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# MID-YEAR MARKS

The Observer reviews student  
government offices at  
Notre Dame and Saint Mary's



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## ND STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT

# ‘We learned a great deal’

*Vidal, Devine evaluate progress of campaign goals, look ahead to plans for next semester*

By MARGARET HYNDY  
News Writer

Student body president Lauren Vidal and vice president Matthew Devine, both seniors, hit the ground running when they took office last April; in the earliest student Senate meetings of the year they put their initiatives surrounding Safewalk (now O'SNAP) and college readership on the agenda.

## O'SNAP and new initiatives

By the end of September, O'SNAP was fully operational and student government had negotiated bringing the Wall Street Journal to campus.

Other initiatives the administration has taken up this year include Quad Markets, Political Brew and 29 for 29, which launched this month.

Political Brews are Sunday meetings that invite students from all political perspectives to watch and discuss NBC's 'Meet the Press' together. 29 for 29, a new Christmas initiative, pairs each dorm with an in-need local family.

Vidal credited department directors and staff with much of this administration's success.

"We've been very fortunate; our team has been phenomenal," Vidal said. "We've been able to push a lot of initiatives that we had from the get-go through the help of the administration and our directors."

"We had a few big wins early on in terms of solidifying O'SNAP and the College Readership program, but we've picked up a few things along the way that we've been able to see through, and that's been very exciting as well."

Devine echoed this sentiment in his assessment of the term so far.

"The most important part of this has been our team," Devine said. "Our department directors and their ideas, as well as the ones that we articulated way back in January when we were campaigning, have really made this semester unique, fun, just really incredible."

"I think a lot of things that we originally planned we've been very lucky to see through, but we've also understood the different steps that are going to be needed to push them forward," he said.

## Improving communication

Vidal described the first few weeks in office as a learning experience for both herself and Devine. She said the two of them have developed a good working relationship with various branches of student government and the administration.

"I think where we are right now is at a very good understanding of how our student government has worked for us and how we can build it in the next few months," Vidal said. "We've learned from relationships, from administrators; we've learned a lot from

communicating.

"We've learned that there are some gaps in communicating through different bodies of student government, whether that be communication through Senate or CLC or even faculty senate"

Vidal and Devine both cited transparency and communication as issues that they have been working on and will continue improve next semester.

"There are disconnects that we are learning of, and we learned that, I think, most vividly through the 29 for 29 initiative," Vidal said. "We really had to work hard to ensure that we were communicating through all the proper parties, and there were times when certain bodies didn't feel like they were informed."

"We learned a great deal from that and we are taking steps to improve how student government communicates generally because that's always been a lack and we understood that there have been these gaps for years."

Vidal said she and Devine had both been reaching out to different groups in order to foster better communication between differ-

***"We've been able to push a lot of initiatives that we had from the get-go through the help of the administration and our directors."***

Lauren Vidal  
student body president

ent branches of student government; in particular, the two have recently been working with the Hall President's Council (HPC).

"We have opened conversation really extensively with HPC," she said. "We're working hand in hand with [student government department heads] to really make sure the hall presidents and the hall councils are informed, from their end on our initiatives but also through Senate."

"Matt chairs Senate, and he really tries to make sure the senators are up-to-date and are providing feedback of what's going on on campus,"

## Promoting transparency

The issue of transparency, while not new, has been something particularly important to this administration, Vidal said.

"I think transparency has been a huge thing for us because as long as I can remember transparency has always been a goal of student government, but I think this year we've been fortunate in building on the foundation that was set forward by previous administration



EMILY MCCONVILLE | The Observer

**Lauren Vidal and Matthew Devine participate in a student body presidential debate Feb. 4. Vidal and Devine have made progress with initiatives like O'SNAP that they introduced during their campaign.**

to enhance transparency, and we've gotten a lot of feedback," Vidal said.

According to Devine, the administration's transparency efforts go beyond simply being open and honest and involve a more assertive approach.

"I'd say it's like an active transparency, not just not hiding anything, which obviously we don't, but also just making sure that everything we do is known and even things that are works in progress — not even necessarily just finished projects, but things that are in development, things that are in the brainstorming stages," he said.

The result of this active transparency is more student involvement and participation in student government, Vidal said.

"We've been able to list initiatives that we're working on, and students have reached out and said 'hey, I'd love to work on this,' even just as an outsider," she said. "They're not affiliated with student government at all. And that's been really exciting for us."

"That was our goal, to make sure that people would be part of the formula, not just seeing the end of the equation," Vidal said. "We wanted to make sure that if someone saw that something we were doing was ineffective, they would be able to provide feedback and we could change that. And we've seen that — we've seen it in 29 for 29, and in O'SNAP, in College Readership, in Quad Markets — we've been fortunate there."

Looking back on the year, Vidal said two particular issues received more feedback than others: "campus safety and communication with the administration on major decisions that the University is making."

"So what we've done with that is really opened lines of communication with main building, just making sure that students are aware of what's going on," Vidal said. "One of the results of that will be a town hall with [University president] Fr. [John] Jenkins."

## Planning for the future

Looking forward, Vidal and Devine have several tangible goals and projects to accomplish before leaving office at the end of March.

"As we're going through our initiatives and really tailoring them to the current student body and their needs, we've found there are other initiatives we've needed to take up just in terms of the climate on campus," Vidal said.

"One of those was campus safety, which we didn't initially think was going to be so salient in our campus now," Vidal said. "We thought O'SNAP would be an excellent platform for campus safety, but with some of the crime recently in the South Bend area and some of the conversations we've had with students who are concerned with off-campus, we've picked up several initiatives to fully address the concerns of our peers — our constituency, really — to make sure that we're answering their questions."

"One of the things we're doing is working on a campus safety video; that's actually in production right now," she said. "We're going to release it to the student body, and it's through recommendations from code enforcement in South Bend, conversations with local law enforcement, conversations with [the Community/Campus Advisory Coalition] to just ensure that our students are aware of the resources and make sure we're really addressing this."

Also on the horizon for next semester is "It's On Us," the new

sexual assault prevention campaign, Vidal said. The "One is Too Many" and "It's On Us" campaigns both sprung from White House initiatives bearing the same names that were implemented at universities across the country.

"[One Is Too Many] was brought to our campus last year, and it was a great success here," Vidal said. "This year they're working on 'It's On Us,' and so [student government director of gender issues] Kristen [Loehle] has been in communication with some of the people in Washington, D.C., to figure out how to best bring that here and how that will look on this campus,"

Devine described the new campaign and how it will differ from the previous one.

"It's On Us' is going to take a similar tone, but it's also trying to build off 'One Is Too Many,'" he said. "'One Is Too Many' was more of an awareness campaign, but 'It's On Us' is a more actionable phrase."

