

# THE RECORD

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## CSB/SJU announce first-ever joint president

Brian Bruess makes history by becoming the first CSB/SJU joint president. The decision was made after a monthslong search led by the presidential search committee. Bruess is currently the president of St. Norbert College in De Pere, Wis. He will assume office on July 1.

By Jacob Gathje  
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in De Pere, Wis., is set to start in his new role on July 1.

"This is a truly historic moment for our schools, and the future is so incredibly bright," said LeAnne Stewart, chair of the CSB Board of Trustees and the SJU Board of Trustees.

The decision was met with mixed reactions from the student body, some of whom were hoping for more diverse representation in a president. Others called for their peers to give

Bruess a chance to meet with students before forming their opinions.

"I feel like it's important to have the president represent a diverse group of students because they represent us, they carry our affairs, and I just feel like they picked someone who fit the majority instead of trying to pick someone that in some ways kind of fits the minority," SJU first-year Dee Statum said.

Bruess has been president at St. Norbert, his alma mater, since 2017.

Before that, he spent 22 years at St. Catherine University, a college for women in St. Paul, where he worked in a variety of roles, including executive vice president and chief operating officer.

In his first interview with The Record on Wednesday, Bruess said he's been admiring CSB/SJU from afar for nearly 30 years, especially the schools' roots in Benedictine

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PHOTO COURTESY OF CSBSJU WEBSITE  
Brian Bruess is the first joint president.

The search is over.

After nearly six decades of partnership under separate leadership, CSB/SJU has its first joint president: Brian Bruess, who was announced as the inaugural joint president on March 15.

Bruess, who currently serves as the president of St. Norbert College



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## Spring break ends; spring weather begins

Melting snow and longer days point to early signs of spring, encouraging students to spend more time outside to enjoy the fresh air. After the cold winter months, the weather reached a high of 50 degrees this week—the warmest it's been since early November.

## SJU alum to return from space despite uncertainty

Mark Vande Hei, a former Johnnie and a current astronaut, is set to return to Earth after spending 355 consecutive days in space, breaking the U.S. record. He will return aboard a Russian spacecraft on March 30.

By Jacob Gathje  
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As the war in Ukraine rages on, its ramifications continue to affect people across the globe, and, in SJU alum and astronaut Mark Vande Hei's case, those orbiting around it.

Vande Hei's return trip from the International Space Station, which he has been on since April 9, 2021, was cast into doubt in early March when Dmitry Rogozin, chief of Russia's space agency Roscosmos, posted a highly edited video that appeared to show Russian astronauts departing

the station without Vande Hei.

However, NASA officials said Monday that Vande Hei will return on March 30 aboard a Russian Soyuz spacecraft, as was initially planned. Russian state news outlet Tass also announced Monday that Vande Hei would return as planned.

Physics professor Tom Kirkman, who taught Vande Hei while he was a student at SJU, believed that Vande Hei would return safely all along.

"The [Twitter] thread, in terms of the video, was always kind of weird," Kirkman said. "I'm certainly glad that nothing happened. I was

expecting that nothing was going to happen, and I guess I'll be even happier when he's on the ground, but I'm reasonably happy now."

Rogozin has exhibited a penchant for extreme posts on social media in the past, so this particular post wasn't out of the ordinary. However, with increasing tensions between Russia and the U.S., it was a cause for concern.

U.S. astronauts have been traveling to the space station aboard Russian spacecrafts for nearly a

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PHOTO COURTESY OF THE RECORD ARCHIVES  
SJU alum Mark Vande Hei in his NASA headshot.

## Masking restrictions loosen

Masks are no longer required in classrooms and on the Link, subject to professor preference.

By Morgan Rolph  
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For the first time since 2020, masking is not required in most areas on campus.

On March 4, Casey Gordon of the Pandemic Planning Committee emailed a COVID policy update to the student body. It detailed that masks would be recommended, but not required, in most places on campus.

Masks are no longer required on buses or other transportation. This is the first time since 2020 that students are able to ride the Link maskless and exit from the front door.

Professors will have the option to require or not require students to wear masks in the classroom. In addition, the email announced some new information from the CDC.

The COVID risk for Stearns County decreased in the month of February from high to medium, the first change in almost two years since the onset of the pandemic. As of March 10, the CDC announced that the risk level has moved from

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## Students present gender research

CSB students researched the first female Brazilian president and the implications of gender biases.

By Madeline Lenius  
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A select group of CSB students were given the opportunity to research the presidency of the first female president of Brazil.

Their findings were presented to CSB/SJU community members on March 14 during a presentation titled "Gender Double Bind, Misogynistic Backlash, and Brazil's First Woman President," sponsored by the gender studies department and the Multicultural Center.

In the spring of 2020, political science professor Pedro dos Santos

invited Noemi Salas-Rivera, Belen Dominguez and Brianna Kreft to join him in researching the election, presidency and impeachment of Dilma Rousseff, the first female president of Brazil. Salas-Rivera and Dominguez have since graduated, but Kreft continued to work on the project alongside Lizbet Martinez-Port and Brigid Smith.

Dos Santos defined the concepts of the double bind and misogyny, explained their research process and overviewed the findings. Kreft, Smith and Martinez-Port were

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## Clubs participate in coffee contest

Clemens Perk hosts their own Perk Madness, a coffee competition for clubs inspired by March Madness.

By Eileen Otto  
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The College of St. Benedict is in the midst of an intense coffee-based competition.

Perk Madness, a bracket-style tournament modeled after March Madness, began a week before spring break at Clemens Perk.

Clubs, ranging from the Pseudonym Club to the Climate Justice club, entered a flavored latte with a themed name into the bracket. Each club receives points and the opportunity to advance with each purchase of their specialty drink.

"Every time someone orders a drink the baristas keep track," said Jillian Neudahl, the Perk Marketing Manager and CSB sophomore. "I initially sent a form out to all the clubs I knew of or could find on the CSB/SJU website. They filled it out and were entered in the competition."

A total of 18 clubs sponsored drinks. Many include flavors and names based on the club's mission.

The Nutrition Club named their English toffee and cinnamon latte Cinnamon Toast Crunch. Extending the Link coined their white chocolate, caramel and vanilla latte Extended

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