

Love is in the air: three SLUH teachers announce engagements

BY CARTER J. FORTMAN
EDITOR IN CHIEF

The number of eligible bachelor and bachelorette faculty members has taken a dive the past few months as seemingly endless amounts of teachers get engaged . Among those who will be tying the knot in the near future are Theology Teacher Mike Lally, Science Teacher Bradley Mueller, and Campus Minister Julie Anderson.

In an effort to better understand these factually members and their relationship on a more personal level, the *Prep News* decided to speak with each engaged person and their fiancée to give our readers an inside scoop into their romance.

Mike Lally

The first faculty member we spoke to was Lally, who happens to be the most recent

continued on page 6

Successful Mission Week raises thousands for charity through fun activities



Senior Grant Sussman going for a lay up against the ferocious PN defense.

photo | Isaiah Hinkebein

BY NATHAN RICH AND
LUKE MISSEY
CORE STAFF, REPORTER

The St. Louis U. High community celebrated

the annual StuCo-led Mission Week last week, which aims to inspire the generosity of students and faculty each winter. This year’s beneficiary, The Little Bit Founda-

tion—an organization that aims to promote education in under-privileged communities—received immense support from the SLUH community through a variety of

different activities.

By StuCo co-moderator Bradley Mueller’s estimate, the student body raised around \$12,000 this year. In addition, the school supplies

continued on page 7

Admin releases schedule for final semester

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

“Time and tide wait for no man,” wrote English poet Geoffrey Chaucer. No matter how much one can hope that the insurmountable foe of time will halt in its tracks, time will always continue ticking. As pandemic life continues, time seems to hold even greater significance, as opportunities like grains of sand slip through one’s fingertips—there one day and then gone the next.

As March marks the one-year anniversary of the Covid-19 pandemic coming to Saint Louis, the Saint Louis U. High administration released in principal Ian Gibbons S.J.’s weekly email last Sunday a schedule for the last couple months of the 2020-21 school year. While many opportunities have been lost during the pandemic, the administration is adamant that certain traditions, even if altered, will be kept alive.

From Junior Ring to Graduation, these events have been SLUH’s way of ushering in new and saying goodbye to old. The Junior Ring ceremony will be a part of the Junior Class special programming day on May 7. The Baccalaureate Mass will be celebrated on May 29 and graduation will be on May 30. While these events will be adapted to align with safety protocols, the administration is hopeful that it will be able to maintain the semblance of these rituals.

“I mean the heart of (graduation) is the honoring of the seniors for their four-year journey with the ending of their time with us in Mass and prayer,” said Gibbons. “It is a missioning forward and celebration of knowing all

continued on page 10

“It was a good time during a very hard time”: Spoon River creators reflect on the filmmaking process



Joe Pottinger performing his monologue.

BY SAM TARTER
FEATURES EDITOR

The reviews are in! After weeks of waiting and anticipation building, the professional recording of the Dauphin Player’s The Spoon River

Anthology was released on the St. Louis U. High YouTube channel to high acclaim, heavy praise, and much adoration by the cast, crew, and audience that make up the SLUH community.

Spoon River—a collection

of short free verse poetry and monologues written by Edgar Lee Masters—tells an anthology story of the ghosts of the fictional town of Spoon River, who each give individual retellings of their lives and deaths, some of which intertwine with other stories throughout the performance.

Being the first official filmed production from the Dauphin Players, many crew members were impressed by the way the show was presented in the given medium and even more impressed by the sheer professionalism of the final product.

“This is not typical cinema but it’s a perfect form for the constraints that we’re living

continued on page 10

Mock Trial makes it to State after successful preliminary

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

History has been made in the courtroom for St. Louis U. High. The SLUH Mock Trial team will be heading to the state competition in April to compete at the second highest level after garnering much success during their second preliminary trial two weeks ago. While it is a huge honor to qualify for the state trial, the success is especially punctuated by the rarity of the occasion.

continued on page 10

Covid Numbers*

STUDENT CASES:
0

STUDENT
QUARANTINES:
4

FACULTY CASES:
0

FACULTY
QUARANTINES:
1

*Numbers as of this Friday, Mar. 4.

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NEWS

Class of 2025 Welcome Event

More than just fancy decoration for lunch, the balloons in the Commons marked an important new beginning last week: incoming freshman got their first taste of SLUH. *Page 3*

NEW

Duck Investigation

I swear! If I see one more duck in these classrooms...

Page 7

FEATURES

Black History Month

50 years after the Civil Rights Movement, three Black seniors share their thoughts on the education disparity. *Page 2*

FEATURES

Immigration

Biology teacher Nhan Pham shares the little known story of his immigration from Vietnam to America to escape political persecution. *Page 4*

SPORTS

Raquetball

21 in ‘21! SLUH Raquetball wins 21st state title, as several players make it deep into singles brackets. *Page 8*

SPORTS

Basketball

Following first round win against Hazelwood Central, SLUH basketball preps for difficult matchup with Pattonville. *Page 8*

INDEX

2	Features
3	News
4	Immigration
5	Entertainment
6	Engagements
7	Mission Week
8-9	Sports
10-11	News
12	SLUH SERS

Three seniors talk educational disparities for Black History Month, 52-year anniversary of Kerner Report

BY NOAH APPRILL-SOKOL
AND NICK CAMPBELL
NEWS EDITOR, STAFF

On Feb. 29, 1968, President Lyndon B. Johnson’s administration released one of the most provocative reports of its decade. The Kerner Report, as it was called, highlighted the many different disparities that Black people faced at the time, from health to economics to education. Over 50 years have passed since the release of that report, yet Black people continue to struggle in these areas, especially in the area of equitable education. As both Black History Month and Mission Week, whose mission is education security, come to a close, the Prep News has talked to three Black seniors, Ocean Okohson-Reb, Albert Harrold, and Zak Stevenson, to understand their personal

Okohson-Reb. I remember four or five years ago I went to a summer program, and I was talking about the school that I just got into (SLUH). And the people there asked, ‘what is SLUH?’ They didn’t even know that this was an option for them, which is part of the problem.”

These trends in this recent report match similar data that was documented in the Kerner Report. Yet the problem goes farther back than 52 years ago when the Kerner Report was released.

“The struggle for Black education started back from when we were first brought here and denied the right to speak our home native languages, to then not being able to read and write, to then going into segregated schools, which got desegregated and then later segregated again,” said Harrold. “It’s really on-going. It’s an ongoing struggle.”

districts have broken disciplinary systems. During the 2015-16 school year, when these three seniors were in seventh grade, Black students missed 178,242 days of school because of out-of-school suspensions in Missouri. In St. Louis, Black male students are 16.6 times more likely to receive an out-of-school suspension than their white counterparts. While it is important to have discipline, the extensive use of these disciplinary actions often set students back in their educational progress and do not address the underlying issues.

“A lot of times the people who failed and got in trouble in school were the same kids who didn’t have resources at home, whose parents were going through it at home or who didn’t have friends, or who didn’t have food every day or just people who were

that is covered in each class. Majority Black school districts perform significantly worse on standardized tests than majority white school districts in the St. Louis area. St. Louis has some of the poorest performing schools in Missouri. Harrold and Stevenson believe that this is because the teachers and classes don’t adequately prepare students.

“It is a privilege to be here at SLUH,” said Stevenson. “There’s a gap within education because the things that are taught here are not taught, even in AP classes in public school.”

“I think that the kids who attend these schools, they can really tell when people are doing things in their favor, and they can really tell when people care about what they’re doing for them,” said Harrold. “I think it’s very discouraging when they see a lot of different teachers who are just there for the paycheck.”

While SLUH offers many opportunities and resources, it has not always been easy for these students to be part of a majority white institution.

“My mother told me my first day, ‘when you walk in there, you’re gonna grow into your skin,’ and I had no idea what that meant,” said Stevenson. “I’ve been this color my whole life and I didn’t know what she meant by growing into my skin. I just thought I never had to do anything, like telling people stop touching my hair, or I may be a football player but I am a student too.”

The SLUH environment and community can sometimes be hostile to students of color, as these three noted.

“There are kids here that want to make you feel like you don’t belong, and once you succumb to that then they win,” said Stevenson. “But I did not give in. I did not flunk out, I did not transfer, I made it through.”

Despite their often difficult past, Okohson-Reb, Harrold, and Stevenson are grateful for their education and see it as a priceless gift and a part of their identity.

“If I have an education that is worth something that has taught me something and can be applied into many, many different things, I can raise my value,” said Stevenson. “It is one of those intangible net worth things that you have to have and that cannot be stolen from you.”

“We live in a society that values education almost above all else. It is an open door if you can get educated. It’s really the epitome of achievement,” said Okohson-Reb. “With a degree, you can find yourself a job, you can take care of your family, you can take care of those around you. It’s one of life’s major stepping stones. It takes away a huge roadblock when it comes to success here in this

What are snow days like for faculty?

BY SAM TARTER
FEATURES EDITOR

For many St. Louis U. High students, an asynchronous snow day can mean a relaxed schedule, extra hours of sleep, and a chance to catch up on overdue assignments or study a little extra for a big test. But for teachers, a snow day can be hectic, stressful, and most importantly, plan altering.

After last week’s winter storms led to snow days on Tuesday and Wednesday, many classes had to delay tests, change homework assignments, or forego their planned assignments in favor of asynchronous learning and accessible homework.

AP Comparative Government teacher Sarah Becvar’s classes were thrown for a loop due to the timing of snow days last week and the week before.

“It’s not ideal to delay a test too far beyond the end of instruction. As much as possible I want my classes to get the experience of testing in class; I find that to be more meaningful, easy, and beneficial, and it’s also better than converting to online testing, especially since some of my other period classes had already taken it,” said Becvar. “However, teaching AP seniors in the second semester, I feel that at this point my classes are all pretty adaptable and that when they get to the end of the year and take the AP exam, they will be doing similar things in terms of going back and reviewing content that they’ve learned months ago. So I felt comfortable enough to tell the guys to put this on hold and keep going with the material we were learning. I really counted on the flexibility and adaptability of my students, but I think it worked out alright.”

Kathryn Whitaker’s Acting Scenes students lost time to practice their scene assessment in-person and on the stage.

“I would’ve definitely spent more time staging the scene work, but at some point you have to move forward, and that’s the thing, if you don’t get to the work consistently, students start losing the memorization, unless they are going to be really disciplined about it. And when you have four or five days off in a row, how disciplined are they going to be about it?,” Whitaker laughed. “I always love a chance to be at home and read, but I started to get worried after the second day that we were going to stay caught up and stay on top of things. When you start worrying so much, that starts to take the beauty and ease out of those snow days.”

Other art classes, however, found that the asynchronous learning allowed for some extra time for students to practice, learn, and prepare on their own schedule.

“It depends on the class, but for a class like Varsity Choir, the asynchronous days are very nice because instead of having a full scale rehearsal with everyone in the room, it gives my students the whole period to practice on their own time and on their own sections,” said choir teacher Addie Akin. “It allows them to look at a section that they’re struggling with personally, and these asynchronous days let them fix and rehearse it. It also allows me to teach things that we normally don’t have time for inside the classroom, such as music theory and note reading skills, since we are always trying to sing when we are in person.”

Outside of the classroom and normal school day, activities were also affected, as meetings had to be switched to Zoom.

“The snow days were definitely disruptive,” said tutor and remote learning assistant David Linhares. “I usually sit in and supervise classes while the teachers are teaching remotely, so since students were virtual I didn’t have to come in, which was nice as it allowed me some time to work on and catch up with graduate school classes. I also help tutor kids after school, and for them there was some confusion there, since students are so used to meeting in class and not having Zoom classes, that a lot of them missed their zoom meeting with me for their scheduled time. It was a bit of a wild ride.”

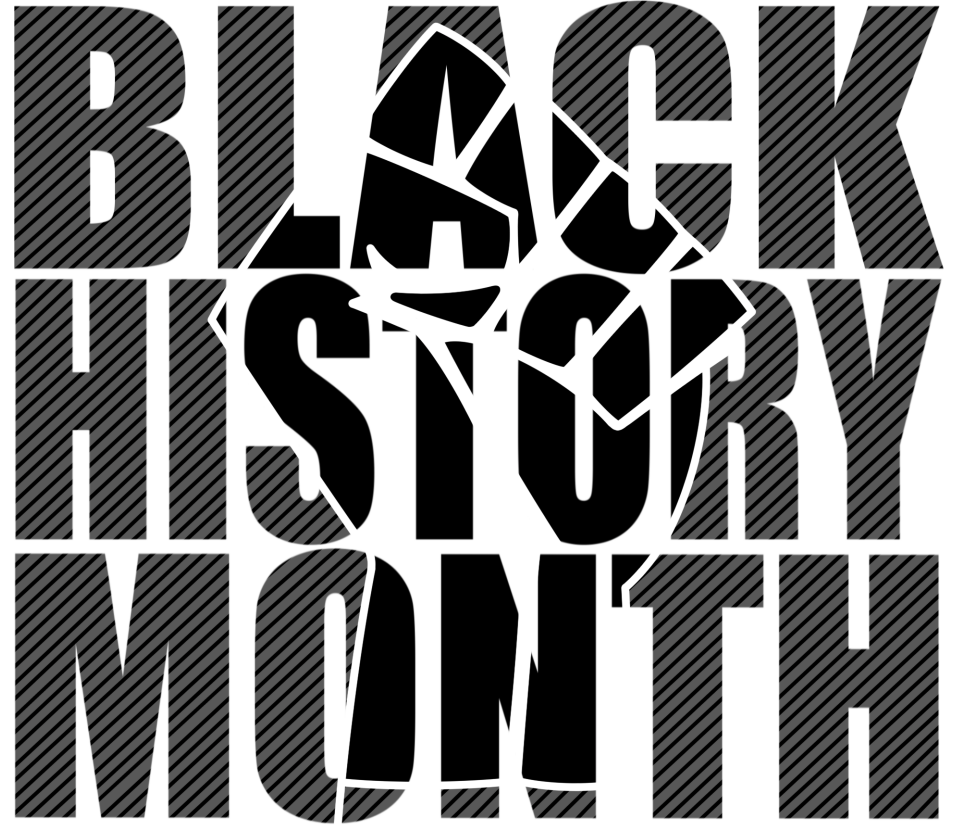
Perhaps one of the most pressing events that was missed and altered due to the snow days was the annual Ash Wednesday Mass. While Fr. Joseph Hill, S.J. did offer a smaller, more personal Ash Wednesday Mass in the chapel for the adults that were in the building that day, the large scale, all-school Mass was pushed to a later date.