While neither the focus on campus safety or 'It's On Us' was originally part of the pair's plan for their tenure, Vidal and Devine both said they were excited about the feedback they had received from their constituents and were looking forward to next semester.

"We've come a long way from our vision that we had in the beginning ... we've added a lot of tangibility to it," Devine said.

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GRADE: A-

Vidal and Devine set their major initiatives into motion within months of taking office. The changes to SafeWalk reflected the feedback and interests of the student body. The two demonstrated a concerted effort in increasing transparency and improving overall communication within student government, but they will need to show more substantial progress and successful programming to their constituency.



## SMC STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT

# ‘Working well together’

*Schuster, Moorhead tackle internal structure concerns and develop novel programming at Saint Mary's*

By **HALEIGH EHMSSEN**  
Associate Saint Mary's Editor

Student body president and vice president McKenna Schuster and Sam Moorhead, both seniors, have worked to enhance transparency, accountability and enthusiasm for Student Government Association (SGA) this year.

Beginning with transparency, Schuster said they want the student body to know what SGA does and what events are going on. They have organized a bulletin board in the Student Center with photos of all the SGA chairs so students know to whom they should direct comments and concerns.

Schuster said their marketing chair, junior Katie Calhoun, has ramped up their social media campaign using Instagram to inform students about events, as well as utilizing fliers in the bathroom they call “stall news.”

Responding to the SGA budget problems last year, Schuster and Moorhead have worked to hold their chairs accountable to their duties and positions.

“We have worked on transparency and everybody has been working well together,” Schuster said. “We’ve seen a lot more follow through the things we have been planning are actually happening.”

Moorhead said SGA has not seen the same kind of budget problems they had last year since she and Schuster have emphasized spending within the means, as well as revising the finance bylaws so everyone can see how much each club is allotted.

This year, Schuster and Moorhead said they have been working with senior Kelly Gutrich, vice president of internal affairs, to revise SGA's constitution.

Moorhead said the constitution was not cohesive and concise

and Gutrich and her constitution committee have been revising it all semester. They put forth the new version for a vote at the Dec. 10 Senate Meeting.

Schuster said SGA has had to overcome the complications ensuing from the disbanding of Student Involvement and Multicultural Services (SIMS) and subsequent loss of the three SGA advisors who served on SIMS.

“It was good that we have been really organized and holding our chairs accountable because otherwise that transition to a new advisor might have been more difficult,” Schuster said.

Another one of Schuster and Moorhead's goals was to increase attendance at events, which is happening in part because of their marketing campaign, but also due to the implementation of SMCards, Schuster said. She said attendance at SGA events has doubled due to the SMCards which reward students for attending events on campus like lectures, campus ministry events and sporting events.

In addition to attendance rising at events, Schuster and Moorhead have worked to increase communication and openness in their office.

“Our meetings are really productive, and we’ve really seen organization and follow through as a large improvement this year,” Moorhead said.

Schuster said the various SGA chairs have been working together and holding each other accountable to make their events the best they can be.

“People are being creative and taking the initiative, when people actually want to see things happen,” Schuster said.

In the past, Moorhead said the sustainability chair position hasn't been utilized to its fullest, but they saw that change this year as the chair helped to plan Food Week.



Photo courtesy of McKenna Schuster

**Seniors Sam Moorhead (left) and McKenna Schuster, Saint Mary's student body vice president and president, won the March 4 election for the highest offices of the Student Government Association.**

Moorhead said they have reached out to the Notre Dame student body president and vice president, as well as the Holy Cross student body president and vice president, to keep them updated on what SGA is doing and to talk about the larger concern of campus safety.

“We want to make sure that our students are safe on and off campus,” Schuster said. “We want students to know what cabs are trusted and make sure that cabs won't deny students because Saint Mary's is another block further.”

Moorhead echoed Schuster's concern.

“We want to make sure Saint Mary's students are as safe as other students,” Moorhead said.

Schuster and Moorhead have a “Big Sister, Little Sister” program in the works where first-year students would be paired up with a junior to help guide the student through the challenges of the first year of college.

“This program provides advice and guidance because the first year can be rough,” Moorhead said. “We believe we can help to fix that by pairing first-year

students with someone who already knows and love Saint Mary's.”

This program differs from the Peer Mentor program, which provides a junior or senior to advise a class of all first-year students.

“We want a program that exists outside of the classroom so students can go to their ‘big sis’ for anything,” Moorhead said.

Schuster and Moorhead said they are focused on building the groundwork for SGA to be the best it can be in the upcoming years.

“We want to make girls feel as welcome as we can,” Schuster said. “While this can't necessarily

happen during our time in office, we don't want to just turn down good ideas because we can't see them happen.

“We encourage girls to keep going, and it's exciting because we have many underclassmen who are enthusiastic and want to see their work continued.”

Moorhead said they have exciting events planned for the spring, including a spring fling event to enhance campus unity.

“It's in the works, but it's going to be a fun event for the whole campus,” Moorhead said.

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**GRADE: A-**

The Schuster-Moorhead administration has successfully followed many of their key goals from their campaign platform, including increasing student participation in SGA events and building a stronger community. By working on large-scale projects, like the “Big Sister, Little Sister” program, the administration is setting the standards for future leaders on campus.

## SMC STUDENT GOVERNMENT INITIATIVE: SMCARDS

## Punch cards promote student participation

By **HALEIGH EHMSSEN**  
Associate Saint Mary's Editor

Saint Mary's Student Government Association (SGA) launched the SMCARD this semester to improve the attendance at campus events.

The card rewards students for attending events sponsored by Campus Ministry, the Center for Spirituality, Athletics, Belles Against Violence Office, SGA, Student Activity Board (SAB) and Student Diversity Board (SDB).

The initiative, pronounced S-M-C-card, offers prizes to Saint

Mary's students who engage in the College community, student body president and senior McKenna Schuster said.

“This initiative has been developed by the Student Government Association to help increase attendance at all events on Saint Mary's campus,” Schuster said. “We wanted to create an incentive for students to attend events while boosting school spirit and morale.”

Attendance has doubled at events, Schuster said, evident at the release of the SMCARD in early October. SDB's annual bonfire

usually hosts about 50 students, but more than 300 came out to get their cards stamped and engage in the events at the bonfire, Schuster said.

“There is a lot of hype created around the bonfire, and we thought it would be a great way for students to get their first stamp to start off,” Schuster said.

The cards were designed by marketing and media committee chair Katie Calhoun, a junior. Calhoun said she believes the prizes have been one of the most motivating factors in the success of the SMCARD. Prizes include an

iPad, three silver French cross necklaces, a \$250 bookstore gift card and Munch Money that can be used in the on-campus cafes.

