 at the SPIRE Institute in Geneva, Ohio.

"The team is really running well and looking strong right now," Cougars coach Lisa Ebel said. "It was great to see Rachael and Ashley improve on their already- impressive times. We just have to continue to work hard and stay focused, and I strongly believe that our team performance at nationals will be the best this program has ever seen."
Senior Jackie Ott ran well for SXU in the 800 at the Keck Invitational, where she placed ninth in 2:25.16. Junior teammate Leslie Rosario was six positions behind Ott after reaching the finish line in 2:26.62. Freshman Lexi McDermid competed in the 200- and 400-dashes, where she posted respective times of 29.41 and 1:06.32.

The Cougars will compete in the Chicagoland Championships, hosted by North Central College, on Friday. The meet gets underway at 4 p.m.

MEN’S VOLLEYBALL

Freshman middle blocker Sam Kull recorded 13 kills with no attack errors and added a team-best six total blocks, but the Cougars suffered a 21-25, 25-16, 25-21, 25-23 nonconference loss to NCAA Division III Milwaukee School of Engineering last Wednesday at the Kern Center.

Junior outside hitter Justin Cousin contributed 15 kills and nine digs for SXU, while sophomore middle blocker Sean Blackwood finished with 11 kills, seven digs and four block assists. Also producing solid performances were sophomore setter Dan French (39 assists, five digs, three block assists) and senior Nick Piccirillo (team-high 10 digs).

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Kull continued his strong play on Friday, but his total of 20 kills, 11 total blocks and six service aces couldn't prevent the Cougars from dropping two matches at the Cardinal Stritch Tri-Match in Milwaukee.

SXU (0-7, 0-4) fell to a 29-31, 25-23, 25-21, 25-19 defeat against Mid-America Men's Volleyball Intercollegiate Conference rival Robert Morris University in the opening encounter and then suffered another four-set defeat versus the host school later in the day. The No. 9-ranked Wolves prevailed by scores of 25-21, 25-21, 22-25, 25-16.

Cousin (18 kills, 11 digs) and Blackwood (17 kills, 16 digs) were other key contributors for the Cougars. French distributed 68 assists, to go along with 17 digs and eight total blocks.

SXU hosted Robert Morris in a rematch this past Tuesday at the Shannon Center.

MEN’S SOCCER

Mike Collevy, a senior center back and center midfielder at Marist, recently signed a letter of intent to continue both his academic and athletic careers at SXU next fall.

Cougars coach Ed Vucinic is thrilled with the addition of Collevy, an all-sectional pick of the Illinois High School Soccer Coaches Association and player for the Inter F.C. club based in Oak Forest, and is interested in finding out where the newcomer can best be utilized at SXU.

"Just like our previous signee Kamil Szczesniak, Mike is yet another quality player to come to our program from Inter F.C.,” Vucinic said. "The players coming out of Inter F.C. have been excellent for us over the years.

"We are very happy that Mike decided to join our program and extremely curious to see how he'll fit into the mix and how quickly he'll do that. The center-back position is a spot we're looking to strengthen and Mike has an opportunity to compete for some significant playing time as a freshman. I think he has a great mentality for the position and some quality leadership skills that will serve him well.

"There is no doubt in my mind he will be a significant part of the program. The question is whether that happens right out of the gate or a year or two down the road."

BASEBALL
Casey Papp, a sophomore catcher at Joliet Junior College, has signed a letter of intent to continue both his education and athletic career at SXU next fall.

As a freshman at Joliet last spring, Papp helped the Wolves capture the National Junior College Athletic Association Division III national championship, the third title in program history under coach Wayne King. Papp brought home the game-tying run on an RBI single in the bottom of the sixth inning of the World Series finale.

Following the NJCAA World Series, Papp was one of three JJC players named to the all-tournament team.

Prior to that, Papp was a standout prep baseball player at Providence Catholic. During his senior season, the Celtics were the Class 4A runners-up.

"We are really excited about adding Casey to our roster for the 2014 season," Cougars coach Mike Dooley said. "He has found success wherever he has played ball, both at Providence Catholic and then at Joliet Junior College, and I think he will find more success when he starts playing for the Cougars next spring. He is a great player and I know that he will have a nice career here at SXU."

SOFTBALL

Callie Brown, a senior pitcher/ outfielder at Valley High School in West Des Moines, Iowa, recently signed a letter of intent with SXU. She plans to pursue a degree in pre-medicine when she enrolls next fall.

Cougars coach Myra Minuskin is thrilled with the addition and believes that Brown, a two-time third-team member of the Iowa Girls Coaches Association All-State squad, possesses the necessary tools to have a very successful collegiate career.

"Callie knows what it takes to compete and be successful at a high level," Minuskin said. "Her experience and fierce competitiveness will definitely help our program. We are so excited that she has selected to continue her playing career at St. Xavier University."

Also new to the Cougars' roster in 2014 will be Shepard senior Franchesca Graffeo. Graffeo will enroll at SXU next fall and study elementary education, with an emphasis in special education.

FOOTBALL

Cougars coach Mike Feminis recently released the names of four more local prep standouts who are part of his 2013 recruiting class. The group includes defensive back Jake Lemming, wide receiver Dennis Vilimek, quarterback/running back Robyn Pondexter and punter Joe Pavlik.

Feminis likes the skill sets each of the players brings to his respective position and strongly believes that most, if not all, of them will compete for playing time right away.

As a junior in 2011, Lemming led the state with nine interceptions and helped lead Lemont to the Class 6A semifinals. This past season, he had a key fumble recovery in the Indians' 28-27 semifinal loss to eventual 6A champ Crete-Monee.

"Jake is the entire package and can play anywhere in the secondary," Feminis said. "He has the quick feet and exceptional coverage skills to play corner, but he is also a very sure tackler and has the instincts to be an outstanding free safety. If Jake was 180 pounds instead of 160, he'd probably be a borderline Division I recruit, so we are fortunate to get him."

Vilimek was an offensive force for Andrew, Pondexter played quarterback during his prep career at Julian and Pavlik was the starting punter for the Class 8A state-champion Caravan. He averaged 42.5 yards per punt in the title contest.
"Dennis is a terrific athlete as well and reminds me a bit of [current receiver and Andrew grad] Nick DeBenedetti, who is on his way to having a great career at St. Xavier," Feminis said. "He is a smooth route runner with soft hands and has the ability to make guys miss. I wouldn't be surprised if Dennis helps us sooner rather than later.

"Robyn played quarterback at Julian, but will likely be a running back for us. He's very shifty and extremely strong for his size, plus his vertical jump [of 37 inches] is unbelievable. We think he has a chance to do some great things in our offense.

"Joe will likely be our punter for the next four years. He has a strong leg, but the fact that he has kicked both conventionally and rugby style really intrigued us. Joe's also a nice athlete who can run, so we can be pretty creative with him."

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

After netting the NAIA Women's Basketball Player of the Week award as well as the CCAC Women's Basketball Player of the Week award twice, sophomore guard/forward Morgan Stuut was selected as the World Hyundai-St. Xavier January Athlete of the Month when the honor was announced last Friday.

Stuut, a nursing major at SXU, was publicly recognized with a certificate from World Hyundai-Matteson prior to Saturday's conference game against Purdue University Calumet at the Shannon Center.

Stuut helped lead the Cougars to a perfect 9-0 record in January by averaging team bests of 17.0 points and 12.1 rebounds per game during the 31-day stretch, as well as 3.7 assists, 2.0 steals and 1.2 blocks. One of Stuut's best individual performances came on Jan. 12 in an 81-61 victory over Roosevelt University, when she posted a double-double of 25 points and 19 rebounds.

Stuut's efforts in that game, plus solid outings in SXU's wins over Olivet Nazarene and Indiana University-South Bend all factored into her capturing of the national award. Stuut tallied 26 points versus the Tigers and finished with 19 points and 16 boards opposite the Titans.

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Cougars coach Bob Hallberg was hoping his team could win its final six games of the regular season, capture the CCAC title and begin the NAIA Division II Tournament with a surge of momentum.

After dropping an 87-81 decision on Saturday to Purdue University Calumet, SXU fell short of the first goal, but it still has a chance to make good on the next two. The Cougars won their first game last week, 69-37 over Judson University, but the loss to PUC snapped their 14-game victory streak and also allowed Roosevelt University to overtake SXU and gain sole possession of first place in the CCAC.

With just four games to play in the regular season over the next two weeks - three of them critical conference matchups - the Cougars (21-4, 15-4) will need outside help in order to regain a share of the lead.

"Our winning streak finally came to an end, [so] we'll have to start up a new one now," Hallberg said. "We have four games left that we really need to win, and we need to hope that Olivet [Nazarene] or Purdue can beat Roosevelt and knock them out of first place."

Against Judson, Stuut scored 15 points and pulled down 12 rebounds for her 15th doubledouble of the season. She also had four assists, four steals and two blocks in the contest. Sophomore guard Suzie Broski equaled Stuut's scoring output, doing so on 5-of-8 shooting.
Junior forward Chrissy Heine also tallied in double figures for the Cougars, complementing her 12 points with six rebounds. Sophomore forward Margaret Wildner provided a nice lift off the bench with eight points and four boards.

SXU out-rebounded Judson 52-38 and also made 11 steals, which were a significant part of the Eagles' 20-turnover total.

Nevertheless, it was a slow start for the Cougars, who scored only six points in the game’s first six minutes and trailed by one before a 3-pointer by junior guard Jordan Brandt sparked a 13-4 run. That gave SXU a 19-11 lead with just under 10 minutes to play in the opening half.

The Cougars continued to wear down Judson and took a 30-18 advantage into halftime. SXU dominated in the second half, quickly extending its lead and owning at least a 20-point edge for most of the session.

The Cougars' defense limited the Eagles to just five field goals and 21 percent shooting after the break. Judson finished with an overall field-goal percentage of 25.

"We did everything right against Judson," Hallberg said. "We were able to put pressure on them and were able to create some turnovers.

"It was a fun game to coach and made for a good evening. Everybody got in and scored. We did a nice job, executed well and had a nice balance."

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In their six-point loss to PUC, the Cougars came back from a 17-point deficit to tie the game at 75-all with just over three minutes remaining, only to fall short down the stretch. The loss ended an SXU win streak that had begun on Dec. 18.

Heine had a big game for the Cougars as she established a career high in single-game scoring with 22 points, which she augmented with seven rebounds. Her previous high points-wise was 16, which were collected in a victory over Huntington University on Dec. 28, 2012.