“We canceled the morning Masses on snow days, and of course, we canceled the Ash Wednesday Mass as well,” said Hill. “We thought about moving it to Thursday, but with so many changes to the schedule and how that would have caused more challenges for teachers to have a special schedule day after not seeing their students for almost a week, we decided to move the Mass to another time during Lent.”

The rescheduled mass is expected to take place on campus on March 29 after spring break.



art | Charlie Bieg



art | Charlie Bieg

educational experiences and the overall education struggle that many Black people face in America.

For many SLUH students, a strong education is often an overlooked blessing, a gift that is occasionally acknowledged during weeks like Spirit Week or Catholic Schools Week. Yet, for many Black students in the St. Louis region and at SLUH, education is a priceless gift. The report “Still Separate, Still Unequal: A Call to Level the Uneven Education Playing Field in St. Louis” released last year highlighted a series of educational disparities in St. Louis. One of the most notable inequalities was that majority Black school districts have fewer funds and resources than majority white school districts in the St. Louis region.

“There’s just a lot of wasted opportunity. You have groups of kids who are just willing to learn and they want to. But because of the lack of resources and the lack of opportunity, they can’t,” said

gle.”

While the three students interviewed looked fondly upon their previous elementary and grade schools, they all noted similar disparities that were documented in the recent report, particularly highlighting the lack of funding and extracurriculars of their schools. Okohson-Reb’s school, Christ Light of the Nations, recently closed because of lack of money to keep the school running.

“There was really just choir, a band, and orchestra, and there weren’t any intermediate levels. Everybody was in one choir. Everybody was in one band. Everybody was in one orchestra,” said Harrold, who went to Cross Keys Middle School. “There just weren’t many programs or activities for kids to do after school at all. And that is in part because teachers in the district are not really equipped to initiate these types of things.”

In addition to lack of funding and resources, many majority Black school

lacking bigger things,” said Harrold. “There was usually almost 100 percent of the time an underlying problem that was going on.”

Okohson-Reb witnessed another issue regarding race at his school. When he started there, his school started off as a pretty diverse school. Yet, as he got older, white students began to leave, shifting the demographic of the student body from a very diverse school to one that was majority Black. Okohson-Reb blames this change on white flight, the migration phenomenon of white people moving farther away from the St. Louis city.

“At the time I feel like I was a little bit too young to understand it. The only thing I really thought about was my friends leaving. ‘Somebody’s got a job here,’ that’s usually what they would say, but looking back on it, it’s kind of a reflection of how far we still need to go as a society.”

However, the biggest problem, especially in public schools, is the lack of material

Campus Ministry creates Lenten challenge program to revitalize students’ faith life

BY JACK FIGGE AND
JOHN POSEY
CORE STAFF, REPORTER

Catholics across the world embarked last week on the 40 day journey of Lent, a time to prepare oneself for the Easter season through fasting, prayer, and almsgiving. In an effort to help the student body grow in these areas, the Junior Pastoral Team and Fr. Joseph Hill, S.J. have developed a program that emphasizes these three areas through weekly challenges.

“The church sets aside this time of Lent to help people refocus their spiritual lives, to dedicate themselves to penance and prayer,” said Hill. “There’s always ups and downs in our spiritual lives. Sometimes we are much more fervent, sometimes we sort of feel as if we’re falling away or slacking a little bit. Lent is that time to pick up the slack and focus our energies back on growing closer to God and growing in holiness.”

This need to use Lent to turn back to God appears especially prevalent this year. Many people have experienced a sense of spiritual dryness during the Covid-19 pandemic due to the lack of community available and Masses going online last year.

“I feel that the pandemic has affected my spiritual life because it has prevented me from growing closer to God especially through going to Mass on Sundays. It has been hard for me to make it to Mass with worriment of the pandemic and trying to limit my exposure,” said junior Jared Thornberry.

Realizing the apparent desire for God within the SLUH community, Hill wanted to develop a program that would help students reinvigorate their faith lives and re-encounter God during this

Lenten season.

“My impression is that religious practice has gone down within SLUH, like most places,” said Hill. “So this Lent is a call more than ever to return to the Lord and to return to what is our consistent, Christian practice.”

To help SLUH reconnect with God and each other, Campus Ministry is offering a set of Lenten challenges for those who wish to sign up. For the seven weeks of Lent, Campus Ministry will be sending a weekly email with different challenges, based on the three themes of Lent: Prayer, Charity, and Fasting.

“I think that sometimes it’s hard for students to understand or know what the next steps are for spiritual growth, such as: how can I really engage in prayer at a more profound level? How can I rededicate myself? That’s what the Lenten challenges are about, is to give students a framework for doing that,” said Hill.

With the start of Lent last Wednesday, the Junior Pastoral Team released the first challenge: praying a different daily prayer every day. Every day, an email containing a different prayer, such as praying a decade of the rosary, listening to a reflection on the daily readings, or praying a litany, is delivered to each participant’s inbox. The prayers differ every day to provide students with exposure to new types of prayer.

“The daily prayers are very important because they allow people to truly foster a real relationship with God and keep in touch with Him on a daily basis,” said Junior Pastoral Team member Joey Inserra. “I hope that through these prayers, guys are able to reconnect with Jesus and truly come to love Him through their prayer.”

This past week, the par-

ticipants were also challenged in the category of almsgiving, to donate in a school supplies drive, organized by the Junior Pastoral Team, to support the Little Bit Foundation in conjunction with Mission Week.

“It is so important because I want to give these impoverished students the same opportunity I have,” said Thornberry. “I think this week is specifically important because we are in the season of Lent and a big part of Lent is almsgiving and we wanted to give students a chance to grow their faith by donating their own money and supplies to those less fortunate.”

Another option that Campus Ministry is offering to help students deepen their faith lives during Lent is by hosting the annual Lenten confessions next week, where every student will have the opportunity to receive God’s grace during their Theology class time.

“Confession is one of those sacraments that we can return to over and over again and it has such a powerful effect on people,” said Hill. “The grace is very much there, it’s one of those sacraments that I would say, students, often comment on that they really feel (God’s presence), sometimes they don’t feel it at Mass, but in confession I think they really feel that the grace is there, like a weight is lifted off and forgiveness is received.”

For students that are still searching for a way to encounter the Lord in this Lenten season, it is not too late to sign up, and all are encouraged to. Sign up by scanning the QR codes on flyers throughout the hallways.

“Now is the time. Now is the time to return. Now is the time of salvation,” said Hill, quoting second Corinthians.

Social studies teacher Sarah Becvar returns to classroom in person for the first time this year

SAM TARTER
FEATURES EDITOR

Human Geography and AP Politics teacher Sarah Becvar returned to the St. Louis U. High campus on Monday after teaching remotely for the first semester and the beginning of the third quarter.

Currently expecting her third child, Becvar opted to teach her classes via Zoom due to the increased risk of Covid for pregnant women.

With Covid safety at SLUH meeting CDC requirements and having received both doses of the Covid vaccine, Becvar was able to return to in-person classes.

“My doctor really wanted me to work virtually when we began discussing this at the beginning of the year, but now, after more than a semester’s worth of data that shows that all the mitigation efforts SLUH

has in place are working really well, and the fact that I was very fortunate and able to receive both doses of the vaccine, my doctor and I agreed it was definitely safe to come back to school in person,” said Becvar in an email to the Prep News.

Despite being virtual since the start of the school year, Becvar feels that the return to in-person teaching is both natural and beneficial.

“It’s great to be back! It feels natural to be back here, in M114, teaching Human Geo and Comparative Politics,” said Becvar. “I do know my students pretty well despite being virtual the rest of the year, so it is not awkward at all in my opinion to step back into the classroom.”

Becvar is grateful to return to a sense of normalcy.

“What I missed was the small daily interactions with students and colleagues—the quick conversations in the

halls, in the office, or at the end of class,” said Becvar. “I’ve interacted with more people this week in small ways than I have all year, and that’s wonderful! It was really odd to simply sign off Zoom at the end of my classes and then be away from school the rest of the day when I was teaching virtually. Being back feels normal, and it’s great to have a routine and to see my colleagues and students, even in these circumstances. I can tell how much I have missed it!”

Not only is the in-person learning beneficial for Becvar, but it also created a better environment for her students, both in-person and virtual.

“I’m definitely happy that Ms. Becvar is with us in person!” said senior Robby Brooks in an email to the Prep News. “It definitely feels like she’s able to engage with us a whole lot more than she could from be-

SLUH welcomes Class of 2025 in event to showcase community



Photo | courtesy of SLUH Facebook

The Si Commons prepared to welcome the class of 2025.

BY JACK FIGGE
CORE STAFF

Two hundred fifty-seven eighth graders from across the St. Louis region took one of their first steps as official Jr. Bills last week when they were welcomed to the hallways of St. Louis U. High for the Class of 2025 Welcome Event organized by the Admissions team.

Every February, the admissions team and various faculty welcome the newly-accepted students at a kickoff event hosted in the Commons. This event commemorates the first gathering of the new class, where they are all together under one roof. However, due to safety guidelines in place because of Covid-19, the admissions team had to split the event into four different sessions, two on Monday and two on Wednesday.

“We decided to have a welcome event to just sort of give them an opportunity to be on campus with each other, and hear from our principal, president, and then Mr. Cruz and Mr. Curdt,” said Director of Admissions Ann Murphy. “They also got to go to the theater and be together with

StuCo members to learn two cheers and things like that.”

In previous years, the event consisted of welcoming talks from SLUH faculty, gathering the eighth graders in the theater to learn chants and build spirit, and course registration. However, in the past two years, the admissions team has tried to shift it to be a fun and light-hearted atmosphere to show the incoming freshman the vibrant community that SLUH offers.

“We wanted to give them a sense of the community that they’re going to be a member of the brotherhood of guys around them that they would be able to experience,” said Murphy.

To kick off the evening, the students and their parents gathered in the Commons to hear from speakers including SLUH president Alan Caruthers, principal Ian Gibbons S.J., freshman class moderator Tim Curdt and Assistant Director of Admissions Adam Cruz.

In his speech, Curdt made reference to a children’s book Harold and the Purple Crayon. In the story the main character

Harold creates his own path by drawing with his magical purple crayon. Curdt then compared it to how each eighth grader will be able to forge his own path at SLUH through all of the choices he will have.

“(The talk) is so relevant to every class every single year,” said Murphy. “Especially this year, it’s definitely a great way to look at how we’ve functioned through the pandemic. Like Harold, we are drawing our way out of these situations and being creative about what we do. It just never gets old.”

Curdt’s talk was preceded by a speech from English teacher Adam Cruz who in his talk included a ‘popcorn speech’ where he called out different interests or talents and had the students stand up when one of the called attributes applied to them.

“Mr. Cruz’s energy continues to resonate and to inspire these classes from the very beginning of their admissions process up until right now,” said Murphy. “This ‘popcorn speech’ is really great because kids are really nervous that they are the only one and nobody will be like them and, and they can kind of see what their classmates’ interests are and how they really aren’t alone.”

To conclude the night, StuCo members gathered the group in the theater and taught them classic SLUH chants to welcome them into the brotherhood.

This welcome event was a glimpse of the vibrant community the incoming freshmen can expect this June on Direction Days.

“It’s really time for them to go back to eighth grade and just enjoy it because they are not getting that time back,” said Murphy. “And from there, Direction Days will be the next adventure for them to come to.”



art | Nathan Rich

A refugee’s spirit: today marks 31 years of US living for Biology teacher Nhan Pham

BY NOAH APPRILL-SOKOL
NEWS EDITOR

Editor’s Note: This is the fourth installment in a Prep News series called Immigrants of SLUH. So far, News Editor Noah Apprill-Sokol has interviewed over ten members of the SLUH community about their immigration experiences.

Few know the immigration story of Biology teacher Nhan Pham. It is a story that often goes unspoken in the halls of Saint Louis U. High. Only his students and close faculty members are even aware that he hails from Vietnam, and even fewer know that he and his family fled Vietnam as refugees due to political persecution. Hidden under his quiet and shy demeanour is the story of hardship and tragedy, but also resilience and hope.

It is difficult to imagine what life was like for Pham in his childhood town of Ho Chi Minh City. The Ho Chi Minh City of Pham’s youth is the



Pham’s family in refugee camp. photo | courtesy of Nhan Pham

stuff of history textbooks or old newspaper printings. As a town often shrouded in mystery to those not from there, it is described as being the stronghold to the oppressive Communist regime. Yet, in some aspects, Pham was like most SLUH

students—a normal kid trying to make the best of life. Each day he would go to school in the morning, listen to teachers give lectures, and study for upcoming tests. He would spend time after school with friends and play a pick-up game of soccer in the street.

“There were no phones or electronics, so what we did for fun was to hang out with our friends,” said Pham. “We spent a lot of time just hanging out and playing sports, not organized by the school—we had no organized sports, but we organized all the sporting events ourselves. We spent a lot of time with each other so it was a lot of fun.”

Growing up in the poor area of Ho Chi Minh city, Pham’s family often found it difficult to get through each day. Pham’s father, who had fought for the South Vietnamese Army (the opposition to the current government), had been labeled an enemy of the state, and as punishment for his “crime,” he was banned from being of-

ficially employed, forcing him to work odd jobs that would go unnoticed by the government’s patrol in order to raise enough money to support Pham and his four other siblings.

