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ST. CROIX TODAY

ST. CROIX LUTHERAN ALUMNI & ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



The *Art* of Communication

IN THIS ISSUE



On the cover: Melody Nguyen, senior from Vietnam, values the speech team for the English speaking and presentation practice.

When God created Adam and Eve, he didn't hide or stay silent; he walked with them and TALKED with them. Still today, the human relationship with God is built on communication – him speaking to us through his word and our response in word, action, and prayer.

In this edition of the St. Croix Today, you will see examples of why SCL values the skill of communication and how the SCL programs and faculty provide opportunities for growth in this area.

In addition, catch up on alumni news, and mark your calendars for the outstanding fine arts events that are taking place this winter/spring.

We hope to see you on campus soon!

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FACULTY FEATURE



MR. THOMAS HANSEN English Instructor Theater Director

All SCL faculty members are uniquely appreciated, but there are a handful, who because of their length of service and character, are iconic. Mr. Thomas Hansen is one of them.

For the last 30 years, Hansen has been a devoted and enthusiastic English, literature, and drama instructor, theater director, and colleague at St. Croix Lutheran. He has seen numerous changes, including the faculty and student body more than doubling in size, the move from the Crusader Avenue location to the current campus, and the addition of the international program.

Hansen grew up in Amery, Wisconsin, the son of a veterinarian father and journalist mother who influenced his faith, work ethic, and gentle nature. He attended Amery public elementary and high school graduating in 1975, and earned degrees at Bethany Lutheran College (AA, 1977), Concordia College, St. Paul (BA English, 1980), and the College of St. Thomas (M.A.Ed., 1988).

His teaching career began in Stillwater, Minnesota as an intern in 1980. In 1984, he traveled to England where he served as an English instructor and assistant housemaster at Prior Park College, Bath, England. He returned to the U.S. the following year and was hired by St. Croix Lutheran in 1986.

Hansen has taught a variety of English courses including AP English Literature and Composition, Speech, and Drama during his tenure. His favorite is drama. He recalls, "My junior and senior drama classes in high school and putting on class plays hooked me on theater, which continued into college and community theater around St. Paul."

It makes sense then that one of Hansen's most valuable contributions to SCL has been in the drama department, where he has directed 47 plays (one or two each year). "Generally, the next show is always exciting, because it is a new collaboration with a new cast and crew that will take on its own life and personality as it grows. Long-term, a renovated theater is in the next expansion plans, and freshening up our house and stage/backstage facilities is something to look forward to."

Hansen and his wife Mary are celebrating their 28th anniversary this year and have three children, Rick (SCL '10), Stephanie (SCL '11), and Tori (SCL '16).



The *Art* of Communication

In this digital world, the way we communicate is changing. With the advent of smart phones, tablets, and the power of the internet, people are communicating at a rate never before witnessed. In addition, people have access to answers to nearly any question at the click of a button.

Students who have grown up with the internet are adept at searching it for the answers they need and are relying less on the knowledge of teachers, family members, friends, and trusted adults. As a result, personal face-to-face, voice-to-voice interactions are decreasing.

For this reason, and many others, SCL feels it is important to continue to teach students speaking and presentation skills. By doing this, the importance of sharing knowledge through a variety of methods is reinforced.

Three examples of SCL communication classes that emphasize face-to-face interactions include Speech, Drama Literature and Composition, and Video Recording Arts. Although vastly different in content and method, each of these courses centers on the main principle of communicating personally and effectively.

Speech

Speech class is a required course at SCL, and it is also a co-curricular competitive team activity. The SCL speech team, led by Mrs. Ellen Kuznicki for the past 18 years, consistently sends participants to the annual state competition.

This year's team is made up of 26 individuals: 33% male, 75% international.

The speech team is valuable to the American and international students because they develop effective public speaking and leadership skills.

Preparing for a speech meet often



In addition to digital and written communication, SCL emphasizes peer group interactions and face-to-face presentations inside and outside of the classroom.

requires hours of research, practice, and coaching.

Students practice using traditional presentation tools as well as technology like Google slides and Prezi.

International students who use English as a second language find great value in the disciplined verbal practice that speech offers. They also benefit from an increased vocabulary and a broader social experience.

