



## SLUH hosts vaccine clinic for faculty and staff

BY JACK FIGGE AND JOHN BYTNAR  
CORE STAFF, REPORTER

Many St. Louis U. High teachers have been on a strenuous and stressful quest, a quest for one of the most coveted items in the country: a Covid-19 vaccination. After weeks of searching and waiting, many faculty members have received their vaccine through SLUH.

At the beginning of December 2020, two companies released a vaccine for the novel coronavirus that causes Covid-19. However, doses were sparse, and the vaccines did not become available to teachers (who are in tier 3 of Phase 1B) in Missouri until March 15. Despite being qualified to receive the vaccine, many SLUH teachers found it difficult to book an appointment to receive the vaccine.

“For a couple of weeks before the offer from SLUH came

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## COVID-19 YEAR IN REVIEW

### Students, faculty reflect one year after the pandemic began

BY CARTER J. FORTMAN AND NOAH APRILL-SOKOL  
EDITOR IN CHIEF, NEWS EDITOR

The last 12 months can be best described as a rollercoaster, full of surprising twists, dizzying loopy-loops, and the stomach-wrenching dips. Starting with the arrival of Covid-19 to the St. Louis area last spring, this year has surely been a ride characterized by hardship and loss, adaptability and change, and hope and joy. As the one year anniversary of SLUH shutting its doors and the whole city plunging into over a month’s lockdown passed, the *Prep News* met with students and faculty to learn what this year marked by this pandemic has meant to them.

**With Loss Comes New Life**

Death and loss have always been characteristic of any normal year. Every year there are people in our communities that die; every year there are missed opportunities and failures. But this year, in particular because of the pandemic, has

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Top: Micah See speaking at Class of 2020 Baccalaureate Mass. Bottom Right: Junior Chris Brooks catches a pass during a game. Left: Students enjoy lunch in the safe environment of the Commons.

photos | Mrs. Kathy Chott and Mr. Vic Lewchenko

## Women’s History Month puts spotlight on inspiring women

BY JACOB SPROCK  
NEWS EDITOR

As we march forward into April, it seems like time is flying by faster and faster with the approach of summer. It can be easy to get caught up in everything going on—spring break, Easter, retreats, college scholarships—and forget about what’s important. We at the *Prep News* hope to remind everyone of one of those important things: Women’s History Month.

Established in 1987 after a petition by the National Women’s History Project, Women’s History Month serves as an invitation to learn more about the role of women throughout history. According to social studies teachers Sarah Becvar and Lindsey Ehret, the month reminds us to consider varying perspectives.

“It can be easy to focus on a single story of history, so it’s really important that we amplify voices who have been at one point or another ignored or suppressed,” said Becvar. “I think as a society we’ve become much more aware of the importance of recognizing groups that have not been amplified enough.”

The month serves as a time to highlight women who are inspirational and perhaps undervalued or underrepresented in their fields.

For Becvar, that person is the late Ruth Bader Ginsburg. Among the few women who have been on the Supreme Court, Ginsburg served as a beacon for women’s rights and social justice in America.

“She was incredible. She was in law school at a time when women weren’t going to law school. She was also raising a daughter—so, kind of this epitome of the working mother—and she stood up to very blatant discrimination,”

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## Atlanta shooting reveals anti-Asian sentiments in the United States

BY SAM TARTER  
FEATURES EDITOR

*Editor’s note: In light of the recent shooting in Atlanta, Georgia which took the lives of eight Asian-Americans, Features Editor Sam Tarter sat down with senior Peter Pham to discuss Asian racism in America and the topic of the anti-Asian sentiment, which*

*Pham wrote his Grande Project over.*

**Sam Tarter (ST):** Why did you decide to do your Grande Project on the topic of the anti-Asian sentiment?

**Peter Pham (PP):** I hadn’t really thought of anti-Asian sentiments in the U.S., not until Covid when I realized how

prevalent it was, and people were sort of hiding what prejudice they held inside. I myself had a racist encounter in St. Louis back when Covid first hit, and I just felt isolated, to say the least. So I specifically wrote my Grande Project on that experience of Asian racism and how it goes unnoticed. In the U.S., I feel like our voices are not heard most

of the time. Many times it’s due to the model minority myth, which is essentially saying that we as a minority are doing better than other minorities, and so our needs are ignored because of that.

**ST:** Were there any examples of Asian-centric racism in the United States that you wanted to touch upon or

bring light to in your Grande Project?

**PP:** I’ve read about it and heard about it many times, but Asians are used as scapegoats in many instances of U.S. history. The only prevalent example that is usually taught is the internment camps of Japanese people after Pearl

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## Difficult year for band pays off as three students qualify for State Band



BY ROARKE UNRAU  
CORE STAFF

Three SLUH students qualified for State Band: sophomore Joey Hanks, who earned an honorable mention for Concert Band trombone; senior Michael Krausz, who placed third in state for Concert Band trombone and

earned an honorable mention for Jazz Band trombone; and finally, senior Camilo Hernandez, who is the second alternate trumpet in the Jazz Band.

The Missouri State Bandmasters Association holds an annual convention at the Lake of the Ozarks with some of the most talented Band students

in Missouri. With the convention being cancelled, students who made the state band still got a certificate.

For Hanks, the virtual audition was a mix of both good and bad. There was the struggle of having to wear a special type of mask while playing the trombone, but there were also

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## Female faculty share women in their lives who have, and continue to inspire them

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said Becvar. “And then the policies she pushed for and supported were all about giving women more economic opportunities—making it so that women could do simple things like own a line of credit and fight for custody rights for their kids. So she’s someone I really, in modern times, look up to and respect.”

Ehret’s inspiration comes from two women at the core of the movement for equal rights for women: Alice Paul and Lucy Burns, the iron-jawed angels. These two women served as the backbone for first wave feminism, going on hunger strikes and risking their lives to obtain suffrage for women.

“Thinking about the lengths to which they devoted their lives to getting women the right to vote—I kind of put myself in their shoes,” said Ehret. “Would I have been that kind of a woman? Could I have sacrificed everything for this, this right? And so I think we owe a debt of gratitude to people that are willing to do that.”

Choir teacher Addie Akin’s is inspired by someone she’s known her whole life.

“The cliché but true answer is my mom,” said Akin. “I have always admired her ability to balance work and home. She seemed to ‘do it all,’ giving me a creative and full childhood while also excelling at her job. She models selflessness every day and continues to teach me lessons about faith, family, and priorities.”

And for Latin teacher Jennifer Ice, her inspiration comes from someone who’s walked the halls of SLUH for years.

“Dr. McConaghy, the Greek teacher, is somebody that I hold a lot of respect for

in this building because she was one of the first female teachers here at SLUH and she’s still here,” said Ice. “She’s really paved the way for other female faculty. I think she’s a strong teacher. She’s a strong woman.”

Ice’s sentiment was one that was shared amongst many of the teachers. For Ehret, the women at SLUH are often some of the most inspiring, science teachers Megan Menne and Mary Russo being two of those women.

“(Think of) how many committees (Menne) is on and how much work she does for Student Council and how she’s a good teacher. She’s at SLUH all the time—living and breathing SLUH,” said Ehret. “Mrs. Russo the same thing. She was super welcoming to all the new teachers. When I was new, she reached out to me and mentored me a little bit. She’s been a great powerful leader. And Spanish teacher Ms. Tousseint as well. She’s been really vocal. I think there’s some really powerful and awesome women at SLUH.”

“I feel very fortunate to be part of a department with strong female professionals, and I’m proud of the ways that we all support each other,” said Akin.

For Becvar, she’s excited to see young girls having aspirations that, when she was younger, many girls might not have had.

“We’re finally getting to a point where young girls will think ‘I can do that because it looks like it’s not out of the ordinary anymore because someone else is already doing it,’ and I think that’s super significant,” said Becvar.

For Ehret, that progress

can look like being asked to be on a committee tasked with hiring a football coach, but it can also be presented in the women who hold places of prominence in modern countries.