Calhoun said she has found that the idea of getting stamps for attending events excites students.

“McKenna, Sam and I go to all of the events we can and stamp cards,” Calhoun said. “When we ask girls if they have their cards, they are always so excited to pull them out and see how many more stamps they have to go.”

Schuster said the cards can be turned into the SGA office at any

time to be entered into a drawing of cards that have received seven or more punches.

A drawing for the winners of the prizes will take place at Late Night Breakfast on Dec. 15 in the Noble Family Dining Hall.

Calhoun said the SMCARD was an exciting way to improve attendance at events.

“We will only have 12 winners, but we have definitely seen more student participation around campus,” Calhoun said.

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## STUDENT GOVERNMENT IN SOUTH BEND

# Bolstering a relationship with South Bend

By **JACK ROONEY**  
Associate News Editor

In a February interview with The Observer, now-student body president Lauren Vidal said the top priority for her and vice president Matthew Devine, both seniors, was to promote service both on campus and in the community.

"We really have this idea of service, and although we understand that's a broad term, we really [prioritize] service to our peers and to our community as a whole," she said in the interview.

Now, 10 months into their term leading Notre Dame's student government, Vidal and Devine have narrowed their service focus while also expanding their vision of a more complete, mutually beneficial relationship between students and the city of South Bend.

"We've really tried to be very deliberate with how we approach that image of [students] going out into the community and trying to also balance bringing part of the culture of South Bend to campus and also helping students to find ways that fit their lifestyle so that they can go off into South Bend and explore, or at least have some sort of visibility to what South Bend is," Devine said.

Through programs such as Quad Markets, the recently launched 29 for 29 — which pairs each residence hall with a South Bend family that has recently moved out of the Center for the Homeless in order to build relationships between students and South Bend residents — and the annual CommUniversity Day, Vidal and Devine have striven to create a stronger bond between the University and the city.

South Bend Mayor Pete Buttigieg said the relationship has grown deeper over the course of Vidal and Devine's administration and recent years.

"I think our relationship is enviable as college towns go," Buttigieg said. "I've been in university communities where there

isn't a good relationship, where it's either hostile — I'd say that's true at, for example, Harvard and Cambridge — or where the university and the community are kind of doing their own thing and not very involved with each other.

"Here is very different. And it's important that we not take that for granted because we really benefit from it.

While University president emeritus Fr. Theodore (Ted) Hesburgh advanced Notre Dame as a global institution during his administration, Buttigieg said, University administrators and students have continued to cultivate an international presence, but also develop a robust relationship with the local community.

Buttigieg said collaborative projects such as the Eddy Street Commons, the Notre Dame Center for Arts and Culture on West Washington St., the Notre Dame Turbomachinery Facility and Notre Dame involvement in community organizations such as La Casa de Amistad and the Robinson Community Learning Center are recent developments that have greatly benefited both the city and the University.

"All of that would have been very hard to picture 10 or 20 years ago," Buttigieg said.

In response to recent student feedback, Vidal and Devine have also addressed the issue of crime in the community in collaboration with local law enforcement agencies, holding periodic meetings with representatives from the University, city, county and state levels.

"In terms of the relationship with South Bend, finding the most effective channels of communication has been a key to our relationship with local law enforcement," Vidal said.

"It's been a huge success. We've seen that really opening a forum for communication between all the parties allows us to figure out what's really happening in terms of looking at all the instances of

crime or robbery or burglary and figuring out what we can do as students to encourage safety and what they can do better in terms of serving us."

Buttigieg said clear channels of communication between students and the city extend beyond law enforcement, and there is still room for growth in the relationship.

"There are so many different dimensions to the relationship — students as people who get involved, volunteer, start things, do things in the city; students as residents, whether you've got students living in the city limits or not, they're all in the community and so we need to make sure we're meeting the needs of students, and there's no better voice for that than student government; [and] students as participants in the economy, working or shopping or eating or drinking in the city," he said.

"All of those things will work better if student government is able to create a flow of information about where the opportunities are for the students to know and then where the needs are for us to know, so that we're doing a better job of connecting students to the community at large. I think a more structured relationship would probably help us get a feel for what's on students' minds and how much access they feel they have to the city."

Buttigieg said small changes, like signs pointing out that downtown South Bend is less than two miles from the heart of campus, can help make a positive difference.

Devine said more students have also contributed to the growth of the relationship by taking advantage of work experience available in South Bend.

"There have been a lot of people who have started looking at South Bend in different ways," Devine said. "There have been a lot more people taking advantage of professional opportunities here in



Photo courtesy of Lindsay Huth

**Student Government sponsored Quad Markets on Oct. 10 on North Quad. Local vendors sold goods ranging from accessories to produce.**

South Bend."

Through internships and volunteer opportunities, students can gain meaningful experience and career preparation, Buttigieg said.

"Students can get that hands-on experience not just as practice ... but as real-world impact," he said. "And they'll find a lot of partners, not just in city government, but in the non-profit community, the business community. It's a small enough community that you can navigate it and have an impact at a young age in a short of amount of time."

Vidal, who spent the summer in South Bend interning for Indiana Legal Services, said she had a positive experience and grew more attached to the city, as more students have done, too, through cultural events and unique dining options in South Bend.

"There are a lot of new and exciting businesses in South Bend, ... a lot of cool new restaurants that we've seen that a lot of students have adopted as their own," Vidal said.

Buttigieg said students have become more "active citizens" and bring ideas he never would have thought of to the city rather than the city soliciting student help.

"There's a level of energy there that's really exciting," he said. "And we're going beyond the traditional model of student involvement as going down to the soup kitchen.

Going down to the soup kitchen is great, but we've got students applying their talents in so many different ways to the life of the city."

For their part, Vidal and Devine have sought to bring South Bend to campus and encourage students to bring campus to South Bend.

"There are lots of positive things obviously happening in South Bend," Devine said. "We've tried to promote the visibility of it, too, but also bring some of those positives to campus and help us develop our image off campus, too, as what we can be as a University."

Overall, Buttigieg said he hopes the relationship between the University and the city stands out as one of the strongest elements of both parties.

"Our goal is for the relationship with the city to be one of the reasons you would come to the University of Notre Dame," Buttigieg said.

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## ND CLASS COUNCILS

## FRESHMAN CLASS COUNCIL

Members of the Freshman Class Council hosted a Halloween dance, Grotto trip and trivia contest for UNICEF this semester. President J.P. Bruno said the council also spent time designing and selling class apparel and selling candy grams with proceeds going to the Center for the Homeless. "Our goal was mainly to establish a presence in the freshman class and be a recognizable, active organization, which I believe that we did accomplish," Bruno said. "Through social media and our website, we managed to reach out to everyone and share information about upcoming events and involvement opportunities." Plans for next semester include several more Masses, candy grams for Valentine's Day and possible spring apparel sales.

