



Gadfly is back! New episodes following two-year hiatus



art | Alex Deiters

BY LUKE DUFFY
STAFF

And ... action! Gadfly, a club which films short sketches to share with the SLUH community, has returned this year after lying dormant for three years. They plan to entertain the school with monthly sketch compilations through the school year. Gadfly didn't always produce short videos. It began as a magazine where students could publish music reviews, satires, comedy stories, and other informal writing pieces. As it entered the digital age, Gadfly adapted by becoming a TV show instead of a magazine.

"An ASC from Harvard who ran a comedy improv group called the Harvard Hooligans said, 'You Gadfly guys, you'd be perfect for this TV show.' And turns out a lot more people watch the TV shows than read the magazine," said Gadfly moderator David Callon.

After nine seasons of Gadfly TV, the club died down in the 2018 school year. This year, however, saw a renewed ambition to participate in Gadfly by some eager students.

"Going into this school year, I had heard that Gadfly was making a return and I got really excited about it," said senior Eric Richars.

Richars had remembered Gadfly season 9 from his freshman year. He turned out to be one of the first students to consider a return for Gadfly, but he was already determined to get the club started again.

"Eric Richars is the hero of this story in that he just saw something that the school needed and he decided to bring himself fully to that," said Callon.

While Richars has taken a leading role at Gadfly, he doesn't rule with an iron fist. When meeting to discuss ideas for sketches, review material, and produce content, the Gadfly members work together to

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A time like no other; influential class of 1970 reflects on time at SLUH

BY NATHAN RICH
CORE STAFF

SLUH's Class of 1970 has something special.

This year marks the fifth decade since they roamed the halls of St. Louis University High. It's been years since they've been taught by a Jesuit, even longer since they first took their entrance exams. Fifty years is a very long time, but that hasn't stopped them from remaining connected to the SLUH community.

Take St. Louis U. High Day, for example, where the Class of '70 topped all other classes in both dollars raised and number of donations. More important than money, though, the Class of 1970 has some of the most well-attended reunions and makes serious efforts outside of organized class events to see each other. They have something special that's kept them together for half a century, and it originated from the very start of their time at SLUH.

The late 1960's was not an easy time to be a teenager. Surrounded on all sides by heightened racial tensions, the crusade against communism, and the rise of Rock and Roll, the world surrounding SLU High was a complex one.

"It was a time of turmoil," said Dick Mehan, class of 1970. "The Vietnam war was going on, so there was a lot of back and forth and it was prevalent

throughout the United States. We were just a part of it. It was an interesting time to go to high school."

"Our Class attended SLUH at the very end of the 'Turbulent' 60's," noted Dan Schaeffer, '70, in an email to the Prep News. "We had been raised traditionally, much like our parents, for the first 14 years of our lives. However, new ways of thinking, dressing, and living came crashing down upon us at a very impressionable age."

The culture clash and surrounding context had a fundamental impact on the class's time at SLUH. When events around them were hectic and imposing, they turned inward, toward the community and brotherhood they found at the U. high.

"We started in 1966 and the Vietnam War was going on. There was a lot of social unrest but our class supported each other when we needed support. We were able to praise each other when we were successful. I think we comforted each other when we needed comfort. And at the end of the day, I think my class is grateful for each other," said Mark LaBarge, '70.

Furthermore, the comforting bubble of SLU High became a haven for students, especially at a time when the building was always open, day and night. SLUH easily became a second

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The Zoom Room: Becvar teaches online

NICK CAMPBELL
REPORTER

While most students and teachers have returned to school with the hyflex schedule, social studies teacher Sarah Becvar has been teaching her classes from home since August. Because her preschooler is taking classes at home and because she is pregnant, Becvar decided that teaching from home for the time being was the safest option. Despite the challenges presented by teaching remotely, Becvar has found new ways to connect and keep the peace both at home and in the classroom.

Though Zoom and the technology in the classroom has allowed her to successfully teach from home, Becvar has noted the virtual boundary between her and the physical classroom.

"Well this certainly is not the ideal way to be a high school teacher," said Becvar. "I miss a lot of facial expressions, or even as students sometimes will say little comments to each other ... and if I'm there, I can jump on those and use it as a teachable moment."

Becvar, who teaches various Advanced Placement (AP) courses for seniors, has found differences in new online group discussions. In the past, Becvar has emphasized group discussion and dialogue, a recurring activity for most AP classes, but has found student participation online to change the dynamic.

"Because of the distance from the camera, I can't see everyone as well as I'd like and can't always hear people as well as I'd like," explained Becvar, who has noticed that it is not only an issue with those at home. "I often have to tell guys at school to move up because everybody wants to sit in the back. ... I have to usually specifically call on somebody to answer this question in order to engage them."

New schedule changes have also changed the structure of the class slightly, with

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Fortman and Carr percussion duet brings Christmas spirit



Carr left and Fortman right.

photo | courtesy of Carter Fortman

BY NOAH APPRILL-SOKOL
NEWS EDITOR

The Christmas-y duo of seniors Brendan Carr and

Carter Fortman, otherwise known as Santa's elves, played and recorded a mallet duet of "God Rest Ye Merry Gentle-

men"—another example of the tremendous work that the band program has done

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COMMENTARY Ongoing Conversation gives space for LGBT+ issues

BY JACOB SPROCK
NEWS EDITOR

On SLUH's website, under the tab for diversity, it states, "Our mission is to create a school climate in which equity and inclusion are shared and celebrated guiding values for SLUH's Board of Trustees, administration, teachers, staff, and students," and SLUH has often expressed pride in and gratitude for a fairly diverse range of students that attend the school, continuing to work towards

a community that feels representative of all people and fosters brotherhood among all students.

But though the SLUH administration often works hard to stand up for its students, especially those who may be subject to prejudice or discrimination, they aren't perfect. Despite their best efforts, groups of students are often left vulnerable to physical or verbal attacks from their brothers. One of these groups

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Admin Daily Mail

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Immaculate Conception day off a change for pause and reflection

BY JACK FIGGE AND
CHARLES TURNELL
CORE STAFF, REPORTER

As the world frantically rushes to prepare for Christmas, the Catholic Church encourages people to slow down and reflect during this Advent season. SLUH helped by giving students Tuesday off for the Immaculate Conception and providing individuals with the opportunity to receive the sacrament of reconciliation.

Catholics celebrate the solemnity of the Immaculate Conception on Dec. 8. The Immaculate Conception is one of ten Holy Days of Obligation, which means Catholics are obligated to attend Mass on that day.

“We as Catholics believe that Jesus gave his mother, Mary, to be our spiritual mother,” said Fr. Joseph Hill, S.J. “We believe that she cares for us, protects us, and if we go to her with our needs she will intercede for us, and the Immaculate Conception is the perfect day to turn to Mary, and ask for her intercession.”

In previous years, SLUH would hold an all school Mass during the school day to celebrate a Holy Day of Obligation.

“Given some of the chal-

lenges that we have with the pandemic and all of the other pieces I think it is important to be constantly reframing where our gratitude lies and provide students with a day where they can reflect and pray,” said SLUH principal Fr. Ian Gibbons S.J.

One solution that the administration looked into was holding a hybrid Mass where all of the in-person students would attend a live Mass while the virtual students would attend via livestream.

“We certainly looked at the possibility of having like the Mass of the Holy Spirit, or a number of different Masses for that day. We also looked at the context of Advent confessions and our needs for scheduling those,” said Gibbons. “We have to balance this against our personal and the greater good.”

However, the administration wanted to encourage all students to attend in-person Mass and they believed that the best solution was to give students and faculty the day off.

The Advent season is another honored tradition of Catholics. While the secular world is busy rushing around during the Christmas season, preparing for the arrival of Santa Claus, the Catholic

Church encourages its members to do the opposite, to slow down, and prepare their hearts, and selves, for the arrival of Christ.

“We are encouraged to simplify our lives, we are encouraged to slow down,” said Gibbons. “Advent really is a vigil for Christmas and Christmas time, an opportunity to reflect, to get some different perspective by stepping back from the frantic world that we have.”