“Imagine how stressful it would be to be my father, who

was told that he could not work by the government but had to find enough money in order to feed the family. It is difficult to even imagine,” said Pham. “Here people stress about all sorts of things, but there really is no comparison when it comes to the stress that my parents must have felt.”

For Pham, growing up, he particularly remembers his own poor childhood education experience, a jolting contrast to the current education that SLUH offers.

“For some years we didn’t have any textbooks,” said Pham. “We never did a lab because we didn’t have the equipment for any labs, and we didn’t have the space because we had a lot of kids in the classroom. People barely scraped by. Food was scarce. A lot of people were poor, so it was hard in that sense.”

Yet, poverty was not the only hardship for Pham and his family. The government was an oppressive force in his life. Controlling all aspects of social life, including the media, education, and even religion, the Communist regime enforced serious restrictions and laws, and serious penalties were put in place to any of those who resisted. While young at the time, Pham still remembers seeing the fear and stress on his parents’ faces.

“I certainly saw the fear,” said Pham. “My dad would be listening to the radio, and he liked to listen to the BBC. He would have to turn the volume all the way down, and he would have the radio right next to his ear. My mom would be sort of peeking out the door because there was a policeman that was assigned to the neighborhood that would be roaming around and patrolling the neighborhood.”



Pham walking to the bus which would take him to the airport. photo | courtesy of Nhan Pham

The tipping point for Pham’s family though happened when Pham was in fourth grade. As his three older sisters were looking to go to college, the government banned them from attending any college in Vietnam due to Pham’s father’s ties to being a part of the South Vietnam Army. That was the final straw. Pham’s father, who had already endured much harassment from the government, applied for asylum status for him and his family.

Eight years passed as Pham and his family waited with uncertainty for their paperwork to go through, not sure that they would be even allowed to leave the country that had oppressed them for all those years, much less be accepted into the United States. Due to the immigration system being corrupt in Vietnam, Pham recalls there being some bribery involved in order for the paperwork to be processed.

Finally, on Feb. 28, 1990, Pham, who was now in his senior year of high school, and his family departed Vietnam, leaving behind family and friends but carrying with them hope

for a better future.

“We had to just basically leave everything,” said Pham. “There was a lot of bribery along the way. You did whatever you needed to do just to get the paperwork approved, and when we left we carried a few boxes and \$50 to \$70 in cash.”

The first stop on their way to America was in Bangkok, Thailand, where they stayed in a refugee camp for five days before they could get on a plane for the United States. Living conditions in the camp were difficult. Pham and his family (a party of seven) were given a small place to stay and little to eat. Yet, it was the excitement that they would soon be in the United States that motivated Pham and his family to persevere.

“All seven of us were crammed into this space, like a pack of sardines,” said Pham. “But, we knew that we were not going to be there for long, and we were very excited to be going to a new home.”

Pham and his family arrived in Minneapolis, Minnesota on March 5, 1990. Now, after living in the United States

for 31 years and being a citizen for 20 years, Pham still feels the emotions that he first had when he arrived in Minneapolis.

“The feeling that I have is gratitude. I always remember what it was like for me, what it was like for my family, and I know none of this is my own making,” said Pham. “I know that I tried to work as hard as I can and so has my family, but all of it has been a gift.”

While his childhood experience and the trauma of fleeing his country will always stand out in his memory and identity, Pham prefers to embrace the freedoms that living America has given him and hope that Vietnam will one day be a place where the authoritarian rule does not exist.

“I wish that my country would become more democratic. Maybe it’s good in theory, but in practice, it’s a failed form of governance and I have gotten to see that firsthand growing up,” said Pham. “I will never forget about my time in Vietnam and the liberties that I have now that I did not have in Vietnam. I really cherish these freedoms.”

SLUH students give immigrants warm welcome to STL community

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

Originally started at Priory, the St. Louis Teens Aid Refugees Today organization has come to SLUH.

START Inc is a non-profit charity organization founded by two teens at St. Louis Priory School—Adam Saleh and Luke Braby—to assist refugees living in the St. Louis area. The parent organization is Welcome Neighbor STL, which mainly assists refugee families with financial aid, moving in, and other hurdles that come with living in a new country.

While Welcome Neighbor STL mainly focuses on the adult side of immigrant families, START focuses on helping the kids of these families. The SLUH START club, inspired by Priory’s START club, was inceptioned this past fall.

“(The founders at Priory) reached out to us and asked us if we wanted to start something at SLUH . . . It’s just like any other club, we got Miss Anzalone as our moderator and myself, Jude (Fucetola), and Jack (Werremeyer) sent

out an email blast to anyone that wants to be a part of this,” said START Service Coordinator Alex Grucza. “We organized something for the activities fair, Jack Werremeyer made a presentation about the club, and we got a good amount of students from that. From SLUH, we have about seven to ten students, ranging from freshman all the way to seniors.”

START club helps with tutoring, fundraising, and other opportunities of service to refugees. Members of the club tutor children ranging from grade school through high school.

“Laith is the kid I tutored. I gave Laith my phone number so whenever he needs help, he can call me. So sometimes he won’t call me for two weeks, sometimes he will call me every day, sometimes he will call me at 9 P.M. on a Friday night, so there really is no telling, but I’m here whenever he needs my help,” said START Member Noah Leeseberg. “School has always been harder for me, so I was like ‘man I wish I had someone that I could look up to who can help me.’ I hope

I can be a role model for this kid so he can grow up and do good things.”

START club members mainly focus on tutoring refugee children—especially since kids can struggle in a new country with English as the main language, which may put them at a learning disadvantage than their peers. On top of a possible language barrier, moving to a new country and school can be a hard adjustment, and many schools the students attend are virtual, which can further challenge learning.

“It’s been hard for refugee children to get acclimated to this whole online thing because most of them have come from countries where they are fleeing some kind of war, and sometimes dangers, so they don’t really have experience with all the technology. Like this whole idea of like ‘oh we are just going to zoom into class’ makes no sense to them,” said Grucza. “And so, what myself, Jude Fucetola, and Jack Werremeyer were trying to do here, trying to extend START to SLUH. And we had created this online tu-

toring program where we can gather students from all over schools like all schools around St. Louis like Priory, SLUH, St. Joe, really anyone. And you take in a refugee child, and you can just really help them with whatever they need, virtually, because of Covid.”

The START club has recently teamed up with Priory in helping a refugee family from war-torn Syria move from Peverly, Missouri, to their new home in St. Ann. A few club members consisting of Werremeyer, Leeseberg, and Grucza met with three others from Priory in unloading a twenty-foot tall U-Haul truck provided by funds from START Inc.

“They started out in an apartment complex that looks like a prison. It was fairly poorly run. There was just dirt for a lawn and I’m pretty sure there was one incident where all the kids were found playing with insulin,” said Werremeyer, the START Treasurer. “It’s very nice to see them come so far.”

As many refugees learn in a new country, members of the START club have gained

a new outlook from their interactions.

“I get to learn about a new perspective,” said Leeseberg. “I only know of my perspective—you know I’m a privileged white kid in St. Louis—but I’m learning about a kid who grew up in Syria. He had to walk across the border. His parents, him and his family, went through a lot of stuff. I got to learn about what it takes to be successful in this country as an immigrant. It’s been a great learning experience for me.”

“It makes you think much more seriously about how these people are being affected by all these terrorist organizations and they have to leave where they consider home, which to me if I had to do that, it would be really tough,” said Werremeyer. “I found it pretty interesting how diligent they are with fasting and how seriously they take it. I was tutoring this young girl Sidra, and it was hard for her to go through this school just because she was fasting during the day, she was really giving so much effort. And also it’s kind of nice how they really

care about their family. And like always, family comes first. They tried so hard to talk to their cousins who are in Syria, which is really hard work.”

START club hopes to continue its work with more members and more assistance to refugees in Saint Louis.

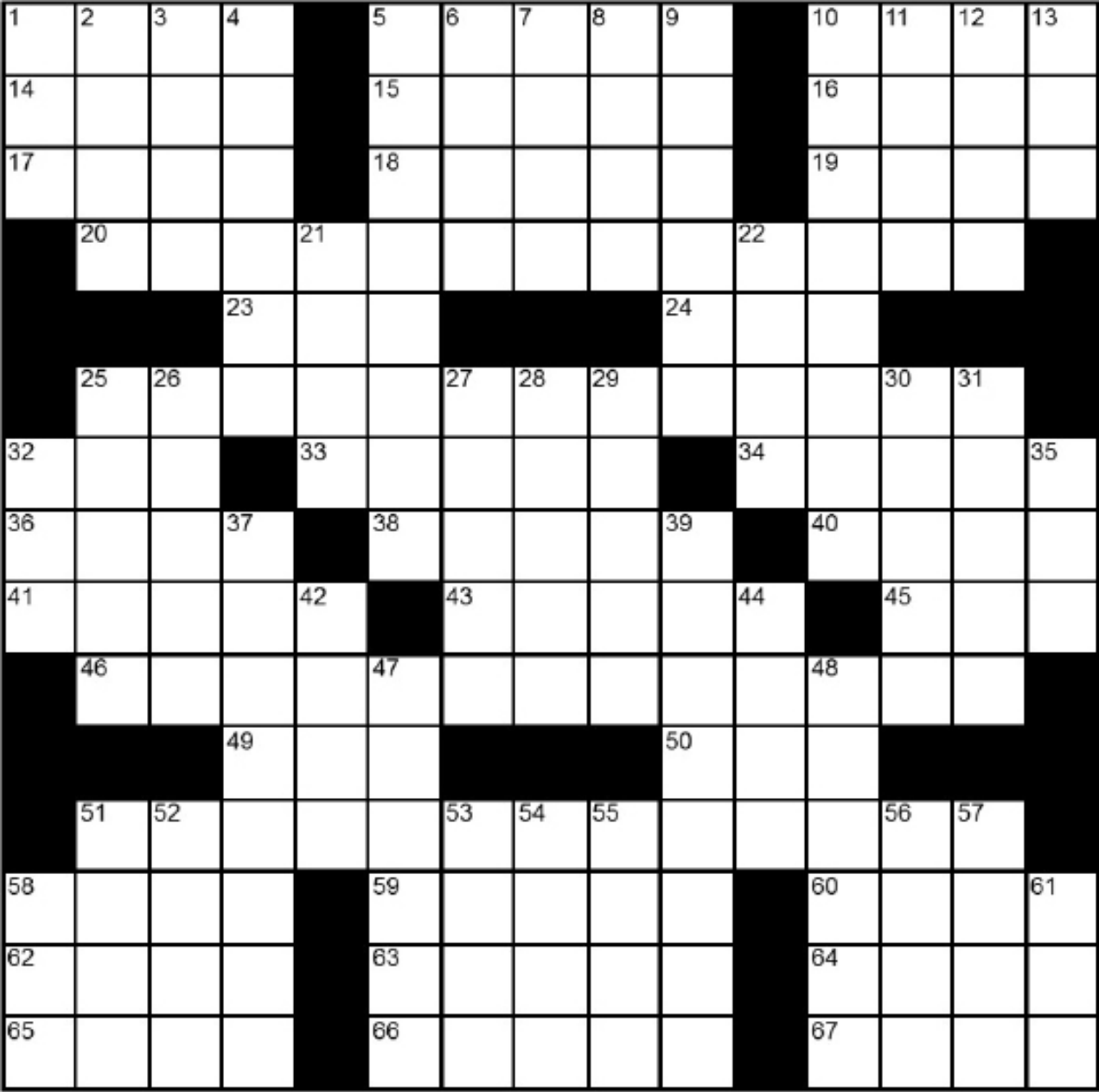
“I think, personally, this club is a great idea; it’s something that definitely is needed in this country, it’s definitely something that needs to be more widespread—not just localized like a group of teenagers—because of the influx of refugees, people need help. It’s the idea that kids our age are getting into service with helping the community around them,” said Grucza. “We are obviously always looking for volunteers, we are always looking for people wanting to help our cause. So if there is anyone at SLUH that wants to join, email either myself, Jack Werremeyer, or Jude Fucetola, and we can set you up because there is always a need for students.”

PN “Ars Magna” Puzzle

ACROSS
1. Starting over
5. Best friend of 48-Down
10. Viking god compromised by 57-Down
14. Singer of *99 Luftballons*
15. Home city of one professional sports champion, and almost two
16. Similar to, like one’s relatives
17. Famous _____, and an O.T. prophet
18. Cincinnati baseball mascot
19. A river that flows up on maps
20. *A bad man, no lies
23. Something associated with soap and salad
24. Something associated with salad and soap
25. *Old West action
32. Capital of N.C.
33. “We _____ please.” (commercial slogan)
34. Radio, television, and film actress Eve
36. Bric-a- _____
38. Subject of Maslow’s hierarchy
40. Best part of a science class
41. What Jack Torrance in *The Shining* and Travis Bickle in *Taxi Driver* do
43. What the Chicago Seven were charged with inciting
45. Type of truck invented in 1916
46. *Manly man? No sir.
49. *See 57-Down
50. Just okay, in slang
51. *Presbyterians
58. Giant Willie
59. Sith master
60. Golden _____, waterway less famous than its bridge
62. Israeli airline
63. Forest Moon of _____, home of the Ewoks
64. Mass of a dollar bill; also see 1-Down

65. A mutation of this gives rise to the X-Men of 57-Down
66. Responders to 9/11, who killed 20-Across
67. Desires, not Japanese currencies

DOWN
1. SNL’s Gasteyer; also with 64-Across, what each of the theme entries is
2. Found fish
3. Cardinal Slaughter
4. Horseradish and food coloring are often substituted for this
5. _____ of Tours, parish in Le-may
6. Low- _____, type of 42-Down
7. O.T. king, father of Ahab
8. A major tournament in golf or tennis
9. Trouble-making acquaintances, not associated with 29-Down
10. Real estate owner, now or in feudal times
11. Someone from Tulsa or Enid
12. Pottery oven
13. Chemical suffix
21. Magic points
22. Former boombox company
25. Ricochet, as in billiards
26. *Is Your Mama a _____?*
27. Board used for filing
28. Did not go out for dinner
29. Gomorrah’s O.T. counterpart
30. Beethoven’s _____ *Joy*
31. What magic points might be used to defeat
32. Speaker of “We are at last beginning to relegate to the history books the idea of the token woman.”
35. Present
37. Singer Belinda or basketball coach Rick
39. Re-entry specialists?



crossword | Mr. Paul Baudendistel

42. Food regimen
44. Snick or _____, in a knife-fight
47. What eyes and cameras have

in common
48. Norville Rogers, friend to Daphne and Velma
51. Hay amount

52. *See 58-Down
53. Feminine suffix
54. Jedi master
55. Viking exclamation

56. Least done, as a steak
57. *With 49-Across, leanest
58. *With 52-Down, Germany
61. Responders to 911

FOOD REVIEWS

McDonald’s delves into classic chicken sandwich territory with a satisfying yet inconsistent new menu item

BERNIE KILCULLEN
COLUMNIST

After a long hiatus, I am back. I know, I know, it has been a while. However, it has also been a while since any fast food restaurant has released something interesting. That being said, if anyone has any suggestions, I am all ears!
In late February, McDonald’s officially dipped their toes into the world of chicken sandwiches. Sure they have had the McChicken, the Buttermilk Crispy Chicken, and the Grilled Artisan Chicken Sandwich, but they have never had a classic chicken sandwich.

