

Fritts-Cabrera, Renn Vaughan discuss new roles at CSS

Scarlet Pantlin
spanlin@css.edu

The Script is continuing to get to know new CSS faculty and faculty who have taken on new roles on campus. This week, The Script sat down with Dr. Megan Fritts-



New Assistant Professor of Philosophy Megan Fritts-Cabrera. Submitted photo/ Megan Fritts-Cabrera

Cabrera, a new assistant professor of philosophy, and Dr. Merry Renn Vaughan, associate professor of communications, theatre and art and the new director of Spotlight Arts & Lectures. Fritts-Cabrera received her bachelor's degree from the University of Missouri-

Kansas City. After that, she received her master's degree and doctorate from the University of Wisconsin Madison, which is where she began teaching before graduating from there. Before graduating from the University of Wisconsin

Madison, she also was an instructor for a semester at K State University. Fritts-Cabrera had taught a year at Utah State as well before coming to St. Scholastica.

Fritts-Cabrera said that she chose St. Scholastica because when she was searching for a new place to work, she stumbled across St. Scholastica and thought it "looks like a pretty great institution." It "sounded like a great opportunity," she said, and the thing that specifically drew her to St. Scholastica was "the emphasis that the school places on faculty mentoring undergraduates."

A couple of months into her first semester here, Fritts-Cabrera said, "Everyone is friends with everyone else, which is great. All the students

are so sweet and really just bright and excited to be back in person, which I understand. I love the city, I've never been this far north in my life before I moved here. So I'm gonna have to get used to the temperature, but so far I'm loving every single day."

One of the things that Fritts-Cabrera is excited about for this school year is "teaching a lot of new material that I have not gotten to teach before... as well as meeting the students. I am going to try to get the philosophy events going again."

The next faculty member that The Script sat down with is not actually a new faculty member; she has stepped into new roles as an associate professor in the new Fine Arts department, as well as the new director of Spotlight: Dr. Merry Renn Vaughan.

Renn Vaughan said that the Fine Arts Department is new this fall. "Part of the reason that [the Communications Department] had art and theater was because theater and art were very tiny. Tammy Ostrander, who is one of the professors in the Communications Department, and former chair and former dean of [the School of Arts and Letters], when she was here

as a professor early she kind of worked to save the theater program. It was in danger of getting cut, and sort of the same thing happened with the art department . . . so they kind of came into communications to be protected and to have support from other faculty members. And now they are strong programs on their own and it makes sense to have art, theater and music together in a department."

Renn Vaughan is also the new, and first, director of Spotlight. She said "The people who were in charge of the Mitchell were kind of running all of Spotlight, and it was just kind of convoluted." Because of this, Renn Vaughan said that Dr. Bret Amundson, dean of the School of Arts and Letters, wanted to organize it and have someone in charge of Spotlight, rather than a bunch of people.

Renn Vaughan said the only difference with the new directorship is creating a brand. "We're trying to create a common brand, and you'll see that on the new website, too." She also said one of her primary goals she has for Spotlight is "to have a higher visibility, to have people actually know what it means when they hear Spotlight at CSS." Renn Vaughan urges students to look at the Spotlight page (<https://www.css.edu/about/events/spotlight/>) not only to become familiar with Spotlight, but also to check out all the performances that they offer.



Dr. Merry Renn Vaughan, associate professor in the Fine Arts Department, director of theatre and Spotlight. Submitted Photo/Merry Renn Vaughan

COVID-19 vaccination deadline has passed

Eva Kangas
Ekangas1@css.edu

The Oct. 22 deadline for students to submit proof of COVID-19 vaccination has passed. The Script sat down with Student Health Services to find out what comes next, now that St. Scholastica expects all students to be fully vaccinated.

During an email interview, Laura Johnson, associate communications director, explained how most students submitted the required documentation by the deadline. Johnson said, "We are so pleased with our students' commitment to keeping our community healthy and safe."

As of Oct. 22, 88 percent of students on the Duluth campus are partially vaccinated, while 83 percent are fully vaccinated.

Within the overall Duluth community, 89 percent of community members are partially vaccinated, and 85 percent are fully vaccinated. 91 percent of CSS employees have received at least one dose of the vaccine, while 89 percent have completed their vaccination series.

The success in vaccination rates can be partially attributed to the vaccination clinics offered on campus. "We are really grateful to the Minnesota Department of Health, St. Louis County Public Health and Wal-Mart Pharmacies for their willingness to partner with our campus in bringing vaccine opportunities directly to our Duluth Campus Saints. While we don't have any additional vaccine clinics scheduled presently, it's definitely a possibility in the coming

months," Johnson explained.

For students who still need to receive their vaccine, Student Health Services reminded our campus community that the Minnesota COVID-19 Vaccine Connector can be used to find a nearby vaccination site.

However, not all students submitted proof of vaccination by Oct. 22. Those who did not meet the deadline or file for an exemption can expect to face difficulty when preparing for next semester. "A dean's hold will be placed on their record, and the student would not be permitted to register for spring semester classes until they show proof of vaccination. Some students are still finishing up their second dose. The hold for those students will be lifted

once they show proof of vaccination," Johnson said.

Despite this vaccination landmark, the virus remains at the College. While the Covid Alert Level is still labeled as "low" according to St. Scholastica's COVID-19 Case and Vaccination Dashboard, as of Oct. 20, two new student cases were reported, bringing the number of active infections to 10. The total number of confirmed cases this academic year now stands at 42. Four students are currently in isolation, and six students are in quarantine, all off-campus. In addition, three new faculty/staff cases were reported, raising the total number of faculty/staff cases to 15.

The continual presence of COVID-19 cases on campus presents a challenge

in lifting restrictions. When asked if any changes are expected concerning COVID-19 policies now that all students are required to have been fully vaccinated, Johnson explained, "It really depends on whether we can get our cases down, increase vaccinations and assume the virus does not mutate in an unexpected way. We would love to lift restrictions if and when we can."

In order to get one step closer toward the lifting of restrictions, students must remain vigilant and do their part by getting vaccinated, wearing a mask, and staying home if symptomatic. Although the College has reached a vaccination landmark, this does not mean that our campus community can let down their efforts in the fight against COVID-19.

Crossword: Halloween edition!
Answers on Page 11

Across	Down
3. Sweet maize	1. Smooth winter squash
6. Ghostly species	2. Altogether ooky
9. Strange garb	4. Remnants of better weather
11. Tired village	5. Eternal sleeping place
13. Garlic-phobic folk	7. Instrument found in Texas
15. Maimed squash	8. Rude, startling action
16. Male spell-sayer	10. Paranormal entity
	12. Female spell-sayer
	14. It sometimes does this in April