

The Name News

Fall/Winter 2019

St. Andrews Varsity Boys Basketball team looks poised to make a run at the MAC championship

Joe Masters '22 -- Sports

Heading into the winter season, the Varsity boys basketball team at St. Andrews has high expectations. For years it seems the team has always been at the top of the Mid-Atlantic Conference (MAC) going head to head with teams like Flint-Hill, Sidwell, and Maret to name a few. Even with the loss of key seniors Heru Bligen (Longwood University), Kamari Williams (Boston College), the team is still looking as strong as ever heading into the 2019-2020 campaign.

Coach Kevin Jones, who guided the team to MAC championship in 2015, only asks three simple things of his players, "to compete, play hard, and play together." The team followed Jones's wishes in their home opener against Georgetown Prep, winning resoundingly, 89-52.

"I thought it was a great win not because of the score, but because whether it was the first five, the first guy off the bench, the second guy off the bench, or the third guy off the bench... I don't



"One game at a time, one day at a time."

think the energy level ever dropped off... I was most proud of seeing people do things that we work on every single day."

With a strong win under their belt, the Lions will head into a stretch of their schedule that will see them play 3 straight conference foes in GDS, Potomac and Sidwell Friends School. Although one can make an argument that certain teams are better than others, Coach Jones has instilled a value within the team that no one team or game should be valued more than the other.

"One game at a time, one day at a time."

No matter who they play, Coach Jones always reminds his players to play with the same energy that they would against any team. This is a mindset that Jones hopes echos throughout his team when they play GDS on Tuesday and for the rest of the season as they look to make a run for the MAC championship.

Photo Credit: Matthew McIntosh

Benny Williams '21 flies toward the net against Georgetown Day School

Brexit for Dummies: What's going on in the UK?

Jonas Blum '22 -- News

Brexit has been a mess. From the poorly-phrased referendum to the resignation of the Prime Minister who called for it, then three years of deliberation and constantly shifting leave-dates, then another premier resignation, and now a general election, it wouldn't be crazy to have lost track. On December 12 the conservative Tory party won the election, meaning Boris Johnson gets another chance at forming a coalition around Brexit. Now that the United States is a matter of

contention for this election and that Brexit is still on the table, let's run through the parties and perspectives.

The Tories struck off their campaign with a Brexit-focus. "We want to, and we are going to, deliver on the mandate of the people, which is to take the UK out of the EU," shouts Prime Minister Boris Johnson at one of the final Prime Minister's Questions. This is their position: the UK voted to leave in 2016 and the Conservative Party, with a majority in the Commons, will take them out as soon as possible.

They have won the election with a total of 365 seats.

The Labour Party is stuck in the middle of this Brexit crisis. They simultaneously hold the position that they want to honor a vote of the people but believe it should not be the original referendum, but a better written new referendum. Unlike the Tories, they have not solely been campaigning on Brexit. In late November, they released an exposé on Boris Johnson's plan to sell out the National Health Service, their public healthcare system, to American insurance companies. Conser-

vative HQ, of course, refuted this and argued it was a Nixon-like dirty trick. They argue that dealing with the US will be a loss and that the only way to protect the UK's interests is to vote Labour at the polls. Unfortunately for Labour, they could not pull together a coalition with the Liberal Democrats and are behind the Tories with 202 seats.

The Liberal Democrats have taken a firm position to remain in the EU. They believe the referendum was flawed and that the UK is not morally obligated to follow it because they are

Jump to 2

Growth in Debate

Debate Team -- SAES News

Debate Team is undoubtedly an up and coming extracurricular activity at St Andrew's. The club was discontinued a few years ago after the president graduated but in 2018 Sophia James ('20) founded her own team, building a group of devoted, passionate, and insightful

students. The first season was focused on recruiting as many interested students as possible. Having just transferred to the school, it was hard at first for Sophia to find students to join. Starting with a mere two members, the club gradually grew to a core group of teammates who call themselves the "OG Deb8 Squad." Today,

Jump to 3



From left to right:

Back row: Amanda Newcombe, Emily Kane, Jordan Elias, Sophia James, Sasha James.