Drama Literature and Composition

SCL offers several high-level composition courses to students. Drama Literature and Composition is unique because students must complete an oral group presentation to pass, not just written individual reports. Working as a team requires a high level of organization and challenges students to overcome personality differences. Students who pass this course are able to use different types of writing to communicate effectively and develop listening skills.

Video Recording Arts

If you see students toting production cameras, lights, and microphones in the hallways or on the SCL grounds, they are probably a part of the popular Video Recording Arts class. In addition to studying film and using cameras and video editing tools to create short productions, students must create effective content.

Students write script, shoot video, and edit six small group film projects during the course.

Students in VRA are often a part of SCL's stream team which records and broadcasts live events. The team also creates and publishes videos for the school's YouTube channel.

Communication methods are changing, but the need to communicate personally is not. These courses, and others like them, provide tools and practice for SCL students to effectively improve face-to-face interactions.

For more information about course offerings, visit StCroixLutheran.org/academics.

Alumni Updates



Virginia Mullen ('01) graduated from the University of MN with a PharmD in 2012 and from Concordia University St. Paul with an MBA in 2013. She works from her home in Roseville, MN, as a Senior Clinical Account Executive for Express Scripts, supporting Medicare Part D health plans across the country. In November 2015 she traveled to China where she adopted her 3-year-old son Timothy Ming Qiang Mullen in Nanjing.



Caitlin (Ulrich '05) and Peter Wells welcomed baby Silas James on November 10, 2015. Silas joins big brothers Gabe (3 yrs) and Liam (18 mo.) Caitlin and Pete live in Mequon, WI, where Pete is in his last year of the Seminary. Caitlin is blessed to be a stay-at-home mom.



Brian Nowitzke ('06) is a 10-year veteran of the Navy, Aerographers Mate, Petty Officer 1st Class. He is currently stationed at Naval Special Warfare Mission Support Center in Coronado. He has done four combat deployments and is re-enlisting in March for six more years.

Paul Nowitzke ('10) is a six-year Naval Reserve Veteran, Master at Arms, Petty Officer 2nd Class. He recently went active duty and is deployed to Bahrain.



Becca (Wells) Biebert ('09) and Joseph Biebert have two children, Elliot, born on December 3, 2015, at 38 weeks (5lbs 5oz) and Ella born May 18, 2013. The family recently moved from New Ulm to Neillsville, WI.



Erin Boggs ('14) has been accepted to two VBS and canvassing trips this summer through WELS Kingdom Workers. While on these trips she will be sharing God's word with communities and children in Weslaco, TX and Peoria, AZ. Find more info about the Kingdom Workers and support her efforts at <http://igfn.us/vf/KWUSA/ErinBoggs>

If you have alumni news, please forward your updates to Ashley Gilleland at AGilleland@StCroix-Lutheran.org or visit us online at StCroixLutheran.org/alumni



Stay up-to-date with SCL at facebook.com/StCroixLutheran

Remember to us.

You're Invited!

It is exciting to give, knowing that your gift will support students' education, well being, and growth in their early adult years. Please take a moment and use the provided postage-paid envelope to make a gift for the students - your fellow Crusaders!

But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. Matthew 6:20

Save the Date! Golf Classic

The St. Croix Lutheran Golf Classic is Thursday, June 16, 2016. Shotgun Start at 12:30 p.m. Prestwick Golf Club, Woodbury. Find more information and register at StCroixLutheran.org/GolfClassic.



REUNIONS

Planning a class reunion? Send your info. to: AGilleland@StCroixLutheran.org

Look for more information in the next issue, or watch www.StCroixLutheran.org/AlumniEvents for updates.



Class of 1962 - St. Croix Lutheran's first graduating class.

All 60s Reunion

Friday, August 12, 2016
10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
St. Croix Lutheran Commons
1200 Oakdale Ave.,
West St. Paul, MN 55118

SCL graduating **classes of 1962-1969** are invited to reunite with friends, enjoy a buffet lunch and refreshments, and tour the school. All former students who attended SCL during those years are invited, including those who graduated from other schools. Individual classes are encouraged to make plans together for an evening reunion.

