Agnese celebrates 30 years as president

Pomp and a picnic. All three marked Dr. Louis J. Agnese Jr.’s celebration in March of his 30 years as president of the University of the Incarnate Word.

Pomp came into play March 21 at a Conferal Ceremony of Honorary Degrees in the Chapel of the Incarnate Word where Agnese received a Doctor of Humane Letters, the highest honor UIW can confer on an individual.

Sharing the spotlight with Agnese at the ceremony were two other recipients of the honorary doctorate – former UIW Board Chair Charles Amato – a co-founder and chairman of SWBC and co-owner of the Space – and another friend of the university, Harley Seyedin, who helped connect UIW and China in educational endeavors.

“I always wanted to be an alumnus of the university,” Agnese said after going last in receiving the honorary doctorate at the ceremony where the recipients and all others in attendance were seated on the sanctuary.

On Tuesday evening, March 22, several hundred people including faculty, staff, administrators, friends of the university and members of the university-founding Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word partied in McCombs Center Rosenberg Skyroom.

And a week later, Tuesday, March 29, several hundred more participated in a picnic in Cardinal Courtyard.

Other events held in celebration of this milestone included an International Convocation with guests from UIW campuses in Mexico and Heidelberg, Germany, as well as representatives from UIW sister schools, a luncheon, and a Mass of Thanksgiving celebrated by the Most Rev. Gustavo García-Siller, archbishop of San Antonio.

Air Force veteran shaves head to help fight childhood cancer

Before spring break, University of the Incarnate Word student Paul Warner sported a familiar frock of longer hair. Now it’s gone to help raise money for childhood cancer research.

“Childhood cancer research is extremely underfunded so I decided to do something about it by raising money for cures,” said Warner, an Air Force veteran who does work-study in UIW’s Center for Veterans Affairs.

Warner, a communication arts major concentrating in production, had his head shaved before Lyndsey’s last chemotherapy in April.

“I know Lyndsey personally and have witnessed the courage that she has exhibited during her treatment and through her recovery,” Warner said. “Every dollar makes a difference about it by raising money for cures,” said Warner, an Air Force veteran who does work-study in UIW’s Center for Veterans Affairs.

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Go ing u p

For the first time ever, a student from the University of the Incarnate Word fencing program made it to the 2016 National Collegiate Men’s and Women’s Fencing Championships.

Sophomore Alexander Sless competed March 24-27 in the NCAA Championships held at Brandeis University’s Gosman Sports and Convocation Center in Waltham, Mass.

The event consisted of a 42-person round-robin where the fencers competed against each other and the four fencers with the best results advance to a direct elimination final.

Sless, a transfer student from the University of Texas at San Antonio, was announced as one of the 144 competitors selected to participate. He finished with a 10-13 record, landing him in 15th place out of 24 fencers in the men’s epee, where points are made by touching any part of the opponent’s body with the tip of the weapon.

“It was a really good experience to have because if I hopefully qualify again next year I know what to expect,” Sless said. “I fenced against people from big schools. I like the challenge but for this being my first time, it was a bit hard.”

Unlike other UIW sports transitioning from Division II to Division I, the fencing program made it to the 2016 National Collegiate Men’s and Women’s Fencing Championships.

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Only 24 fencers in each weapon -- foil, saber and epee -- are selected from 34 schools that support men’s fencing. A female fencer at the scene was injured, but no further injuries were reported. Shown in this undated photo is a female fencer who was injured. She said she was injured at the scene but declined medical attention. When asked what she wanted to say after being injured, she declined to answer.

A school may qualify two fencers in each weapon. Of those 34 schools, only 32 were represented at this year’s NCAA Championship. The fencing team had a chance to send fencers to the NCAA since 2000, which allowed UIW to become the first university in the state to offer college degrees in fencing. Seldon has also been involved in the development of some school relations for reciproc- al education throughout China -- UIW currently has agreements with more than a dozen.

During his presidency, enrollment at UIW has increased from 1,296 in 1985 to 10,984 in 2015. UIW is now the third-largest private university in Texas based on full-time enrollment. UIW also added the first Ph.D. program and doctoral-level programs in pharmacy, nursing practice and business administration; Division I athletics; and opened offices in Mexico and Germany. A School of Osteopathic Medicine will open in 2017 at Brooks City Base.

Throughout his presidency, Agnese has institutionalized two holiday-related traditions: “Light the Way,” which honors UIW alumni and donors who have made life-changing gifts, and serves it to UIW students with the family’s secret recipe.

A 20-year-old student at New York University has been charged with second-degree murder for the stabbing deaths of her newborn daughter and another woman. Seldon said she was stabbed to death at the student’s home, where they had an unexpected sexual encounter that was pronounced dead later that night.

When Agnese interviewed at then-Incarnate Word College in 1981, he was then one of the youngest presidents of a four-year institution of higher learning in the nation at the age of 33. Although overall it was a good experience, Seldon finished the 2015-2016 season with a dual-meet record of 1-2, 48 overall and four of the best in the nation.

While Agnese said he felt his greatest achievement was being married to his wife, Mickey, and raising a son and daughter who between them have brought the Agnese four grandsons.

‘Of all the degrees I’ve been awarded in my life, this is far and away the most special,’ Agnese said in a statement. ‘This fulfills my dream of becoming an alum of UIW.’

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Cont. Agnese celebrates
Medical school to offer biomedical master’s degree

The Master of Biomedical Sciences degree was originally brought up last summer, said Dr. Fangfa Dawson, who will direct the program.