## SOPHOMORE CLASS COUNCIL

The Sophomore Class Council planned several events this semester, including the second annual Great Gatsby Dance, which had nearly 3,000 attendees. The council also hosted an informal study abroad session, a game day concession stand, class Mass and Grotto visit and a Thanksgiving "What are you thankful for?" mural. In addition to adopting a family through the Salvation Army's Adopt-A-Family program, the team also designed and sold class water bottles, Christmas ornaments and quarter-zips. They hosted a sophomore parent tailgate for the football game against the University of North Carolina, cards were sent overseas to soldiers through Operation Gratitude and Halloween activities were held for children at the Robinson Community Learning Center. A tropical Christmas Party featured a t-shirt drive benefiting the South Bend Center for the Homeless. President Noemi Ventilla said next semester the council is looking to partner with Memorial Children's Hospital, host more spiritual events and plan ice-skating trips.

## JUNIOR CLASS COUNCIL

This semester, the Junior Class Council hosted an abroad sendoff, midterms study break and junior appreciation week, which included a free yoga class, a class Mass and a MockTrails mixer. President Zach Waterson said the council also held a hands-giving event in which participants drew hand turkeys on posters in the dining halls to enter a raffle to pick a local charity for council donations. "We donated \$500 to local charities chosen by the winners of the raffle," Waterson said. An etiquette dinner was also held with the Boys and Girls Club of St. Joseph County, teaching local children proper meal and conversation etiquette. Future plans include a welcome-back event for students who studied abroad this semester as well as new iteration of last year's Jeopardy event.

## SENIOR CLASS COUNCIL

Senior Class Council sponsored a dunes trip to New Buffalo, Michigan, a "Wine and Canvas" night and a Notre Dame faculty and staff Christmas service event. The council also held a concession stand and a senior happiness raffle during the semester. President Martin Walsh said the "Wine and Canvas" night helped the South Bend Business business U Can Paint 2, and the service event helped families of Notre Dame. Next year, the council plans to host an outdoor ice rink event, a spring dance and a fireworks show at graduation. Walsh said the council is also planning some sort of mock graduation in the stadium as well as an amazing senior week. "These events are important because they serve as a means to unite the class," he said.



## STUDENT GOVERNMENT INITIATIVE: O'SNAP

# O'SNAP promotes safe transportation

By CATHERINE OWERS  
News Writer

For one of the term's first major policy initiatives, student body president Lauren Vidal and vice president Matthew Devine, both seniors, set out to augment late night student transportation on campus with the Student Nighttime Auxiliary Patrol (O'SNAP).

O'SNAP allows Notre Dame Security Police (NDSP) student employees to use two Global Electric Motor (GEM) cars to give students rides at night, NDSP sergeant Tracy Skibins said. Two NDSP golf carts supplement the service if both cars are in use.

O'SNAP runs Sunday through Wednesday from 8:30 p.m. to 2:30 a.m. and on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, it runs from 9 p.m. to 3 a.m., Skibins said.

Vidal said O'SNAP came to fruition after discussing campus safety and looking for tangible ways to positively impact the student experience through a necessary safety initiative.

"Thus far, it has been a very positive initiative, but overall we will continue to build upon the program to tailor it to Notre Dame's current climate," Vidal said.

Skibins said the service averaged approximately 650 rides per month during October and September, and Vidal said over 1,000 students used O'SNAP during November.

Students can receive rides from O'SNAP by calling NDSP or going to the substation in the lower level of LaFortune Student Center, Skibins said.

"Students who are in LaFortune can go up to the student employee and request a ride that way, if they don't want to call on the phone," she said. "[The student employee] also offers safety tips, information on how to register property and all the different resources

available to them through NDSP. That's brand new, too, and it's tied in with the O'SNAP program."

Skibins said the O'SNAP service fits NDSP's larger mission to promote student safety, and NDSP still offers assistance when the program is not operating.

"Let's say its 3:30 a.m. and the service is no longer operating, or its 8 p.m. and the service has not started yet — we won't turn anyone away if you call NDSP," Skibins said.

"NDSP is thrilled to be working together with student government in offering this service to students," she said. "NDSP and NDSP student employees realize that we are working on making this as efficient as possible and as useful as possible, and we expect improvement along the way."

Vidal said the O'SNAP service has received positive feedback so far, and her administration continues to develop services that reflect student needs.

"We will be utilizing vans, provided by Notre Dame Transportation, for the heavy winter snows, so that students will still get safe, reliable and warm transportation," she said. "The mobile app is almost completed, thanks to [the Office of Information Technologies] and NDSP's help, and we will be launching it soon. The mobile app will have choices for pick up and drop off locations all around campus and will send a message straight to dispatchers."

"O'SNAP is still being worked on, as we are always looking to make the program better, but we have seen a huge increase in ridership and students utilizing safe and reliable transportation in the evenings. This is what we set out to do, now we will work throughout the remainder of the year to make it even stronger."

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## STUDENT GOVERNMENT INITIATIVE: POLITICAL BREW

# Student director engages campus in political debate

By EMILY McCONVILLE  
News Writer

On four Sunday mornings this semester and two last spring, student government sponsored Political Brew, during which members of student government and political clubs, as well as anyone interested in current events, gathered in the McNeill Room in LaFortune Student Center to watch and discuss NBC's "Meet the Press."

Sophomore Elizabeth Fenton, who directs the National Engagement and Outreach (NEO) department of student government and organizes the brews, said student body president Lauren Vidal and vice president Matthew Devine, both seniors, suggested the idea at the beginning of their administration, and it soon became NEO's primary event.

"I thought it was a good idea, and then we hit the ground running with it with the first one, which was in April," Fenton said. "All the subsequent ones I've just completely taken over myself. That's the main thing that we do."

Fenton said each Political Brew has had a similar format: attendees come in, get bagels and coffee and watch "Meet the Press," which frames the discussion that follows.

"Depending on the show, if there's a large topic that should be discussed immediately, I'll mute the program and we'll open the discussion," Fenton said. "When discussion is closed I'll turn 'Meet the Press' back on and continue the same forum. If not, at the commercial break I'll mute it and we'll recap what was just said on 'Meet

the Press,' and we'll discuss it that way."

Fenton said topics have ranged from the November midterm elections to the Ray Rice scandal.

"It doesn't necessarily have to be political, but most often current," she said. "It just depends on what topic is on the program. If we want to talk about something I think is worth discussing — I'm very up to date on current events, so I'll just throw out, 'so what do you guys think of this?' and that gets the conversation going."