To help students embrace the Advent season and prepare them for the coming Christmas season, SLUH is providing the opportunity for every student to receive the sacrament of reconciliation (confession) this week.

“We want to set deliberate times for students to receive the sacrament of confession,” said Gibbons. “Not everybody gets to go on a retreat that has a reconciliation opportunity, not everybody has the opportunity to be at penance services for their parishes, especially during this pandemic so the opportunity to offer them is a big commitment for us this year.”

Even in the midst of a global pandemic, SLUH realized the need to offer the sacraments to the student

body and provide them with a chance to seek healing and forgiveness in the sacrament of reconciliation.

“We are all asked to receive confession once a year, to receive communion at least once a year, and to be able to (receive the Eucharist), we must be in good graces (in a state of grace i.e., not have knowledge of committing a mortal sin), so we must receive the sacrament of confession,” said Gibbons.

At some point this week, students will head to the chapel, during their theology class, and have the opportunity to receive the sacrament of reconciliation. SLUH has enlisted the assistance of multiple Jesuit and diocesan priests, many of whom are SLUH alums, to help hear confessions.

“Advent can be a truly transformative time,” said Hill.

“I encourage all students to do something extra, perhaps read the daily readings, or attend Eucharistic adoration once a

week. Really do something to help prepare your hearts for the coming of Christ.”



art | Nathan Rich

Huang’s journey to citizenship and his reflections on American life

Editor’s Note: This is the second issue of a Prep News series called Immigrants of SLUH. So far, news editor Noah Apprill-Sokol has interviewed over ten members of the SLUH community about their immigration experiences. These stories will be featured in the coming weeks. This second one tells the story of Chinese teacher Yude Huang, who moved to the US from Taiwan.

BY NOAH APPRILL-SOKOL

Chinese teacher Yude Huang’s journey to the United States has been marked by sacrifice and challenge but is also full of love and hope. Huang, a native of Taiwan, always dreamt of being American, and after 13 years of living in the United States, his dream has become a reality. While life in the United States comes with its challenges, Huang has found his home here with his family and a job he loves.

Huang took the path of getting a permanent green card through his occupation, where he received a permanent work visa. This process involved a lot of paperwork and interviews and required Huang to hire an Immigration lawyer. Huang also had to find someone to sponsor him. It took Huang over 13 years and over \$12,000 to get full citizenship. Huang elevated his green card status and became a full-fledged United States citizen last January.

“It is a lot of money for us, for international people to go through this process, because we don’t have much support,” said Huang. “There is a lot of sacrifice involved in this process, financially and the time spent, but also I have had to leave behind my family and friends.”

Although Huang had dreamed of what life in the United States would be like before his trip here, his view was wildly altered when he arrived.

“I knew about America through movies and news, and I had a big picture in my mind, with all the ideas of what it is like in the state,” said Huang. “But ever since I came here, this place is kind of different. Everything you see on the news—it must be different than real life, like, actually, in America. So it’s a bit of a cultural shock for me.”

Huang believes that the United States has given him greater opportunities, especially when it comes to raising a family.

“It’s a good place for raising my family, my kids here in the States,” said Huang. “Not too much stress, compared to the education and schooling in Taiwan. There is much more freedom for the kids to grow up, and not always in school, to study, study, and study as in Taiwan, or China.”

Still, Huang has often felt judged by his skin, and the Tawinese community that he has come to be a part of has also been discriminated against; the Tawinese Church

he attends in Illinois has been vandalized multiple times. Huang, at times, feels at odds with American culture.

“I feel isolated. We don’t really try to fit into this society, so we have to create our place in this society,” said Huang. “This is difficult, and many Asian people have worked for Asian companies because they fit better with the community, but this is my chance to go to work at an American school, to send my kids to an American school, to really learn what the American culture is all about.”

Now, after over ten years of living in the United States, Huang is now starting to call this place his home.

“I would consider this as my second home town, other than my hometown in Taiwan,” said Huang. “I find out everything here is very alone. It’s very different from how I grew up in Taiwan. I feel like the United States has a greater opportunity for most people, and this is the place that my

Luna Vega says goodbye to school, transitions to next step in Jesuit formation

BY PETER JAMES
REPORTER

From the end of October through December, St. Louis U. High was blessed to have Jesuit Novice Manuel Luna Vega helping out around the school in many different ways.

Originally from Puerto Rico, Luna Vega stayed at SLUH for a stage of the Jesuit Novitiate called the experiment; where the Jesuit experiments with different ministries to find the fit that God is calling him to.

Assigned to SLUH by his Novice master, Luna Vega was to experiment teaching at a Jesuit high school; the St. Louis region was chosen based on Luna Vega’s skills of teaching theology and playing chess. While at SLUH, Luna Vega assisted in teaching Spanish and theology classes, worked with Campus Ministry, and helped with the chess club.

“Teaching them to look for the essential that is love, that we are loved by God, is one of the things that gave me a lot of consolation,” said Luna Vega. “Bringing the gift that God gave me, and sharing with the students is just really my experience of mission bringing me a lot of consolation and a lot of peace.”

Luna Vega, who is bilingual, assisted Spanish teacher Maria-Paz Campos with her four Spanish classes. He also gave a presentation on Puerto Rico in Spanish teacher Magdalena Alvarado’s AP Spanish class.

“It was nice for the students to have around a Jesuit

who could connect with them about his calling,” said Campos. “I think it was great for the students to see a conversation between two Spanish speakers in the class and to hear different accents.”

Luna Vega also assisted Jesuit Scholastic Michael Mohr in teaching Junior Theology classes. Luna Vega led a few sessions, helped work in small group discussions, and spoke about his vocation to the students.

Campus Ministry and the chess club gave Luna Vega the opportunity to directly connect with students and to share his experience and energy with others. Luna Vega led the annual Drive for the Homeless, helping organize the drive, sending out emails and reminders about the drive to students, and assisting with collecting and counting the donations. Luna Vega also helped out with retreats during Thanksgiving week. Never missing a chess club meeting, Luna Vega played against students and showed patience working with and teaching virtual and in-person students.

“I think this counts as prudent to my heart seeing the power of this kind of environment of this campus ministry that you are forming students to be men for others,” said Luna Vega. “One of the things that I enjoy the most is playing chess with the students, and just seeing that tool, discernment, because you know our charism is about discerning, making decisions.”

Despite spending only a short time here at SLUH, Luna

Vega has had an impact on the SLUH community. As Luna Vega learned about a possible ministry of teaching, his presence helped students learn about his experience and calling, allowing students to reflect on their own vocation and calling.

“There is a lot of energy, there are a lot of different people, and a lot of happiness and joy that I felt through these past months,” said Luna Vega. “It was a really good experience.”

After SLUH and his continuation of experimenting, Luna Vega will continue his process of Jesuit formation with first vows and then first studies. Luna Vega also hopes to spend a year in ministry back in his home of Puerto Rico and to then return to St. Louis to use chess as a way of engaging and teaching about the role of discernment, and to help others see God in all things.

Although Luna Vega will leave on Dec. 29, he wants to convey his gratitude for the welcoming community of SLUH.

“First of all, I just want to give thanks to the SLUH community for making me feel at home. Each one of the faculty, each one of the students, each mouth gave me a lot of consolation in dealing with these uncertain times. Thank you for giving me that sense of peace, that sense of community that we are part of a great mission, a mission of the society that’s creating men for others, human beings for others to serve for the greater glory of God.”

Mr. Huang as a child

photo | Courtesy of Mr. Huang



PN Crossword: Life Sentences

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crossword | Mr. Paul Baudendistel

- ACROSS

1. Result of a 7-Down

5. Dwindling frozen yogurt chain

9. “Bearing gifts, we traverse _____”

13. 1950’s hit by The Bob-
- bettes about a teacher

14. After Missouri, the least populous state to have multiple MLB teams

15. It ends with an aglet

16. *An art teacher provides energy.
18. Approximate area of a football field

19. Chat

20. Playoff spots

22. Former internet giant

23. *A counselor protects.

