

THE ORACLE

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Planning for a trial of great tribulation

With jury selection for Derek Chauvin's trial in progress, Hamline has prepared a plan for supporting and securing the campus.

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JURY SELECTION BEGAN March 8, 2021 for the Derek Chauvin trial. Hamline offices and departments are creating spaces, events and plans to ensure safety and support for the Hamline community during this time.

Hamline Public Safety (HPS), Dean of Students and other offices across Hamline have been working together to discuss plans for how best to navigate this time. They are looking at things with a three-pronged approach focused on education, communication and safety.

"Everything from communication to educating to locking down, so we are looking at a whole gamut of potential," said Melinda Heikkinen, director of Public Safety.

Some of the events include a meeting educating the community about what a murder trial is about, how it works and



what both the defense and prosecution will be doing. They are also working toward creating spaces for students

experiencing anxiety or potential trauma, whether it be virtually, in person or both.

Heikkinen has also been working with institutions in the area so if anything does occur they can keep each other in the loop.

Most of the plans are not yet announced as details are still being finalized, but the Hamline community can expect to hear about them over the next few weeks. Sources like Inside Hamline or emails may be a way of announcing these events.

"I don't really think there is a desire to do the programming prior to actually being in it, and I know there is angst in even just getting there," said Dean of Students Patti Kersten.

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PHOTOS | MOLLY LANDAETA, ORACLE

TOP: A protestor holds up a sign reading "Justice for Floyd" at a march from the Minnesota State Capitol on May 31, 2020.
BOTTOM: Protests erupted in Minnesota and across the nation after the death of George Floyd.

Auf wiedersehen, German

The German major and minor will no longer be offered at Hamline.

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HAMLIN'S MASCOT OWES its name to the ancient German legend of the "Pied Piper of Hamelin," and the university's oldest overseas connection is with Germany's University of Trier. Yet, come fall 2021, Pipers will no longer be able to declare a German major or minor, because the program is being phased out.

"[During the 2016 program review, the modern languages faculty] argued for the continuation of our German program," said Modern Languages and Literatures Department chair Shannon Cannella. "The recommendations that came back from the dean's office... was that we sunset German, but no timeline was given."

When only four students registered for Beginning German

in fall 2020, the dean's office said that this was too small a number to merit a class, so Beginning German was canceled. Though Cannella and her colleagues had thought that they could wait until 2021-22 to start the sunset process, they realized they would need to begin phasing German out a year earlier than planned.

"As long as the students enrolled in our courses, we kept offering the courses, and the courses kept getting approved... even though every semester there was a discussion, do we have enough students to continue," Cannella said. "[The cancellation of the Beginning German class] meant that the whole program is going to begin that phase-out this year, rather than continuing Beginning German with only four students and helping it limp along for one more year."

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One step forward, two steps back in provost search

With Associate Provost Jill Bryant returning to academia in the summer, the university awaits recommendations from the president's committee before making final decisions on a hiring call.

Jack Fischer

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ASSOCIATE PROVOST JILL Bryant, who has been serving as the acting provost for Hamline since this Summer, has announced her plans to return to the world of academia at Mitchell Hamline School of Law. She plans to serve through the end of this academic term, with no official last day yet. "It's my love," Bryant said about teaching. At Mitchell Hamline School of Law, Bryant will return to teaching upper-level business courses on business ethics, corporate finance, mergers and acquisitions.

Her decision to return to teaching intensifies pressure on President Fayneese Miller's administration to determine what to do with the Office of the Provost. Bryant has been serving as the acting provost since this summer when the previous provost was asked to step down. Miller has intentionally moved not to hire a new provost for the time being for a couple of strategic reasons: to engage in a review of the office and create space for community dialogue, and because the search process for a high-ranking university job is expensive.

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Presence,
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Our mission

To cover news, trends, events and entertainment relevant to Hamline undergraduate students. We strive to make our coverage accurately reflect the diverse communities that comprise the student population.

Corrections

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ASSOCIATED
COLLEGIATE
PRESS

German

(continued from front)

The German major and minor are currently taught entirely by adjuncts, which has been the case since 2016. 2019 graduate Hannah Coleman-Zaitzeff, who minored in German, praised the adjunct faculty she learned under but said that the lack of authority given to them by the university constrained her studies in many ways.