Front Row: Charlie Ryan, Leo Delogu, Alex Behram, Julian Delogu, Dylan Luchsinger, Jack Schoeb

Photo Credit: SAES Debate Club

Brexit *continued*

a representative democracy. They refuse to form a coalition with either of the big two parties and are currently polling a distant third. Their existence most likely has hindered Labour, preventing either party from securing the lead, though they only won 11 seats total.

Quickly running through the other major parties and the 650-total seats in Parliament: The Scottish National Party now has 47 seats. They are remainers but failed to form a winning coalition with Labour in exchange for another chance to leave the United Kingdom. Their chance to leave the UK is now in question. The Brexit Party, formed by the former members of the UK Independence Party, are vehemently pro-Brexit and have won no seats. Their members were known for spreading false information about Brexit during the 2016 referendum. The far-right Democratic Unionist Party has and 8 seats won Ireland, possibly helping the Conservatives. The other parties with few seats each are the Plaid Cymru (4), Socialist Democrat and Labour Party (2), Alliance Party, Green Party, and Sinn Féin, with 1 seat each. See the map below!

Protests Sweep South America

Anti-government movements have taken hold in the continent, as corruption rises.

Ana Chalmers '22 -- News/Opinion

As media struggles to cover the attacks and uprisings in various Latin-American countries, rebellions continue to appear. In Ecuador, protesters surrounded the capital and government employees were forced to flee. In Bolivia, violence erupted as police stations were attacked, homes of politicians were destroyed, and Latin-America's longest-serving president was driven to exile. In Chile, there were 2,500 injured in these weeks of unrest and at least 20 dead.

Some people might be wondering: why now? The "commodities boom," where prices of goods dropped drastically and economic growth became abundant, helped lift millions of people out of poverty. With this boom came expectations of revenue and economic security. Now, half a dozen years later, these expectations are left unmet and political leaders continue

to corrupt governments. Recently in Argentina, the first democratically elected, non-Peronist president since 1916 was replaced by someone

Juan Guaido, opposition leader, continues to call for demonstrations as his starving country tries to fight against a power-crazed autocrat. These

unrest to corruption in the government.

So, why aren't we talking about this? At some point, we as Americans must realize the impact we have on the world and its politics. Americans have the privilege of freedom of speech, and using it is critical. With a few clicks of an iPhone, a news story can become so viral that leaders are forced to listen. While many people refuse to look at news stories because they are negative or sad, these are human lives. While we have the privilege to protest peacefully or say what is on our mind with few detrimental consequences, others are not so lucky. The ability to change the mind of leaders and save innocent lives always overrides the desire to stray from sad information. It is imperative that

we, as the people of the world's leading democracy, fight to spread the word to save real lives.

2019 unrest in South America

Venezuela: Demonstrations against a socialist government accused of election fraud, economic collapse, and failure of water and energy systems.

Ecuador: Union, student and indigenous protests against IMF-backed austerity measures.

Peru: Demonstrations supporting the president's effort to shut down a congress widely seen as corrupt.

Bolivia: Opposition protests against a socialist government accused of election fraud.

Chile: Youth-initiated demonstrations against cost-of-living pressures and income inequality.

Argentina: Protests against economic crisis, inflation and rising food prices.



Graphic Courtesy of the Washington Post

Much of the South American continent is currently in turmoil over anti-government protests.

