



IN SPORTS

Women's basketball is on a roll and is undefeated in the MIAC.

New lights deck the quad



The lighting ceremony Nov. 28 switched on thousands of energy-saving LED lights on trees around the campus. The trees lining the sidewalk connecting the Upper and Lower quads give off a purple and pink glow while the Lower Quad's pine trees shine a classic white.

Dease gets near quarter million

By JENNIE BETCHWARS
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

Presidential salaries are on the rise at colleges and universities nationwide, according to a recent report by the Chronicle of Higher Education.

The survey reports the total compensation defined as salary and benefits of chief executives at public and private colleges and universities in the United States.

The Rev. Dennis Dease, university president, received a compensation package totaling \$248,919 for the 2006 fiscal year, according to the survey.

His total compensation, which included \$176,420 in salary and \$72,499 in benefits, reflects a 71 percent increase from the previous year, when he received compensation totaling \$176,944. Figures for the 2007 fiscal year were not available.

Still, Dease's total compensation was dramatically less than that of some presidents. Eighty-one presidents of private colleges earned \$500,000 or more in the 2006 fiscal year, according to the survey.

In fact, historically Dease has not been the highest paid employee at St. Thomas. Both Thomas Rochon, executive vice president and chief academic officer, and Terrence O'Connor, treasurer, earned more than Dease in 2005.

Macalester College's president, Brian Rosenberg, received compensation totaling \$410,629 in 2006, while Hamline University president Linda Hanson's compensation was more comparable at \$249,120.

A notable exception was College of St. Catherine president Sister Andrea Lee, who received benefits totaling \$23,914. The salary portion of her compensation was donated to her religious order.

Presidential compensation at St. Thomas is paid from the university's general operating budget, as is compensation for all St. Thomas employees, according to Dease.

At St. Thomas, the responsibility of determining the president's compensation, including pay and benefits, lies with the board of trustees. The board is also responsible for selecting the president, as it did with Dease in 1991.

A number of factors influence the total compensation given to the president each year, including market rates for presidential salaries at comparable institutions, the university's compensation plan and presidential performance, according to Dease.

Many college and university presidents give a portion of their earnings back to their institutions, according to the Chron-

University forum turns angry

■ Students speak up about controversial issues with administrators.

By JESSICA ZIMANSKE
STAFF WRITER

Nearly 200 students, faculty, staff and community members attended one of the largest State of the University forums ever on Nov. 20. The forum gave students and the administration an opportunity to talk about issues, goals and concerns that relate to the St. Thomas community.

The year's forum, sponsored by the Undergraduate Student Government and Omicron Delta Kappa, was held in O'Shaughnessy Educational Center.

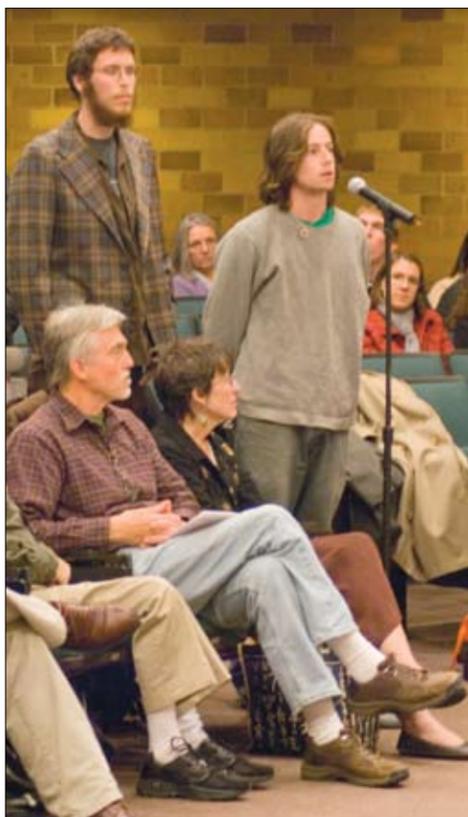
With many issues on campus this past semester, ranging from the recent hate crimes to the Archbishop Desmond Tutu controversy, emotions ran high. Many attendees interrupted the forum to disagree openly with comments made by the presenting students or administrators.

Senior Courtney Sekevitch, vice president of public relations for USG, said she believes the highly publicized issues on campus this past semester caused the attendance to rise so dramatically.

"I think that a lot of students feel almost cheated because a lot of the information we're getting is coming from outside sources like the media and the news and the newspaper," she said. "I think that this is really a chance to get it straight from the source."

The Rev. Dennis Dease, university president, said he was pleased by the turnout and remarked on the outpouring of student interest.

"I was delighted with the strong turnout," Dease said. "It was one of our best-attended



Senior Matthew Sweeney, at the microphone, and junior Trent Rehberger stand to ask questions at the Nov. 20 State of the University forum.

university forums."

Sekevitch, along with junior Jessica Ley from Omicron Delta Kappa, led the forum by asking questions submitted by students to the panel of administrators.

When the floor was opened for student

questions, the Tutu controversy came up immediately. The first student to speak asked why Cris Toffolo was not reinstated as director of the justice and peace studies program.

