women felt powerless to change this feeling. Her research discusses this political and legal power imbalance between victims and assailants, with particular attention to the often-seen multiple nature of this type of violence.

Bevaqua began by addressing a common question she hears about her research. Her recent book chronicles the development of the American anti-rape movement, which, she says, causes many people to ask if there is a sort of American pro-rape movement that the lawyers fail to stop. Bevaqua claims that America is a breeding ground for rape because the culture legitimizes exploitation in a variety of situations. Rape, according to Bevaqua, is thus predictable. She stated that in pro-rape cultures, “sexual assault is tolerated,” while “arrest and prosecution rates are not equal to the rate of rape,” and “police are often skeptical of victims.” That culture, Bevaqua stated, leads to the silencing of individual victims. Bevaqua and Cahill both agreed that there is an overall silencing of victims and how the system has resulted in little comprehension of the widespread scope of rape.

The dialogue was then opened up to questions from the audience. Questions ranged from specific queries about passages of the book to what students could do to change campus culture surrounding rape. Bevaqua suggested events and programs like Speak-Outs, and Take Back the Night to change this culture. Bevaqua also pointed to the research of Angela Davis, who is effectively accused by Bevaqua to “argue” that an anti-rape movement that is only composed of white women is not sufficient for addressing the full issue. In fulfillment of that, the dialogue continued on Mar. 22. Representatives from various groups on campus met in the Rehm library to discuss the epidemic of rape at Holy Cross and to discuss what type of work their department was doing about rape. They also discussed how the groups could work together more effectively as a cohesive anti-rape movement.

These representatives came together to discuss their concerns about sexual assault, including what is being done to prevent it, and responses to such attacks. The speakers then took questions from the audience, which evolved into a discussion about how prevalent many issues surrounding sexual assault such as a possible student expectation for sexual relationships and the possible formation of rape survivor support groups. President Helen Whall of the English department facilitated the roundtable discussion. Michael Morrill of residence life provided a handbook on “sexual violence at Holy Cross.” According to nationwide college statistics, it is estimated that at least one Holy Cross woman is sexually victimized every day. Sexual assault investigators for public safety Lisa Romano explained the process of reporting such assaults on campus. Judicial affairs coordinator Ricardo Surita responded by advocating the need to make policies surrounding sexual assault more survivor sensitive. Citing progress the college has made regarding the issue of sexual assault, Vice President of Student Affairs and Dean of Students Jacqueline Peterson indicated that the College has published a sexual decision making booklet.

Addressing the response of the chaplain’s office to the emotional effects of rape, Marybeth Kearns-Barrett explained the chaplains’ spirituality groups, retreats, and one-on-one counseling which it has offered in the past, as well as considerable one-on-one meetings with survivors.

Neil Lipsitz of the counseling center developed options provided by the center, such as women’s empowerment and self-esteem groups and one-on-one counseling. Relationship Peer Educators Melissa Bleakney and Colleen Crowley explained how their organization promotes awareness of sexual assault by posting “Facts of the Week” newsletters and conducting programs.

Women’s Forum representatives Kristin Cortiglia and Su-Sanne Calabrese spoke about the success of “The Vagina Monologues” in terms of creating discussion and debate and the importance in continuing such dialogue. Alice Laffey, of the women’s studies and religious studies departments, read a letter that compared the silencing of survivors of priest sexual abuse to the way that rape survivors are silenced.

Maria Bevaqua ended the roundtable discussion by emphasizing the importance of a climate that focuses not only on survivors but also on rape prevention. The meeting of such diverse groups from all areas of campus emphasized the fact that rape is something that crosses all boundaries and affects everyone; therefore, it is imperative that all of these organizations unite in order to battle the issue of rape.

Helen Whall concluded the roundtable with a statement of hope that the discussion would serve as a springboard for further dialogue, as any change first requires awareness.

However, all was not over for Thomas’ stay at Holy Cross. On Tuesday morning, the noted alumna met with small groups of students in order to have a more personal question-and-answer session. In one of these sessions, Thomas explained that the job of Supreme Court justice is very solitary, and said that the nine justices of the court have little interaction with each other. Contrary to what many believe, justices do not try to sway one another’s opinions and in fact work independently of one another in order to reach conclusions. The bulk of his time serving on the Court, Thomas said, is spent in his office reading briefs and writing on legal matters. In addition to questions about legal and social matters, Thomas also fielded a few questions about his time on Mt. St. James. At one point he related a story of when he and some friends had gone out and bought five kegs one night, and did not realize until all liquor stores were closed that they had failed to purchase a tap. “Five kegs and no tap,” he recalled, whimsically. “Now that’s cruel and unusual punishment!”

Most students who attended the Hamfy-Howland Memorial Lecture on Monday night, the discussion section on Tuesday, or both, came away with a more personal picture of Thomas. “The speech was really good,” commented Chris Hirt ’03, a member of the Hamfy-Howland committee. “Justice Thomas was very personable.”

Brendan Spain ’05 was surprised that Thomas had said there was little interaction among Supreme Court justices. “Yeah, I had always thought that they would sort of work together on opinions, or even go out together sometimes,” he said. “But Thomas said that just didn’t happen!”

Clarence Thomas’ outlook on life and the judiciary can probably be best summed up with a quote from Pope John Paul II, with which Thomas chose to end his Monday night speech: “Be not afraid.”