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# Logos

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STUDENT-RUN NEWSPAPER FOR UNIVERSITY OF THE INCARNATE WORD

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## Athletics plans big changes in WAC

By Brandon Swaby  
LOGOS STAFF WRITER

Big changes are anticipated after the University of the Incarnate Word formally joins the Western Athletic Conference.

UIW's plan to leave the Southland Conference for the WAC was announced Nov. 12 in a news conference at the SEC. The move becomes official July 1.

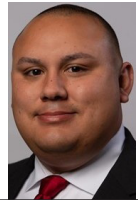
The Division I WAC will expand to 14 members this year, including eight FCS teams. Currently, the UIW

football team, last year's Southland Conference champ, is ranked 20th nationally and in line for an automatic qualification to the FCS playoffs.

Expect UIW, which has the most sports teams among the WAC, also to be more visible nationally. Last August, the WAC entered into a new media rights agreement with ESPN. Under that agreement, more than 500 live WAC games and events including football, soccer, volleyball, basketball, swimming and diving, track and field, softball

and baseball will be available for fans to watch on ESPN+. In addition, ESPN will produce the men's and women's basketball championship games.

In joining the WAC, "(The) No. 1 consideration is putting our institution and student-athletes in the best position to be successful long-term," UIW Athletic Director Richard Duran said. "I think this move provides a greater student-athlete experience. Not only in enhancing competition but also



Richard Duran

Jump 'WAC' page 2

## Student wears Miss San Antonio USA crown

By Joy Burgin  
LOGOS STAFF WRITER

A familiar face at the University of the Incarnate Word is wearing this year's Miss San Antonio USA crown.

Abigail Velez, who shared the homecoming queen title last fall with Tiana DeV Vaughn, won the citywide title in an April 4 pageant and she's taken no time stepping into her responsibility as Alamo city royalty.

"This is something that I've been working on since December, so it's been months in the making," Velez, 22, said. "My first reaction was just a breath of fresh air, and just a sigh of excitement. Now, settling in a little bit, I'm just excited to get on to work and get into the community." Every Miss San Antonio USA or

Miss Teen San Antonio USA has a cause they stand for, and Velez, a native of El Paso, is no different.

"My social awareness initiative is 'Value Your Vote,'" Velez said. "I'm passionate about voting rights, and with this title I'm provided a platform where I can speak to the community about the importance of voting and knowing how to value your vote."

Velez attributes her UIW media experience as part of what inspired her to take on this cause. A communication arts major, Velez is concentrating in multimedia journalism and planning a sports broadcasting career. She's written for the Logos newspaper, reported and anchored for UIWtv, co-hosted "The Cardinal Huddle" sports TV show, and has a KUIW radio show.

"Now that I have been able to go into broadcast journalism, I've seen firsthand how polarizing the community has been," she said. "And if there's one thing we can do, it's to meet in the middle of the aisle and vote. We want to be proud of the community we live in."

Pageant Director Ché White said that's exactly what the Miss San Antonio USA pageant is all about. The goal is to build up women in every area of their lives and encourage them to think about what they have to offer to their communities, White said.

"The first most important thing is confidence-builder. And to help the young ladies to love themselves. I



Photo by Ali Zavala

Abigail Velez is overcome with emotion

Jump 'Crown' page 2



Sophia Martinez/LOGOS STAFF

Dr. Shaylon Rettig maintains an office in the basement of J.E. and L.E. Mabey Library.

## Medical director shares health plan

By Sophia Martinez  
LOGOS STAFF WRITER

The COVID-19 pandemic has not only caused devastation but also triggered anxiety and a lack of access to helpful resources, the medical director for the University of the Incarnate Word believes.

"COVID has brought out a need for a focus on mental as well as physical health," Dr. Shaylon Rettig said.

UIW is addressing resources for students and employees, Rettig said, through what he describes as UIW Health. Its three main components are Behavioral Health, Health Services,

and Unified in Wellness, he said.

Even before the pandemic, students were already facing challenges. However, COVID exacerbated those challenges when face-to-face instruction transitioned to online. COVID mitigation factors, such as Zoom calls and video conferencing, changed the way students interacted for upwards of two years.

Now that UIW is coming out of some of the COVID mitigation factors, students are anxious and uncertain

Jump 'Health' page 2

## Tacos get students talking about mental health

By Lia Butanda  
LOGOS STAFF WRITER

The Behavioral Health Services hosted its second "Let's Taco-bout Mental Health" this academic year on Thursday, April 21, outside the Student Engagement Center.

The event, which also was held last fall at the University of the Incarnate Word, served as a fun and interactive way to learn about health-related resources available on campus and eat free tacos from a local vendor – in this case, Mr. Meximum.

UIW organizations such as Title IX and Health Services, and the Sustainability Advisory Board, to name a few, came together to offer activities such as yoga, art therapy, and Tibetan singing bowls. Some clubs and organizations gave away free pizza or prizes while

discussing the importance of mental and physical health. Participating in these stress-relieving activities provided students with information regarding counseling services, insurance, yearly checkups, and all things related to health and well-being.

### Health cont.

about having in-person social interaction. Behavioral Health addresses those issues in regard to getting people involved with mental health services such as counseling. Through Unifed in Wellness, students receive hands-on, fitness-testing training. These resistance-based tests prepare medical students for the workforce. Rettig said it is important for students to receive hands-on experience they can benefit from for future employment opportunities. "Ultimately, the goal is to train our students to be able to do the tests and the analysis because we know that they are learning it in the classroom, and we know that they are having a practical piece

where they are doing it which solidifies and really ingrains what they are learning," he said. Rettig also has started a campaign to upgrade Cervera Wellness Center, which was built in the 1940s and '50s. "We feel that to do all that we want to do, we need more space, more capabilities within the recreation center, more classroom space, and also areas where we can do the fitness-testing," Rettig said. The goal is to make people aware of resources to meet their needs. Part of the challenge is helping students and employees find those resources. The vision is to develop a resource that will make it easy to get help according to the needs they have. "We want to create that opportunity or that resource to say, 'Go here:

**FYI**  
UIW Health will soon launch an app for better access to everything health and wellness. For more information on health services available, visit my.UIW.edu/health

**More about UIW's Medical Director**  
Dr. Shaylon Rettig earned a bachelor's degree while playing basketball at the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor in Belton, Texas. After graduating, Rettig took a year off before enrolling at University of Texas-Houston Medical School. After earning his medical degree, he began a pediatric residency in Greenville, N.C. Then Rettig came to San Antonio to do his pediatric sports medicine specialty in collaboration with Children's Hospital of San Antonio and UT Health San Antonio. The father of three sons, he has lived in San Antonio 18 years. At one time, he had his own private pediatric practice and worked in a hospital emergency room. He became UIW's medical director a year ago.