27. Pressure units (abbr.)
28. _____ on the Prize, acclaimed civil rights documentary by Henry Hampton ‘57

29. *A question answered by this puzzle’s theme entries

35. Very local broadcasting
36. Wall painting

37. The three types of cones in 28-Across

40. *A math teacher impedes.

44. _____ vera, plant used in skin creams

46. “... land, two (lanterns) if _____”

47. *A math teacher and a counselor perceive.

53. Musician Charles or author Bradbury

54. Plato, Aristotle, and Socrates, according to Vizzini of *The Princess Bride*

55. -Man played by 53-Down

57. Citrus fruit named for its unappealing skin

59. *An environmental services worker catches a ball.

62. Singer with 39 Top 40 hits in the 1950’s and 1960’s

63. S-shaped architectural curve

64. Actions do this louder than words

65. What this answer is not

66. Belgian river where the German advance was stopped in WWI

67. Clean (up)
17. Award for J.K. Rowling and David Beckham, among others

21. Appear

24. “Are you _____ entertained?!”

25. It orbits Earth more than 15 times per day

26. NaOH

27. Mild protests

30. _____ *Believer*, song by The Monkees covered in *Shrek*

31. Rapa _____, name for Easter Island

32. Second-closest country to Easter Island (abbr.)

33. Informal negative

34. Arguably the greatest athlete of the 20th century

37. Added a thin layer of asphalt

38. Highest-selling punk band in U.S. history

39. Org. with Scouts, Stars, and Eagles

40. Swindle

41. 500 sheets

42. Org. with scouts, stars, and Hawks

43. Bad prefix, as for function

44. In slow tempo

45. Hide out

48. What there is in Mudville after Casey has struck out

49. The most worthless part, as of society

50. Appeal of certain ATMs

51. Deduce

52. Sponsor of *The Magic School Bus* and *Bill Nye the Science Guy*

53. Actor Paul

56. Disapproving sound

58. Where there was no room for Mary and Joseph

60. Ideologue

61. Pen for counteracting an allergic reaction

SATIRE

Admin faces backlash over new hallway legislation

BY NOAH APPRILL-SOKOL
NEWS EDITORS

Following the return from Thanksgiving break the Saint Louis U. High administration instituted a new set of hallway safety laws to go along with the one-way signs already in place, inducing the introduction of traffic lights, speed bumps, and a carpool lane along with many other roadway standards.

While the administration had hoped this would cut down on reckless behavior in the hallways, the school has seen an uptick in reckless walking behavior that has resulted in several accidents.

“The hallways have been disastrous ever since they started enforcing all these new laws,” said a sophomore, struggling to merge into a freshman hallway. “I just got my walker’s license a few days ago, and I’m afraid of jacking up my insurance by getting into a bumping accident.”

The most catastrophic accident occurred on Monday, Dec. 7 when an upper-classman, who was texting and walking into the on-

coming hoard of students, sped through a red light and crashed into a nearby freshman, all the while saying, “I can make it. I can make it.”

The incident incurred a seven-person pileup and required the presence of now high-hallway patrol officer Dan Schulte to rectify the situation.

“There’s definitely been a huge increase in hall rage,” said Schulte, sporting a bright orange vest and reflective stop sign after being stationed at the intersection between the Math and English offices. “I’ve heard the occasional ‘I’m walkin here’, and one ‘Get off the road you senior citizen’ directed at a class of ‘21 student. Some of the guys have even started carrying freshmen on their backs so that they can walk in the carpool lane.”

At press time, all administration representatives were late after they were caught behind a squad of football players in the basement during the 3:15 pm rush hour after they had tried to take an alternative route to beat the traffic.

FOOD REVIEW

Kilcullen ranks popular chains’ chicken sandwiches: Popeye’s No. 1

BY BERNIE KILCULLEN
COLUMNIST

Spotify or Apple Music? Yanny or Laurel? Is the dress white and gold or is it blue and black? SLUH or SLUH West? (Well, that is not much of a debate.) All of these are highly debated by our generation, however, the holy grail of debates and the one of most relevance to the theme of my article is: Who has the best chicken sandwich?

When I heard of this request, I was both excited and dare I say, chicken. The chicken sandwich is a highly debated subject and has been tearing apart families and friendships for years now.

Keeping in mind both price and taste, I hit the road with my DoorDash style warmer bag to pick up the sandwiches from Popeyes, McDonald’s, Chick-Fil-A, Cane’s, Wendy’s, and Sonic. Unfortunately, the line at Culver’s was extraordinarily long and the service underwhelming, so they were dropped from my ballot.

Once I arrived home with the safe, warm sandwiches, I carefully placed them on my mother’s silk table cloth. I went down the line and took a singular bite out of each sandwich,

before repeating the process once more. What I am looking for is a crispy yet juicy bite with a subtle flavor that does not steal the show from the chicken. While biting into the Popeye’s sandwich, I was taken aback by the crisp skin, the juicy chicken, and the sponginess of the brioche roll. It was undoubtedly the best fast-food chicken sandwich I have had.

The McDonald’s McChicken is THE sandwich for any occasion. For only a dollar, the minimalist approach of a chicken sandwich is enjoyed by millions of Americans daily. For

the price of one sandwich from Chick-Fil-A, Cane’s, or Popeye’s, you can get FOUR McChickens.

Finally, Chick-Fil-A versus Cane’s. I know you all will be upset with me on this one. I have heard claims that Cane’s chicken lacks flavor and is “disgusting.” Boys and girls, this is a sandwich, not just the chicken. With just the sandwich by itself, no special sauce on the side, I enjoyed Cane’s more than Chick-Fil-A and if you disagree with me, let’s talk about it.

Even though my bank account would disagree, I loved doing this and look forward

to any suggestions that would come my way. I promise I will do it and that there will be no chickening out!

Without further ado, here are the results:

Best Bite: Popeye’s
Best Value: McDonald’s
Worst Overall: Wendy’s
Official Rankings:

1. Popeye’s
2. McDonald’s
3. Cane’s
4. Chick-Fil-A
5. Sonic
6. Wendy’s



Kilcullen and the chicken sandwiches photo | Bernie Kilcullen

Gadfly returns with fresh faces, promises new energy and future videos

(continued from page 1)
make decisions for the club.

“When Gadfly was really functioning well, it was because I didn’t call the meetings, students called the meetings, I didn’t run the meetings, students ran the meetings,” said Callon. “There’s something pretty special when students see other students leading in ways they want to lead.”

In addition to providing comedy and entertainment to the SLUH community during an uneventful pandemic, Gadfly has also provided its members with a rare creative outlet in this time of social isolation.

“During Covid it’s really hard to collaborate so when kids get an outlet for that it’s really beneficial,” said Richards.

Junior Daniel Munie has had a different experience with Gadfly this year. Passionate about filmmaking, he

quickly took a major role in writing and directing Gadfly’s sketches.

“It’s a really fun club to be a part of because you just have so much creativity and it’s just a really good time in general,” said Munie.

As they approach their monthly episode, the Gadfly crew first meets to discuss sketch ideas. They like to come up with one big sketch and a few smaller, or low-hanging fruit, sketches. The bigger sketches this year have included a Ferris Bueller late for virtual classes sketch, a pool hall stereotypes sketch, and the spirit of semester exams sketch in the most recent issue. They then write and film the sketches, and the writers of each sketch get the opportunity to direct or star in their sketch.

“Sometimes there’s a script

for it, sometimes it’s just a basic idea,” said Richards. “A lot of the things we’ve done have really just been improv with some basic guidelines.”

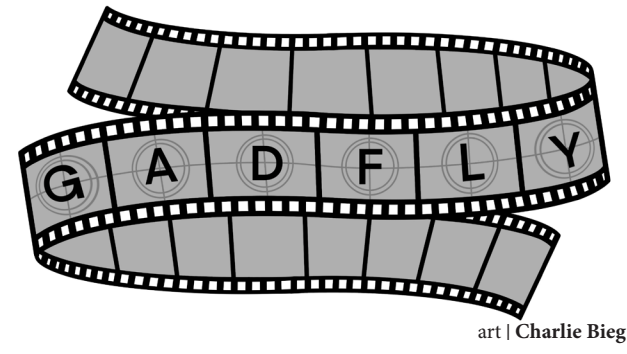
While Gadfly is at its simplest a club for students to have fun, their process does mirror that of actual TV shows. This way, the club can give some of its members a taste of what filmmaking is like in Hollywood.