Other notable performers for SXU included Brandt (15 points), Broski (10 points, team-best 11 rebounds), Wildner (nine points, 10 rebounds) and Stuut (nine points, eight rebounds).

"Purdue Calumet was a game we knew we had to win, and we knew what we had to do," Hallberg said. "I believe they're the best offensive team in the conference. They can hurt you at all five positions.

"They don't have a weak offensive player in their lineup. They can hit you with 3-point baskets and they can drive to the bucket - they're a difficult team to shut down.

"I told the girls that if the game gets up into the 80s, we were probably going to be in trouble because we usually don't score that much against a good offensive team. Unfortunately, I was right. They're a very good free-throw shooting team, [too] - automatic just about every time."

The Cougars struggled offensively in the first half, hitting only 31 percent of their shots, which allowed the visiting Peregrines to build an edge that grew as large as 14 points. SXU trailed 35-27 at the break, but PUC came out firing in the second half to take a 53-36 lead with 14:37 left.

The Cougars, however, did not go down quietly. They slowly chipped away at the big deficit over the next 10 minutes before closing to within 73-71 at the 4:18 mark on a Wildner layup.

Another layup on SXU's next possession, this one by Stuut, knotted the score at 73. Following a Peregrines bucket, Heine created another tie by knocking down a jumper with 3:13 remaining.
Unfortunately for the Cougars, PUC also tallied on its next possession, which put it in front to stay. SXU had its chances in the final two minutes as it was behind by no more than three points multiple times, but the Cougars called a timeout they did not have with 25 seconds remaining.

That allowed the Peregrines to pick up an extra point at the charity stripe. They then hit two more free throws on their next possession to secure the victory.

"It was exciting to be able to come back and tie the game after being down by 17," Hallberg said. "But turnovers and that ill-advised timeout hurt because they went from being up two to being up three and [also having] the possession. We then missed a 3 to tie it.

"It was down to the wire, but we just didn't get the job done. When you put yourself in hole the way we did, that's a lot to have to come back from."

Hallberg credited PUC for its ability to defend SXU's two most explosive players, Broski and Stuut. He also admitted the offensive struggles experienced by the backcourt duo of Romisha Taylor and Niara Harris, who shot a combined 3-of-17 from the floor, didn't help matters.

"Purdue Calumet also did a good job of shutting down both Suzie and Morgan," Hallberg said. "They put their best two players on them. Chrissy Heine stepped up and probably had the best game of her career, but we're struggling at the guard spot. We didn't get good offensive production from them, and you need that against good offensive teams.

"Romisha, however, is our best defensive player and can guard two players at the same time. But somebody has to be able to step up [and score] at the guard spot, and we're really one short in that department [after two guards suffered season-sending ACL injuries]. In the previous seasons, we could count on a guard like Marissa Young to give us both consistent offense and defense."

After a big midweek conference road battle against rival University of St. Francis on Wednesday, the Cougars prepared to battle Trinity International University in a CCAC road contest on Saturday.

"St. Francis was the team that really woke us up, and our winning streak began after that loss," Hallberg said. "We simply can't make a mistake coming down the stretch.

"We really have to win our last four games if we want to still pull out conference. We were controlling our own destiny until now." - Anthony Nasella

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Some might say that as Brad Karp goes, so go the Cougars.

Such a theory is understandable, given the junior guard's gaudy statistics. But last Wednesday, SXU proved it is not solely dependent on one man.

When Karp went out, the Cougars did not go down. An ankle injury kept Karp sidelined for SXU's CCAC road matchup with Judson University, but into his spot stepped senior Dominique Harvey.

Normally the sixth man in coach Tom O'Malley's rotation, Harvey produced a double-double of 15 points and 11 rebounds to help the Cougars record their 10th straight win as they beat the Eagles 75-67 at the Lindner Fitness Center in Elgin. Also contributing to the cause were senior guard Anthony Grant (team-best 20 points), senior guard Roosevelt Green (13 points, team-high seven assists) and sophomore guard Jack Krieger (10 points, seven rebounds).
"That's a building block for us," O'Malley said, referring to his team's ability to prevail in spite of Karp's absence. "When you've got a guy as good as Brad Karp, who gets 22 or 24 points and nine or 10 rebounds every game, that's a lot to replace.

"[But] when you put reserves in, you see their worth and what value they have. Dominique Harvey took over and had a very good game."

Things did not start off especially well for SXU, which found itself in arrears by 10 points with 3:26 remaining in the first half. Asked what was going through his mind when he saw his club with a total of just 20 points after 16½ minutes, O'Malley replied: "How can this be this bad? We got a little upset at halftime."

Actually, the situation began improving for the Cougars before intermission. Harvey's jumper sparked a closing 8-0 run by SXU, which also featured Grant's layup - a basket set up by a Harvey steal and Kreiger assist - plus four free throws.

And the best was yet to come. The Cougars ushered in the second half by embarking on a game-turning 18-0 blitz. Grant contributed three field goals to the surge, Harvey hit a layup and putback, and three other SXU players also tallied.

Judson did not pick up its initial points of the half until 7½ minutes had elapsed. The Eagles never seriously challenged the Cougars after that, although a flurry of late buckets enabled the hosts to make the final score more respectable.

"The game was all one-sided [until then]," O'Malley said. "We figured we could do that, but sometimes we let up a little bit defensively when we get a big lead. We got a little rambunctious and played a little too fast."

Judson matched SXU by having four players reach double digits, but none of them netted more than 12 points.

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Karp returned on Saturday, but according to his coach, "didn't play as well as he normally does, which is excellent." Still, Karp delivered nine points and seven rebounds on the Cougars' behalf, which helped them notch a 94-86 CCAC triumph over Purdue University Calumet at the Shannon Center.

Krieger was SXU's headliner as he accrued a career-high 27 points, to go along with 10 rebounds and three blocks. He garnered nearly half of his scoring output at the foul line, where he went a perfect 13-of-13. Green (24 points, four assists, two steals), Grant (14 points, five rebounds, five assists) and Harvey (12 points, eight rebounds, three blocks) were other notables for the NAIA Division II No. 12 ranked Cougars (22-4, 18-2).

The win was SXU's 19th in its last 20 contests and kept it just one game behind CCAC leader Cardinal Stritch. No other teams are in the hunt for the league crown.

In O'Malley's opinion, "the game was a pretty even game after the first five minutes," but that was all the time needed for the Cougars to take control of the proceedings. They did so by tallying 17 of the first 21 points in a span of just over four minutes.

Grant led the assault with three buckets and a free throw, while Green and Kreiger each sank two baskets and Karp hit a putback. SXU fired away at a 56 percent clip from the floor in the opening half and racked up 58 points.

Behind Roddy Richardson's double-double of 20 points and 10 rebounds, the Peregrines never disappeared from view. However, the visitors were unable to ever bring their deficit below six points.

"We thought we were in pretty good shape," O'Malley said. "The one thing people have to understand [is that] you can make somebody's season now by them beating you, so we've got be ready all the time."
O'Malley didn't think the Cougars did not operate at peak efficiency last week, which made their pair of conquests particularly important.

"It's been a pretty good run, and you'd like to think you're playing your best at this time of year," he said. "We didn't last week, but we got through a couple games. I took a glass of water, so hopefully those hiccups are gone."

SXU faced off against CCAC rival University of St. Francis this past Wednesday in Joliet and venture to Deerfield on Saturday for an encounter with Trinity International University. - Ken Karrson
Lemont High School Seniors Receive Athletic Scholarships

McAuliffe, O’Brien, Lemming to play college football; Hamman and McKeivitt, college soccer.

February 8, 2013

Three Lemont High School seniors have received scholarships to play college football beginning in 2013. Offensive lineman Tim McAuliffe (6’2”, 275) signed a National Letter of Intent with Bowling Green State University; linebacker Connor O’Brien (6’2”, 205) signed a National Letter of Intent with the University of North Dakota; and defensive back Jake Lemming (5’10”, 160) has received a scholarship to play at Saint Xavier University.

Ethan Pocic, a Parade All-American who was one of the top offensive line recruits in the country, graduated in December and already has enrolled at Louisiana State University.

Lemont has been one of the state’s top football programs for several years, but that success heightened over the last three seasons with Lemming, McAuliffe and O’Brien serving on head coach Eric Michaelsen’s varsity squad.

The Indians collected a 34-4 record from 2010-12, which included a sterling 17-1 mark in South Suburban Conference-Blue Division play and an 8-3 record in the IHSA playoffs. Lemont won SSC Blue titles each of those seasons, and enjoyed undefeated regular seasons in both 2010 and 2011. The team advanced to the IHSA Class 6A Quarterfinals in 2010, and was an IHSA Class 6A Semifinalist in both 2011 and 2012.

Not surprisingly, Lemont flourished with McAuliffe joining Pocic on the offensive line, averaging 36.6 points per game over 38 contests. The Indians rolled up more than 12,000 total yards in three seasons, and more than 8,000 yards rushing.

McAuliffe was a three-time all-conference performer, and as a senior, he was tabbed as a Class 6A all-state selection by the Illinois High School Football Coaches Association, an all-state honoree by the Champaign News-Gazette, and a second-team all-state pick by the Chicago Tribune.

On the defensive side of the ball, Lemming and O’Brien helped limit opponents to 11.1 points per game over three seasons. The Indians posted 14 shutouts and allowed fewer than 10 points in half of their 38 games. Lemming totaled 141 tackles (109 solo) in three seasons, but more impressively, broke up 43 passes, totaled 11 interceptions, blocked four kicks, and had two returns for touchdowns.

O’Brien racked up 229 tackles (152 solo) over that timeframe, which included 24 tackles for loss. He collected 14 sacks, recovered five fumbles, forced four fumbles, and broke up 14 passes. Both Lemming and O’Brien were All-SSC honorees as both juniors and seniors.
In 2012, Lemont narrowly missed a state finals berth, finishing with an 11-2 record and an IHSA Class 6A Semifinal appearance. The Indians were 5-1 in SSC Blue play, and finished in a three-way tie for the division title. Lemont averaged 34.8 points and 351.7 total yards per game (231.3 yards rushing, 120.3 yards passing) on offense, and recorded at least 200 yards rushing in eight of 12 contests.

To complement his work on the offensive line, McAuliffe added duties as a defensive tackle as a senior. He totaled 21 tackles (16 solo), including six for loss, and added a sack, a fumble recovery and a blocked kick in limited time.