"The idea for this program stemmed from recognizing the service commitment that the university has regarding granting students access to opportunities," Dawson said. "We want to make sure that students from all sorts of various backgrounds had the opportunity to pursue careers in healthcare professions." The MBS program is a full-time, one-year, 37-hour program that will provide students with the knowledge necessary to succeed in a variety of careers, Dawson said. The classes — which will be offered in space on the medical campus at Brooks City Base — can be completed over two semesters and one summer term, she added.

"We were aiming primarily for students who plan on, or are thinking of attending medical school," Dawson said. "However, prospective students can also include but are not limited to any career in the health professions such as physical therapy, physicians assistants, and even some pharmacy students."

This program is one way for prospective medical students to strengthen their education credentials, expand their networks, and increase their chances of getting into medical school, she pointed out.

"After doing extensive research for this program, I found that many students applying to medical school were not getting in," Dawson said. "We wanted to create a program that provided students who had experienced struggles along their educational path, and whose grades had suffered an opportunity to be able to get into medical school because there are various students who have the aspirations, but lack the credentials necessary to get into medical school."

The curriculum consists of graduate-level biomedical science coursework, research exposure, and early clinical experiences in interactive small and large group learning.

"The courses are very hands-on, and provide students with a lot of patient contact, which is not something you usually see in these programs," Dawson said. "Through this specific program, students will actually have the opportunity to go out into the field and begin working with patients. It is almost like we are giving them a glance of medical school the year before they actually enter so we can make sure that they are prepared once they have to present their experience to a panel."

Applications for the 2015-16 cycle in the Master of Biomedical Sciences are now being accepted. Candidates must submit a Graduate Admission application and a MBS Supplemental program application. To be considered for admission into the program, applicants must submit their completed application on or before April 15. Both applications and a $10 non-refundable fee for the Supplemental Application must be submitted online.

A bachelor’s degree, and several prerequisite courses are required for all applicants. Additional information can be found on the University of the Incarnate Word website for the Master of Biomedical Sciences. Official transcripts, letters of reference, and test scores must be submitted to the UIW Office of Admissions.

The estimated cost for tuition and expenses for prospective students is estimated to be around $35,000 for the 2016-17 school year. Although there are no specific scholarships for this program, financial aid is available, and prospective students are encouraged to visit UIW’s Office of Financial Assistance.

Campus gets fresh sip of ‘Diversi-Tea’

The idea of bringing back an old tradition with new accommodations is what created the biweekly “Diversi-Tea,” which began Feb. 11 and ends April 21 in Cardinal’s Courtyard.

“The tradition dates back to 1867, when the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word would participate in tea time following afternoon mass,” said Paul Ayala, director of University Events and Student Programs at the University of the Incarnate Word.

Ayala said Dr. Barbara Aranda-Naranjo, an associate provost for civic engagement, suggested renewing the tradition to Ayala and Dr. Ricardo Gonzalez, program coordinator with the Etling Center for Civic Engagement.

The event featured tea every other Thursday at 1 p.m. with the theme of teas from around the world. Students had the chance to taste Irish, Chinese, Indian, Middle Eastern, and Latin American teas.

"Campus Life and the Etling Center for Civic Leadership are renewing the tradition being brought back to campus. Tradition is good to bring back, especially if it is to bring people together to just enjoy a drink and2 share stories,” said Gustavo Gutierrez. “It’s a lot different than the tea I’m used to drinking. It is an acquired taste, but I think it’s pretty good."

One of the teas offered during a Thursday ‘Diversi-Tea’ that brought back a tradition started by the nuns who started UIW.

Student’s match saves life

Medical school to offer biomedical master’s degree

Dr. Fangfa Dawson

By Nancy Benet

The School of Osteopathic Medicine, set to open fall 2017, is starting a master’s degree program this fall for students interested in biomedical sciences.

"After doing extensive research for this program, I found that many students applying to medical school were not getting in," Dawson said. "We wanted to create a program that provided students who had experienced struggles along their educational path, and whose grades had suffered an opportunity to be able to get into medical school because there are various students who have the aspirations, but lack the credentials necessary to get into medical school."

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Student’s match saves life

Alexander Ramirez is looking forward to the chance to meet a boy who received bone marrow from him.

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Students get tips on how to dress for success

By Nancy Benet
LOGOS STAFF WRITER

Just in time for two spring job fairs, University of the Incarnate Word students attended a workshop learned the do’s and don’ts on how to dress professionally.

The Office of Career Services and Professional Development held the workshop Wednesday, Feb. 24, in J.E. and L.E. Mabee Library Auditorium.

Brandy Brittany, a representative for Fashion Institute of Design & Merchandising, advised students on how to properly dress during an interview and in the workplace.

First impressions are lasting and the way one dresses can have an impact on the impression employers get of potential candidates based on their appearance, she noted.

“Think about how you want to portray yourself,” Mann said.

When picking out clothing, women need to make sure their attire has the proper neckline, hemline and fit. Good hygiene is also an essential when dressing professionally.

As for men, the same principles apply. Men need to ensure they’re wearing a tie, their clothing has the proper fit, good hygiene, and to make sure their belt and shoes match.

Mann also gave tips on how to properly dress during an interview and in the workplace.

“First impressions are everything,” Mann said. "Dress for the role."
Teams repaint houses during Alternative Spring Break

By Priscilla Aguirre
LOGOS Assistant Editor

While most University of the Incarnate Word students were relaxing during spring break, others were helping the community by repainting two homes March 11-14 on San Antonio’s west side. Students, faculty and non-students had the opportunity to volunteer for six hours on the homes of two different families near Frank Garrett Community Center during the seventh annual Alternative Spring Break. The students are getting several values of what real life is like,” said David Espinoza, student engagement coordinator for the Ettling Center for Civic Leadership, which works with the sponsoring Office of Mission and Ministry on the project. Mission and Ministry and other faculty members find the homes that need assistance. For the past several years the program has stayed in the same community, fixing one house at a time. “Mission and Ministry and the Ettling Center have a lot of partnerships with groups and organizations,” Espinoza said. “We stay at the location because we know the resources are there. When you have something well-structured, you continue to make it grow.”