Since the first political brew

***"The overall goal would be to get more people informed of what's going on."***

Elizabeth Fenton  
sophomore

in April, attendance has risen from about 30 to approximately 50 people, Fenton said.

Senior Michelle McCarthy, president of the College Democrats, said the event was a way for club members to speak with people with differing political views.

"Political Brew is a great event where our members can come out and discuss current events with College Republicans and other attendees," McCarthy said. "I think it's beneficial because our members can engage in dialogue with students outside of College Democrats."

Senior Mark Gianfalla, president of College Republicans, said the group helped spread the word about the events, and he has seen positive reactions from club members.

"It's a nice way to start the morning on Sunday. It's not too early," he said. "There's a nice spread for you if you show up. There's some engagement in intelligent dialogue with others."

Political Brew can also appeal to students not affiliated with political clubs, Fenton said.

"If they don't come to talk they come to get more informed of what's going on and to listen to the people who have a lot of information on current events," she said. "... From both groups we've gotten great feedback."

Fenton said she hopes faculty will attend Political Brews in the future and she wants to enlist the help of the administration or even NBC.

"[The administration] actually contacted us two Political Brews ago, commending us for watching NBC because that's what the school is affiliated with," she said. "I didn't even think of that when we chose 'Meet the Press'; I just thought it was a good middle ground between the parties, but they love it."

But the main goal, Fenton said, is to encourage people to keep up with current events.

"The overall goal would be to get more people informed of what's going on, because as much as people like to think they know what's happening, a lot of people don't, A, read newspapers, and B, don't care enough to look into certain issues," she said. "I'm hoping that by coming to Political Brew and listening to both sides of a point, that they can form their own opinions on certain issues."

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## SMC CLASS BOARDS

## FIRST-YEAR BOARD

The Saint Mary's Freshman Class Board is collaborating to create opportunities for class unity. The board of six first-year students coordinated a Harvest Festival event earlier this fall, and they are working with upperclassmen to launch a Little Sis/Big Sis program. Megan Uekert, vice president of the freshman class, said the Board is planning the College's first Freshman Parents' Weekend to take place in February. In addition, they are hosting a study event Dec. 12 called Cookies, Cocoa and Cram. The Board also has a fundraiser planned when students return from winter break.

## SOPHOMORE BOARD

The Sophomore Class Board wants to serve as an advertisement of student involvement in social justice. They will sponsor service events on and off campus to promote community building within the sophomore class. In mid-September, the Board hosted Sophomore Parents' Weekend. Ellen Raymond, sophomore class president, said the weekend included a new academic component in which faculty gave presentations about new programs on campus. Earlier this semester, the Board sponsored an event at the Niles Haunted House Scream Park, Raymond said. They are currently scheduling a welcome back social gathering in January called Waffles and Dessert.

## JUNIOR BOARD

The Saint Mary's Junior Class Board aims to create class affinity and cohesion through programs, events and fundraisers for the junior class. The Board is focusing on planning Junior Moms' Weekend and coordinating class fundraising projects. "So far, we have had great success in fundraising by selling thermochromic color-changing cups," president Corinne Craig said. A significant goal for the Board is to be receptive to input from the junior class. She said there are plans to organize a community service event in the upcoming spring semester.

## SENIOR BOARD

The Senior Class Board wants to plan events that will allow the class of 2015 to leave a legacy at Saint Mary's. "One of our main plans is a letter writing campaign," vice president Victoria Wilbraham said. The campaign will encourage parents, friends, classmates and professors of the graduating class to write letters to the students. The Board hosted Senior Dads' Weekend for more than 200 seniors and their fathers, Osmanski said. The class of 2015 has launched its own Senior Gift Campaign Challenge, setting a goal for 90 percent participation in the Class Gift. The Board plans to host a Senior Give Back Day in the spring, Wilbraham said. The Senior Formal has been set for May 8, she said, and will be a yacht dance in Chicago.



## STUDENT UNION BOARD

# SUB improves visibility, promotes annual events

By MADISON JAROS  
News Writer

Junior Scott Copeland, executive director of the Student Union Board (SUB), said the organization's main focus this semester was to improve student life on campus by enhancing traditional SUB events and introducing new ones.

"We do that through a variety of ways, like we put on the spring concert; we do stress relievers during finals week," Copeland said.

SUB began the school year with events Copeland said would both "enhance the first experience of campus" for new students and excite older students about their return to school. Popular events this time of year were SUB regulars — Comedy on the Quad, Movie on the Quad and Pups and Pumpkins, which brought dogs from the humane society to campus, he said.

SUB also hoped to branch out this semester, Copeland said. It worked with the Native American Student Alliance (NASAND) to celebrate Native American heritage month on campus and reached out to

other underrepresented groups throughout the semester. SUB also introduced new events, including a bus trip to the Mockingjay premiere.

"That was one of our goals this semester, to branch out, do some new things," Copeland said. "We brought a spoken word artist, the Asia Project, to campus, and that was one of the first times we'd done that."

Coordinating the brand-new events this semester required additional planning and creativity from SUB members, Copeland said.

"We try to prevent the reinvention of the wheel from year to year, so there are a lot of events that we put on every single year — Comedy on the Quad is one, Fall Mall, concerts, stress relievers, movies — there are a lot of events we do every year," he said.

Copeland said spring semester events will include the Collegiate Jazz Festival, AnTostal, the spring concert and a comedian performance. Student recognition and involvement can be challenging, but SUB is working to create a bigger name for itself on campus, he said.

"One of the strategies that we tried to use is almost to build the SUB brand," he said. "... So we'll give away pens or frisbees or T-shirts at SUB events, just to try to make people aware that we're here. Because people kind of hear about SUB, but we're almost kind of a ghost organization, I feel like. In other universities, their student programming boards are huge, you know, everyone knows them and they do super cool things. So that's what we're trying to build."

Overall, Copeland said he believed SUB accomplished what it set out to do at the beginning of the year.

"We wanted to put on awesome events, of course, but we wanted to collaborate with other clubs, we wanted to incorporate more student groups in our events, again, getting back to our mission, which is to enhance the undergraduate experience," Copeland said. "... I think we've done a great job of that this semester."

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## CLUB COORDINATION COUNCIL

# Council revamps internal structure, updates policies

By KAYLA MULLEN  
News Writer

Though a lesser-known branch of student government, the Club Coordination Council (CCC) plays a large role in the task of helping Notre Dame's more than 200 clubs function on a daily basis.

The CCC is comprised of club members elected by their peers to represent and oversee all the recognized student clubs on campus, senior Jimmy McEntee, president of the CCC, said. The members are divided into six subdivisions: academic, athletic, special interest, performing arts, cultural and social service, he said.

