



SLUH staple Tom Becvar retires after 48 years of service

BY NATHAN RICH
CORE STAFF

Forty-eight years ago, when Assistant Principal for Academics Tom Becvar first stepped foot on Oakland Avenue, Richard Nixon was being investigated for his involvement in the Watergate scandal, the last American troops were leaving Vietnam, and the term ‘internet’ had not even been conceived. After a career that long, Becvar has served nearly 10,000 students and held a multitude of important titles at SLUH. Decades after the start of his career, though, Becvar announced this year that he will be retiring, leaving behind a SLUH community that is much better off because of his work.

Becvar has served as the Assistant Principal for Academics for the past 16 years, and before that he served as the Math Department chair for 23 years. His arrival at SLUH in 1973, though, was not marked by much pomp or circumstance. Becvar himself describes it as a fairly straight-



Becvar helping students. photo | SLUH Yearbook

forward affair.

“I had heard there was an opening here when I was teaching in the St. Louis Public Schools and I thought ‘this is something I really want to do,’” said Becvar. “I came over, applied, and the rest is history.”

What followed, though, was indeed history, as reported by the teachers and students who have known

him. Myriad of teachers have come and gone in his tenure, including the vast array of Jesuits that used to occupy the majority of teaching positions at the school.

“When I started here, half the faculty were Jesuits and they pretty much handled all the mission type things. As the number of Jesuits diminished, the lay people took

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Kevin Foy tapped to become new Asst. Principal for Academics



Foy teaching. photo | courtesy of SLUH Facebook

BY CARTER J. FORTMAN AND LUKE DUFFY
EDITOR IN CHIEF,
CORE STAFF

After a 21-year teaching career, Social Studies Department chair Kevin Foy will make the full-time transition to administration, succeeding Tom Becvar as Assistant Principal for Academics this summer.

It was officially announced at Cashbah that Becvar would be retiring after 48 years at SLUH. Gibbons made the decision that the replacement would be someone within the school. The job posting was sent out right after Spring Break.

“I wasn’t really looking around for other jobs and other places because I love it here,” said Foy. “But when

a cool opportunity at a place that I love and want to stay at became available, I thought, ‘well, let’s give it a shot. Let’s see if other folks think that I have skills and talents that could be useful.’”

Foy’s educational background includes a high school diploma from St. Ignatius High School in Cleveland (a fellow Jesuit high school), a BA in Theology from Saint Louis University, an MBA from Webster University, and a EdD from Saint Louis University.

Foy came to SLUH from De Smet, where he spent 14 years teaching theology, economics, and business. At SLUH his teaching has mainly focused on AP Economics and summer classes that include Business and Entrepreneurship, Personal Finance, and Computer Fundamentals. Additionally, he has served as Social Studies chair, directed Kairos retreats, and served as chair of the Strategic Summit executive team.

He has also served as a

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Seizure of faculty lot and tailgate cap off seniors final year

BY CARTER SPENCE
WEB EDITOR

Last Thursday, May 6 marked the Class of 2021’s final day of classes at St. Louis U. High. To cap off their last four years at SLUH, the seniors parked in the faculty parking lot, moved around some of SLUH’s furniture, and hosted a tailgate in

the turnaround beginning at 5:30 a.m., which featured burgers, donuts, and drinks, a slip ‘n slide, games of wiffleball and Spikeball, fireworks, and music.

Plans for the senior prank and tailgate had been in the works for several weeks. All plans had to be approved by

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Seniors enjoying grilled burgers. photo | Carter J. Fortman

Art show featuring student artwork opens up in the J-Wing

BY CARTER J. FORTMAN, JACOB SPROCK, AND JACKSON COOPER
EDITOR IN CHIEF,
NEWS EDITOR, STAFF

The annual St. Louis U. High student art exhibit officially opened yesterday on the second floor art gallery of the Jesuit Wing, allowing students to showcase their art from the school year.

In typical years, the Fine Arts Department features art from every student in an art show, which is open for students and faculty to enjoy as the year winds down. This year, as a consequence of the pandemic, art was hard to keep track of, giving art teacher Sarah Rebholz a smaller amount of art than normal.

“There’s likely not a piece from every student in the show this year,” said Rebholz. “What I did try to do though, by default, we had a lot of artwork that was left behind from last year. So I did try to incorporate some of that into the show as well. Pieces that in particular I knew students were really proud of and, you know, things that I just thought would kind of go nicely with the work that we retained from this school year.”

Rebholz quickly got to work, sorting through students’ art cubbies and taking note of any art that she thought would be a good fit for the show. Having a relatively small selection of art that could be featured, Rebholz decided to pull from the art left over from last school

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After 30 years at SLUH, math teacher Tom Flanagan announces retirement

BY NOAH APPRILL-SOKOL
NEWS EDITOR

Called by many names throughout the school—Flan-man, Captain Flanagan, Billiken man—math teacher and former cross country coach Tom Flanagan will be putting away the calculator and protractor for the foreseeable future as he retires from full-time teaching after 43 years of teaching and 30 years at St. Louis U. High.

Flanagan began teaching at St. Raphael’s school in South City until he moved to DuBourg a year later, where he would teach for a full 13 years before arriving at SLUH. It was at DuBourg that he fell in love with cross country after former SLUH Spanish

teacher Charley Merriott, who was DuBourg’s head coach at the time, invited him to help coach.

Flanagan would come to SLUH with Merriott in 1991 and be assistant coach from 1991 to when he dropped coaching to focus on teaching in 2020. The SLUH cross country program would go on to qualify for the State meet 27 times and be on the podium 13 times with the assistance of Flanagan. While never the head coach of SLUH’s program, he was quite influential on the team and earned the respect of athletes and his fellow coaches alike.

“Having been a head coach and then coming here to assist, I had a lot to give. Mr.

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prepnews@sluh.org

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Cars and Coffee proves successful, expected to become regular event moving forward

BY JACKSON COOPER
STAFF

Members of the SLUH Car Club gathered on campus on Saturday, May 1 for the club's first Cars and Coffee event, giving students a chance to expand their knowledge and interests of cars.

Car Club is one of the newest extracurriculars at St. Louis U. High, having come into existence just three years ago. Though there had previously been a Car Club at SLUH, it fizzled out when its then-moderator, current Director of Theater Operations Tim Moore, left for another work opportunity. It was only during the 2018-2019 school year when economics teacher and soon-to-be Assistant Principal for Academics Kevin Foy took notice that there was not a forum for students with interests in cars. Foy, with the help of Moore, who had recently returned to SLUH, re-established the Car Club, and set about making it a fixture of the school for years to come.

In the early days of the second iteration of the Car Club, a duo of student leaders emerged in the form of current seniors Eli Butters and Jack Rosenstengel. The two became heavily involved in the operations of the club, which saw healthy growth throughout the 2018-19 and 2019-20 school years. Members participated in events

such as attending races, going to car shows, and having regular meetings up until the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic in March 2020, which complicated the club's ability to organize events as it had in the past.

As the pandemic dragged on into the current school year, it further compounded the Car Club's ability to hold events. In addition to weekly meetings, Foy, Butters, and Rosenstengel came up with the idea to hold a Cars and Coffee event, which was modeled off of an event that the club had previously hosted.

As Cars and Coffee approached, 31 cars were registered to be showcased including cars from families of students in Car Club, families of students not in Car Club, SLUH alumni, and even a fair number of people who were unaffiliated with SLUH in any way.

Foy attributed this surprisingly high number of unaffiliated attendees to the advertising in Gibbons's emails, which helped to spread news of the event by word of mouth.

"We had a couple guys who were great, they were like professional Cars and Coffee guys," said Foy. "They found out about it as a friend of a friend type of thing, and they just showed up, registered, did everything they were supposed to do, but they didn't necessarily have any particular connection to SLUH."

Before attending the event, guests were required to fill out an online form in order for the planners to accurately gauge the number of people to expect. On the form, guests could also denote whether they planned on bringing a car to be displayed in the show. By the beginning of Cars and Coffee at 9:30 on May 1, 31s cars filled the faculty lot, close to the maximum number that was to be allowed for social distancing purposes.

As people came and went throughout the hour and a half event, they were able to vote on a favorite car. The plan was initially to assign a different QR code to each car, which was to be set up to a system designed by freshman Thad Berta where voting could take place online. However, due to an error in the printing of the QR codes, voting instead took place manually on half sheets of paper with guests simply writing which car they enjoyed the most.

In the end, the winning car was a 1966 Pontiac GTO belonging to Paul Pugh, the father of sophomore Troy Pugh. With the show containing a multitude of vintage and luxury cars who easily could have won, Foy surmised that Pugh's car was set apart from the others because of the story behind it.

"There was just a really cool story behind it," said Foy, "It was his first car ever,

he still races it, he's changed, fixed and broken just about every part of the car, the whole story is super cool. He was also crazy knowledgeable about cars in general, so I think everyone liked the fact that not only was the car super cool, but the guy was super cool, and the story was super cool."

Though it was only initially planned because other events were unable to take place, the first SLUH Cars and Coffee proved to be a success. Though no official count was taken, Foy estimates that somewhere between 150 and 200 people passed by throughout the morning, far surpassing any expectations that the club could have had leading up to the event. As a result of this success, Foy expressed a hope of making Cars and Coffee a regular event with a tentative date set at some time next fall.

"I think the plan is to do a Cars and Coffee in the fall and the spring each year moving forward," said Foy. "We actually got close to the edge of the number of cars that we could host (in the faculty lot), so if we get enough cars, we might have to look at moving it to the Science Center lot."

As for the remainder of this current school year, the Car Club still has one event left on the calendar, with a viewing of the 2019 film *Ford v Ferrari* slated to take place during eighth period on Thursday, May 20.

One World Club tackles food insecurity in St. Louis

BY LUKE DUFFY AND
DECLAN RICHARDS
CORE STAFF, REPORTER

The One World Club and the Farm to Table Team hosted a presentation in the Commons on Wednesday, May 5 to highlight food justice in our community. The presentation featured homemade and local snacks from the Farm to Table Team, discussions of how the human right to food is violated in the St. Louis community, and a speech from local urban farmer William Erker.

The presentation, which took place on Wednesday, April 28 after school, was inspired by Article 25 of the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*. The article states that "everyone has the right to a standard living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing."

"The purpose of the meeting was to raise awareness about the human rights that we're focusing on in One World, and part of those human rights is the right to access to food," said sophomore Freddy Laux, who is a leading member in the One World Club.

The event began with brief introductions from seniors Albert Harrold and Ismael Karim, who lead the two clubs. Next, the Farm to Table Team served a plethora of locally-sourced snacks: Fitz's root beer, soft pretzels, and homemade jam. After showing a few brief videos about urban farming endeavors in St. Louis, the clubs welcomed William Erker, who runs Baileys' Micro Farm downtown.

Erker started the farm in conjunction with Baileys' Restaurants, a franchise owned by his cousin Dave Bailey. While his farm only covers a half-acre plot of land, he has a large vision for how urban farming could transform cities like St. Louis.

In his speech, Erker encouraged students to both advocate for more planting on SLUH's campus and beyond and to pursue gardening on their own. A farmer, as he described it, is really anyone who plants things in the ground. Bringing more of the farming to the city, especially

fruits and vegetables, Erker says will help address food insecurity.

"By bringing in William Erker, we are trying to show how our issues here in St. Louis of food insecurity and food shortage have a lot of simple solutions," said Laux. "(He) talked about planting urban gardens in so much of the open green space that we have in St. Louis."

Overall, Erker wanted to empower his audience to pursue similar opportunities to expand urban ecology like he did with Baileys' Micro Farm. He knows he can't change the world and tackle food insecurity all on his own; he needs to show others the simple methods to plant, grow, and harvest food for the community.

The clubs who hosted the meeting hoped that, by showing students someone who was passionate about urban agriculture, they could illustrate how food insecurity affects students directly and how the students can advocate for these solutions.

"It's each of our responsibility to look at unused green space in our city and see how that can be used to further the human rights of having access to food," said Laux.

This meeting was a springboard to new solutions, said Magdalena Alvarado, the moderator of the Farm to Table Team and One World Club.

The goal of the Farm to Table Team "is to tackle issues of food justice in the state of Missouri," said Alvarado.

"(This meeting) was a perfect blend of the two clubs goals," said Alvarado.

Alvarado was also happy with the attendance, because they had around 30 people there, which is a lot for an after-school event.

"(William Erker) is growing food in a place that is typically a food desert. It's also just himself, so there are no human rights violations, like there are with big companies," said Karim.

"This is going wrap up our focus on this specific article that has to do with food insecurity, and I hope through this speech people gained a new found understanding of what food deserts are and how in a country like ours it can be hard for some people



photo | Courtesy of @sluhcarclub

Seal of Biliteracy to recognize students for language proficiency

BY ROARKE UNRAU
CORE STAFF

Having just finished this year's awards assembly, awards are fresh on the mind of juniors and seniors. For the 2020-2021 academic year, SLUH will introduce a new award: the Seal of Biliteracy.

The Seal of Biliteracy is a level of achievement that is nationally-recognized. Implemented state by state, it is part of a larger Seal of Biliteracy

national program that each state can use differently.

"It's not like it immediately gives you some privileges or honors, but it's like the National Merit scholarship or any of those accolades that are nationally recognized," said Director of Global Education Robert Chura. "It's just another way to distinguish yourself and document all the good stuff that kids do at SLUH."

Becoming active next year, the Foreign Language

Department wanted a way to recognize the achievements of SLUH students who are proficient in more than one language and the associated culture.

"I think any way we can better document the great things that are happening at SLUH is useful for us to focus on. And in a lot of ways there are so many organic, great things happening, and the more we can formalize them, put them down on paper, and

have them correspond to national standards, the better," said Chura.

