

## Benedict resigns, Francis named pope in record time

BY SYDNEY HAWKINS  
STAFF WRITER

Following the resignation of Pope Benedict XVI, Pope Francis of Buenos Aires was elected by the cardinals of the Roman Catholic Church on March 13 in the shortest papal conclave in history.

The 85-year-old Pope Benedict retired on Feb 28 after serving in his role as pope since 2005, succeeding Pope John Paul II.

Pope Benedict said in his statement of resignation that he no longer feels suited to adequately execute the Petrine ministry, according to CNN.

While Pope Benedict remains in good health, he feels his age is hindering him from using his strengths in his position.

"To be honest, 85 is not very old for a Pope and for him to cite 'health and personal reasons' is a little sketchy to me. However, his reasons are his own, and if he feels like it is for the benefit of the church ... then it is the right move to make," said Catholic and senior Ben Nelson in an email interview.

This papal resignation is the first in nearly 600 years. There have been mixed feelings about Benedict's decision throughout the Catholic Church.

Canon law, the laws and regulations adopted by many religions — Catholics included — states that resignation must be made freely and in clear conscience. Because Pope Benedict is in his right mind, his resignation is acceptable. Medically, there is nothing wrong with Benedict; he claims to only feel weak because of his age.

After resignation, the conclave of, or process of selection, Pope Francis began.

The 2013 papal conclave was the shortest in history, beginning March 12 and ending the following day.

During a conclave, the cardinals of the church gather and must have two-thirds of the majority to elect a fellow cardinal.

The first ballot and the three that followed produced black smoke from the Sistine Chapel's chimney, showing that the ballot was inconclusive. On the fifth ballot, white smoke announced that the new pope had been chosen.

Originally from Buenos Aires, Argentina, Pope Francis was born Jorge Mario Bergoglio. He was appointed archbishop of Buenos Aires in 1998 and proclaimed cardinal by Pope John Paul II in 2001.

Bergoglio was different from other cardinals because he used public transportation and refused to live in the church mansion. "He's a moderate man with some reformist tendencies ... open to reform and to a more positive vision of the church," said Marco Politi, a Vatican analyst, to The Christian Science Monitor.

Pope Francis is also a Jesuit and, according to Yahoo, Jesuits who have a reputation for earnestly following their vows of poverty.

Pope Francis's mark may be left in his desire to reform poverty and inequality because of his modest lifestyle.

"I think the Pope will make a series of surface level changes to make the church more open and accepting, something that I feel the Church has gotten away from in recent years ... lately (under Pope Benedict XVI's reign) I feel like the Church has become increasingly judgmental," said Nelson.

"(His simple lifestyle) may be very threatening to the papal court, especially



(Left) Pope Benedict XVI greeting Vatican City. (Right) Pope Francis was elected March 13.

those who like to dress up," said Rev. Thomas Reese, a Vatican expert at the Woodstock Theological Center at Georgetown University to The Christian Science Monitor. Also unique to this papacy is the relationship between Benedict and Francis.

There are no records of a current pope and former pope meeting in person because popes are only chosen after the death of his predecessor.

Pope Francis's Jesuit background is seen in his relationship with Benedict, claiming that the two are equals.

Benedict gave Pope Francis the right-hand seat in the car going to church and chose the lesser left-hand seat for himself. Also, instead of taking the front kneeler in church when they went to pray, Francis politely refused saying "no, we are brothers," and insisted they pray side-by-side.

Although white is traditionally the color of only the pope, both wore white and Francis wore the traditional gold sash of the papacy,

and the two men embraced one another.

Concerns have been expressed about the future of the relationship between the pope and his former. Vatican experts worry that there will be a rival for power and public loyalty. Currently, the Vatican is racing to prevent internal conflict by setting procedures for the life of the Church after a pope resigns.

Benedict hopes to live in seclusion in the Vatican, but Francis refuses to let this happen. Instead, he has called Benedict frequently to wish him a happy name day and mentioned Benedict after his election, where he asked the crowd to pray for the former pope.