If you are a fan of McDon-

ald’s you have probably noticed the Spicy McChicken. The Spicy McChicken consists of a spicy breading that coats the ground chicken patty. The new Spicy Crispy Chicken is a chicken breast, but with a spicy pepper sauce instead. This sauce is phenomenal. My neighborhood McDonald’s sold out of the sauce in about six days.
Another new venture for McDonald’s was the addition of crinkle-cut pickles. In my opinion, McDonald’s regular pickles are slimy and seem like they are stored for a very long time (because they are). The new crinkle-cut pickle preserves the pickle flavor some of you love while adding a crunch of freshness to

your bite.
When thinking about McDonald’s and potatoes, you think of their iconic french-fries. Now, think of the new potato roll. Toasted to perfection, the roll provides a spongy texture, while maintaining the necessary firmness to hold the sandwich together.
All of this sounds great, 10/10, right? Wrong. Having had the sandwich three times now, I can say that it is wildly inconsistent. While I can appreciate each individual component, I have had issues such as a deformed chicken breast, one dollop of sauce, and an overload of pickles. I appreciate the attempt, but this is a 5.5/10.

McDonald’s, wake up.



The Spicy Crispy Chicken sandwich.

photo | Sam Tarter

Shrimp fanatic praises Hyla’s Fish Fry, commends delightful flavor of fried shrimp

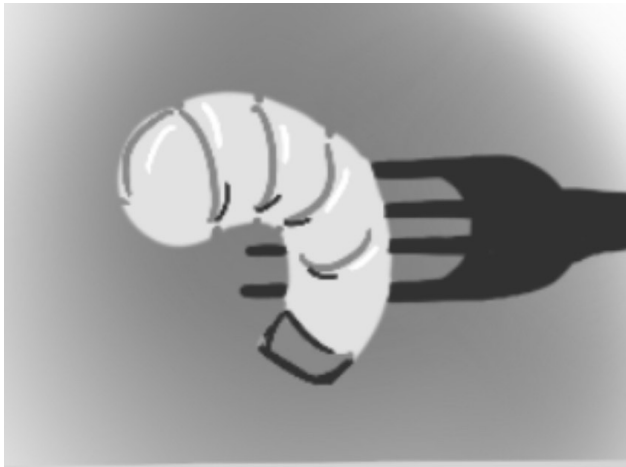
BY SAM TARTER
FEATURES EDITOR

I. Love. Shrimp.
My favorite movie quote: Bubba’s shrimp monologue from *Forrest Gump*; my favorite seafood or pasta meal: Shrimp Scampi; my favorite characters from *Happy Feet Two*: Will and Bill the Krill (voiced by Brad Pitt and Matt Damon, respectively). When I was a toddler, there were two things my mother would feed me when I couldn’t eat anything else: blue cheese ... and shrimp (separately, of course ... I hope).
So, it’s safe to say I am a pretty big shrimp fan as I’ve been enjoying it since as long as I can remember, which is why I am happy to report that my love of shrimp has continued at the St. Louis U. High annual fish fry.

Thanks to the truly talented Kathy Hyla and her team, I was able to sit down last Friday with a platter of coconut shrimp, mac and cheese, a gooey butter cake cookie, and an ice water (I had to be healthy somewhere). While coconut shrimp isn’t my preferred choice of handheld fried shrimp (that would be buttermilk fried shrimp with chipotle lime sauce, which is

mwah), I was still excited to dig into a plate of six delicious little delicacies accompanied by decent looking sides and good friends.
Thankfully, the shrimp didn’t disappoint. They were cooked just right, with a perfect texture that was not too chewy and not too tender, either. Eating them was easy and fun too, as Mrs. Kathy cooked them so well that all the meat slid out of the shell in one bite. The breading was a perfect ratio that accompanied the shrimp instead of overshadowing it. The seasoning was also pretty good, but it definitely needs a little something extra. Personally, I could’ve used something a bit spicier or “cajun-esque,” and since I’m not a fan of cocktail sauce

,and Tartar sauce is a form of cannibalism for me, I was out of luck for any dipping sauces. Note to self: bring the portable bottle of Tabasco next time.
I highly recommend this entree for your upcoming SLUH Fish Fry. Even if you don’t go all the way like I did and instead opt for the three shrimp, one fish filet option, you can’t go wrong with trying Mrs. Kathy’s shrimp. It is a perfect mix of buttery, fried flavor with the rich, delicious protein of shrimp. Try it with a plethora of side options and an ice-chilled Pepsi when you get it, and be sure to sit down with strangers or loved ones when you partake in a meal that was made with so much love you can taste it more than the coconut.



art | Nathan Rich

SLUH family continues to grow: Mueller, Lally, Anderson get engaged



Lally and his fiancée.

photo | courtesy of Mr. Mike Lally

(continued from page 1)

to get engaged, having done so this past Valentine's Day. However, he has been dating his fiancée, Molly Krippene, for over five years, including three as a long distance couple.

They began their journey together as friends throughout their time at St. Louis University, where both attended undergraduate school. Their friendship blossomed as they grew closer during their junior year and they remained close as they graduated.

"People were leaving St. Louis to go to jobs and go to different places to continue their lives after graduation," said Lally. "Less and less people were there and we started spending more and more time with each other."

It wasn't until the day that Lally was moving to Denver for his ASC year that he finally asked her out, meaning the first year of their newfound romantic relationship would be tested by long-distance dating. Their long distance would continue for two more years as Lally attended Yale's Divinity school in Connecticut.

"It was a very intentional relationship," said Lally. "It was not easy in any way, but it was very meaningful in the fact that we had to make a choice each and every day. (We had to decide) Are we going to talk today . . . are we going to try and spend some quality time together from 1500 miles apart, then once a month or once every six weeks or so, we would intentionally travel to each other, somehow, so we can spend some time together."

Lally noted that it wasn't always a fairy tale.

"There were definitely some difficult moments, but the difficult moments never came from our relationship itself, said Lally. "It always came from the other stresses of life that were making it hard to focus on our relationship like we should."

While their dating phase began after a long friendship, Lally could tell there was something special about Krippene early on.

"I remember, maybe this is our junior year, that Molly was the head of a large organization at SLU called Dance Marathon and I remember Molly gave a talk to a large audience of people in the middle of this huge Dance Marathon, a multi-hour assembly," said Lally. "She was probably speaking to several hundred people and I just remember her being on stage and speaking under the bright lights and I think that was the first moment I was like 'whoa, she is someone special.'"

When Lally was coming back to St. Louis to join Krippene, they had worries about whether being in the same city might affect their relationship.

"We actually had worries because we've never been in the same town. What would it be like living in the same town?" said Lally. "But more than anything else, it was so much easier and better to be in the same town and to just share in the very simple things of life. Like, I get to see her on a weeknight and it's not some huge event where we have to traverse the country to see each other. You can just begin to live a normal life."

Krippene has been supportive of Lally's time-consuming passion for coaching cross country and track and field. In fact, she's known by many of the runners for the times she has gone to the meets to cheer the team and her favorite coach on.

"The cool thing is, she gets to be a part of those big things I do here, too," said Lally. "She would get to know some of the runners, ask about them, and be able to wish the best for them and cheer them on. So while yes, sometimes that takes time away from what we get to spend together, she knows that I love those things and am passionate

about those things and wants to share those things with me."

The Covid-19 pandemic and the slowdown it created gave them an opportunity.

"You had to start relearning how to teach in the middle of Covid, so I think that probably took some of my energy and maybe delayed our engagement a little bit," said Lally. "But besides that, I think we've actually both enjoyed the quiet and the peace that comes with life being a little bit more slower paced. Being able to focus on the small groups of people that are really important to us, our families, and a couple really close friends, it makes it (my relationship) very intentional."

Lally proposed on Valentine's Day during a surprise dinner with his and her parents.

"It was so special and like I said, such a surprise," said Krippene. "I think it's really just emblematic of his intentional nature and his thoughtful nature."

Both Lally and Krippene are committed to their Catholic beliefs.

"I think we are both deeply committed to our faith . . . and so we are trying the best we can to live out a faithful Catholic relationship," said Lally. "It's certainly not perfect, and I'm not sure anyone has a perfect Catholic relationship but we definitely believe in what the Church teaches about a romantic relationship and we're trying to live that out as best we can."

"I'm really excited to start the next chapter of our relationship as a married couple," said Krippene. "There's so much to look forward to: the wedding, finding a house together, and starting a family. Everything we've done and faced together so far has been wonderful and strengthened our relationship, and I'm confident it will be the same in all the years to come."

"I understand the love of God better and more clearly because of her. As a theology teacher and as someone whose faith is very important to him, that is why I love her and that's why she's so important to me," said Lally. "That's why I'm so excited to marry her because I actually get insight into the love of God that I wouldn't have otherwise."

Bradley Mueller

The story of Mueller's engagement goes back to 2017 when he was introduced to his fiancée, Katie Lyon. At the time they were both in separate relationships.

"When we met that night we just had this really good conversation," said Lyon. "We definitely both noticed that there was some sort of connection there."

They went about a year without seeing each other before rekindling again, this time on Instagram. Mueller had just posted about a car show he attended when Lyon commented. While the exact comment has been unconfirmed, both Mueller and Lyon say it was a joke about Lyon liking the car.

"I kind of like slid into his DM's and we reconnected and we were chatting and we ended up meeting out and the rest is

kind of history," said Lyon. "We started dating pretty quickly."

"We started hanging out quite a bit and we were out of our relationships at that point," said Mueller. "Our love life developed really quickly because we got to meet each other's families pretty quickly . . . I seek approval a lot from my family on who I'm dating and I think she is very much the same. Both of our families really loved the other person."

They got engaged at Mueller's family lake house in the Lake of the Ozarks. He brought his close family from Kansas City and Lyon's parents from St. Louis.

In addition to family, the Catholic Church has been a big part of their relationship.

"Before I met him, I really wanted to get reconnected with God and going back to church and like the first or second weekend that we had kind of like reconnected and were starting to date on a Sunday night at eight o'clock and like out of nowhere, he's like 'you want to go to Mass?'" said Lyon. "He was talking about SLU nine o'clock Mass. It just kind of felt like a sign, like a God moment, and I was like 'wow, this is like really cool.' Since we started dating my relationship with God has gotten much stronger and I really think part of that was because of him."

Lyon, who is a nurse practitioner, and Mueller, a science teacher who originally wanted to be a doctor, also found a shared love of science. However, perhaps most notably they share the same family values.

"Family is huge," said Lyon. "I come from a really big Italian family and he comes from a big family as well, and I think we both really value our families and spending time with our families. It's been really exciting getting engaged and knowing I became really close with his family and he's become close to my family too and we're kind of like immersing those two worlds which is really cool to see."

One tradition the duo has started to integrate Lyon further into the SLUH community is annual trips to the Dauphin Players shows. She has also become a staple attending Mueller's soccer games.

Both are looking forward to marrying and blending their families and lives even further. They aren't looking too far ahead, though. Rather, they are choosing to focus on the present.

"Something that's really important to us that we've kind of started recently is whenever we get home from the day, we just hang out for a couple minutes," said Mueller. "I think when you're planning on getting married or once you start that chain of events, it's really easy for people to ask when are you getting married and then picking up kids, and then the questions just keep coming so it's really hard to live in the present. We're really trying to do a lot of things just to be present on a day instead of looking forward too much."

"I mean he's a very, very

thoughtful guy," said Lyon. "He's not one that maybe does real big grand romantic gestures, but there's so many little things that he does every day that add up. I would just say he takes care of me and I take care of him. I don't know, I think you guys know he's a wonderful guy and I feel very lucky to be marrying him."

Julie Anderson

Anderson's engagement began on Nov. 2 of this last year, her two year anniversary dating her boyfriend Brandon Lewis, a teacher at Fort Zumwalt South and former Vianney teacher.

He proposed during a backstage tour at the Fox Theatre, an important place for their relationship. Because Anderson's mom works there, they receive lots of free tickets and enjoy seeing shows together.

"Afterwards we went to the wine bar that was our first date and met up with her mom and dad who I had talked to before (the engagement)," said Lewis. "We had dinner and drinks after that, and it was a very great evening."

Anderson's relationship with Lewis began a few years ago when they went on a couple of dates for about a month. That initial connection didn't last very long, though, as they ended up breaking up.

"I ended it just because I really wasn't in the right spot to be dating at the time and so we went our separate ways and then about a year and a half later, we just kind of started reconnecting again and we met up," said Anderson. "We reconnected over school things we had both taken. You know, summer trips out of the country, and we were kind of asking each other for advice."