At 8:30 each morning, the students met on campus in front of Alice McDermott Convocation Center and boarded a shuttle with Sister Walter Maher, vice president of Mission and Ministry, and faculty volunteers. They were shuttled to Frank Garrett Community Center for a light breakfast and to meet other people who took time out to provide service. Around 30 students signed up to help along with the Cardinals softball team.

After breakfast, volunteers loaded up the shuttle and trucks with equipment to take to the two houses where they worked until 1:30 p.m. for the return trip to the center for lunch and a time to share their reflections about the day’s work before cleaning up and returning to campus on the shuttle.

Fifty volunteers started that Monday by scrapping old paint off the homes, one larger than the other. The softball team helped out on the bigger house and by the end of the day it was ready to get primed. “I met a lot of people and that was pretty cool. I want to come back and do it again.”

The next day the smaller house was scrapped while the larger house was being painted. Due to the weather, some work was delayed but by the time Friday came around both houses were painted and fixed. “I was able to meet a few students of the houses and they were grateful for having us be there,” Espinoza said. “What we did does make the neighborhood different. It keeps it maintained and restored.”

Some students said they learned how to scrape houses while others said it made them feel grateful for what they had. “I saw one of the owners of the house that I was helping and she was super nice,” student Maria Gonzales said. “I plan on graduating soon so I’m glad I participated in this before I do.”

Because of Alternative Spring Break, “the students are getting several values of what real life is like,” Espinoza said. “This Alternative Spring Break was a different perspective of fun. It provided engagement and education for what you can do for others. Service is the history of UIW and we are all trying to show the students that. Seeing it firsthand in action was much different than hearing about it. All the work we are doing together is making a difference. We are building on that and learning from it. At this time the students develop that skill in doing something while helping out the community. I encourage people to try it at least once while you’re here. You never know what to expect but if you don’t try it, you may never know at all.”

“I did this for community service hours but I learned a lot doing this,” student Selena Gonzales said. “I met a lot of people and that was pretty cool. I want to come back and do it again.”

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“For a summer project, the Ettling Center of Civic Leadership has the Arise Emerging Trip. The weeklong trip takes students in the summer to the Rio Grande Valley to help youth in the community. Transportation is provided. Questions can be answered at the Ettling office on the first floor of the Administration Building.

“We’ve had very good reflection of experiences from the trip in the past,” said David Espinoza, student engagement coordinator for the Ettling Center. “There is so much need for help everywhere. If a student has an idea, we take that into consideration. We are really about people coming together and engaging.”
Wishing for more financial aid

Along with the money won from the scholarships and granted to me from financial aid, I will still have to work 10-15 plus hours a week in order to make ends meet paying for school.

Paying for school is a hassle and I am grateful there is some form of financial aid to help provide for higher education. But I do feel like some improvements could be made.

Editorials can be found on the Logos Interactive Website.

From the Editor's Desk:

Lana was her name. Every time anyone met her she walked like a little black lab retriever staring right at you. The reason my boyfriend and I adopted her was because of her eyes. When we looked in her brown glowing eyes, I've dealt with, I would welcome her with nothing but playful joy. Her arms would wrap around your waist and hug you, while her tail wagged with excitement. Sometimes I would have to get her out of her crate, but that's the way she was. She had so much love to give.

She would pull that leash so hard I was done yelling at her she would give you a look of pure sadness. I couldn't seem to put her in the kennel was ridiculous, but needed. I kept thinking positive and tried not to let her down on herself.

Lana knew when I was sad or upset. She would come up about seven phone chargers. The reason my boyfriend and I adopted her was because of her eyes. When we looked in her brown glowing eyes, you will be missed and never replaced.

There are so many things I love about it. From the crisp pages of a journalism. And remember them while they are here. They can leave you feeling empty or lost I imagine her beside me uplifting me.

That's life. Our time with her. She brought joy to everyone with her cleverness and cheerfulness. We used to go on runs together and then she would get snuggled up. She would pull that leash so hard I was done yelling at her she would give you a look of pure sadness. I couldn't seem to put her in the kennel was ridiculous, but needed. I kept thinking positive and tried not to let her down on herself.

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Is caffeine good for Me?

Kirsten (Casteel) was on her way home from work at 11:40 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 24, and was hit by two cars racing at high speeds, causing her car damage and fast motion to them, knocking her off the road that night.

She called her father — scared and panicked. He talked with her and helped her drive home safely without knowing the severity of the damage to her car. The doctors of the other cars were never contacted or reported.

Kirsten drove to Kaiser Auto Mechanic that Monday and they told her she was drivable but to drive cautiously until her dad came in town. Her dad was told to bring it in the following Monday for repairs. Her father, Marc Casteel, was driving down to take care of the car and get her a rental.

Well, on (Oct. 29), on her way to work that afternoon, she felt her tire blow and she called AAA to help her put her spare tire on. Early Sunday, Nov. 1, around 8 a.m., a little dog, Teddy, woke her up to go potty and she took it to Walmart and left and then went to Walmart and then on to Kirpen Kreme for fresh donuts and latté.

Kirsten’s call was turned off because I wouldn’t pay the $1,000 bond that she racked up on her Alaskan cruise in September. She used Wii-Fi in the Walmart store to try to reach her boyfriend (DJ Moffitt) that she was scared about something (we don’t know what) — her alarm went off.