"The CCC has two major responsibilities, in my opinion. First, we allocate the funds given to us by the University — approximately \$300,000 — to all of the undergraduate clubs," McEntee said. "Second, we oversee the new club process at Notre Dame, voting on whether to approve prospective clubs throughout the academic year."

Club organization, club networking and club promoting are all also tasks for which the CCC offers assistance, senior Peter

Hall, CCC vice president, said.

"Additionally, we are responsible for running the appeal process if clubs have unexpected events that require funding," McEntee said. "A limited amount of funds are set aside for the varying appeals throughout the year. Finally, we serve in a position that assists clubs whenever they need help."

The council's leaders set three main goals for the year, Hall said.

"The first is transparency. Many people do not know that this council exists, let alone what it does, so by being transparent we will raise awareness of the CCC and help to provide insight into how we operate," Hall said. "Secondly, we wanted to take a critical look at how we operate internally to see where we could improve."

"Finally, we wanted to be more efficient. Past councils have been effective, but this year we want to be effective while being efficient."

McEntee said he believed the council should focus on community between the clubs and reevaluating the CCC's own policies and procedures.

"An additional goal we set at the beginning of the year involved a reexamination of the procedures

and policies for the CCC," McEntee said. "We still have on file work papers from the early [1990s] from the CCC, and not much has changed since then."

Reexaminations of policy and procedure have been informed by systems at other universities, McEntee said.

"A few CCC members contacted other universities to understand the systems in place for dealing with undergraduate clubs, and we are looking at ways to include some of the positive aspects from those schools here at Notre Dame," McEntee said. "We have also conducted a thorough review of the CCC bylaws and are in the process of changing a few small components."

The new changes have also helped with making allocation of funds and other club processes less difficult for the clubs, McEntee said.

McEntee said the council constantly strives to improve the experience for everyone.

"We are excited for the upcoming months at the CCC, and are always looking to improve the way we do things," he said.

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## CAMPUS LIFE COUNCIL

# Board studies campus mental health concerns

By KATIE MCCARTY  
News Writer

The Campus Life Council (CLC) has focused on student mental health issues on campus, according to student body president Lauren Vidal, chair of the CLC.

"There is a national upward trend in student stress, and we have seen this spike mirrored in the lives of Notre Dame students," Vidal said. "We began the year with a preliminary report to the Board of Trustees on student stress, and we decided, through our findings, that Notre Dame was in fact a unique environment, with a more unique structure that we can capitalize on to become a university with an exceptional level of wellness resources and support."

The CLC, a forum for students, faculty and administrators to discuss student affairs, created three task forces to dive more in-depth into student stress and mental health, Vidal said.

"The academic task force has looked at specifically what our learning environment looks like and how our curriculum affects our students," Vidal said. "This force has spent time speaking with students and faculty about the in-classroom and out of classroom demands, and they have also decided to look at if and why students overload on credits [or] pick up double majors."

"This force has also looked at the idea of excellence as an ND student and how a perception of perfection takes a toll on student stress levels."

The social climate task force, consisting of rectors, Student Union Board leaders and student senators, has considered the larger picture of a student through the lens of their social environment, Vidal said.

"[The social climate task force] has looked into the benefits of a no-program time bracket, which some universities have adopted," Vidal said. "This policy essentially eliminates the option to program any organized event during a certain block of time, with the intended purpose to provide students with legitimate free time for

personal purpose.

The third task force is benchmarking, which Vidal said is essential to the functioning of the other two task forces.

"It serves the purpose of using comparative data to strengthen the research and the findings of our other forces," she said. "Benchmarking is looking into everything from academic statistics to data on how many of our students pick up double and triple majors, in comparison to our peer institutions."

CLC's goals for next semester involve more action on the data they have collected within the task forces, Chris Tarnacki, rector of O'Neill Hall, said.

"Our goal is to thoroughly understand and potentially provide recommendation on policies or services that might be put in place to better serve students," Tarnacki said.

Vidal said next semester CLC will put their work into action.

"We will hold meetings with the new team from the McDonald Center [for Student Well-Being] in an attempt to craft a Center that serves as an ideal addition to Notre Dame, and one that is centered specifically around enhancing the Notre Dame experience," Vidal said. "We will also be making recommendations for the new First Year of Studies course, backed by our deep dive into ND culture and student climate."

With regards to their goals next semester, sophomore Badin Hall senator Helen Hathaway said the CLC has established a timeline of points to accomplish.

"We have devoted this school year to discussing and researching mental health so that we can present a report at the end of the year that will be useful to the University as its health and wellness programs grow and develop," Hathaway said. "We will continue discussing and gathering evidence — be it data or anecdotes — so that we can use the second half of the second semester to construct a comprehensive and telling report."

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GRADE: A

The Campus Life Council has identified a critical issue on Notre Dame's campus and taken significant steps to address mental health concerns in well-organized way. Their efforts merit more public attention, however. The CLC should strive to better promote its own efforts to serve the student body.

## STUDENT GOVERNMENT INITIATIVE: READERSHIP

# Leaders adjust news options for students

By ANN MARIE JAKUBOWSKI  
Editor-in-Chief

Before they could bring copies of The Wall Street Journal to campus this year, student body president and vice president Lauren Vidal and Matthew Devine needed to make a series of behind-the-scenes changes.

In the past, student government coordinated Notre Dame's participation in the College Readership Program through the Gannett Company, which brought copies of The New York Times, USA Today and The South Bend Tribune to campus. After discussions with the student senate and research, Vidal said they decided to end the relationship with Gannett and instead negotiate individual contracts with The New York Times and The Wall Street Journal.

Their research showed that the Readership program was a significant expense, that only about 20-30 people picked up The South Bend Tribune copies per day and that many students expressed a desire for access to The Wall Street Journal, especially for business classes.

"[The College Readership Program] was very costly," Vidal said. "We knew it was going to be an undertaking, but we said 'what if we try to create our own program?' And so we negotiated the contracts in

such a way that we were going to save money, and with the money saved, we created a student job. ...We're proud of that."

Devine said the first priority was seriously evaluating student input on the program instead of continuing the established system by default. When the contract renewal period came up with the Gannett Company in the spring, he said the department of academic affairs decided to change courses.

"We were in a negotiation process with The Wall Street Journal for a month," Vidal said. "They don't typically do this kind of [mass subscription] program; we basically just created our own readership program with two individual contracts, one with The New York Times and one with the Wall Street Journal."

Two student employees are now tasked with distributing the papers to both dining halls and to LaFortune Student Center each morning. Devine said 400 copies of The Wall Street Journal and 300 copies of The New York Times are available in total. Online access for the Times is available too, but not for the Journal.