"My adjuncts were barred from [teaching multiple] classes, leading independent studies or putting in place new and exciting opportunities on campus for us," Coleman-Zaitzeff said. "I was able to take an independent study under an adjunct faculty, which took a lot of arguing to get approved in the first place, but soon following, [Modern Languages faculty] pointed to ACTC as the only way to achieve my degree."

Coleman-Zaitzeff initially planned to major in German, and in fact chose Hamline partially for the German program, but the program's small size meant classes often conflicted with her double major in another small department. She attempted to fulfill the major through the Associated Colleges of the Twin Cities (ACTC), a consortium of private liberal arts colleges in the Twin Cities that provide students the opportunity to cross-register for courses not available at their own institution. But Coleman-Zaitzeff had to drop the course due to unreliable transportation after the discontinuation of transit between ACTC institutions.

"I would not have chosen Hamline University if someone was upfront with me about the status of the German program. I believe the language department is great, but the administration is actively killing them."

Hannah Coleman-Zaitzeff

Graduate of 2019

"I would not have chosen Hamline University if someone was upfront with me about the status of the German program," Coleman-Zaitzeff said. "I believe the language department is great, but the administration is actively killing them."

Cannella asserted that the Modern Languages and Literatures Department is committed to providing courses to current German majors and minors until they graduate, and said that future Pipers will have the option of a Flex Curriculum major with ACTC courses if they wish to study German. Introductory-level German courses may still be held if student interest is sufficient.

"We're planning on offering Beginning German I in the fall," said adjunct German professor Habiba Hadziavdic. "[Students should] register as soon as possible and in doing so, show their interest and intent."



ILLUSTRATION | LEO COUGHENOUR, ORACLE

City council rescinds protest reform ordinance

In preparation for Derek Chauvin's trial in Minneapolis, the Saint Paul City Council proposed and subsequently killed a new protest reform city ordinance that many are calling an infringement of free speech and assembly.

Jack Fischer

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THE MURDER TRIAL of former Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin is expected to begin by the end of the month, with jury selection having begun on Monday, March 8. The Twin Cities are anxiously waiting, and the Saint Paul City Council proposed a new city ordinance aimed at curbing violence during protests.

The new city ordinance, originally sponsored by City Council President Amy Brendmoen (Ward 5) would require gatherings of over 5 people to apply for a permit to assemble, and ban protestors from carrying shields, glass bottles, balloons and other objects that could potentially be used as weapons.

City Ordinance 21-6 would redefine a "public assembly" as a gathering of five or more individuals. The current law requires gatherings of over 24 individuals to apply for a permit.

This action comes soberingly close to Chauvin's trial. As the Twin Cities remember not too long ago, following the death of George Floyd, an unarmed Black man who

died in Chauvin's custody, the Twin Cities erupted into protests and mass mobilization was sparked across the United States and world. While most of these protests remained peaceful, some devolved into violence and rioting. In Saint Paul, 170 businesses were damaged or looted, with large fires breaking out along Snelling and University avenues. The rioting caused over \$500 million in arson and property damage to approximately 1,500 businesses across the Twin Cities metro area, according to Minnesota Governor Tim Walz.

The proposed ordinance prompted immediate backlash from community groups and citizens alike. Groups criticized this measure as an infringement of the First Amendment, the right to free speech and protest. The ordinance would impose new restrictions on what protestors can carry or have on them in a protest, even what kinds of materials protest signs can be made of.

Root & Restore St. Paul, a citywide activist group dedicated to police accountability, racial justice and community safety, was a leading group that sounded the alarm on the negative impacts of Ordinance 21-6.

"This ordinance greatly expands police officers' discretionary power against protestors," Root & Restore St. Paul wrote in a call to action. "It would also prohibit protestors from practicing community or self-defense but allows police wide latitude in use of force and intimidation tactics."

The group reminds community members about the graphic use of force of police against protestors this summer. Amid the mass mobilization of the Black Lives Matter movement to demand justice and accountability, police in Minneapolis arrested a CNN news crew while

on-air broadcasting to the nation. Officers deployed pepper spray, tear gas and rubber bullets against protestors. These tactics are considered "less than lethal" but an officer this summer shot photojournalist Linda Tirado with a rubber bullet in the eye. Tirado is now permanently blind in her left eye. With this ordinance, officers would still be given a wide range of permissible force against protestors, while banning shields and prohibiting protestors' self defense.

With the ordinance moving to ban protestors from carrying balloons, bottles and "water guns filled with flammables," it does not speak to restricting protestors from carrying firearms. Firearms are regulated by the State of Minnesota, and those laws would preempt any move the City Council makes in restricting them, according to city attorney's office officials.