10:00 a.m. Coffee & Refreshments
11:00 a.m. Welcome & Class Photos
12:00 p.m. Lunch - *open mic to share memories!*

Use the enclosed envelope to mail completed form to St. Croix Lutheran, or **register online at www.StCroixLutheran.org/60sReunion**. Deadline to register is Monday, August 8, 2016.

Name: _____ Maiden Name: _____ SCL Class of: _____
Address: _____
Email: Phone: _____
Guest Names: _____

Purchase Tickets

 (tickets will not be mailed; please pick up tickets at the event)

Number of persons: _____ x \$15 per person = \$ _____
Additional Donation to SCL: \$ _____ Total: \$ _____

Method of Payment

Cash / Check enclosed.

Make checks payable to:
St. Croix Lutheran

Credit Card: Mastercard Visa Discover

Card #: _____

Exp. Date: CSC/CVV: _____

Name on Card (print): _____

Signature: _____

WINTER SPORTS RECAP



Boys Basketball

Conference Record: 11-0

Regular Season Record: 24-2

Overall Record: 29-3

Highlights: MN Class AA 3rd Place; Tri Metro Conference Champions; Section 4AA Champions; Bethany Lutheran College Holiday Tournament Champions; Victory over DeLaSalle (first in 14 years); Ranked #1 class AA in the state; team led by seniors Krueger, Murkey, and Rovney who were tagged "the three-headed monster" by the media during the state tournament; Krueger is SCL all-time leading scorer and rebounder; Murkey is SCL all-time leader in assists; Rovney breaks record for 3-pointers made in a game with 8.



Girls Basketball

Conference Record: 11-1

Overall Record: 23-6

Highlights: Tri Metro Conference Champions; Ranked #9 Class 4AA in the state; Section 4AA 2nd Place; Cambrice reaches 1,000 points; Victories over division 3 teams DeLaSalle, Simley, Hastings, and Fridley.



Boys Hockey (co-op with Minnehaha)

Conference Record: 1-4-1

Overall Record: 15-10-1

Highlights: Victories over South St. Paul and St. Paul Johnson during regular season. Getting the #3 seed for sections, highest in team history.



Dance: Jazz and Kick

Conference Record: 5th Place

Highlights: Four jazz and three kick competitions; earned highest points of the season during final event; season cut short by illness and injury



Wrestling

Conference Dual Record: 3-4

Overall Dual Record: 7-16

Highlights: 3rd place in Tri Metro tournament; 3rd in SCL invitational; 3rd in large-school division of Milwaukee Lutheran invitational; Kirchert places 1st in conference, 145# division.

Girls Basketball Second in 4AA

Congratulations to the Crusader girls team and coaches for finishing second in the Section 4AA tournament. They were Tri Metro East Conference Champions (11-1 record), second out of 16 section teams, and finished the season with an overall record of 23-6.

All Conference

Danica Cambrice

Dulce (Gabriella) De Anda

Audrey Gadison

Joshua Kirchert

Trenton Krueger

Ade Murkey

William (Aage) Rovney

Ella Skrien

Jazmyn Solseth

Basketball

Dance

Basketball

Wrestling

Basketball

Basketball

Basketball

Basketball

Basketball

Honorable Mention

Madisyn Eckl

Samuel Fischer

Austin Garcia

Jamaris Johnson

Kaven (Karen) Kim

Caleb Leach

Audrey Lefto

Venkat Valluri

Zach Yanta

Dance

Wrestling

Wrestling

Basketball

Dance

Wrestling

Basketball

Basketball

Wrestling

Academic All-Conference

Thomas Boehlke

Noah Dziejewczynski

Audrey Lefto

Danielle Lopez

Wrestling

Wrestling

Basketball

Basketball



Boys Basketball 3rd at State

Congratulations to the boys basketball team and coaches for winning third place and bronze medals in the Class AA state tournament by defeating Annandale 81-45. They were Tri Metro East Conference Champions (11-0 record), Section 4AA Champions, and finished with an impressive overall record of 29-3.