On her way home, she tried to avoid some water from the road in the far left lane on the (service road) near the intersection when she tried to correct the lost control by locking up the brakes. The witness behind her said she didn’t lose control but just buckled down. She tried to regain control but the vehicle spun backwards onto the ravine hitting the bridge, rear driver side-first, then slammed the bridge rail, right side-first and then the bridge rail, left side-first, and then the bridge rail, right side-first, and then the bridge rail, left side-first,

Kirsten severe head injury. She had no broken bones from this tragic accident. Just some bruising. Kirsten wasn’t driving over the speed limit. She was driving too fast on the spare. The witness said they all were driving the speed limit, except she was driving too fast on the spare. This is where the reporter took words out of context. She wasn’t speeding. She was driving too fast on the spare. A witness behind her saw the tire buckle and knew she was going too fast on it. He was just an auto mechanic where he saw the tire buckle and knew she was going too fast on it.

An Army medic (the first) to arrive and see her and she looked like she was just in her car accident. He then checked her vitals and assumed a broken neck. Then the paramedics arrived and had her out of the car. They told us she had to pull her out from the driver front seat through the passenger side and immediately administered life-sustaining protocols. They told us no one could survive a crushing blow like that for a concrete bridge has no give. (Kirsten was born on 23 Feb. 8).

Kirsten was a loving and kindhearted gentle soul. She was always giving to the homeless and giving rides to those in need. She was always buying groceries for those needing food. She also was a big supporter of animal rights. She also had many dental train and dental school and was currently attending Champion Real Estate School to be completed in May to get her real estate license. She also planned to finish her last work and become a professional psychologist.

We donated Kirsten’s organs to the San Antonio Eye Bank, as well as her kind and loving heart (tissues) to newborns with heart defects. I almost forgot. (The) toxicology reports came back clean. No alcohol or drugs. I never doubted (that) she was the always designated driver.

Karen L. Casteel
kirstencasteel@gmail.com

Editor’s Note: In the November-December 2015 edition, the Logos reported the death of Kirsten Casteel, 22, in an automobile accident. Reports say Casteel, from Carrolton, Texas, was driving too fast – but further details provided by her mother will help clarify the true cause of the accident.

Is caffeine good for Me?

The topic of caffeine’s health benefits, or health risks, is certainly not one in which health professionals all tend to agree.

One day caffeine beverages are revered as integral to health; next they’re the culprit to such conditions as irregular heartbeat, high blood pressure, difficulty sleeping, staying asleep and contributors to increased anxiety and panic.

Although caffeine can be beneficial — by way of its ability to increase focus and alertness — the source and quantity are of extreme importance.

You might be on your way to class, just coming off the weekend and you’re not feeling it, so you decide you need a caffeine fix. You wake up, you go to the coffee shop and order a latte with a ton of sugar. The beverage choices you face during their busy hours are endless. They contain a mixture of stimulants, which according to a physician specializing in internal medicine and psychiatry, “…are very dangerous and have caused users unexpected trips to the emergency room.”

First, what to avoid and why. Energy drinks such as Monster are just way too much of everything. They contain a mixture of stimulants, which according to a physician specializing in internal medicine and psychiatry, “…are very dangerous and have caused users unexpected trips to the emergency room.”

Coffee can also be beneficial. Coffee drinkers live longer. One study to prove this was published in the New England Journal of Medicine. The study concluded that “breakfast coffee is associated with a lower risk of heart disease and death.”

Coffee is a great way to get a caffeine fix to help you wake up and get your day started. Make sure you’re not taking in caffeine at any time of the day or night. Coffee can be beneficial if you’re not sensitive to caffeine. However, if you are sensitive to caffeine, you won’t experience the benefits. It is not as effective to those of us who are not sensitive to caffeine.

Moderate intake of caffeine is considered acceptable (up to 400 mg a day). A cup of coffee can contain up to 120 mg of caffeine and is best taken black (without added cream or sugar). The dose I interviewed for this told his general recommendation was one cup a day or its equivalent. If you like black or green tea, you can have about two cups and still be at the same level of caffeine as if you had a cup of coffee.

Enough about the sources we’d be better off at avoiding. Let’s go over some of the health risks associated with caffeine consumption, if you are sensitive to caffeine consumption.

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The impact of this type of obsession can control the level of happiness of people. A recent study revealed that obsession with social media platforms to make life look more beautiful is correlated with increased levels of unhappiness. The bulk of social media adds feeling posting seemingly perfect images of themselves and their lives has prevented them from appreciating and enjoying life’s experiences.

When people start to get more attention on trying to make their lives seem perfect, they will start to become less sociable in reality. It is sad that people care about online perceptions more than how they care about themselves in reality. People obses...
On an average two refugee children a day have been drowning in the Mediterranean as they try to get to safety. This is the worst refugee crisis in 70 years.

In the face of this University of the Incarnate Word students, faculty and friends of UIW’s Ettling Center for Civic Engagement have hope that newcomers to San Antonio can be recognized as potential friends, not people to be feared and rejected.

For the sixth year UIW held its “Celebrate Spring” gathering March 25, on Good Friday morning, for refugee children and families. This year, the gathering was at the Denman Estate off Mockingbird Lane in San Antonio.

Sister Martha Ann Kirk, a longtime religious studies professor at UIW, started the “Celebrate Spring” gathering six years ago because she had seen the challenges for refugee families in the Middle East.

This year almost a hundred people attended and between the refugees, the UIW international student hosts, and other hosts, there were 17 countries represented including the United States, Rwanda, Austria, Switzerland, Turkey, Mongolia, Mexico, Iran, Iraq, Somalia, Central African Republic, Vietnam, Northern Ireland, South Africa, Germany, Sudan and Kenya.