"From there it was like, 'Oh yeah, this was a really good thing,'" said Anderson. "I think we were just maybe too fresh out of a relationship and I was just maybe not in as healthy of a state as I thought I was in to be dating."

Anderson believes her relationship is a tangible example of the ideal relationship discussed in her Christian Life Choices course from last semester.

"We always want to do something for the other that would make them happy even if it's not what we choose and that can be as simple as picking out what shows we want to watch," said Anderson. "Like, I might not want to watch this show, but I know Brandon does

watch that show tonight. And those types of things that happen all the time—just selfless acts of really really not being concerned about how things inconvenience us like the other person, but we know like, 'I'm going to do something because I know it's going to make Brandon feel really special and loved' and Brandon does stuff like that for me all the time."

"Brandon and I did spend a lot of time together that we probably wouldn't have spent as much time together if it weren't a pandemic," said Anderson. "But we really valued the fact that we could kind of have an understanding of learning about each other in a more close up way. Like 'how do you deal with stress like how, how do you deal with adversity?'"

Both Anderson and Lewis are excited to get married.

"She's a very dedicated individual so in everything that she does, she gives her whole heart to," said Lewis. "For instance you know she's a volleyball coach, I mean she is absolutely in love with that position of doing that work she's a campus minister and she gives her whole being to doing that. Alongside with that she's just very faith-filled so that's very important to me. But to be honest, with everything she does she's very passionate. I really like having people around me that, you know, enjoy their work and enjoy life, and that it's really easy to be around her, because she really enjoys life."

"He's just a great guy and I'm really excited to marry him," said Anderson.

"We'll be married by the end of 2021, which is great. The wedding planning is going very well. We are both really excited and we get really excited about planning things and it's essentially a big party for us so it's been a good time," said Lewis. "We don't live together but soon after we get married, we'll be buying a house together and that's very exciting for me just to be thinking about that in the near future."

Anderson and Lewis are the only couple of the three reported on to have a set date: December 4. Mueller and Lyon have stressed their focus on the present, not as much the future. Lally and Krippene are shooting for about a 15-month engagement. All are hopeful that by the time of their weddings the vaccines will allow for many of the Covid restrictions to be lifted.



Anderson's fiancée proposing to her.

photo | courtesy of Ms. Julie Anderson



Mueller and his fiancée.

photo | courtesy of Ms. Katie Lyon

Yoga, Pi Pizza partnership, basketball rivalry highlight Mission Week



Students participate in yoga lead by Mr. Zarrick.

photo | Isaiah Hinkebein

(continued from page 1)
and hygiene products drive collected 1,658 items, an incredible number given that this was the drive's first year at SLUH. For Mueller, this year's total is especially impressive not just because of the surrounding pandemic, but because none of it was mandatory.

"I was very impressed with how our guys did. Our goal was high but we were hesitantly optimistic," said Mueller. "A lot of the stuff was optional, if they wanted to donate they could donate, if they wanted to dress down they could dress down, there weren't any events that people had to come to. In that regard the fundraising part was really good because it was all donation based."

Thanks to the pandemic and the block schedule, StuCo faced significant challenges involving times and locations for their fundraising events. With sports like basketball taking up the Field House after school and no activity period this year, StuCo had to be creative to plan events. However, the events of the week still continued as a testament to SLUH's strong, generous spirit, and StuCo co-moderator Megan Menne was grateful for the continued student support.

"It's kind of hard, just because of where we're at right now with the pandemic and as a school having a block schedule and a lack of activity periods on two days. But we've had significant show-ups, guys showed up to the events they put on, especially the underclassmen," said Menne.

"I think that, overall, the student body response has been positive. There have been times when it's been difficult to motivate students to participate in certain events, but I attribute this to the pandemic. However, I think that the student body put their best foot forward in trying to support Little Bit by donating and participating in certain events," said Senior Class President Grant Sussman.

Last week got off to an especially difficult start, as the classic 8-Mile rap battle—an important source of donations—was forced to be canceled due to scheduling conflicts in the Commons. Instead, StuCo was forced to

pivot to the PIVOT activities, which included opportunities to play chess, basketball, and Super Smash Bros. in various locations throughout the school.

After Monday, students got the chance to experience a new Mission Week event, yoga, which took place in the Field House on Tuesday and Thursday. The new event was a large success, as dozens of students found their inner peace on the yoga mat.

"You always think like 'oh yoga, I'm not going to do that,' and even I wasn't going to do it, but I ended up going and it was amazing," said junior AJ Thompson. "It really just slows you down and puts you in the right frame of mind. I could very well see this being done in the future."

On Tuesday evening, a group of artistic students gathered to share their talents in the Commons during the Open Mic Night. Over ten performers took to the stage to perform improv, karaoke and even original songs. Thompson, who performed a rendition of Kenny Rogers' The Gambler, noted that even though the event was of a smaller scale, it was still important for students.

"It's nice to see a community that you don't often see come together to support each other. It's one of the few times that the musicians get to perform for their classmates," Thompson reflected.

"Open Mic Night was awesome," said Sussman.

"Lots of guys got up there and showed off talents I didn't even know they had. It was a very chill event."

Wednesday marked the most significant day of Mission Week, as the age-old rivalry between the Prep News and StuCo came to the forefront on the basketball court during 8th period. Warm weather ensured that the tailgate beforehand and the game itself were well attended. Proceeds from ticket sales went towards the Little Bit Foundation.

"I really enjoyed the basketball game and the tailgate," said Menne. "It was fun to see people cheering. There was a feeling of what it felt like before COVID, which is kind of nice. Every time you get glimpses of normalcy it's a really nice feeling."

"The game was hard fought and competitive. It was great to know that even though there was a rivalry, we were all in it for a great cause," agreed Carter Fortman, Editor in Chief of the Prep News. "StuCo may have won the game, but obviously the Little Bit Foundation is a huge winner as well."

"The game was really one of my favorite experiences during my time at SLUH," said Sussman. "Hopefully it can become a tradition and we can have like 500 students roaring in the stands some day. It was so much fun to play against the Prep News guys and also raise some money."

Thursday, after another round of yoga during Academic Lab, featured another new event for Mission Week: a partnership with Pi Pizzeria. Twenty percent of the proceeds from orders placed by SLUH families on Thursday night went towards the Little Bit Foundation. Support for Thursday night's event was so strong that the Pi Pizzeria location in Delmar was forced to stop taking orders.

"The restaurant night was really cool not only because we shut Pi Pizza down, but also because it included the whole community. If students wanted to go, if parents wanted to go, if alums wanted to go, they could all go," said Mueller.

Food was another important theme for Friday, which featured a fish fry put on by Campus Ministry to help raise money for the Little Bit Foundation.

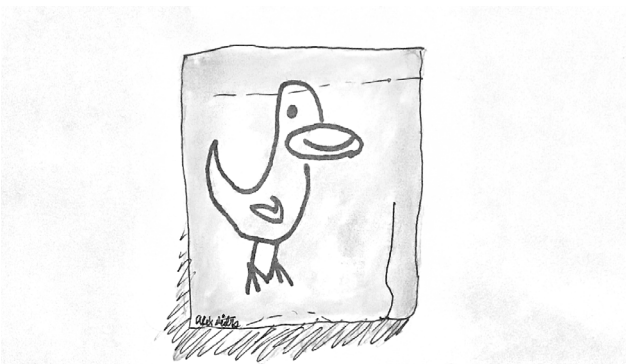
"I think this year we've done a good job of collaborating with different organizations within our own community, we did the fish fry with Campus Ministry, for example. And so, that's also been really awesome to see," said Menne.

After a full week of successful events, Mission Week this year proved different, but just as exciting as in years past and for Sussman and Mueller, that owes a lot of credit to the SLUH community.

"Most importantly, StuCo could not have pulled off this week without help from so many faculty and staff members," said Sussman. "They were always in the background helping with whatever we needed, so a big shout out to everyone who had a hand in making sure we could raise money for the Little Bit Foundation."

"I think whether people realize it or not, students want to help other students out who aren't in the same circumstances," reflected Mueller. "I think it shows that the SLUH community cares about all of St. Louis's education."

PN INVESTIGATES: The Mad Duckster plagues SLUH whiteboards



art | Alex Dieters

BY LUKE DUFFY AND MARK FAULKNER
STAFF, REPORTER

Mass hysteria has overcome St. Louis U. High as "The Mad Duckster" runs loose. Throughout the school year, an anonymous graffiti artist has defaced whiteboards with nearly identical duck drawings. The Prep News has uncovered the secrets of The Mad Duckster and his motives in drawing these creatures.

The primary artist behind these ducks is sophomore Sam Willie. His creative career began last school year in his freshman homeroom.

"It annoyed this senior who was one of the senior advisors in my homeroom last year," said Willie. "He drew a skyline of New York or something, and I drew a giant duck attacking his city because I was trying to think of something gigantic and cute and evil."

Arriving early to school in the mornings, Willie took to drawing ducks on whiteboards of unoccupied classrooms. According to sophomore Nick George, the ducks began to appear last school year.

"The first time I saw it was last March in Mr. Lally's homeroom," said George.

As Willie continued this curious artistry when students returned to campus in the fall, he became known by his friends and teachers as "The Mad Duckster."

Naturally, this pattern of unusual drawings was brought to the attention of Asst. Principal for Student Life Brock Kesterson.

"As with anything, I try to wonder what sort of underlying meaning there might be," said Kesterson.

Once, Willie drew a duck on a sticky note and it was placed on a ceiling security camera.

"I explained that it was not me who put it on the security camera," said Willie. "But I was fine with it."

Overall, the ducks posed no disciplinary problems at SLUH, and "The Mad Duckster" has not suffered any sort of severe punishment for his drawings.

"They weren't damaging anything around the school, so it seemed to be harmless in that sense," said Kesterson. "But again, what does the symbolism of the duck mean?"

That question has probed the minds of students and faculty alike.

"My opinion on the ducks is that they're actually pretty

funny, and even though many teachers find them annoying, they're kind of an iconic SLUH theme now," said sophomore Eric Pudlo.

While some teachers dislike the ducks on their whiteboards, others have enjoyed the creativity.

"It annoyed this senior who was one of the senior advisors in my homeroom last year. He drew a skyline of New York or something, and I drew a giant duck attacking his city because I was trying to think of something gigantic and cute and evil."

-Sam Willie

"I always celebrate quirky non sequiturs that just for no objective reason make life a little more spontaneous and enjoyable," said English teacher David Callon. "I've always invited him to come in here and draw them."

In some cases, people have been inspired to add scenes or captions to the duck drawings to enhance the creative movement of "The Mad Duckster."

"I had started adding some captions on the ducks," said Callon. "In fact, I did some political captions on some, and they became kind of controversial."

The most problematic aspect of Willie's duck drawings is the hindrance they pose to the maintenance department.

"There's a lot of boards that would not need cleaning except for the ducks," said Callon.

While his ducks have brought mostly joy and curiosity to the SLUH community, Willie has decided to give up drawing them for Lent. Freshman John Posey will take over the scheme as the interim Mad Duckster.

"I hope I'm up to the challenge," said Posey. "You know, when you look at the quality of the ducks, they're not quite the same. His are a very perfect duck shape, mine are a little bit more clunky Chernobyl type of ducks, but, you know, I try."



Students serving faculty at the fish fry.

photo | Mrs. Kathy Chott

S P R T S

21 in 21: Racquetball tops Lindbergh and Parkway to continue legendary streak

BY JARED THORNBERRY
REPORTER

The Saint Louis U. High racquetball team won its 21st state title in the program's history this past Saturday. After winning a total of four out of the seven brackets, SLUH clinched the win with a total score of 545 points, topping both Lindbergh and Parkway West, who got second and third place respectively.

"I think the team did very well," said Coach Robert Hoffman "we won most of our divisions and went to tiebreakers in many matches but luckily we were able to come out on top."

Having already made it past the first couple of rounds of the tournament earlier in the week, SLUH players made the championships for six of the seven brackets. Junior Jared Thornberry kicked off the day with a tie breaker win against one of his most skilled opponents of the year, Connor Sims of CBC. He beat Sims in the best two out of three matches 15-13, 11-



The team brandishing its new State Tournament hardware. photo | courtesy of @SLUHRball

15, 11-9. Thornberry was down for most of the first two games but was able to build up comebacks to take home gold in the varsity four division.

Conversely, senior Oliver Allen came in 2nd place after he lost a tight match to Adam Lancia from Parkway West. Lancia held the number one

seed over Allen in this bracket, but Allen entered the day ready for the challenge. Unfortunately, he fell short, losing the first two games 15-10, 15-12. Allen earned second place in the varsity two division.

"I think getting second place in the two bracket is something I wouldn't have ex-

pected coming into the year," said Allen. "I kind of struggled in fall racquetball and was pretty streaky throughout the year, but really put it together at state."

In the fifth division, junior Danny Phillips earned the state title after a slow start to

continued on page 9

Wrestling unable to replicate success at districts, sends two wrestlers to state



Senior Logan Neumann (left). photo | courtesy of @SLUHAthletics

BY LEO WAGNER
REPORTER

Last week, the Saint Louis U. High wrestling team competed in the Sectional tournament, the second leg of the postseason. Following success at Districts, where the team secured two #4 seeds, two #3 seeds, one #2 seed, and two #1 seeds, the Jr. Bills were eager for the chance to wrestle in the State Tournament in Independence, Missouri, during the second week of March.

Although the Saint Louis U. High wrestling team was not able to qualify as many wrestlers as they hoped for the State Tournament, they were thrilled with the performances of senior Logan Nuemann and junior Cayden Owens, who each

earned second place finishes at the tournament and will enter into the final tournament of the postseason, the State Tournament.

SLUH entered Sectionals with wrestlers filling half of the fourteen available weight classes, occupying spots all the way from 132 pounds to 220 pounds. Each weight class featured an eight man bracket, where the top three would progress to the State Tournament.