O’Brien had an outstanding season as a senior, leading the team with a career-high 130 tackles (97 solo) and 13 tackles for loss. He also paced the squad with six sacks, tied for the team lead with three fumble recoveries and two forced fumbles, and was third on the team with 10 pass breakups.

Lemming added 53 tackles (41 solo), broke up a team-high 18 passes, and added two interceptions. He also blocked two punts, and scored on a 72-yard kickoff return against T.F. North. The Indians limited opponents to 9.8 points per game, posted six shutouts, and kept seven of 13 foes under 10 points.

In 2011, the Indians came an overtime period short of advancing to the state finals before finishing with a 12-1 record. McAuliffe helped that squad’s offense become one of the most prolific in school history, as it averaged an all-time best 39.7 points per game and rolled up more than 4,500 yards in total offense.

Lemont’s defense limited foes to 9.5 points and 143.0 yards per game, shutting out six opponents and limiting eight of 13 foes to fewer than 10 points. Lemming enjoyed his best overall season as a junior, tallying an area-best nine interceptions, leading the team with 15 pass breakups, totaling a career-best 57 tackles (40 solo) and adding two forced fumbles, two fumble recoveries and two blocked kicks.

O’Brien was second on the team with seven sacks, and collected 85 tackles (46 solo), including nine for loss. He also added two forced fumbles and two fumble recoveries.

Lemming, McAuliffe and O’Brien made their varsity debuts as sophomores in 2010. Lemont averaged 35.2 points per game on its way to an 11-1 finish and an IHSA Quarterfinal appearance. Lemming collected 31 tackles (28 solo), broke up 10 passes, and returned a blocked punt for a touchdown. O’Brien had 14 tackles (nine solo) and a sack in limited action.

An honor roll student, McAuliffe will play for head coach Dave Clawson at Bowling Green State, an NCAA Division I Football Bowl Subdivision (FBS) institution located in Bowling Green, Ohio, and a member of the Mid-American Conference (MAC).

Clawson has guided the Falcons to a 22-28 record and two bowl appearances in four years. In 2012, Bowling Green went 8-5 (6-2 MAC), finished second in the MAC’s East Division, and played in the 2012 Military Bowl. Clawson was a two-time NCAA I-AA Coach of the Year while coaching at Fordham University and Richmond University.

McAuliffe and Pocic are the latest Lemont offensive linemen to move on to a major college football program. Over the last five years, several Lemont lineman have gone on to play at the NCAA FBS level, including Pocic’s older brother Graham Pocic ’08 (Illinois), David Molk ’07 (Michigan) and Trevor Rothstein ’09 (Army). Molk earned the 2011 Rimington Trophy as the nation’s top center, was cited to several All-America teams, and was a seventh-round draft pick by the San Diego Chargers in 2012.

A high honor roll recipient, O’Brien will play for head coach Chris Mussman at North Dakota, an NCAA Division I Football Championship Subdivision (FCS) school located in Grand Forks, N.D., and a member of the Big Sky Conference.
In five seasons, Mussman has guided his program to a 28-26 record as it transitioned from the NCAA Division II level. The 2011 Great West Conference Coach of the Year, Mussman led North Dakota to a 5-6 record and a 3-5 league mark in its first season in the Big Sky in 2012. Four of the team’s six losses were to top 25 opponents.

An honor roll recipient, Lemming will become the latest Lemont standout to play for head coach Mike Feminis at Saint Xavier University, an NAIA institution located in Chicago and a member of the Mid-States Football Association (MSFA). Feminis has built a powerhouse at Saint Xavier, guiding the Cougars to a 127-43 record and eight NAIA Playoff appearances in 14 seasons.

Feminis led the Cougars to a 14-1 record and the NAIA National Championship in 2011. Last season, the Cougars were 11-2 and tied for the MSFA Mideast Division crown. Former Lemont standout Clayton Fejedelem ‘11 was a second-team All-MSFA performer last season, while Ryan Fejedelem ’09 and Danny Lombardo ‘11 also were part of that conference championship squad.
USF Stuns #8 Saint Xavier on Last-Second Basket

Rob Brandt (admin) Published Friday, February 08, 2013 - 06:24 AM

JOLIET, Ill. – Senior Marissa Draper’s (Joliet, Ill./ Joliet Township) tip-in with less than one second remaining in the contest gave the University of St. Francis women’s basketball team a 57-55 upset victory over No. 8-ranked Saint Xavier University in Chicagoland Collegiate Athletic Conference action Wednesday night at the Sullivan Center. | Box Score | Video of Winning Shot

With the Saints trailing 55-54, sophomore Katie Gonnering (Seymour, Wis./ Freedom) drew a foul and went to the line for two shots with :02 left to play. After making the first attempt to tie the game, she missed the second, but Draper snared the rebound and with time about to expire sent it into the basket to give the Saints (12-14, 11-8 CCAC) the come-from-behind win.

Saint Xavier (21-5, 15-5) built an early 17-4 lead, but the Saints trimmed the deficit to 33-30 by halftime.

USF took its first lead of the second half, 38-37, at the 15:08 mark on a three-pointer by freshman Alexis Brown (Shiloh, Ill./ Belleville East), who finished the night with four treys and a team-high 14 points.

The Saints held a 50-49 edge with 3:40 remaining when Saint Xavier went on a 6-1 run to go up 55-51 with 1:21 left in the game. Brown’s fourth three-pointer of the night brought USF to within a point, 55-54, just 12 seconds later.

Suzie Broski paced Saint Xavier with 12 points, while Niara Harris finished with 10. Morgan Stuut pulled down a game-high 17 rebounds.

Freshman LaTrece Harris (Chicago, Ill./ Bogan) added 10 points for the Saints, who completed a season series sweep of Saint Xavier. USF downed the Cougars 74-68 in Chicago back on Dec. 16.

USF snapped a two-game overall losing streak and a three-game skid at home, while Saint Xavier suffered its first road setback in seven games.

USF returns to action at home Saturday against Holy Cross College. Tipoff at the Sullivan Center is set for 5 p.m. 

-Top-
Purdue Calumet Peregrine Basketball Women Win

Fields and Dreams

By Lanel Chambers

Story Posted:02/09/2013

CHICAGO - The Purdue University Calumet women’s basketball team held on for a 87-81 upset of No. 8 St. Xavier on Saturday afternoon. The Peregrines push their winning streak to five games to improve to 17-7 overall and 14-4 in the Chicagoland Collegiate Athletic Conference.

Purdue Calumet locked down the Cougars in the first half, holding SXU to just 30.6 percent shooting in the first period. The Peregrines took advantage, grabbing a 26-12 lead in the first 12 minutes of the game. St. Xavier rallied late in the half, but the Black and Gold scored the final four points of the stanza to take a 35-27 lead into the break.

The Peregrines opened the second half on a 13-4 run, as Alex Starr knocked a pair of free throws to hand PUC a 48-31 advantage with 15:21 remaining in the game. Purdue Calumet maintained a double-digit lead for the majority of the next seven minutes, before the nationally-ranked Cougars came roaring back. SXU went on a 15-2 run over the next four minutes to tie the game at 75 apiece.

The Black and Gold responded on their next possession, as Patrice McBee scored on a putback. After St. Xavier’s Chrissy Heine scored two of her 22 points on the next trip down the floor, the Peregrines would use a jumper by Starr regain the lead and never look back.

Purdue Calumet went 6-of-8 from the charity stripe down the stretch, while using some help from the Cougars to put the game away. In a play reminiscent of Chris Webber’s in the 1993 NCAA National Title game, SXU’s Niara Harris called a timeout with none remaining resulting in a technical and a pair of free throws for PUC. Tierra Turner split the two shots at the line, but it would be enough to help the Peregrines sweep the season series with St. Xavier for the first time in program history.

Alex Starr hit 10 of 11 free throws and and finished with 23 points to lead the Peregrines. Brooklyn Short hit six of seven free throws among and finished with 18 Peregrine points. The Peregrines hit 22-26 free throws.

Starr hit five of seven shots along with teammates Patrice McBee, who hit five of nine, and Kami Graber hit five of 14.
Knights present colors at Claddagh wheelchair tourney

Published as part of the February 13, 2013 edition.

The Holy Family Knights of Columbus Assembly 2255 color guard with members from Father Perez Knights of Columbus Council 1444 and Our Lady of Fatima Council 3582 presented the colors at the start of the Claddagh Wheelchair Basketball Tournament in St. Xavier University's Shannon Center. Eleven junior wheelchair basketball teams competed in the daylong event. Four teams competed in the prep division, four in the junior varsity division and three in the varsity division.
State champs make it official on Signing Day

Published as part of the February 13, 2013 edition.

by Scott Fredericks

National Signing Day is usually busy at Mt. Carmel High School as members of that year's football team declare their college intentions.

This year was no different as eight members of the Caravan's Class 8A state championship squad made their decisions official at a ceremony in front of family, coaches and some future college coaches on Feb. 6.

Long snapper John Wirtel (Kansas), place kicker Ivan Strmic (Robert Morris), defensive back Vince Speller (Eastern Illinois), defensive back Draco Smith (Northern Illinois), linebacker D.J. Romero (Illinois State), punter Joe Pavlik (St. Xavier), offensive lineman Nick Dreixler (West Virginia State) and quarterback Don Butkus (University of St. Francis) participated.

"They were smart enough, tough enough and disciplined enough to do what we wanted, when we wanted and how we wanted," said Mt. Carmel Coach Frank Lenti. "They are great students and, more importantly, good citizens. Someday, football will come to an end, so this is an opportunity for them to get an education that will last for a lifetime."

Smith will join former Mt. Carmel standout quarterback Jordan Lynch as a member of the Huskies. Lynch finished seventh in the Heisman Trophy voting and led Northern to an Orange Bowl appearance against Florida State. Smith said the former Caravan star was a big draw in him selecting the Huskies.

"I talked to Jordan a little bit, and he was one of the main reasons I'm going there. He can show me the ropes and what not to do," said Smith. "People didn't believe in the team, but they proved everyone wrong. I think we have a better chance to get back to a BCS game again because Northern will be highly ranked."

Smith rushed for 949 yards and 11 touchdowns and added 49 tackles, two forced fumbles, two fumble recoveries and a pair of interceptions on defense.
Romero will join a Redbirds program that reached the quarterfinals of the FCS playoffs last season. He will play in newly renovated Hancock Stadium, which will be one of the premier FCS facilities in the country when completed. Romero will also join a former Mt. Carmel star in Normal. Defensive back Mike Banks is a starter for Illinois State. Both of those factors played a role in Romero's decision.

