

CLUBS

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Sweetness. The Indigenous Student Association named their hazelnut and cinnamon latte Smoke Signals.

“Different clubs have traditions with their drinks, like Square One, which always does an Irish Cream latte in March,” said the Perk Operating Manager and CSB sophomore Clair Moonen. “I order about 16 different flavors of syrups from our vendor and the clubs get a list of what we have in stock and pick what they want to name it.”

For many students, this annual tradition may be unfamiliar. Due to COVID, the Perk Madness tournament was canceled last year.

“It was something done in the past and it sounded fun,” Neudahl

said.

One significant change made by Neudahl was a focus on lattes only.

“Limiting it to flavored lattes makes it easier on the baristas as opposed to flavored matcha or chai,” Neudahl said.

The club drink names and recipes are displayed on a bulletin at The Perk so students can pick which one they would like to order.

“The symbol for women is called Venus, so we named our drink after that,” said Insitute for Women’s Leadership Social Justice Coordinator and CSB sophomore Alexie Horner. “Getting coffee has been our thing. We thought it would be super cute to put a drink forward for the girls.”

Horner chose to make the Venus latte with toasted marshmallow and white chocolate after her favorite

coffee.

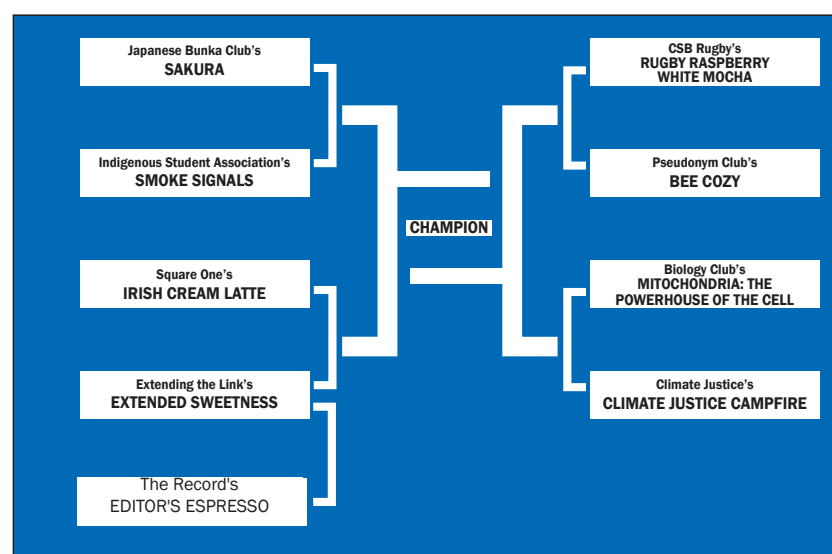
CSB lacrosse chose to stick with a lacrosse reference for their drink.

“We wanted to name it something lacrosse-related,” said CSB lacrosse team member Moonen. “We went with Top Shelf S’mores because opponents always try to score on the top shelf of the goal.”

Perk Madness gives clubs the opportunity to promote their organizations.

“I like Perk Madness because it helps boost clubs and promote collaboration,” Moonen said. “It’s a tradition that’s been long been overdue.”

With the first round of clubs advancing last week, the competition is getting smaller. Perk Madness will last until the first week of April. The entire bracket can be viewed at Clemens Perk. The winning club



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members will receive a free drink at the Perk.

“It’s a way for different clubs to get their names out there in a fun

way,” Neudahl said. “Come to the Perk to purchase drinks and support clubs.”

SPACE

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decade, and it appears that the partnership will continue despite this occurrence.

The controversy surrounding his return has overshadowed a milestone achievement for Vande Hei—breaking the record for the single longest spaceflight in U.S.

history.

He set the record late Tuesday morning, eclipsing NASA astronaut Scott Kelly’s previous record of 340 days, eight hours and 42 minutes, set in 2016. If he returns as scheduled to Earth on March 30, Vande Hei will have spent 355 consecutive days in space.

“I think I always knew that he was going to do great stuff, but to be the greatest of the great is pretty

cool,” Kirkman said.

Vande Hei, who graduated from SJU in 1989, also went to space in 2017. He has visited campus on multiple occasions over the years, presenting to students and the greater central Minnesota community. He also appeared on video calls from space during the 2017 voyage and was the speaker at the 2019 commencement.

“Mark’s visits to CSB/SJU

have been a great influence on our students, especially those who have had the chance to interact with him directly. His example demonstrates for students how far the dedicated pursuit of opportunities can take them,” physics professor Dean Langley said via email.

Langley, a 1991 SJU graduate, attended SJU at the same time as Vande Hei and said he “always looked for challenging things to do.”

Both Langley and Kirkman await Vande Hei’s safe return.

“I am very proud of him for all he has accomplished and glad that he could have this adventurous career. Mark has shown enormous physical and mental stamina, and even made it look like fun. I look forward to his safe return, and hope he gets some well-earned rest and relaxation with his family,” Langley said.

PRESIDENT

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Tradition, liberal arts and existing as colleges for women and men.

“The single biggest reason that I applied [for the position] was because of my deep respect for women’s education and men’s education, and it cannot be overstated how significant that was in my decision to apply,” Bruess said. “St Ben’s and St. John’s represent one of the most compelling, unique contributions to American education, period.”