“Celebrate Spring” not only celebrated Easter, but other religious celebrations of spring. These included Hindu, the Hindu celebration of colors that is a festival of spring, Buddhist, a festival that promotes international exchange. She is currently a representative Leslie Reneau who helped organize the gathering.

“Hearing some of the refugees’ stories made me realize how much people don’t know about what the refugees are going through,” said Ettling Center representative Leslie Reneau who helped organize the gathering.

“The event brought together people from many backgrounds and created a space where everyone could share their experiences and learn from one another,” said Ashley Kowalczyk, a UIW sophomore English major. “It was amazing to see all the different activities and holidays, they made arts and crafts together to represent something traditional from that culture. The activities included: egg dyeing, puppet making, drawing rangolis and other symbols, face painting, and making an Easter tree. The participants moved from table to table and met new people while learning about the different cultures.

“The celebration brought together people from many backgrounds and created a space where everyone could share their experiences and learn from one another. The atmosphere was peaceful and demonstrated the connection that can be created when people from different cultures communicate, learn about each other, and find respect for each other,” said Ashley Kowalczyk, a UIW sophomore English major.

“Hearing some of the refugees’ stories made me realize how much people don’t know about what the refugees are going through,” said Ettling Center representative Leslie Reneau who helped organize the gathering.

“The event helped the refugees and UIW students and faculty enjoy each other’s company, allowing many of the students who participated in this event to be face-to-face with those who have been through so many difficult situations, often at a young age.”

“Being a part of ‘Celebrate Spring’ allowed me to learn about each other personally and culturally,” said Ashley Kowalczyk, a UIW sophomore English major. “It was amazing to see all the different activities and possibilities various refugee centers provide for these individuals.”

Throughout the day, all of the participants were able to interact with the refugees that are a part of my community and learn about the way different religions around the world operate. Dr. Zenon Culverhouse, an assistant professor of philosophy, brought his two young children to the event.

“As the event progressed, all participants found new friendships with people from across the globe, and everyone seemed to enjoy the food, music and games. The atmosphere was peaceful and demonstrated the connection that can be created when people from different cultures communicate, learn about each other, and find respect for each other.”

“‘Celebrate Spring’ not only celebrated Easter, but three other religious celebrations of spring. These included Hindu, the Hindu celebration of colors that is a time to enjoy spring colors and say goodbye to winter; Navroz, the Persian New Year which has roots in Zoroastrianism; and Passover, the Jewish celebration that remembers when God freed the Jews from slavery in Egypt. (Barb George, a Jewish American, brought stories of Passover in Israel).

As all the participants learned about the four spring holidays, they made arts and crafts together to represent something traditional from that culture. The activities included: egg dyeing, puppet making, drawing rangolis and other symbols, face painting, and making an Easter tree. The participants moved from table to table and met new people while learning about the different cultures.

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Ex-Cardinal soccer star
set to play for city team

Max Gunderson is ready to make his debut Saturday, April 9, at Toyota Field with the newly formed San Antonio FC soccer team.

Gunderson, a three-time, all-conference performer defender from Henderson, Nev., played with the University of the Incarnate Word's soccer team for four years, starting in 2008. During his time at UIW, Gunderson played 77 games, scoring two goals and three assists.

After graduating from Incarnate Word, Gunderson went on to play for the USL PDL's Laredo Heat and the USL's Oklahoma City Energy FC and Austin Aztex – the latter where he played 2,000 minutes in more than 25 matches.

This year, he is ready for a new challenge with the Spurs-owned soccer team, looking to improve and work hard this season, starting with the first game against the Swope Park Rangers.

"I think it's a great opportunity for everybody to showcase what we have, showcase our talents and represent the city well," Gunderson said. "We have good atmosphere and a great fans club behind us."

Gunderson said his time at UIW helped him develop the necessary skills any professional football player must have.

"We're looking for a number of particularly young guys who haven't stepped up yet to step up," Gunderson said. "There's a huge difference between being a high school player and being a college football player in Division I."

"We're particularly interested in the young guys No. 1, but we also got some veterans, whose time (it is) for them to step up and be real players," Gunderson said. "But there's no question the talent level is better than it's ever been here."

"What we're looking for is new leaders for the fall, spring football is beneficial to any program around the country. Spring football has to offer will be the annual intrasquad spring football game that will kick off at 6 p.m. Saturday, April 9, in Gayle and Tom Benson Stadium."

Last year's team finished 6-5 -- the second winning season in program history -- and placed fourth in the Southland Conference, riding strong performances from the defense, led by All-American outside linebacker Myke Tavarres, and games filled with offensive explosions led by quarterback Trent Brittan. Along with a host of other All-Conference honorable mention recipients, the Cardinals are on track to improve.

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UIW loses 3-0 vs. new city soccer team

By Stephen Anderson
LOGOS STAFF WRITER

The San Antonio Football Club closed out preseason play with a 3-0 win over the University of the Incarnate Word team Thursday, March 24, at Toyota Field.

In the first game, SAFC took on the Cardinals despite solid chances from both squads. The game went into the halftime scoreless after 45 minutes. SAFC got on the scoreboard in the second half with a penalty kick goal from Danny Garcia in the 55th minute. SAFC extended its lead just over seven minutes later when midfielder Victor Araujo put home a pretty shot to make it 2-0. Eventually SAFC would add one more goal to seal its 3-0 win.

“Our defensive discipline has been very good,” San Antonio FC Head Coach Darren Powell said. “Towards the end of the game, things got a little sloppy. Not sure if it was fatigue or not doing the right thing at the right time. We’ll check the video later.”

FYI

Fans can see San Antonio’s newest professional soccer club – San Antonio FC -- in action on Saturday, April 9, when the team hosts the Swope Park Rangers at Toyota Field. It will be the new club’s first home game in franchise history.