In order to receive the Seal, students must take a test called the AAPPL, or apple as it is called by most (students can also take an AP test for the language they are studying). The AAPPL test measures a student's level of proficiency in another language and the culture where that language is spoken. Available for all languages at SLUH, the test

for each language is different.

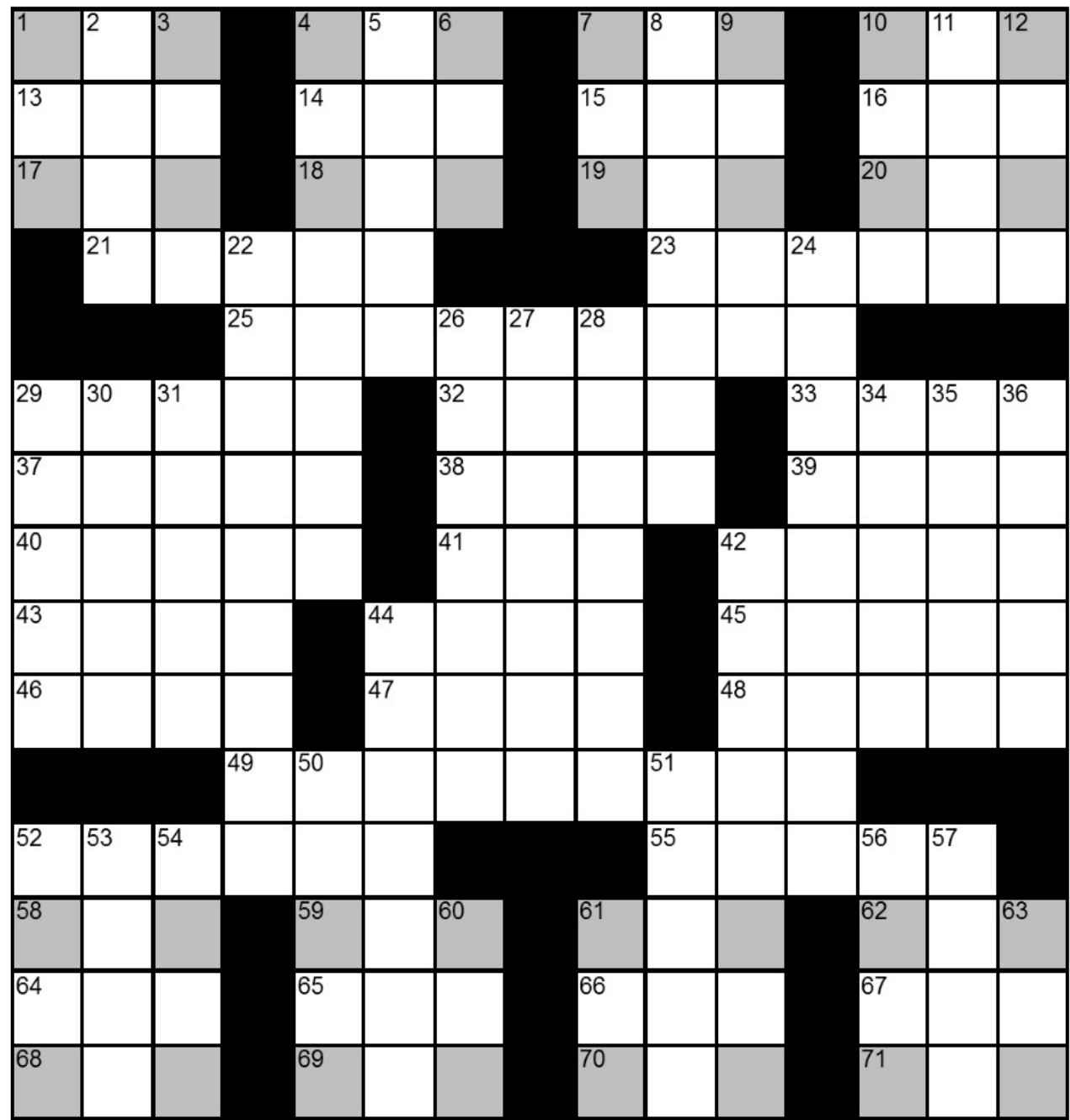
"The AAPPL test is sponsored by ACTFUL, the American Council of Teachers of Foreign Languages. It's a really thorough, multi-skill test that measures your level of proficiency," said Chura.

Chura expects that many students will take the test for their language of choice and pass to receive the recognition that comes with the Seal of Biliteracy.

"It should be an exciting

addition to the recognition that our students already get, and that was the big force behind it. We have kids graduating every year and we're doing amazing things in our language curriculum, so to find ways to recognize that in a formal way is a win-win for everybody," said Chura. "We should have it in place next year where we can start awarding it to kids at graduation."

PN “Rank and File” Puzzle



crossword | Paul Baudendistel

ACROSS

1. Friend of Harry and Hermione
4. Backyard cuisine
7. Former employer of Putin
10. Home to two of the most-listened-to programs
13. Ending for lull or wall
14. Red Sox Hall of Famer Carl
15. Camping gear retailer
16. Chicken _____ King
17. Head-to-head gaming, as on 19-Across

DOWN

18. Angel dust
19. Handheld Sony gaming device
20. Young dog
21. State with the most land owned by the US Forest Service (38%)
23. Laid _____, meaning buried
25. Line on a globe
29. Native Alaskan
32. The world's sixth-largest PC vendor, based in Taiwan
33. Twist of _____

37. Italian grandpa (abbr.)
38. Norse name derived from Jesus's most prominent female disciple
39. "You can count on me."
40. Game represented by the gray squares
41. Developer of Deep Blue, a famous computer that played the game
42. *Odyssey* prequel
43. Rabbit cousin
44. "Not guilty," e.g.
45. 80's stuff, now
46. _____ about, meaning approximately
47. Sense that rhymes with the organ used for it
48. "My concern is ..."
49. Floor connector
52. Singer Crow
55. The ones here
58. One of 21 on a standard die
59. Test for cervical cancer
61. Break a balloon
62. Verve
64. Small version of a small Hawaiian guitar
65. Finale
66. Shiba _____, breed in the Doge meme
67. "You _____ here."
68. Solo's son
69. Diagonal capture in 40-Across (abbr.)
70. Five-time Grammy winner Mo'
71. Conjunction that appears three times in the unofficial USPS motto
7. The piece located at the end of 20-Across (abbr.)
8. Signal, as in charades
9. Two-legged stand for a rifle
10. Back of the neck
11. +
12. Utterly fascinated
22. All-time leader in laps led at the Indy 500
24. Payment with a revised tax submission
26. Last name of a physicist known by his first name
27. Polar mammal featured in *The Golden Compass*
28. Five pounds, in Middle Age units
29. Poblano pepper, when dried
30. Actress Lindsay
31. El primero de _____, start of an año
34. Just _____, meaning not much
35. Accessory not actually worn by most Disney princesses in their debut films
36. Where Luke Skywalker rode a speeder bike
42. Seamus McDaniel's or Helen Fitzgerald's
44. Military formation consisting of ranks and files
50. Easy-going personality
51. Make up for sins
52. Jangly boot attachment
53. Start a football play
54. Brand of vaping device
56. This dimension of the Arch is the same as its height, 630 feet
57. Architect Saarinen who designed the Arch
60. XYZ _____, meaning "your fly is open"
61. Water _____, brand of oral irrigator
63. Apiece

DOWN

1. Hip hop
2. Plain to see, in text-speak
3. Employer of Lennie Briscoe and Bobby Goren
4. How Timehop reminds us
5. Eggs' partner
6. Top with a closure that goes 1/4th of the way down

SATIRE:

Clingy seniors won't take hint, coming back to school for 'tests'

BY JACOB SPROCK
NEWS EDITOR

Following their long and painful breakup, which finally came to a close last Thursday, May 7, the clingy seniors have kept coming back to see SLUH, claiming that they still have 'tests' to take in the vicinity.

SLU High has spent a long time trying to end things with the class of 2021, especially following such stunts as running through her halls covered

in blue paint, holding rowdy dances late at night when she's trying to sleep, and refusing to give her personal space, coming to see her almost every day, but Thursday was the last straw.

"You know, I would say it's not them, it's me, but they woke me up at 5:30 a.m. just to move around my couches and go down a Slip N' Slide. It's them," said SLU High. "I've been dropping hints all year, even going so far as to close my doors to them for a good

part of the first semester, but they honestly can't take a hint."

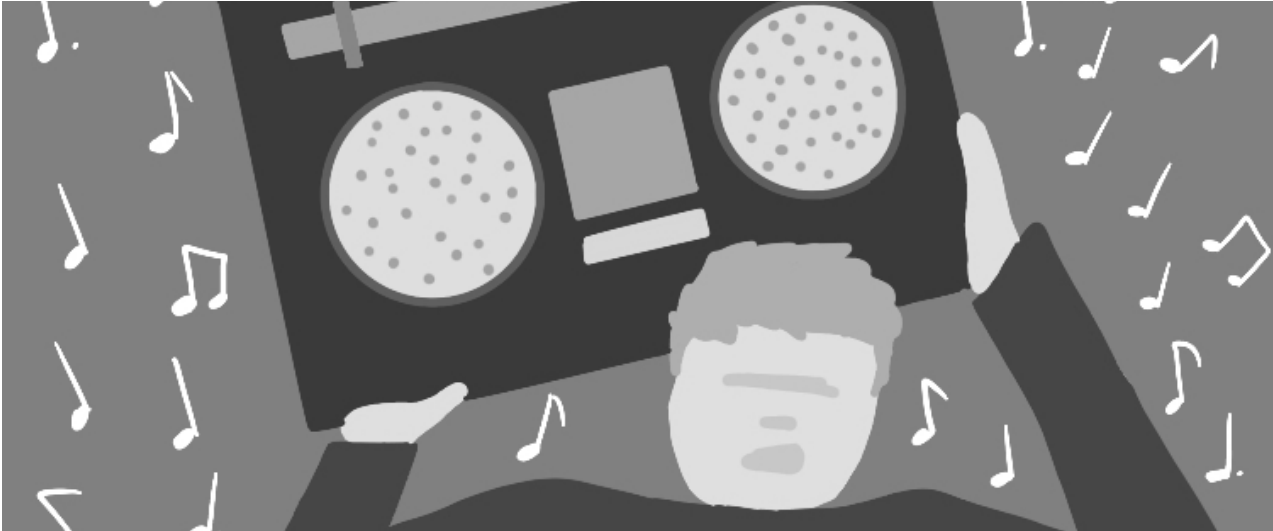
The seniors, who have been seen coming to see SLU High each day this week despite the breakup, seem to be pretending as if it never happened.

"What do you mean SLU High is breaking up with me? We're just taking some tests before we graduate and then will move on to college," said one of these seniors, obviously in complete denial of what was happening and trying hard to

hold back the tears.

"Honestly, what we need to see is the seniors give SLU High some space. There are a lot of really deep feelings here, and I think they both need some time apart to sort things out," said English teacher and long-time friend of SLU High Stephen Missey.

At press time, many of the seniors reported that they would be staying in the state, some even deciding to visit SLU High's older brother SLU to stay close.



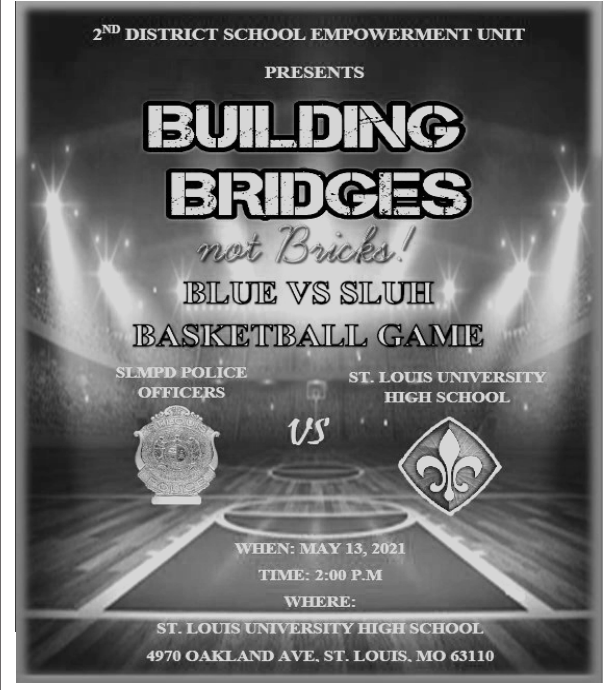
art | Nathan Rich

SLUH tweet of the week: Police vs SLUH basketball game

@SLMPD

on 5/13/21 at 2p the 2nd dist school empowerment unit will host a Blue vs #SLUH "Building Bridges NOT Bricks" basketball game againbst @SLUHBasketball. it will take place @sluhjrbills (4970 Oakland)

If you can't make it, we will share a live stream link as the event gets closer.



Class fun day provides juniors with relaxing day filled with brotherhood



Students flying down the slip n' slide. photo | Mrs. Kathy Chott

BY JACK FIGGE AND
JOHN POSEY
CORE STAFF, REPORTER

A slip n' slide, Chick-Fil-A, ice cream and some healthy competition sounds like every teenage boy's dream day, and that day was made a reality for the junior class when they participated in their class fun day last Friday.

The day began with juniors hiking up the turnaround where they were enthusiastically greeted by their classmates hyping them up for their class's fun day. The event was put on by junior class moderator Tracy Lyons, members of the class of 2022, and other faculty members.

"Not only were all the students amped up, but the teachers also put in a good amount of work and effort," said planning committee member and junior class president AJ Thompson. "It was great to see us—the students—work right alongside with the faculty, something that I think was lacking this year."

Originally, the day was intended to be hosted in conjunction with the Junior

Ring ceremony. However, the administration shifted plans and decided to host the Junior Ring on May 27 so they could host it on the football field, allowing for more attendees. Though the students were initially disappointed, this change proved to be a huge advantage for the planning committee.