The decision to eliminate The South Bend Tribune subscription was based on the low readership numbers they found, Devine said.

"Our whole perspective throughout the decision to eliminate the Tribune was not that we were shifting our focus away from the community in any way," he said. "We were just trying to figure out a better way to help people be involved in the community. This service wasn't being taken advantage of, so we thought we could figure out a better way [to stay connected to the community]."

Devine said they did not get any reaction from the Tribune after the subscription was cut, probably because it was a secondary relationship administered through Gannett.

"What's important to emphasize is that this really wasn't a hasty decision," Vidal said. "We're saving money with this system, and we're able to pay students to work a new job above minimum wage."

Their opinions are based in hands-on experience — for the first five weeks of the program, Vidal and Devine delivered the papers themselves at 6 a.m. before they could hire regular employees.

"We did have some kinks in the beginning, but it worked out," Vidal said. "We really have received nothing but positive feedback about the program."

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## ND SENATE

# Assembly focuses on safety

By JESSICA MERDES  
News Writer

Student body vice president and senior Matthew Devine said he has been very proud of the "work and commitment" of the senators during the semester.

"I have loved meeting and working with Senate this year," he said. "Its members are some of the brightest and most enthusiastic leaders of the campus community. We are all working together to better our University."

Senate has already taken serious steps in addressing widespread issues this semester with the rise of campus safety concerns.

"Campus safety has been at the forefront of our conversations most recently," Devine said. "Following the Safety Summit at the beginning of this year and in response to the most recent off-campus crime reports, Senate began to discuss ways to both protect

and educate students about how to live and work safely both on and off campus."

To address these issues, Senate has "enhanced interactions" with the South Bend police and Notre Dame Security Police (NDSP) to increase student awareness of safety resources and is in the process of making a campus safety video. Most noticeably, the implementation of O'SNAP at the beginning of the year has taken serious steps to improve campus safety.

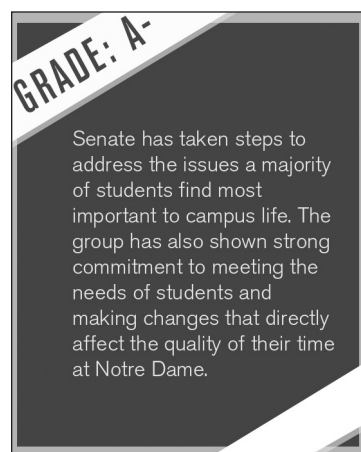
At the beginning of the semester, Senate met with the Office of Information Technology (OIT) to discuss the new printing quota system and concerns that were voiced by the student body.

In response to student concerns revolving printing quota, there is now a working group of Senate members tasked with creating a new system.

Devine said Senate plans

to continue addressing issues related to campus safety and mental health of students and to continue discussing some of the more short-term goals such as University's policy towards auditing courses, revision of the DARTing and class search processes, sexual assault prayer services, national engagement and the distribution of daily press clips and library renovations.

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## SMC COUNCIL OF COMMITTEE CHAIRS

# Group undertakes campus-wide programming

By KELLY KONYA  
Saint Mary's Editor

Student Government Association's (SGA) Council of Committee Chairs (CCC) sought to continue last year's goal of transparency as well as increase student attendance in events this semester, CCC director and vice president of external affairs Katie Stare said.

Stare, a senior, said the 18 committee chairs and co-chairs work to address student interests and needs in the most effective way possible. The 12 committees include alumnae, athletic, community, first-years' concerns, food services, international, market research and media, mission, social concerns, Sophia Program, sustainability and technology.

"Of the 12 committees, the media chair has been the one that has seen the most changes this year," Stare said. "Katie Calhoun, who is the chair of the committee, has worked extremely hard to make sure all of the SGA events are advertised on all social media outlets. She also personally designs the t-shirts for many of the events."

"Katie[Calhoun] has been a huge help this year in furthering our overarching goal in SGA to improve student participation and attendance."

Stare said the committee chairs and co-chairs meet on a weekly basis to update one another on issues that come up, student feedback on events or their upcoming plans and goals.

"We are a very collaborative group, and as one of our main goals this year is to have every committee planning more events in order to best utilize our budgets, it's great to have these weekly meetings so we can all join forces and inspire each other to be successful," she said. "Our CCC budget is larger than it has been in the past, so we are all trying our best to reap the most benefits from this upgrade."

Five of the committees put on "big weeks" on campus to highlight different issues among the campus community and raise awareness of different social concerns. These "big weeks" take extensive planning — the committees work

months in advance to design the weeks — and thus, the committees' duties are mostly narrowed to one specific focus.

"I think that's something that could definitely be improved," international co-chair and senior Catherine Sullivan said. "Right now, it's like the committee chairs have their 'big weeks' to focus on, and then they are pretty much done for the year after the week takes place."

"My chair is one of the few positions that actually has to think of one or two events for every month, since I don't have a 'big week' to plan for. It helps me involve my issue of the international community at Saint Mary's in events throughout the year."

Stare said the "big weeks" that have taken place already this fall semester have been Support a Belle, Love a Belle (SABLAB) and Food Week. SABLAB was organized by social concerns co-chairs and seniors Kaitlyn Tarullo and Chloe Deranek, and Food Week was planned by food services chair and sophomore Mary Kate Luft and sustainability co-chairs Chelsey Fattal and Eleanor Jones, both juniors. *(Editor's note: Luft is a Viewpoint copyeditor at The Observer. Fattal is a News writer.)*

"I was really impressed with both of the 'big weeks' that have happened so far," Stare said. "I think what made the weeks so successful were their emphases on diversity."

"The CCC will be especially busy helping the alumnae and mission committees and social concerns committee plan Heritage Week and Love Your Body Week, respectively, in the spring semester, Stare said.

"Since student attendance at the events that have already happened this year has been greatly improved, we hope that in the 'big weeks' to come, the same sort of turn out will occur," she said. "It's amazing what the small but mighty Saint Mary's community can do when we collaborate and come together to unite behind certain causes and events."

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# DEPARTMENT REVIEWS

**The Observer** evaluated every department within Notre Dame's and Saint Mary's student governments.

The departments within Notre Dame student government are highlighted in blue and gold.

Our analyses of Saint Mary's boards are featured in dark and light blue.

## DEPARTMENT of ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

The Department focused on ND Creates. It hosted Photoshop workshops and passed a resolution through Senate for more individual study spaces on campus. The department is planning Majors Night, an art and drink night for students and a student-professor coffee initiative next semester. Painting, photography and technology classes are scheduled for the future. While the department has ambitious plans for the future, it must put more of those plans into action.