"I will be very interested to see, however, if he really makes good on his promise to not have any sort of authoritative role within the Catholic Church," said Nelson.

After spontaneous resignation and speedy election, the Vatican remains a thriving religious force. Now the Church must navigate the transition of power and the unprecedented challenge of having two living popes.

In conjunction with the Guilford College Art Faculty Biennial Exhibition, the college's Art Gallery presents:

Panel discussion led by Kathryn Shields, assistant professor of art history

Thursday, April 4, 7:30—9 p.m. in the gallery of Hege Library. Admission is free and open to the public.

The nine faculty artists will discuss their art-making processes and philosophies and will take questions from the audience.

The faculty artists include:

Adele Wayman  
Roy Nydorf  
Mark Dixon,  
Charlie Tefft  
Maia Dery  
Kaitlyn Barlow  
Nicki Deyton  
Phil Haralam  
Juie Rattley III

For additional information, please contact Terry Hammond at (336) 316-2438

## Rhino poaching crisis: today, tomorrow, how much longer?

BY RISHAB REVANKAR  
STAFF WRITER

High above the vast grasslands of South Africa's Kruger National Park, a helicopter armed with tranquilizer guns zeroes in on its prey: a black rhinoceros bull.

With its target locked, the helicopter crew fires an array of tranquilizer darts.

Bull's-eye.

Upon landing, the crew members set out to complete a job half-done, vigorously hacking off the rhino's horn with a two-stroke chainsaw.

Now dehorned, the rhino dies from an overdose of tranquilizers or bleeds to death.

The slaughtering of the rhino is deeply ingrained in South African culture. Home to 80 percent of Africa's rhino, South Africa saw 633 rhinos killed by poachers in 2012.

"That number shows the scale of the poaching crisis," said Katherine Ellis, office and communications manager of Save the Rhino International, to The Guilfordian. "It is a pretty serious crisis rhinos are facing at the moment."

Save the Rhino has monitored professional poachers who are launching high-tech attacks on the endangered black rhino.

"Criminal gangs and syndicates go in there with night vision, helicopters, chainsaws and gunshot silencers," said Ellis. "So despite intense security, these gangs often get away with it."

The prospect of driving the rhino into extinction does not seem to concern local poachers. From a poacher's perspective, the rhino is merely a placeholder for a much more coveted prize: the rhino horn.

"A rhino can be dehorned without it being killed, but poachers will kill the rhino to hack off all of the horn they can get, which leaves the rhino bleeding to death," said Ellis.

"The horn is very desirable, and one reason is medicinal

purposes," said Professor of Biology Lynn Moseley. "But there has never been any proof whatsoever that it remedies digestive ailments."

In the oil-rich Middle East, the rhino horn is a trophy for young men who sport the horn on dagger handles.

"With a ton of money in oil-rich nations, the demand for rhino horn continues," said Moseley. "And where you have demand, you have people willing to supply."

Flourishing economically and in numbers, poachers are a force to be reckoned with. Despite the poachers' advantages, some activists continue the fight to end the slaughtering of rhinos.

Damien Mander, a front-line Australian soldier-turned-environmentalist, is founder and CEO of the International Anti-Poaching Foundation.

"I was traveling through South Africa and saw a problem," Mander told The Guilfordian. "It is one of these things in life you run into, and you can turn your back on it — which is quite easy to do — or you can fight the bull, so to speak."

Mander incorporates military skills to create standardized anti-poaching training programs. These programs serve as models for over 16 nations and emphasize protecting the rhino specifically.

"To us, the rhino is the heart of all animals," said Mander. "If we aim to protect the rhino, we know that everything else in the ecosystem is being looked after."

However, Mander believes that fighting for the rhino is not solely the responsibility of anti-poaching foundations. His message is that ending poaching is everyone's fight.

"You guys at Guilford are college students, the minds of tomorrow," said Mander. "Everyone needs to chip in, and it is everyone's responsibility to understand what is going on."

It is a pretty straightforward question: rhino or no rhino? Only we can decide.