### WAC cont.

an opportunity to travel the country to visit the state of Washington, Seattle, Riverside, Calif., the Salt Lake City area, a lot of areas that some of our student-athletes have never been to. "As opposed to driving eight to nine hours in a van or a bus, our student-athletes will have the opportunity to get on a plane. So I think there's a great commitment and alignment from an institutional

perspective to support our student-athletes and I think this is the next step in our Division I Journey." Besides the travel enhancements, UIW is looking to beef up the budget and improve facilities for basketball, volleyball, football, baseball, and softball. "We have a commitment over the next three years to beef up our travel and operation budget along with getting more staff resources," Duran said. "Not all of our sports are fully funded from

the assistant coach's perspective. So this transition to the WAC is going to help us get our sports, the coaches we need to get to be successful. "Meeting the NCAA minimums to make sure our student-athletes are getting supported to the best of their ability is one big thing. The other piece of facilities, when we talk about UIW, we have strong operational budgets and we're going to get better at that. We have great coaches. We're going to keep improving on that. We have an amazing institution, (and

one of the best cities in America. "The one thing where people negatively recruit us in is facilities. In this transition, we have committed \$17.1 million dollars in facility enhancements. We have a 10-year agreement with Headwaters and we are going to fully gut the field and now that is going to be our practice soccer and game field so they will be able to play on grass instead of turf."

### Crown cont.

always tell the young ladies, 'Go, be beautiful' and that means inside and outside. And so my mission for this pageant is to go be beautiful inside and outside. Your health, your mental health, your physical health, and just your health in the community, what you give back to the community." As one of her first official royal events, Velez accepted an invitation from Kendra Scott to attend a private shopping party.

Kendra Scott even gifted Miss San Antonio and Miss Teen San Antonio complimentary pieces before discussing possible fundraising opportunities in the future. Kendra Scott has a long history with pageants and giving back to the community. Sandra Breining, a former Miss San Antonio herself, works for Kendra Scott. "We have these beautiful queens in here, and they do so much for the community, and I think a lot of the younger girls look up to them," Breining said. "So, it was an actual

privilege -- I've been so excited -- a privilege for us to have them in here. Because I was in the Miss San Antonio pageant system, and it was a lifetime experience, and like I've carried those experiences with me my whole life. So, for me it held a special place in my heart to have them in here." But this year's Miss San Antonio USA doesn't plan on stopping here. Velez is heading on to compete for Miss Texas USA over the Fourth of July weekend. Velez said she's feeling confident about her prospects. "It's a much bigger pageant," Velez

said. "The competition caliber is a little bit more competitive than what we saw here in San Antonio. But with the help of sponsors, with the help of my director, I am prepared to go on to Miss Texas." Despite the confidence, Miss San Antonio USA has not forgotten her roots or her school spirit. When asked for a final statement, she had just one thing to say. "Go, Cardinals!" said Velez. "Word up, baby!"

**NEWS BRIEF:** The University of the Incarnate Word placed first in a special category for the 2022 Campus Race to Zero Waste campaign, the chair of the Sustainability Advisory Board announced.

UIW was tops in "GameDay Basketball Per Capita" based on its "Green Game" Feb. 17. "(Volunteers) managed to persuade attendees to recycle or compost over 147 pounds of paper, cans, bottles,

and organics," said Dr. Ben Miele, an associate professor of English who chairs the Sustainability Advisory Board. "Attendees only threw away 24 pounds in total. This really is a distinction earned by the students:

every piece of trash they moved to the recycling bins and compost bins and every time they told someone to compost instead of to throw away organics, they helped UIW get to No. 1."



Photo Courtesy of Canto

Plenty of photo opportunities existed Friday, April 29, when the University of the Incarnate Word served as the host for the 'Amazing Race for H.O.P.E.'

## Groups unite to run 'Amazing Race for H.O.P.E.'

By Andrea Oliva  
LOGOS STAFF WRITER

The University of the Incarnate Word's Special Olympics team co-hosted the "Amazing Race for H.O.P.E." (Helping Organizations to Prosper and Excel) Program on Friday, April 29.

Beginning at the Student Engagement Center, student organizations, clubs, and athletic teams were paired with a Special Olympic athlete to run the race, similar to the "Amazing Race" TV show.

At each service station, teams were given clues that led them from one objective to the next, competing for the grand prize of money from a grant administered by Dr. Tracie Edmond, an associate professor of accounting, to donate to their organization of choice and for tickets to earn smaller prizes such as gift cards.

Games were played as challenge activities and at the service stations teams were putting together kits that will be donated to the specific nonprofits.

UIW's volleyball team won the grand prize of \$500 to be donated

to the Children's Hospital.

UIW student-athletes from various teams participated. Besides volleyball, teams represented women's soccer, tennis, swim and basketball, and men's basketball, soccer and football. Clubs and organizations participating included Kappa Delta Pi, Athletic Training Master's Program, SO Club, Nursing Department, and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority.

The participating teams played to benefit organizations or local nonprofits as they completed fun challenges and service projects.

Besides the grand prize, gift cards and prizes won included UIW bookstore items, San Antonio Missions vouchers (16 seats total), Orange Theory eight-pack classes, and 28 free drink cards donated by Alamo Heights Nutrition.

Supplies for the stations were provided by Special Olympics Texas, UIW Kinesiology Department, and Dr. Edmond's grant.

UIW football, baseball, softball, soccer, basketball and volleyball donated clothing items and accessories.

"It was wonderful to see so many

UIW students from various student organizations, clubs, and athletic teams come together and participate with the Special Olympic Athletes in various activities and service stations," said Dr. Emily Dow, an assistant professor of kinesiology who serves as co-adviser for the Special Olympic Club. "We are already having conversations for the next Amazing Race for Hope."

Club President Sophie Taylor said months have been spent planning the race and it was fun being able to see everything come together through collaborations between UIW and Special Olympics Texas.

On UIW's end, the co-sponsors included the H-E-B School of Business and Administration, Dreeben School of Education, and the Etting Center for Civic Engagement & Sustainability. CAVALRY, a local nonprofit, also was a sponsor.

Special Olympic athlete Tim Taggart said the race was fantastic because everyone came together and gave kindness out of their heart. Afterwards, UIW student-athletes posed for photographs

with their special guest athletes.

"The 'Amazing Race' has been a program that the Etting Center for Civic Leadership & Sustainability has been collaborating on for a few years," said Dr. Ricardo Gonzales, Etting Center's director.

"We envisioned four years ago, today's event, an event with over 100 students and several student organizations involved in activities that would be giving back to the community. In short, this is a great example of our charm and sense of community at UIW. It was awesome to see our students having fun and sharing this time with Special Olympics athletes while providing a service to the community.

"There is no greater gift than giving of one's self. (With this event), UIW demonstrated that in so many ways. Again, a great example of faculty (Drs. Edmond, (Dr. Stephanie) Grote-Garcia (an education professor), Dow, students, and community (Special Olympics) coming together as one -- to be unified in making a difference."

## Graduating senior suggests Texas vacation spots

By Kody Woodard  
LOGOS STAFF WRITER

Summer is nearly upon us, which means most people will be looking for places where they can unwind after a stressful few months, especially as we move into a new, uncertain phase of COVID-19.

For those students looking to travel out of San Antonio, here are a few places to keep in mind.

When many people think of summer and summer vacation, the first thing that comes to mind is often the beach. Texas has no shortage of thriving beach towns along the Gulf of Mexico. Prime destinations include South Padre Island, Galveston and Corpus Christi, among other choice options. Any one of these places boasts beautiful and

scenic shorelines, but those students looking to unwind either rowdily or quietly should consider South Padre Island and Corpus Christi, respectively.