Cont. Spring Football Game

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Cont. Ex-Soccer Star

matter, said Tavarez.

“Pro Day went good,” Tavarez said. “It was good, not great,” he added with his trademark smile. “I did a lot of good things and I did a lot of bad things. But it was fun. Talking to the coaches, scouts and different teams it was surreal because I remember last year (UIW) only had two different scouts there and this year they had multiple ones from different teams. It was a blessing to be there.”

Tavarez said he felt a little rushed during “Pro Day,” but he didn’t let that stop him from doing what he does best: having fun and performing.

Although he graduated in December with a communication arts degree concentrating in media studies, Tavarez’s preparation for possible life as a pro has been packed. Due to his schedule and the NFL draft later this month, he said he may be unable to attend the spring game. But that won’t take away some of his fondest memories of spring ball.

“Just hanging with the guys you know, getting through practice and having a good time,” Tavarez said. “Just seeing the look on each guy’s face and seeing how much they love the game and love being here. That’s what I miss about it.”

E-mail Bennefield at bennefield@student.uiwtx.edu

Catch the Cardinals
April games calendar

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UIW grads merge media companies

Three University of the Incarnate Word graduates are involved in the merger of two media companies serving San Antonio, La Prensa, San Antonio’s only bilingual semimonthly newspaper, and HeartFire Media, a creative marketing firm, founded in 2012 by Samantha Najera. Najera and Nina Duran both from San Antonio, recently added Blanca Morales, a Pearland native, to the team as marketing coordinator. All three women hold communication arts degrees from UIW. Najera concentrated in production while earning her bachelor’s and master’s degrees. Duran concentrated in bilingual communication arts for her bachelor’s and master’s degrees. The merger of HeartFire Media and La Prensa will allow the newspaper’s legacy to continue rather than pass on with Tino Duran’s retirement, according to a new release.

“Twenty-seven years ago my father took on the role of publisher and since then has done nothing but great things for San Antonio,” Nina Duran said. “With my mother (Millie) at his side and his brilliant ability to push my dad to new levels of success, La Prensa would become a staple. Although the road was not easy, my parents’ faith never wavered. There is a beautiful and necessary transformation that will soon take place at the paper in order for us to continue on this legacy they created.”

Veterans Center help students with military benefits

The Center for Veterans Affairs at the University of the Incarnate Word is the liaison between UIW and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. The center assists students with military connections attending UIW in all programs using educational benefits under the federally funded Veterans Affairs Educational Assistance Program and the pursuit of their educational goals.

Center Director Karen Wyatt talked about the work of the center in a recent interview with the Logos.

LOGOS: What exactly does the Veterans Center do?
Wyatt: “Our mission is to welcome and recognize all service members who are serving and served to protect the rights of our country. The center is here to assist the students attending UIW in all programs using educational benefits under the (U.S.) Department of Veterans Affairs Educational Assistance Program and the pursuit of their educational goals.”

LOGOS: How useful is (the Veterans Center) to the average person?
Wyatt: “If they want to use their GI Bill or VA benefits, every student is asked to go and seek out the person who can certify them, meaning reporting the enrollment. So everyone who wants to use their GI Bill or VA benefits goes through us.”

LOGOS: How did the Veterans Center start?
Wyatt: “When Post 9-11 first started to kick off, there were several colleagues that met together and said, ‘All right. Looks like we’re going to have a brand-new GI Bill that’s really going to change the map of how VA benefits work and we need to be able to designate someone who can devote most of their time to this.’ And that person was me. I was an academic adviser with UIW Online at that time working with the Department of Veterans Affairs Educational Assistance Program and the pursuit of their educational goals.”

LOGOS: How helpful is the VA (Veterans Administration) to theaverage person?
Wyatt: “Not at all. The VA would not mandate that someone be a veteran to be able to work in this position.

LOGOS: Do you have any direct ties to the military?
Wyatt: “Yes. I am a veteran of the U.S. Navy. I served during Desert Storm.”

LOGOS: Was that a prerequisite to become the director?
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LOGOS: How much staff do you have?
Senior English major receives recognition for academics, service

Olivia Almirudis is founder and president of The Sisterhood of UIW.

She is a Kemper Scholar, which included continued involvement for retired professors, included meetings, dinners, and attendance at theatre productions. As a member of the CCVI Bilingual Committee, she has taught Spanish classes to the Sisters at the Incarnate Word Retirement Center, and wrote a textbook for them, "Misiones y Misioneros."

She is an active member of Casa de España and gives regular public lectures for this organization, open to UIW students and faculty, on literary topics. She also participates in the Puerto Rican Heritage Society, involving their members in volunteer activities at the Incarnate Word, and serving on their scholarship committee.

As a member of the Texas Society of Children’s Book Writers and Illustrators, Mondriguez has arranged the organization’s annual meeting at UIW, and has opened their workshops and lectures to UIW students and faculty.

Mondriguez was unavailable at press time for comment on her being named CCVI’s 2016 winner.

"Last September, she was invited to participate in a mission trip to Oaxaca with Los Quijotes, professors, students, and health professionals, who conducted a weeklong health fair in Oaxaca."

Dr. Avelia Mondriguez was lauded in Agnese’s announcement for her contributions to UIW: "Mondriguez ‘embodies the core values of faith, service, innovation, truth, and education in all that she does. No class that she teaches is without emphasis on community service and the needs of others, especially the poor.’"
University of the Incarnate Word students sport white T-shirts that later will get doused in a sea of colors thrown during the annual ‘Festival of Colors’ or Holi held outside in the Dubuis Lawn area among food, fun and games.

The fun last Saturday continued to grow each year from the time it started four years ago.