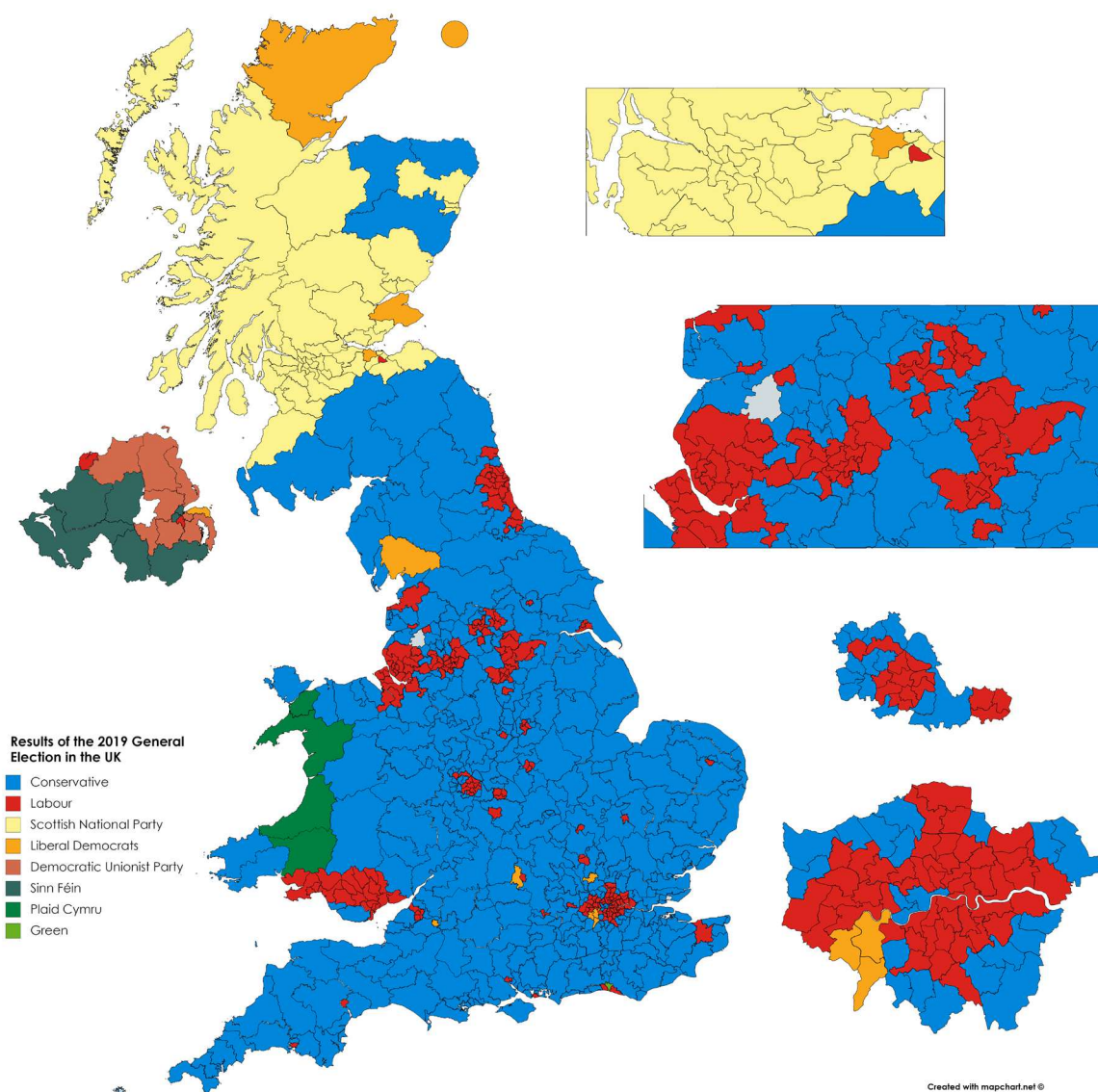
whose vice president is the same, controversial leader who had been president before. In Venezuela, protests have mainly been centered around the socialist dictator Nicolas Maduro.

problems create strains in neighboring countries like Colombia as Venezuelan refugees flee. As displayed in this graph created by the Washington Post, reasons for protests vary from economic

Quick Facts:

1) Now that the election has been decided, the new Parliament's first meeting is on Tuesday, December 17.

2) The actual State Opening of the Parliament is Thursday, December 19.



Results of the 2019 General Election in the UK
■ Conservative
■ Labour
■ Scottish National Party
■ Liberal Democrats
■ Democratic Unionist Party
■ Sinn Féin
■ Plaid Cymru
■ Green

A map which presents the results of the 2019 General Election in the United Kingdom in a basic, rudimentary, and yet effective way. As with elections in the United States, this map does not represent total population so much as electoral districts.

Photo Credit: ThatGaming-Sheep on Wikimedia Commons

Latin American Studies at SAES

Matias Heitner '22 -- SAES
Opinion

The St. Andrew's history program is an extremely respectable entity, with varying levels of difficulty and vast amounts of topics, but there is one shadow looming over it: the lack of Latin American studies. One of the more forgotten parts of both the United States and international history, Latin America is fundamental to our understanding of modern society. From the banana wars to the cold war, to the breathtaking literature and art, and to the governments that are still ruling there to this day, it has had a massive impact on us all.