The American Civil Liberties Union of Minnesota issued a statement saying the ordinance was "overly broad, unnecessary and especially dangerous for Black, Brown and Indigenous communities who are already disproportionately harmed by criminalization, over-policing and police harassment"

Amid growing criticism and planned rallies against the proposal, Brendmoen announced she will withdraw the proposed ordinance.

"We will be recommending that [the St. Paul Police Department] and the city attorney office work with our many communities in Saint Paul to navigate the concerns and consider recommended changes we have received from all of you," Brendmoen wrote on Facebook. "New language can return to council for consideration once that process is complete."

Trial

(continued from front)

The Rev. Nancy Victorin-Vangerud, chaplain and director of the Wesley Center, has also been in communication about possible ways of support for the Hamline community.

"My interest is in how we can all be grounded in our spiritual rootedness to be a positive force for change in our community, and throughout the trial and aftermath, no matter what occurs," Victorin-Vangerud said.

Academic departments such as Criminal Justice, Forensic Science and Legal Studies are planning on incorporating the trial into their classroom material and discussions. Two examples include David Schultz's Criminal Law and Practice, which covers the statutory basis for charges, and Maria Kamenska's Diversity Issues in Criminal Justice, which will look at the case and the use of force.

"We are very invested in discussing the case in our classes," said Shelly Schaefer, associate professor and chair of Criminal Justice and Forensic Science. "In fact, a former member of the [Minneapolis Police Department] is teaching our intro class and she was recently featured in a documentary showcasing the problematic culture of MPD."

For any emergency precautions that may need to be taken, Public Safety will be using the Hamline Alert system. This allows Public Safety to send a message that students, faculty and staff will receive within about a minute. Heikkinen reminds everyone to set up and update their account.

"It is easier to back off our preparations than it is to get them in place rapidly. So we want to be prepared for the absolute worst. And that could be a complete lockdown of the campus, it could be an evacuation of the campus," Heikkinen said. "Based on what I see at this point, I don't anticipate an evacuation of the campus, but we could potentially have to lock it down if things created danger for students, faculty and staff to move around. But yes, we are definitely planning for the worst in hopes that we never actually put any of those things into play."

Correction

On 3/3, the Oracle ran the opinion piece "Are human rights going out of style?" The article should have stated "the death of George Floyd" and that Derek Chauvin is "the former police officer who knelt on Floyd's neck."

HPS is looking more toward the end of the trial when a verdict is announced, though they are prepared with safety and communication measures throughout the entirety of the trial process. As of 7:08 p.m. on March 5, the jury selection was still scheduled to begin March 8.

One junior said whether they protest depends on how things are looking when the time comes.

"The Minnesota state senate introduced a bill that would bar any organizations from paying bail of any felony set at 2000\$ or higher," wrote junior Eyob Neda. "The bill hasn't been passed yet as far as I know, but it goes to show how far the problem really goes if people can't exercise their right to protest with things like this standing in their way."

As for COVID-19, Heikkinen and Kersten ask for masks and social distancing as much as possible and to take care of one another.

"The other thing I would add is taking care of each other," Kersten said. "It is probably safer going with someone else than by yourself. It is a good idea to let people know where you are and when you are going to be back and if not, how you should be able to check-in."

To create or update your Hamline Alert account: <https://hamlineuniversity.bbcportal.com/>

A calming “Presence” for students

The campus engagement platform Presence launches at Hamline.

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IN PREVIOUS TIMES, when leaders of a student organization wanted to update information about their group, they would often have to turn to outside sources to edit the student organization directory. Now, with the launch of the campus engagement platform Presence at Hamline, student orgs will be able to update their own online profiles and pages, and independently market their events.

“[Presence] is meant to provide college students with a one-stop shop for events, activities and involvement opportunities,” said Patrick Haught, assistant director of Student Activities and Leadership Development. “It’s not a conferencing or a messaging platform, it’s a

dashboard for students. It’s an event calendar, a student organization directory and sort of a form library. It’s like Canvas, but for student life.”

Ever since Haught was hired at Hamline two years ago, he had been working on negotiating a contract between Presence and the university. Having launched it during his previous position at the U of M, he felt that it was a beneficial program for increasing the accessibility of campus involvement to students.

