

## Campus reels from COVID-19 impact

Special to the Logos

In an April 24 letter to the University of the Incarnate Word community, the president said he was "cautiously optimistic" about UIW's return to some normalcy in the midst of the pandemic.

Coronavirus – scientifically named COVID-19 -- has rocked UIW's world since mid-March.

Reports of virus victims began overseas in late December and gradually came to America's shores. During spring break, students were told their classes would resume remotely and those living on campus had to move out but would receive refunds. While students got an extended spring break, faculty received training to teach remotely.

Spring commencement will take place virtually. Summer classes will be taught remotely. Summer orientation will be conducted online. Most employees had to leave their offices and sign remote-working agreements. A few employees remain on campus, working behind locked offices, observing social distancing and wearing face coverings.

Whether fall operations will return to some degree of normalcy remains questionable as city, state and national governments work

out plans to gradually reopen the country.

In his letter, Dr. Thomas M. Evans, UIW's president, asked for prayers for COVID-19 victims and their caregivers.

He also detailed how the university, led by a special response team, had dealt with the crisis and would continue monitoring the situation.

Evans said he was "extremely proud of how our community responded in the transition to online learning and services for the health and well-being of others. Together, we demonstrated the importance of being 'One Word,' a community united in our efforts to be of service to our students and one another.

"We also responded to the calls for action by city, state, and national leaders to act responsibly for the greater good of our city, state, country and world. When challenges arose, we strove to meet them, and when some demonstrated need, we sought to help.

"I feel confident that UIW will emerge from the pandemic stronger than before because of our dedication to our Mission, values and charism given to us by the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word."



Police Cpl. Mike Ayala wears a mask.

## Admissions adjusts to virtual recruiting

By Ian Comuzzie/ STAFF WRITER

Despite the increased danger and uncertainty of the coronavirus pandemic, the Office of Admissions continues to work online and virtually to bring in new students this fall, an administrator said.

"(Admissions) is moving forward with recruiting efforts as usual, but we are having to make adjustments to how we recruit," said Dr. Cyndi Porter, vice president of enrollment services at the University of the Incarnate Word.

In addition to Zoom and Skype meetings, Admissions is using phone calls, texting, e-mail and social media. New videos have been added and virtual campus tours are promoted in an effort to stay connected with future students.

In response, many new students have been staying digitally involved, Porter said.

"Many students are using social media and virtual networks like ZeeMee to continue to discuss and follow up on their college plans. We've also noticed great participation in virtual events."

More than 100 students participated in

an April 4 virtual "Admit Day," said Maddie Slaughter, campus visit coordinator for Admissions. And another one is planned May 16.

Despite the continued outreach, Admissions has had to make a few changes to stay on track.

"We have put in place new processes to help incoming students get transcripts from their high schools and find alternate ways to submit test scores," Porter said. "We also have extended our confirmation deadline to June 1 (from May 1), and we are offering students the opportunity to self-report GPA and test scores.

"We recognize that our efforts are affected exponentially now since the outcome is uncertain, and students and families don't know what to expect come August. Currently, we are pacing well toward our goal and we continue to use all opportunities and resources to reach new students."

Porter said the current projected goal is 1,100 new freshmen – a goal she hopes to surpass. and the admissions office hopes to

surpass that goal. The pace is already ahead of last year as 655 had committed by mid-April.

While enrollment is key, Porter said, "the university has conveyed that its main focus is the health and safety of our community, that it will ensure the continued provision of a quality education and student support for our incoming and current students, and that it is staying up-to-date with news and legislation with regard to when it will be safe to return to regular on-campus activities."

Although Admissions is leading the push for new students, Porter said, "Every member of our UIW community has a role in representing and recruiting new students. Especially in this unique time, we want to remind everyone to share the benefits and value of being a UIW Cardinal with friends and future college students you may know. Future students are concerned about the future just like all of us and yet they are excited about the future."

## Business students take dip in credit union's 'shark tank'

Students from the University of the Incarnate Word got the opportunity to participate in a business externship earlier this spring at Randolph Brooks Federal Credit Union's main headquarters.