"If the Mass was on Friday, we probably wouldn't have been able to have done most of that stuff. We maybe would have fed you lunch or something, but otherwise it mostly would have just been your Mass. And so because of that change we got to do it the whole day," said Lyons.

The goal for the day was simple: create a fun and relaxing atmosphere where the junior class could bond and grow in their brotherhood.

As the day approached, the team wanted to create a vibrant atmosphere to create excitement and hype for the day.

"With Covid, the normal atmosphere around SLUH had been lacking so we just wanted to create a hype atmosphere to rebuild that SLUH feeling that I think has been missing," said

committee member Alex Mitendorf.

The planning group decided on an Olympic-themed day, consisting of various competitions, an opening ceremony, and a medal ceremony.

"We were inspired by the Olympics happening this summer and thought that it would be a fun theme," said Lyons. "And then we ran with that and we were looking for ways to be outside because that's Covid friendly and because we were hoping and it ended up being that we had beautiful weather."

To kick off the day, the group created a video showcasing different members carrying the 'Olympic torch' by various landmarks in Forest Park, then, to robust cheers, Thompson ran into the Commons carrying the Olympic torch and led the class outside to a lighting ceremony.

"The opening ceremony felt cinematic with the big booming voice, and it very much hyped everybody up," said junior Luke Pierson. "It just got everybody excited and energetic for the day."

After the opening ceremony,

the juniors gathered in the football stadium stands where they locked arms and joined each other in singing "O When the Bills."

"While we were all singing, I was getting goosebumps especially because I've never been at the front of the crowd leading everybody, and so for me, that was really fun," said junior and committee member Matt Kluba. "Then to see everybody else swaying back and forth, it was kind of like 'whoa, we're seniors now, it was kind of like a harsh reality check but a good one.'"

The class split into separate teams based on their freshman homerooms. Each team then competed in a series of competitions ranging from tug of war to an aggressive and muddy game of steal the bacon. During each event, the group could win points for their team, trying to help their team achieve the ultimate prize of a gold medal.

"The competition was fun. Nobody was taking it too seriously, and so it was just a fun atmosphere to be around, just good-natured," said junior Peter Merriman.

After the morning competition, the class gathered together again to compete in a trivia competition. The trivia consisted of questions from identifying a song to naming a teacher based off of a baby picture. After trivia, the juniors swarmed into the Commons to indulge in Chick-Fil-A.

After lunch, the class was split into two groups for the afternoon. Group one headed back to the football field to play leisure games of football, wiffle ball, and kickball. Meanwhile the second group was enjoying ice cream and dousing their classmates with soap and water as they plummeted down a slip n' slide.

"The slip n' slide was just a good moment to forget all the stresses of the year," said junior Matt Windler. "We were just living in the moment and enjoying the presence of our brothers."

To conclude the day, the junior class was entertained by the top five ranking teams (from the morning competition) competing in a karaoke competition. Ranging from

"Mr. Brightside" to "Breaking Free," the junior teams performed off-key and hilarious renditions of their favorite songs to the enjoyment of their classmates.

"Seeing different people get into the Karaoke more than I thought they would and seeing how much people enjoy the Karaoke was really cool and fun to see," said junior Robert Naumann.

After a day filled with competition, laughter, and building brotherhood, the junior class headed home. Overall, the day was a major success, providing the class with a break from the daily routine of preparing for AP tests, stressing about Trigonometry homework, and worrying about English essays.

"I always kept on asking if my classmates were having fun," said Kluba. "Especially when you're on the committee, you're kind of paranoid about, 'oh, is this gonna be really fun or is this going to be really bad?'" and so I was really glad to see my classmates having a really good time. The day was just a major success."



Juniors competing in Tug of War. photo | Mrs. Kathy Chott

Seniors go all out celebrating the end of their high school career



Students running down the slip n' slide. photo | @sluhpresident

(continued from page 1)

Brock Kesterson, the Assistant Principal of Student Life, and Dan Schulte, the Director of Security.

"Our class VP Jonny Grimes initially brought up the idea and we just ran with it," said senior class president Grant Sussman. "We went with the tailgate idea because we knew it would be fairly easy to plan while we knew people would really enjoy it. Who wouldn't want a cheeseburger and a root beer at seven in the morning?"

"StuCo began preliminary planning for the final day events a few weeks beforehand, during the middle of April," said Public Relations and Communications Representative Jack Rosenstengel. "We ended up deciding on the tailgate idea because tail-

gates have been very successful this year and have satisfied the interests of both SLUH and the student body."

Seniors began arriving in the faculty parking lot as early as 5:00 a.m. By 6:00 a.m., the lot had completely filled up.

"I showed up at 5:20 and was greeted by countless classmates who had already proceeded to take over half of the faculty lot," said Rosenstengel. "We were all already at school well over an hour before we would normally wake up. I was pleasantly surprised to see many of my classmates who live really far from SLUH. We originally figured that we would need to have someone denying faculty members entrance to the Oakland lot, but the lot ended up being filled well before any teach-

ers actually showed up."

As soon as the seniors stepped foot in the building, much of the furniture was on the move. All the couches and tables from Campus Ministry were transported to the surrounding hallways, and chairs from the chapel flooded the senior and freshman hallways. The chairs from the chapel, however, had to be returned for the morning Mass before most students and teachers arrived at SLUH.

After moving the furniture, the seniors headed to the turnaround for the tailgate. The Tailgate Club grilled burgers, supplied sodas and waters, and provided Krispy Kreme donuts all free of charge for the seniors, thanks to some of the Tailgate Club's excess funds from this

school year.

"The senior turnaround was a big deal for us and our final send off in a way," Tailgate Club President Nick Campbell said. "We wanted to make all the food free because we really wanted everyone to just come and have fun and not worry about stuff like money or anything. It was an amazing experience to help put on an event like that with StuCo and to do something for our class that has really missed out on a lot this year."

At the same time, games of Spikeball and wiffleball took place on the upper field by the Danis Field House. But the highlight of the day for most seniors came around 7:00 a.m., when the slip 'n slide on the upper lawn started. One by one, seniors dove head first onto the soapy, wet tarp, accompanied by the cheers of their fellow classmates.

"We wanted something that would set the tailgate apart from other tailgates we'd had earlier in the year. That X Factor was the Slip 'N Slide," Sussman said. "Everyone loved it. It got everyone super rowdy, which we loved."

"Out of all the activities at the tailgate, the Slip 'N Slide was by far the best," said senior Sam Tarter. "Not only was it fun to go down myself, but having the

senior class crowding around and forming a tunnel for everyone to run through made it much more worthwhile. It was the most communal, most fun activity we've had this year."

Seniors were forced inside the building right before classes began at 8:30 a.m.. Keslerson and Schulte shut down the loud fireworks and music at the turnaround, largely due to the AP exams taking place in the Field House, which started at 8:00 a.m.

Many of the seniors agreed that their last day was a fitting and memorable end to their four years at SLUH.

"We were finally able to enjoy being a complete class again. This year has divided us into cohorts, AP vs non-AP classes, and groups of four at lunch, just to name a few," Rosenstengel said. "However, this last day was one of the best moments of

unity our class has experienced in the past year, and this alone made it such a fitting way to end our SLUH careers."

"During our final day, everyone was just able to let loose. Everyone was comfortable being themselves, and I think that's how our class has been for four years," Sussman said. "We love each other for who we are. I think it's safe to say everyone had a blast, which is exactly what we all wanted. Having one last day of camaraderie was huge to send us all off on the best note possible."

While seniors are officially done with classes, they still have a few more SLUH-related events to look forward to, notably the Baccalaureate Mass on May 29 and graduation on May 30, immediately followed by the lock-in, marking the end of their senior year and of their four-year tenure at St. Louis U. High.



Seniors celebrating. photo | Carter J. Fortman

LETTER TO THE EDITORS

Do something to make students feel not alone: my journey with pornography at SLUH

To the Editors:

I recently came across Jack Figge’s opinion piece published on Dec 1, 2020: “Pornography is a teenage male epidemic; let’s do something about it.” I would like to commend Jack for writing a much-needed piece. In my three years with the *Prep News*, I had always hoped to write a piece like Jack’s. I sometimes tell myself I was too busy or the issue wasn’t that important to me. In reality I was ashamed because I was a habitual pornography user. I would like to supplement Jack’s piece with my own journey with pornography and give encouragement and advice to current St. Louis U. High students, faculty, administrators, and parents. It is my assumption, and I believe a valid assumption, that many, if not most, SLUH community members have an experience similar to mine.

I like to think I was a stand-up member of the SLUH community. In my four years of high school, I was very active in the faith life of the school. I was a frequent 7:15 am Mass goer, retreat participant and leader, and four year participant in pastoral team who in my spare time like to attend youth group. I sang and lectored at Mass and often engaged in spiritual conversations with my classmates. People knew I made an effort in my faith. People also knew I was involved. I was elected to student council two years in a row and had my foot in the door with a number of co-curriculars—the Chess Team, Community Service Program, NHS, Christmas Club, Students for Life, and several others. And, of course, I was deeply involved with the *Prep News* in leadership roles where I was lucky enough to encounter hundreds of students and

faculty in unique and beautiful ways. I received a few awards and got pretty good grades along the way, too. I did it all—or a lot of it, at least. The one thing I did not do at SLUH, however, was overcome an addiction to pornography.

The first time I saw pornography was in third grade at a friend’s house. His older brother showed a pornography video to us. I was nine years old. In seventh grade I got an iPod and quickly became enthralled with pornography. Private, unlimited power was at my fingertips. Within weeks of getting the device I was a daily pornography user, and in months I watched twice a day. No one knew. There was a sense of shame in what I did, but I was too young to understand what that shame meant. I liked watching—as I should have. If we deny that pornography is pleasurable, we’re lying. The first step to overcoming any habit or addiction is clearly seeing what it is. Pornography is pleasurable, but pleasure is not always indicative of good.

Eighth grade came, and I learned why pornography was wrong—something about not respecting other people and myself, I learned in religion class. I now knew, but the habit was there, and I did not have the resources or community to overcome it. It felt like I was the only kid I knew addicted to porn. I knew other guys watched, but they didn’t seem to feel guilty. I felt guilty, though. Other influences—the internet, friends, and my own attempt at justification—told me porn was natural. I had a desire and it needed to be satisfied; shame was weakness. In our society, shame is often condemned. We encourage each other to not be ashamed of what we do. But we forget shame can be good. Shame itself is not bad, and

feeling ashamed is not necessarily bad either. Shame can offer us the opportunity to hone our moral lives and reorient our moral compass.

High school, I hoped, would be a fresh start. I still struggled with pornography, but SLUH lacked a community of sustainable support I needed. I remember hearing about friends watching porn in the Commons, the bathroom, or even in class. I remember my sophomore year Student Council retreat, hearing the upperclassmen STUCO reps casually and excitedly talking about their favorite pornography actors, videos, and websites. I didn’t feel supported enough to speak out; I felt alone. I don’t recall talking explicitly about pornography in any class until my sophomore year. Yet even while learning about Theology of the Body in class, covering pornography appeared to be nothing more than a box checked. A year later in my English class we read two poems and reflected on the impacts of Playboy Magazine—the first time I remember being challenged at SLUH to truly reflect and internalize the reality of lust and the effects of pornography. This was the best effort made until my senior year Campus Ministry experience with the Forty for Freedom.

If we keep pornography at an arm’s distance, ‘studying’ it, we’ll never get better. We’ll never grow into men for and with others. We cannot hide behind facts and figures that allow us to condemn and never encounter. We need to encounter ourselves honestly in the midst of addiction, and we need to encounter others honestly in the same struggle.

By the grace of God, pornography has not been a part of my life for a year and a half, but I’m not yet out of the woods. I still see the impacts of pornography

in my life every day—in my relationships; my desires; my thoughts, words, and actions. Years of dependence on porn has skewed my understanding of what healthy relationships looks like, and I’m continuing to learn what they are and how I can foster them. It takes time. Years of porn use left me easily distracted and tempted by other vices. It taught me that my desires—whatever they be—should be satisfied. It taught me to hide my shame, close in on myself, and seal the walls of my heart. Porn taught me that people are to be used and that they exist for my

“Have courage. Have courage to be honest with yourself. Have courage to admit to yourself, to friends, teachers, or your parents if you need help. Have courage to reach out.”

own pleasure, and how to live a double life. Each day I try to make a commitment to chastity and respect, and I know I will need to do so for the rest of my life. I need to surround myself with a community who lifts me up and challenges me to live a porn-free life. I needed a community in high school to lift me up. Eventually I found such a community, but it was not at SLUH. I hope now a community like the one I so dearly needed can be cultivated. I have confidence in SLUH and those who call it home.

There are several ways I believe we can work to create this kind of community. The theology classroom is a perfect place to start. My senior year theology class started the discussion but never finished it. Have students do a project or write a collaborative paper. Give them a space in which they can be honest and bold. Start prevention and best practices freshman year. Teach about the effects

of pornography in health class. Voices of SLUH could be a stage in which this discussion can begin. Bring in speakers—the Archdiocese has a number of wonderful, local speakers. Treat pornography like the drug it is. Offer help in the counseling offices. Create an accountability club. Do something to make students not feel alone.

To all SLUH students: Have courage. Have courage to be honest with yourself. Have courage to admit to yourself, to friends, teachers, or your parents if you need help. Have courage to reach out. Form an account-

ability group. Have daily check-ins. Set restrictions. Don’t bring your phone into the bathroom. Do what you need to do, but don’t do it alone. I know how you feel and I know you can do it. If pornography is not a part of your life you’re not missing out. Be aware of the realities it offers, and stay away. Whether your struggle with porn or not, pray for each other. Know of my prayers as well.

To older siblings: Be a role model. Don’t try to justify yourself by getting your younger siblings on board. Set an example and be clear about the example you are setting. Pray for your younger siblings.