“My goal is to try to do some sort of filming major or something like that,” said Mu-

nie. “I really have a strong passion for this and it’s something I really like to do.”

For sophomore Nick George, who is immunocompromised and cannot attend in-person classes, Gadfly has been one of his major connections to the SLUH community and the Backer Memorial Campus.

“It’s certainly something that’s interesting to be a part of,” said George. “You still get to be a part of it even when you’re not at SLUH every day.”



SLUH partners with Taiwanese school to visit Mo. History Museum virtually

BY ROARKE UNRAU AND JACKSON COOPER REPORTERS

Most Saint Louis U. High students can recall seeing Chinese exchange students in the halls in the last few years. Some students can even remember classes they shared. This year, though, Chinese exchange students could not come to SLUH physically, attending virtually instead.

The week before Thanksgiving break, the Chinese IV class, led by Chinese teacher Yude Huang, went on a virtual tour of the Missouri History Museum with a group of students from SLUH’s partner school in Taiwan. Even though it was not an in-person meeting, many students enjoyed the experience. Even the principal from the school in Taiwan joined along with the ten students from their school.

For the Taiwanese students, it was their first time using Zoom because they go to school in person every day; as a result, there was a small delay in getting everyone on the call.

“The difficult part was the connection, because in Taiwan they live a totally normal life. They don’t use Zoom. The students still go to school every single day with no problems at all, and the difficult part was that it was their first time to use Zoom,” said Huang.

Because of the 14-hour time difference between St. Louis and Taiwan, the only Chinese class that could actively participate in the tour was the first hour Chinese IV class. The students from Taiwan logged onto the tour at 10:30 p.m. their time; some stayed on the Zoom until midnight their time talking with SLUH students.

“This was our first time to meet with our partner school,” said Huang.

Through Zoom, the Chinese IV class and students from Taiwan joined a virtual tour of the Missouri History Museum, which consisted of a tour guide presenting a multitude of artifacts, and answering questions from the audience.

Huang enjoyed the tour and encouraged others to take advantage of the opportunity.

“Even though I have been here for a long, long time, I have not gotten the chance to go to the history museum,” said Huang. “So I found it quite eye-opening to know, ‘Wow, they have so many cool things in the museum.’ I would definitely bring my family over there when this is all over.”

The SLUH students also enjoyed the tour and enjoyed getting a chance to meet the students from Taiwan. Although the tour was very laid back and didn’t have a lot of conversation, some daring students jumped at

the opportunity to cross the language barrier, since most of the students from Taiwan spoke very little English.

“They mentioned to me that it was the best Chinese class ever because they got to see someone from very far away, and they could share the experience during the tour and get to know each other. They really enjoyed it. They cannot wait to do it again,” said Huang. “Some students were uncomfortable with the language. Some of them might be hesitant because they might be nervous to speak up or speak Chinese in front of the native speakers. This time was not really about the conversation between us, I didn’t want them to feel obligated to use Chinese. Maybe next time when we meet again I may create a topic for them to talk to each other in Chinese.”

Huang wants to do the same thing again next year. It was very easy for the Taiwanese students to join the Zoom rather than fly all the way over to America. Huang was also very thankful for Russian teacher and Director of Global Education Robert Chura to set up the whole tour for his class.

“I would totally want to do it again, even if we go back to a normal life and we don’t use Zoom. I still would want to do it by Zoom. It shortens the distance between us, so we can see each other very quickly,” said Huang.

With the Chinese IV exchange being deemed a success, the Foreign Language Department as a whole is looking to have similar exchanges in the future. Virtually all of the exchange programs that would typically occur between SLUH and its various partner schools across the world have been cancelled, leaving foreign language teachers scrambling for an alternate method to connect with their counterparts overseas. Arabic, Spanish, and Russian classes have done smaller exchanges in class so far this year, and there is hope that these will continue for the remainder of the school year.

“There’s a lot of disappointment with all the things we can’t do. There’s all kinds of stuff that isn’t happening right now. We had to cancel all of our summer programs. We just wanted to put the word out there for the things that we are transitioning to, which are in a lot of ways creating more capacity for kids to be involved in global ed than has typically been the case,” said Chura.

Though there are no official plans as of now, Chura stated that there would likely be more exchanges of a similar nature throughout the school year.

“This wasn’t just a one-off,” said Chura, “This was just the latest step in a program that we are looking to do.”

Becvar adjusts to life teaching at home; connects to students in new ways

(continued from page 1)
discussions being less common according to Becvar.

Outside of regular teaching, she has found connecting before and during classes with her students to be less natural in the current environment. “It’s harder to joke with students on Zoom because you’ll say something and you don’t always get a reaction or people are hesitant to give you much back. It’s harder to make those interpersonal connections,” said Becvar.

Despite these issues, Becvar has been using smaller group work to allow students more interaction with each other and more effective work.

“I feel that the breakout rooms have worked pretty well for my classes,” said Becvar, who noted she makes sure to check in once in a while. “You just kind of have to trust that students are doing what they are supposed to when you are not in there.”

Becvar also regards herself fortunate to have students who are reacting well to the change.

“I feel like those (seniors) know what they need to do and are pretty flexible.” As for her freshman Human Geography class, whom she finds benefit the most from her being in person, “They need a lot more enforcement in class. I help them take notes . . . and make sure they have the right posture.”

It is not only the students, but a multitude of SLUH teachers and faculty that have made Becvar’s remote teaching possible. From teacher aids who help sign the in-person group into Zoom each day, to colleagues who are helping her with exams, Becvar has felt the helpful nature of the SLUH community.

“There’s so many people that have been so helpful to me through all this, my colleagues have been so wonderful, with Dr. Foy going out and making sure my exam gets printed and distributed,” said Becvar.

Another key group has been the IT Department. “IT has been so important, mak-

ing sure my camera and microphone works really well,” Becvar said. She added that they are continuing to work together on ways to improve class in the instance of everyone coming back.

“I am so appreciate the people who really stepped up and have been willing to do whatever’s necessary,” said Becvar.

Teaching remotely has changed both the classroom and the homefront alike. Becvar recalled the ability to spend more time with her family at home.

“When I’m done at 3:15, I am already home with my preschooler,” said Becvar. “I don’t lose time driving to and from school and that’s just allowed me to be more present as a mom. In that case it’s a blessing for sure.”

With that added time family, the need to find a quiet place to teach becomes important to find as well. In regards to that, Thomas Curdt—a 2018 SLUH graduate and son of English teacher Tim Curdt—has become the family’s babysitter, allowing Becvar to focus on teaching.

“I didn’t ever want to have to attend to my son while teaching because I want my focus to be on the students,” explained Becvar. “I think education in our age of Covid is really a community effort, so you just do what you can do.”

Still, the noise associated with a kindergarten class playing the morning song at full volume keeps her needing to often change where she is teaching from.

“There is a lot going on, so I have to be able to grab my laptop, and just head upstairs or in the dining room,” said Becvar, who noted that though certain spots are better than others. “I usually teach down in the basement and that’s pretty dreary,” said Becvar. “My workstation; it’s wherever is quiet and usually where my laptop and my coffee is.”

Becvar plans to continue teaching from home next semester.

Message from Sam

Our very own Features Editor, Sam Tarter, would like to thank Mr. Michael Mohr for speaking, and Fr. Joseph Hill for concelebrating at his father’s funeral mass, and the rest of the SLUH community for their support.

Ongoing Conversations plans to address LGBT+ issues in future articles

(continued from page 1)
is the LGBT+ community.

The gay community, much like racial communities, has faced discrimination in the United States for decades, but the expectation is that SLUH can be a safe space, a place of refuge, for those who suffer this discrimination. Yet year after year I hear stories about students who have been called the f-slur or the n-word by their classmates and I can’t

help but wonder what happened to the Ignatian ideals that we often preach and try to instill in our students.