St. Andrew's barely has five non-Spanish courses that discuss the topic, and none that go in-depth on it at all. Not only this, but most of these classes are interdisciplinary or electives. There is not a single main history class that discusses the topic in-depth. Not even the amazing Global Studies classes taken Freshman year, which are meant to explore

regions that do not have enough attention, discuss this. All the course offers is a small lesson on Chilean dictator Augusto Pinochet.

This is especially marking, as the United States has been part of the history just to our South for centuries. Most notably, the US arguably destabilized most of the region, imposing dictators and puppet governments wherever it decided was "in danger of becoming Communist." If I asked a student whether they knew who Sandino was, or what happened in Nicaragua, I can guarantee they will just look at me blankly. I myself did not know about the United States' involvement in Nicaragua and the rebellion that took place until I heard it in a song. During the Pinochet study, we barely mentioned the desaparecidos, and definitely did not dive into the socioeconomic and political complexities of time. We did not learn about the thousands who were assassinated, nor the fear that struck the people of Chile and Argentina.

We do not learn about Peronism, nor Venezuela's fall from power.

But the truth is, I could not name any more events, because I do not know more. I struggled to remember more moments in history, even though I know there are so many more. I am disappointed in the lack of representation at the school, but I have faith in St. Andrew's, a school that should and does pride itself in its response to students' feedback.

This problem is widespread in the United States, and St. Andrew's can be a pioneer in teaching Latin America's vast literature, history, art, and so much more by educating its students about our Southern neighbors.

2003 Boys' XC inducted in SAES Hall of Fame

Harrison Kehler '22 -- SAES
Opinion

The 2003 Boys' Cross Country team was inducted into the St. Andrew's Hall of Fame this past October. On November 2, 2003, the 2003 MAC Championship was held. The coaches of the team were Mike Davila and David Brandt, who have coached the St. Andrew's Boys' Cross Country team for nearly 18 years. David Magida '04 was the individual MAC Champion and led the team to being MAC Champions.

This was the first time St. Andrew's Boys' Cross Country won the MAC Championship. "He ended up running a really terrific strategic smart race," recalls Coach Davila. They were inducted along with the 2003 Boys' Soccer and Alex Azara '07.

LGBTQ rights on trial

Dylan Luchsinger '22 -- News

In its latest session, the Supreme Court of the United States has been hearing a case which has implications for LGBTQ rights that could last generations. This case regards Title VII and whether or not this section of the Civil Rights Act protects workers from discrimination based on sexual orientation. The first hearing is *Bostock v. Clay-*

ton County, Georgia. The county fired Bostock as a Child Welfare Services Coordinator. The official line of reasoning for his removal was "conduct unbecoming of an employee" specifically related to a financial audit. Bostock, however, believes that he was fired because of his sexual orientation and "his participation in a gay recreational softball league."

The second hearing in the case relates to a slightly different issue. It asks if title VII protects transgender people from being fired. The case *R.G. & G.R. Harris Funeral Homes Inc. v. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission* revolves around Aimee Stephen's firing as a result of her gender identity. After being fired due to a failure to follow

her workplace dress code, she filed a complaint with the EEOC. The district court ruled in favor of the funeral homes, stating that Title VII did not protect gender identity. The sixth circuit court, however, ruled in favor of the EEOC, reversing the decision of the district court.

The conservative wing of the Supreme Court has held the position that Title VII does not protect people from discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity. This argument boils down to intent. Objectively, the people who wrote this law were not considering gender identity or sexual orientation at its originally writing. The progressive wing, however, has stood on the other side of this issue. They have stated

that Title VII does protect the rights of LGBTQ people. The basis of this argument is that title VII has already been used to protect the rights of people whom it was not originally intended to protect. Ruth Bader Ginsburg argues that the writers of the law were not considering gender discrimination when the law was written, yet, the court has ruled that Title VII protects people from gender-based discrimination. Ultimately this ruling will boil down to the interpretation of the intent of Title VII. Can a 55-year-old law protect people from modern issues, or is a new law necessary to protect them from discrimination?

Debate continued

the team has over two dozen members, not including the many other students who drop by occasionally for competitions on topics that they feel strongly about.