Outside the beaches these places are famous for, both locales offer tremendously engaging pastimes. For example, the favored pastime of SPI is kiteboarding, and several sports outfitters offer deep-sea fishing trips and dolphin-watching excursions. Corpus Christi is home to several museums covering everything from art, science, naval aviation and music stars, as well as the coast city's own long, storied history. The community also hosts the U.S.S. Lexington, a derelict aircraft carrier from World War II that has since been converted into yet another museum, welcoming



Kody Woodard

visitors of all ages.

Those looking for a vacation spot that's more inland than not will find several places that cater to the adventurer inside such as Austin and

Houston going hand-in-hand with locations off the beaten path such as Fredericksburg, Waco, and The Woodlands. Each town has its own unique draws, such as Fredericksburg's deep ties to Germany and more than 50 wineries and tasting rooms. But one thing they all have in common is a host of outdoor activities for nature-lovers. Waco has a 416-acre green space dedicated towards hiking trails,

mountain biking and horseback riding, with The Woodlands offering 220 miles of the same spread out across 147 parks, alongside the option to rent a kayak of paddleboard and spend the day exploring The Woodlands Waterway and Lake Woodlands.

As you can see, the destinations, and possibilities, are all but endless, and for our graduating seniors especially, now might be the time to lift the weight off your shoulders and take some time to yourselves before leaping headlong into the working world.

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## University eyes diversity in enrollment

By Camryn Leal  
LOGOS STAFF WRITER

How diverse is the University of the Incarnate Word's student population?

The Logos explored this topic in an interview with Dr. Arturo Chávez, who looks after diversity, equity and inclusion concerns for UIW. He also serves as associate vice president for University Mission and Ministry.

**Logos:** Does our university have a diversity statement?

**Chávez:** Yes, here it is: "The University of the Incarnate Word (UIW) is firmly committed to safeguard human dignity, respect diversity, ensure equity, and foster inclusion of all its students, faculty, and staff. This lived commitment flows directly from the UIW mission, its core values rooted in the principles of Catholic Social Teaching, and the charisma of the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word (CCVI). Therefore, UIW strictly enforces policies clearly stated in employee, faculty, and student handbooks that ensure equal opportunity and an environment free from all forms of discrimination, violence, and harassment, whether based on race, color, sex, gender, sexual orientation, citizenship status, ethnicity, national origin, age, marital status, disability, genetic information, gender identity or expression, veteran status, pregnancy, religion or any other characteristics protected by law. Furthermore, the University of the Incarnate Word proactively promotes the human rights and values inherent to DEI through its educational ministry,

RACE/ETHNICITY	N	%
Black	616	8.2%
Hispanic	4,091	54.5%
Nonresident Alien	304	4%
White	1,494	19.9%
American Indian or Alaska Native	30	0.4%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	467	6.3%
Asian	185	2.5%
Two or more races	297	4%
Unknown	7,508	
<b>GENDER</b>		
M		38.4%
F		61.6%

**Ruby Filoteo/GRAPHIC**

commitment to integral human development, ethical research, and dedicated community service.'

**Logos:** Is the diversity statement tied to the university's strategic plan?

**Chávez:** Yes! Our identity, mission, and motivation flow from the charisma and spirituality of our founders, the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word, who are dedicated "...to make the love of God a real and tangible presence in the world today." As a ministry of the Sisters, the staff and faculty of the University collaboratively work to actualize the charism through our mission in higher education, rooted in faith, truth, service, and innovation. The mission is carried out with an unwavering commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion in the spirit of Catholic Social Teaching. The fruit of our mission is well-formed, concerned, and enlightened global citizens who are exceptionally prepared to succeed in their respective vocations and civically engaged to safeguard human

dignity and promote sustainability.

Flowing from our core identity, Mission & Ministry staff dedicated a year of listening deeply to students, staff, and faculty regarding their experiences and hopes related to diversity, equity, and inclusion at the University of the Incarnate Word. This process of respectful listening was the fertile ground for new DEI initiatives that grow that responded to the suggestions and proposals of those who participated in various sessions called DEI circles. Some of the many fruits of this organic consultation process include the following highlights: New bridges of trust among formerly estranged students, staff, and faculty; Development of several DEI modules on diversity, inclusion, LGBTQIA+ allyship, racial justice, and intercultural competence; Two new student organizations - the reanimation of the Stand Out Alliance and establishment of "As One We Will"; Collaborative initiatives on Black



Dr. Arturo Chávez

History Month, Juneteenth Celebration, LatinX heritage, Indigenous Peoples' Day, and Women's History Month. DEI Student-led

Summit by the Student Athlete Consultant Committee

An exciting new partnership with NETWORK, a Catholic lobby in Washington, D.C., to promote civic engagement and social action on social justice issues; An initial pilot draft of a process for faculty recruitment and interviewing that strives for diverse representation and inclusion;

A lived experience of the University's call to "PRAY TO END RACISM" was consistently implemented on Fridays at noon. The gatherings led to community-building, leadership formation, and new initiatives for integrating social justice values with liturgy, e.g., Stations of the Cross of Our Day;

**Logos:** How is diversity beneficial in education?

**Chávez:** UIW's mission is to educate men and women to be concerned and enlightened citizens in a global community." To accomplish this mission, UIW is committed to providing a lived experience of diversity and inclusion where students acquire and practice intercultural competencies and a strong commitment to social justice.

## UIW prepares for summer campers

By Lanita Harris  
LOGOS STAFF WRITER

Every summer the University of the Incarnate Word bands together with different organizations to host summer camps on the Broadway campus.

The summer camps will be operational on campus June 1-July 31. Each program has a specific duration, and are specifically for minors, from grade to high school.

"Parents are looking for their children in the summer and parents work," said Cindy Escamilla, vice president and general counsel at UIW. "They want to keep their kids focused on activities that are good for their health and maybe around teamwork."

Each camper must complete a waiver and release form to participate. Camp managers must go through a

complete background check and sign a form provided by UIW's Department of Risk and Safety Management.

UIW has been hosting its sponsored and non-UIW-sponsored camps as far back as 20 years, said Samuel McDaniel, director of Environmental Health, Safety, and Risk Management.

Some of the summer camps include a Spurs camp, and others aimed at tennis, basketball, volleyball, soccer, science and softball.

The UIW Language and Culture Camp is a camp for international kids ages 12-17 to improve their English language skills.

In the past, UIW has provided residence hall amenities, such as rooms and meals, for the international kids.

Before COVID-19, the kids spent the weekdays in classes and then explored

the city on the weekends. Last summer, UIW enacted pandemic protocols and safety guidelines to protect campers and staff. It is unclear what if any protocols will be enforced this summer.

Another camp recognized in 2019 as a "record-setting summer camp," according to the UIW News and Events website, was the GEMS program. GEMS is an acronym for Girls in Engineering, Mathematics, and Science. Despite the acronym, the GEMS program covers Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math. The program is dedicated to helping girls in marginalized communities excel in STEM careers.

There are two sections in GEMS -- minigames and mega gems. The latter is a program for high schoolers that was started in 2019 after some of the girls who graduated from minigames

wanted to continue the program.