To SLUH faculty and staff: Create spaces. Create a space in which students can reflect on their lives and habits honestly. Create a space in which students can authentically encounter each other. Create a space in which honest discussion can be had. If

you have experiences with overcoming or struggling with pornography, tell your students. Tell them you are a resource, a companion, or an accountability partner. Don’t keep the discussion of pornography impersonal; bring it into the classroom in a real way. Pray for your students.

To parents and guardians: Keep trying. Support them in their struggles. Recognize that punishment and criticism don’t help—companionship does. Taking their phone away for a week won’t solve the issue. Habits like these can take months, years even, to break. What they needs is support. Don’t be afraid to have the hard conversation and share your own experiences. The journey to freedom starts in the home, so set an example of chastity and respect for your children. Also know that pornography is not exclusively an issue for boys. Reach out to your daughters too; they may also be struggling. Most importantly, pray for your children, and let them know you are praying.

I support you and so do many others—those people exist. Be bold and reach out. Even if you don’t struggle with pornography, reach out to a friend who does. You could save a life.

The journey to freedom starts right now. I am praying for you, and I believe in you.

God Bless,
Name Withheld at request of author

*To read Jack Figge’s article, titled “Pornography is a teenage male epidemic; let’s do something about it” visit our website www.sluh.org/prep-news and the article will be linked at the top of the page.

Prep News 85 Policy

The Volume 85 *Prep News* opinion section serves the purpose of being the vehicle of the personal opinions of students, faculty, or others. All topics discussed in the section will be related to St. Louis University High School.

Nothing published either as an editorial or as a letter to an editor should be considered the opinion of the school, the administration, or anyone other than its author or authors.

A *Prep News* editorial is the opinion of all six editors on a particular topic.

A commentary or column is an opinion of one member of the *Prep News* staff, not of the *Prep News* itself.

A perspective or notebook, like a commentary, is the opinion of one person, often a *Prep News* staff member.

Unlike a commentary,

such a piece is often intended primarily to convey a personal experience rather than to provide a viewpoint on an issue. Unlike a letter, such pieces are usually developed at the request of, and sometimes under the guidance of, the *Prep News* editors.

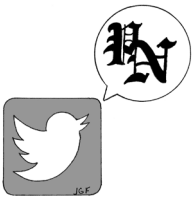
Every member of the SLUH community is welcomed and encouraged to submit a letter to the editors. Every letter received by the editors will be read and given consideration. All letters must be signed, but the author’s name may be withheld from publication by request and at the discretion of the editors.

The *Prep News* editors reserve the right to edit any submissions for publication in order to meet grammatical standards, but they will not skew the author’s original intent. Also, the editors reserve the right to with-

hold from publication any submission if it is deemed vulgar, tasteless, or otherwise inappropriate. Authors should be available for the editors to contact them before publication to address matters of concern.

All authors wishing to have letters published must submit them by 4:00 p.m. the Wednesday before the letter is to be published.

Letters should be emailed to prepnews@sluh.org, and, if possible, a signed copy should be given to a *Prep News* editors or moderator or mailed to the *Prep News* courtesy of St. Louis University High School, 4970 Oakland, St. Louis, MO 63110.



Prep News 85 Platform

As the student-run newspaper of St. Louis University High School, the *Prep News* is a weekly publication that strives to inform the SLUH community about events and people, with its focus on those pertaining to the school, primarily through the written word.

The *Prep News* is neither the voice of the administration nor the students. Rather, the newspaper serves to gather and distribute information for the entire school. The *Prep News* editors and staff members make every effort to be objective in their news coverage and editing.

The members of the editorial staff are co-workers and share equally the duties of writing, copy-editing, layout, and staff management. All of the editors share responsibility and leadership of the paper. The editors are supported by a core staff of regular reporters as well as artists and photographers.

It is the role of the editors to seek out and facilitate the re-

porting of all significant news at SLUH. While any faculty member or student is welcome to submit suggestions to the editors for potential articles, the *Prep News* is never obligated to publish any article idea.

Our primary emphasis as editors of the *Prep News* is upon clear and accurate writing and careful editing. We also attempt to include visual expression—photography, drawing, technical aids, etc.—in every issue and on our website. Despite our desire to make the paper visually appealing, we commit ourselves not to allow form to supersede substance.

The editorial staff will use social media to communicate with the paper’s readership and to update students about SLUH events and highlight the paper’s content, mainly in the form of Twitter. The editors will not allow their goal of speed and accessibility online to weaken their commitment to accuracy and depth.

The *Prep News* strongly encourages underclassman involvement, and our office on the second floor of the Jesuit Wing, room J220, is always open for involvement, criticism, praise, or suggestions. Contributed student opinions are also welcome under the *Prep News* Editorial Policy. Without student reaction and feedback, the *Prep News* could not function.

If the *Prep News* is inaccurate, we will correct any significant error in the following issue and on our web site as soon as possible.

Furthermore, the editors assume sole responsibility for the text of news and sports articles, features, and editorials. We ask faculty or students who take issue with the manner in which the news was reported or find an error to bring it to the attention of the editors, not the individual reporters.

This is the platform of the editors of Volume 85 of the *Prep News*.

Becvar's love and dedication to SLUH will be deeply missed



Becvar at a faculty meeting.

photo | SLUH Yearbook

(continued from page 1)
over,” reflected Becvar. “When they asked me if I would do a retreat probably in the 80’s somewhere, I was one of the first lay people asked to do that.”

Even though the people have changed over time, there has been one constant for Becvar: a love of math—a love that inspired his pivotal work with the AP program as the chair of the Math Department. It was Becvar, for example, who first introduced the AP Calculus curriculum at SLUH.

dents get the schedules that they want and that the classes are balanced. All those tiny, little things, he spends an inordinate amount of time on just to make the school runs very efficiently,” said Hannick.

While they did guarantee him a comfy seat in the main office, Becvar’s administrative titles alone do not do his time at SLUH justice. Most students already know he controls the schedules, but what they may not know is the full extent of his impact on SLUH.

“It’s hard to point to an area of the school that he

for taking things that seem really difficult and breaking them down and presenting them in ways that make them seem much more simple,” agreed Dan Becvar.

Tom Becvar’s love of teaching informed everything he did at SLUH and his passion for learning spread quickly.

“On the first day, Mr. Becvar told us ‘Calculus is fun’ and I guess he was right in the end. I was always really excited to see him so I don’t know if it was more Calculus or more him that made me excited, but either way I always looked for-

While Calculus may in fact have come easy to Becvar, he never took that for granted, always remembering the struggles of his students.

“(Becvar is) very patient, that’s one thing that stood out about his teaching,” reflected senior Kevin Hickey. “I had him for BC Calc, which isn’t exactly an easy class, but he was very good at being patient as everyone in the class was confused with the difficulty of the material. Of the AP classes I took, Calc was the most thorough, and we definitely covered everything that we needed. Mr. Becvar was one of my favorite teachers this year.”

In fact, for Hannick, who even in his own long tenure doesn’t come close to matching Becvar’s experience, Becvar’s care for the students and faculty at SLUH is unmatched.

“He has an ear for the new faculty. They go to him with questions and he’s free to give advice, which is always good and certainly, he always, always in meetings will speak up for the needs of the student. He always keeps that in mind,” Hannick said emphatically.

Perhaps most significant about Becvar’s role as a teacher was that he did not limit himself to just his students. Countless faculty throughout the building can also attribute their success in class to Becvar’s mentorship.

“(Becvar) was a huge influence on my wanting to be a teacher and to teach math in general. In terms of my relationship with him as a colleague, he has been an incredible mentor for me,” said Dan Becvar. “He’s always been incredibly supportive of me, but I know that a lot of my other colleagues would say the same thing—that he’s in their corner and that he’s been a source of guidance when they’ve gone through struggles. He looks out for the faculty members here.”

Hannick agreed, noting that Becvar’s compassionate leadership has been a part of him for decades.

“As a very young teacher, new to SLUH, he would invite me over to his house in the evenings and we would go over lesson plans, classroom management, and homework together. Back then, young Mr. Becvar was just baby Becvar. I felt a part of his family from

the day I walked into this building and I still do today.”

As for Becvar’s next steps, they will unsurprisingly still involve St. Louis U. High—after all, it takes more than a retirement party to undo 48 years of work. He plans to work closely with the new Assistant Principal for Academics Kevin Foy over the next few months to help teach the scheduling software and other jobs of the Assistant Principal. Next year, he will work as a consultant for Foy and the administration. Plus, with some of his own family members working in the building like son Dan and daughter-in-law

school running as much as possible. He’s got a couple new grandkids so he should get ready for some grandpa babysitting duties. It’ll be good that he can spend more time with family.”

As Tom Becvar prepares for a new chapter in his life without SLUH, teachers and students throughout the school are preparing for a new chapter without Becvar. Students and faculty alike recognize the void he will leave behind.

“I definitely think there will be a void without (Becvar),” said Adem. “Of course, I think Dr. Foy is



Becvar helping a student.

photo | SLUH Yearbook



Becvar's original yearbook photo.



photo | SLUH Yearbook

“During my time (as Department chair), I probably brought the AP program to where it is now. We had no AP Calculus when I started but we now have over 150 students taking AP Calculus. Overall, the AP program has been a really big (project) that I’ve worked on for the school.”

Becvar’s work with AP classes is something he considers one of his greatest accomplishments at SLUH, and this year alone over 1,000 AP tests were administered at SLUH, highlighting the work that’s been done in his time here.

As Assistant Principal for Academics, Becvar brought the same energy and dedication, working for weeks each year in front of a computer to ensure students even had classes to attend. Craig Hannick, a fellow math teacher and close friend of Becvar, was quick to point out Becvar’s work day in and day out for students.

“He goes through incredible toil to make sure that stu-

hasn’t been involved in at some point. Teaching just scrapes the surface of what he’s done,” said Dan Becvar, Tom Becvar’s son and Math Department colleague.

From overseeing the music for Senior Follies to score keeping at basketball games and even to leading SLUH’s bowling team, Becvar has had a hand in nearly every part of student life at SLUH.

Still, it is first and foremost his role as a teacher, the job he was originally hired for, that has made Becvar stand out the most.

“(Becvar) is a master teacher, one of the few people in my life that I look at as who made me who I am today,” said Hannick. “His skill for teaching, his care for every student, his passion for the subject are things that I try to emulate every day. I think of him often in terms of my own teaching.”

“He’s taught for quite a long time and I rely on him a lot for tips on how to present different topics. He has a gift

ward to seeing him smiling up at the front of class,” said Anthony Adem, who was a student of Becvar this year. “He also said ‘Calculus is always easier when I do it’ because, you know, we really struggled. It was a hard class, but he always found ways to make it fun for us and make us laugh, which I enjoyed.”



Becvar speaking with Rita Mulligan (left) and Jen Coller (right)

photo | SLUH Yearbook

qualified to take his spot but it’s just going to be so weird to not have him sitting in that office. Everything at SLUH is going through some kind of change now because everything was run through Mr. Becvar but now he’s gone.”

“He always provides a sense of calm when I walk into his office,” noted Dan Becvar. “It was nice to have that opportunity available every day. It was just always nice to be able to stop by and check in; it reminded me of the times when he taught me when I was a senior. I’m not aware of a SLUH without my dad. That’s going to be something really tough to get used to, but I know he’s still going to be involved with the school. His influence over me will certainly remain strong.”

Becvar will certainly cherish the memories he’s made in his 48 years. Of course, the memories that will stand out most of all are those that connect back to his love of math and of teaching in a classroom environment.

“There are so many favorite parts (of my time at SLUH) but certainly teaching Calculus is one of them. I have fun in the classroom, I have a good time. We learn a lot but it’s worth doing because everyday I go in and it’s enjoyable. Sometimes I can leave my office where I’m dealing with all this craziness and leave it for an hour and just go to class and have a good time. That’s a big part of what I’ll miss.”



Poor pitching leads to a SLUH loss against Vianney

BY COBY SPRATTE
REPORTER

The St. Louis U. High varsity baseball team has dropped its past three games, two against MCC rival Vianney and one against Troy Buchanan, and has subsequently extended its losing streak to six games and dropped to a 7-14 record in a year that is shaping up to be the Jr. Bills' first losing season of the 21st century.

SLUH entered its first of two games against Vianney looking to make a splash in the MCC to conclude their league play portion of the season, but they could barely make a ripple.