Festival of Colors continues growth

By Victoria O’Connor
LOGOS STAFF WRITER

University of the Incarnate Word celebrated Holi with the annual Festival of Colors on Dubuis Lawn. The March 23 event brought students of all backgrounds together for the colorful and cultural celebration.

“Festival of Colors started as just a normal Holi festival four years ago and it was in combination with Campus Life and the History Department,” said event coordinator Sheena Connell, assistant director of UIW’s International Students and Scholar Services office. “They both decided to bring a little more of the Indian culture to campus and it ended up morphing into a whole event celebrating the different ethnicities and cultures on campus.”

This year’s event attracted nearly 500 students to learn and experience the many cultural facets at UIW. “We have flags everywhere because we want people to know that it’s not just one culture that can participate in Holi, but that everyone can come join us,” said Priyangana Risal, an international student adviser. “We do these events so that people can come together. Holi has a history of how the gods defeated evil and this is the celebration of it. The colors represent love, joy, happiness, family, and coming together. That is what Holi is about, the defeat of evil and the celebration of life.”

Students appeared to enjoy the opportunity to learn about multiple cultures, while seeing the importance of sharing culture.

“I always like events like these because it’s always fun to learn about new cultures,” junior Amanda Bueglos Claudio said. “In the States we don’t really have anything centered on one culture, so it’s nice to be able to see all the different cultures and religions, foods and such.”

The coordinators of the event plan to make the event even more diverse in hopes of educating and sharing cultures throughout the community.

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“We are making sure not only our international students, but our campus and community are aware of all the different countries and celebrations,” Rical said. “Lack of education makes people small-minded about the world. We want to show people on campus that everyone is welcome to join in and maybe even educate their own friends and families.”
Local San Antonio Singer Becomes a Kidz Bop Kid

By Sherrina Sweet
LOGOS STAFF WRITER

San Antonio native Tiara Hack is experiencing life as a Kidz Bop Kid while living several miles away from her home.

Selling more than 16 million albums in a span of 15 years, KidzBop is a music group of cherubic pre-teens who sing popular songs and reburbish them by taking out any potty or crude language. The group has even released holiday and decade-themed commercials, including the “100% Kosher Kidz Bop Hanukkah.” Several singers such as Zendaya, “Teen Beach” bunk Ross Lynch and Latina sweetheart Becky G have emerged from the group.

Hack, 15, started out as an understudy last year for the group after going to open auditions. Hack also has opened up a couple of shows for them.

“I started singing and dancing when I was little and I’ve always enjoyed it,” Hack said.

Hack is currently living in Los Angeles, where she is rehearsing with Kidz Bop before they head out on tour.

“I miss my friends, [the] cool restaurants, Fiesta Texas, and going shopping at La Cantera,” Hack said.

Hack hopes to write and record her own songs as a solo artist in the future.

“The experience has been training involved, but it all comes together at the end so its worth it,” Hack said.

FYI

Catch the “Life of the Party” Tour at the Tobin Center, 100 Auditorium Circle, at 6 p.m. April 24, and pick up “Kidz Bop Greatest Hits” which dropped April 1.

Tour ticket range from $22.50 to $32.50.

For more information, call the center at (210) 223-8888.
Social bots are coming – Exploring intelligence and artificiality

![Image](https://via.placeholder.com/150)

By Phil Youngblood

Have you ever wanted to be in two places at the same time?

Well, short of cloning yourself, which is fraught with dilemmas, you may soon have the next best thing—a virtual assistant who knows you so well it can act in your stead.

In the 1980s, personal computers enabled us to do more. In the 1990s, the Web enabled us to share what we did. Social media in the 2000s enabled us to share it with the world. I have been watching for the next big thing that will mark this decade and I believe this is it.

We conduct so much of our lives online these days. We talk/text with friends or comment on what they share on social media, we conduct work via phone, e-mail, and file-sharing software, we keep up with the world through a variety of media, and we write articles such as this destined for a printed publication.

We can use some help. The personal computer and information and communications technologies (ICT) have enabled us in gathering and sharing information, but the intelligence associated with making sense of what we see and hear and what we share has so far been left to us.

A dozen and a half “intelligent personal assistants” (IPA), including Siri, Cortana, Google Now, Alexa, Echo, MH, and S Voice, have been helping us to find information and connect with others over the past five years. Siri, for one, can also make suggestions once it “knows” (in the United States) gets to “know you” based on your interactions, such as music you might like or an app you seem to use at a particular time of day.

Now, “social bots” are starting to do much more, such as suggesting answers to questions with a business bot). Eventually, we will have robot assistants who can attend our meetings, take notes, e-mail, file-sharing software, and be used elsewhere.”

Social bots are coming – Exploring intelligence and artificiality

Companies such as Microsoft have turned social “charbots” loose on social media so they can get people talking to them. The idea is that people talk and tell in face “natural environment” and become more adept at understanding conversation. A charbot named Xaiokei has become a huge success in China since 2014, talking to more than 40 million people. A similar experiment went away this month when a charbot named Tag, who took on the persona of a college-aged female, was unleashed on the “wild west” of WeChat as a chatbot of sorts, helping to repeat what would be considered racist rant if they came from a human. The same thing could happen to an impressionable human with no moral compass. Where will we go from here? I believe the next steps will be to replace the annoying “Press 4 for customer service” with “How may I help you today?” intelligence and stop encouraging social bot software to social data into help desk apps. Website search assistants

Nutrition professor, students plan for Peru

By Karissa Rangel

Logos feature editor

A new collaboration between the University of the Incarnate Word’s nutrition faculty, nutrition majors and community-based health educators in Peru aims to combat malnutrition and promote wellness.

“The partnership is being developed in conjunction with Women’s Global Connection (WGC), a ministry of the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word. WGC has several long-term, sustainable development projects in the poorest areas around Chimbote, Peru, including the maternal/early childhood development programs known as Sembrando Infancia.”

