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Visum Monachae... On Commencement

The next two weeks are filled to overflowing. Presentations, projects, and papers jostle with award ceremonies and the last bits of Mayfest. Then a week of late-nights: cramming for students, making or grading exams for profs. The culmination: the Baccalaureate Mass on campus followed by Commencement ceremony at the DECC. Still a little shell-shocked from finals week, hundreds of students will walk up the stairs a student, shake President Geary's hand, and descend a graduate, "with all the rights and responsibilities associated with the degree" they receive.

Pause a moment. Notice the contrasts in the language we use for this time. We call the people graduates, a term that looks backward across a set of requirements. It checks off those that have been achieved, then proclaims the student done.

The ceremony is called Commencement: the beginning. Despite their plans, few graduates truly know all that will come next. Some will go directly into a job, only to discover that "love of learning" is a survival skill as well as a Benedictine value. Others head for graduate school or further training. This commencement is prelude to the next. Some are seeking a job or continuing an existing one. Several plan a gap year. Someone will start her own business or his own non-profit organization or volunteer overseas.

This is a liminal time (from the Latin limen, threshold, the space between "what was" and "whatever is next"). Nostalgia begins before the ceremony. Painful farewells are made to friends who have been an indispensable part of our lives. Yet excitement is at least as strong, and eagerness for both the known and unknown future. Fr. Richard Rohr writes, "This is the sacred space where the old world is able to fall apart, and a bigger world is revealed. ...The threshold is God's waiting room."

The spirituality of liminal times mixes patience with openness to change, uncertainty and expectation. Despite our belief in well-laid plans, change is full of the unexpected. Our new job or home or city surprises us with unexpected challenges and opportunities. We make choices that don't work out. We may feel that we failed, at least for the moment. St. Francis de Sales advises us, "Have patience with all things but first with yourself."

Each graduate will cross the stage on May 12 in less than a minute. The blessings and opportunities of the liminal phase last longer. St. Benedict asks his followers to promise a lifetime of seeking God by pursuing the monastic way of life to ever deeper levels. Fr. Richard Rohr urges us to welcome liminal times. "That's a good space where genuine newness can begin. Get there often and stay as long as you can by whatever means possible." May it be so for the CSS class of 2018.

A personal note from Sister Edith: I began writing for The Cable about four years ago. It's been challenging and rewarding, an opportunity I never expected. Despite patient editors, the deadlines are tough to meet. This is the last Visum Monachae column. Thank you for reading, and God bless

Sister Edith Bogue is an associate professor of sociology at CSS and vocation director in the Monastery. She welcomes conversations with anyone wanting to learn to listen.

Literature with Melinda



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Sometimes getting scared is fun, right? Well, for most people, being scared is not the most exciting thing in the world. Nonetheless, in a safe environment, the flood of adrenaline and rush of excitement can be exhilarating. There is just something about the feeling of fear that makes people continue to go back for more.

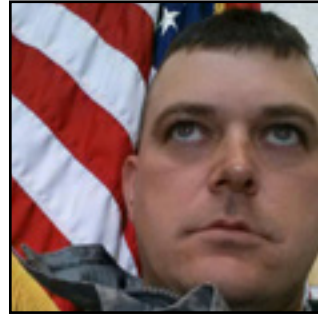
From skydiving to haunted houses, there are many ways to feel this adrenaline rush, and everybody prefers a different way. For some people, they might actually enjoy reading about scary things. So if you happen to be one of those people, this week's literature recommendation is just for you.

"And Then There Were None" by Agatha Christie is a crime mystery and a psychological thriller. The novel itself is not the scariest story ever, but the concept is eerie and really makes readers think.

The novel starts out by briefly describing ten different people, all strangers, and how they get invited to come to a luxurious mansion secluded on an island. During dinner their first night on the island, the

strangers receive a message which accuses each person of hiding a guilty secret. Later that same night, the group finds the first member of their party dead, poisoned by cyanide. To make the situation even more intense, the group also finds out that the killer is actually one of them and is preparing to strike again and again. Throughout the rest of the book, suspense grows as more people begin to die and as people begin to blame each other for the murders.

Find out what happens and who the killer is by picking up and reading this suspenseful novel. The book is filled with surprises on every page and will surely get some adrenaline running. Happy reading and have a wonderful summer!