Freshman Andrew DuMont got the start for the Jr. Bills, but had no help from his defense behind him. DuMont was tagged for seven runs, five of which were unearned, in his 1.2 innings of work. He surrendered seven hits and his middle infield committed three errors before the third out of the inning could be recorded. Junior Tucker Thomas relieved DuMont, wiggling out of the second inning jam and tossing a clean third inning frame. Junior John Loretta followed Thomas out of the pen and pitched the final three in-

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Water polo hopeful to make push for another state title

BY ALEX WENTZ
REPORTER

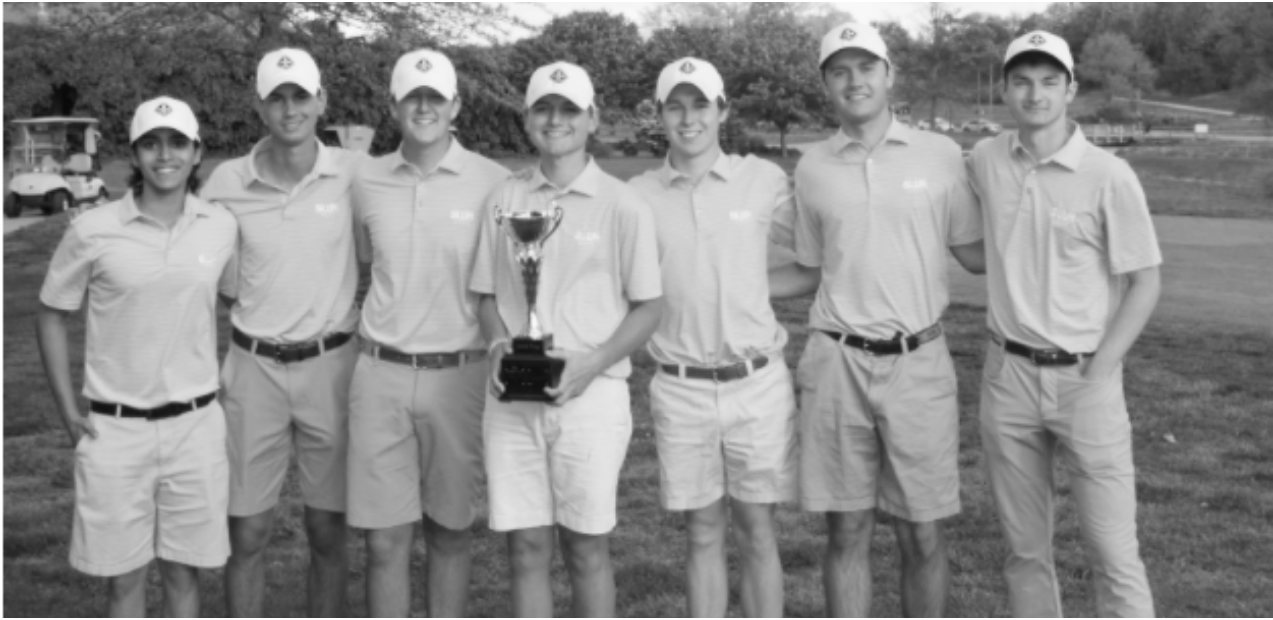
After finishing the regular season with a 6-2 record, the St. Louis U. High water polo team has begun competing in the Missouri State Water Polo Tournament. The squad's first game was against Eureka High School, the No. 14 seed, whom SLUH had not played during the main season.

For the first time this year, the Jr. Bills ended the first quarter ahead. Senior Carson Cornett (2), sophomore Brandon Harris (2), and junior Sam French scored to give SLUH a 5-2 lead.

"We didn't let the competition dictate how we

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SLUH regains J-Cup, fails to advance team to State Tournament; Cornett, Sussman and Fix prepare for Sedalia Country Club



The team after regaining possession of the Jesuit Cup. photo | Courtesy of Louis Cornett.

BY LOUIS CORNETT
CORE STAFF

The St. Louis U. High golf season came to a close for all but three players this past week. On Thursday, the Jr. Bills returned to the links one last time as a full team to face De Smet Jesuit in the second leg of the Jesuit Cup. Ending the season with a win, SLUH regained the J-Cup for the first time since 2017. Following their success on Thursday, the five players on the district team competed on Monday at Forest Park in the Class 5 District 1 Tournament with the top 18 players advancing to State. Needing four players to qualify as a team, the Jr. Bills fell one short and will send only three individuals to Sedalia

Country Club this coming Monday and Tuesday: junior Louis Cornett and seniors Sam Fix and Grant Sussman.

Tied heading into the second leg of the J-Cup, the Jr. Bills needed a strong performance from the entire team, with the format being a match play. On a day where the five district players failed to play well, the rest of the team carried the Jr. Bills to victory. Seniors Josh Vashi and Kellen Hamilton secured two points with holes to spare to put the Jr. Bills out to an early lead. Seniors Alex Tarlas and Trent Jacoby secured two more points against tough opponents to give the Bills a total of four points. The points produced by the seniors would prove to be crucial for SLUH to regain

the J-Cup.

Junior Thomas Ziegler, playing in the No. 1 seed, lost to De Smet's Drew Hollman 3 and 1, the first of the top five to lose. Ziegler won his second hole and then lost four of the final seven holes. Fix lost to his opponent, the second of the top five players to lose while Sussman also lost, being down three strokes with two holes to play. With the race tightening up, senior Joey Perotti, in the second to last group, clinched the title for the Jr. Bills, sinking a few long putts to come back and win on the ninth hole.

With the score 6-4, the final group's outcome did not matter. However, Cornett halved a point with a grade school teammate to boost the Jr. Bills to a 9-6 win, 6.5-4.5

on the final day.

"It was great to win. It wasn't fun to watch them lift the Cup two years ago but we got it back this year," said Sussman. "It was definitely a team win. I personally did not play well but I think except for Fix all the other seniors won their matches. They dominated and we wouldn't have won without them."

Following the statement win against De Smet, Cornett, Ziegler, Fix, Perotti, and Sussman geared up for Districts at Forest Park on Monday.

"Districts being at our home course, we all expected to get five guys on to State," said Sussman. "We knew we could play extremely well

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Ultimate gears up for state run with challenging games against Edwardsville, Clayton, CBC and Chaminade

BY GRANT GRABOWSKI
REPORTER

The Jr. Bills Ultimate frisbee teams faced another action-packed weekend with five games being played in the span of three days. Varsity took on Edwardsville's White and followed with a double header the next day against Edwardsville's Orange team and Chaminade, while JV faced off against CBC JV and Clayton.

Varsity and JV both kicked off the weekend with a game last Friday. Both games were away with the varsity squad crossing the river to play in Edwardsville while the JV squad headed over to CBC. The Jr. Bills had a touch first half against the Cadets, whose deep throws and tight defense choked out a lot of the offensive opportunities for the Jr. Bills. This led to a halftime score of 8-2 in favor of the Cadets.

The team reflected at half-

time how to ramp up their offense and to get more scoring opportunities.

"We really challenged them on defense," said freshman Quinn Apprill-Sokol. "We tried to force them to turn the disk over by applying more pressure on them at each throw."

The new defensive focus opened a surplus of offensive opportunities for the Jr. Bills, who outscored the Cadets 8-7 in the second half. The deep throws became a backbone of the second half for both teams as it became the primary way points flew in.

"We always had at least one person going deep and that really helped open things up," said Apprill-Sokol.

The game however ended in a loss for the Jr. Bills as they weren't able to stage a full comeback, leaving the final score 15-10 CBC.

Across the Mississippi
continued on page 8

Rugby beats Eureka for third consecutive win

BY JACK RYBAK
CORE STAFF

The St. Louis U. High rugby team had its Senior Night last Thursday against Eureka. In another blowout game, SLUH beat Eureka 45-12. SLUH's offense was faster and the defense kept the pressure on the Wildcats for the whole game. The Jr. Bills also played against St. Thomas Aquinas last Saturday, losing a close game, 39-35.

The Senior Night game started with a kickoff from Eureka. The Jr. Bills drove past the 50-yard line, but were called back to SLUH's 45-yard line due to an out of bounds call. Eureka threw the ball in and after a ruck SLUH recovered the ball. Junior Max Sextro carried the ball to the 28-yard line before being brought down. Several more quick passes carried the Jr. Bills into the try zone. The Jr. Bills scored the first try early in the game making the score 5-0, the conversion was good making the score 7-0.

Eureka kicked to SLUH and the Jr. Bills quickly recovered the

ball. Senior Blake Collins carried the ball to the 42-yard line. Eureka won the ruck, but the Jr. Bills defense kept them from gaining much ground. Eureka punted the ball and SLUH recovered. A run out of bounds forced a ruck that Eureka won and drove to SLUH's 20-yard line. SLUH's defense continued to keep Eureka from gaining much ground and due to a penalty SLUH recovered on their own 13-yard line. The Jr. Bills punted out of bounds and threw it back in. Another out of bounds pass kept SLUH in their own territory.

SLUH won the ruck and a series of quick passes carried the ball to the 27-yard line. Senior Henry Bourneuf pushed SLUH deep into Eureka's territory with a 50-yard carry. Senior Jackson Liebrock carried the ball even further before being brought down at Eureka's 14-yard line. A high tackle penalty against Eureka gave SLUH the ball. The Jr. Bills took advantage of this opportunity and senior Graham Johnson put the ball in the end zone for five points towards
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SLUH wins unexpected game against Vianney; keeps them under 10

BY JACOB SPROCK AND
GEORGE HENKEN
EDITOR, REPORTER

The seniors might have finished up their final weeks of school, but the volleyball team still has a few more to put its final touches on their play. After victories over Chaminade and Vianney, the team now has an unblemished record of 24-0 and has a set record of 62-0.

The school's top passers and attackers easily made their way past Chaminade last Tuesday, May 4, defeating the Red Devils by scores of 25-12, 25-8, and 25-14.

SLUH next matched up against Vianney on Thursday, May 6. The referee of the match was one of the best in St. Louis, known for officiating the biggest and best matches of the season. However, the referee seemed to be trivial to the match because the scores were not close enough to make a call that could make or break the winner. Vianney vs. SLUH is known around St. Louis as one of the biggest rivalries in high school volleyball, but rather than a close match with back-and-forth play, the Jr. Bills dominated the entire highly-anticipated match.

Senior outside Peter Quinn got off to a hot start, contributing two aces and a kill to put SLUH up 4-1. After this early run, the Jr. Bills seemed to have the edge over the Griffins the entire first set. The lead only got larger, forcing a Vianney timeout at 11-5. Although the timeout initially seemed unsuccessful for the Griffins, they put together a string of points to lower the large SLUH lead. Even this was not enough to stop the dominating nature of the Jr. Bills. SLUH earned a point to end the Vianney run, now up 18-11.

The Griffins once again went on a mini-run, coming within four points of the Jr. Bills. However, just like the entirety of the set, SLUH had an answer. Quinn had a well-placed kill to give the Jr. Bills set point at 24-19. Junior right side hitter Michael Yemm tallied the final kill, SLUH winning 25-19.

The second set proved to be even more dominated by the Jr. Bills. Vianney committed multiple errors and SLUH attackers pummeled the ball to the ground to put the Jr. Bills up 6-1.

The momentum was already heavily on SLUH's side, but a long rally reinforced the
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Rugby loses close fight to Aquinas

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SLUH. Sextro's conversion was good making the score 14-0.

Eureka kicked to SLUH and senior Miles Matyiko returned the ball to Eureka's 30-yard line. The ball was out of bounds and the line-out went to Eureka. SLUH's defense kept the pressure high and prevented Eureka from gaining much yardage. Eureka punted the ball giving SLUH possession on their own 30-yard line. Senior John Budd carried the ball deep into Eureka territory, but SLUH lost possession to a penalty and were forced to kick.

The Jr. Bills regained possession and senior Dominic Benben drove the ball into the end zone for another five points. The conversion kick was no good making the score 19-0 SLUH.

The Jr. Bills did not let off the gas and returned the ball to Eureka's 37-yard line. The SLUH offense continued to push, but a scrum down was forced, giving Eureka the ball. The SLUH defense quickly regained possession and Sextro drove the ball in for another five points. The conversion was good making the score 26-0 SLUH.

On the kick the Jr. Bills once again pushed Eureka into their own territory. SLUH did not let up and senior Blake Collins scored another try for SLUH. The conversion was good making the score 33-0 SLUH.

After one final offensive

push the Jr. Bills went into the half 33-0. The Jr. Bills offense maintained high intensity throughout the first half. Additionally, the defense kept Eureka from gaining any major yardage and kept the ball out of their hands for the majority of the first half.

The Jr. Bills kicked to Eureka to start the second half. The Jr. Bills quickly recovered the ball and drove it into Eureka territory. Johnson drove the ball for another try and five points. Sextro's conversion was good making the score 40-0.

Eureka gained possession and the ball went back and forth. The Jr. Bill's defense kept Eureka from gaining any points and forced a turnover, giving SLUH the ball. The Jr. Bills once again took advantage of the opportunity, driving the ball to Eureka's 30-yard line. Eureka gained possession from the throw-in and responded with a quick drive back into SLUH's territory. Another punt gave SLUH possession on their own 3-yard line.

The Jr. Bill defense kept Eureka from the try zone and forced a turnover on their own 3-yard line. The SLUH defense could not keep Eureka from the try zone and Eureka picked up a try. The conversion was good making the score 40-7.

SLUH kicked to Eureka, but the Jr. Bills continued to keep the pressure on. Eureka turned the ball over and SLUH drove

the ball into the try zone once again, giving them another five points. The conversion was not good, making the score 45-7.

Eureka continued to push strong and SLUH also kept their foot on the gas. The Jr. Bills eventually gave in and Eureka scored again picking up five points, the conversion was no good making the final score 45-12 SLUH.

The SLUH rugby team maintained a high intensity on both sides of the ball. The offense's superior speed and skill won the Jr. Bills the game. The defense kept Eureka pinned and limited their yardage. This marks Rugby's third consecutive win of the season.

The St. Louis U. High rugby team's streak was broken by St. Thomas Aquinas, the number two team in the county. The game consisted of brutal back and forth with a final score of 39-35. The Jr. Bills went into the half down 20-14, but picked up a try early in the second half to lead 21-20.

Sextro was a standout in the game with five conversions and two tries. Sextro also scored the first 14 points of the game giving the Jr. Bills the much needed boost in morale.

"Max really provided the spark at the beginning of the game when they took the lead and we had our heads down," said School Liaison Frank Corley. "Max came through and delivered the message that this

game wasn't over."

Some other standouts were seniors Kyle Dulick and Graham Johnson. The pair at center performed well on both offense and defense. The pair hit hard on defense and broke big runs giving SLUH the edge.

"Rugby is a team sport," said Corley. "So when you do well you can't do well by yourself"

Another aspect that had a major impact on the game were the conversion kicks for SLUH. Sextro had a 100 percent conversion rate. This combination between good kicks and good runs from the centers and forwards worked out well for SLUH and gave them the edge they needed. On the defensive side of the ball the Jr. Bills had a large size advantage, this gave SLUH several positive things going for them and resulted in a close game.

"You don't come close in a big game like this without everything happening perfectly," said Corley. "What went well? Everything, that's why we did well."