I myself am someone who, in his beginning years at SLUH, would hear insulting, derogatory comments thrown at my classmates by fellow students, and I wouldn’t know what to do. On the one hand, the people saying these things were oftentimes my friends, and I didn’t want to lose my

friends because of some things they said. In my experience, it is much easier to not say anything at all or to just go along with it without adding your two cents.

It is the hope of Ongoing Conversations, a group at SLUH operating under the umbrella of ACES, that the SLUH community can be educated on and become more accepting towards LGBT+ individuals. Over the next several

week, members of the Prep News and Ongoing Conversations will team up to reort on the struggles and issues facing the LGBT+ community at SLUH and some possible steps each person can take to make things better for them. The first issue discussed will be the language that is used to harm gay individuals and the effects it can often have. I encourage all of you to check it out when it arrives after Christmas.



art | Charlie Bieg

AMDG

Volume 85, Issue 11

Class of '70, fifty years later; brotherhood never graduates



Members of the Class of 1970 surround their car.

photo | courtesy of SLUH yearbook

(continued from page 1)

home for the Class of 1970.

“We just lived at St. Louis U High, we didn’t go home,” said John Schaefer, ’70. “(SLUH) was really a place to be, it wasn’t a place to be just for school. There was a lot going on.”

The door locks aren’t the only things that have changed since the 60’s, though. When the Class of 1970 attended SLU High, which cost a mere \$400, Jesuits and Scholastics made up a vast majority of the faculty. In fact, there was only one female teacher there in the 60’s.

“We had some legendary priests,” Schaefer reflected. “(They) were pretty tough.”

One such priest, Father Edward O’Brien, was especially impactful. O’Brien was their class moderator, and his office their impromptu meeting space. His messages to the students were well received, especially by Schaeffer.

“There were a lot of (slogans) back in the day,” said Schaeffer. “All about Vietnam, all about race, all about whatever you want to call it—it was all slogans that could be put on signs and paraded around. (Father O’Brien) was the first instructor I had that said ‘investigate what’s behind the sign, don’t accept anything at first glance’ and it made an imprint on me.”

With such dedicated instructors, the eventual success of the class seemed inevitable. Their senior year, SLUH held its first Cashbah, which was supported by dozens of senior volunteers, and a spring carnival, which was the brainchild of the Class of ’70 led StuCo. Both events were overwhelmingly successful. By Mehan’s estimate, his class’s student council helped raise around \$17,000 for following classes to use for their own projects.

Other events, too, helped the class showcase their spirit of service. Over the summer of their junior year, for example, the class came in to work on the locker room showers, a unifying project that many class members cherish.

“The class was full of hard workers and I think we all got along pretty well,” said Mehan.

Coupled with this motivation was a spirit of humble leadership, which Matt Sciuto, class

of 1970 and StuCo president for his class, was quick to point out.

“I didn’t have to do much leading of the class, because I had a lot of leaders in my class. When you have that, you build up a lot of good relationships. I loved St. Louis U. High,” said Sciuto.

“Our class was a very humble class,” agreed John Weller, ’70. “We didn’t care if you were in A (track classes) or G (track) or anywhere in between. There was always this humility about our class and it’s still with us today. It was a great experience.”

No matter who you credit with forming the Class of 1970—the surrounding world, the Jesuits, the class itself, or a combination of all three—one thing is for sure: their experience at SLUH was fundamental to their lives.

“St. Louis U. High, when you look back, is the reason for any success you have, it is truly foundational,” said Schaefer.

When the class graduated in the spring of 1970, they left the halls of SLU High, seemingly for good. What they didn’t realize at the time, though, was that the brotherhood they formed could not be bound by four years.

“When you graduate, you kind of go your own ways for a while, and that’s what happened to a lot of us,” said Sciuto. “In 1980, I came to St. Louis U. High as a faculty member, which was a real boon for me. I just started to keep my class together, my goal was to keep them in contact with each other. We just liked each other and I wanted to keep in touch with them and see what they were doing. It was purely social.”

In an age before a quick Google search told you everything about a person, Sciuto’s mission to reach out to his class was no easy feat. Over the course of the 1980’s though, as the class approached their 10th and 15th reunions, Sciuto and a few other classmates collaborated to create an email list with as many class members as they could find. Eventually, the list numbered nearly 180, only about 30 short of the total class number.

“I wanted to keep in touch with these guys, they were special in my life and they are really interesting people,” said Sciuto,

explaining his motives for the email list.

To this day, members of the Class exchange emails several times each week, sharing family news, event information, or just reminiscing on past times. In addition to the email list, a Class of 1970 website was also set up, with contact information for most members of the class and pictures and reflections from the past 50 years. A quick glance at the website can send even current SLUH students down memory lane, which was exactly its goal.

“For a lot of our guys, we were really proud of our years at St. Louis U. High. We like to look back on them because we had a lot of fun. Those memories unite us. There’s a commonness to it and that’s the thing that stays the same (after 50 years),” said Sciuto.

At around the same time, in another part of the city, Weller was doing his part to keep the class together. What started as a small get together between high school friends had, by Weller’s design, evolved into a Christmas party that the entire class was invited to. Held at Failoni’s, a family-owned bar and restaurant on Manchester, the annual Class of 1970 Christmas party has become, over the last 20 years, a holiday staple and an honored tradition.

“That party (is) magic, man. It was just a really humble, honest thing. To me, friendships can still be made even though you’ve been out of (SLUH) for so many years,” reflected Weller. “Friendships can still be made and renewed and you can find out a lot of things that you didn’t know about somebody.”

The email list and Christmas party, both borne out of the dedicated work of a few class

members, have had significant effects on the rest of the class. Many Class of ’70 alumni were quick to note how they have grown even closer over the last few years, even closer than when they were at SLUH.

“A lot of people have found in the last ten years that we seem to be connecting more,” said Schaefer. “I just think the class has become even more close knit in the last 5 to 10 years that they were in the previous 40 years.”

“As time goes on in many ways you get closer because you realize there was something special you had,” agreed Mehan. “We don’t just talk about the old times, we go current. Everybody kind of meshes really well. It didn’t stop when we left St. Louis U. High. Nobody feels any pressure. It’s just a bunch of guys getting together who enjoy each other’s company.”

Unfortunately, the Covid-19 pandemic has affected many of the class’s traditions, including the Failoni’s Christmas party, which had to be canceled.

“I had to send out an email that I really didn’t want to send,” said Weller. “Because of the pandemic, we had to cancel our Christmas party and it really broke my heart because I really look forward to it.”

The Class’s 50th reunion, which was scheduled for October, was also put on hold. However, in the spirit of perseverance, they have set their sights on next year, with the new slogan “50 years (plus one).”

In place of these events, class members have met for large Zoom calls that connect members across the country. It’s certainly not what they were hoping for, but it’s something.

Few relationships in life can last over 50 years. The class’s brotherhood has seen the beginning and end of wars, the start of the digital age, and, now, a global pandemic. However, through all that, they have grown closer, not farther apart. This growth is a testament to work of class members, like Sciuto, Weller, Mehan, and many others, who fought to keep their class together, but, more importantly, it is a testament to the SLUH experience.

“When you talk about guys that you went to high school with, there’s no commitment in the sense that you have to see each other, it’s the fact that you want to see each other and they want to see you,” said Weller. “If you stay together, then the vision of St. Louis U. High lives on. There’s a sense that as long as we hang together we’re going to hold on to that spirit.”



Class of ’70 gathered together.

Gibbons and Carruthers discuss their inboxes

BY NOAH APPRILL-SOKOL AND JACOB SPROCK
NEWS EDITORS

Emails from worried and Egrateful parents and from CDC and local health officials about new safety announcements, survey responses from members of the Saint Louis U. High community: since the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic, the inboxes of SLUH principal Ian Gibbons and president Alan Carruthers have been filled to the brim.