"We want to get as many guys through to State as possible. If we can get a top three finish we'll be able to get there. It's gonna be tough, but I think our guys are up for it," said coach Will Whitney before the day.

Senior Will Coovert, wrestling at the 132 pound weight

class, kicked off the Jr. Bill's representation in the Sectional Tournament with his first match against Fort Zumwalt West. Against a tough opponent, Coovert lost via fall towards the end of the second period. He then faced the a wrestler from Francis Howell North, a #1 seed from District 3. Coovert was pinned during the second period—yet ended his SLUH wrestling career on a positive note, forcing his opponent to earn the win and fighting until the whistle blew.

Junior Jack Onder (145) wrestled his first match of the day against a #2 seed from Fort Zumwalt West. Despite being the lower seed on paper, Onder won the match by major decision, 15-3. Following the lopsided win, Onder was pinned by an opponent from Fort Zumwalt North with thirty seconds remaining in the second period. Onder rebounded from the loss with an early second period pin against a wrestler from Francis Howell North, moving on to the third place match, where the victor would earn a spot at the State Tournament.

In a thrilling fashion with the score tied 4-4, the match entered a sudden victory period, where the first wrestler to score wins the match. Unfortunately, Onder lost narrowly after he gave up a shot midway through the period. With a final score of 6-4, Onder's impressive junior season ended.

Senior Leo Wagner's (152) first match was against a #1 seed from Hickman. Wagner started strong, only giving up two points, but was ultimately pinned early in the second pe-

riod and entered into wrestlebacks. There, Wagner faced a wrestler from Francis Howell North. Despite catching his opponent on his back with seconds left in the third period, Wagner lost the match by decision, concluding his SLUH wrestling career.

Senior Bobby Conroy (160) won his first match by fall, pinning his opponent from Battle in the opening moments of the second period. Next, in the semifinals, Conroy wrestled a #1 seed from Troy. He wrestled a grit-filled first period but entered the second period down by two points. On the attack in the early second period, Conroy went in for a shot, resulting in his head colliding with his opponent and immediately sending him stumbling backwards.

Suffering from a concussion, Conroy was forced to forfeit the match, cutting short his postseason run. Regardless, Conroy's injury fails to take away from his hugely impressive, 100+ win SLUH wrestling career, where he competed on varsity all four years and earned fourth place at the State Tournament in 2020, SLUH's only top four state finish since Espen Conley in 2010.

Senior Giovanni Loftis battled his first match against an opponent from Holt. Loftis lost by fall during the first period and was sent to wrestlebacks. In his next match, Loftis faced a wrestler from Francis Howell. Loftis lost the match by decision despite posting five points on the scoreboard, bringing his SLUH wrestling career to an end.

continued on page

Basketball defeats Hazelwood Central, advances to district title game against Pattonville

BY CARTER SPENCE
WEB EDITOR

The St. Louis U. High basketball team fended off Hazelwood Central in the Class 6, District 5 semifinals Tuesday, with a 41-38 win over the Hawks at the Danis Field House. After struggling early, SLUH battled back to maintain at least a one-possession lead for much of the game before a late push from Hazelwood Central threatened to send the game to overtime.

SLUH (7-9) snapped its four game losing streak with the win, giving the Jr. Bills their first victory in over a month. The second seed in the tournament, SLUH will now square off against top seeded Pattonville (21-1) tonight in the district championship.

SLUH continued its offensive struggles early, posting just five points in the first quarter. Hazelwood Central capitalized on SLUH's poor start, mounting an early 9-5 lead heading into the second quarter.

Junior Nick Kramer, SLUH's leading scorer with 18.8 points per game, took over in the second quarter to put the Jr. Bills in front. Following a 10-0 Hazelwood Central run that put SLUH down by seven, Kramer scored 12 straight points, including three consecutive three-pointers and an "and-one" to put SLUH up 21-16 at the half. Kramer scored 14 points total in the quarter, more than Hazelwood Central combined for as a team in the second.

Hazelwood Central's Jhordan Covington-Berry answered SLUH's run with seven consecutive points of his own at the start of the second half. His streak knotted the game at 23 a piece, but it was all Hazelwood Central could muster in the quarter. SLUH closed the third up 28-23, a lead they would keep for the remainder of the game.

With just under a minute to play in the fourth and the

Jr. Bills up nine, Hazelwood Central connected on back-to-back triples to trim SLUH's lead to just three. SLUH turned the ball over, giving the Hawks one last chance to tie the game and send it to overtime with six seconds left. Sophomore Zachary Ortwerth snagged the rebound on Hazelwood Central's miss, and SLUH hung on to advance to the district title game.

Kramer led all scorers with 22 points in the game. Sophomore Aaron Walker Jr. added 11 points for SLUH in the win.

SLUH's defense, which entered the game allowing an average of just 49 points per game, stymied Hazelwood Central, who shot just 14-for-49 from the floor. The Jr. Bills also benefited from a great deal of free-throw luck, as Hazelwood Central, 51.5% from the free-throw line this season, missed all eight of its attempts at the line.

The Jr. Bills will face Pattonville on the road Friday night with a spot to sectionals on the line. Pattonville, the top seed in the tournament, has won 13 consecutive games, beating its opponents by an average of over 31 points during that span. They defeated Ritenour 81-46 Tuesday to advance to the district finals.

Pattonville junior guard Kellen Thames leads his team across the board with 19.7 points, 7.4 rebounds, and 5.8 assists per game this season. He is shooting an impressive 52.1% from the floor and added a game high 21 points in the team's win versus Ritenour. Senior guard Alijah Carter compliments Thames with 16.2 points per game, one of four Pattonville scorers averaging over 12 points per game.

The game will start at 6:00 p.m. and will be live streamed on MSHSAA TV for \$10. With a win, SLUH would advance to sectionals for the first time 2016—a team that finished third in the State Tournament that year.



photo | courtesy of @SLUHAthletics
Junior Nick Kramer tipping off against Hazelwood Central.

Racquetball takes four out of seven brackets to clinch State Tournament

(continued from page 8)
game one. Phillips, the top seed, played Max Wolkey of Chaminade, who held the two seed in his bracket. After losing the first game 15-13, Phillips found his groove and went on to only let up three points the rest of the match, winning the second game 15-2 and the tiebreaker 11-1.

In the sixth bracket, senior Nick Petersen went up against Sam Neunreiter from Kirkwood. Earlier in the season, Petersen lost to Neunreiter in his only loss of the year. After a close match, Peterson came up short and lost in the tiebreaker game, earning silver in his bracket. All of Peterson's matches were close with the highly ranked Kirkwood opponent, showing the evenness of this matchup. The final scores were 11-15, 15-8, 8-11.

The final singles match of the day was junior Max Telken. After earning the number one seed in the varsity three bracket, Telken moved through the first two rounds easily after beating opponents he had played earlier in the season. In the final, Telken played junior Spencer Keith from CBC. After three hard fought games Telken came out on top, winning his matches 15-6, 8-15, 11-7.

"I think working hard all season and continuously playing allowed me to feel comfortable in the state tournament and trust in my abilities," said Telken.

In the doubles bracket, juniors Will Shorey and Ben Harmon advanced to the finals after two quick wins over Desmet and Chaminade earlier in the week. On Saturday, Shorey and Harmon started off slow

in their match against Alec Weatheby and Jonathan Bell from Lindbergh High School. After losing the first game 8-15, Shorey and Harmento turned it around, letting up only five total points the next two games. They went on to win their next two games 15-5 and 11-0.

"It feels very rewarding," said Harmon. "We have been working hard since the fall and to cap off the season with a first place trophy is pretty awesome."

The SLUH racquetball program as a whole had a very successful season. The JV1-1 and JV2-1 also earned state titles this past Saturday and the JV3 won their title the week prior. The team is graduating 12 seniors this year, but, fortunately for the varsity team, there will be five out of the eight players

returning next season.

"I can't thank the seniors enough for the passion and enthusiasm they have brought to our program, especially during this pandemic season," said Coach Stephen Deves. "They have shown us all how to work hard, dedicate yourself to success, and still have fun in the process. Their influence will live on through the example they have set for all the returning players"

The SLUH varsity racquetball team hopes to continue to work hard this off season for next winter. Programs such as CBC and Lindbergh have multiple returners coming back to their programs next year so SLUH will have some tough competition ahead of them if they want to repeat as champions again next year.

Neumann, Owens head to State Tournament after success at sectionals

(continued from page 8)

In the upper weight classes, SLUH began to see its first instances of state-qualifying success on the day. Senior Logan Nuemann (195), entering the tournament as #1 seed, triumphed over his opponent from Hickman with a pin during the second period. This sent Nuemann to the semifinals, which ended similarly to his first match, asNeumann pinned a Francis Howell North wrestler with thirty seconds remaining in the first period and guaranteeing his spot at the State Tournament.

Riding two dominant performances, Neumann entered the championship round aiming for a win, as it would allow him a first round bye at State. Despite wrestling a tenacious match, Neumann lost to an opponent from Holt by major decision and took second place at the tournament.

Junior Cayden Owens (220) also entered the tournament as a #1 seed. He won his first match against a wrestler from Troy by fall under a minute into the second period.

Owens's next match was much closer. Facing an opponent from Holt, the match was tied after three periods, meaning the two would enter a sudden victory round. No wrestler scored in this round either, so the match entered a series of two tiebreakers rounds, where each wrestler is given an opportunity to score from top and bottom position for thirty seconds.

With the tie score still persisting even after the two tiebreakers, the match entered an ultimate tiebreaker, where the first wrestler to score during a thirty second time period would win the match. Owens was allowed to choose his position, as he scored the first

points in the match. Opting for top position, he kept his opponent down for the entire match and was awarded the win. The victory guaranteed Owens a spot in the state tournament.

In his championship match, Owens faced a wrestler from Fort Zumwalt North. Owens lost by decision, 7-2, and took second place.

"We didn't get as many guys through as we thought we would. That's just how it goes some days. We wrestled hard, but for some some guys their best wasn't enough. That's one of the really hard parts about this sport — you'll probably go out on a loss," said Whitney. "The most difficult thing for me as a coach is to see some of my wrestlers' seasons not end the way they thought it would or the way they worked for it to end. But I think that's a learning opportunity. We're not here to create world champions. We're here to create excellent young men and feed into the "Grad at Grad," and I think we succeeded in that."

In just over a week, Neumann and Owens have the opportunity to represent SLUH on the podium for just the second time in the past ten years, as Conroy was the only SLUH wrestler to place at the State Tournament in the last decade.

"We're just working on tuning the little things. The coaches are watching everything they're doing and are making sure to tighten up the small things. The next week is just going to be fine tuning for State and getting us in the position we want to be in," said Whitney. "Our goal for the State Tournament is winning medals. It's reasonable for both Cayden and Logan to place, and I'm excited to see them go



Freshman Charlie Isom-McCall against Chaminade on Feb. 3. photo | Mrs. Kathleen Chott

BY CARTER SPENCE
WEB EDITOR

In February, the underclassmen St. Louis U. High basketball teams—B (sophomore) team, C-team blue, and C-team white—concluded their seasons. All three teams, despite the up and downs, had spurts of success this season, showing glimpses of a bright future of the SLUH basketball program.

The B-team, coached by Jake Fechter '10 and Adam Cruz '10, finished the season 10-9, the lone basketball team in the program with an over .500 clip. The team finished the season with three wins in its final four games, including two wins versus Jesuit rival De Smet and a double overtime win at John Burroughs. Against the MCC, the B-team finished 4-3, including sweeps of Vianney and De Smet. Freshman point guard Charlie Isom-McCall led the team with 12.5 points per game.

"It was very easy to get open on the floor when I had a whole team behind me to encourage me to not be afraid," Isom-McCall said. "Although it was my first year on the team and I am a freshman, they (the B-team) treated me like I was

a sophomore just like them, and I believe that is what gave me the confidence to help the team the way I did."

"Charlie really came into his own," Cruz said. "The first five or so games he was still kind of being a freshman, but he really came to embrace that he was the premier scorer on the team."

Sophomore forward and team captain Garrett Shearer finished the season with an impressive 7.0 points and 6.5 rebounds per game, including two game winning buckets versus Webster Groves and Vianney. Sophomore wing Oliver Floresca boasted a similar stat line, scoring 6.0 points and snagging 6.8 rebounds per game.

"More than any team I've ever coached, I legitimately liked everyone on the team and they all liked each other. There were no cliques, no rivalries, no beef. Every single kid got along. This was their social circle," said Cruz. "When we went into our midseason lull, we said they have to stick with each other, don't turn on each other, don't turn on the team, and they did a really good job of doing that."

The freshman teams struggled this season, as C-team

white finished just 5-10 and C-team blue posted a 4-8 record, but both enjoyed several winning streaks throughout the year. The inconsistency of roster from game to game proved troublesome for both teams, as several players were faced with unexpected quarantines throughout the season.

Led by freshmen Jay Jones, Dylan Freeman, and Gabe Hafner, C-team white, despite a rough 2-10 start, finished its season on a three-game winning streak. The streak included a blowout 18-point win against Hancock, a buzzer-beating three to knock off CBC, and a 13-point win versus Chaminade, who they lost to earlier in the season in overtime.

"The end of the season was incredibly important to all of us. We had a rocky start to this weird year and Covid and quarantine killed us," Freeman said of the team, which at one point had five players quarantined, including two starters. "We decided that we were going to have the mentality of, 'alright, let's go out there and leave it all on the court, we have nothing to lose.'"

C-team blue, coached by Brock Kesterson and Kent Kershenski, struggled to find

much consistency this season. The team started off the season poorly with a 1-4 start, but found its footing and evened its record at 4-4 in early January. The team, however, dropped four consecutive games to end the season, including an overtime loss on a buzzer beater to Chaminade in the team's final game of the season. Freshmen Keegan Kesterson, Zion Spencer, and Dean Lyon led the team in scoring.