Welcome Pastor Dustin Sievert

SCL's newest faculty member was installed during daily chapel on Monday, February 29. Pastor Dustin Sievert and his wife Katie and sons Micah (6), Evan (4), Elijah (2), and Will (4 months) came to SCL from St. Peter's Lutheran Church and School in Appleton, Wisconsin. Pastor Sievert teaches Religion 11 and serves as SCL's Ministry Coordinator.

Focus on Ministry Trip

40+ students visited Martin Luther College (MLC) on February 4-6 for their Focus on Ministry weekend. The group joined about 300 other high schoolers from all over the country and experienced campus life by going to classes, watching sports practices, staying in the dorms, and chatting with current students, faculty, and coaches. Please pray for these young people as they consider their future in ministry.



SCL Summer Academic & Sports Camps

Registration is now open for all SCL summer academic and sports camps! Download the brochure to see camp offerings, dates, and times at StCroixLutheran.org/Camps. Register and pay online or submit registration and payment by mail. Art, basketball, bowling, football, science, soccer, volleyball and wrestling camps are taught by Christian mentors and varsity coaches. Register early. Space is limited! June 13-August 12 COST: \$25-\$125/week. Early bird rate until May 31 (basketball) and June 30.

Great Northern Union Men's Chorus

This is a big deal! The world-renowned Great Northern Union men's chorus is coming to the SCL gymnasium on Thursday, March 31 at 7:00 p.m. This is the same group that will be performing at the Ordway in April! Former SCL president Merlyn Kruse is a member of this lively barbershop-style chorus and helped bring them to SCL. As part of their Urban Concert Series, GNU will donate 100% of ticket sales to the SCL music department. Please consider making an additional donation when you purchase tickets or on the day of the concert. General admission tickets are available online, by calling the box office at (651) 455-1521, or at the door. \$10/Adults, \$5/Students



Spring Musical - Bye Bye Birdie

Has it been 20 years already? *Bye Bye Birdie* is back with the next generation of SCL thespians (and an original or two!) Come and see what all the hype is about on Friday, April 1 at 7:00 p.m.; Saturday, April 2 at 7:00 p.m., and Sunday, April 3 at 2:00 p.m. Reserve seating is available at www.StCroixLutheran.org/Birdie, by calling (651) 455-1521, or at the door. Pick-your-seats and print-at-home! Hurry, these are flying out the door. \$8/adults, \$5/students (grade 9-college) & seniors (65+), \$4/children (grade 8 & under)



Remember? Sara Kassulke (Rose) and Dayton Dodge (Albert) in the 1996 production at SCL.



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SCL Gala & Auction

Saturday, April 9, 2016

Hilton Hotel
 (MSP Airport/Mall of America)



Register today and preview SCL Gala auction items at www.StCroixLutheran.org/Gala.

Last year's gala and auction broke all kinds of records with an attendance of 240 individuals who donated \$108,000 for student scholarships. Join the fun!

All proceeds benefit St. Croix Lutheran students!

5:00-6:30 p.m. Mobile bidding, silent auction & social hour, drinks & hors d'oeuvres served
 6:30 p.m. Remarks, three-course dinner and live auction

Special thanks to our sponsors:



UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday, March 31	Great Northern Union, 7:00 p.m.
Friday, April 1	Bye Bye Birdie, 7:00 p.m.
Saturday, April 2	Bye Bye Birdie, 7:00 p.m.
Sunday, April 3	Bye Bye Birdie, 2:00 p.m.
Saturday, April 9	St. Croix Lutheran Gala
Sunday, April 10	Open House & Tours, 2:00-4:30 p.m. HS Spring Sacred Concert, 3:00 & 7:00 p.m. Spaghetti Dinner, 4:30-6:00 p.m.
Thursday, May 19	MS Play & Concert, 7:00 p.m.
Monday, May 30	Memorial Day Event at Riverview Cemetery
Friday, June 3	HS Spring Concert, 7:00 p.m.
Sunday, June 5	HS Graduation Service, 2:30 p.m.

Do you have questions about St. Croix Lutheran?

- Call 651.455.1521
- Visit our website: www.StCroixLutheran.org
- Connect with us at [Facebook.com/StCroixLutheran](https://www.facebook.com/StCroixLutheran)