These emails and survey responses, mostly from parents, are filled with various expressions of gratitude, grievance, and opinion. Navigating between many perspectives, Gibbons and Carruthers are often faced with difficult problems, many of which have answers that are not always easy to discern.

“My goal is to try to make the best decisions in a very flawed reality that we face, whether that be the political perspective, the media perspectives, or the different lenses people have on about this disease and about the communication of it and about what people experience when they have it,” said Carruthers.

Both Gibbons and Carruthers find that the emails and survey responses help them understand the community’s feelings about the pandemic and offer invaluable insights when making important decisions, such as when to return to in-person classes. Gibbons, who has received much data from the two surveys sent out to the school (one in July and the other in October), has mapped out and compared the trends of how people are feeling about the pandemic in hopes to better discern a plan.

“We found the July survey showed people really wanted to be back on campus, not virtual classes, and that the six foot rule was very important to people. The minority of voices wanted everyone back,” said Gibbons. “We found in October that things had flipped considerably and over 66 percent wanted everyone back. The remaining one third was some combination of ‘we want to stay online,’ or ‘we don’t love the hybrid system but we think it’s better than bringing everyone back,’ or ‘we just really like the hybrid.’”

On top of the usual school emails and informative briefings that he receives on a daily basis, Gibbons has also frequently been sent letters of gratitude from thankful parents who think he’s handled the situation well.

“I have always received a number of stuff from people truly grateful for SLUH being one of the anchoring points amidst a lot of craziness and confusion, a place that they know is going to be stable,” said Gibbons. “SLUH is a pretty stable entity, and to hear people express that is deeply humbling and powerful.”

Other emails are not as supportive and can be very emotionally driven, often filled with a lot of anxiety and fear that

make responding to them difficult to navigate.

“I get a lot of communication that shows just an unfiltered, raw state of mind, that I have to be able to translate into the pandemic,” said Gibbons. “You develop a very thick skin in this job.”

“This whole year 2020 has been anxiety, worry inducing. It’s been a stressful installment, and people have it tougher than I do. Those emotions translate into those emails,” said Carruthers. “I’m blessed that I haven’t lost any family members. I know people in our community here lost in some cases not just one but multiple family members.”

Still, while both Gibbons and Carruthers believed that it is important to have thick skin when in the role they have, they both try to read each email with compassion and understanding, usually trying to reach the hidden message behind the words of the email.

“I’ve dealt with stress, and I am not scared of that, I don’t run away from that. It does wear on you, you do have to have a thick skin,” said Carruthers. “But, you can’t shut the criticism out. Everyone’s voice has value and you’ve got to listen to what they’re saying.”

“The challenge is to be able to have the time to sort it, to understand what’s there and to actually be able to use that knowledge of the old adage, those who fail to understand and remember history are doomed to repeat it,” said Gibbons. “Part of that understanding is being able to actually organize and be able to go back to some of that data.”

Both Gibbons and Carruthers respond to upwards of 60 emails every day, only a portion of the emails they receive, which sometimes reach up to 120. Often, Carruthers will even call the parent to talk over the matter.

“I think a phone call is a much more productive piece because I think you can hear a lot in someone’s voice,” said Carruthers. “You can hear sympathy or determine what the fear is. You can determine their thoughtfulness perhaps. Honestly, I think the most productive ways that I’ve responded in those situations have been when I’ve been able to have a phone call conversation with folks.”

For Gibbons and Carruthers, they are very grateful for the responses from parents that they get on a daily basis, and they encourage others to reach out.

“We love what we do, and we like it because we really enjoy working with (the students),” said Carruthers. “None of us got into Jesuit education for any other reason than that we’re drawn to the formation of young people in particular young men in our charism. So, you know, this is a hard road I think for every teacher, every staff member who has that vocational call to do, but we do this out of the love of (the students).”

S P O R T S

Hockey wins both games of doubleheader against Oakville

BY LOUIS CORNETT
CORE STAFF

The St. Louis U. High hockey team beat Oakville twice this past week—4-1 on Thursday night at South County Recreation Center, and 3-0 Saturday at Webster Ice Arena. Bouncing back from their loss against CBC on Nov. 27, the Jr. Bills now have their first winning record of the year, even though Covid-19 has sidelined a few crucial players. Stepping up to the challenge, SLUH was led to victory by sophomore goalie Wyatt Gottschall, who is filling in for an unavailable Jake Buttice.

“It feels great. Anyone wants their chance to show off what they can do,” said Gottschall. “But I’m ready to get Jake back on the ice and get the full team back together.”

Only letting up one goal in the two games, Gottschall provided a wall in the back, and paired with strong offense, the Jr. Bills easily swept Oakville.

In the Dec. 3 game, the Jr. Bills geared up for their second game of the season. Led by early goals by freshmen Russell Caplin and senior captain Matt Warnecke, the Jr. Bills catapulted to a 2-0 lead and didn’t let up.

“It was really nice to see that we came out quickly,” said varsity head coach Steve Walters. “We challenged the guys to take pride in the crest on their jersey, and they came out and played extremely hard. Oakville couldn’t get anything done in the first period.”

After another goal by Warnecke in the second period and one from junior Ryan Spinner

in the third, the Jr. Bills comfortably secured their first win of the season, 4-1.

For the first 6 minutes of the second leg of their doubleheader against Oakville on Dec. 5, SLUH dominated possession, keeping the puck in Oakville’s zone, and using their physicality to force turnovers whenever Oakville was on offense.

With 7:52 remaining in the first period, SLUH’s sustained pressure caused an Oakville icing, giving the Jr. Bills a faceoff in the offensive zone. They failed to convert on this chance, but only a minute later, the Jr. Bills struck first on the scoreboard.

A big hit by junior Niko Nadreau on an Oakville attacker caused a turnover, allowing SLUH to go on the offensive. A Jr. Bill attacker put a backhand shot on net, and Nadreau picked up the rebound and slotted past the goalie to give the Jr. Bills a 1-0 lead with 6:31 remaining in the first.

“It felt great to finally accomplish a goal I have had since freshman year and to make a real impact on such a great team of players,” said Nadreau.

Only 53 seconds later, Warnecke slammed home another goal to extend the Jr. Bills’ lead to two goals. All alone just to the left of the right circle, Warnecke and beat Oakville’s goalie with a slapshot.

With ten shots on goal in the first ten minutes, the Jr. Bills were clicking on offense and also on defense, allowing Oakville only two shots of their own.

The remainder of the period was scoreless as the Jr. Bills recorded two more shots on goal, and Oakville had zero.

With 8:48 remaining in the second period, SLUH found itself with another great scoring chance. After Oakville gave the puck up in their defensive zone, the puck found Warnecke in the circle. Making a man miss, Warnecke flung a backhanded shot towards the net, but a great save by the Oakville goalie kept the deficit to only two goals.

Back and forth the rest of the period, neither team could find the net, and the Jr. Bills entered the third period with a 2-0 lead, outshooting Oakville 24-16.

Entering the third period, the Jr. Bills looked to finish strong in the last 15 minutes.

With 12:53 remaining in the game and SLUH on the power play, a sloppy turnover by SLUH gave the puck to an Oakville attacker just outside of SLUH’s blue line. Short-handed, the Oakville player rushed on net. But Gottschall came up with a huge save, deflecting the puck out of harm’s way and preserving the two-goal lead.

“You have to be reliant on a good goaltender. Without a good goaltender, a team can’t win,” said Gottschall. “Being able to make that save I think really helped us to finish the game strong.”

Only a few minutes later, the game turned a little chippy. With 9:02 left in the game, three penalties were handed out, one to a Jr. Bill and two to Oakville. Along



Sophomore Goalie Wyatt Gottschall against Oakville.

photo | courtesy of @SLUHHockey

the sideboards, Nadreau was being held by an Oakville player. Wrestling him down, Nadreau was then jumped on by another defender, and the three of them were sent to the penalty box

“Oakville started playing with frustration, their coach probably told them to be more physical, and that’s when it started to get dicey,” said Walters. “Our team was looking like they were going to go down the wrong path, but I called a timeout just to remind them that’s not how SLUH plays.”