The purpose of this all-day externship was

to allow incoming business students to gain hands-on experience in their field while also gaining the chance to network with other students from University of Texas-San Antonio, Texas A&M-San Antonio and St. Philip's.

That morning, students heard from various

Randolph Brooks department executives on what the credit union has to offer. This opened the students' eyes to future internship and job opportunities within the company.

In the afternoon, everyone took part in a networking luncheon followed by a tour of the

# Business students take dip in credit union's 'shark tank'

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headquarters. Once the tour was completed, the students were divided up into five teams to complete the "Shark Tank" activity. This exercise promoted quick thinking and teamwork in a business setting. The activity was meant to mirror the popular entrepreneur show, "Shark Tank."

Each team was given a set of guidelines they had to meet as they competed for a mock \$50,000. Every group had to come up with an original product or service.

Once they had their ideas, they had to come up with other components such as a logo, mission statement and marketing plan.

Each marketing plan had to show exactly how the team would spend the money to further their company. The teams were given two hours to work on their presentations before they had to present their products and services before a panel of judges, or in this case, "sharks," in the credit union's auditorium.

When their time was up, each team had only five minutes for their presentations with each member of a team having a speaking portion. This helped the students to step out of their comfort zones and try something they might not be used to.

One of "the sharks" on the panel was Jessica Wilson, director of UIW's Office of Career Services. Wilson played a vital role in coordinating the event to help UIW's business students excel.

"Allowing our students to participate in the RBFCU Shark Tank event (allowed) them the opportunity to understand the business lifecycle," Wilson said. "This event helps them become more goal-oriented, task-driven and learn how to work as a team member and, in some cases, become the team leader."

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UIW student Sarah Sifuentes, an intern for Randolph Brooks, participated in the event.

"I learned so much from the speakers and material presented today," Sifuentes said. "It gives an insight into what employers need and expect from graduates. Also, we gained experience in multiple business fields that give us a better inclination in what employers want."

Samantha Leonard, another UIW at the event, said she was unsure what to expect at first but found it to be very beneficial.

"I went into this event not knowing what would happen but afterwards I left with a mind full of new knowledge, advice, and experience," Leonard said. "As a business student, I highly recommend this externship and feel that it is important for any business major to attend because RBFCU taught students how to create a brand for ourselves, teamwork, and communication."

## International students struggle with status issues

By Ana Hoff/ STAFF WRITER

When the coronavirus pandemic hit, the University of the Incarnate Word had to take quick steps to deal with its international students because of various issues, especially campus life.

The Logos interviewed Jose F. Martinez, director of the Office of International Student & Scholar Services, about COVID-19's impact on the students.

LOGOS: What does the COVID-19 Stay at Home order mean for UIW international students?

Martinez: (We are) committed to supporting international and exchange students during this global health crisis. We are all navigating through this together. The Stay at Home order applies to any individual -- U.S. citizen or non-immigrant -- and it requires all to stay in their current residence except to provide essential services or do essential things such as getting groceries. Students who have returned to their home country or are residing in another state/city should abide by their local community guidance.

LOGOS: How many students have returned home and how many have decided to stay in the United States?

Martinez: As campus housing closed, a very good percentage of international students living on-campus decided to return to their home country. Additionally, a few students that were living on-campus decided to stay in the U.S. and moved into apartments with friends or family.

LOGOS: Are there any students still living in the campus dorms? If so, were they allowed to stay in their dorm or were they moved to a specific area on campus?

Martinez: We currently have a couple of students still residing on-campus who were approved by the housing exemption.

LOGOS: For students living in a residence hall on campus, what was the move-out process? What if a student could not return home?

Martinez: On March 12, students were informed by the Office of Residence Life of the residence halls closures. Exemptions to remain on-campus were offered on a case-by-case basis. International students were given a very short window to figure out a housing plan and many opted to return to their home country. Students unable to return home were able to make their case by filing a housing exemption or decided for an off-campus option.

LOGOS: How have the COVID-19 travel restrictions impacted international students? What is being recommended, to stay in the United States or travel home?

Martinez: As this question is more on a case-by-case basis, students should seek guidance from (our office).

LOGOS: If students need to travel back to their home countries, will their visa status be impacted?