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HOOAH! This is Goodbye

Since this is the last regular issue of the year, I would like to take the time to say goodbye to anyone that reads my column. This is a really bittersweet time for me, as I absolutely loved my time here at CSS. I am more than happy to be graduating in a few weeks, but I have loved my time here. I have made many friends, learned so much, and feel as if I have grown as a person.

I have two big hopes as I leave. I hope that someone else can continue a column to try and give a veteran perspective, and I hope that I was at least able to give our veteran students a voice. Those who have served or are still serving only want to be known as regular people. We are folks who want the same things you do: a happy life, a career, and a free and just world. I am still not sure what my future holds, but I will keep doing what I love, and I hope all of you do the same.

There are many great people that work at CSS. I have met some extraordinary people—people who I will always cherish forever. I don't have the space to name everyone, but I hope you know who you are. I would like to personally thank everyone that works for the school paper—your job is an important one.

Jessica Johnston, I know that we never did get to do our story on you, but I hope that people understand how important you are to the veterans at school. Without you, we would all be lost and under appreciated. Scott Holden, you are the reason I started writing for the paper to begin with. Thank you sir for always being a friend and for your wisdom.

My wish is and always will be that we as humans can find common ground. I understand that we may not all understand everyone, but we should always respect and care for each other. We must all leave this world a better place for our children and those who come after them. I hope that people have a better sense of who our veterans are, as I have a better understanding for other groups like LBGT, Muslims, and the underprivileged. It really doesn't matter what we look like on the outside, or what backgrounds we come from, because on the inside, we are all the same. Thank you everyone for letting me write, and God bless you all.

Chad Graden is a senior in the education program and a combat veteran of Afghanistan.



Ned Talks

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"The senior slide is real. How can I stay motivated for the rest of the semester?"

It is that time of year when everyone is feeling lazier and lazier. With May just around the corner, it can be difficult to find the motivation to finish off the semester strong. However, you can use this to your advantage. The light is appearing at the end of the tunnel, and you are getting closer and closer. Resist the temptations of just letting it go. Trust me, it will be worth it when you're walking across the stage for graduation. Another thing I can suggest is maybe staying motivated with your group of friends. Help each other finish off strong. It's a lot easier resisting the senior slide when you're not alone. Good luck with the rest of the semester! There's only a few weeks left!

Q: Polyamory



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Relationships are typically defined as exclusive monogamy. But monogamy is not for everyone. People who identify as polyamorous prefer not to limit themselves and are open to dating more than one person at a time with consent from everyone involved. With consent and communication, it is possible to date two people without cheating. It is often described as "consensual, responsible, and ethical non-monogamy." And that's all it is.

Even though both straight and queer people can be polyamorous, poly people are still considered part of the queer community

because their relationship style is definitely off the beaten path. While the term has spent some time as a buzzword, it might still be difficult for people to wrap their heads around. People wonder why one person is not enough and how to tackle jealousy issues. And some people are equipped to handle polyamory, and some people are just too jealous to be okay with it, which is totally valid. The key is being respectful of everyone's needs, feelings, and being incredibly open with communication. As long as everyone is okay with everything that's going on,

Polyamory differs from polygamy, or marriage to more than one person. Polygamy is not recognized by United States law, and in any case polyamory tends to be practiced more by young people not wanting to limit their dating pool, closing themselves off to possible experiences by being exclusive with one person.

Are things messier and more jealous? Sometimes. But poly people learn how

to handle jealousy in a helpful manner and find the source of it. And it can take all forms. Most of the trending articles on poly were on women with two boyfriends. I once met someone at a Midwest queer conference who was in a triad of people who were all dating each other, otherwise known as an actual love triangle. Poly people often describe their experiences as having an "abundance of love." Your love doesn't run out; it deepens over time.

Love takes all forms. Polyamory, if done responsibly and ethically, holds no more danger of heartbreak and hurt and breaking the laws of love than monogamous relationships.

Jemma Provance is a junior psychology student minoring in art and Deaf language and culture. She is a Queer Straight Alliance board member and wants to know everything about the secrets of the universe and being kind, so feel free to contact with questions, concerns or corrections.