With a man advantage for the second time in the third period, the Jr. Bills looked to seal up their victory with one more goal. SLUH was unable to cash in on their ad-

vantage, and it looked as if the Jr. Bills would secure the win with a score of 2-0.

However with 3:45 minutes remaining in the game, Warnecke cashed in for the second time of the night, deflecting a shot in front of goal. This goal boosted SLUH to a three-goal advantage, one that they would keep for the rest of the game.

“It felt really good to find the back of the net. The second one was a good shot on the ice from Brock Massie and I got a stick on it and found the net,” said Warnecke. “A few more bounces our way and that’s a 7-0 game.”

The final score was 3-0, with SLUH outshooting Oakville 37-19. After the

game, the Jr. Bills swarmed Gottschall who, after stopping 19 shots, earned his first career varsity shutout.

“It felt great. Everyone played really well in front of me,” said Gottschall. “A good team and a good goalie gets the job done.”

“He’s calm back there. He’s not panicky,” said Walters. “It’s good to see, and really good for our club because it’s hard for a sophomore to come in and be a contributor. We’re really excited about his attitude.”

Coming off their two wins, SLUH looks towards their next game on Dec. 11 at Maryville University Hockey Center. The Jr. Bills will take on Lafayette; attendance is limited to two parents per player.

Basketball set to begin season this weekend against MICDS, Miller Career Academy

BY CARTER SPENCE, LUKE ALTIER
STAFF, SPORTS EDITOR

After a delay to the start of the season, the St. Louis U. High basketball team is set to kick off the 2020-2021 season with a back-to-back slate vs. MICDS on Dec. 11 and vs. Miller Career Academy on Dec. 12.

MICDS, who began its season with a 13-point win against Whitfield, will pose an early challenge for the young Jr. Bills team in their first game.

The Rams return all of their players from last year’s 23-5 squad, including the 10 seniors on the roster, in contrast to SLUH’s senior-less roster. MICDS boasts a balanced offensive attack with three of their players scoring in double figures a season ago and—much like SLUH—are a threat beyond the three-point arc at each position.

Six of their current players shot well over 35 percent on triples last year, led by senior Hasani Spann, who knocked down four threes in MICDS’ recent victory.

“We aren’t a very big team

but almost every kid on our team can shoot threes,” junior forward Nick Kramer, who shot 35.0 percent on three-point attempts last year, said.

The Rams’ height could cause issues for SLUH, a team very reliant on its guard-play. MICDS returns three forwards who all averaged over 5.0 rebounds per game, including Nick Roper, who posted a double-double in the team’s win over Whitfield with 12 points and 10 rebounds, and Jack Pronger, its leading rebounder from last year with 5.4 rebounds per game.

“We have a small unit this year,” said junior guard Luke Johnston. “We have to be in shape and give everything we have every play and execute.”

“Our biggest challenge is going to be our size,” Kramer, the team’s leading rebounder, said. “The only way to overcome that is with our toughness.”

After Friday’s matchup vs. MICDS, the Jr. Bills will take on Miller Career Academy, a team that finished 14-11 a season ago against a less challenging schedule. It will be the teams’ first game against each

other since 2014.

After months of hurdles to overcome and uncertainty on the status of this season, the Jr. Bills are grateful to return to the court and play games for the first time since last March.

“It’s been a little more difficult with the masks and postponing games,” Kramer said. “We usually have some preseason games before every season, but this year we couldn’t.”

“Since we were really unable to get pre-season workouts in, when the season started we bought in every day to make the most out of every practice,” junior point guard Jaden McClain said. “Our team’s biggest strength is that we have a pretty strong relationship. Having a healthy relationship helps create trust and confidence through the team which leads to success.”



photo | Alex Deiters

Rifle team awaits results from Blue Jay Classic Tournament

BY JACK RYBAK
CORE STAFF

The St. Louis U. High rifle team pushes through the COVID restrictions and shoots in Washington Missouri for the first and possibly last match of the season. Due to the pandemic the match has to be extended and a few teams have yet to shoot. The rankings will not be finalized until this Friday, but the team sits well for high ranking. The team still has some rust to knock off, but the shooters so promise in a bright season.

While the range at Washington High School did not have all the precautions the SLUH range has, the team still took all possible precautions to avoid a COVID breakout. Prior to the match all shooters filled out a forum and had their temperatures taken. Social distancing was enforced and masks were worn throughout the match.

The first relay of the match took place on Saturday, Dec. 5 and the final relay of the tournament will be on Friday Dec.

11.

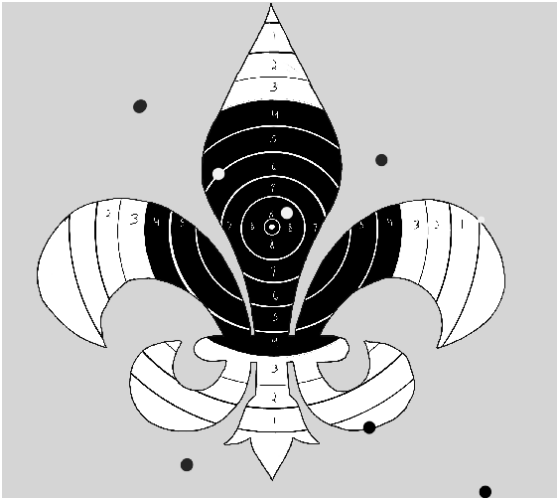
As it currently stands (Tuesday, Dec. 8) the top SLUH rifle team is composed of team captain Ryan Janson, senior Nick Storer, junior Sam Quinlavan and senior Cole Stranczek. All shooters for SLUH with the exception of Janson have already shot at the time of writing. The top team currently sits with a 1672/2400 without the score of Janson added.

On the top team two out of the three shooters shot above 560/600. If Janson can come in with a score above 560 then the top team looks very good for taking first place.

On SLUH’s precision team there is an average score of 550. There were seven shooters who shot below 550 and six shooters who shot above 550. Junior Andrew Kessler shot an impressive 576.

While overall the team shot well, there were still some dips that should be addressed. However, the scores do show a growth towards better shooting next match.

“I think it’s just been so long since we’ve had a match,” said junior Grant Grabowski. “I just think we had to get warmed up and we will hit the next match twice as hard.”



art | Nathan Rich

Junior Isaac Thompson verbally commits to Mizzou football

BY JACK RYBAK
CORE STAFF

Junior Isaac Thompson, a standout wide receiver and defensive back from the day he stepped foot on the field, verbally committed to play football at Mizzou on Friday, Dec. 4.

Thompson, a four-star recruit, started his high school career as a freshman on varsity. He had a good season with 29 total tackles, one interception, and 86 returning yards.

Thompson began to shine his sophomore year when he garnered six touchdowns, 147 rushing yards, 605 receiving yards, 39 tackles, and two interceptions.

According to Rivals.com, Thompson is the fourth-rated prospect in the state from the

Class of 2022 and the seventh-rated safety in the nation.

Thompson had received interest from several schools over his past three years at SLUH. He received offers from over 30 colleges, including Florida, Michigan, Mizzou, Texas, and Arkansas.

“(Mizzou) was the spot for me and I always wanted to play back home and have all these great people around me come to my games,” said Thompson. “The SEC is the best conference in the country, and I felt like it was the spot for me.”

Thompson has been playing football since grade school and has looked up to his father, who played for Michigan State, as a role model for his own goals.

“I always knew I wanted

to play college football,” said Thompson. “I want to come in as a freshman at Mizzou (safety or corner), start right away and make improvements every year, and lead them to a championship.”

Thompson, while planning for his future, still has his heart and mind at SLUH. He still has another year with the Jr. Bills and he plans to make the most of it. Thompson hopes to have a great season following his single game this year.

“We are going to have a really good team coming back next year,” said Thompson. “We have guys like Ryan Wingo, Marco Sansone, Luke Johnston, Chris Brooks that will all come in, and we can win the State Championship if we set our minds to it.”



photo | courtesy of @_isaac.thompson

Wrestlers adapt with Covid restrictions, look ahead to competition

BY LEO WAGNER
REPORTER

Beginning the regular season by facing St. Clair High School in a dual meet on Wednesday, Dec. 9, the Saint Louis U. High wrestling team is focusing on adapting to recent rule changes due to Covid-19.