At the end of the game the Jr. Bills held their heads high knowing how close of a game it was for the number two team in the country.

The city championship against Chaminade will be tonight and the team is waiting for an invitation to the National Tournament.

"We may have a lot of rugby left in us this year," said Corley.

Ultimate Frisbee ends regular season 4-3

(continued from page 7)

River, the varsity squad took on Edwardsville's White team. This was the first game against any of the Edwardsville teams and the Jr. Bills wanted to start off strong. The game opened with both teams going point for point but the Tigers managed to catch a break and build a lead of 8-5 at halftime. The main reason behind this was the Tiger's ability to break a defensive mark and throw to open handlers.

By the middle section of the second half, the Jr. Bills had managed to make the score 12-10, demonstrating how the new focus on lockdown defense was paying off. However the Tigers kept their lead and hung on to win, 15-11.

Saturday marked a huge challenge for the varsity squad, who had to play Edwardsville Orange the next morning and then Chaminade immediately after. The JV squad also had a game against Clayton at the same time as the varsity game against Chaminade. These games marked a return to home with all of them being played at the football or soccer turf fields.

Against Edwardsville's Orange team, the first half kicked off with a dominant performance by the Jr. Bills' offensive line. The handler-cutter pair of seniors Cameron Freeman and Anthony Solari racked up early points. The Jr. Bills defensive line also saw a rise in intensity and a growing number of points put on the board. The Jr. Bills' defensive line was hungry for points and took every opportunity to gorge themselves on deep 20- to 30-yard throws. This was especially apparent through the combo of handler Thornberry and cutter Grabowski, who were able to capitalize on the deep throws throughout the game.

"We played the game with a solid determination to win," said senior Daniel Juergens. "That game meant a lot to us in terms of confidence going into state so we all knew it was important to perform well in the game."

Their performance kept on like a bullet train, with deep throws powering the Jr. Bill's path to a 15-9 victory 15-9.

JV and varsity played their next games against Clayton and Chaminade at the same time, JV on the football turf and varsity on the soccer field. JV kicked off a few minutes before varsity and marked the start of a long and hard-fought game. Like in the JV squad's game against CBC, deep throws were the main way of putting points on the board. Clayton's team took control of the first half through hard deep cuts and straight shot disks to the cutters. By halftime the Jr. Bills faced a sizable challenge of coming back from 8-4.

Throughout the second half the Jr. Bills were able to build a sense of grit and to keep fighting all throughout. The game was finally called due to the time cap of two hours being reached; the Jr. Bills lost 14-9.

Across the circle drive, the varsity squad took on Chaminade for their second game of

the day, less than an hour after their win over Edwardsville Orange. This game was one of the hardest fought games of the season for the Jr. Bills and marked their third game in 24 hours and the fatigue and soreness began to set in.

The first half began with a streak of Jr. Bills scores for an early 2-0 lead. This domination, however, slowly faded. At halftime the Jr. Bills led Chaminade 8-4, but the second half marked a complete shift in the game control, as Chaminade outscored the Jr. Bills 9-6.

The game was hard fought all throughout and, like the JV game against Clayton, faced a time cap. At the time cap the Jr. Bills were leading 13-12 and were looking to walk away with a victory. However, through constant nagging and loose justification of their last game being time-capped Chaminade argued that the game should go on for two more points. In this sort of overtime scenario, the Jr. Bills only had to score one more point to secure the victory while Chaminade had to put up two points for the victory. The Jr. Bills started on defense and a deep throw by a Chamiande handler tied the game at 13.

With the game now tied and only one more point to play this meant that both teams had a "golden goal" scenario with the next point giving them the victory. As the Jr. Bills lined up for an offensive drive, handler Cameron Freeman set up a play to hit cutter Jared Thornberry deep in the end zone. As the pull of the disk came to them the Jr. Bills moved the disk up the field with short five yard passes. Finally around the half field mark Freeman lined up a deep 40-yard throw to the end zone. Thornberry made the deep cut and Freeman sent the disk long. Chaminade played a tight man on man defense on Thornberry but he broke free for a one-handed diving catch for the final point of the game, cementing a Jr. Bills' victory of 14-13.

"We were already tired from playing the game and ready to get out of there, but we were able to come together as a team and get the dub one last rally," said Thornberry. "It was a great setup all around and amazing to see it all come together."

With the packed weekend to a close both teams have now concluded their regular season schedules. Varsity ended with a record of 4-3 and JV with a record of 3-4. However both teams are continuing play in the SLUJ State Tournament. Both varsity and JV have their first games of the tournament with varsity having a rematch with Edwardsville White on Wednesday, May 12 in Edwardsville, while the JV squad will play De Smet's JV team at De Smet.

"We have to focus on catching frisbees and making simple throws and to not allow the other team to not get possession. If we can shut down their drives, the game is ours. We've learned from our mistakes and are hungry to go far in the tournament," said Thornberry.

Track wins 9th consecutive MCC Championship

BY PETER JAMES AND JACKSON COOPER STAFF

The St. Louis U. High track and field team won the MCC championships at the varsity and JV levels on Wednesday, May fifth. SLUH's varsity win was its 14th title in its last 15 seasons and was the ninth consecutive win at MCC championships. For the JV, SLUH won its fifth straight title.

"I look back, 2011 we lost the varsity level and then the previous time before that was in 2005. In 2014, we lost the JV and it's the only one I can find back since 2006," said head coach Joe Porter. "So, it really just shows the depth of our program, when there's only five teams in the conference, and you're scoring five individuals deep."

The meet was hosted by SLUH, and each event started with the JV heat before the varsity heat. There is an MCC rule that seniors cannot compete in the JV division for MCC championships, which meant that the JV portion of the meet consisted entirely of freshmen, sophomores, and juniors. SLUH's JV team came out on top with 140 points, far ahead second place Chaminade's 82.

The success started off with sophomore Sean Chaffee winning the 100- and 200-meter dashes. In the 110 hurdles, sophomore Wyatt Seal (21.25)

finished first and junior Nathan Sewell (22.82) second. Seal finished first (49.08) in the 300 hurdles followed by sophomore Tyler Barks in second (51.56). Junior Peter James scored third in the 400 (58.96). Sophomore Tim Greiner won the 800 (2:10.7) with junior Francis Alford finishing second (2:11.84) and sophomore Will Riggan third (2:18.06). Sophomores swept the podium places in the 1600; Carter Lowe placed first (4:51.78), Riggan second (4:52.01), and Nick Purschke third (4:59.60). In the 3200, sophomore Nolan Meara won (10:17.00) with freshman Anthony Zangara in second (10:28.59) and sophomore Brendan Jones in third (10:58.30).

SLUH also showed off its depth with the JV relays: SLUH placed third in the 4x100 (48.24), was disqualified in the 4x200 for a baton mishap, won the 4x400 (3:54.10), and won the 4x800 (8:40.70).

In the JV field events, sophomore Tristen Smith placed third in the high jump (4-09.75) and first in the triple jump (35-06.50). In pole vault, freshman Eli Smith scored third and freshman Ben Kean scored fourth—both got 8-06.00. Eli Smith also won javelin with 103-11.25.

SLUH won the varsity meet with a team total of 164 points while the second place team—De Smet—scored only

84 points.

Varsity dominated the competition starting with freshman Ryan Wingo winning both the 100 (10.93) and 200 (22.04). Senior Aidan Byrne placed third in the 200 (23.27). In the 110 hurdles, juniors Connor Greninger (17.22) and Keshon Parker (19.27) finished one-two; then, in the 300 hurdles, Greninger (43.98) and Parker (44.54) repeated the feat. In the 400, junior Joey Meehan scored fourth (53.32) and sophomore Steffan Mayer fifth (54.44). Junior Baker Pashea won the 800 (1:58.50) with junior Joe LaBarge finishing in third (2:07.62). Pashea also won the 1600 (4:33.90) with junior Sean Kellogg finishing in third (4:36.03).

In the 3200, junior Justin Glass first (10:01.49) and senior Daniel Hogan second (10:04.67). SLUH also saw success in the varsity relays: SLUH won the 4x100 (43.71), scored second in the 4x200 (1:33.55), won the 4x400 (3:29.55), and won the 4x800 (8:24.96).

"We have some individuals that are outstanding: Ryan Wingo goes really fast, and Eric Piening can jump really high and really far, and Baker can run really well, but it's our second guy in each of those individual events that just really helped pile on the points—that we aren't just a team of a couple of strong individuals, we are a really deep

Cornett, Sussman, and Fix move on to compete in State

(continued from page 7)

there, but we didn't. It was disappointing to not get four or five guys through to State but I think it's exciting for the three of us who moved on."

Needing four players to qualify in the top 18 to have a team at State, SLUH's players were well aware of their expected and required individual performances.

Cornett led the groups out, teeing off at 8:00 a.m. with Chaminade, CBC, and Priory. Electric from the get go, Cornett made a birdie on his second hole, and was 1-under through four. On hole five, he missed a dead straight five-footer for his second birdie, tapped in for par, but was visibly disappointed with his miss. On the next four holes, Cornett failed to get up and down twice for par, and hit driver where it was a mistake and went +4 during that stretch, turning in a 38, +3 on the Redbud course.

Sussman was the second to tee off, the captain for the Jr. Bills. One-over through his first three holes, Sussman was off to a decent start. On the fourth hole, Sussman tripled, sending him to four-over. However, he rebounded well with a 30-foot birdie putt on the par 5 fifth. Two more bogies would cost him on the front nine, and he finished with a five-over-par 40.

Perotti teed off third. Struggling to make pars from the start, Perotti was +3 on his first three holes. He made a few crucial pars and finished with a five-over-par 40 as well looking to make up strokes on the back nine.

Fix also followed the two seniors before him with a 40 on the front nine; a triple bogey on the tough par 6 cost him three strokes. He sliced it out of bounds and had to retee but would regain his lost momentum before the day was over.

The final man out for the Jr. Bills was Ziegler. With the two bogeys to open up his round, Ziegler was visibly frustrated, slamming clubs and talking to himself, disappointed with his performance. However, Captain Ziegler righted the rocking ship and finished with a three-over 38 before falling apart on the back down.

"I had a mental breakdown," said Ziegler. "I was overconfident."

Starting his back nine, Ziegler was feeling good. However, his emotions soon changed as he went double-bogey, double-bogey, bogey, and triple-bogey on his first four holes on the Dogwood course. The triple bogey on hole four consisted of a few duffed chips and Ziegler was unable to make any birdies on the final stretch to bolster

himself into the top 18. He finished with a 13-over 83 to tie for 27th.

Fix rebounded from his 40 on the front to shoot a 38 on the back, barely missing a putt on the 18th to finish with a 78. Fix was right on the cut line for the to 18 and was nervously waiting for the final groups to come in. He tied for 17th and made it to State with no shots to spare.

Perotti, unable to overcome his slow start, struggled to regain his groove on the back nine. He finished with an 81 and was very disappointed with his performance. A great player here at SLUH, Perotti was comforted by his teammates after his heartbreaking elimination. He finished tied for 21st.

Sussman shot 37 on the back nine, propelling him into the top 18. He finished with a 77 and tied for 14th.

Cornett struggled on his back nine, hitting only two of nine greens. However, his 13 putts on the back nine propelled him to a 37, and he scratched out a five-over 75 and a tie for 8th. Cornett, Fix, and Sussman will be preparing this week for State at Sedalia Country Club, playing a practice round there Sunday before competing Monday and Tuesday for the top spot in Missouri.

Struggling baseball set to face Kirkwood in Districts

(continued from page 7)

nings, allowing three earned runs and striking out three Griffins. Yet, by that point, the game was all but over, as the pitching staff received no run support from the Jr. Bills' offense and they dropped the contest by a score of 10-1.

Taking their turn at home, the Jr. Bills looked to get even with the Griffins after a poor effort the night before.

The Griffins and the Jr. Bills remained knotted at zero for the first two and a half innings until the Jr. Bills' offense exploded for a two-out rally in the bottom of the third inning. Spurred by RBIs from junior Tommy Etling and seniors John Wimmer and Jake Noonan, SLUH took a commanding 6-0 lead in the bottom half of the third which was capped off by a bases clearing, three-RBI double from junior Zach Petlansky.

It looked as if the Jr. Billikens would cruise to a landslide victory, but the Golden Griffins did not go down without a fight.

The very next inning, the Griffins punched back, as they put up a three-spot which knocked SLUH's starting pitcher, sophomore Garrett Shearer, out of the game. Senior Tommy Pollard relieved Shearer and limited the damage in the third, but surrendered a run of his own in the fourth which narrowed the SLUH lead to two.

Yet, the Jr. Bills offense struck back with two runs of their own in the bottom half of the fifth, highlighted by Thomas' pinch-hit RBI single.

Now leading 8-4, the Jr. Billikens turned to junior Jack DuMont to hold the lead. DuMont was making his season debut after being sidelined by a torn meniscus. DuMont struggled to find his control on the mound, as he surrendered only one hit but walked four Griffins, three of whom had scored before Ramsport pulled him out of the game.

Now only holding a one-run cushion, SLUH turned to junior Coby Spratte with the bases loaded and only one out. Spratte, after a spirited battle, struck out the first batter he faced and put the second out on the scoreboard. He worked the following batter to a 2-2 count, but surrendered a jam-shot base up the middle which scored two and shattered the Jr. Bills' lead. Spratte allowed another base hit up the middle which plated two more Griffins before he was pulled for sophomore Parker Guthrie.

Guthrie tossed a clean 1.1 innings, but, by that point, the damage had been done and the Jr. Bills were down 11-8.

The offense sparked some life into the team in the bottom of the seventh, but the rally fell short, as the Jr. Billikens stranded runners on the corners and lost the game 11-8, dropping their record to 7-13

for the year.

The Jr. Bills celebrated Senior Day and looked to bounce back against Troy Buchanan High School last Saturday, but couldn't break out of their slump.