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-Brian Bruess

Inaugural joint president of CSB/SJU

This appointment comes as a result of a monthslong process that began in August 2021 with the formation of a presidential search committee. The committee’s 21 members, with the help of a search firm, initiated a nationwide search for the new president.

Applications for the position closed in early January, and the committee whittled the candidates down to a group of finalists, who they interviewed in mid-February, before eventually unanimously selecting Bruess as the best choice for the role.

Members of the search committee signed a non-disclosure agreement prior to the search,

preventing them from sharing information about the finalists and other components of the search process.

“The purpose of the closed search is to protect the privacy of the applicants and to ensure that we get the best applicants we can,” said Malik Stewart, director of the Multicultural Center. “For a sitting president to apply for jobs, it can affect their current job.”

The confidentiality of the search is a change from past presidential searches. In previous searches, such as the SJU presidential search in 2012 and CSB presidential search in 2014, the final three candidates’ names were released to the public and they visited campus to meet with the community.

When he starts as president in July, Bruess’s goal in the first few months is to listen to students and faculty, something multiple members of the search committee said he does exceptionally well.

“To have someone who can guide us in a united direction [while] still listening, still being considerate of everybody’s opinions is going to hopefully help us move into the future in a good way,” said Connor Kockler, SJU Senate President and SJU search committee student representative.

Outside of that initial stage of listening, Bruess hopes to further the schools’ work on Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Justice (DEIJ). St. Norbert’s hired its first senior diversity officer, John Miller Jr., during Bruess’s tenure in May 2021, something CSB/SJU are currently in the process of doing.

At St. Norbert’s, Miller Jr. also serves as the dean of curriculum,

which was important to Bruess. For him, DEIJ work is inseparable from what is taught in the classroom, and the work falls to the whole community.

“I refuse to let that responsibility of that role be the responsibility of that person, because systemic change requires everybody helping with diversity, equity, inclusion, belonging,” Bruess said. “We’re going to hire an institutional diversity officer, and that person will be brilliant, but it’ll be part of the larger systemic approach.”

With this announcement, Bruess becomes the second male president in CSB’s history, the first being Stanly Idzerda who led the college from 1968 to 1974. This was an area of concern for many students.

“The fact that now our first combined president is a man, I feel like it’s kind of a slap in the face to the history of St. Ben’s as a women’s college,” CSB sophomore Sonja Hoversten said.

Hoversten, among others, pointed out that CSB has gone from having Mary Dana Hinton, a Black woman who led the college from 2014 to 2020, as a president to a white man. She indicated that Bruess’s appointment marks a step backward instead of forward for the institutions.

The Black Student Association shared a statement echoing this sentiment on Tuesday, acknowledging Bruess’s experience while asking the schools for an explanation of the decision.

“How did CSB go from a Black woman president to a white man? This not only amazes us, but it is frustrating,” the statement said.

Both Hoversten and Statum

said that they took exception to the appointment of a white man, not to Bruess’s character or experience.

Despite these questions, members of the search committee believe they chose the right candidate for the job. They pointed to Bruess’s time at a women’s college in St. Catherine’s as well as dedication to his students as determining factors.

“I understand the concern, but at the same time I have never felt so confident in having President Bruess as the president of St. Ben’s and St. John’s,” said Crystal Diaz, CSB Senate president and CSB search committee student representative.

Faculty search committee representative Claire Haeg said she was hoping to find a diverse candidate but Bruess emerged as the top candidate.

“While all of us may have been looking for somebody who looked transformative, we do have a transformative leader,” Haeg said. “We believe we have chosen a transformative leader, somebody who will lead us forward and make the changes that need to be made.”

“He fixed a lot of problems at his prior institution. Students really loved him,” Haeg said. “He really understands a lot of the things that we’re going through, and I think [he] will be a really strong leader as we come through the next essential years.”

Interaction with students is something extremely important to Bruess. He often attends student events with his wife Carol, a professor emeritus at St. Thomas, at St. Norbert and plans to do the same at CSB/SJU.

That interaction played a significant role in his tenure at St.

Norbert. After Bruess announced in fall 2019 that he would not renew his contract to stay at St. Norbert after the 2019-20 school year, students and faculty participated in protests supporting Bruess, eventually resulting in the Board of Trustees at St. Norbert offering him a multiyear contract extension.

When Bruess takes office in July, it will be a benchmark moment for the vision of stronger integration, which has been in the works since 2019, when the CSB and SJU Boards of Trustees formed a Joint Strategic Vision Committee and determined that a single president under a stronger integration model was the best way forward for both schools.

“By having one president who leads both schools, it’s going to enable us to pursue a strategic plan that is bold, that allows us to be more nimble and innovative, and will allow us to continue to differentiate ourselves in what is a competitive higher education environment,” LeAnne Stewart said. “The world is moving faster and faster every day, and we need to be able to do that at St. Ben’s and St. John’s, too.”

Malik Stewart hopes that people keep an open mind as the start of Bruess’s time as president approaches.

“I would go and encourage people to look at his track record and look at what he has done and meet him before they make a sort of a judgment about what type of leader he’s going to be for our community,” Malik Stewart said. “And then, you know, you’ve got high expectations. Hold him to those expectations.”

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