Whereas other schools have the advantage of teams playing together in grade school, SLUH never has that advantage. With Covid-19 limiting lots of contact and normal team bonding, this challenge was even greater than expected, especially for the freshman teams.

"The lack of authentic practice time hurt. We had to work around quarantines, social distancing practices, and limited time together," Kershenski said. "Coaching basketball wasn't any tougher than usual, but in terms of the team building comradery, it was difficult. There weren't any bus rides to games, we had distanced seats on the bench. Those little things added up."

All three teams will look to build on and carry the successes of this season into next year.

"For the off-season I intend to train a lot. I don't plan on taking any breaks," Isom-McCall, who will be playing baseball this spring, said. "Although I will be picking up another sport, it is my plan to stay ready for next basketball season."

"The most challenging part of the season was losing so many close games and then being tired and frustrated at practice," Freeman said. "Once we lost a close game, like the games against Vianney, Chaminade, and Desmet, we were extremely frustrated at ourselves, other players, and the refs. This is never the right mentality and we started to really thrive once we learned that we had to move on from it and we started to really give it our best effort."

Rifle advances to regionals

BY JACK RYBAK
CORE STAFF

The St. Louis U. High School shot in the 2021 Missouri State Junior Olympic Championship Saturday, qualifying 16 precision shooters and 4 sporter shooters for regionals in late March.

The match, which took place last weekend, was the deciding factor for the Jr. Bills and would determine if they qualified for regionals. The instant qualification score for an individual precision shooter was 585/600 and 2300/2400 for a team score. For sporter shooters, the individual score was set at 540/600 and 2100/2400. These scores guarantee a shooter or a team a spot at regionals; however, if a team does not hit their mark, the top twenty teams are put in the regionals, leaving room for scores that are less than the auto-qualification score to still advance.

The Jr. Bills top team hit a little below the mark, with a combined score of 2277. Junior Sam Quinlivan led the

team with a 575 and senior team captain Nick Storer followed with a 570. Junior Lauer Stix and senior team captain Ryan Janson covered the number three and four spots with a 569 and a 563 respectively. All four shooters qualified for regionals.

The team will be shooting a virtual match for regionals later this month determining who will qualify for nationals. Another important upcoming match is the Junior Olympic qualification match on March 20. This is a secondary match for those who could not shoot in the previous qualifier. This match pertains to the individual, and a shooter must shoot a 580/600 to qualify.

The freshmen sporter team has also been doing exceptionally well on the season. The team placed 7th out of 22 and had a combined score of 1966. Alex Eckert led the freshmen with 514/600, followed by Theordore Guidry with a 507/600. Nick Bull and Michael Bergen covered the rear with a 493 and 452. Eckert placed 22nd out of nearly 90 shooters.

From the final lines to the fabulous soundtrack, Spoon River lives up to its creators’ vision

(continued from page 1)
in,” said English teacher Chuck Hussung, who compiled all of the poems and monologues. “We took this material that is perfect for individual rehearsal—and in many ways Zoom rehearsal—so my praises go to Mrs. Whitaker who thought up a perfect way to let our students rehearse as actors in a safe and efficient way.”

“I thought that it was incredibly special and like nothing we have ever done before at SLUH,” said dance teacher and campus minister Simonie Anzalone. “The combination of the scenery and the individual characters that were played along with the very beautiful, cathedral-like music interspersed throughout. I thought it was a sheer delight and a wonderful representation of the arts at SLUH.”

The group was particularly satisfied with the performance’s ending.

“I selected the monologues that we heard, and I tried to put them in an order that was pleasing and effective,” said Hussung. “We made one little adjustment during rehearsal, and we decided to flip the last two monologues. I thought that was a very good alteration. The second to last scene is one where you don’t see the actors, it’s just their voices. In terms of

substance it’s a very nice finish, but the performance up to this point has entirely been people on screen, so I thought it was smart to end with the (Lucinda Matlock) monologue instead. That performance combined with the dialogue and the importance behind that ... it’s a very rousing finish.”

Both of the directors—Kathryn Whitaker and Kevin McKernan—appreciated the collaborative vision from the entire cast and crew and felt that the final product was exactly what the creators had in mind.

“I absolutely loved it,” said McKernan. “I think it actually was what we talked about in terms of a vision for it, and to start with something abstract and to see the final result is quite fun ... it really felt like a collaborative image of what we thought this would look like, and to see that come to the screen was exciting stuff.”

“I am quite satisfied with the end result,” said Whitaker. “I knew I wanted these images of the cemetery and I envisioned hymns coming in and out of transitions... so you have all of these things that you imagine but until it comes together, it’s very much like the early progress of a play, with set design and with imagining each scene. But that’s what’s so

exciting about this process ... it comes from a totally cerebral place, from your imagination. It was very much the tone, the feel, and the flow that we all talked about as collaborators, so I think for having never done this before, it turned out to be very special; (as a collaboration) it felt very worthy and beautiful in many ways.”

Despite the mass praise and positive responses to the performance, there was still one major regret, as cast members Nick George and Jacob Sprock were sick at the week of filming after practicing their performances for so long.

While they are not featured in the final product, they are still listed among the cast, as Whitaker feels that they are still an essential part of the performance.

“I’m really sad that two people didn’t get to do the show who were originally in the cast: Nick George and Jacob Sprock,” said Whitaker. “They were doing such lovely work and we put them in the credits since they were such a huge part of the process. They just didn’t get to do that last performance, and while that truly does break my heart, they’re still very much so a part of the ensemble to me.”

As many were impressed with the professionalism and safety of filming during Co-

vid-19, McKernan and others see this as an example of overcoming the challenges that Covid-19 brings and a strong jumping off point for the future of live theater during the pandemic.

“As of late, we’ve noticed how the pandemic messes things up and throws them off schedule, but it also allows us at SLUH to think outside the box,” said McKernan. “I would love to do something like this again because it allowed different kids with different talents and technological abilities to think somewhat differently, which as a result made (the directors) think differently. I really think this could be one of those unintentional gifts that we stumbled upon during and because of Covid, but we continue to reinvest in down the line.”

In the end, the cast and crew look back on their experience filming Spoon River Anthology and the final product as a prime example of the talent of SLUH theater and an act of sharing the arts together when they were needed most.

“A huge part of the beauty of it is all the talented people involved who wanted to give it a go,” said Whitaker. “I got to work with (so many) great colleagues, so it was a good time during a very hard time.”

Cross-examinations and witnesses mark SLUH’s trial performance

(continued from page 1)

“I have never seen a SLUH team like this before,” said team captain senior Carter Fortman of the Varsity trial. “Despite practicing the least we have ever practiced in my tenure, it became obvious that the guys really internalized the lessons from past years. Between dominating our objection battles and playing convincing characters and exuding the confidence that is necessary to perform well, we really showed why we’re a force to be reckoned with even if we’re not the top seed.”

Heading into this trial, all teams were a bit nervous, especially after having mixed results for their first trial of the season. The criminal case was the same as before, based on the boardgame Clue: defendant Parker Crimson is accused of the first degree murder of billionaire Charles Grey in a stereotypical murder mystery.

The Varsity team (SLUH Navy) competed as defense against Crossroads with a sweep, winning all three ballots. The JV-1 team (SLUH White) competed as defense against Jefferson High School, winning two ballots, and the JV-2 team (SLUH Blue) competed as prosecution against Francis Howell North, losing all three ballots.

“I like the energy of being run with teams physically—getting to help get (the team) organized,” said Mock Trial club Moderator Anne Marie Lodholz. “I watched the Navy team this time. I

thought (they) did a nice job. It was funny, even earlier in a courtroom—it was funny to watch the trial totally separate. I was watching outside the Campus Ministry room. You’re normally not allowed to say anything, but it was funny because (the team was) like ‘what are we doing?’ you know, ‘make an objection, think, quiet down, and listen’; it was very interesting from that perspective.”

The SLUH Navy team, led by seniors Fortman and Charlie Albus, quickly took control of the trial from the beginning. With an opening argument that set the tone of the trial, co-counsel junior Jack Rybak led the two jurors and the judge through a fluid argument highlighting the rushed investigation and the multiple other suspects who had similar motivations to the defendant.

“The opening is really important because it lays the foundation for the case. I am fortunate enough to have a team to help me craft a phenomenal opening statement,” said Rybak. “Overall I think it went well, it really accomplished its goal of telling the jury a story while also establishing our case.”

Yet, it was SLUH’s cross-examination that really won the trial for the team. Best described as being aggressive but composed, all of the attorneys asked difficult questions during their cross-examinations that challenged the witnesses on their stances. The cross-examinations began

with Fortman questioning Detective Jaylen Curry.

“It was in that moment that everything that I had been practicing and learning throughout my four years as a member of the team just clicked,” said Fortman. “My aggression was strong but not potent, my questions were concise but effective, and my demeanor was filled with confidence.”

After the cross-examinations of Professor Landry Chartreuse by junior Peter James and Butler Arizona Waddlesworth by Albus, the SLUH Navy team brought up their own witnesses, which consisted of a nephew of the deceased Jamie Olive (played by junior Eli Dernlan), the defendant’s private security guard Reece Warren (played by senior Nathan Malawey), and reporter Dakota Forest (played by junior Andrew Harris).

“It’s much harder to feel like you’d have team synergy when you have to compete completely virtually. Once you’re in a room together, and you’re facing up against the same team as a group unit, it’s much easier to feel like you have high energy and are super prepared to go at it. And so I was a little concerned going into this trial that we wouldn’t be able to find that team synergy, but we pulled through, we did really well,” said Malawey. “It’s really nice to finally have a chance to make it to state after four years of doing this.”

This year because of the

many students who joined the club, there were three teams in the Mock Trial club this year instead of the usual two. Despite the lack of experienced members on the other two teams, they also scored well, highlighting the growing depth of the team and predicting a strong future for SLUH Mock Trial.

In April, as a combined group, SLUH will ‘go to court’ against the strongest competition that it has seen this year. Held over Zoom, the team will have an opportunity to compete in a series of trials over a weekend until the winner is decided. As the date looms ahead, the team has been preparing rigorously, hoping that the results will turn out favorably for the ‘U-High’ attorneys.

“We’re more than ready,” said Fortman. “Albus, Malawey, and me want to go out with a bang and to bring the State Championship back to Oakland Avenue.”



art | Nathan Rich

Graduation, Jr. Ring planned for 4Q, Sophomore and Freshman dances cancelled

(continued from page 1)

that we’ve persevered through despite the challenges of pandemic and all of the different items each year that we faced this year. The world can be a broken place yet we persevere, and we continue to form and create impactful Catholic leaders.”

Dances will also be happening this year, something that was lost last spring to the pandemic. Senior Prom will happen on May 21 and Mother and Son Prom will happen on May 23. Like Graduation and Junior Ring, these events will both have to be restructured in order to accommodate safety protocols. Unfortunately, the freshman and sophomore dances had to be canceled due to the lack of feasibility of those two dances.

“We wanted to have all the events that we can, but they have to be safe. They have to be viable, and they have to be a project that are going to be helpful for our community,” said Gibbons. “So, in order to put all of our efforts imaginable into something like freshmen dance, all the care and pieces that would take to the detriment of everything else, does not make much sense. There’s only so much bandwidth we have.”

Spring Break trips will also be canceled this year. While this was predicted by many, the news was disappointing, especially those who were not able to go on a trip last year and were looking forward to spring trips this year. An email from Global Education Director Robert Chura will be sent later this year with details about summer trips.

“Very few people are happy about things that are canceled and the things that are going to be adapted, things that are going to be different things, that will be smaller scale. Nobody is happy with the way things unveil in the pandemic and no school, no institution is able to pick up and just do all the things they’ve done in the past,” said Gibbons. “Some

organizations have tried to do that and said, ‘it doesn’t matter, we’re just going to do it, and whatever happens will happen,’ and those events have turned out very very badly for those organizations.”

Opportunities are sparse during a pandemic, and many of these changes to the schedule were difficult to make. They required deliberation by the administration to find which traditions and activities would be possible while maintaining safety regulations. However, none of this planning would be possible without students following the proper guidelines and limiting the spread of Covid-19 on campus.

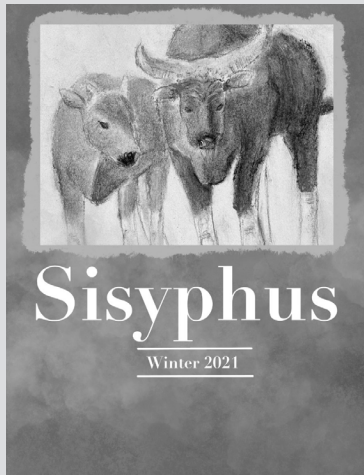
“We’ve been doing extremely well as a school, our commitments have been paying off and making us a much safer place,” said Gibbons. “We’ve proven that we can do it when so many schools and businesses and organizations have been closed since almost a year ago, and we’ve just been speeding ahead with what we’ve done. I’m really glad to be able to put this out there and to try and get these events to be the very best that they can in the capacity that we can do them.”

For many, this time of the year elicits bad memories of last spring when the nation as a whole was locked down and SLUH students were forced to watch video lectures and complete asynchronous work for the fourth quarter. Many students and faculty can still recall some of the last moments of normalcy before the pandemic hit, and all can pick at least one thing that they have lost because of it.

“On Friday, because the fish fry was one of our very last events that we held on campus, I really felt that sense of nostalgia and I could not help think about last spring,” said Gibbons. “I cannot go to an event like that and not be associated with any of our last stands on campus before we kind of lost everything.”

Winter ’21 Sisyphus

Sisyphus released its winter edition this week as a virtual mini-issue. A full article on the issue can be found online.