Pollard got the nod for the Jr. Bills, and tossed four innings in his second start of the year, surrendering four runs and striking out two. Loretta pitched the fifth inning and allowed three runs, two of which were unearned.

Freshman Charlie Isom-Mccall made his varsity debut on the rubber, and gave up one run in 0.2 innings of work. Jack DuMont followed Isom-Mccall and recorded the final out of the inning via a strikeout.

Senior Charlie Albus tossed the seventh inning frame and went 1-2-3 through the Troy lineup, but the offense, outside of hits by seniors Noonan and Andrew Loeffelman, never got anything going and SLUH dropped the contest 8-1.

The Jr. Billikens traveled to Rockwood Summit (13-13) last night, looking to break their six-game losing streak in their final regular season contest of the year. Following the Rockwood Summit game, SLUH (No. 4 seed) will host Kirkwood (No. 5 seed) on May 18 at 4:30 p.m. for the quarter-finals of the Class 6 District 2 Tournament.

Water polo faces Kirkwood tonight for semifinals

(continued from page 7)

played," said head coach John Penilla. "We were the better team and we played like it."

The second quarter was even more one-sided, as the U. High racked up six more goals while Eureka scored just one, resulting in an 11-3 score at halftime.

The Jr. Bills maintained a seemingly impenetrable passing-lane defense, which often resulted in Eureka turning the ball over to SLUH's goalie. The solid defense led to an easy offense as the SLUH players were able to get on breakaways and score before the other team even got back to their side of the pool.

The second half followed the trend of the first, with the U. High putting away six more goals to finish the game 17-7.

Having defeated Eureka, the Jr. Bills moved on to face off against Lindbergh, the No. 6 seed, in the quarter-finals. SLUH had been the Flyers in the regular season, scoring in the final 20 seconds to win 11-10. After their last bout being so close, the U. High was looking to dominate; and dominate they did.

"We looked *really* good," said Penilla.

Lindbergh looked powerless against the Jr. Bills defense in the first quarter, continuously turning the ball over and giving the boys in blue chances to score. Af-

ter SLUH sent many shots over the net, Harris was finally able to put one in. The quarter ended 1-0, but the scoreboard did not reflect how dominant the SLUH team really was.

"We looked good in the first quarter, we just weren't finishing shots," said Penilla. "I think we could've easily been up 5-0 after the first, so that's a dangerous situation where you got all the momentum of the game but the scoreboard doesn't show it. I think for us to keep pressing, keep going hard, and to finally break through was really big."

The second quarter was where SLUH began cooking up something special. While putting shots on net was great for the pace of the game, the team started to convert on its opportunities and take over.

SLUH's second quarter success began with a beautiful cross-goal pass from junior Brody Nester to junior Cooper Scharff, who fired the ball into a wide open net. The next goal was from Harris, who, after receiving the ball from senior goalie Ben Geldmacher, plowed his way to the two-meter line and skipped the ball into the back of the cage. After Lindbergh scored their first goal, the Jr. Bills fired back on a perfectly executed restart play in which Scarff secured another goal. To further SLUH's lead, senior captain Carson Cornett and

Scharff each scored another, ending the quarter 6-1.

"We were doing almost everything right, defensively we were making it really hard for them to throw the ball out of the goal, and once it did get out we were making it hard for the guys to throw it, we weren't fouling, and then all of that always led to offense," said Penilla. "We had (opportunities to score) because we were being aggressive on defense, (which meant) that we could be aggressive going to offense."

The third quarter was slightly less glamorous, seeing Harris score one, but Lindbergh scored two. The quarter's final score was 7-3. The Jr. Bills continued their conquest in the fourth, with two goals from Harris and one from Scharff to finish the game 10-5.

Vanquishing Linbergh, the Jr. Bills moved to the semifinals and will face Kirkwood today. Kirkwood beat the Jr. Bills 16-8 the last time the two teams met, so today's game will be a shot at redemption for SLUH.

"We're ready to be flexible and take what they are giving us and be able to adapt to what we're doing best, or maybe adapt to what we are doing poorly, to help us sustain a little bit of success. It'll be interesting," said Penilla. "If (we play like we did against Lindbergh) then I like our chances."

SLUH volleyball prepares for Districts and State

(continued from page 7)

overwhelming pressure the Jr. Bills were putting on the Griffins. A broken play resulted in an overpass opportunity for Vianney. The Griffin outside hitter put up a big and strong hit, but a dig by junior libero Craig Ortwerth kept the ball alive. Then, junior outside hitter Phillip Bone was set and he put away a blistering kill, ending the long point. This was arguably the moment where everyone in the gym knew that a Vianney comeback was unlikely, if not, impossible. Even Vianney's own head coach sensed this mood of the gym, resulting in a Griffin timeout with SLUH up 10-3.

A run by Bone widened the gap between the two teams, the Jr. Bills now up by twelve at a score of 16-4. Many points later, Vianney called a timeout at 21-8 for a last chance to try

to string together a comeback. The comeback never came to be, the Griffins only earning one more point.

An ace by Quinn put the set to an end at 25-9.

The third set was just as much as commanded by the Jr. Bills as the first two. A lead of 8-5 by SLUH might have seemed slim, but the mood on the court and the attitudes of players on both teams suggested that SLUH was the commanding force.

But the Griffins slowly fought their way back into the match, tying it up at ten. After two sets of comfortable leads, the Jr. Bills finally had competition to play against. They would have to figure out how to use their momentum to get out of this tight position.

And figure it out they did. Quinn went on a serving run that put SLUH up 14-10. After

multiple errors by the Griffins, their coach called a timeout at 16-12. However, the Griffin errors continued, helping SLUH inch its way closer to victory. After more pressure from the Jr. Bills, a kill from Bone put the game to rest, 25-18.

The team has its final regular season match tonight against CBC. This match is also Senior Night for four seniors: middle hitter Micahel Krausz (Georgia Tech), outside hitter Ben McCabe (Xavier), outside hitter Brendan McLaughlin (Purdue), and outside hitter Quinn (Mizzou).

After this match, the Jr. Bills switch to playoff mode. Districts start next week, and the State bracket begins the following week. All of SLUH's district games and the quarter-final matches will take place in the Danis Field House.



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After pandemic changes, more familiar Direction Days slated to return this summer for Class of 2025

BY ROARKE UNRAU
CORE STAFF

Direction Days are a SLUH freshman tradition. Every year freshmen come to SLUH in the summer for group activities, introduction meetings, and class bonding. Having been planned, the upcoming Direction Days will try to stick to the traditions as much as possible, even with the uncertainty of the future of the pandemic.

Math teacher Stephen Deves helps organize and lead Direction Days.

“It’s a blast. It’s so exciting to welcome new excited students into SLU High, and that’s what direction days are all about. It’s their welcome into the school,” said Deves.

The upcoming Direction Days, like the ones this year, will have lots of changes. However, now that SLUH has familiarity with hosting events in a pandemic, Deves hopes that this year’s Direction Days will be closer to normal.

“Fortunately we are able to do a lot of this stuff we would normally do in a Direction Day. And so our goal was to try to bring it back to as much of what an ideal direction days is,” said Deves

For the upcoming freshman, they will be in for a Direction Days that will be as normal as possible.

“That means we’re going to go back to two days and we’re

going to go back to being able to have the whole class together at once,” said Deves. “A lot of that’s going to come back, which I think is really helpful and really cool to see.”

As with all Direction Days, the upcoming ones will end with a Mass. Although they will not be able to fit upwards of 300 people in the chapel, the sense of community will still be there.

“There’s this beautiful communal feeling of, ‘wow, this is the start of our journey,’” said Deves. “We have this slideshow of the stuff they’ve done the past couple days, and I always get chills every year watching that and just thinking about the journey that these guys are beginning. And that is a beautiful thing.”

With everything going on this year, the Class of 2024 had a slightly different, 6-foot sepa-

rated Direction Day back in August.

“The biggest change was that it went from two days to one day. It was very much shortened, and then the other big change was that since at the time we were still in cohorts, we didn’t have the whole class together,” said Deves. “We went from a two-day Direction Day to a four-hour Direction Day essentially.”

With all the changes from this year, Deves would still count last August’s version as a successful Direction Day.

“It doesn’t meet our traditional standard, but for the situation we were in, heck yeah that was a success,” said Deves. “When it was all said and done, I think all of us looked back at that and said this was so great to be able to actually welcome the freshmen.”



art | Charlie Bieg

Art gallery displays hard work of SLUH artists from past year

(continued from page 1)

year, much of which had yet to be featured in an art show.

With a crowded second semester schedule to deal with, Rebholz had to plan for the show in spare time around the school day, working on layouts in between classes and after school.

“It really began to take up all of the spare time between teaching and other responsibilities,” said Rebholz, “I had a couple late nights in recent weeks, but, you know, once we get to this time of year that’s just what’s going to happen. That’s what needs to happen to get it done.”

One feature of the show that was directly inspired by the pandemic is a display of self portrait contour drawings from the freshman Visual Art classes. Rebholz made the decision to arrange the drawings in the form of a tornado, aimed at representing the mental chaos of the pandemic.

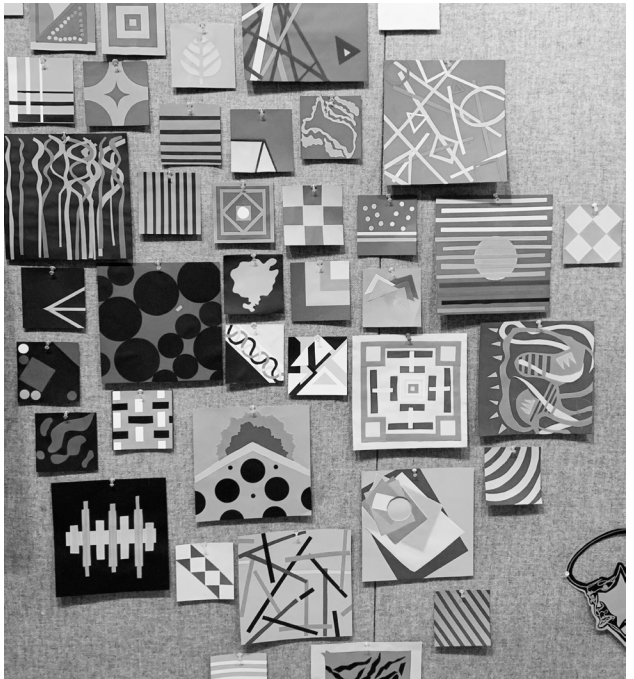
With the challenges brought on by pandemic-era teaching, many art classes focused on creating self-portraits, which in turn means that self-portraits comprise a significant portion of the show.

Due to both time constraints and the difficulty of keeping track of students’ art, not every art student was able to have his art featured. Still, Rebholz is proud of the work that all students have accomplished this year regardless of if their art is being featured or not.

“Yeah, it absolutely makes me proud of what they’ve done and how hard they’ve worked despite all of the challenges of traveling between home and school, or in some cases work-

ing strictly from home.”

The student art exhibit will be open for the remainder of the school year, and is open to all students and faculty before, after, and during school.



Pieces on display at the art gallery.

photos | Nathan Rich

After years of teaching economics, Foy will take on new role of AP for Academics

(continued from page 1)

Co-director for the leadership seminars of the Jesuit Schools Network, a prestigious honor according to Principal Ian Gibbons, S.J.

“The school has trusted me to work with the Social Studies Department and to work with the Strategic Summit and other stuff like that,” said Foy. “I feel like those sorts of opportunities give me a little taste of what it’s like. It’s going to be totally different, not being around students and having all kinds of meetings and stuff like that, but I got a taste of it and I like it.”

Foy hasn’t shied away from co-curriculares. He moderates the Ignatian Business Leaders, Circus, and Car Clubs and has coached lacrosse.

“I think Dr. Foy is an excellent pick for this position because he has been extremely effective not just as a teacher but also as the moderator of three clubs,” said senior Jack Rosenstengel, who had Foy as a teacher and leads two of the clubs he moderates. “I think he will be great at getting things done and will also still maintain a great connection to students through his extracurricular involvements. Mr. Becvar is leaving a large hole to fill, and I have no doubt that Dr. Foy

is up to the challenge.”

While Foy looks forward to his new position, the promotion doesn’t come without any loss. After a lengthy career in teaching, he recognizes that, with this job, he will be spending less time with students.

“I certainly did not want to go back to high school to work with adults all the time,” said Foy. “You know, students are why we do this. However, there always need to be a certain number of adults kind of corralling all those things so that the teachers in the classroom have everything they need to do a great job.”

While Foy expects he will have to devote a lot of time initially towards learning how to be the AP for Academics, he expects that down the road he will be able to gradually start teaching classes again.

“Mr. Becvar was able to teach, and I would hope that, once I’m comfortable with this and have learned the ropes and figured things out, that can happen,” said Foy.

“Dr. Foy is involved in so many areas of the building, and he has loathed to give up things, but to be responsible, sometimes we have to let go of things to be able to do our core jobs even better,” said Gibbons. “It’s a very challenging role. We’ll need to do

some surgical work to figure out what makes sense.”

Foy will inherit a plethora of responsibilities from Becvar, including compiling student and faculty schedules, setting up various academic meetings and conferences throughout the year, and addressing any academic conflicts between teachers, students, or parents.

According to the official job description, “The Assistant Principal for Academics is hired by the Principal and is directly responsible to the Principal in the areas of curriculum evaluation and development, the implementation of the school’s academic policies, the support for evaluation of faculty performance, and the supervision of some academic programs.”

“There’s a big learning curve in order to learn how to do all this stuff, but I’ve already told him I’ll be here to help and assist,” said Becvar.

When Foy takes over as AP this summer, Becvar will stay in the loop as a consultant to help him learn the ropes.

On top of the day-to-day obligations, Foy will take the lead in a comprehensive review of the curriculum that began prior to the pandemic.