While going through the interview process at Hamline, Haught sensed that students wanted more control over the maintenance of their orgs’ online presence — something that he feels is especially relevant during COVID-19.

“When you’re on campus, usually you’re seeing posters and you’re seeing tabling and you’re inundated with promotion of things,” Haught said. “This school year, [Presence] has been especially helpful, because it really allows for a kind of promotion of virtual events and opportunities. For students that are [attending Hamline]

from home, it gives them a one-stop shop.”

Recently, Haught directed two training sessions regarding the ins and outs of Presence, which he said were attended by about three dozen student org leaders, including sophomore Ryan Geiss, the vice president of Spectrum.

“We plan to use [Presence] as another way to get our event information out to our community,” Geiss said. “It will be one place where someone can simply quick-scan our page and see all of our upcoming events.”

A yet-to-be-implemented feature of Presence that Haught hopes to launch in the near future? Card-swiping.

“Groups that create events in Presence can swipe people’s cards at the event, and it’ll track how many people were there and who the attendees were, so that organizations can send out surveys,” Haught said.

If students have questions regarding Presence, Haught can be reached at phaught01@hamline.edu.

Provost

(continued from front)

When universities perform a search for high-ranking positions, they hire an external search firm to conduct a nationwide recruitment. External search firms are expensive.

“It’s about at least \$125,000, and the search firm charges you not just a fee to conduct the search, but also a portion of that person’s salary,” Miller said. “[It’s] one of the reasons why I decided to delay moving forward.”

Colleges and universities nationwide have faced intense economic fallout due to the pandemic. Hamline is no exception — enrollment for this year has been stunted, a tuition deficit that will follow the university for at least four years.

Miller also said she was hesitant to conduct a search because of the potential impacts of the pandemic on the applicant pool.

For the remainder of the academic year and her term as acting provost, Bryant is focusing on creating a Strategic Enrollment Plan for the university.

“We’ve been engaged in understanding our retention numbers, making sure leadership has access to tools to understand where we are now, and what retention looks like,” Bryant said.

One of the biggest challenges to retention right now is the cost of attendance and tuition increases, according to Bryant. The strategic enrollment plan is a tool to help leadership understand how and why students leave the university, and to investigate what resources are available to deter them from leaving pre-graduation.

Miller has formed a committee of faculty, staff and students to start a dialogue about the Office of the Provost.

“[The] purpose of that committee is not only to serve as a search committee but to also review the office. And to find out what does Hamline need, and what do we need a provost to do,” Miller said.

She will wait for their recommendations before making a final decision on the office or performing a search. The last time the university hired an independent search firm was to hire Miller as university president.

Mitchell Hamline School of Law @MitchellHamline · Feb 19

Jill Bryant, professor of law, is currently serving as provost at @HamlineU. She was director of Hamline Law's Business Law Institute before the #MitchellHamline combo in '15.

Her appointment will help Mitchell Hamline expand its offerings in business law.



SCREENSHOT | LYDIA MEIER, ORACLE

Bryant said the university does not necessarily need to hire a search firm to facilitate that hiring. Although it would provide a wider pool of applicants, she notes the previous provost, John Matachek, was hired from Hamline’s existing faculty. He previously and currently works in Hamline’s Chemistry Department.

The President’s Committee is expected to meet in the coming month, and will be chaired by Professor Sam Imbo. Senior Lecturer Nancy Webber and professors Binnur Ozkececi-Taner, Serena King, Joe Lewis, David Berg and Rebecca Neal will also serve on the committee.

Steve Anderson from Student Affairs and Morgan Henderson from Advancement will serve alongside HUSC President Kaia Zeigler and VP Cecelia Miller, the student representatives on the committee. Assistant Provost Caroline Hilk and VP for Inclusive Excellence David Everett will serve as committee liaisons, and Amanda Roll-Khune from the Provost’s office will sit on as staff support.

House Plants

S B L T Z X N A A X Z N N P T
T U K E F T C L B A M B O O N
A F C N G C O I K V J D R N A
A M K C U E D B L B G L D A L
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Y V I H S I L G N E T C P M U
M A F T L K A L A N C H O E E
P E A C E L I L Y R J I E U B
C K V G T N Z U J Y D D B A J

Plants:

- Aglaonema
Air Plant
Aloe
Bamboo
Calathea
Dragon Tree
- English Ivy
Jade Plant
Kalanchoe
Orchid
Peace Lily
Philodendron
- Pothos
Succulent
Yucca