GEMS Project Manager Stephanie Weiss said the camp allows the members to gain experience with teamwork, drones, coding, experiments, and many more.

A new addition to the program is the apprentice program for high school juniors and seniors, including undergraduate college students.

According to an information flyer about the program, "All students receive a freshly made breakfast, lunch, snack, and take-home snack, all prepared by UIW Graduate Nutrition students."

Students can sign up for the GEMS program by e-mailing gemssab@gmail.com. MegaGEMS should apply through the Army Educational Outreach Program or AEOP.

# Indigenous tribe gets help from UIW group

By Justin Kraiza  
LOGOS EDITOR

A 13-year-old Peruvian girl once traversed over 400 miles of rugged terrain, unaware of her prospective leadership of 100 indigenous people.

Migrating from Pucallpa as a child to the Peruvian capital Lima, Guirida Karina Pacaya Cruz, now 42, was well-aware of the adversities faced by indigenous people. Residing in the Rimac district of Lima, the local government fails to offer the Shipibo community social services granted to most city-dwellers.

The health, work, and housing services aren't available for her community, said Cruz, now head of the Shipibo-Conibo tribe, a Panoan people dwelling in the middle Ucayali river of Peru.

The plight of this indigenous tribe has come to the attention of the Young Women's Global Leadership Program sponsored by the University of the Incarnate Word. The program aims to promote the learning and leadership of women internationally through workshops tailored to awareness, education, and business.

Disadvantage doesn't dissuade Cruz, who's served the last 10 years in her role, from empowering women to create innovative artwork along with their traditional artisan techniques passed from their ancestors used for necklaces, decorative, and many other art pieces. Cruz also empowers women by advocating for indigenous peoples' rights.

The indigenous tribe involves 40 women, who serve as paternal providers of education, money, medicine, and an intermixing of 60 men and children who ensure a fed community.

Self-sufficient practices don't earn social acceptance among



Sandra Randez, left, and Yesenia G. Alcalá at the San Antonio Oblate Grotto sharing the Shipibo embroidered masks in 'solidarity with her sisters' in Peru on Oct. 11, 2020.

city-natives in Lima.

Widespread discrimination exists as a symptom of state-sponsorship by public officials. For example, Ifujimorista Congressman Carlos Tubino said: "These 'savages' should be immediately detained."

"Savage" is a harmful word used to deepen discrimination and hostility against the Shipibo people and dissuade city-natives from fostering meaningful relationships, especially since intermixing leads to a "vanishing" of their indigenous culture.

An active effort to grow their indigenous economy by selling goods in the marketplaces of Lima is often met with vitriolic language and scornful expressions from passer-by city-natives.

"They're having a hard time [selling their items] because they aren't wanted there in Lima - since they're indigenous," said Yesenia G. Alcalá, an adviser for the young women's program at UIW.

In May 2019, Alcalá purchased their artisan accessories to boost their indigenous economy and created a website to raise awareness of the challenges faced

by Shipibo-Conibo people.

For Alcalá, raising the attention of a "diminishing culture" in Peru began at home. But she didn't stop there. Alcalá sought institutional awareness at UIW and offered students community service hours required for graduation by selling indigenous artisan accessories.

A "diminishing culture" in Peru grew in San Antonio, the seventh-largest city in the United States. Yet, sickness has struck the Shipibo-Conibo people. Fevers, bacterial infections, and COVID-19 have left many indigenous members marred with immobility, headaches, dehydration, and physical weakness.

Alcalá sent Cruz \$250 for medicinal supplies, seeing a community in need. Cruz expressed gratitude, believing the medicine helped combat illness and led to a steady recovery among members of the tribe.

Cruz then asked Alcalá this month for a \$2,000 investment in artisan wear to establish education support for Shipibo-Conibo children.

Notebooks, pens, pencils, desks, chairs, and clothing provided the

tribe with the materials necessary for their children to earn an education.

Serpents play an educational role in the artwork of their native ancestry. Kené involves the design of snake-like patterns in geometric patterns representing artistic emotions, energy, and nature.

Yacumama - the serpent mother of water - controls and maintains water, an essential element of nature. Embroideries feature the Yacumama as a symbol of power.

"It is an inheritance from our ancestors," Cruz said. "Water is vital. Water is natural. Water is power."

The medicinal plant, ayahuasca, provides the power of healing for the Shipibo-Conibo tribe.

Shipibo Shamanism is rooted in plant-based healing of physical, mental, and spiritual ailments.

A traditional ayahuasca ceremony allows shamans to utilize the plant as a spiritual tool, encouraging participants to meet the spirit of Ayahuasca and embrace the insights she has revealed for more than 2,000 years.

Ayahuasca is a powerful plant healer for indigenous people and foreigners, producing beneficial therapeutic effects in treating Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and substance addiction.

The Shipibo-Conibo tribe continues to fight for access to housing, education, and nationwide recognition by the Peruvian government. Alcalá's financial support of more than \$8,300 for the Shipibo-Conibo tribe is a testament to a shared mission of seeking social-economic justice for this underprivileged indigenous group.

# Alternative Spring Break offers service-learning

By Garielle Yanez  
LOGOS STAFF WRITER

Several University of the Incarnate Word students and faculty members gave up their spring break to volunteer to paint and do other maintenance work at the Villa Maria Residence.

The "Alternative Spring Break" community service project is an annual one sponsored by University Mission and Ministry.

Students earned six hours of community service for each day they volunteered toward the 45 required for graduation.

However, the event has some UIW alumni who volunteered in years past coming back.

"It says a lot that we have people coming back from years past," said Dr. Laura Cannon, an assistant professor of history who served as a faculty coordinator for this year's project. "That they want to continue helping serve the community and spreading the mission of UIW."

During the "Alternative Spring Break," volunteers met on campus in the morning and traveled together to the residence. While painting and working, students used the opportunity to reflect on what this service project meant to them.

"After the first day, I realized how important what it is we're doing," one



Dr. Laura Cannon

student wrote in a reflection. "That's why I kept coming back. It's about more than getting hours. We're making a difference."

In years past, the group would travel

to and volunteer at neighborhoods on the west side. This year, the group volunteered at Villa Maria Residence, a residence that offers low-cost housing to young women.

It's important to help a place like Villa Maria to ensure it stays open

for the community, Cannon said.

"The area is surrounded by a lot of new developments," Cannon said. "It's important we do all that we can to help them stay open for the community that relies so heavily on them."

## FYI

Students interested in volunteering for Alternative Spring Break in the future should e-mail Adam Mulder at [amulder@uiwtx.edu](mailto:amulder@uiwtx.edu)

## Taking action against sexual abuse in Peru

By Justin Kraiza  
LOGOS EDITOR

Ten-to-17-year-old girls represent 40 percent of street rapes in Peru, according to the Peru Public Ministry. Walking to a home, business, or school presents a persistent problem; safety, security, and the power of Peruvian men to exploit girls by coercive control.

Sexual abuse often leads to actionable calls for criminal justice, support services, and psychiatry in Western countries, but an absence of a social safety net exists for Peruvian women. For many sexual abuse victims, abandonment by government and private businesses is all too commonplace, and criminals are jailed a few months and released with no fines.