“A couple years ago I was asked to be on the hiring committee for the football coach, and only in the early rounds. To some degree, I felt like a token, but I was also like, ‘Yeah, I’m one of the only female coaches. Absolutely. Of course I should be at this,’” said Ehret. “I also like the stories that come out of Scandinavian countries that have a predominantly female political leadership and all the things that they get done and all the cooperation.”

Ice has had the chance to see gradual change in her time at SLUH, mostly in the form of an increase in the number of women on the staff.

“Well first of all, there weren’t as many female teachers (when I started). There’s been an increase in the number of female faculty that we have, which is great. We just need to have a really diverse teaching staff,” said Ice. “I think we do have a more diverse teaching staff than we used to. We can always do better.”

According to Ehret and Becvar, we are seeing steps towards a more inclusive and thoughtful SLUH environment, and it’s important to always remember to consider those other perspectives, especially when we’re around like-minded people.

“We’re obviously an all-boys school and there’s not always a female voice nearby, but thinking of including that in discussions and things like that I think is important,” said Ehret.



art | Nathan Rich

## SLUH band sends three to state, receive certificate

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no judges in front of him.

“I had to come into school into the bandroom to audition, so I had to wrap my bell of my trombone in a filter and wear a mask with a slit in it. It was nerve wracking having to play through this material. I messed up a bunch of times, but I was eventually able to get a take that I was satisfied with,” said Hanks.

Krausz was surprised to hear the news, even though he thought he did well on his audition.

“I was actually out of town touring colleges and we

were in the hotel lobby eating breakfast and I got an email so I opened it and it was Mr. Pottinger telling me I got third chair in all state band,” said Krausz. “I’ve gone to these past state auditions and some of those players were really good, and I guess I never really considered myself as good as they are. But now this officially shows it. It was just great seeing that news and being pleasantly surprised.”

As many would expect, it has been a difficult year for the band. With an ever-changing schedule, new social distancing rules and uncomfortable

masks, oftentimes the class can’t even fit inside of its own classroom.

“The hardest thing, I think, is that we are a program that moves from quarter to quarter and season to season, in the same kind of way that you might in an athletic program. And we lost the fourth quarter last year,” said band teacher Jeff Pottinger. “It was really hard to teach with everybody online, and then first semester with the half and half that just made it very difficult for us to grow as much as we would normally at this point.”

## Group of students venture downtown, visit Shrine of St. Joseph



The group at the shrine of St. Joseph. photo | Mr. Michael Mohr

BY NATHAN RICH  
CORE STAFF

Two weeks ago, on March 12, a small group of dedicated Jr. Bills walked roughly five miles on sidewalks throughout the city in an attempt to strengthen their faith lives this Lent. The group, all members of Campus Ministry’s Lenten Initiatives program, was taking part in a pilgrimage from SLUH to the Shrine of St. Joseph downtown, where, with sore feet, participants took the chance to pray and grow as a community.

When the idea for a pilgrimage was first presented several weeks ago, Campus Minister Fr. Joseph Hill S.J., was immediately excited at the prospect.

“A pilgrimage is an ancient tradition and it’s an act of faith and devotion that helps promote faith and devotion,” said Hill. “I think it’s just a really fun thing to do.”

Plus, he had the perfect spot in mind: a shrine rich in history that held special significance this year, which Pope Francis has proclaimed the year of St. Joseph. The Shrine of St. Joseph quickly became the ideal destination for the penitents. Having both architectural beauty and spiritual significance, it was a site easy to get excited about.

“I was really excited for the

pilgrimage because I personally have a huge devotion to St. Joseph,” said junior Joey Inserra. “The chance to travel to his shrine with some of my brothers in faith was an awesome opportunity.”

The only remaining question? How to get there, and for that, the group almost unanimously decided on walking, making it a full-on pilgrimage. The pilgrims left SLUH at 8:00 a.m. and arrived at the shrine a few minutes after 11:00. Along the way, they prayed the rosary and talked with each other, enjoying the community around them.

“I thought the walk went great,” said Hill. “We had beautiful weather and it was just the right distance, long enough so that it didn’t feel like, ‘Oh, we’re already there’ but it wasn’t too long to where people started to get tired.”

“The group we had was really special I think,” reflected junior Matt Windler. “I feel like everybody got a chance to talk to everyone and the walk wasn’t actually that bad—although we did have to jaywalk once or twice.”

At the shrine, the penitents toured the art and statues, learned about the history of the church—which unsurprisingly tied in closely with the Jesuits of St. Louis—and celebrated a short Mass, where Hill re-

flected in his homily about the important virtues of St. Joseph: his unquestioning faith in God and the responsibility he took for the other members of the Holy Family.

The church itself is a living marvel. Located off of North Tucker Blvd in Columbus Square, it has survived fires, decades of disrepair, and even, as the group learned on the tour, an infestation of birds in the attic. Even after all these trials, the shrine still remains in its original location from 1843 and was the site of two notable miracles, including a healing used in the canonization process for St. Peter Claver.

“The pilgrimage allowed us to get out of our comfort zone and explore the hidden gems of our city and have an opportunity for prayer,” said Windler. “The church really related to our Jesuit tradition, but most of us didn’t even know it existed.”

“The church was spectacular and it was really cool to learn about the history of the renovations they made. It was really elegant even though it was old and many of the statues were impressive,” said junior Jared Thornberry.

Despite the long walk, the journey was very fruitful for the pilgrims and allowed for a moment of spiritual community after a year of significant isolation due to the pandemic.

“I thought it went really well,” said Windler. “The group we had was really dedicated to the journey and it was great to create this brotherhood of prayer. Plus, the Mass we had with just our small group was really intimate and special.”

“It was a big success. Everyone was having a great time and enjoying themselves, but still being respectful when we needed to be,” said Thornberry.

Hill even went so far as to suggest a repeat event next year.

“I think this would be a great thing to do in the future, it could even become an annual thing. Getting kids to practice their faith in this physical way is really great and important.”

## Sisyphus receives “Excellent” rating from NCTE

BY LUKE DUFFY AND  
MICHAEL ROBINSON  
CORE STAFF, REPORTER

Sisyphus has graced the Saint Louis U. High community with elegant art and literature for 42 years and counting. To honor Sisyphus for its many years of production, the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) has recognized the magazine with a rating of Excellent.

This recognition was a part of the NCTE’s Recognizing Excellence in Art and Literary Magazines (REALM) program. Last spring, Sisyphus Literary and Art Editor senior Philip Hiblovic discovered the award and saw it as a perfect fit for Sisyphus.

“We were inspired by one of our student editors, who thought that Sisyphus was due recognition,” said Frank Kovarik co-moderator of the club. “It was a great opportunity

to put our hard work on display, and show how we as a production, measure up.”

“As I was applying for other writing awards around this time a year ago, I came across the REALM award and suggested to our moderators that we apply for it,” said Hiblovic. “I figured we would definitely have a great shot considering the quality of the issue we had put out.”

For the entirety of its existence, Sisyphus has had a simple mission: promoting the beautiful art and literature that SLUH students, teachers, and staff have produced. The work of its moderators and editors has paid off tremendously.

“I believe we earned the award by consistently providing a magazine we can be proud of year over year,” said Hiblovic. “It has taken decades for us to gain the reputation and legacy that we have, and now to be honored with this award only

adds onto it.”

Just as Sisyphus’ namesake, a Greek hero, rolled a massive stone up the hill day after day, Sisyphus’ literary, art, and layout editors work hard to produce the magazine each winter and spring.

This year, Sisyphus has looked a little bit different. Due to the difficulties of Covid-19, the moderators decided to release a series of mini-issues during the first three quarters of the year in place of the usual winter edition physical copy of the magazine.

“We are very proud of our work this year, and we hope that we get some more great submissions in the next coming years,” Kovarik said of the current school year’s work.

This spring, Sisyphus editors plan to release a full-color, physical issue to celebrate all of the art and literary work that has come out of such a tumultuous year.