"The facilities had a big impact on my decision. The stadium will be very nice, and they already had good facilities in place," said Romero, who had 66 tackles in seven games last season, including 13 in the state title game. "I talked to Mike before I committed, and he told me how much he enjoyed playing football there and also how strong the student-life opportunities are at ISU."

It didn't take long for Speller to realize he wanted to continue his career at Eastern. The two-way standout's first offer was from the Panthers, and he quickly committed.

"Eastern felt like Mt. Carmel to me," said Speller. "It's a family-oriented program and school. Whatever they ask me to play, I'll play it."

Speller had 13 catches for 218 yards and two touchdowns and added 42 tackles on defense. He had an interception in the state championship win over Glenbard North.

Butkus has a stellar season behind center for the Caravan. He threw for more than 1,000 yards and rushed for more than 500 yards. Butkus threw for one touchdown and rushed for another against Glenbard North.

"I felt like St. Francis was the best fit for me and my family and the best opportunity for me to play college football," said Butkus.

Dreixler, Strmic, Wirtel and Pavlik all have legit opportunities to start in their freshman season.

-Top-
Cougars climb into men's basketball top 10

Published as part of the February 14, 2013 edition.

SXU sports summary

Now, the entire country knows.

St. Xavier University wasn't exactly operating in anonymity within the college basketball world, but an ascent into the NAIA Division II top 10 has surely caught some fresh eyes. What it didn't do was catch the Cougars off-guard.

Even with its No. 9 spot in the most recent men's national poll, SXU refused to play big shot. It wasn't immune, though, to taking - and making - big shots, and none was larger in importance than Dominique Harvey's layup in the waning stages of Saturday night's Chicagoland Collegiate Athletic Conference contest at Trinity International University.

Harvey's basket with under 20 seconds remaining extended the Cougars' lead to four points and secured for them a hard-fought 88-84 triumph over the host Trojans at the Meyer Sports Complex in Deerfield. Coming on the heels of a surprisingly easy 68-41 conquest of the University of St. Francis last Wednesday, the win was SXU's 13th in a row and 21st in its last 22 outings.

"This is a good run, but we've got to close it out [successfully]," said Cougars coach Tom O'Malley, whose team has earned the program's highest ranking in more than 10 years. "You do not want to go backwards."

Although the lofty status is not something O'Malley had his athletes actively seek, he doesn't mind deriving any benefits that come with it. In particular, he's glad that SXU (24-4, 20-2) has positioned itself well for next month's NAIA Division II Tournament.

"The one thing about the tournament is that the higher the ranking, the better the seeding," O'Malley said.

At the beginning of Saturday's game, TIU seemed unfazed by its heralded foe. The Trojans scored the first 10 points and didn't relinquish their lead until the 12:55 mark of the opening half, when Anthony Grant's jumper gave the Cougars their first advantage at 18-16.

Behind strong play from both Grant (20 points on 8-of-14 shooting) and junior guard Brad Karp (26 points, 10 rebounds), SXU eventually constructed an edge that peaked at 69-53 eight minutes into the second half. However, the Cougars grew cold after that, tallying just two points over the next five-plus minutes and watching TIU climb back into contention.

"Our guys are probably looking at stats, too," O'Malley said, "and they probably figured they should beat Trinity pretty easily. But the reality is, [the Trojans] came out and shot lights out. They just made tough shots."
"We were 3-of-11 on 3-pointers and missed 10 free throws, and Trinity shot 60 percent and over 80 percent on free throws. When you look at those stats, it's a lot to overcome, but we created more turnovers and got more offensive rebounds, which are two important areas."

SXU caused 19 Trojans miscues, nine of them directly resulting from steals. The Cougars also bettered TIU 14-4 on the offensive glass.

Still, the Trojans hung around, getting as close as two a couple times in the final two minutes. Karp's dunk put SXU up by four, but the impact of that basket was negated by a technical foul whistled on the Cougar for hanging on the rim.

The Trojans hit both free throws and then took possession with an opportunity to tie or go ahead.

"Instead of us being up four and on Easy Street, it comes down to the end," said O'Malley, who thought Karp lingered on the rim only to avoid a collision with a player stationed below him.

Harvey tipped the ball away from a TIU player, however, Roosevelt Green recovered it for SXU and Harvey hit the clinching bucket with 17 seconds left.

"I'm shell-shocked, but I'm alive," O'Malley joked. "A couple years ago, we had about four of these [types of] games and we lost three of them, so at least we're winning them now."

Jack Krieger gave the Cougars a third double-digit scorer with 16 points.

SXU returned to action this past Wednesday when it hosted Purdue-North Central at the Shannon Center. The Cougars entered the current week still one game in arrears of CCAC leader Cardinal Stritch.

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SXU's longtime rivalry with USF had O'Malley anticipating a battle last Wednesday at the Sullivan Center in Joliet. Instead, the Cougars coasted as they pocketed a resounding 68-41 win over the Fighting Saints.

"We never thought going in there it'd end up like that," O'Malley said. "It turned out to be an easy victory [because] we probably played our best defensive game of the year against St. Francis. We created a lot of turnovers."

Twenty of them, to be exact, which led to 16 points for SXU. Compounding the Saints' problems was disastrous shooting - the hosts made good on just 28 percent of their field-goal tries.

Meanwhile, Grant couldn't miss. The senior guard sank 11-of-12 shots while recording 22 points. Grant also chipped in four rebounds, three assists and three steals.

Karp and Green made their presences felt, too, the former doing so with 12 points and nine rebounds. Green totaled 10 points and six assists. Adding still more to the Cougars' arsenal was freshman forward Josh Mawhorr, who collected six points and eight boards.

SXU removed much of the drama early on as it embarked on a 19-4 run that gave it firm control of the contest. - Ken Karrson

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

When the Cougars suffered a heartbreaking last-second CCAC loss to St. Francis last Wednesday in Joliet, it mathematically eliminated them from the league title race and prevented them from perhaps securing the automatic bid to the NAIA national tournament that goes along with the championship.
However, a second automatic bid is also offered to the team that captures the CCAC Tournament, and that's what SXU coach Bob Hallberg wants his women to zero in on.

"That's what we're setting our sights on right now because I don't think there's a team in the conference that we can't beat," he said. "We can take them all down to the wire or beat them.

"We've had a high ranking in NAIA national poll at No. 8 this past week. I believe our ranking is good enough to get into [the national tournament] in Sioux City, Iowa, but I don't want to get in through the back door."

The Cougars bounced back from the 57-55 setback to the Fighting Saints to collect a 78-62 victory over Trinity International on Saturday. The win snapped SXU's two-game losing streak and improved its ledger to 22-5 overall and 16-5 in CCAC play.

Even though the Cougars led for a majority of Wednesday's contest, they struggled offensively through large portions of it. SXU clicked on just 35 percent of its shot attempts, which allowed St. Francis to stay within striking distance.

A rebound of a missed Saints free throw led to a layup for senior guard Melissa Draper with one second remaining in regulation, and that play finished off the Cougars. St. Francis sophomore forward Katie Gonnering had tied the score with her first foul shot at the 2.2-second mark.

"When you've coached as long as I have, and when you lose a game like that, you start having flashbacks to all the similar games in your career that you lost at the buzzer," Hallberg said. "I have them all sorted away up in my head.

"It never makes it easy, but losing on a missed free throw and a tip-in with one second to go is not a good feeling for a coach. That's the second time we've lost to St. Francis. They seem to have our number for some reason."

Sophomore guard Suzie Broski and junior guard Niara Harris were SXU's leading scorers and the only two Cougars to score in double figures. Broski totaled 12 points and seven rebounds, while Harris chipped in 10 points on 5-of-8 shooting.

Sophomore guard-forward Morgan Stuut was huge on the boards, registering a game-best 17 rebounds in addition to her five points, three assists and three blocks. The Fighting Saints finished the game with 54 rebounds, compared to 42 for SXU.

Things looked bright early on for the Cougars, who jumped out to a 17-4 lead in the first six minutes. Lengthy scoring droughts followed, though, and those enabled the hosts to chip away at the deficit and finally grab a lead five minutes into the second half.

SXU was ahead 55-51 with 1:21 to play, but a Saints 3-pointer reduced the margin to one heading into the final minute.

"The loss had everything to do with our shooting," Hallberg said. "The game boiled down to us not having a very good night from the floor [at 34 percent]. We thought we did a pretty good job holding them down to 27 percent. I thought our defense remained strong.

"We just didn't get the point production we're used to getting out of Broski and Stuut. It wasn't for a lack of effort; the ball just didn't drop that night. Other than that, I thought we played well.

"We played hard. There weren't a lot of mental mistakes since we didn't have many turnovers, [but] we just didn't have our shots dropping for us."

And while not passing around any blame, Hallberg does sometime scratch his head at the fact that opponents frequently get awarded more trips to the foul line than do the Cougars.
"We never seem to shoot as many free throws as the other team," he said. "I know we're not the most physical team, but when we play more intense defense, we seem to be called for more fouls. But give credit to St. Francis - they did what they had to do to win."

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Stuut finished with 28 points on 12-of-22 shooting to lead all scorers in SXU's win over Trinity on Saturday. She complemented her scoring with eight rebounds and four assists, the former of which tied for the team lead in that category.

Broski and Harris each contributed 10 points for the Cougars, while freshman forward Caitlin McMahon provided nine points and eight boards. SXU was also tough defensively as its 13 steals contributed greatly to the Trojans' total of 21 turnovers.

The Cougars began pulling away midway through the first half, using a 10-0 run that was spurred by five points from junior forward Chrissy Heine. The surge gave SXU a 26-13 lead and it went on to construct a larger one by intermission. Harris' jumper allowed the visitors to close out the half with a 43-26 cushion.

The Cougars were ahead by as many as 25 points early in the second half, but TIU whittled away at the large deficit over the game's next 10 minutes and cut it to 10 (63-53) with six minutes left. However, key buckets by Stuut and Harris in the closing minutes put to rest any more rally attempts by the Trojans.

"We had to get back into the win column," Hallberg said. "Morgan was back to being Morgan, and we received balanced scoring from the rest. We received a combined 18 points for the center position [with McMahon and Heine], and Jordan Brandt and Romisha Taylor did a great job with steals."

Hallberg said one of the keys to his team's future success is the merging of its best offensive and defensive players.

"We're kind of a combination of defensive guards and offensive forwards," he said. "We just need our forwards playing good defense and our guards scoring. Then we can finally put the whole package together with a week left to go in the season.