Young girls represent most sexual abuse victims since they're impressionable - ensuring they're easy prey for predatory Peruvian men. Children cannot legally access safe abortion services or emergency contraception without discrimination. From 2000 to 2009, "34 percent of victims between 10 and 19 become pregnant due to the attack they experience,"



according to the Reproductive Rights Organization (RRO).

Unsafe abortions are among the five leading causes of pregnancy-related death in Peru since young girls cannot navigate illicit abortion services and lack the physical capability to bear a pregnancy to term. The RRO says pregnancy and childbirth are the "second-most prevalent cause of death for 15- to 19-year-old girls, and the risk of death from pregnancy-related complications is four to eight times greater for girls below age 15."

Pregnancy and childbirth among young girls are symptoms of sexual violence. Hosting a domestic abuse victims hotline, Peru's

Ministry for Women and Vulnerable Populations found sexual violence cases "skyrocketing to 104,000" between March and July. During this same period, emergency-response workers "attended to nearly 1,000 victims of rape, including 703 girls and adolescents."

The social acceptance of domestic and sexual abuse is a symptom of an attitude deeply ingrained in Peruvian culture: machismo. The Peruvian government found -- that in 2019 -- nearly 53 percent of Peruvians think a woman's first focus is her role as a mother and wife, and "her dreams" are supplementary.

These longstanding conservative values also lead to a disregard for discussing sexual education and acceptance of abstinence-based practices. A void of sex-centered communication presents an ignorance and lack of understanding of sex that proves beneficial in combating sexual predators. Nevertheless, all hope isn't lost. Newly established sexual education workshops help children build self-esteem, comprehend the role of sex, and teach sexual ethics.

By establishing trust with children, they will reciprocate their trust and express personal openness. Meghan Mueller, a University of the Incarnate Word



Justin Kraiza

criminal justice graduate, presented an activity to the Pushaq Warmi women used to help victims of sexual abuse. The exercise asks children to apply positive adjectives to their self-portraits.

A supportive self-portrait provides Peruvian psychologists with appropriate therapy for abused children. The "Grain of Sand" method involves a series of sketches of violent situations - violence, humiliation, and sexual abuse. Children are encouraged to identify risks and devise strategies through discussion with adult mediators. An estimated 1,600 children benefit from the prevention of sexual abuse, and 700 child victims receive counseling and support, according to the International Catholic Children's Bureau.

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## Should internships be paid or non-paid?

By Ruby Filoteo  
LOGOS ASSISTANT EDITOR

Many people have strong feelings on whether interns should be paid. Yes, many college students may be willing to work for free, but should they?

While all professional experiences are beneficial to students, unpaid internships limit access to those opportunities to those who can afford to work for free.

Internships are extremely beneficial to college students, and the intern learns a great deal. However, I believe people should be compensated for their work. If the intern's work is adding value to the organization, then the intern should be compensated for it.

In addition to being unfair, this has an impact on a company's diversity,

retention, and performance. I see creatives getting taken advantage of all the time. There are many sites that talk about guides to internships. As a graphic designer, one of my favorite sites I like to browse is [aiga.org](http://aiga.org). Quality internships, according to the American Institute of Graphic Arts (AIGA), are a crucial steppingstone toward professional practice and help to maintain the design profession's continuity. In an article, "A Guide to Internships," AIGA goes over what an internship is, how to find an internship, how to be a good intern, and discusses student compensation. Making the point that time is money, AIGA suggests students may be paid by the hour, the project, or a flat rate applied for the duration of the internship. The total paid for

hours worked must at least meet the required minimum-wage rate in the state where the intern is employed. Employers are encouraged to also offer students invaluable small perks such as travel reimbursement, tickets to lectures, or specialized training.

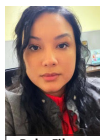
Students may be eligible to earn academic credits for their internship experience. The U.S. Department of Labor's internship guidelines list six standards that must be met for an internship to be unpaid. Students should check with their school's career services office to find out if an internship qualifies for credit.

The Philadelphia branch of AIGA has launched a Paid Internship Vow, which encourages "all private-sector organizations to make a pledge to uphold the law and fairly compensate

design students they may employ in the future."

When possible, AIGA encourages firms to offer paid internships and to follow the internship criteria set forth by the Labor Department. Unpaid internships allow students who already have a financial safety net to get valuable experience that will help them land entry-level roles at top companies. Working for free may be seen as a "badge of honor" by some, but it has a terrible effect on the social pay gap.

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Ruby Filoteo

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## SGA president bids farewell to Nest

One year ago, I was given the opportunity to serve you the student as your SGA president.

I have been a part of UIW as a wife and a mother, but I never imagined I would serve as your president. In true UIW spirit, I was embraced by my peers and became a part of the Nest. Knowing what UIW once was pre Covid, you -- the student body -- allowed SGA to bring back tradition but also incorporate new ones.

This year, the student body was led by an all-female SGA board, an accomplishment not seen since 1881. Leading the student body out of a pandemic was a challenge we prepared for and accepted. As we began our journey of being student-leaders, we walked forward with the UIW Mission

in the discovery of truth, mutual understanding, love for our university, and to advocate for our UIW family.

I was fortunate to have a board that put the needs of the student first before the agenda of others. It was because of this example and style of leadership, we witnessed kindness and compassion for one another throughout the student body. We listened to the needs of the students who struggled, were frustrated, and voiced their concerns and issues. Although we provided resolves for the students, it could not



Evalinda Davila

have been accomplished without the support of those in administration who have continued in faith as stewards of the university entrusted by the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word. It is because of you, UIW is able to hold to its identity, unity and focus.

As my time as SGA president comes to an end, I will forever be grateful to the students of UIW for embracing me and standing true to the UIW Mission. Being a part of a championship season of student-athletes, attending events educating and celebrating student cultures, and having the Sisters sharing in the experience. I am confident the incoming administration under President-elect Julianna Sandoval will continue to carry the torch and serve you well. I am confident the

work we have accomplished in partnership with student organizations has changed the university.

In closing, the last request I have is that you, the students of UIW, continue to "Rep Red" with pride, advocate for those who have no voice, lead by example, and continue with the Cardinal Spirit. Remember, your legacy is not defined by what you do, but by the lives you impact.

Thank you UIW for an unforgettable year and my time in the Nest.

Your SGA President  
Evalinda B. Davila

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## CCVI Student Award-winner offers thanks to many

I am pleased and honored to (have received) the CCVI Student Award -- especially as the first doctoral student to do so.

I begin this reflection with gratitude to my mentors, the CCVI Sisters, most especially to Sister Eilish Ryan and our beloved late Sister Dorothy Ettlting. I am also deeply appreciative to Dr. LuElla D'Amico, Dr. Sandra Guzman-Foster, Dr. Joan Labay-Marquez, Dr. Alfredo Ortiz, Dr. Alison Buck, Dr. Norman St. Clair, Dr. Lisa Uribe, and Dr. Sharon Herbers who truly live the mission of the Sisters of the Incarnate Word. Also, I could not be of service to others without the love and support of my best friend and husband of 28 years, Dexter K. Haskins Jr.

These acknowledgements are to express my belief that engaging in service to others is not possible with one person alone.