The partnership is being developed in conjunction with Sembrando Infancia since they first became part of the Chimbote community in 2003, Dr. Lisa Uribe, executive director of WGC said. “The work of Sembrando is significant and sustainable in that it becomes part of the immediate community.”

Sembrando Infancia, supported in part by the Christus Foundation, is also a part of the Verbo Encarnado (Incarnate Word) System in Chimbote.

Dr. Beth Senne-Duff, an associate professor of nutrition at UIW, is planning a student research project in conjunction with the local public health organization. Planning started while she was on a WGC immersion trip to Peru last December.

“It’s a poorer country, but you need to have programs that are sponsored at the community level,” Senne-Duff said. “In Peru you have iron-deficiency anemia. That’s a big problem for young children, especially because of parasitic infections.”

Growing children need micronutrients such as iron, copper, zinc, and other vitamins and minerals. The growth of children is largely of status and the water supply in Peru and, depending on a family’s financial status there is little meat. Proper nutrition during pregnancy and childhood remains a large issue considering the current state of children’s nutrition.

Senne-Duff is gearing up to take three students into the nutrition practices class in Chimbote for two weeks in May and June as part of the WGC summer immersion trip. The trip will promote the interchange of learning between cultures and peoples.

“We are just hoping to create a synergistic, research- learning opportunity and project development experience,” said Senne-Duff.

The staff of Sembrando Infancia and Dr. Julia Vega, a nutrition professor at the University of Chimbote, system system have been enthusiastic and helpful during the entire process. The completion of the research project will hopefully help Sembrando Infancia receive grants, gaining proper funding to continue to expand. Senne-Duff’s data analysis will serve well as an independent analysis determining the effectiveness of the local health programs work.

“We have people going into homes, teaching about and evaluating sanitary conditions, looking for parasitic infections, and helping families learn about eating healthy,” Senne-Duff said. “That model of health could easily be used elsewhere.”

Senne-Duff has been a faculty member at UIW for 22 years. She has also been connected to WGC and Chimbote, Peru, in the past, working with the late Sr. Don Erol Ertug, WGC’s co-founder. Ertug asked Senne-Duff and Nelly Nista Singh, a long-time WGC student and professor of nutrition at UIW, to become involved in Peru. Senne-Duff said she felt the fulfillment of her Peruvian project was a logical calling after Ertug died.

Senne-Duff first went to Peru on a study trip with Sr. Martha Ann Kerr, a religious studies professor at UIW, about 12 years ago. Looking back, she can see how the Fulbright program evolved.

“Things are being cleaned up,” Senne-Duff said. “It’s exciting to see that, because you know that people’s lives are about to change. Public health is being improved.”

Thanks in part to monumental programs such as Sembrando Infancia, Sembrando-Duff nutrition students and WGC are working hard to ensure the program has the capacity to continue and expand its reach. Similarly, Verbo Encarnado has also more

Dr. Beth Senne-Duff and graduate student Profis Bonifacio do research with Dr. Renee Bellanger, an associate professor at John and Rita Fisk School of Pharmacy, on potential future collaborations. Bellanger traveled as part of the EnlisTing Center of Civic Engagement, which is working to begin offering service-learning experiences internationally. Students interested in getting involved can contact the EnlisTing Center.

Currently, Nicholson Vranicar, an Incarnate Word missionary, is working on a healthy mother/child program through WGC. She and other health workers have recently completed a series of door-to-door parasite checks at the houses of children from ages 6 months to 3 years.

Currently, UIW nutrition students planning to go to Peru are developing health and educational materials in their classes. They will ultimately go to Peru with different models of healthcare and provide nutrition education through workshops.

“For our students, it’s a growing experience,” Senne-Duff said. “When you go outside the United States, you appreciate the constraints and the limitations the country has. When you see people who are truly in need, you think, I don’t think a different perspective. You open your hearts to people of a different culture and you learn from them. It’s a reciprocal relationship. It’s not just us giving our knowledge and experience, but us learning about their culture, long history, and richness. You really bring a new openness back.”

Where will we go from here? I believe the next steps will be to replace the annoying “Press 4 for customer service” with “How may I help you today?” intelligence and stop encouraging social bot software to social data into help desk apps. Website search assistants

Phil Youngblood
Omega Psi Phi fraternity sets interest meeting

Omega Psi Phi, a historically black fraternity, plans to hold an “interest meeting” beginning at 6 p.m. Wednesday, April 13, in the Joyce Building at the University of the Incarnate Word.

The meeting planned by OPP Men of Indignation comes after a six-month process in which UIW’s Multicultural Greek Council approved the expansion of Omega Psi Phi to the campus. A spokesman said the meeting is open to the public and will inform the community about the fraternity and the process of obtaining membership.

Omega Psi Phi was founded at Howard University in Washington, D.C., in 1911. Its motto is “Friendship is Essential to the Soul.”

A spokesman said the purpose of Omega Psi Phi is to bring about a “more perfect union of college men of similar high ideals of scholarship and manhood in order to occupy a progressive, helpful and constructive place in the civic and political life of the community, as well as to prepare its members for greater usefulness in the cause of humanity, freedom, and dignity of the individual.”

Through community service, the fraternity will focus on aiding “downtrodden humanity” and will partner with the Multicultural Greek Council to impact the entire campus in a positive way. The organization will contribute to the success of young men on the campus, particularly those of color, by providing a vehicle by which students could perform community service, while improving their academic standings, the spokesman added.

For more information, call Ron Washington at (210) 838-0341, Faiz Kerai at (210) 409-3844, or Russell LeDay at (318) 436-8181.