Martinez: As the situation is changing daily, students should check the travel and visa restrictions that may be in place at the time they're planning to travel. (Our office) is carefully monitoring updates from the CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention), SEVP (Student and Exchange Visitor Program), USCIS (U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Ser-

vices – a division of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security), and the Department of State, as they're providing up-to-date information relevant to travel, consulates, and visas. Students should reach out to (us) for their personal situation.

LOGOS: What do international students need to do in order to maintain their visa status?

Martinez: We understand that the recent changes in the instruction mode and location of their participation may cause visa status concern. We received guidance from (the U.S.) Department of Homeland Security that allows students to continue this semester's courses by virtual instruction without jeopardizing their immigration status. Students should continue to participate in online or any other alternate learning procedure disseminated by each instructor. To maintain their immigration status and for their record to remain active, students should continue to participate in online learning and continue to be enrolled full-time. Additionally, by federal regulations, international students must report to (us) any change of their residential addresses in the U.S. within 10 days of the change.

LOGOS: With restrictions on how many online classes international students are allowed to take per semester, how will UIW's decision to temporarily move to remote learning impact a student's visa status?

Martinez: SEVP allowed F-1 international students to temporarily count the new classroom instruction toward a full course of study, even if they left the U.S. and are taking the virtual classes elsewhere. This procedural change will continue until SEVP provides further guidance due to COVID-19.

LOGOS: What if you're graduating soon and have applied for OPT (optional practical training)?

Martinez: We are navigating ways for students to apply for OPT while in the U.S. International students who are approaching graduation should already be in communication with an immigration adviser regarding the OPT process. We have virtual OPT appointments for students wanting to learn more.

LOGOS: What support are our international students receiving?

Martinez: International students have received support through multiple workshops including immigration update seminars, Counseling Services workshop with Q&A's, and a tutorial on how to use iGrad to look for scholarships. In addition, our office has accommodated to Zoom walk-in appointments, so students have the ability to access an adviser if they have questions. (Our office) will continue to have weekly check-ins throughout the semester.

LOGOS: What could the UIW community do to support our international students?

Martinez: The pandemic has caused a tremendous level of stress for international students as they have to worry about their well-being, the health of their families in their home country, adjust to a new school instruction, and navigate visa policies to maintain their immigration record. has caused.

# Students earn community service online in global forum

## Special to the Logos

Prevented from participating in a March 21 gathering of "Cardinals in the Community" due to the pandemic, University of the Incarnate Word students still found an opportunity to serve online.

"Cardinals Serving Online" was a virtual gathering that had speakers from India, Peru, San Francisco and St. Louis informing and inspiring students and professors, answering questions, and teaching skills for advocacy and action in the face of child bondage, exploitation of women, human trafficking, and children in detention.

The Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word, who founded UIW, consider the "promotion of human dignity" a central issue and have been emphasizing solidarity with vulnerable children, immigrants, and victims of trafficking. Sister Martha Ann Kirk, a longtime religious studies professor at UIW and currently involved with its Ettlign Center for Civic Leadership and Sustainability, moderated the online gathering.

India's Anuradha Bhosale, regarded as a hero to thousands of impoverished children in her country because she has gotten them out of forced labor, spoke about the Avani, the organization she leads.

Stephanie Smith, a student in the Social Justice Leadership class, shared what she learned from Bhosale.

"There is an estimated number of 964,619 children under the age of 14 working as child laborers (in India)," Smith wrote. "Bhosale also mentioned how young girls drop out of school once their menstruation starts, as well as, how young women get sexually abused."

Ariana Garcia, a classmate, joined in to emphasize how much "we need to think and care about girls being 'shamed' in regard to their periods and therefore losing out on education."

Kirk said when she researched female education in Iraq she used U.N. information on girls dropping out of school at puberty and she documented a Muslim group successfully educating to change this.

UIW student Maggie Wilkins asked Bhosale about legal protection for sexually exploited girls.

Bhosale replied there are laws, but these do not have enough power because boys have not been given proper values education at the right age.

Smith pointed out in her writing that Bhosale has helped develop "gender equality classes for boys where they learn how to treat and respect women while the girls learn how they should be strong and continue to go to school."