While I am thankful to have personally received the honor, this award rightfully belongs to all my doctoral colleagues who are doing amazing and often unrecognized work in their service to others in their research studies both on and off campus. Unknown to many, UIW doctoral students said yes to the call to continue the Women's Global Connection Girls Global Leadership program. They have formed other student groups and service-learning projects as well, such as the Compassionate Student Peer Organization, graduate students working with children with autism and disabilities, community workforce

organizing, mentoring young students abroad, and much more. We do not spend enough time expressing our gratitude for each other's selfless work and dedication to others. I would like to say thank you to my colleagues who demonstrate true servant-leadership without any expectations of awards or acknowledgements. Their passion and love for others are inspiring and contagious!

Receiving the CCVI Student Award on the day of the Solemnity of the

Annunciation of the Lord and the celebration of the CCVI Sisters' journey into Texas on March 25, 2022, was a once-in-a-lifetime moment and a tribute to all women. Mother Mary said yes to our Lord without hesitation. Similarly, our own CCVI Sisters took the arduous journey to San Antonio for the love of others.

As a 10th-generation Texan, my great-grandmother, Maria Robaina Bethencourt (1703-79), also said yes at the request for families to build the first

civil settlement and first civil government in San Antonio. Her love and faith and God have been passed down for many generations after. Without question, she was noted as a

pious woman who served the early community of San Antonio de Béxar with generosity and love. These early Spanish settlers remained in San Antonio as faithful Catholics who helped build San Fernando Cathedral and became prominent business, military, and political leaders. Many of these Tejanos are the unacknowledged servant-leaders who assisted behind the scenes and on the battlefields in the struggle for the independence of Texas -- the very reason we celebrate Fiesta.

Finally, let us not forget all those who say yes every day in the name of our Lord who taught us to be kind and generous to others. I encourage you to take a moment to pause and reflect on the good works of others around you and most especially, acknowledge them with gratitude and love.

Erika Arredondo Haskins  
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Erika Haskins

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Ruby Filoteo/GRAPHIC

# SPORTS

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Nimsi Coronado/LOGOS STAFF



Marco Trujillo/LOGOS STAFF

**SPRING SPORTS:** A University of the Incarnate Word football player prepares for an early-morning spring game April 14, while other Cardinal student-athletes engage in track-and-field events at the annual Cardinal Invitational and a tennis match.

## UIW unit, sports help Air Force vet reach goals

By Angelo Mitchell  
LOGOS SPORTS COLUMNIST

After 20 years of active-duty service and retiring from the U.S. Air Force, it was my academic major that helped me start this post-military journey with confidence and a vision.

The Department of Communication Arts in the School of Media and Design at the University of the Incarnate Word gave me purpose, direction, and the courage to start and finish.

Before enrolling at UIW in the fall of 2018, I was a full-time student at the University of Louisville from Spring 2017 through Summer 2018, in my hometown of Louisville, Ky. My start at the major university was overwhelming. I majored in communication with the ambition to become a sports journalist. But I felt I wasn't getting the necessary journalistic education and training to help me reach my goal.

After completing the summer session there, I transferred to UIW, majoring in communications arts with a concentration in journalism, the much-needed path I was looking for.

I was accepted into the school and at that point I realized the possibility

of my dreams coming true were laid out in front of me. Then I met my new adviser, Michael Mercer. I had already heard he makes personal calls to his advisees to get to know them and find out about their interests and goals. Then I received my much-anticipated phone call. After our conversation, I knew that the Good Lord had me in the right place at the right time of my life.

The big thing Mr. Mercer and I talked about were my goals and ambitions. I informed him my vision and aspirations were in sports and that I had a passion for football and basketball. Through our conversation, he didn't waste any time and immediately connected me to the sports department. At this point, all in my first semester, I was doing journalism writing and contributing to the sports section of the Logos, which Mr. Mercer advises.

One semester, I was enrolled in Mr. Mercer's Journalism II class, and Television Practicum, working with UIWtv. This class is where you learn all about broadcast journalism with Professor Theresa Coronado. This was all like a dream come true. This was exactly with I needed and envisioned.



Angelo Mitchell

From my 20 years of service in the Air Force, I knew how education and training is constructed and organized. Once you get exposed to how a person is taught within a stable environment, you understand how effective that process works. UIW provided me with that stability and organization. It gave me back the structure I was accustomed to and needed.

I was learning about print media, broadcast journalism and working with the football team's radio broadcast team interviewing players and working as video production coordinator at the football games. In one semester, I was touching all media platforms: print media, broadcast, and radio. The icing on the cake was I am doing all this in sports.

I received my bachelor's degree in communication arts in May 2020, and I am on my way to complete my master's degree this month in the same field. I've written more than a dozen sports

articles for the Logos, covering football and men's and women's basketball. I was the sports director for UIWtv for a semester. I've written, produced and anchored numerous sports segments for UIWtv live news broadcasts. Sideline reported during streamed football games. Color commented over 20 men's and women's basketball games. To top it all off, I've been co-host of "Overtime Sports," a local sports talk radio show, the last three years sitting in the studio with the show's originator and host, Joe Aguilar, another UIW communication arts alum.

If it weren't for UIW, and the great Communication Arts Department, I don't believe I would have been able to learn and experience the diversity within the media industry. Special thanks for Mr. Mercer and Professor Coronado for believing in me. My growth and development under your guidance, mentorship, and leadership is immeasurable.

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## Three get NFL invites

Although they didn't get picked in last week's NFL Draft, three former Cardinals who played on last year's Southland Conference championship team still may have a shot at going pro.

Wide receiver Trevor Begue and defensive lineman Brandon Bowen have been invited to attend the Kansas City Chiefs rookie minicamp while running back Kevin Brown got an invitation from the Baltimore Ravens, according to a news release from the Athletics

Department at the University of the Incarnate Word.

Begue, who is from Lafayette, La., tallied 46 receptions for 620 yards and three touchdowns last year.

Bowen, who is from Trophy Club, Texas, recorded 34 tackles, including 18 solo, and 3.5 sacks. He also forced one fumble and three pass breakups over the season.

Over his two years at UIW, Brown, who is from Mount Pleasant, S.C., tallied



**Trevor Begue**



**Brandon Bowen**



**Kevin Brown**

1,731 rushing yards, 517 receiving yards and 21 touchdowns. In 2021, he recorded 956 rushing yards, 312 receiving yards and 14 touchdowns. The

running back had a season-best 185 rushing yards, including a season-long 85-yard rush, against Nicholls.

## Study: Student-athletes need help with mental health struggles

By Zoe Del Rosario  
LOGOS STAFF WRITER

A graduate student shared his research on the mental health struggles faced by student-athletes at the Department of Communication Arts' "Meet the Masters" program Tuesday, April 26.

Drew Minter, who plays baseball for the University of the Incarnate Word, discussed his capstone project -- "An Exploration of Mental Health Challenges Faced by Student-Athletes" -- on a stage set up for his PowerPoint in the SEC.

"What I wanted to do is take a look at my mental health struggles and connect it to other student-athletes," said Minter. "And see how long this has been going on, and what are some of the best ways that student-athletes have been able to overcome them."