**B**

## ATHLETICS REPRESENTATIVE

The Athletics Representative, sophomore Corey Robinson, worked with the football team's Unity Council to reinstate the alma mater policy at football games. In a video, Robinson encouraged respect during the senior day marshmallow fight. The Athletic Department also plans to participate in 29 for 29 and help with the "It's On Us" sexual assault campaign. Robinson made some strongly-supported decisions, but video failed to achieve widespread student notice.

**A-**

## CAMPUS MINISTRY REPRESENTATIVE

Campus Ministry and representative senior Grace Carroll held events for freshmen, Housekeeping Appreciation Week in each dorm. The group worked with class councils to organize mass and Grotto trips, was involved in reversing the alma mater decision and worked to address sexual assault with education campaigns and support systems. Campus Ministry receives an A for its strong kick off to the year with the freshman class and continued work with clubs.

**B+**

## DEPARTMENT of CAMPUS TECHNOLOGY

The department examined the printing quota system, helped create an O'SNAP module on the ND mobile app, trained OIT student employees, helped organize the ND Mobile Conference and collected feedback on DART policies. It hopes to install more mobile charging stations next semester. While the department has done an excellent job in creating new programs, general student dissatisfaction with the current printing quota system remains strong.

**A-**

## DEPARTMENT of COMMUNITY RELATIONS

The department planned an on-campus farmer's market with local vendors. It is working on the 29 for 29 initiative with the South Bend Center for the Homeless. Preparation began for CommUniversity Day, and the department plans to revamp the volunteer event with early recruiting and online sign-up. The group receives its grade for bringing one unique event to campus, but the student body looks to further increase interactions with the community.

**B**

## DEPARTMENT of CONSTITUENT SERVICES

The group helped in the O'SNAP initiative and started Late Night Breakfast, a new program in conjunction with Irish State of Mind Mental Health Awareness Week. Future plans include standardizing and monitoring South Bend taxi companies. They also plan to install a reusable bags program for students to use for grab-n-go meals. The department receives its grade for a well-organized mental health campaign and its continued dedication to improvement.

**A**

## DIVERSITY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE

The Diversity Council and its student government representative, sophomore Stephen Kim, conducted training sessions for senators and multicultural commissioners. Training improved with interactive dialogues, personal stories and a question and answer session. Kim now meets with the student government executive cabinet and diversity council to promote communication. The council receives a B+ for largely reaching its goals for the year.

**B**

## FIRST UNDERGRADUATE EXPERIENCE IN LEADERSHIP

The FUEL program of 35 freshmen appointed a liaison for each department and major council. Their discussion on preventing the Zahm Celtic Chant at football games moved to Hall Presidents' Council and Senate for further consideration. Freshmen focus groups to discussed mental health and considered initiatives of freshmen mentors in dorms. FUEL still has much to do in order to implement future plans.

**B-**

## DEPARTMENT of GENDER RELATIONS

The Gender Relations Department reported data on nighttime sexual assaults and submitted a proposal to support O'SNAP. The department co-sponsored the "Are You Getting the Signal?" event to educate students on sexual consent. The department also co-hosted the Time to Heal Dinner. The department also decided to advance the "It's on Us" campaign on sexual assault, which will kick off in January. A "Love Your Body" campaign is scheduled for the spring.

**A-**

## DEPARTMENT of NATIONAL ENGAGEMENT AND OUTREACH

The department implemented Political Brew. It also started Press Clips, an email system to provide daily news stories to all members of student government. The department recently met with leaders of Southern Methodist University to discuss their plans for their new student center and receive input from ND student leaders. The department grade is based on its success in achieving its goals and implementing new initiative

**A-**

## DEPARTMENT of RESIDENCE LIFE

The department planned Irish State of Mind: Mental Illness Awareness Week, Late Night Breakfast and a discussion on the future of food services on campus. It is currently working on the 29 for 29 initiative, a residence hall peer advisors program and a thank you plan for dining hall workers. In the future, the department hopes to reconsider the medical amnesty policy and look at the future of RecSports in light of Campus Crossroads.

**B**

## DEPARTMENT of UNIVERSITY AFFAIRS

The group were instituted free shuttles in light of the shortage of parking, and new ATMs were installed in the LaFortune Student Center. The department is working to standardize taxi services on campus, improve access to DeBartolo Hall for students and staff after-hours and create a new walkway with blue lights from the D-Bulla lot to campus. Next semester, it plans to hold a town hall safety forum, tackle the lack of bicycle racks and host a spring bike sale.

**B+**

## DEPARTMENT of INTERNAL AFFAIRS

The Department of Internal Affairs participated in the SafeWalk revision resolution and the revision of the financial structure of The Shirt Project. The department also passed resolutions on references to the Office of Community Standards and increases in study spaces in academic buildings. In the future it plans to update passages in the constitution. The grade is based on the lack of tangible change or forward-thinking initiatives.

**C**

## SMC STUDENT ACTIVITIES BOARD

This semester, the Saint Mary's Activities Board (SAB) has been working to bolster participation. By allocating their budget differently, the department has reached many of their goals in advertising and attendance. SAB has already hosted many successful events this year, and they plan to improve and heavily advertise the two biggest events of the spring semester: Midnight Madness and Tostal. For their focus on advertising, which was the main issue with SAB last year, the board deserves an A.

**A**

## SMC STUDENT DIVERSITY BOARD

Saint Mary's Student Diversity Board (SDB) successfully hosted the annual SDB Diversity Bonfire, SHINE Day, the Oxfam Hunger Banquet and Diversity Dinners that brought the tri-campus community together. SDB will focus their energies on the 10th annual Diverse Students' Leadership Conference, Women's Leadership Day and Watch Your Mouth Day. The board has many ambitious goals but will need to better advertise and inspire attendance to accomplish these initiatives by the end of the term.

**A-**

## SMC RESIDENCE HALL ASSOCIATION

Saint Mary's Residence Hall Association (RHA) hosted its biggest event, Spirit Week, as well as Christmas Cards with College President Carol Ann Mooney, which featured crafts, food and decorations and was well-attended. In the future, RHA will host the All-School Formal in January, as well as Little Sibs' Weekend in March. The department earns a B+ for its work thus far, since the group could be a bigger presence on campus and plan more events to better link the residence halls and SMC student body.

**B+**

## SMC COUNCIL OF CLUBS

This year, the Saint Mary's Council of Clubs has worked to improve transparency and be more prudent in their allocation process. The group, headed by senior Marissa Pie', crafted a workable budget and increased sponsorship allotment by 20 percent. Pie' also hosted three mandatory seminars to guide student leaders through the budget request process. They plan to re-work the finance bylaws to make protocol and policy even more transparent for the future. All of these initiatives earn the council an A.

**A**