"We need to make some noise in the conference tournament." - Anthony Nasella

MEN'S VOLLEYBALL

Freshman middle blocker Sam Kull had match-best totals of 19 kills (.484 attack percentage) and nine total blocks (two solos) as the Cougars collected their first win of the season by taking down Mid-America Men's Volleyball Intercollegiate Conference East Division foe Robert Morris University last Tuesday night at the Shannon Center.

SXU (2-8, 2-4) outlasted the Eagles in five sets, 24-26, 25-16, 25-23, 22-25, 15-12. The Cougars put down 58 kills in the match while committing just 16 hitting errors for a team attack percentage of .311.

Sophomore setter Dan French also had a big match for SXU with a career-high 43 assists, teambest 13 digs and six block assists. Sophomore middle blocker Sean Blackwood recorded 10 kills and eight digs, junior middle blocker J.T. O'Connell (Brother Rice) had nine kills and an attack percentage of .368, and junior right-side hitter Jacob Siska (Oak Lawn) finished with eight kills and six digs.

Junior right-side hitter Tyler Boyce paced Robert Morris with 16 kills.

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Key performances by junior outside hitter Justin Cousin and Kull enabled the Cougars to split two matches last weekend in Palos Heights.

On Friday night, SXU fell to MAMVIC East Division foe St. Ambrose University 26-24, 25-19, 25-22. The Fighting Bees were ranked No. 5 in the latest NAIA Men's Volleyball poll. SXU bounced back in a big way on Saturday, however, by taking down Siena Heights University 18-25, 25-14, 25-14, 25-20 in another conference encounter.

Cousin and Kull each totaled 21 kills for the Cougars over the weekend.

In addition to his kills, Kull racked up seven service aces.

In Friday's evening match against St. Ambrose, Kull led the attack by producing 11 kills and an ace. French backed him with team-best totals of 25 assists and 10 digs.

Cousin had the hot hand on Saturday as he registered 13 kills, while Kull was right behind him with 10 kills and a match-high six aces. French supplied 36 assists and three block assists toward the winning effort and senior right-side hitter Nick Piccirillo was a force defensively with seven digs.

SXU hosted MAMVIC East Division foe Clarke University this past Monday.

FOOTBALL

Continuing his tradition of finding quality high school football players right across the state line, Cougars coach Mike Feminis recently announced the addition of three recruits from Northwest Indiana.

The latest members of SXU's 2013 recruiting class are wide receiver Aaron Dye from Merrillville, offensive lineman Sean Jones from Crown Point and defensive back Tyler Smith, also from Crown Point. Feminis believes all three of players have the potential to make an immediate impact next fall.

Dye, a 5-foot-10, 160-pounder, caught 62 passes as a prep senior for 1,294 yards and 16 touchdowns. The 6-3, 275-pound Jones and 5-10, 170-pound Smith were both all-area selections last fall.

"I think we hit the trifecta with this group," Feminis said. "Aaron is one of the most exciting players in that area, if not the entire state of Indiana. He has great speed to run the deep routes, but also showed on film that he has very soft hands and is willing to catch the ball in traffic. Aaron will be a big-time playmaker for us.

"Sean has the size, strength and footwork to be an exceptional offensive lineman. He reminds me a lot of [former Cougars All-American] Matt Renfro, who had all the physical tools, but also played like he had a chip on his shoulder. Sean really comes off the ball and gets after people. We love his aggressiveness.

"Tyler is a tremendous athlete who could play on either side of the ball, but we think he can help us right away in our defensive secondary, either at corner and safety. He runs well, has loose hips and is not afraid to hit people.

-Top-
Roosevelt's Cedric Ridle reaches 1,000-point mark at Lincoln University

February 17, 2013 9:30 pm • Brian Waddle Times Correspondent

* Brad Karp (Valparaiso) continues to set the tone at St. Xavier University. On Saturday, Karp scored 30 points, hitting 9-of-13 shots, to lead the NAIA No. 7-ranked Cougars to a 110-75 road win over Holy Cross.

SXU (26-4, 22-2 Chicagoland Collegiate Athletic Conference) has won 15 straight games – including a perfect 14-0 in 2013.

Karp is joined by senior point guard Anthony Grant (Thornridge), who hit for 22 points against Holy Cross. Also chipping in was senior Dominique Harvey (Homewood-Flossmoor), who posted a double-double of 19 points and 10 rebounds for SXU, which secured the No. 2 seed in the conference tournament and will play on Wednesday.

-Top-
Brentwood Basketball Seniors Headed for Air Force Academy, Bradley University, Others

The seniors were honored at halftime at Friday's game.

By Doug Miner Email the author February 18, 2013

Brentwood's senior basketball players and managers were recognized at the last home game, on Friday.

Nick Featherston, Josh McGhehee and Rekardo Owens were the players recognized and Ariana Lucas and Ana Del Castilla were recognized as senior managers.

Ariana Lucas, team manager

- Cheerleading team four years, track team four years
- Honor roll four years
- Plans on attending Saint Xavier University, majoring in physical therapy and business administration

-Top-
Lee University's German wins national academic honor

Posted: Feb 18, 2013 11:23 PM CST

By Keith Cawley, Sports Anchor - bio | email

TOWSON, Md. (NAIA/Lee University) – Hollie German of Lee University and Brad Karp of Saint Xavier University headline the 2013 Capital One Academic All-America® College Division Men's and Women's Basketball Teams, as selected by the College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA).

The Capital One College Division Academic All-America® basketball teams are comprised of student-athletes from NAIA, Canadian and two-year institutions.

Karp and German have been chosen as the winners of the Capital One Academic All-America® of the Year award for the men's and women's basketball teams, respectively.

German, a mathematics and secondary education major from Benton, Tenn., owns a 3.98 GPA. The sixth-leading scorer in NAIA Division I with a 20.04 average, the former Polk County High star has led the seventh-ranked Flames to a 24-2 record.

German, who is fourth in the NAIA with 75 three-point field goals, is ranked among the NAIA leaders free throw percentage (.800), assists (106), three-point field goal percentage (.387) and assists per game (4.1).

A second-team NAIA All-American in 2012, she was also named as the Southern States Athletic Conference’s Divisional Player of the Year and earned a spot on the all-conference team in 2012 when she helped the Lady Flames to a 30-4 record.

A biology major from Valparaiso, Ind., Karp carries a 3.61 grade point average. He leads the Cougars in scoring and rebounding this season, averaging 22.1 points and 9.0 rebounds per game. He ranks fourth in NAIA Division II in total scoring with 619 points, and he is quickly closing in on his 2,000th-career point. In addition, he has been named the Chicagoland Collegiate Athletic Conference Player of the Week six times out of 13 weeks this season. He has led the seventh-ranked Cougars to a 25-4 record this season.

Joining German on the Capital One Academic All-America® College Division Women's Basketball first team are senior center Kelsey Canavan of Lubbock Christian University, senior guard Laura Carroll of Asbury University, sophomore forward Katie Gonnering of St. Francis (Ill.), and senior forward/center Esther Timmermans of Vanguard University.

The five members of the Capital One Academic All-America® College Division Women's Basketball first team have a 3.97 average G.P.A.
Lee’s German is tops in classroom

by From Lee Sports Information

02/20/2013

TOWSON, Md. — Hollie German of Lee University and Brad Karp of Saint Xavier University headline the 2013 Capital One Academic All-America College Division Men’s and Women’s Basketball Teams, as selected by the College Sports Information Directors of America.

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The five members of the Capital One Academic All-America College Division Women’s Basketball first team have a 3.97 average G.P.A.
Indiana South Bend Women Pull Off Huge Upset; Down #12 SXU On The Road

Rob Brandt (admin) Published Wednesday, February 20, 2013 - 08:14 PM

The IU South Bend women's basketball team shocked the world of NAIA basketball today with a huge upset over the #12 nationally ranked Cougars of St. Xavier University by a final score of 70-64. The Cougars came in as the CCAC's #2 seed, while the Titans were the #7 seed, but with some outstanding team play the Titans pulled off the victory, holding on down the stretch.

The first half saw the Titans explode on offense and clamp down on defense, stunning the home team with their tenacity and focus, cruising to a 39-26 lead at the intermission. IU South Bend shot 50% from the field in the half while holding SXU to just 30%. The second half saw St. Xavier right the ship a bit, actually outscoring the Titans 38-31 in the second half, but with the big early lead by the Titans it just wasn't enough as IU South Bend held off the Cougars down the stretch for what is the biggest win of the year for a suddenly surging Titan team. In fact, they have been victorious in five of their last seven games and have a great deal of momentum as they move forward into the semi-finals of the CCAC tourney.

The Titans were led by senior Courtney Simpson with 19 points and 7 rebounds, Nichole Sly with 18 points, 9 rebounds and 5 assists, and Emily Strilich with 10 points and 5 rebounds. SXU got 20 points and 11 rebounds from Morgan Stuut and 16 points from Suzie Broski in the loss. The Titans finished the game shooting 40% from the field while holding St. Xavier to just 34%. IU South Bend was dominant on the boards, a running theme in their best games this season, as they crushed the Cougars on the glass 49-32.

With the win, the Titans move to 15-16 (11-13 CCAC) and they move on to the CCAC semi-finals, where they will play #25 Cardinal Stritch University for a shot at the conference championship game. The game time and location is to be announced soon but it will be a road game for the Titans. Stay tuned for further information.

-Top-
Men's relay team to represent Cougars in national meet

Published as part of the February 21, 2013 edition.

SXU sports summary

St. Xavier University's women aren't the only ones performing at a high level on the track during the current indoor season.

The Cougars' men placed two entries into the upcoming NAIA Indoor Track & Field National Championships, which will be held in Geneva, Ohio, Feb. 28-March 2. Both of the qualifiers emerged from the Chicagoland Indoor Track Championships, recently hosted by North Central College.

Junior Brian Corcoran posted a "B"-standard qualifying time in the 800-meter run by completing the race in 1 minute, 58.80 seconds, which garnered him fifth place. In addition, the Brother Rice product comprised one-fourth of SXU's "A"-qualifying distance-medley relay unit that established a program record with a 10:19.70 clocking, which was good for fourth place overall in the event.

Teaming with Corcoran in the relay were freshman Eric Hancock, sophomore John Stancato and junior Shane Kenney. Hancock also took sixth in the 1,000-run (2:35.30) as an individual, while Stancato gave the Cougars an eighth in the 200-dash (23.17) and ninth in the 60 (7.14).