This year, the wrestling team will not only be challenged by their opponents from other schools but also several Covid-caused obstacles, such as mandatory masks while wrestling, bi-weekly Covid tests, and lack of transportation to competitions.

Perhaps the most significant alteration to the ’20-’21 season is that St. Louis county is requiring all wrestlers to wear masks during matches. If an athlete’s mask comes off during the match, the referee will pause the competition and allow the wrestler to put

their mask back on.

This particular rule change was met with confusion by many of the SLUH wrestlers, who have questioned how masks will help to mitigate the spread of the disease in such a close contact sport.

Regardless of effectiveness, the wrestlers have been wearing masks during recent practice matches to familiarize themselves with the feeling of wrestling with a mask on and the disruptions a dislodged mask could potentially cause.

The Covid tests also present another issue. With tests occurring every two weeks on Wednesdays, the team must have no-contact practices until they receive the results of the tests, typically on Friday nights.

This means that no competitions can be held on the two days following a test. Additionally, any practices that are held are limited to condition-

ing and weightlifting.

Regarding transportation, in past seasons the wrestlers have been able to rely on buses chartered by SLUH to provide rides to and from competitions. This was especially useful for the freshman and sophomores who did not yet have their licenses.

However, this year buses will not be allowed due to the inability to social distance inside of the bus. Instead, wrestlers will be driving themselves to and from matches.

Despite all of the rule changes and modifications to the season, there will no doubt be an endless supply of opportunities for the wrestlers to prove their perseverance and determination to compete. While it will be a season which the team is clearly unaccustomed to, excitement remains high and the team is looking forward to competing.

SLUH vs SLUH, V-1 comes out on top in racquetball matchup

BY JARED THORNBERRY
REPORTER

The two varsity racquetball teams faced off against each other last Tuesday, Dec. 1. Once every year, as a part of the league schedule, the two SLUH teams all compete against each other. Thus far in the history of SLUH racquetball, no Varsity-2 team has ever beat a Varsity-1 team.

“Playing another SLUH team is always a weird feeling because your opponent is a friend, but at the same time you still want to win as badly as ever,” said junior Ben Harmon. “You kind of have to leave friendships at the door.”

Fortunately for the V-1 team, they came out on top with a sweep on the day.

Senior Danny Juergens won the first match of the day against senior Sam Kleffner, 15-3, 15-4.

For the battle of the No. 2 seeds, senior Oliver Allen defeated senior Daniel Klarsch 15-4, 15-1.

Next, junior Max Telken played an insane match against senior Thaddeus Banker, defeating him in two games 15-2, 15-7.

Junior Jared Thornberry defeated senior Matthew Wilmes 15-6, 15-0 after having a slow start at the beginning of the first match.

Junior Danny Phillips, on the other hand, started playing well right away and defeated senior Brendan Carr in two quick games 15-4, 15-1.

Finally, senior Nick Petersen defeated senior Owen Cooney 15-9, 15-5.

The doubles match was postponed and will be played at a later date. Unfortunately for juniors Ben Harmon and Will Shorey, this means they have yet to play a regular season match this season, with both of their matches still to be made up.

“It’s been really tough because my partner and I have been practicing every week for a couple of months,” said Har-

mon. “Hours of hard work has been put in and it’s annoying to still be waiting for the payoff, but I know it’s coming soon.”

At the moment, the Varsity-1 and Varsity-2 match score stands at 6-0, still awaiting the doubles game. However, that is enough to declare a win for Varsity-1, who has started the season 2-0. The Jr. Bills face Parkway West on Thursday, hoping to continue this strong start.

Also, the annual Winter Rollout Tournament was supposed to take place this past weekend, but it was canceled because of Covid-19. Instead of the annual weekend tournament, there were bragging rights games, where all of the SLUH A teams played all of the Lindbergh A teams and all of the SLUH B teams played all of the Kirkwood B teams. In the bragging rights games, it was a very successful weekend leading to two bragging rights victories.

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comic | Nathan Rich

Fortman and Carr share Christmas Percussion Duet on YouTube

(continued from page 1)

including by people from as far away as the Bahamas.

“The video performance featuring Brendan and Carter was a way to offer a unique performance opportunity for these seniors, considering that much of our normal opportunities had been cancelled due to Covid protocols,” said assistant band director Michael Faris, who worked with Carr and Fortman on piece. “This video performance of seasonal music seemed like a tailor-made chance for these students to share their efforts as musicians with the larger SLUH community.”

In order to give the two a challenge, Faris assigned Carr and Fortman to work on this festival duet in hopes that they would continue to develop as musicians.

“This was part of a larger duo project that I had created in response to the lack of performance opportunities for my students—both at SLUH and elsewhere,” said Faris. “I had a collection of cleverly arranged Christmas duets that I have always wanted to share and this year’s situation presented itself as a way to so.”

“I did this for two reasons,” said Fortman. “Firstly, I wanted to develop as a musician. Brendan is a great player and I knew I could learn a lot from playing with him. Secondly, I knew my mom, as a Christmas fanatic, would love to have this video to get her in the Christmas spirit, especially with the pandemic robbing her from her last Christmas Band Concert.”

The recording, which was

published on YouTube on Nov. 24 over break, was a result of a lot of rehearsing for a month beforehand and could not have been possible without a lot of effort and self-discipline.

“After selecting the arrangement, I shared the concept with Brendan and Carter and gave them a month to review the music before taking a few moments at the beginning of our weekly class to rehearse,” said Faris. “However, the success of this effort was in the work ethic of the students.”

“Brendan is obviously a better percussionist than me, and it became pretty apparent when he could play both his part and mine by like the second week of practice while I was still struggling with the first few measures,” said Fortman. “Mr. Faris offered to cut it and that it would be no big

deal, but I couldn’t let that happen. I wanted to do this.”

For Faris, it was the preparation and not the performance itself that struck him the most, particularly the final moments of preparation leading up to the recording.

“The final moments of preparing a performance with students is always reaffirming to me—as an educator and musician—as to the power of music,” said Faris. “Even with music as relatively straightforward as the duet that Brendan and Carter prepared, their attention to working out the details and the final musical expression was very gratifying to see and hear. Most importantly, their growth through this process will stay with them as they continue to move through life as musicians, students, and people.”

Calendar

Wednesday, December 9 Ignatius 5-7

Adopt-A-Family Drive
Advent Confessions
1:50-2:50PM Sophomore Class Mass
2:45-5:15PM Freshman Service
5:00-8:00PM @ St. Clair HS Wrestling/All Levels
5:30-7:00PM C-Team Blue Basketball vs Westminster Christian

Thursday, December 10 Ignatius 1-4

Advent Confessions
Mother’s Club Cookie Sales
2:45-5:15PM Freshman Service
2:45-3:15PM Magis Parents Prayer Group
3:30-5:30PM JV1-1 Racquetball vs Chaminade
3:30-5:30PM Varsity II Racquetball vs De Smet
3:30-5:30PM JV2-2 Racquetball vs Vianney

Friday, December 11 Xavier 5-7

Advent Confessions
Mother’s Club Cookie Sales
1:50-2:30PM Sophomore Class Mass
2:45-3:15PM Magis Parents Prayer Group
3:30-5:30PM JV1-2 Racquetball vs Kirkwood (A)
3:30-5:30PM JV2-1 Racquetball vs Parkway West
3:30-5:30PM Varsity I Racquetball vs Parkway West
6:30-8:00PM Varsity Basketball vs MICDS

Saturday, December 12

1:00-4:00PM JV3 Racquetball Singles
1:30-3:00PM B-Team Basketball vs Miller Career Academy
3:30-5:30PM Varsity Basketball/Miller Career Academy

Tuesday, December 15 Ignatius 5-7

2:45-5:15PM Freshman Service
5:00-10:00PM Jazz Concert

calendar | Jack Rybak

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