PN “Evolution” Puzzle

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9	10		11	12	13
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46						47				48				
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52	53	54						55						
56				57		58	59				60	61	62	63
64				65						66				
67				68						69				

crossword | Mr. Paul Baudendistel

ACROSS

1. One with a jaded world-view  
6. \*Highlighted text, often  
11. \*Turn signal  
14. Hall of Famer from The Hill  
15. Health care company

16. Lion in the sky  
17. \*NFL QB turned civil rights activist  
19. Elvish foe  
20. Homeworld of a Robin Williams character  
21. Sporting goods company

23. \*Leader of some other elvish foes, such as David Bowie’s character in Labyrinth  
27. She was 16 going on 17 in The Sound of Music  
29. One end of a battery  
30. Blue, in a way

31. Willow tree, or its twig used in basket-making  
35. Everyday shirts  
36. \*Backyard border  
38. Needs-based government payments (abbr.)  
39. Cry of surprise  
40. Moron

41. Curtsy counterpart  
42. \*Indication of Christmastime or a runway  
45. Art \_\_\_\_\_, design style of the Golden Gate Bridge  
46. Mild swear that takes the Lord’s name in vain  
47. One of only three countries that does not use the metric system  
48. To be, in Toledo  
49. Tube inserted into an artery or canal  
51. \*Band with six #1 albums  
52. The Lord’s name  
55. “You don’t mean me, do you?”  
56. Bull partner  
57. Transitional fossil ... and a hint to the theme answers  
64. Burgundy, of Anchor-man  
65. Sir John  
66. Pooh’s creator  
67. \*Conduits to satellites  
68. \*Toy Story character  
69. Strike zone?

18. Tiny amount of energy  
22. If ... Then ... \_\_\_\_\_  
23. Great role for DiCaprio in 2013  
24. Infant garment with snaps  
25. Aerospace company  
26. What a checker checks, often  
27. Trout’s team, on scoreboards  
28. Moron, in Madrid  
30. Ruler in feudal Japan  
32. Under development  
33. Electric or hybrid automobile  
34. Modify, after 32-Down  
36. The Force in Eastern philosophy, X in the Greek alphabet  
37. See 60-Down  
39. Yesteryear  
43. Mild swear that takes the Lord’s name in vain  
44. FDR follower  
45. Auto-Tune and image compression, e.g.  
48. Puzzle, such as the Nazi cipher machine  
50. Poet Dickinson or actress Blunt  
51. F-, e.g.  
52. Beige  
53. Word repeated in an airplane maneuver  
54. Possesses  
55. \_\_\_\_\_ the Merciless, alliterative Flash Gordon villain  
58. HIV, but not COVID  
59. “Aaanyway ...”  
60. With 37-Down and X, Old Town Road artist  
61. Sick  
62. Direction from the library to Dr. Kesterson’s office  
63. List of answers

What’s inside of Reese’s new Easter game?

BY SAM TARTER  
FEATURES EDITOR

In the Tarter household, the Easter season means three things: 1) Easter Sunday Mass, 2) dressing up my golden doodle Billie in rabbit ears, and 3) Reese’s.

Above Cadbury Creme Eggs and Peeps, Reese’s eggs (the equivalent of a classic Reese’s peanut butter in egg shape) are the crème de la crème of Easter candy. For some reason unbeknownst to me, these egg-shaped delicacies taste better to me than the standard Peanut Butter Cups. Maybe it’s the excess peanut butter and the thinner, melt-in-your-mouth consistency of the chocolate shell, but I consume more of these eggs in a month than I do PB Cups in a whole year.

But this year, as I was checking out with my Reese’s egg in hand, I saw two new easter-themed creations on the shelf: a Reese’s peanut butter crème egg—a much smaller egg candy with a new peanut butter filling and a harder, thicker candy shell—and the brand new Reese’s Cup with marshmallow topping.

Naturally, I was intrigued

by these new flavors and perplexed as to why Reese’s would compete with themselves and try to out-do their best product. So, for a dollar each, I bought these new creations, took them home, and ate and compared each candy in one sitting.

You can probably guess what my number one slot will be, but for those of you who need a guide to what Reese’s to get this Easter, my ranking goes as such. From worst to best, we have:

3: The Reese’s Peanut Butter Crème Egg  
2: The Reese’s Marshmallow Topping Cup  
1: The Reese’s Peanut Butter Egg

The Crème Egg wasn’t bad, per say, but boy was it misleading. If you figure the width of the candy is 1.5 inches, and the layer of chocolate is a half inch each, you get a very slim amount of peanut butter per bite and an overwhelming amount of chocolate. Not only that, but the chocolate shell was a little hard to bite down on and swallow, as it really gets compacted into your teeth. Lastly, the biggest disappointment

of this candy was the peanut butter itself. Not only was there not enough of it, but it was incorrectly labeled. It was essentially the standard peanut butter you get in any Reese’s, and was not any different in consistency or taste, which one would expect when it is labeled as “peanut butter crème.”

As for the “Marshmallow Topping,” I was actually pleasantly surprised with how this candy ended up tasting. I am a pretty big fan of marshmallows, so the fact that this Reese’s cup in particular tasted like peanut butter s’mores was quite appealing. Since it was marshmallow flavor in chocolate form, it tasted a bit fake and processed and a little too similar to white chocolate, but I’ll let that slide for giving us something new and different. Ultimately, the main complaints I had with this candy were the consistency and the overabundance of chocolate. The marshmallow flavor in combination with the compressed chocolate shell sadly outweighs the peanut butter, to the point where there is only a subtle hint of that gooey goodness in the center. Unlike the

crème egg, however, eating this candy was more fun and easy, and it simply tasted better, as it had a more unique flavor than the overwhelming amount of chocolate from the former.

Lastly, as you all expected, the classic Reese’s Egg came in first, and no, before you jump to conclusions, it was not simply nostalgia that put this candy in first place, but rather the way that this candy perfectly embodies the marriage between chocolate and peanut butter. Like I said earlier, the Egg is much larger than the Cup, and therefore has more peanut butter than your standard Reese’s candy. Furthermore, the chocolate shell is much thinner, softer, and ultimately better than the classic cup. Chocolate can be rather overwhelming, so having a much thinner layer of it in combination with the large amount of peanut butter makes for the perfect Reese’s. Every bite tastes the same—a perfect mix of chocolate and peanut butter, with neither one outweighing or overshadowing the other’s flavor—and that is what you want in a Reese’s. Instead of having to put up with the excess of chocolate on the

edges and not-enough peanut butter in the center, you get an easy-to-eat and flavorful candy that is well worth the calories.

So, if you’re looking for candy to put in your kids’ or another loved ones’ basket this Easter, look no further

than what Reese’s is offering this year, and take my word for it, you can’t go wrong with any Reese’s product (unless it’s the absurdly large Caramel filled bunny which my dog stole and ate in its entirety and got sick on, but that’s a story for another time).



photo | Sam Tarter



# SLUH community looks back on hardships of the pandemic a year in

photo | Carter Fortman



Students practice their instruments under safety guidelines; PN 85.3, Sept. 30, 2020.

been quite clearly scarred by the overwhelming numbers of death and loss and with it a wide-spread spirit of grief and despair.

In our country alone, an ever-growing number of almost 550,000 people have died because of the virus, a number that will continue to haunt generations when they look back at this time. The SLUH community has lost members, too.

“I think any kind of a loss is always devastating, and I don’t think you realize as a person what it’s like, until you experience that loss,” said Food Service Supervisor Kathy Hylla, who lost her husband to Covid-19 last spring. “It’s terrible. I wish I could return back to everything normal, but I can’t.”

Hylla was not able to see her husband in person before he died. Yet, it was her faith, like a life preserver, that really kept her afloat during those difficult first couple months after her husband passed away.

“I think you have to rely on your faith. You have to have that

“You have to look at everything with a positive angle, even though there’s a negative side,” said Hylla. “You have to look at the benefit for whomever you lost, whatever you’ve lost, there has to be a lesson, there’s a benefit there. It seems strange to say that but there is a benefit. I think you grow through adversity.”