Native San Antonian Scott Kafora has volunteered to work with Bhosale in India the last 10 years. He emphasized how university students can partner with them in global problems sharing information and building awareness. Kafora was in his hometown last November with Arun Gandhi, the grandson of legendary activist Mahatma Gandhi, at a gathering hosted by the peaceCENTER. Kafora also stopped by UIW to speak.

Kirk said unequal treatment and violence against women is not unique to India.

Mikkel McKoy, a religious studies major, shared his desire to protect his family and how people can unite for protection.

Human slavery and trafficking information and ways to combat these were shared by Sister Katty Huanuco of Lima, Peru, where she directs the Incarnate Word Sisters Justice, Peace, Creation Office. Kirk said Huanuco's Quichua-speaking family was displaced by violence in Peru. Huanuco, who strongly advocates for vulnerable people, taught 14 people from UIW on a Women's Global Connection trip to Peru last summer guiding students to integrate social justice and compassion.

Huanuco urged people to be informed consumers and to research if the companies they buy from are treating people as slaves. Students can do graphics and writing that the Incarnate Word Sisters might use in their international campaigns. For the last few years, Huanuco has been working with groups in Latin

America, Mexico and the United States against trafficking to as she said: "Bring these crimes out of the shadows into the light."

Speaking from St. Louis, Jennifer Reyes Lay, executive director of U.S. Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking, said, "ending slavery is everyone's work." <http://www.sistersagainsttrafficking.org/> Lay showed examples from the "Take Action" section of the anti-trafficking website guiding students so they could become engaged citizens and skilled in influencing legislation.

Smith quoted the Project Amplify web posting with the words of a 15-year-old girl from Honduras: "We aren't allowed to go to the bathroom at night. I have to put diapers on [my brother] at night since he isn't allowed to use the bathroom. He didn't wear diapers for years because he is 6.' When I read that story, my heart broke, no human child should have endured separation from their family, but they should also have access to a bathroom.

However, what caught my eye among the quotes were images that help convey the children's stories even more.

Lastly, I find it heartwarming that Hope Frye, as well as UIW students and faculty and others, have taken action by going to a detention center and protesting the inequality they are enduring."

Catholic Social Teaching emphasizes the importance of global solidarity, not just nationalism. The painful challenges of the coronavirus pandemic pushed UIW students to global service rather than local service.

"After hearing the speakers, I was motivated to work on solving these issues in my own small way, such as buying products that were ethically produced, or identifying and reporting incidents

# Mission

## 'Earth Day' gets Zoom conference

Thirty-four people stayed at home but participated via Zoom in "Recyclemania: Earth Day Revisioned" on Wednesday, April 22.

Student Government Association Secretary Ricardo Lopez III, a member of the Sustainability Advisory Board, kicked the program off with a presentation on the Recyclemania project involving the University of the Incarnate Word.

Thomas Hill and Jacob Rodriguez, two students who work with UIW's Ettlign Center for Civic Leadership and Sustainability, discussed the Compassion Tree Project. The two were recipients of an Interfaith Youth Core small grant to promote understanding and bridgebuilding among faiths. They have centered their project around the value of tree-planting and the important symbolism of trees in the world's great religions.

They spoke of trees in Hinduism, Judaism, Buddhism, and Islam.

"Trees help communities achieve long-term economic and environmental sustainability and provide food, energy and income," Hill said. "This is especially beneficial for poor and vulnerable communities. A new study found that adding 2.2 billion acres of tree cover would capture two-thirds of manmade carbon emissions."

Sister Martha Ann Kirk, a longtime religious studies professor who works with the Ettlign Center, showed an image of an olive tree in the Garden of Gethsemane where Jesus prayed that she had taken when she

was a research scholar in Jerusalem. The efforts by UIW and the City of San Antonio to plant trees is part of the international Compassion Tree Movement. (More details are available at [www.charterforcompassion.org/the-compassion-tree-project](http://www.charterforcompassion.org/the-compassion-tree-project)).

Kirk also invited Michael Mercer, adviser of the Logos student newspaper, to make a surprise announcement concerning Rodriguez's story about how food choices can affect climate change published last fall. Rodriguez's work had placed second for narrative reporting in a 2019 contest sponsored by the Texas Intercollegiate Press Association.