Other notable SXU performers were Dan Spencer in the 60-high hurdles (sixth in 8.88) and Marist product Matt Krakowski in the 400 (51.93).

"The relay ran an outstanding race and should perform well at nationals," Cougars coach Ed McAllister. "Brian ran a very gutsy race in the 800. We are still a bit nicked up and we have just one more chance to get a few more national qualifiers."

MEN'S VOLLEYBALL

Junior outside hitter Justin Cousin and freshman middle blocker Sam Kull each posted double-digit kill totals, but it wasn't enough to keep the Cougars from absorbing a 25-19, 25-17, 25-23 setback against Clarke (Iowa) University in a Mid-America Men's Volleyball Intercollegiate Conference East Division match last Monday night at the Shannon Center.

Cousin paced the Cougars with 13 kills, while Kull registered 12 kills, two total blocks and a teamhigh attack percentage of .647. Sophomore setter Dan French distributed 29 assists for SXU, sophomore middle blocker Sean Blackwood totaled five kills and seven digs, and junior right-side hitter Jacob Siska (Oak Lawn) led the Cougars in the latter category.

Sophomore outside hitter Tyler Wills led the Clarke attack with 12 kills.
Cousin produced 11 kills and 13 digs, and the Cougars (2-12, 2-6) pushed host St. Ambrose to the five-set limit last Wednesday before the NAIA No. 5-ranked Fighting Bees squeezed out a 25-14, 24-26, 25-17, 27-29, 15-8 triumph in MAMVIC East Division action at Lee Lohman Arena in Davenport, Iowa.

Blackwood backed Cousin with 10 kills, while French finished with 39 assists and seven digs. Also making his presence felt was Kull, who had five kills, five block assists and three service aces.

Four St. Ambrose players put down 12 kills apiece.

Despite a combined 19 kills and 16 digs from Cousin, the Cougars dropped both of their nonconference matches at the Carthage College Triangular on Saturday in Kenosha, Wis.

SXU fell to the host school in three sets (25-18, 25-22, 25-16) in the morning match, then suffered a 25-16, 25-21, 25-21 loss to Lindenwood (Mo.) University in the afternoon. The Cougars struggled offensively all day as they registered a combined 39 attacking errors over the two matches.

Kull also had a solid outing for SXU in a losing cause as he collected 14 kills, three aces and three total blocks. French distributed 51 assists while also producing seven digs and four total blocks, and Blackwood contributed 10 kills.

The Cougars return to action tonight when they host Lourdes (Ohio) University in a MAMVIC match. Play begins at 7 p.m.

WOMEN'S SOCCER

Gabbie Risolvato, a senior defender at Valley High School in West Des Moines, Iowa, recently signed a letter of intent to continue her education and athletic career at SXU as a member of the women's soccer program.

Risolvato, who will pursue a degree in either psychology or communications, has played for some stellar soccer teams during her prep career. Her high school squad was a state semifinalist in 2011, while her club team, West Des Moines Soccer Club, captured the Iowa State Cup from 2008-10.

Cougars coach Evan Strehlau loves the fact that not only is Risolvato bringing impressive credentials from the soccer field, but she is a quality student as well.

"Gabbie is another Cougar[s] player who is going to make her presence felt on our defense," he said. "She has a wealth of highlevel playing experience [from] being part of a two-time state-finalist team, a three-time club state champion team and a member of the Iowa [Olympic Development Program].

"Gabbie also brings us great academic skills as well, which we love to see in our athletes. Our coaching staff can't wait to see what she can do as a Cougar."

FOOTBALL

Continuing to tap into a pipeline that has produced some high-level talent for the Cougars football program over the years, coach Mike Feminis announced the recent signings of linebacker Tyler Sharp and defensive back Matt Johnson out of Rockford Boylan.
"Tyler and Matt come from one of the best high school football programs in the state, and it's great to keep our pipeline going in the Rockford area," Feminis said. "Tyler has all the tools to be an outstanding linebacker for us. He runs well, plays physical and has really good instincts.

"Matt had an incredible senior season and we think he can play corner or free safety for us. He has excellent coverage skills and a knack for finding the ball. We expect both of these guys to have outstanding careers at SXU, and both will likely contribute sooner than later."

MEN'S BASKETBALL

After finding themselves in seventh heaven, the Cougars put two Chicagoland Collegiate Athletic Conference foes through hell last week.

SXU got elevated two spots, up to No. 7, in the most recent NAIA Division II national poll and it celebrated its latest achievement by administering beat-downs to Purdue-North Central (95-47) and Holy Cross College (110-75) on Wednesday and Saturday, respectively. The triumphs stretched the Cougars' win streak to 15 games and gave them 23 victories in their last 24 contests.

"Those were a couple of nice ones," SXU coach Tom O'Malley said of his team's two routs. "I don't know if we deserved [having] it [so easy], but I don't mind them a whole lot. It's not as exciting for the participants [as a nailbiter], but it's nice to see kids playing well."

O'Malley wasn't surprised at his club's ability to dispatch both of its foes with little difficulty.

"It's kind of been that way for a lot of years," he said. "We've probably won the majority of games we were supposed to win. We didn't get upset too many times by teams people think are of lesser quality."

So what's the secret in keeping athletes focused on the schedule's supposedly softer touches?

"It's an old adage, but we try to prepare for every game," O'Malley said. "We don't take into account what happened in the last game [against that particular opponent] or anything like that. We always expect the best out of them."

That's what the Cougars (26-4, 22-2) typically receive from junior guard Brad Karp, who recently received two prestigious awards. He was chosen the Capital One Academic All-America Team Member of the Year for the entire NAIA and also got named the CCAC Player of the Year.

Karp has been a six-time recipient of the CCAC's Player of the Week award this season.

"I always like to see the accolades go to the kids," O'Malley said. "No one is more deserving of this type of award than Brad Karp. Brad works hard every single day to make sure that he excels in everything he puts his mind to.

"He has been an absolute pleasure to coach these last three years, and it has been remarkable to see the things he has been able to accomplish during his college career. It really is hard to believe that he is only a junior."

Karp certainly didn't rest on his laurels, much to the dismay both PNC and Holy Cross, which were torched for a combined 50 points. Karp delivered 30 of them on Saturday, as SXU embarked on runs of 15-4 and 14-1 in the first half.

Holy Cross survived both blitzes well enough to still be within nine (54-45) at intermission. However, the Cougars revved up their attack once more when the second half got underway and gradually pulled away for good as they finished with a sizzling 61 percent success rate from the floor while committing just seven turnovers on the day.
Senior guard Anthony Grant (22 points on 9-of-12 shooting), senior forward Dominique Harvey (19 points, 10 rebounds, four assists), sophomore guard Jack Krieger (10 points, four assists) and senior guard Roosevelt Green (nine assists, four steals) were among SXU's other principal figures. O'Malley was particularly pleased with Harvey, who has continued to flourish in a sixth-man role.

"We have a six-man starting group, really," O'Malley said. "Whatever happens, [Harvey is] getting his minutes like everybody else, so he's buying into it. [And] he can play any one of four positions, so we've got pretty good flexibility without having to go too deep [into the bench]."

That being said, O'Malley isn't afraid to summon some of his other reserves for on-court duty, especially after a few of them logged productive minutes last week.

"I think the best thing about [the lopsided wins] is we put some guys in who played equally as well as the starters," O'Malley said. "That makes me comfortable about calling on them again later. We think we can go eight or nine deep without losing anything."

Although the Cougars beat Holy Cross twice in the regular season, the two squads could meet again. If the latter defeated Trinity International University this past Monday, it would find itself pitted against SXU once more, this time in a CCAC Tournament contest on Wednesday.

If successful versus Holy Cross a third time, the Cougars would head to Milwaukee for the tourney semifinals on Friday. CCAC regular-season champ Cardinal Strich also hosts Saturday's title contest.

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Karp tossed in 20 points, while Harvey and Grant added 12 each as SXU crushed PNC last Wednesday at the Shannon Center. Harvey augmented his scoring with a game-high 11 rebounds.

Also chipping in was senior Shane Zackery, who came off the bench to hit his only four shots, including two 3-pointers. Zackery, a standout on the Cougars football team the past four years, matched Harvey and Grant by netting a dozen markers. Twelve of the 13 SXU players who took the floor tallied at least one point.

The Cougars were sharp in all phases, beginning with their 59 percent shooting. They also gathered in 53 rebounds and made 10 steals, which represented nearly half of PNC's 22 turnovers.

SXU scored 11 of the game's first 13 points and never wavered en route to its resounding 48-point victory. - Ken Karrson

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

After winning their final two games of the regular season, the Cougars are competing in this week's CCAC Tournament in a quest to gain an automatic, at-large berth in next month's NAIA Division II Tournament in Sioux City, Iowa.

SXU (24-5, 17-5) closed out its schedule by defeating Robert Morris University 73-68 in a nonconference game last Wednesday and Holy Cross 76-58 in conference action on Saturday.

"Now, as the cliché goes, it's one game at a time for us," Cougars coach Bob Hallberg said. "We'll see where we end up. It's been an interesting season for us. Regardless of how losses tend to bother coaches, a 24-5 season is not a bad season at all.

"Now we just have to keep going on, and winning, in order to be assured a spot in the national tournament and [have] the chance at a national championship."
SXU sophomore Morgan Stuut had a night to remember against the Eagles, as she posted her 16th double-double of the season while delivering one of the best all around performances in Cougars women's basketball history with 27 points, 17 rebounds, six assists and six steals. Along the way, Stuut surpassed the 1,000 plateau in career points and also broke the team's single-season rebounding record. She now has 319 boards, which easily eclipses the 302 she grabbed as a freshman.

Sophomore guard Suzie Broski also had a big night as she produced her own double-double of 15 points and 10 boards. Senior guard Romisha Taylor added eight points and also equaled her personal single-game high by passing out 10 assists.

SXU controlled much of the first-half action and was ahead 30-15 after Taylor hit a fast-break layup with 5:16 left in the session. The momentum shifted in the remaining time, however, and Robert Morris embarked on an 18-5 run to draw within a deuce at intermission.

The second half continued to be a battle as the Eagles took their initial lead of the game at 47-46. The teams jockeyed back and forth for the next 12 minutes and were locked in a 64-all tie with 3:23 remaining. A three-point play by Stuut with 29 seconds left finally put the Cougars in front to stay.

Robert Morris had its ensuing shot attempt blocked by freshman forward Caitlin McMahon and Broski came away with the rebound to secure the victory. Her two free throws with two seconds left finalized the verdict.