From teachers coming up with new ways to connect with their students to students scheduling and organizing Zoom club meetings, the spirit of SLUH grew out of the loss, revealing many new blossoms that in a normal world would not have flowered there.

“Ultimately, when I step back and think about it, it is really amazing that we were so adaptable and that we, for the most part, were able to find the positive amidst the crazy,” said Campus Minister Stephen Deves. “We don’t like things to uproot our routine. But when forced into it, we adapt, and we grow. I think it definitely takes its toll, but at the same time, it’s

them, I was really having fun making a lot more video content.”

Band director Jeff Pottinger, after the band concert program was cancelled, took it upon himself to put together a recording for each of his bands using garage band. He then held an outdoor gathering during the summer to showcase all the work that his students did during the lockdown.

“It was just trying to provide a time, honestly, for me, in some ways, but certainly for the boys and the families to say goodbye,” said Pottinger. I wanted to try and make it a special concert for those guys so they have something where they are recognized for the time they spend in the group.”

Students and teachers here at SLUH joined millions of Americans reinventing their ways of life, showing that through the losses a new normal could sprout from the rubble and bring together tight knit groups once more, just in a Covid-safe way.

## A Community Dispersed

Community and brotherhood have always been a hallmark of the U. High tradition. From the beginning of freshman year to the final days of senior year, SLUH works hard to foster a sense of class pride and love within each class. While the pandemic has resulted in many moments where the SLUH community has been spread out across the St. Louis area, SLUH has tried to keep the community united, something at the heart of SLUH’s Jesuit history and identity.

“St. Ignatius used the term ‘a community dispersed’ to describe the early Jesuits when they were going out and delivering the good news,” said Deves. “He used that term to remind the Jesuit community that though dispersed they were still a community. In my first video on the very first day of virtual learning last year, I talked about the idea that we are a community dispersed. It was very important to me, the other campus ministers, the other teachers that I talked to, and the administration that we still maintained a community even in a pandemic.”

While the community has always been difficult to foster during this past year, it was particularly challenging last semester last year when students were working asynchronously at their homes. Despite the barriers, SLUH faculty and students took steps to maintain social connections, overcoming the obstacles of distance with their dedication to the notion of SLUH being a family.

“I don’t feel like students often come to SLUH just because we’re a great academically rigorous school, that’s a big part of it for many people, but there’s something about our community that you do not get in a lot of other places,” said Deves. “I remember leading a small group section during Sophomore Retreat last year. It was a beautiful, beautiful thing, and after our official Zoom was over, there were about 15 guys that stayed behind and just chatted.”

Boredom marked the initial shutdown. With no Prep News to produce, clubs to meet, or sports to play, many were left in a purgatory-like state, waiting for life to go back to normal. But even in those early days as national officials kept pushing the goalposts further back, it was obvious that normal wouldn’t be in our vocabulary for quite some time.

“I think I got closer with my brother just because in those days there was literally

plays into the school’s daily life and traditions.

“I remember Junior Ring, and it was almost overwhelming seeing every person from our class in the same space all at the same time,” said Krausz. “It was a great moment that really made me appreciate the community we have here. I just have a much greater appreciation for it now.”

With the return of full in-person learning and with hope that this pandemic will soon

leaders in charge in SLUH’s response to the pandemic. “It also means a push-back against the pandemic. So I think pivot has earned its place in our lexicon for how we approach the year.”

Teaching has become a one of the greatest sources of change at SLUH with many faculty members altering their teaching methods in order to adapt to the changing school scheduling and online learning components. A professional development program during



photo | Matthew Leight

Archbishop Rozanski celebrates the Junior Class Mass; PN 85.16, Feb. 3, 2021.

nothing going on,” said senior Michael Krausz. “There’ll be times where I’d have absolutely nothing to do; no assignments, really, you can’t go anywhere at that time, so, I would go outside and pepper the volleyball with my brother.”

For Campus Minister Joseph Hill S.J., the pandemic gave him an opportunity to spend more time with his fellow community members in the Jesuit Residence, something that he was not able to do during a normal year with all the craziness and activities.

“Our community life really increased because we were spending more time together. There was a lot of fruit from the community life because of having to be mashed together every single day. Normally we are never fully together, but we started praying together more, spending more time together, telling more stories, things like that.”

As a new normal began to emerge, so did some of the traditions that many thought were lost. This included a football field graduation and Junior Ring, which was held in August as opposed to the customary celebration which is held in May. For most students, these events really highlighted how important the role brotherhood

be over as the vaccine because more accessible, all of those interviewed said a similar thing: community is much more valued now.

“One of the most obvious things that I have learned during this year is just how important friendships are in our lives and how much I guess how apparent it is that we are people of community and people love relations,” said Deves. “I think that I’ve always known that for me my greatest joy in life. And so I’ve always been aware that my friendships and relationships are a very important part of my life. But when those become more challenging or when you don’t get to see people you care about, it becomes even more apparent.”

## Pivot

The return to in person classes, while overwhelmingly demanded, required a huge effort from the faculty to make it a reality. However, one word has become synonymous with SLUH’s gradual return to normalcy: pivot, both with school, but also in everyday life.

“We use the word pivot a lot, and I think it’s taken on a much bigger meaning than simply, a shift in direction,” said principal Ian Gibbons S.J., who has been one of the main

the summer to help teachers prepare for the upcoming year helped teachers introduce more technology into their classroom.

“I’ve heard a lot of teachers talk about how really embracing Canvas and all of its features have just made their daily classes far more intentional and structured using a module or layout,” said Callon.

With the amount of change happening on campus, Deves sees this as a way to reinvigorate the community and better prepare it for future pivots caused by Covid-19 or not.

“SLUH can often be characterized as a place of tradition and I think carrying on tradition is what makes us so unique,” said Deves. “But at the same time, sometimes one of the downsides of focusing on tradition is that tradition can kind of lead to stagnation. I think there are elements to our school where that’s true, where we kind of have been doing the same thing for a long time that maybe should be evaluated. I think this year allowed us to do that.”

Still, the most difficult part of change, however, is being able to change enough to become something new but never to change too much that one’s

**continued on next page**

photo | Andrew Munie



Circus club members perform at the Spirit Week Open Mic Night; PN 85.4, Oct. 8, 2020.

foundation of faith that there are reasons for things and rely on your strength that you get from God to help you persevere,” said Hylla. “God never gives you more than what you can handle.”

The loss of human life is not the only struggle that many have had to grapple with this year. Last spring, SLUH students losted a full quarter of in person education and saw many clubs, including Prep News, crippled by the isolation. For many SLUH athletes, Covid-19 stole their spring seasons.

Martin Luther King Jr. once said: “The greatest measure of a man is what he does in the face of adversity.” While there was loss this year, from that loss came some of the greatest moments of perseverance and hope, demonstrating a valuable lesson that good can come from the bad.

pretty remarkable what we’re capable of doing our backs against the wall.”

English teacher David Callon, despite not being able to connect with his students, took a creative spin on each of his daily class videos that he would send out to his students to introduce them to the work for the day.

“I made a strange pledge to my students that I will, every day, introduce the class for the day while I do something different,” said Callon. “So I would cook eggs or I would be changing a bike tire. I’d be transplanting a bush, cutting down a tree limb, I’d be on my garage roof repairing the flashing or whatever. There were a lot of power tools involved, but then I pause, and explain for five to ten minutes what the plan for the day was. It was quite energizing. Even if nobody was watching



photo | SLUH Student Media

Members of the Class of 2021 sign their class banner at the Junior Ring celebration; PN 85.2, Sept. 16, 2020.



(from previous page)

core becomes altered. While SLUH has made a lot of pivots this year, SLUH has never moved away from its identity.

“I want to say yes the culture has changed but I also can’t pinpoint exactly how,” said Deves. “I think one of the cool things is that it hasn’t changed drastically. Whatever the format we are or whatever changes that we go through, we’re still kind of the great SLU High that we’ve always been, academically, spiritually, socially. I think our students still get that well rounded experience, but it definitely looks different and it feels different.”