“(We were) certainly looking for a depth of experience in both study of cur-

riculum and work with curriculum, good collegiality, some leadership experience, a capacity to work well with others, and a sense of vision for where we need to go as a school,” said Gibbons.

“I really like to see upper level management in the school have some connection with the students, and I think Dr. Foy will do an outstanding job of guiding the school on a managerial level while also maintaining a close connection with the students he is helping,” said Rosenstengel.

Foy will have to “lead the curriculum development, evaluation and revision process,” according to the job description. He brings a new perspective to the administrative team as someone with teaching experience who can provide unique insight to the curriculum review.

“I think a lot of the things that I’m going to be thinking about are, as we move on, (about how) we all know that it’s going to be harder and harder to get the same number of students and the same caliber of students,” said Foy. “We’re going to have to kind of do more with fewer resources in order to keep ourselves competitive working in the market. So I’ll be working on thinking of creative ways to do that.”

Joan Bugnitz, Jeff Fields, Amanda Antony, and Mark Collins,

The Prep News wishes a speedy recovery, good wishes, and a healthy summer. Know of our prayers and the prayers of the school community!

Flanagan to be remembered fondly as both coach and teacher

(continued from page 1)

Linhares was wise enough and confident enough to allow me to give a lot, and when Coach Porter took over, it was the same way,” said Flanagan. “I thought that I was trusted enough to have enough leeway to help transform the team.”

“Coach Flanagan is willing to tell us where we are and where we need to be. Sometimes, it is to remind us of how well we’re doing and sometimes he has to remind us how much better we could be,” said Hogan. “I think, especially for SLUH guys, we can get in the habit of thinking way too much about racing. Flanagan does a good job of reminding us to be confident, reminding us we’re as good as everybody else and to not get afraid of the team that did this or that because we can do the exact same thing.”

Outside of athletics, Flanagan has taught a variety of math classes from freshman algebra to precalculus to geometry. Known for his wicked sense of humor and playful wit, Flanagan hopes that he has made the classroom fun and exciting for his students to learn and has been grateful to watch them grow as people and as students.

“The most rewarding aspect of teaching is seeing your students grow and become wiser people,” said Flanagan. “I teach freshmen and seniors, and sometimes I get to see big changes, often in maturity

and self discipline—personal growth. I hope that I can supply the confidence that we all lack when we’re heading up to try something difficult or challenging. And if we have somebody that we know believes in us, it can make all the difference.”

Math teacher Frank Corley, whose desk has been stationed next to Flanagan in the back of the math office for many years, has admired Flanagan for his ability to connect with his students.

“I think he’s very approachable for the guys,” said Corley. “He loves to tell stories, he loves to joke around, and he will poke fun at guys but has no trouble letting them poke fun at him too. He is just very relatable.”

Talking always has been a hallmark of Flanagan’s, and for him, it will be these sometimes deep and oftentimes fun conversations while at SLUH that he will miss when he leaves.

“It struck me that something really special about this job are the opportunities to have conversations that are sort of deep, not Earth-changing deep, but which are not going to happen in normal social settings,” said Flanagan.

Even during this crazy year, Flanagan was able to give a talk to the sophomore class about his experience being a parent.

“He talked about his interaction with his five kids

as teenagers really humanized the parent perspective,” said senior Rob Stevens. “His advice was able to not only resonate with sophomores but also Senior Advisors who were there.

Coming after a difficult year of online learning and block scheduling, according to Flanagan, this retirement will allow him a chance to take a break, recover, and spend more time with his wife and family.

“I always said that I was going to try to teach until I was seventy. I enjoy teaching. I have fun doing it. But teaching this last year with the pandemic has been a lot of extra work,” said Flanagan. “In 2016, I stopped coaching track because I needed some more energy to help out around the house. I did not coach this year because I realized that I could not continue teaching and coaching at the same time. This year has just been too difficult for me and the work outside of the classroom has been a lot.”

While Flanagan will be leaving SLUH’s classroom, he hopes to stay connected with the SLUH community, helping out where he can.

“I hope that I don’t lose all the connections that I have had while I have been teaching here, coaching here,” said Flanagan. “The memories and the friendships that I have made mean so much to me, and I would hate to lose them.”

Willie Evans to leave SLUH at end of 2020-2021 academic year



Mr. Willie Evans.

photo | Kathy Chott

BY ROARKE UNRAU
CORE STAFF

After spending a bit over one year at SLUH, lacrosse coach and geometry teacher Willie Evans will be leaving to work at Honeywell Aerospace to design plane engines.

Evans was hired last spring to replace Dan Schuler, who departed for Cleveland.

“It was not normal, but it wasn’t anything that wasn’t able to be a smooth transition. Everybody was very welcoming, and everybody was easy to work with,” said Evans.

“We hired him when Mr. Schuler left, and Mr. Schuler was such a great member of the Math Department, so he had big shoes to fill, but he filled them so well because Mr. Evans is just outstanding,” said fellow math teacher Craig Hinders. “I think he didn’t just help the Math Department, I think he helped the school, because he gets the students so well.”

One of Evans’ students,

sophomore Elijah Oden, enjoyed having Evans as a geometry teacher.

“His class is nice, actually it’s one of those classes where it’s hard, but knowing that you have him as a teacher, it’s fine” said Oden.

Hinders remembers one of the first times he actually saw Evans, who was coaching lacrosse.

“In the beginning of the year I remember him being up on the announcing box in the football field, on the megaphone yelling at kids that he sees for horsing around or whatever, and it’s just hilarious because, if you don’t know who he is, it’s just like who is this guy that’s yelling at these students over the megaphone. But that’s just Mr. Evans” said Hinders.

For Oden, having Evans as teacher and lacrosse coach was a relationship to savor.

“Coach Evans is one of those teachers that you can go to at any of the hours of the day, because I’m also a lacrosse manager. From an academic perspective, he’s a really good teacher and he’ll

communicate with you and help you through most of your daily activities at any time of the day. And then from a sports standpoint, I can contact him anytime, anywhere regardless of whether it’s sports or academics.

Evans is currently in graduate school at SLU studying mechanical and aerospace engineering. Next year, he will be working with Honeywell Aerospace to design engines for airplanes.

“My research was more specifically on the turbine section of the engine. So just how the fluid is travelling throughout the engine after the combustion section,” said Evans.

All in all, Evans’ presence will be missed by many.

“He’s bound to succeed in whatever he does. He is one of the busiest guys and he’s incredibly smart. And no matter where he goes and what he does, he’s going to do well,” said Hinders. “We’ll see what the future holds, maybe he’ll end up back here again. One can hope.”

Oqlat’s short tenure to be remembered by students

BY CARTER J. FORTMAN
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Arabic teacher Eyad Oqlat will not be returning to SLUH next year due to family commitments.

It has been a hard year for Oqlat, who had to alternate between being fully online and in person due to family matters.

“It was challenging to have prepared lesson plans and face-to-face evaluating of the students to see where they were at being online,” said Oqlat.

Despite this, Oqlat managed to find ways to positively influence his students.

“Mr. Oqlat worked really hard to get his students the opportunity to speak Arabic with teenagers from the Arab world,” said junior Arabic student Luke Pierson. “This was

an extremely awesome experience and one that I think will most likely continue after he leaves SLUH since it has left such an impact on all his students and how we learn Arabic.”

Oqlat himself found the experience very rewarding.

“Everyone was working for one purpose and made it a very friendly atmosphere,” said Oqlat. “I really enjoyed working here.”

His students could sense the passion he had for his job.

“I’ll miss how passionate he was about the beauty of the language,” said Pierson. “We worked a lot with poetry this year and it was wonderful just digging into the beauty of the language.”

Part of the reason for the positive atmosphere were some of his colleagues who helped make his time special.

“Jim Linhares was the most sweet and supportive person and helped with whatever I might need,” said Oqlat. “Kate (Toussaint) the department chair was also so sweet and so helpful.”

Oqlat transitioned to private education after a long tenure in public education.

“I’ve been working in public schools for a long time and this was the first private school I’ve ever taught at,” said Oqlat. “I cherish the time I’ve spent here with all the students and staff and hope to find a place like this in the future.”

His plans for next year include pursuing a Ph.D in Arabic studies. While Oqlat will be gone, his influence will remain with many of his students for years to come.

“I’ll remember how much he pushed us as a class to be better,” said Pierson.



Flanagan helping a student.

photo | Kathy Chott

Interested in writing? Artistry?
Photography? Research? The
Prep News is for you.

Any writers, artists, and/or photographers who are interested in participating in the *Prep News* are encouraged to email prepnews@sluh.org

Around the Hallways

Jesuit Vocation Event

A Jesuit Vocation Event will be held by Joseph Hill, SJ and Michael Mohr, SJ in the Currigan Room on Thursday, May 13 during 8th period. The event is in association with the Cannonball Club and pizza will be served to attendees. Additionally, a special guest speaker will discuss discernment.

Gadfly 10.7

Gadfly released its seventh video of the year on Thursday, May 6. This penultimate episode includes new skits with all your favorite Gadfly stars. Watch for a once-in-a-lifetime viewing of *Prep News's* very

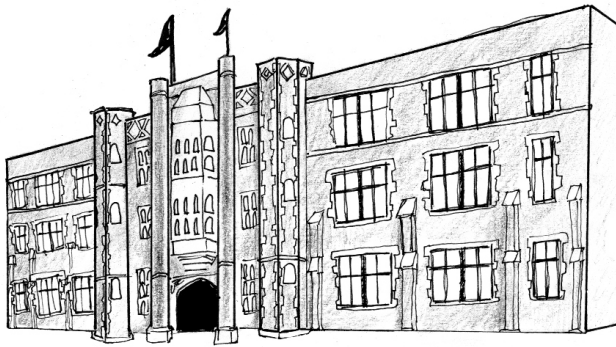
own Sam Tarter in a dress. Stay tuned for Gadfly 10.8, the final episode of the school year!

SLUH vs Police Basketball

St. Louis U. High will face off against the St. Louis, MO Police Department today during eighth period in the Danis Field House. In this “Building Bridges not Bricks” game, the varsity basketball team will play against the SLMPD’s 2nd District School Empowerment Unit. To hype students up before the game, an ice cream truck will be in the turnaround starting at 1 p.m.

SLUH Jazz Concert

The SLUH Jazz Program



will be hosting its annual Spring Band Concert at 5:45. The concert will feature the music from Jazz 1, Jazz 2, Jazz Combos, and the Lab and Fun Bands.

-Compiled by Luke Duffy and Noah Apprill-Sokol

THE EPITOME OF A SENIOR

BY JACK RYBAK AND CHARLIE BIEG



The Final FFF

Campus Ministry invites you to join them a the last FFF of the year next Thursday. Join Campus Ministry for an evening of Bashball, prayer and burgers! Check your email for more details.

Calendar

Thursday, May 13

B Day

Water Polo Postseason
Lacrosse Postseason
Team Tennis District
NO AP EXAMS
AL Snack—Bosco Sticks
LUNCH Special—Papa Johns
4:30pm Volleyball (JV/V*) vs CBC
5:00pm Jazz Concert

Friday, May 14

Water Polo Postseason
Lacrosse Postseason
District Volleyball Tournament
Rugby State Tournament
AP Exams - Biology (AM), Env. Science (PM)
Freshman Class Mass
Freshman Programming Day
No Classes-So, Jr, Sr

Saturday, May 15

Water Polo Postseason
Lacrosse Postseason
District Volleyball Tournament
Rugby State Tournament
District Track and Field Meet
Dance Tech Rehearsal

Sunday, May 16

Lacrosse Postseason
District Volleyball Tournament
Rugby State Tournament
4:00pm Choir and Dance Concert

Monday, May 17

A Day

Lacrosse Postseason
District Volleyball Tournament
Baseball District Tournament
State Golf
Tennis Sectionals
AP Exams-Comp.Gov’t AM, Statistics PM
Faculty Year-End Party
AL Snack—Nuggets
LUNCH Special—Sandwich Day

Tuesday, May 18

B Day

Lacrosse Postseason
District Volleyball Tournament
Baseball District Tournament
State Golf
Tennis Sectionals
Sophomore Class Meeting
AL Snack—Chicken Bites
LUNCH Special—Quesadilla

Wednesday, May 19

A Day

Lacrosse Postseason
District Volleyball Tournament
Baseball District Tournament
AL Snack—Bacon Rings
LUNCH Special—Chicken Strips
6:00pm MC and Alum MC End of Yr Mtg

Thursday, May 20

B Day

Lacrosse Postseason
Baseball District Tournament
Individual State Tennis
AL Snack—Bosco Sticks
LUNCH Special—Papa Johns

calendar | Roarke Unrau

Prep News

Volume 85, Issue 26

Credits:

“What are your summer plans?”

Editor in Chief

Carter “plotting my presidential run” Fortman

News Editors

Noah “spending time with Sprock” Apprill-Sokol
Jacob “having some alone time” Sprock

Sports Editor

Luke “waking up” Altier

Features Editor

Sam “\$5 movie Tuesdays” Tarter

Web Editor

Carter “fixing Chick-fil-A’s sauce supply” Spence

Core Staff

Louis “creating excuses to skip PN 86” Cornett
Luke “taking iconic photos” Duffy
Jack “ranting to Nathan” Figge
Nathan “not listening to Jack” Rich

Jack “winning the game” Rybak

Roarke “practicing for next year’s StuCo game” Unrau

Staff

Jackson “overtaking Peter on the track” Cooper
Nick “exclusively grilling” Campbell
Peter “not getting overtaken by Jackson” James

Staff Artist

Charlie “arting” Bieg

Reporters

Coby “placing bets” Spratte
George “working on those sets” Henken
Grant “hibernating” Grabowski
Alex “recovering” Wentz
Declan “Preparing for Soph. year” Richards

Moderator

Steve “Not pivoting” Missey