Dease explained that Toffolo was not removed from her administrative post or as a tenured faculty member because of her opposition to the university's decision not to invite Tutu to speak on campus. Dease said she was removed because she didn't comply successfully with the demands of her position.

Senior Matthew Sweeney, a former advisee of Toffolo's, said students have found it hard to accept her demotion when they do not have all of the information.

Dease said the grievance process must be followed before all of the information is made public.

Sweeney said he hoped a forum could be set up for students to be more involved with the process so the Toffolo situation could be evaluated fairly and justly.

"I was dissatisfied that every answer ... was talked into circles," he said.

During the second open-question portion, students lined up to voice their remaining concerns. Junior Trent Rehberger, a former student and advisee of Toffolo's, asked the administration what the students could do to reinstate her. Thomas Rochon, executive vice president and chief academic officer, said students are not able to assess her performance as a program director and that the administration does not have the legal right to publicize the specific details of her case.

"I think it is unfortunate that there were so many other issues that didn't get discussed in there," Rehberger said. "But at the same time, I feel that the Toffolo issue is such

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Speakers encourage green lifestyles

By SIMONE PELOQUIN

STAFF WRITER

St. Thomas made “green” progress on Nov. 27 in O’Shaughnessy Educational Center.

Engineers for a Sustainable World, the Undergraduate Student Government, Residence Hall Association, Green Team and the Biology Club sponsored a sustainability symposium talk, which featured four speakers who educate, motivate and encourage action on environmental issues.

The speakers were Jack Nelson-Pallmeyer, justice and peace studies professor and U.S. Senate candidate; Elise Amel, director of environmental studies and psychology professor; Bob Douglas, coordinator of recycling and central receiving; and Julia Nerbourne, environmental sustainability program director of Higher Education Consortium for Urban Affairs.

“To reach sustainability, our campus must not be divided,” junior Ashley Starr said. “St. Thomas is a microcosm of our nation and the global community.

“I think it is true that when we look at these larger institutions, we see they have become very polarized in recent years,” she said. “We can continue to have our differences in politics, backgrounds and religion, but we must realize that no one group has solved the problem of environmental degradation alone, though all have had a hand in causing it.”

Nelson-Pallmeyer discussed the need to end America’s dependency on fossil fuels and to redefine the meaning of life.

“The meaning of life is not found in what we purchase,” he said. “Our decisions within the next two to three years will have a great effect, we need to commit ourselves to a goal of helping our environment.”

Douglas spoke about the recycling program at St. Thomas and offered ideas to the audience about how St. Thomas can incorporate sustainability into daily life.



GRANT GRIEBENOW/THE AQUIN

Junior Bernadette Seefeld, of Green Team, senior Steve Lay, of Engineers for a Sustainable World, and senior Carl Mickman, of the Undergraduate Student Government, express their views on sustainability.

“We need to buy used items instead of new whenever possible, unplug and turn off appliances and electronics when they are not in use, stop driving cars when we don’t need to and start riding bikes, avoid plastics whenever possible and recycle personal items such as books, CDs and clothes by giving them away to friends or thrift stores,” he said.

Douglas also suggested using travel mugs instead of Styrofoam cups for coffee and tea, and buying a bus pass for \$160 a year instead of buying a parking permit at St. Thomas for \$260 and paying for gas and insurance on top of that.

Douglas said more than 40 to 50 percent of items found in the trash at St. Thomas can be recycled through the current recycling program and that there are more than 1,000 recycling containers on the campus.

“When recycling first started, people got really into it and now

people are used to seeing recycling signs,” he said. “It is not a hard thing to do; it is just a choice of hanging on to that can or bottle for two more seconds to recycle it instead of throwing it in the trash.”

Douglas, who has worked at St. Thomas for almost 24 years and is the Green Team adviser, said it is good to see students with a growing awareness that our planet is suffering and he is glad there are organizations like ESW and Green Team on campus.

“It is a matter of getting people aware of how small everyday decisions make a big impact,” he said. “We have to take responsibility for what we consume. Every aspect of our society tells us to consume and how much we own is a false measurement of success.”

St. Thomas is taking measures to become more sustainable, Douglas said. This year the bulbs on the Christmas lights were re-

placed with light-emitting diode bulbs that give off more light and help save energy. Last year it cost the university \$5,898 to light the displays. This year it will cost \$547 because of the new bulbs.

Other sustainable features on campus include environmentally friendly furniture made from recycled lumber or sustainable lumber not from endangered forests and light sensors in Opus Hall in Minneapolis.

The university also gets monetary incentives and rebates from Xcel Energy for installing energy efficient systems. The university’s main contractor Opus, has Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design certified builders available.

“The university should be a model for sustainability rather than trying to catch up later on,” Douglas said.

Senior Kevin Manzel, who is on the university’s sustainability committee, said the forum was

interesting in that the speakers provided tangible things students can do on a daily basis to conserve.

Manzel said he would like to see St. Thomas get rid of the Styrofoam cups in campus dining locations, make it easier for students to recycle cardboard and put motion sensors on lights around campus.

“As a freshman I didn’t hear anything about sustainability and now it is a movement,” he said. “It is important that campus is sustainable for the environment and to set an example for the community around us.”