Truths

Over the past 12 months, the world has been through a lot. At times, it can best be described as a rollercoaster. But, from that rollercoaster, society has learned a lot about itself. SLUH has discovered a willingness to adapt and be a community even if it means talking into a screen. Even on the individual level, people have changed, grown, and through the trauma of living in a pan-

demie have gained a strong sense of themselves. There have been dark times too, but going forward, society will look back on what we have learned and taken away from this pandemic, honoring how even with social distancing, society got through this together.

“I don’t know what a lot of other people went through personally during this pandemic as far as the financial side and that kind of hardship that put people through,” said Krausz. “But I think as a whole, we as a human community did a good job at getting through this pandemic together, and even though there are definitely still ups and downs on a journey, I think we’ll get out okay.”

Krausz believes that the pandemic made him trust more in his ability to put his head down and work hard despite the circumstances. As a result, he says that he is more confident in his work ethic going forward into the real world.

“I already knew I was a pretty resilient person in that regard, but at the start of the pandemic it was right after exams, spring break, and then



SLUH moms welcoming students to the first day of in-person classes; PN 85.02, Sept. 16, 2020.

another week off. And I just felt, when is this going to end, how am I going to get through this without losing my sanity,” said Krausz. “But, during that time, I really dug deep and focused on my school work and I realized I had another gear to go. I just

feel like it brought out another gear, a layer in me that I didn’t know I had.”

For senior Andrei Chura, the social isolation caused by the pandemic revealed that it is important to rely on people and that no man is an island.

“I have learned that I need social interaction, even though I am an introvert,” said Chura. “Fourth quarter last year was difficult for me, and I struggled to keep up academically because I was not being surrounded in an academic environment with teachers and students working. That experience just showed me how much people do have an influence on me.”

Hylla from her experience with loss learned that all dark clouds have a silver lining and that one can find purpose after a loss.

“When you suffer a loss, you have to rely on good memories and good things. And I think for our young people that’s very hard to understand because you don’t see any benefit in loss and I don’t mean that in a harsh

way,” said Hylla. “I hope that I have become more patient, more understanding. Definitely cherish what you have when you have it, because when it’s gone, it’s not there anymore.”

Callon and Deves both realized because of the pandemic that human beings really are quite adaptive and resilient even we underestimate our willingness to change.

“I really do believe that as much as we like to say that humans are creatures of routine. I think this year has taught us that we are also incredibly adaptive despite the hard part being that there’s also been a lot of things that have been very frustrating about our world this year and people and attitudes that have been very challenging,” said Deves.

“There’s no normal,” said Callon. “This is not less normal than another thing. We just get what we get. And we’re pretty resilient, as a species. And so long as we draw on our better selves, it’s pretty easy to find meaning and purpose in whatever the cons.”

Callon even found himself inspired at times.

“I was inspired that people showed what they were really made of over and over and again it was selfless and generous and loving and willing to sacrifice for others,” said Callon. “And that not everybody did, that doesn’t discount the fact that a whole lot of people did. So, I’ll have learned to remember that people are fundamentally good.”

“We have a very limited amount of control and there are things that are always going to happen that are outside and we see that all the time,” said Hill. “We’re in the hands of God. It may be one of the graces of the pandemic for me just trusting in the Lord. I always want to rage against what’s wrong. I’m a fighter. I want to get out there and know when to make things right, but some things can’t be made right,” said Hill. “Sometimes you just have to surrender to that and just accept it. And that’s a very hard grace, sometimes to receive.”



SLUH Moms and students advertising the Adopt-a-Family Drive; PN 85.12, Dec. 16, 2020.

## Over 90 faculty and staff members receive Moderna vaccine

(continued from page 1)

up, each morning I would check to see if there were any local appointments, and each morning I was not getting any,” said Campus Minister Brian Gilmore. “I mean there were always choices, or appointments, but usually they were over 100 miles away.”

SLUH’s Director of Human Resources Beth Voegtli had been searching for an opportunity to bring a health clinic on campus to distribute vaccines to the faculty.

“We wanted to host a clinic because of the scarcity at first of the vaccine and how so many people were wanting it but were having to drive to rural locations,” said Voegtli. “And the anxiety of getting a vaccine, I just wanted to ease people’s minds and bring it to them in an easy way so that anyone that wanted it could get it.”

Three weeks ago, Express Specialty Pharmacy reached out to Voegtli to see if she was interested in hosting a vaccine clinic at SLUH. Voegtli replied with an eager yes.

“I had been trying different routes, and out of the blue, Express Specialty Pharmacy called me and asked if we

would be interested in hosting a clinic,” said Voegtli. “I said, my goodness, this is the call I’ve been dreaming of!”

Last Tuesday, staff from Express Specialty Pharmacy commandeered the Currihan room, transforming it from a simple eating area to an operational vaccine clinic.

“It was great, it was nice and quick,” said math teacher Stephen Deves. “The people that were administering the vaccine were efficient and friendly and Mrs. Voegtli was just so helpful and so accommodating and checking in on people and I’m just very grateful to the school for giving us this opportunity.”

Over 90 faculty and staff members received the Moderna vaccine, and will receive their second shot on April 15.

Many SLUH faculty left the Currihan room feeling relieved, like a huge weight had been lifted from their shoulders, and many were happy that they could now go and see older relatives with an added layer of protection.

“My parents are significantly older, and the whole reason that I moved back to St. Louis in the first place was

to spend more time with my parents,” said English teacher Jamie Cordia. “So there was a lot of incentive for me to be vaccinated so when I was spending time with them I could feel more comfortable and confident in our time together.”

“I’m very excited to, in the near future, spend quality time with my family members and more consistently see folks that I’ve been kind of staying away from,” said Deves. “It takes the stress, the anxiety, off a little bit about the possibility that I give something to an elderly relative that I absolutely do not want to give them.”

For some faculty of SLUH, receiving the vaccine makes them feel safer within the school building.

“I don’t wear gloves anymore, and I don’t wear my shield anymore,” said theology teacher Richard Wehner. “So yes, I do feel safer, I feel a lot safer.”

When the vaccine was first released, questions floated about the safety of a vaccine that was produced and tested so rapidly. Many of the teachers that received it had done their research and felt com-

pletely safe about receiving the vaccine.

“I was not concerned at all, because I have really been kind of following the research and the data from the beginning,” said Deves. “And I think if you do, and you understand how this was developed and you understand a lot of the science behind it, it’s pretty clear that it’s not risky it’s not unsafe.”

While assured of the vaccines’ safety and development, Cordia still had concerns about side effects of the vaccine.

“I actually had Covid in December and my understanding was that it can be a little bit worse if you had Covid in the past,” said Cordia. “I was a little bit more nervous because I thought now I’m gonna really get sick.”

Much to her relief the worst side effect was arm pain where the vaccine was administered; she did not develop a cough or any fatigue.

The only concern about the vaccines for a couple of teachers was an ethical concern with the Johnson and Johnson vaccine (which was not administered at SLUH), which used fetal tissue from aborted children during development and

production.

“Johnson and Johnson, doing some line work with fetal tissue, that was a real concern for me,” said Wehner. “In class we go through and talk a lot about that process of developing one’s conscience. Well the first thing I did was I wanted to see what the bishop said and USCCB (United States Conference of Catholic Bishops) who said that, hey, if it’s a matter of getting vaccinated and not vaccinated, you should get vaccinated.”

For Wehner he feels that it is a Catholic’s obligation to receive the vaccine to protect their neighbors and loved ones.

“I feel as a Catholic and a Christian that it is my obligation to get vaccinated so that I am not a super spreader,” said Wehner.

After their first shot, many faculty are expressing their gratitude towards SLUH for hosting a clinic and providing an easy way to receive the vaccine.

“I think this is a really positive step in the right direction for SLUH going forward,” said Cordia. “I think it really shows SLUH cares about their community. The willingness from

the administration to make this happen and get the vaccine for faculty and staff makes me feel cared for, it makes me feel like I am a priority and they are thinking about my health and safety. As a teacher I’m really grateful for that. It’s nice to know that in the future we will be better protected, not only for our students and other colleagues but also for our families.”