Minter, a righthanded pitcher for the Cardinals from League City, Texas, is graduating Saturday, May 7, with his master's degree in communication arts.

His research focused on the impacts of injuries on student-athletes' mental well-being and the consequences of steroidal and non-steroidal drug use

among student-athletes.

Besides consulting current academic sources on the subject, Minter said he also asked six student-athletes questions regarding their mental health.

According to Minter, his responses confirmed the research that the stigma around mental health among male student-athletes is still prevalent today.

"I had research saying that the stigma (about mental health) existed from the social learning theory that males culturally accepted it to disregard their mental health relating in sports and that you were weak if you did have those problems," Minter said.

The availability of mental health treatment resources at a school and the coaching environment are two factors that play a significant role in whether a student-athlete is receiving appropriate treatment to cope with her or his situation, Minter said.



**Drew Minter**

At UIW, the director of Behavioral Health Services, Dr. Kevin Milligan, said performance anxiety -- where athletes feel incapable of competing -- is one of the most common mental health disorders among student-athletes he treats.

Milligan said awareness about mental health struggles needs to start within the inner circle of a student-athlete with their coaches, trainers, and other athletes on the team.

"I think (it's important) getting coaches, team captains, specifically, trained in suicide awareness and mental health awareness to be the voice for their teammates, the voice for their players," Milligan said.

Training coaches and players is just the first step, Milligan said. The athletic administration also needs to be aware of student-athletes' mental health struggles, he stressed.

"The more inclusive that the coaches,



**Dr. Kevin Milligan**

the athletic directors, and just the highest level of athletic administration are -- and the more they communicate that to the student-athletes -- the more buy-in we'll get. The more that stigma will be destigmatized."

UIW's Behavioral Health Services has six licensed professionals and four to six interns available to see student-athletes during business hours, Milligan said.

UIW Athletics also hosts a program called Life Skills to help student-athletes cope with life situations, the transition from being an athlete, and other aspects.

In addition, Milligan said Behavioral Health Services is collaborating with the sports medicine team to hold sessions to discuss mental health challenges within the team or among individual players.

Minter suggested this for student-athletes struggling with mental health issues: "You have to find one person with whom you can talk about these things because if not, if you bottle up those feelings and emotions, they're just going to eat at you. Ultimately, you're not going to be OK in the long run."

## Women's soccer team prepares to kick off fall season

By Mario Garcia Palencia  
LOGOS STAFF WRITER

If there is something that defines and makes the UIW Athletics program unique, it's the fighting spirit and passion for the game. The women's soccer team is no exception.

Having accomplished a historic run last season along with a remarkable general performance at the Southland Conference tournament, the squad is already back on track working on their upcoming season.

A general feeling of positivism is shared between both players and their head coach, Emma Wright-Cates. Four straight years managing the team has been more than enough for Wright-

Cates to learn the ropes, as the team placed second place in conference.

The Cardinals beat Houston Baptist University 4-0 in the quarterfinals to advance to the second round of the tournament, the furthest the team had ever gone. Then, UIW defeated McNeese State University 1-0 and advanced to the championship against top-seeded Northwestern State University.

Although the team didn't bring home the trophy, the achievement was noteworthy as Wright-Cates, a native of Greater Manchester, England, took a team that was at the bottom of the league to the cup final game in four seasons through a pandemic.



**Emma Wright-Cates**

UIW striker Keeley Ayala said the team is confident in the process and believes in the possibility of achieving big goals as soon as the ball starts rolling again.

"I think we have a lot of potential and if we work hard and stay consistent our future can be very bright," said Ayala, a senior communication arts major from Wichita Falls, Texas. "We have lots of new players coming in so they should have a big impact on our program. Last season we didn't start off how we wanted to, but we never

gave up and kept showing up every day and turned our season around. Our last game against Northwestern was a fight for sure. It was back-and-forth all game and we ended up falling short in the last minutes, but they were a solid team and played well."

Wright-Cates still has fond memories of the championship match.

"I thought we were tremendous," the coach said. "We gave everything we had. We emptied the tank. The girls can hold their heads up high knowing that they played a great game."

## Irish tenor's voice rings in concert hall

By **Dior Enriquez**  
LOGOS STAFF WRITER

In a one-night-only concert, famed Irish tenor Emmet Cahill gave a heartfelt performance Wednesday, April 20, his songs spanning Broadway, life in Ireland and the history behind Irish America.

On a few selections in his performance at the University of the Incarnate Word, Cahill was backed by the Cardinal Chorale and University Mission and Ministry Laudate Choir at Diane Bennack Concert Hall.

After a brief introduction by Music

Department Chair William Gokelman, Cahill began with a moving rendition of "Go the Distance," followed by the romantic "Some Enchanted Evening."

Between songs, Cahill offered some commentary, including an acknowledgment to the strength of the fine arts during the pandemic.

Cahill, former lead singer of the Celtic Thunder ensemble, invited the audience to his homeland with the words of "Galway Bay." Then, he invited the listeners to sing along as he taught the basics of "That's an Irish Lullaby." In the journey back to the United



Photo by Robin Jerstad  
Emmet Cahill sings with the Cardinal Chorale.

States, the experiences of Irish Americans were profoundly portrayed in Cahill's performance of "Isle of Hope,

Isle of Tears." After a few more songs, Seamus Brett, his accompanist, played a revived traditional piece from an Irish composer on the grand piano.

Under the direction of Gokelman, the Cardinal Chorale came on stage to perform the jazz-influenced "Canticum Novum" and the solemn "Even When He is Silent." Then Cahill and the Cardinal Chorale performed together an Irish lullaby, "Suantraí ár Slánaitheora," before finishing the evening blessing those there with a "May the Road Rise to Meet You."



Nimsi Coronado/LOGOS STAFF

**CAPSTONE CROWD:** This hand is among the works on exhibit at Kelo Fine Arts Center. The exhibit features the work of eight seniors: Ileana Chavez, Nimsi Coronado, Isacc Grigar, Sylvia Halbeisen, Lauren Holmes Baloco, Heather Olivari, Marianna Ruvalcaba and Stephanie Silva. The exhibit remains on display 10 a.m.-5 p.m. weekdays - except for Memorial Day - through May 31.

## 'Ordinary Days': Far from ordinary musical

By **Brigette Babin**  
LOGOS STAFF WRITER

It is only once every few years that the theatre department puts on a musical at the University of the Incarnate Word, but when they do, it is evident -- both individually and as an ensemble -- to build their singing chops before ever setting foot on stage. Their hard work paid off.

This year, directed by Associate Professor Mark Stringham, the choice was "Ordinary Days."

Do not let the title fool you: this is far from an "ordinary" musical.

The music exceeded my expectations. With the help of Bill Gokelman, chair of the music department, the actors worked diligently -- both individually and as an ensemble -- to build their singing chops before ever setting foot on stage. Their hard work paid off.

The songs themselves were a healthy mix of funny and sentimental. Despite the story's tedious pacing, the songs entertained me enough to keep me engaged throughout the performance.

The live, single-piano accompaniment was simple and effective in supporting the actors without outshining them.

The voice of Alexander Montalvo, who played Jason, definitely stood out with his rich timbre full of power and emotion. However, that is not to say his fellow actors did not hold their own.