"Morgan had an amazing night against Robert Morris and was great all around," Hallberg said. "Along with Susie, they were the usual dynamic duo for us."

But the coach said the real keys were the 18 bench points and seven additional players who contributed on offense for SXU.

"All those points add up, as they've been adding up in many of our games this season," Hallberg said. "It made for a real productive night, especially from our bench. Their contributions made a critical difference."

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Stuut and Broski combined to score 40 points versus Holy Cross, with Stuut racking up her 17th double-double with 21 points and 11 rebounds. Broski added 19 points and McMahon came off the bench to supply 10 points and seven rebounds on Saturday.

Neither club got off to a hot start and things stayed close over the first nine minutes. With the score knotted at the 11-minute mark, back-to-back jumpers by Broski sparked an 18-7 Cougars run that gave them a 30-19 advantage with just under five minutes remaining in the half.

SXU finished strong behind some big buckets in the post and took a 39-25 lead into the locker room. That edge was never threatened in the second half as the Cougars maintained a double-digit advantage the rest of the way.

Defense was the key to victory, as SXU recorded 15 steals. Holy Cross committed 20 turnovers in all.

"The game was on the road, and we still needed the win to preserve our high seed," Hallberg said. "We took care of business there. Stuut and Broski were solid and Caitlin McMahon's 10 points came in just 23 minutes."

Hallberg also singled out the play of senior guard Maureen Riley at a pivotal part of the contest when the Cougars were in need of a boost.
"We were struggling offensively and Riley came off the bench when we were up just six points," he said. "She knocks down two 3-point baskets in a row for us. That was a six-point turnaround that made a big difference for us.

"[And] we got the right productivity and tremendous defense out of Taylor and [Jordan] Brandt, who continue to do a great job with steals and forcing turnovers."

Looking back on the long regular season - which featured 22 conference games due to the CCAC's consolidation into just one division - Hallberg said he's grateful that his team was able to so quickly adapt and enjoy success.

"We had no chance to find our identity when we were thrown into conference games immediately," he said. "We didn't have a chance to make any mistakes.

"We also survived the devastating ACL injuries to Sidney Prasse and Maloree Johnson, two girls who we were hoping would be big shooters for us this season. But the [other] girls put together a great regular season."

And when only two weeks were left in that season, five teams remained in the hunt for the conference title. Roosevelt University ultimately won it, but the four other contenders tied for second place with 17-5 records.

"How often do you see that happen in a conference?" Hallberg said.

Another unique distinction for SXU is that it has now been ranked in the NAIA Top 25 for 100 consecutive weeks, an honor shared with Morningside and College of the Ozarks.

"I think that shows a little bit about our consistency as a program," Hallberg said. "It's a great accomplishment.

The Cougars drew a first-round bye in the CCAC Tournament due to their No. 2 seeding and kicked off postseason play this past Wednesday, when it faced the winner of Monday's first-round matchup between No. 7 seed Indiana University-South Bend and No. 10 Trinity International University.

Roosevelt's overtime triumph over Purdue University Calumet last week secured the No. 2 seed for SXU. The Cougars also aided their cause by twice knocking off the conference-champion Lakers.

"We have 12 teams in the playoffs," Hallberg said. "We beat Trinity and South Bend twice during the season, [but] they're both coming into the tournament with nothing to lose while we're trying to win the championship of the tournament to secure an automatic at-large bid. They know their season is going to end and we have the chance to keep our season going." - Anthony Nasella

-Top-
Community sports news

Published as part of the February 21, 2013 edition.

SXU's Yanule headed to ESCC Hall of Fame

Mark Yanule, the offensive coordinator for St. Xavier University's football program, will be among four individuals inducted into the East Suburban Catholic Conference Hall of Fame in a ceremony on March 7 at 7 p.m. at the Crystal Sky Banquet Hall in McCook.

Yanule was an all-state and all-conference lineman at Notre Dame High School and later attended the University of St. Francis, where he also earned all-conference honors in football. Other new inductees to the ESCC Hall of Fame are former NFL draft pick Dan Santucci (St. Patrick), Benet Academy athletic director and former Redwings football coach Gary Goforth, and longtime wrestling assignment chair Jon Schaus.

In addition, seven anniversary state-championship teams will be recognized at the eighth annual event, including Marist's 1983 wrestling squad.

Tickets are $50 and may be purchased through any ESCC member school. For more information, call Mike Hennessey at (847) 779-8652.

-Top-
SouthtownStar Athletes on Campus: Katie Hannemann honored at Illinois-Chicago

By Mike Walsh For Sun-Times Media February 22, 2013 6:24PM

Smart Cougars

Ten Southland residents were among the 18 St. Xavier University student-athletes honored by the Chicagoland Collegiate Athletic Conference as members of its Fall 2012 All-Academic Team.

To be nominated for the award, a student-athlete must have been enrolled at his or her respective CCAC institution for a minimum of one academic year, have no less than a 3.25 cumulative GPA and completed at least 30 semester hours.

Lauded were women’s volleyball players Desiree Aramburu (Mother McAuley), Kelly Knudsen (Oak Lawn) and Colleen O’Hara (Lemont); women’s soccer players Sam Formella (Lockport), Molly Sheehan (Stagg) and Danielle Inzinga (Marist); men’s cross country runners Ricky Olmedo (Eisenhower) and Mark Catania (Lincoln-Way North); and women’s cross country runners Ashley Shares (Stagg) and Amanda Magee (Lincoln-Way North).

Making an Impact

Hickory Hills native Jimmy Connolly (Stagg) was chosen the “Incoming Impact Player of the Year” for Illinois Wesleyan University’s men’s soccer team for the 2012 season.

Connolly, a freshman midfielder, appeared in two matches for the Titans, registering two shots on goal.
Sports Briefs

On February 27, 2013

Adding depth to the offensive line, Kenny Smith (Minooka, Ill.) of Minooka High School has signed a letter of intent to attend University of St. Francis and play football for Head Coach Joe Curry’s team in 2013. A two-time All-Southwest Prairie Conference selection and tri-captain during his prep career at Minooka High School, Smith garnered All-Mid-States Football Association Mideast League honorable mention accolades as a starting guard on Saint Xavier University's NAIA national championship team in 2011. "Kenny is a very talented offensive lineman who will solidify our line and bring much-needed depth to the position," said Curry. "I look forward to Kenny becoming a dominating lineman in the league." Smith plans to pursue a degree in criminal justice at USF.

-Top-
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Tickets are $50 and may be purchased through any ESCC member school. For more information, call Mike Hennessey at (847) 779-8652.
Cougars ready for today's NAIA track championships

Published as part of the February 28, 2013 edition.

SXU sports summary

The outdoor season awaits, but St. Xavier University track athletes first have some indoor business to finish.

Four members of the women's team, as well as the Cougars' distance-medley relay contingent, will take part in the NAIA Indoor Track & Field National Championships, which begin today and run through Saturday at the SPIRE Institute in Geneva, Ohio. Three of SXU's individual qualifiers were seeded in the top 10 in their respective events, including senior Rachael Dean, a 2012 national-meet participant and currently No. 5 in the mile run after clocking a season-best time of 5 minutes, 6.07 seconds.

Also representing the Cougars will be senior Ashley Shares in the 5,000-meter run (seventh seed, 17:57.80), senior Jackie Ott in the 1,000 (ninth seed, 3:01.75) and senior Mercedes Mancha in the 3,000 race-walk (13th seed, 16:50.31). Mancha, like Dean, achieved All-America status at last year's nationals.

SXU coach Lisa Ebel is confident her athletes will again perform well on the big stage.

"I don't know if I have ever been more excited heading into a national meet," Ebel said. "This is definitely one of the most talented groups that we have ever sent to nationals, and with the top eight finishers in each event earning All-American honors, I think we have a very good chance of having multiple All-Americans.

"No matter what happens, I'm so proud of this team for all the hard work and effort they have put in throughout the [indoor] season."

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The Cougars men will also have entries in the national meet, including juniors Shane Kenney and Brian Corcoran, who qualified in the 800 and mile run, respectively, out of last Friday's Grand Valley State Tune-Up. Kenney eclipsed the NAIA qualifying mark of 1:56.65 by .14 seconds, while Corcoran crossed the finish line in 4:21.8 in his race.

The latter previously earned national spots in the 800 and as a member of SXU's distance-medley relay unit.

Sophomore John Stancato clocked a 22.57 in the 200-dash on Friday and then won that same event by running a 22.92 on Saturday at the University of Chicago's Margaret Bradley Classic. In addition, Stancato took third in the 55-dash (6.63) at the latter meet.
Other strong showings at the Bradley Classic were turned in by sophomore Matt Krakowski in the 400-dash (second in 52.92), junior Chris Shellenberger in the 5,000-run (second, 15:48), sophomore Dan Spencer in the 55-high hurdles (third, 8.23), freshman Eric Hancock in the 3,000 (third, 8:55) and junior Chris Sarna in the 5,000 (fourth, 15:55).

MEN'S VOLLEYBALL

Junior outside hitter Justin Cousin tied his career high with 18 kills and added a team-best eight digs, but it was not enough to lead the Cougars past Lourdes University last Thursday night at the Shannon Center.

The Gray Wolves prevailed in the Mid-America Men's Volleyball Intercollegiate Conference East Division match by a 25-16, 21-25, 25-19, 25-18 count. SXU (2-13, 2-7) had problems with attacking and service errors throughout the match, as they were charged with 32 and nine, respectively.

Sophomore middle blocker Sean Blackwood also played well for the Cougars in a losing cause as he totaled 10 kills, six digs and two block assists. Freshman middle blocker Sam Kull was tough defensively with seven total blocks, sophomore setter Dan French dished out 33 assists and had five assisted blocks, and junior right-side hitter Jacob Siska delivered seven digs and two service aces.

Freshman setter Oliver Cizmazia paced Lourdes offensively with 14 kills.

SXU returned to action this past Monday, when it hosted Johnson & Wales (Fla.) University in a nonconference match.

FOOTBALL

The National Football Foundation Chicago Metro Chapter honored Cougars senior receiver Shane Zackery last week by presenting him with its Mental Toughness Award.

Zackery was one of three players from Illinois collegiate football programs to receive the award, joining Northern Illinois University defensive tackle and Marist grad Nabal Jefferson and Northwestern University offensive tackle Patrick Ward. Last December, Zackery became the first football player in SXU history to be named one of the 15 finalists for the NFF's annual National Scholar-Athlete class and made the trip to New York City to be honored at the 55th annual NFF Awards Dinner at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel.