With a majority of the faculty vaccinated and some students already getting vaccinated, many see this as a sign of hope, the light at the end of a very long, very dark tunnel, that soon things will be able to return back to normal, or at least normalish.

“I think it was just a tremendous sign of hope,” said Deves. “We’ve been lucky in our community to have one that seems like a pretty smooth year. Low risk, low sort of looking for low risk with, with not a ton of negative consequences in terms of people’s health. But what we’re seeing now with a lot of people getting vaccinated, is that hey there’s a sign of this end in one day, hopefully soon. And that hope is, it’s definitely on the horizon.”





# Sports

## SLUH volleyball beats Lutheran St. Charles despite rocky performance

BY JACOB SPROCK AND  
GEORGE HENKEN  
NEWS EDITOR, REPORTER

Despite a performance that was at times rough around the edges, the Saint Louis U. High varsity volleyball team racked up its first victory of the season against Lutheran St. Charles on Friday, March 27, finishing the game without dropping a set—a feature that was consistent with all three levels of the SLUH volleyball program that night.

Though the team started ahead, some players seemed to be suffering from some first-game jitters at the start of set one. Multiple missed serves and mental errors resulted in a shaky start. SLUH was up by only 6-4 early in the first set, worse than the team had expected going in.

After finding its rhythm, the team slowly pulled away. Senior outside hitter Peter Quinn had three kills and two aces to put the team ahead. SLUH stayed ahead of Lutheran by around 10 points for the

rest of the first set, losing most of their points due to poor spacing at the net or service errors.

A kill by senior middle hitter Michael Krausz and an ace by junior setter George Henken clinched the first set. SLUH won 25-12 after having rotated through their entire lineup twice, their longest point streak a measly two points.

But the second set saw the varsity team flare up, opening with the intense, aggressive volleyball SLUH has come to be known for. Determined to amend the poor serving record from the first set, the team began the second set with a 7-0 serve run from Henken, which ended with a net ball—the only service error of the set. Junior right side hitter Michael Yemm then had a pair of kills to put the team ahead 9-2.

Passing by junior liberos Tanner Dougherty and Craig Ortwerth was on point, keeping the team in system on nearly every play and leading to a fast offense that caught defending blockers off guard and

on their toes throughout the set. Dougherty then went on to serve an 8-0 run, putting the Jr. Bills up 21-3. After a few aggressive errors by SLUH hitters, the Jr. Bills got the ball back after a dig by senior outside hitter Brendan McLaughlin. Senior outside hitter Ben McCabe then finished the game off with his serves, and SLUH won the second set 25-7.

After the dominant victories of the first two sets, head coach Jeff Cheak felt comfortable switching up the lineup for the third set, allowing the usual starters time to rest and cheer on their teammates from the bench.

The start of the third set saw SLUH fall behind for the first time in the game following some setting errors and rough transitions from hitters. However, junior setter Ben Harmon got the offense flowing once again after he found his rhythm, totaling 12 assists on the set. Following a 9-0 service run from Dougherty and a series of well-placed kills, with notable ones coming from ju-

nior outside hitter Danny Hillmeyer and junior middle hitter Jack Polansky, SLUH was comfortably up 22-10, ending the game with two aces and a kill to win the set 25-11.

As the only player to stay on for the whole match, junior outside hitter Phillip Bone had many opportunities to score, resulting in a team-high 11 kills, many of which helped the team out of a tough spot in the third set.

The match served as a great opportunity to give all 14 players some time on the court, this game being the first varsity-level match for many of the players, including two sophomore middle hitters, Will Blaisdell and Victor Lazzaretti. Blaisdell notched 1 kill and 1 block, and Lazzaretti recorded 3 kills. Despite being the youngest players on the team, they found their way to play with the upperclassmen and helped propel the Jr. Bills to their 3-0 win over Lutheran.

The team is set to play at Mehlville on April 1 at 6:30 p.m .

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## Water polo finishes strong to overtake Chaminade in first game

BY ALEX WENTZ  
REPORTER

The St. Louis U High water polo team had its first game in over 600 days on March 27, beating Chaminade 10-7. No spectators were allowed, but the game was broadcast on Chaminade Student Entertainment Network (CSEN), complete with announcers and commercials.

“We certainly played hard the whole game,” said head coach John Penilla. “It’s obviously different playing a game than practice, and we practiced for five weeks and didn’t have a game last year, so some of these guys are playing their first game ever in high school and everybody was playing their first varsity game.”

The first quarter ended with SLUH up 3-0, with all three goals scored by captain Carson Cornett. SLUH struggled on defense during the first quarter and throughout the entire game; Chaminade hit the goalpost three times before SLUH scored the game’s first goal.

“I think we played not-so-great defense throughout parts of the game, but there were parts of the game where we shut them down and they couldn’t get through. Then there were also parts of the game where they ran straight through us,” said Cornett.

SLUH’s defensive flaws became glaringly obvious in the second quarter, which left the two teams tied at half, 4-4. Sophomore Joe Zarrilli

was able to score off of a six-on-five play, but Chaminade made up for it by scoring four goals, piercing through SLUH’s defense.

Though SLUH’s defense may have been looking weak, the offense began to shine in the third quarter. Sophomore Brandon Harris opened up the quarter with three goals, one off of a six-on-five play, and the next off of a 2-on-0, and the last on a long shot from the 6-meter mark. Junior Brody Nester also scored a breakaway goal to end the quarter with SLUH back up, 8-4.

Cornett said, “I think we made some really smart plays on offense, when we ran good ones.”

The game ended strong with goals from Cornett and junior Sam French for SLUH, as well as three goals for Chaminade, leaving the final score 10-7. With the first win under its belt, the team is prepping for its next game: Wednesday against Parkway Central at 5:30 p.m.

Regarding what the team needs to improve, head coach Penilla said, “The truth is, again, nobody (on the team) has ever played at this level, so trying to find that consistency of what that level needs to be, not just for a couple possessions, but every possession, every single time on defense, every single time on offense, making sure that (they) know what (they) are supposed to be doing.”



Senior Carson Cornett. photo | courtesy of @SLUHAthletics

## Baseball drops first three games, eyes first win with contests vs. Webster, Chaminade



Senior Jake Noonan on the mound. photo | Scott Thomas

BY COBY SPRATTE AND  
CARTER SPENCE  
REPORTER AND WEB EDITOR

The varsity baseball team opened its regular season under the lights at Sheridan Stadium on Friday night against the Parkway West Longhorns, the school Jr. Bills’ head coach Ron Ramspott most recently coached at. The team had been practicing in anticipation of this night for almost four weeks, but was stifled in its Opening Day efforts, losing 8-0.

Junior Alex Shelton led off the game with a scorching line drive base hit, but that proved to be the only hit the Jr. Bills mustered for the remainder of the game. Other than Shelton being walked two more times and junior Tommy Etling reaching base, once via walk and then by virtue of an error, the offense never got anything going.

On the other side of the ball, starter Jake Noonan struggled to find the strike

zone consistently, walking four and surrendering five earned runs through three innings of work. Yet, when Noonan had his command honed in, he was extremely effective, striking out seven batters in his limited outing.

Junior John Loretta and senior Tommy Pollard finished off the game on the mound, each contributing two innings of work. Loretta walked one and struck out two while giving up three runs, two earned, and Pollard pitched two perfect innings, striking out two. Yet, by that point, the game was all but wrapped up.

The Jr. Bills needed a short memory as the next day they had a new challenge with two games against Fort Zumwalt South. In the first game of its doubleheader, the Jr. Bills played a much more competitive game than the night before, but, despite their efforts, they were blanked again in their 5-0 loss.

The offense managed more base runners across than the

previous game, fueled by lead-off hitter sophomore Henry Zenor contributing two base hits and a walk, but the team’s clutch hitting remained absent as, whenever they pushed a runner into scoring position, they could not push him across home plate, at one point even stranding the bases loaded.