Other presentations came from Monica Hernandez and Yesenia Alcala, both doctoral candidates in International Education and Entrepreneurship, about the Women's Global Connection recycling project in Peru; and Yesenia Caloca, assistant director of the Ettlign Center.

Hernandez emphasized the five R's: Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Rot and Recycle. Alcala shared composting strategies. And Caloca discussed waste management in Peru and invited all to think of how they manage waste here.

# Opinion

## Take time to savor your labor

The wind was howling, the trees were bare, and I was snuggled into my coat with my morning coffee in hand

As per usual, I had 15 minutes to get back to AD 299 where I had to be a TA (teaching assistant) at 9 a.m. When I passed the library, there was a groundskeeper kneeling with several plastic pots of vibrant flowers who was having a conversation with another employee.

The groundskeeper said, "These flowers like the cold. But you wait, in a little while I am going to make this spot look beautiful. Absolutely beautiful."

The look on his face caught me off guard, so much so I could not help but smile. He looked happy and excited to plant those flowers. He, unlike me, did not appear to mind being outside in the cold kneeling on the ground.

I smiled, but that smile quickly disappeared when I tried to picture myself doing the same thing. What is it like to have so much hope and confidence in your work?

I continued to walk to the classroom, but his smile was burned into my mind. How could anyone be happy planting flowers in the cold?

While in class, I could not pull my thoughts away from the groundskeeper and how happy he looked. At 10:15 I grabbed my coat and what was left of my coffee (something had to keep my hands warm), and headed back outside to see what work he had done the last hour and 15 minutes.

The groundskeeper was still there, alone

with no one else, standing over his work with an even brighter smile on his face. I had been down with a slight cold, and should have gone inside, but I was too delighted and dumbfounded to do so.

I sat there in the circle, on the concrete bench, as I watched this groundskeeper admire his work. Soon, he was gone, but I was still there staring at his work.

He was right. He did in fact breathe life into that small patch of ground and made it look beautiful. I wanted to crack the code behind what I just witnessed. What does it feel like to have that much pride in your work?

I started coughing, my nose was running, my hands felt drier than the desert, and my rings were slipping off my frozen fingers. But still, I was not getting up until I figured it out. Then it came to me.

That look he had on his face. There was something special about it. Behind that smile was genuine love and care for his work.

When he was done, the groundskeeper even took the time to take a step back and appreciate it before moving on to the next task – something I had not done in years. That appreciation is what gave him the fuel to tackle the next job.

I was the only person sitting out there. The groundskeeper was gone. When I finally got my answer, I took a tissue out of my pocket, wiped my nose, downed the last of my coffee, and felt myself want to cry.

No, I didn't cry, but I did start to realize the reason for my perpetual exhaustion stemmed from the lack of appreciation I had for the work I did – the love and care seemed nonexistent.

That was about four months ago, around the first week back in January.

That groundskeeper unknowingly taught me the most profound lesson I desperately needed. No matter the size of my work and task, I need to approach it with love and care. And when I complete my work, I need to take a moment to step back, let myself smile and let myself appreciate what I just did.

I want to smile about my work the same way the groundskeeper smiled about his.

My purpose was failing, my work exhausted me, and I was losing my love and care for what I do. But that day, and that lesson rejuvenated me.

If I can leave you with any last words, it is to do all you do with genuine love and care, and when you complete something, take a moment to appreciate it.

Let your accomplishment -- no matter how small -- fuel you for the next task at hand. Your work needs to fuel you, not drain you.

Next time you feel exhausted, step back, and realize the work you do is beautiful.

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# Sports

## Search intensifies for new athletic director

The University of the Incarnate Word is using a consulting firm in its national search for the next UIW athletic director – a position UIW wants permanently filled by the beginning of the 2020-21 academic year.

Richard Duran, formerly deputy athletic director, has been serving as interim athletic director since UIW announced last Aug. 12 that his supervisor, Dr. Brian Wickstrom, was leaving.

UIW announced Feb. 25 it had retained CarrSports Consulting of Gainesville, Fla. The company has more than 20 years of experience in executive searches and management consulting services for intercollegiate athletics, according to a news release. CarrSports' portfolio includes more than 130 successful leadership searches and 70 intensely focused management consulting projects.