"What more can I say about Shane that has not already been said?" Cougars coach Mike Feminis said. "When it comes to character, he is one of the best young men I have ever coached.

"He is a true inspiration to young athletes everywhere that you can find success, both on the field and in the classroom, if you work hard and learn to balance your time. Shane has been a pleasure to coach over these past four years and deserves all the accolades he receives."

Zackery, a business management major with an emphasis in marketing and finance, becomes the first student-athlete in the 20-year history of the SXU football program to receive the Mental Toughness Award. He carries a 3.727 cumulative grade-point average and is a two-time CoSIDA College Division Academic All-America first-teamer, as well as a two-time Daktronics-NAIA Scholar-Athlete.

In his final collegiate campaign, Zackery led the Cougars in receptions (80), receiving yards (1,122) and touchdowns (13). Off the field, he coordinated team activities for SXU's annual "Service Day" and volunteered his time to help conduct a free football clinic for underprivileged kids in conjunction with a local Salvation Army Community Center.

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The Cougars recently signed another recruit, Shepard lineman Mo Ashkar, to a National Letter of intent. Ashkar earned All-South Suburban Conference Red honors in 2012.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

All good things must come to an end, and for the Cougars that meant having their 17-game winning streak snapped Saturday in Milwaukee.

Paired against host Cardinal Stritch University in the championship contest of the Chicagoland Collegiate Athletic Conference Tournament, SXU came up short of the Wolves for the second time in three matchups this season. Stritch captured the rubber game of the series - and with it the tourney title and automatic berth in the upcoming NAIA Division II national tournament - by downing the Cougars 84-75 at Panella Court.

Junior guard Brad Karp paced SXU (28-5) with 23 points, 10 rebounds and three steals, but three other Cougars also tallied in double digits. However, the Wolves countered that balance by sinking 57 percent of their field-goal tries in the second half, which included going 5-of-11 from 3-point range.

Stritch never trailed after intermission and used a 14-5 run to construct a 74-62 edge with 2:09 remaining. Back-to-back 3-pointers by sophomore guard Tony Smit keyed the Wolves' clinching surge.

Stritch's post-halftime revival followed an opening half in which it trailed SXU most of the way. The Cougars, on the strength of 11-4 and 10-2 tears, stayed in front for the better part of 18 minutes, but had to deal with foul trouble along the way.

Four SXU players were whistled twice in the early going and picked up at least four fouls before game's end. The Cougars were assessed 25 in all.

"Some of them were questionable," SXU coach Tom O'Malley said. "But I never want to blame the officials for a loss. We missed some free throws and easy shots, which allowed the score to be what it was. Those kinds of things wear on you."

"Having beaten them at their place, our guys were certainly not in any fear. It comes down to them having a couple hot shooters and [being better] prepared for what beat them last time."

Senior guard Roosevelt Green had been a thorn in Stritch's side in the teams' most recent regular-season clash as he racked up 22 points. Here, he was limited to nine, plus four assists. Attempting to compensate for Green's rather quiet performance were Dominique Harvey (18 points, including four 3-pointers), Anthony Grant (12 points) and Jack Krieger (11 points, including three 3s).

Working against SXU as well was an uncharacteristically high 15 turnovers.

"It's not something easy to deal with," O'Malley said, referring to both the miscues and setback, the Cougars' first since Dec. 28 and only their second since Nov. 20, when they dropped a home decision to the Wolves.

"But we can't cry at this time of year. We've had a great year [so far]."

SXU's win streak was its longest in 14 years. While the law of averages said the NAIA No. 7-ranked Cougars were due to suffer a defeat, O'Malley is not a proponent of that theory, or the one that insists losses can sometimes be beneficial.

"Some people believe that, but I'm not one who believes you gain anything from a loss," O'Malley said. "Sometimes you get in a position where you get too confident in what you can do, but I don't think that was the case here at all. We played the [nation's] No. 2 team as well as anybody has."
"That's the thing about losing - when you realize you didn't play your best and they did and you were that close, we don't have to worry about who we're going to play if they're the second-best team in the country. I take [the outcome] as more of a positive than a negative [in that regard]."

Despite the defeat, the Cougars will join Stritch in the national tourney, which gets underway March 6 in Point Lookout, Mo. SXU was to learn the identity of its first-round foe in the 32-school event this past Wednesday.

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SXU earned its berth in the CCAC final by romping past Indiana University-South Bend 64-46 in one of Friday's two semifinal games in Milwaukee. Krieger led the Cougars with 15 points, nine of them coming on a trio of 3-point baskets.

"We beat a good South Bend team that beat us earlier," O'Malley said, "and we beat them pretty handily."

Green (13 points, five assists) and Karp (11 points, team-high nine rebounds) also lent a hand to the SXU cause. The Cougars broke a 12-all tie by embarking on an 11-2 run with just under 11½ minutes to play in the first half, and Krieger's 3-pointer coming out of intermission fueled another SXU blitz that essentially put the verdict on ice for it.

The Cougars, who were ahead 34-20 at halftime, posted a field-goal percentage of 55 for the evening.

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SXU's conference-tourney appearance began last Wednesday at the Shannon Center, where a combined 44 points from Grant and Green propelled the Cougars to a 95-84 victory over Holy Cross College. The Saints advanced into Wednesday's encounter by downing Trinity International University two days before.

Grant tossed in 23 points on 9-of-14 shooting, while Green added 21 points, to go along with his game-best total of eight assists. Behind that productive duo, SXU buried 57 percent of its shots in the first 20 minutes and built a comfortable 52-34 lead.

Karp was also a notable contributor with 15 points and seven rebounds. His consecutive layups sparked an early 16-0 run that put the Cougars in command by giving them a 24-9 advantage.

Holy Cross refused to go away quietly, though, and climbed to within 86-79 in the late going behind the leadership of Yama Kader (23 points, including seven 3-pointers). However, SXU nailed down its 16th straight triumph by hitting a couple clutch buckets and some free throws in the final two minutes. - Ken Karrson

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Sophomores Suzie Broski and Morgan Stuut were both recognized as members of the 2013 Capital One College Division Academic All-America® Women's Basketball Team, as selected by the College Sports Information Directors of America.

Broski earned a spot on the second team, while Stuut was named to the third team. The Capital One College Division Academic All-America® basketball teams are comprised of student-athletes from both divisions of the NAIA, as well as Canadian and two-year institutions. To be eligible for consideration, a student-athlete must be a varsity starter or key reserve, maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.30 on a 4.0 scale, have reached sophomore athletic and academic standing at his or her current institution, and be nominated by his or her school's sports information director.

"To have your two best players also be two of your best students is a special treat," SXU coach Bob Hallberg said. "I never have to motivate these two young ladies because they already know how to work hard and excel in everything they do.
"With only 15 players being recognized for this achievement in the entire NAIA, it is pretty amazing to think that we have two on our team. It really shows just how talented this pair is."

Broski has averaged 16.0 points and 4.9 rebounds per game for the Cougars this season while leading them with a field-goal percentage of 52. In the classroom, the biology major carries a perfect 4.0 GPA.

A forward for NAIA Division II No. 14-ranked SXU, Stuut leads the team in scoring (18.2 ppg.), rebounding (11.4 rpg.) and blocks (1.3 bpg.). She has been a double threat for SXU all season, posting 17 double-double efforts on the year.

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Given their 24-5 regular-season record, it would have seemed logical for the Cougars to have at least reached the championship of game last week's CCAC Tournament, where a win would have guaranteed them an automatic berth in next week's NAIA Division II national tournament in Sioux City, Iowa.

Instead, though, SXU took an early exit from the conference tourney as it fell to a disappointing 70-64 quarterfinal defeat against an Indiana University-South Bend squad it had beaten twice before this season. While the loss shouldn't negatively affect the Cougars' plans for an appearance in the 32-school national tournament, coming up short against a 14-16 foe represented a definite downer in what has thus far been a pretty positive campaign.

"A team that is 24-5 shouldn't be losing to a team that's 14-16 in the playoffs," said Hallberg, whose club produced a 14-game win streak during the regular season. "We just have to put that one behind us and get ready for the national tournament.

"We didn't have a good ballgame, and you have to give credit to South Bend. They beat us in just about every aspect of the game.

"We continue to score more baskets than other teams, but we seem to be losing by about 17 points every game from the free-throw line. We got off to a slow start and we're down 13 points at halftime. We did a good job of battling back and we got within six with a few minutes to go, but then we missed a couple of pivotal layups and they were making their free throws."

After falling behind by as many as 18 points during the second half, SXU actually closed to within three in the final two minutes. The Cougars, however, could not complete the comeback as they were saddled with 35 percent shooting throughout the evening.

SXU also got out-rebounded 49-32 by the Titans. Stuut notched her 18th double-double of the season in a losing cause as she tallied 20 points and 11 rebounds.

"Rebounding and free throws were really the key to that ballgame," Hallberg said. "We did a great job of protecting the basketball [with only eight turnovers]. However, we just haven't been shooting the ball as well recently. You just can't have a bad game in the conference tournament, and we did."

Broski tallied 16 points for the Cougars, while junior forward Chrissy Heine netted 11. SXU's only lead was at 3-2, as the Titans embarked on a 10-2 run to shift momentum their way right after that. South Bend canned half of its 26 first-half shots and held a 39-26 edge at intermission.

The Titans increased their lead to 18 (55-37) with 12:15 to go, but the locals climbed all the way back to within 62-59 at the 1:47 mark after Stuut nailed a 3-pointer. Eight South Bend free throws in the last 1:14 enabled it to survive the Cougars' rally and pocket the victory.
SXU shone on defense, where it made 13 steals and forced the Titans into a total of 22 turnovers. Undercutting that good work, however, was spotty shooting by the Cougars' backcourters, who went a combined 5-of-22 from the field.

"It's hard to win ballgames when your guards are struggling from the floor," Hallberg said. "We're still having trouble finding that consistent outside shot. We're still in need of that one additional player who can take the pressure off Broski and Stuut."

SXU was to officially learn of its postseason fate this past Wednesday, when the NAIA announced its national-tournament pairings. No matter who the Cougars might see, Hallberg believes they've got a good chance to advance -- and he cited the CCAC as his reason for optimism.

"Ironically, the two teams who played for the conference championship - [Roosevelt and Cardinal Stritch] -- we were 2-0 against them both," Hallberg said. - Anthony Nasella