The pitching staff had a much more competitive outing than the night before, as starter Garret Shearer battled for four innings, surrendering four runs while walking three and striking out three. He was relieved in the fifth inning by junior Tucker Thomas who pitched the final three innings of the game, allowing one unearned run while striking out three batters and walking none. Yet, without any run support to speak of, Shearer took the loss and the team dropped to 0-2.

The Jr. Bills continued on to their second game of the day, again facing Fort Zumwalt South, but despite another hard-fought effort, the



# Track and Field fulfills expectations, takes third place at McCullough-Douglass Invitational

BY NOAH APPRILL-SOKOL  
AND PETER JAMES  
NEWS EDITOR, STAFF

The Saint Louis U. High track and field team competed in its first two meets of the season: the SLUH JV/C #1 Meet and the McCullough-Douglass Invitational. With many standout performances, the SLUH track and field team has started its season strong and expectations are high.

“There hasn’t been an opportunity for last year’s seniors to pass on any wisdom to younger athletes about anything and so we really were starting over in a lot of ways,” said head coach Joe Porter. “It was good it was at our place with two teams that we have a very good relationship with—Rockwood

Summit and De Smet—and it was nice that we were able to spend most of the meet teaching kids about how meets work. And in that way it’s 100 percent a success.”

On Thursday, SLUH hosted De Smet and Rockwood Summit to SLUH’s first track and field meet in over 670 days. Despite the downpour of rain and possibility of lightning, the meet was able to continue until thunder was heard and the events near the end of the meet were canceled, preventing athletes from competing in discus, pole vault, javelin, and the 4x400 relay.

One of the many highlights of SLUH’s performance was junior Keshon Parker, who was tied for first in the 100-meter hurdles (15.74 seconds), first in the 300 hurdles

(46.34), fourth in the long jump (16 feet, 11.50 inches), and first in the triple jump (32-11.00). On the distance level, junior Joe LaBarge and sophomore Tim Greiner both ran under 10:40 in the 3200, impressive times for a JV race.

There were no spectators at SLUH’s meet, but parents were able to sign up to volunteer with helping out around the meet—getting times, moving the hurdles and sprinting blocks on and off the track, and filming each event.

The following Saturday, SLUH’s varsity team competed with 12 other teams at the McCullough-Douglass Invitational, hosted by Festus High School. The team took third at the meet, but that was because there were races that

SLUH did not take part in.

From sprints to long distance, SLUH athletes dominated in a range of events, showing the large amount of talent on the team. Freshman Ryan Wingo won the 100-meter dash with a time of 10.92 seconds earlier in the day and then later finished first in the 200 with a time of 22.47. Junior Joseph Meehan finished fourth in the 400, running a 54.77.

“If you look at the national rankings for freshmen in the 100-meter run, Ryan is currently ranked eighth, and he’s the first athlete not from Texas, Florida, or Georgia,” said Porter. “Ryan’s first race at the gate was outstanding, and we’ve found some technical things that we’re going to improve on as the season progresses and hopefully contin-

ue to improve. But winning the 100 by over half a second and the 200 by almost two full seconds is pretty impressive.”

For the SLUH mid-distance and distance team, the team competed strongly despite being up against some strong runners from Festus. Sophomore Nolan Meara got fifth place in the 1600 with a time of 4:45 followed by a seventh place performance for senior Daniel Hogan. In the 3200, junior Grant Brawley finished fourth in the 3200 with 9:50 just behind three runners from Festus. However, one of the most stunning performances on the day came from junior Baker Pashea who won the 800 in 1:58, nine seconds in front of the second place finisher.

“Baker’s time of 1:58 currently sits as third in the state

of Missouri for all 800 runners. There’s only three guys that have broken two minutes, and he won by nine seconds, so it wasn’t like it was pushing up at any point in the race,” said Porter. “From the gun, he was gone and no one was with him, and in that way it was pretty impressive. He looks very much under control, and we felt like there were some things can fix in terms of his race as well.”

SLUH will host another JV/C race on April 1, and the varsity will compete at Eureka on April 8.

“We want to get as many chances to compete this season and see where we are,” said Porter. “It’s still early April, and we want to be our best in a month to month and a half from now.”

# After Atlanta, senior reflects on personal experiences with anti-Asian sentiments

(continued from page 7)  
Harbor. When I researched more, I found out that the first Chinese Americans that came over to America, they came over during the Gold Rush, and they worked pretty much slave labor jobs, where they earned next to nothing, and they were scapegoated as taking away the jobs of other Americans. When the 9/11 attacks happened, many Southeast Asians—people from India—were blamed for 9/11. Many people don’t know this, but one of the first deaths attributed to the backlash and racism from 9/11 wasn’t even someone who was Muslim. It was a person who was Sikh, and Sikhism is usually an Indian religion. So many Asian people have been scapegoated for the backlash of nationwide events when in reality they weren’t even taking part, which nowadays is pretty prevalent in terms of

things.  
**ST:** So, obviously these anti-Asian sentiments and mindsets have been around for a long time, but do you think that recently the rhetoric around Covid-19 has been one of the most prevalent and shocking examples of mass Asian racism in the United States?

**PP:** Yes, definitely. This is probably the most recent, most shocking, and prevalent example I’ve seen in my life. I’ve seen statistics and anti-Asian sentiments have risen almost 200 percent in America and Canada, and mainly it’s because of how the coronavirus has been attributed to China and most people can’t differentiate between the two. The racist encounter I had was when I was shopping at Schnucks. This was before many of the six-foot rules and mandated masks, but people kept their

distance more than they usually did. In that Schnucks, there was a Caucasian man that came up to me, and essentially started yelling slurs at me and blaming me for bringing Covid over to the United States, and I’m not even Chinese. I’m Vietnamese, like 100 percent Vietnamese. And that was my first firsthand experience with racism. I’ve actually heard racist experiences of others, and I just felt really discouraged.

**ST:** Thank you for being able to talk about that experience, I’m sure it’s been really tough to go through. Now, in terms of the anti-Asian sentiment happening recently, of course what everyone is thinking about is the shooting in Atlanta. All the victims were Asian and almost all of them were women, and lately the media and the shooter himself have

said that this was solely an attack against women, and it wasn’t race-related despite the evidence proving that it was. Do you think that this is an example of the media or just America in general not wanting to acknowledge Asian racism? What are your thoughts on this?

**PP:** Yeah, the media wants to say how the shooting was not race based, but I disagree. I feel like he was part of the incel community, but I think he had a special fixation towards Asian women. He killed eight people, but six of those people were Asian women. I think in his mindset, he specifically targeted those people because on his way to the nail salon, he passed over several strip clubs. So I feel like the attack was definitely targeted primarily towards Asian people. Democrats tend to not really acknowledge us, but then I

hate it when Republicans use us as a counteract, like to bash the Democrats for what they do, even though Republicans haven’t done anything for the Asian community either. I feel like our voices aren’t heard. We’ve been protesting, but it’s just that our voices aren’t heard until it’s useful to be heard.

**ST:** That’s got to be very disheartening in a lot of ways. So a lot of people say racist mindsets can be built on action and inaction. In terms of getting rid of an active racist mindset, what are ways you think people can educate themselves to prevent that?

**PP:** The best way to counteract this is trying to find sources that are reliable to trust. Many of these mindsets that racist people have are based on just a bunch of lies and fake propaganda

that many people use to portray us as something that is not right, and project that onto others.

**ST:** In terms of preventing inactive mindsets and racism, what do you want to say to people who don’t want to acknowledge the anti-Asian sentiment and people who are opposed to having these conversations?

**PP:** That’s a hard question. I think that if these conversations are never had, then these problems will never be able to be solved in the first place. The plight of anti-Asian sentiments were never brought up until now, when people heard things like, ‘Oh, they started to rise up.’ And now more and more people are talking about it. Because before they didn’t talk about it at all. Yeah, now it is because it’s getting sensational.