UIW is a member of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division I and the Southland Conference. The University has 23 teams representing 14 different sports. UIW began the reclassification process as a NCAA Division I athletics department during the 2013-14 academic year. UIW completed the process and became postseason-eligible in 2017-18.

The athletic programs include baseball, men's and women's basketball,

men's and women's cross country, men's and women's fencing, football, men's and women's golf, men's and women's soccer, men's and women's swimming and diving, men's and women's tennis, men's and women's indoor track and field, men's and women's outdoor track and field, softball, synchronized swimming and volleyball.

Since its transition to Division I, UIW has won conference championships in football (2018), men's tennis (2018) and men's swimming and diving (2018 and 2019). In addition to success in competition, UIW student-athletes have completed more than 5,100 hours of community service each year since the 2013-14 academic year.

Additionally, UIW's student-athletes have achieved a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher in every semester of the school's Division I history.

UIW's men's soccer team is a charter member of the Western Athletic Conference (WAC), while its swimming and diving team is a member of the Coastal Collegiate Sports Association (CCSA). Fencing competes in the Western Conference. All other sports compete in the Southland Conference.

## Women's historic season cut short

By Kevin Malcolm Jr./ STAFF WRITER

The women's basketball team was having a historic season in the Southland Conference before the coronavirus pandemic cut it short.

The Lady Cardinals – under Head Coach Jeff Dow -- finished 10-10 in conference play and were 14-15 overall. The team's seventh-place spot in Southland qualified the Cardinals for the first time ever in the conference tournament – a tournament that never happened when it was

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# Women's historic season cut short

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cancelled.

That brought an end to the team's roller-coaster season that featured many highs and lows the players and fans will never forget.

Imani Robinson, a 5-foot-11 senior guard from Round Rock, said the team's goals at the beginning of the season were twofold: "Prove people wrong and make the conference tournament for the first time in UIW history."

The season started off Nov. 5 with a 70-35 home win against Schreiner University. Losses on the road came Nov. 11 at University of Texas-San Antonio, Nov. 23 at Ohio in Athens, Nov. 26 at Colorado State in Fort Collins and

Dec. 3 at Kansas State in Manhattan. However, the Cardinals were able to rally and win a few nonconference games leaving them with a decent 4-5 record.

Starting February on the road, the Cardinals took on top-ranked Abilene Christian University. The Cardinals were in control of the game from the very beginning, leading by as much as 12 points in the second quarter. UIW continued to fight off ACU's attacks, but the teams were tied 70-70 with less than 20 seconds left. Robinson was able to make a move, get to the paint, and take a possible, game-winning shot. She missed the shot but was fouled, giving her

two free throws and a chance to seal the victory. She sank the first free throw but missed the second. Still, her shot put the Cardinals up by one point with no time left for the Wildcats.

On Feb. 5, the Cardinals beat Stephen F. Austin 77-74 in Huntsville for the first time in program history when the Lady Lumberjacks happened to be the top-ranked team in the conference.

"The best part of our season for me was beating SFA," said Robinson, a business marketing major. "I think our performance this season made noise for the program. I think it made noise for possible recruits."

## Historic: Cardinal named 'Freshman of the Year'

Special to the Logos

A University of the Incarnate Word freshman is the first Cardinal men's basketball player in history to be named Freshman of the Year in the Southland Conference.

Keaston Willis, a 6-foot-3-inch, 180-pound guard, led all freshmen in the league with 14.9 points per game and 52 three-pointers made over the Cardinals' overall 9-22 season.

A native of Sulphur Springs, Willis was instrumental in the Cardinals' five-win improvement in league play over last year, including an overtime upset of Sam Houston State -- 72-71 at home Feb. 5 -- and a 65-59 home win Feb. 19 against McNeese that capped off the team's fifth victory in a seven-game stretch.

Willis, a kinesiology major, exploded for 28 points in the Dec. 18 conference-opening, 88-82 loss at Central Arkansas in Conway and continued to lead UIW in scoring the remainder of the year. Willis had a player efficiency rating (PER) above 14, which was the highest among confer-

ence freshmen. He also made six, 3-pointers in a game on three separate occasions against Southland opponents and hit at least one three-pointer in 17 of 19 league games.