Amel said she is pleased that the four speakers brought different issues to the table so there was not repetition. She said it gave people a lot to think about and that the more people hear about it, the more it will become part of their daily activities.

“It boils down to culture,” she said. “Our student leadership is great and that makes a difference, but it takes an actual culture shift to determine whether we are sustainable or not.”

She said that there is a discomfort when people change because they think they will have to give something up and that it will feel bad.

“They think they will have to live in a yurt or be cold or not have good food,” she said. “But that is not the case, you are not giving up stuff, you’re giving up stuff you don’t need.”

Amel said she hopes sustainability will become integrated into strategic priorities on campus and that she was pleased to see that members of the administration attended the symposium and were trying to figure out what has to be done.

“Sustainability aligns directly with our Catholic identity and this is a moral imperative,” she said. “If we are not doing it we are shirking our moral obligations. We have arrived when we make sustainability a part of every choice.”

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Forum

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a large issue.”

Rehberger created a Facebook group the weekend before to try to inform students about the forum and to encourage students to attend.

“As students it is possible to have their voices heard,” Rehberger said. “As students we have this right and this obligation.”

Another student brought up the board of trustees’ decision to do away with the archbishop’s ex officio position on the board and questioned how the university will uphold its Catholic identity.

Dease said the archbishop does not have enough time to actively participate on the board when he is involved with so many other boards and commitments. The board of trustees brought about the action, and the administration was not involved in the decision. Archbishop Harry Flynn has been re-elected to a five-year term, and several priests and nuns continue to serve on the board.

“This does not mean a separation from the church or secularization of the university,” Dease said.

Senior Dietrich Nissen asked about the recent hate crimes. Nissen said that in the four years he has attended St. Thomas, such crimes on campus have gone unresolved.

Dan Meuwissen, director of Public Safety and Parking Services, said the investigation is time consuming.

“It’s going to be a while yet,” Meuwissen said, about catching those involved. “It’s not going to happen overnight.”

The FBI and the St. Paul Police De-

“I think it is unfortunate that there were so many other issues that didn’t get discussed in there. But at the same time, I feel that the Toffolo issue is such a large issue.”

TRENT REHBERGER

Junior

partment are working with Public Safety to close the case. Public Safety is staffing the John Paul II Hall, and extra security cameras have been added in all of the residence halls on campus. The University Action and Response Team has been meeting to address concerns that remain about the crimes, and the administration with the help of students, staff and faculty members has implemented a new policy against hate crime.

Nissen said that although the issues talked about at the forum were important, the hate crimes on campus should have been discussed more.

“It’s such a passive issue that unless you directly confront it, it’s always going to be in the backdrop,” Nissen said. “We had this big rally and then it just evaporated and it’s gone.”

Jane Canney, vice president for student affairs, commented on the need for a more diverse student body on campus. The administration has approved the addition of another staff member in Multicultural Student Services and has focused many events on campus with diversity and ac-

ceptance.

“We believe that diversity education is an ongoing effort and needs to be addressed across campus,” Canney said.

Dease said the new initiatives relating to diversity are working especially in the improvement in retention rate of African-American students. Last year the rate of returning students of color outweighed the percentage of returning white students for the first time with 90 percent of African-American students returning and 89 percent of white students returning.

On-campus parking was addressed, and Vice President of Finance Mark Vangsgard said it is “unfortunate” students feel appropriate changes have not been made to the parking situation since last year. He said that parking permit prices have remained steady and that approximately 100 spots are available on South Campus during the day.

Plans are in the works to build a 700-space parking ramp on South Campus with a start date after graduation in 2008.

The next question dealt with rising tuition rates and the possibility of a flat-rate tuition for a student’s four years. Mark Dienhart, executive vice president and chief administrative officer, said the university is committed to finding new sources of financial aid to keep costs as low as possible for students. Dienhart said the administration and a new task force are focusing on increasing tuition at lower rates than the consumer price index.

Vangsgard said the idea of flat-rate tuition and explained that a set tuition price would not benefit the student since it would be difficult to project a budget for a four-year time period.

“In addition to trying to estimate out

for four years, we would always want to be conservative in that estimate so that changes in the economy and changes in the marketplace, changes within the university would always be covered,” he said, which could lead to higher tuition rates.

Tom Rochon, executive vice president and chief academic officer, addressed the possibility of a change in the university attendance policy. The attendance policy states that faculty members may choose to use attendance as a graded portion of their course to facilitate greater student learning.

“Attendance is part of the educational experience and cannot be separated from the educational experience,” Rochon said. “The one thing around here that is not optional is learning.”

Panel members addressed the issue of sustainability as the last question. Vangsgard said the administration is becoming educated on environmental design for the upcoming university building projects including the new Anderson Student Center that many hope will be LEED certified.

A committee has been formed to plan for the long-term environmental effects related to the university.

Sekevitch said she hopes students came out of the forum with more information about issues related to the university.

“I hope that people are appreciative of the work that the administrators are doing in trying to address all of our concerns, and I hope that people recognize that work is being done by the administration and by USG to address as many concerns as we can and get as much student input as we can,” she said.

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