The team is structured for exactly that kind of participation. They encourage any and all St Andrew's stu-

dents to contribute their insight to competitions they feel a connection to. While there are a few dozen students who come to meetings regularly, the team welcomes everyone to competition days. Quite a few students have taken advantage of this and even some teachers and

faculty members have stopped by. Competitions happen regularly occurring approximately every three weeks. The team devotes one meeting to decide on a topic, a second meeting to research and a third to do the actual debate. The pro and con sides for the competition are usually determined by what the students personally believe. Sometimes though, the students

are challenged to argue the opposite of what they believe. Some of the topics that have been debated include: should college athletes get paid, should DC become a state, should dance be recognized as an art or a sport, should US citizens be fined for not voting in elections.

One senior's Independent Study Experience

Ella Gravitz '20 -- SAES Opinion

Over the summer I spoke to Ms. McKinnon about how I had not been placed in any dance classes during the school day. She exclaimed, "Why don't you just do an independent study?" This really interested me, but I had never met anyone who had done an independent study at St. Andrews. Luckily, with the help of my parents, the administration, and of course Ms.

McKinnon, this past fall trimester, I was the first student to complete an independent study in dance.

The first step was to decide exactly what I would be doing. I thought about my dance career and how I could make the most out of this opportunity. I have been dancing since I was three and have taken classes primarily in ballet, hip-hop, and jazz. At St. Andrews, I participated in the spring dance company

and choreographed three pieces for that show. So, I considered what my ideal course would look like because I was given the chance to tailor a class completely to my own interests. This was a unique experience because, throughout high school, I have never been able to decide exactly what I wanted to learn and how I wanted to learn it. This experience of deciding the topics of my class made me reflect

on what aspects of dance would benefit me most so I can truly enjoy learning.

As I continued researching, I realized that I have never taken a tap class before, and my only experience with tap dancing was a short piece in the spring dance show. I knew that tap was fun, and its unfamiliarity was a new challenge for me. Additionally, I knew that learning tap would help me become a

Independent Study Continued

well-rounded dancer. Other than tap, I realized that I wanted to learn the basics of choreography because I found it to be really challenging since I did not know where to start or how to form a storyline. With my main goal of becoming a better, more educated dancer, I decided to focus on tap and dance composition.

My independent study began with a unit on basic choreography, mainly turning inspiration into a cohesive piece, and I looked forward to that class every single day. As we moved into the tap unit, I felt a sense of joy in challenging myself and being able to see my improvements. Finally, as the trimester came to an end, I put my skills together and worked on choreographing tap combinations. I was even able to perform in the US Performing Arts Assembly with the D block dance technique class, something that I never thought I would have the courage to do. One of my biggest takeaways was the benefits of taking risks. I did this in multiple ways, from trying a new style to pushing myself to perform a solo section in front of the Upper School. When I heard the cheers from my classmates, I knew that these risks had paid off, and I felt proud of myself in a way that would not have been possible otherwise.

In general, my independent study was a terrific experience, and it had an incredible impact on me as a dancer. I accomplished my goal of becoming more well-rounded, and if I go to an audition that includes tap, I am confident of my new skills. I even feel motivated to sign up for some tap classes to continue my journey into tap. In terms of choreography, I now have the tools to do it properly and cannot wait to begin working on my piece for the spring show. In addition, something that surprised me was that completing an independent study had an effect on me as a student in general. I learned to think critically about my interests and what I actually want to learn. I also realized the power in diving deeply into a subject that you are passionate about, and how much joy can be found in unfamiliar topics. Finally, my independent study taught me that if you want to learn something that is not currently available, you should take the matter into your own hands and take the course.

In conclusion, my independent study was an experience that I will always cherish. I learned what I wanted at my own pace and was rewarded for my hard work. I especially want to thank Ms. McKinnon, who kindly offered her time and

The Mane News

We are recruiting writers and photographers for the Spring! We are looking for talented individuals who can:

- Write updates on sports teams and clubs
- Inform the school on the happenings at SGA meetings
 - Notify students of upcoming events
- Alert readers to impactful national and regional news
 - Shoot photographs of games and events
 - Write cartoons and take community polls

If you are interested in joining contact Mr. Ferrante:

pferrante@saes.org

The Mane News is staffed and edited by by:

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Matías Heitner '22
Dylan Luchsinger '22

Mr. Ferrante - Staff Sponsor

expertise for my betterment as a student and a dancer. The lessons I learned both inside and outside of the studio are invaluable.