## 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 per-

son, 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 withhold from publication any submission if it is deemed vulgar, tasteless, or otherwise inappropriate. Authors should be available for the editor 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](mailto:prepnews@sluh.org), and, if possible, a signed copy should be given to a Prep News editor or moderator or mailed to the Prep News courtesy of St. Louis University High School, 4970 Oakland, St. Louis, MO 63110.

## SLUH lacrosse starts season undefeated, readies for conference play against Chaminade

BY NICK CAMPBELL  
STAFF

The varsity lacrosse team has opened its season 3-0, including a 14-5 win against Francis Howell United on Saturday. The Jr. Bills have also beaten the Webster Groves Woodchucks and the Eureka Wildcats.

The team, under head coach Andrew Toussaint, attributes much of its initial success to a regained focus on the fundamentals, including passing, catching, and man to man matchups on the defense, which has proven to give SLUH a leg up on other teams in the early weeks of season play.

The Jr. Bills have also benefited from midfielder



photo | courtesy of @SLUHAthletics

and team captain Bobby Conroy providing strong senior leadership and creating plays on offense, and goalies John Browdy and Bernie Kilcullen making saves in the clutch on the defensive half. Many underclassmen have also stepped up to the plate

and have made plays across the field.

The squad is now setting its sights on its first MCC conference game of the season against Chaminade this Wednesday, March 31 at SLUH.



Around The Hallways

Holy Week Mass

A staggered Mass for Holy Week took place on Monday, March 29. Freshmen and sophomores gathered for Mass at 10 a.m. and juniors and seniors gathered for Mass at 11 a.m. The schedule was adjusted so that Mass took the place of 8th period, meaning that classes were dismissed at 3:15. The Mass was in the Danis Field House.

Manresa Retreat

From Tuesday, March 30 to Friday, April 2, a group of

seniors will embark on the contemplative Manresa Retreat. Just as St. Ignatius spent time in Manresa searching for clarity, seniors are offered the opportunity to attend this retreat and search for clarity in their lives. The retreat is for seniors so that they can look past high school in their contemplative prayer and discussion.

Parent-Teacher Conferences

Students will be off school on Wednesday, March 31 for parent-teacher conferences.



The conferences will once again be virtual and parents can make appointments with the teachers with whom they want to speak. Confer-

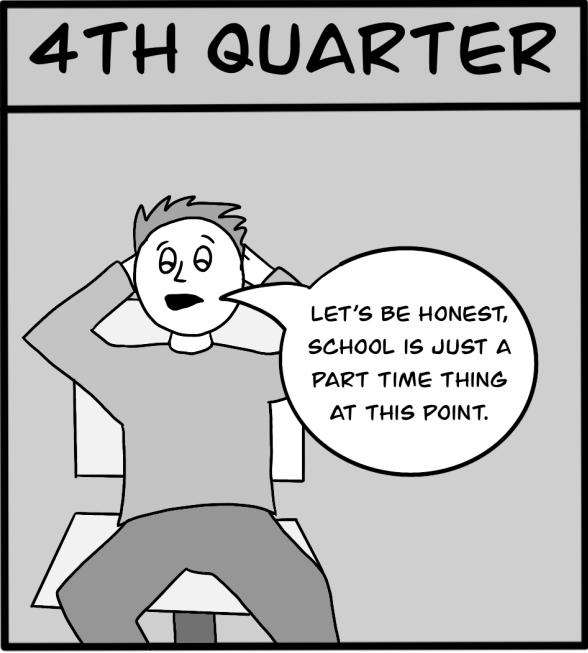
ences will take place from 1 to 5 p.m. and 6 to 8 p.m. on Wednesday night.

— compiled by Luke Duffy

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

SLUHsERS



SLUHsers | Nathan Rich

Credits:

“What do you want to be in your Easter basket?”

Editor in Chief

Carter “free dance lessons” Fortman

News Editors

Noah “a love letter from Sprock” Apprill-Sokol  
Jacob “a hate letter from NASA” Sprock

Sports Editor

Luke “Qdoba” Altier

Features Editor

Sam “WandaVision directors cut” Tarter

Web Editor

Carter “a Johnny Juzang jersey” Spence

Core Staff

Nathan “self confidence” Rich  
Roarke “the golden egg” Unrau  
Luke “new chef knives” Duffy  
Jack “a 36(%) on the ACT” Figge  
Louis “one ‘get out of Prep News night’ card” Cornett  
Jack “regular coca-cola” Rybak

Staff

Peter “a 30 day hulu free trial” James  
Nick “a GrillMaster” Campbell  
Jackson “Nike Air-Maxes” Cooper

Staff Artist

Charlie “Christmas presents” Bieg

Reporters

George “a volleyball championship” Henken  
John “100 paint brushes” Bytnar  
Alex “hand sanitizer that kills 100% of germs” Wentz  
Michael “a new lacrosse stick” Robinson  
Coby “Cardinals season tickets” Spratte

Moderator

Steve “a blues win” Missey

Calendar

Tuesday, March 30

A Day

Manresa Retreat

AL Snack—Chicken Bites

LUNCH Special—Taco Bar

9:00am Varsity Bantle Golf Tournament

4:30pm Postponed: JV White Lacrosse vs Marquette

5:30pm JV Blue Lacrosse vs Lafayette

7:15pm Varsity Lacrosse vs Lafayette

Wednesday, March 31

No Classes

No Classes-Parent-Teacher Conferences

Manresa Retreat

Release of District assignments for MSHSAA Spring Sports

Parent-Teacher Conferences

8:30am JV Golf-Fox Tournament

4:15pm Tennis (JV/V) vs Vianney @ DDTC

4:30pm B-Team Baseball vs Webster Groves

4:30pm Varsity Baseball vs Webster Groves

Thursday, April 1

No Classes

No Classes-Holy Thursday

Manresa Retreat

11:00am C-Team Baseball vs Vianney

11:00am varsity Baseball vs Chaminade

3:30pm Varsity Golf vs Ladue

4:15pm Volleyball (JV/V) vs Mehlville

Friday, April 2

No Classes

No Classes-Good Friday

Manresa Retreat

Saturday, April 3

9:00am Oakville Volleyball Tournament (C)

10:00am B-Team Baseball vs Summit

11:00am Volleyball (JV/V) vs St. Mary’s

Sunday, April 4

Easter Sunday

Monday, April 5

No Classes

No Classes-Easter Monday

9:00am JV Golf vs MCC

1:00pm Varsity Baseball vs St. Mary’s

3:30pm JV Golf vs Dominic

4:15pm Tennis (V) vs John Burroughs

4:30pm C-Team Baseball vs Webster Groves

Tuesday, April 6

B Day

Sophomore Class Meeting-Period 8

AL Snack—Chicken Bites

LUNCH Special—Chick Fil A

3:30pm C-Team Golf vs Vianney

3:30pm Varsity Golf vs John Burroughs

4:15pm Tennis (JV/V) vs Ladue

4:30pm Volleyball (C/JV/V) vs Parkway Central

Wednesday, April 7

A Day

Junior Kairos - King’s House

Wilderness Retreat

AL Snack—Chicken Rings

LUNCH Special—Chicken Strips & Bacon

9:00am JV Golf - Clayton Team Best Ball

4:30pm Volleyball (C/JV/V) vs Marquette

4:45pm C-Team Baseball vs CBC

Thursday, April 8

B Day

Junior Kairos - King’s House

Wilderness Retreat

Cashbah Auction Set Up

Sophomore Retreat - SLUH

Sophomore Class Mass

B Day

AL Snack—Bosco Stick

LUNCH Special—Papa John

3:15pm Freshman Service

3:30pm JV Golf vs Chaminade

3:30pm Varsity Golf vs Chaminade

4:15pm C-Team Baseball vs Seckman

Friday, April 9

No Classes

Junior Kairos - King’s House

Wilderness Retreat

Cashbah Auction Set Up

Sophomore Retreat - SLUH

Spring Studio Tech Week

No Classes-Retreat Day

4:15pm Tennis (JV/V) vs Westminster

4:30pm Volleyball (C/JV/V) vs Ft. Zumwalt South