Some of my favorite songs were "Fine," a humorous argument in a relationship that is barely hanging together, and "Dear Professor Thompson," both Part 1 and 2. I am sure the subject of e-mailing a strict professor begging for an extension resonated with many in the majority of the university-aged audience.

The set of the show in Elizabeth Huth Coates Theatre was loosely reminiscent of "Falsettos," especially the 2017 run on Broadway, due to its simple and occasionally abstract nature. Projections and shadows created silhouettes serving as backdrops. These enhanced the story without overpowering any of the other elements, allowing the audience to focus instead on the characters' vibrancy and songs. The show also used a four-person ensemble, nicknamed "supers"

(short for supernumerary, or "extras") to add more life to the stage, which the Thursday-night talkback revealed was a directorial choice not originally in the show.

I think this was a good call because in the scenes without the supers or projections, the limited backdrop made the show feel more like a concert than a play, inhibiting my immersion and investment in the story. Luckily, these scenes were few and far between, and, even then, the refined acting and singing talent were often enough to draw me in regardless.

The show's climax was nothing short of breathtaking as the colorful paper fell gracefully from the rafters. As I learned from the talkback, it was not without a lot of work and



Brigette Babin

clever rigging to get the papers to fall in such an aesthetically pleasing manner. The reference to the terroristic tragedy of 9-11 was lost on me but not on the audience.

During the Thursday night talk-back, some older audience members commented on the authenticity and emotion of the scene, with one even getting teary-eyed, proving how this "ordinary" musical indeed did so much more.

I would like to recognize and congratulate the hard work and dedication behind the scenes to bring "Ordinary Days," the last show of the 2021-22 season, to the stage.

And for those for whom this was their last show, I would like to shout out: Thank you for all you have contributed to the UIW theatre during your time here. Your talents will be missed. Go out and continue creating great art in the world!

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## Theatre arts veteran wins teaching award

By **Jocelyn Martinez**  
LOGOS STAFF WRITER

For someone who never wanted to be a teacher early in her life, Margaret Mitchell just ended up getting an annual award from the University of the Incarnate Word for her impact in the classroom.

Mitchell, a longtime theatre arts professor at UIW, is the 2022 recipient of the Presidential Teaching Award, getting a framed certificate from the president, Dr. Thomas Evans – and a \$5,000 stipend.

"I am very honored to be the first person from theatre arts to receive this award, and I am even more honored that my students nominated me," Mitchell said.

The announcement and presentation were made April 19 at the Faculty Appreciation Luncheon in McCombs Center Rosenberg Skyroom. The award acknowledges "an individual who exemplifies excellence in teaching that leads to student engagement."

A selection committee selects the chair at its first meeting, reviews nominees' submitted files and forwards three names to the president for final selection.

"I never wanted to be a teacher early in my life, but I suppose I got drawn into the profession because I saw that I could make a difference in the lives of others, and I saw I had something to offer to students," Mitchell said. "Theatre is a microcosm of life both in the stories we tell and how we produce



**Margaret Mitchell**

theatre. When one is teaching a student how to be a theatre artist, the student is also being taught many useful things about life in the scripts and practice."

Although she knew she had been nominated since nominees are asked to submit further documents for consideration, Mitchell said she did not think she would win this award.

"I do not teach in the core," she said. "I mostly teach upper-division electives in theatre arts, and therefore, I don't

teach many students. My perception about the award was that professors who teach larger numbers, those who have a broader reach, usually receive the award. Also, many people outside of artistic circles don't see a costume designer's job as serious."

Teaching is challenging, especially during the coronavirus pandemic. Yet, Mitchell said she believes her students keep her strong.

"COVID and the social and political unrest of the past few years have shown us clearly what a broken world we have, and there are now many new difficult barriers to teaching and learning. But through all this difficulty, our students have prevailed, or they are in the process of doing so."

## Two receive stewardship awards

A University of the Incarnate Word professor and a groundskeeper were winners of the 2022 William Mulcahy Awards for Ecological Stewardship given on Earth Day Wednesday, April 20.

The winners were Dr. Lourdes Fortepiani, a professor at Rosenberg School of Optometry, and Mauro Medina, who operates a Bobcat in the Facilities Department.

The award was created in 2007 in recognition of the late grounds superintendent Bill Mulcahy's leadership in ecological conservation and care of the land at UIW. Each year, nominations are submitted to the Earth Month Committee, which selects a faculty member and a staff member for the awards.

The citation for Fortepiani said she "was instrumental in getting the



**Mauro Medina**

Sustainability Studies concentration up and running and in organizing the first Faculty Orientation Workshop for the Sustainability Studies concentration. She also volunteered to co-chair the new Earth Month committee on the Sustainability Advisory Board and has worked diligently behind the scenes



**Dr. Lourdes Fortepiani**

to make Earth Month happen for years. Her clear-eyed service to UIW deserves recognition."

And Medina was named a "key player in helping revive the UIW community garden after recent inclement weather. Mauro has been instrumental in helping revive the (campus community) gardens since we went to remote learning. He has been available to help students in moving dirt, mulch, compost, and other materials on Fridays and Saturdays, and his skills with the forklift are unparalleled. Without

him, the gardens could not have been rebuilt, and his humility in serving the community embodies the UIW mission in a profound way."

Booths at the UIW Earth Fair included: Nutrition at UIW, Rooted Vegan Cuisine Pure Aloha Bath and Beauty Headwaters at Incarnate Word, Inc. Sustainability Education Committee - Educational Display UIW Sustain Rosenberg School of Optometry Black Llama iHouse Nutrition and Dietetics Society Dr. Ben Miele, chair of the Sustainability Board, said the Earth Day celebration is important to the UIW community "as it encompasses care of Creation and contributes to promoting the UIW Mission among students and the broader San Antonio community."

## New Moody Professor to lead commencement processions

When the University of the Incarnate Word holds its spring commencement ceremonies Saturday, May 7, at Freeman Coliseum, there'll be a new professor carrying the official University Mace.

Dr. Lee Ann Waltz, an assistant professor at the Ila Faye Miller School of Nursing and Health Professions, will be leading the procession with the mace.

Waltz was named the 2022 Moody Professor at the annual Faculty Appreciation Luncheon that took place April 19 in McCombs Center Rosenberg Skyroom. The award – considered the

highest faculty honor – was established in 1971 and is traditionally awarded to a senior faculty member who is recognized for teaching excellence.

The winner not only carries the mace at spring and fall commencement this year, but has the additional duties of giving the commencement address this fall and a public lecture next spring. The award also carries a \$2,000 stipend.

"It is such a great honor to have been selected to receive the 2022-2023 Moody Professor," Waltz said in a statement issued by the university. "I am most grateful to all my colleagues

in the School of Nursing and Health Professions, as well as the university at large, who have served as wonderful mentors to me in teaching, scholarship and service throughout my years here. I am blessed to work at this wonderful institution and to continue the mission of the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word."

Commencement will take place at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Saturday at Joe and Harry Freeman Coliseum, 3201 E. Houston St. The ceremonies also will be streamed online. Processionals begin 20 minutes prior to each ceremony.



**Dr. Lee Ann Waltz**

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