Dr. Carson Cunningham, head coach, said he was "thrilled" about the freshman's historic achievement.

"We're very happy for him," Cunningham said. "He's worked really hard. I'm excited to see him develop further. To watch the dynamism of his game expand even more, and to see our team do the same collectively."

Willis was quick to hand out kudos to others.

"It's such an honor to win this award," Willis said. "A ton of hard work and time was put into this and it always pays off. God gets all the credit, but a huge thanks to my coaches for pushing me, and to my teammates for being alongside me every step of the way."

# Entertainment

## 'Color out of Space' spews Lovecraft's horror

By True McManis/ STAFF WRITER

Many alien horror films choose to make their aliens human in some regard.

But Richard Stanley's return to horror in "Color out of Space" shakes things up by depicting alien life as a psychedelic color that affects everything around it.

The film is based on what is widely considered to be H.P. Lovecraft's best story. The universe that Lovecraft crafted, and the stories that take place within it, has directly inspired iconic horror writers such as Stephen King, Ridley Scott, Sam Raimi, John Carpenter, and the Duffer Brothers.

The story consists of a somewhat dysfunctional, but no less loving, family living on a remote farm when a meteor crashes onto their property and immediately begins behaving strangely, emitting a psychedelic pinkish color that seems to affect everything it comes into contact with in a bizarre way.

While it is a fairly simple premise that has been adapted for the big screen before, Stanley's adaptation remains fairly faithful to the original while making changes that played well for me as someone familiar with Lovecraft's work, incorporating several new nods to Lovecraft's modern relevance.

Changing it from the 1930s to a more modern setting made me able to relate to the characters more than I did while reading the short story; having a character named Benny instead of Thaddeus was a welcome change. As well, the references to Lovecraft that were added in the film played well with me, such as one of the characters reading a modern version of "The Necronomicon," a fictional book of spells featured in many of his works.

While normally horror movies don't really scare me, thinking about one of the scenes from this one still makes my skin crawl. I was incredibly uncomfortable for a large portion of the film, and while I can't promise everyone will feel the same, the fact that it so effectively delivered mind-bending horror in a way that stuck with me throughout the rest of the movie and out of the theater was quite impressive.

Stanley made the film over the course of seven years, crafting a terri-

fying vision that seems to have been directly inspired by the death of his mother. In an interview with Bloody Disgusting -- an American horror genre website -- Stanley talked about how Lovecraft was his mother's favorite writer, and one he read to her through a 10-year battle with cancer. Lovecraft's works hint at an alien universe without humanity, and with environmental devastation happening around the globe, it is becoming a world that humans can relate to more and more. Stanley has elaborated on why he believes Lovecraftian horror is becoming even more prevalent.

"Most people these days are not converting to orthodoxies like Catholicism or Orthodox Judaism, or Orthodox Islam," Stanley said. "That raises issues about if something did create us and whether those created deities are human-friendly or whether they created us by accident or whether they're completely unaware of us; which pushes us into a kind of a Lovecraftian frame of mind."

While I loved the film, I won't pretend it was absolutely perfect. The script had a few moments of questionable dialogue, and there are some pretty bad special effects used with a cat towards the start of the film.

Viewers who dislike Nicholas Cage will be in for a rude awakening as he "Cages out" in displays that are almost humorous throughout several scenes in the film. With that being said, anyone who enjoyed Cage's performance in "Mandy," a 2018 horror-thriller, will likely also enjoy "Color out of Space." With the same producers as "Mandy," many of the psychedelic visuals in the two films seem to mirror each other.

Many of the supporting actors did fantastic jobs in their roles. Joely Richardson -- known for her appearances in films such as "101 Dalmatians," "Event Horizon" and "Maggie" as well as the lead role in "Nip/Tuck" -- was absolutely ghastly when she needed to be, providing the core to the majority of the horror throughout the film. Tommy Chong was incredibly haunting in his role as an old hermit living off the grid, especially in his delivery of a monologue that perfectly encapsulates the film as a whole.