AMDG

Academic WorldQuest team celebrates local win, plans for a strong finish at nationals



The WorldQuest team. photo | Courtesy of SLUH Facebook

BY NOAH APPRILL-SOKOL AND SAM TARTER
NEWS EDITOR, FEATURES EDITOR

If you were still wandering the halls of St. Louis U. High on the night of Feb. 25, you would have heard cheers and applause from five pumped up seniors and one incredible politics teacher roar from room M114. In the end, it all came down to Uzbekistan.

The SLUH delegation for the annual Academic WorldQuest competition continued their winning streak that Thursday night, narrowly nudging out Wentzville High School, the second place team, by one point with a final score of 54 points out of 70.

The Academic WorldQuest is a two-tiered competition where high school delegations compete against each other, answering multiple choice trivia-style questions about current global matters. There are 70 questions divided into seven categories, with this year’s looking at global protests, the Arab Spring, International Labor Organizations, foreign service, peace in a world of conflict, Uzbekistan, and the post-pandemic economy.

For this recent competition, the SLUH team—seniors Maurice Safar, Luke Wagner, Kevin Hickey, and Andrei Chura, and Ben Walsh—participated in the local round. Since they placed in the top three teams, they will advance to the national Academic WorldQuest competition.

Preparation for the event started in early February with AP Comparative Government students trying out for a role on the team. Once the team was finalized, they divided up the work of studying each category and used a study guide provided by the Academic WorldQuest organization to prepare.

“This club is voluntary, and the students who choose to participate take it very seriously ... they sign up and they have a natural inclination to study these topics, and they want to do well when they compete,” said Becvar.

Tension rose throughout the match as the team battled through each question. Never told where they were in the standings except whether they were in the top ten, the SLUH delegation remained nervous throughout until the very end.

“There was a lot of intensity during the rounds. Last year there was no way to know how we were doing compared to other teams. In this format, we could track how we were doing, so we knew we were doing very well. It was fun to watch (the team) get very into it,” said Becvar. “They clearly studied the material, and for them I’m sure it’s great to figure out the answer after they’ve applied all the research and the hard work and to have this competitive component to it. It was almost like watching a sporting event, only with very specific international conflicts.”

For Chura, the most intense part of the competition was when it came down to the final two rounds: Uzbekistan and the post-pandemic economy.

“We knew that we were near the top, but we also knew that there were some other teams that were close to us in points,” said Chura, who led his team to a perfect score on the Uzbekistan category (one of the only two teams to do so). “We knew that we were going to have to do really well on these last two categories if we were going to win.”

Going into Nationals, the team’s game plan is to prepare for the three additional study topics that were not included in the previous competition, focus and work better on the designated weak points or lesser known topics, and continue the study tactics that worked so well for them the first time.

“Along with quizlets, we are sure to have study sessions, and we’ll get together and quiz each other to make sure we better understand these topics,” said Walsh.

Since the winning team last year was not able to compete in Nationals due to the pandemic, Becvar is very pleased and excited that her team has made it this far and will end up competing no matter what.

“Seeing as we have never competed in Nationals before, I truly don’t have any expectations for the team,” said Becvar. “I’m just so excited for the guys to have this experience and I want them to feel good about what they do and in the end, have fun with it.”

The SLUH Academic WorldQuest team will compete in the national competition April 16 and 17, where once again, it will be held virtually via Zoom and the team will compete in room M114.

BY JACOB SPROCK
NEWS EDITOR

Editor’s Note: This article is part of a series of articles addressing the difficulties of life at SLUH for members of the LGBTQ+ community in an attempt to raise awareness of their daily struggles and start a conversation on ways that we as individuals and as a school can change our habits to be more inclusive of LGBTQ+ individuals. The writer interviewed over a dozen alumni and is pulling from those interviews for each of the articles. This article focuses on the mental health of LGBTQ+ students at SLUH.

It’s safe to say that mental health is often one of the greatest challenges a high school student will face, especially at a place like St. Louis U. High, infamous for its rigorous curriculum and expansive co-curriculars. Luckily for SLUH students, they can rely on their friends to help lift them out of tough spots—to crack a joke that relieves tension, to help out with some stressful homework, to sit down and have a heart-to-heart when something bothersome comes up—and this sense of togetherness has persisted for generations, oftentimes the defining characteristic of SLUH. But problems arise when the very classmates that are supposed to be your brothers are the cause of your troubles.

The latter case is the one that affects many LGBTQ+ students at SLUH. Instead of feeling open with their classmates and secure in their position at school, many of the students I interviewed, both current and graduated, expressed discomfort with and even at times hostility from their fellow Jr. Billikens. And in a large number of these cases, this discomfort heavily affected their mental health.

“(I was) very much afraid that I was going to say something or do something that would warrant me unwanted attention that would get me looks,” said Nicholas Dalaviras, ’20. “I even knew

straight boys at SLUH who were just afraid to do certain things because they don’t want to be called out by their friends for being a little baby and for being a girl and for whatever.”

Dalaviras was adamant in noting that a culture of masculinity at an all-boy school is not necessarily a bad thing. It is an all-boy school, after all. For him, problems arose when it became acceptable to judge another student’s masculinity based on something like a person’s dress, interests, or sexual orientation.

“It’s the culture of masculinity at the school—to the point where I think a significant portion of the population is gay and most of those kids don’t come out until after high school because they’re so scared of what their classmates are going to think of them,” said Dalaviras.

For some of the students, it became an issue of remarketing themselves to a straight audience.

“I pretty frequently at SLUH, had an interaction where a straight classmate who I considered fairly close would tell me they have nothing against gay people and have no problem with gay people but that some gay people are just so annoying and out there, basically referring to the more feminine, flamboyant side of things,” said Johnno Jackson, ’20. “They would basically say, more or less, ‘Johnno, you’re not like other gay people,’ and I didn’t really know how to respond to that. It was meant as a compliment. It was meant as a pick me up. But to me, it was pretty obviously a put down.”

For others, they simply had to learn to live without the support of many of their straight peers.

“It was never like I didn’t have any friends, really it was more like, ‘I don’t feel like a part of my class’ or ‘I don’t feel like a part of SLUH’ just because I think there’s so much taboo; nobody wanted to be friends with the gay kid,” said Fitz Cain, ’20.

“I think it was either at the end of freshman year or like the beginning of sophomore year that I just stopped eating lunch in the cafeteria,” said Francesco Galante, a former SLUH student who left in his sophomore year after homophobic comments proved overwhelming and severely damaging to his mental health. “I’d just go to the library because the people that I was surrounded with didn’t make me feel comfortable.”

According to Jimmy Wolfe, ’19, this separateness,

“They would basically say, more or less, ‘Johnno, you’re not like other gay people,’ and I didn’t really know how to respond to that. It was meant as a compliment. It was meant as a pick me up. But to me, it was pretty obviously a put down.”

-Johnno Jackson ’20

enforced by outspokenly uncomfortable or apathetic students, was more prominent than any openly homophobic language.

“I think that’s what I think of homophobia—as this separateness,” said Wolfe, noting that having to struggle through such a difficult climate also forced him to mature faster than his classmates. “You constantly have to filter yourself in a way and almost make yourself more palatable to the people that you’re around all the time, which definitely makes you more self-aware, and I think facing that type of adversity at a young age definitely makes you have to grow up faster.”

Alex Seidel, ’10, similarly expressed a feeling of accelerated maturity in his high school years, citing the tough skin he had to build for himself—an armor to protect from the piercing insults of his classmates.

But of all my conversations with gay alumni concerning mental health, the most impactful was the testimony of Komlavi Adissem, ’20.

“I won’t sugarcoat it and say that it was perfect, being openly gay at SLUH, because I got snide remarks behind my back and whispers and all sorts of nonsense like that. And that was one problem,” said Adissem. “I always felt like I had to watch my back, both from people who I was afraid would be rude or less demeaning or outright like animals because I am gay, as well as from people within

the community who think that I checked all the boxes of what it meant to be in the LGBT community.”

Komlavi went on.

“I tried to commit suicide multiple times, and I spent weeks at a time in mental health facilities because I was in such a bad place. Sure, there were multiple reasons for that, but being gay and coming to terms with my sexuality in the environment of SLUH, which is already so competitive with grades and opportunities, created the perfect storm for me to just flip.”

A pit formed in my stomach at those words. I’d heard that lots of people my age were feeling depressed and suicidal, but as far as I knew, no one in my personal life had attempted it. This was a friend—someone I went to parks with, someone who I’d talked to for hours at a time while working on yearbook pages, someone who I care about deeply. I had a hard time falling asleep for the next few nights.

I’d love to say that Komlavi’s experience was a completely unique one, but the CDC reports that LGBTQ+ students are 140 percent more likely to skip a day of school out of safety concerns compared to straight peers and are nearly five times as likely to attempt suicide—29 percent to five percent. In 2020, the Trevor Project conducted a 40,000 person survey, the largest survey of LGBTQ+ individuals, and found that 48 percent of respondents had engaged in self-harm in the past year. Alarming, 46 percent of respondents who wanted to see a psychiatrist or other form of help for their psychological problems were unable to receive it in the past year.

Mental health affects many who walk the halls of SLUH, and it’d be inaccurate and immoral to suggest that it’s something that only affects the LGBTQ+ community or is solely caused by straight students. Mental health is a topic that the administration is currently battling, so there is hope for a brighter future for students at SLUH struggling with anxiety, depression, and various other mental problems. I hope that they think about gay students while they tackle this issue because, while homophobia is not the only cause of mental distress for the gay community at SLUH, it can often be a driving factor and a large hurdle on the path to self-love and recovery.

While I recognize that this article serves as no antidote to mental health, I hope to aid in the struggle by shedding light on the issue. And while it will be a long fight to distinguish the fires of mental health issues for all students, for now this conversation is ongoing.



art | Charlie Bieg

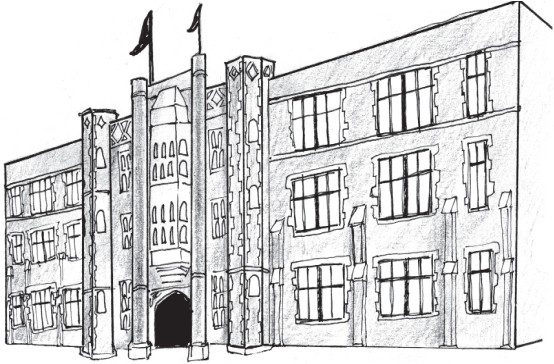
Around the Hallways

Exploring College Options Program

The college counseling department is holding a virtual event on Tuesday, March 9, from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. as part of its annual Exploring College Options Program. The event will provide insights on three different types of universities: large public universities, liberal arts Jesuit universities, and highly selective universities. The universities featured for each category will be the University of Missouri (Columbia), Xavier University (Cincinnati), and the University of Southern California (Los Angeles), respectively. During the event, representatives from each university will describe the admissions process for their schools, then the audience will have a chance to ask questions. To register for this program, click the link in the weekly ParentConnect email from principal Ian Gibbons, SJ.

Spring Break Plans

The administration has released a few plans for spring break. First, all school-sponsored spring break trips have been cancelled due to the remaining complications of Covid. The administration has also announced that all spring break travel and programs are to be concluded by Sunday, March 21. Finally, SLUH will have a week of virtual learning following spring break.



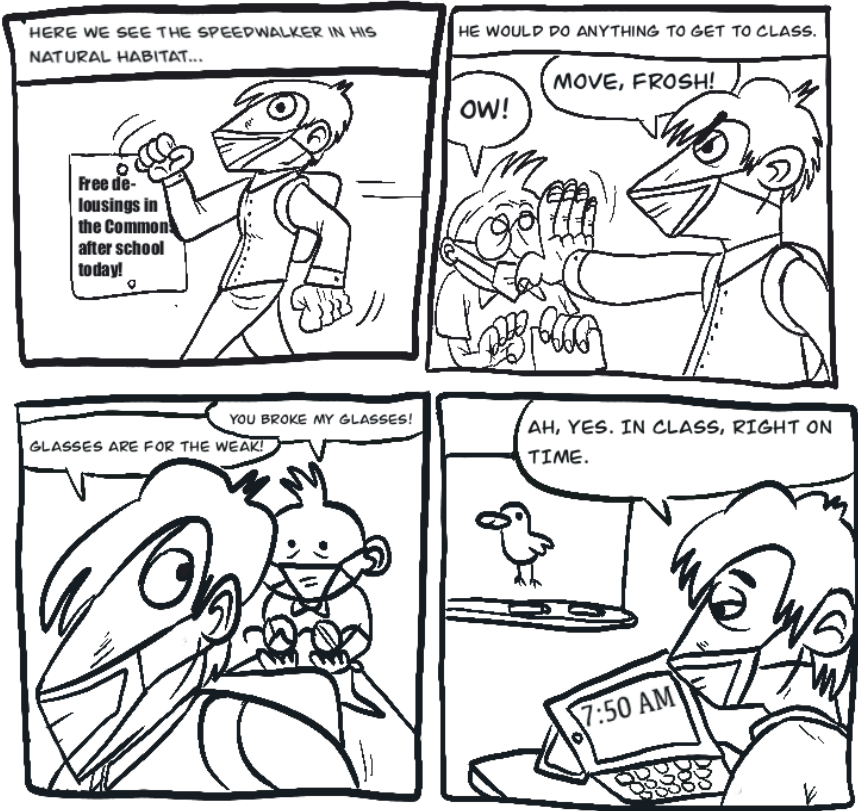
Building Little Libraries

St. Louis Crisis Nursery has reached out to SLUH students to help build little libraries at their nursery sites around the city. The libraries are small boxes that hold books for children at the nurseries to take as they pass. They

are looking for students with the skills to build these libraries to help out. This project could count towards service for the student's respective goal.

—Compiled by Luke Duffy

SLUHsers: THE SPEEDWALKER



SLUHsers | Jude Reed

Prep News

Volume 85, Issue 19

Credits:

“What’s your favorite thing about Mr. Cruz?”

Editor in Chief

Carter “his personalized stationery” Fortman

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Noah “his looks” Apprill-Sokol
Jacob “his winning personality” Sprock

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Luke “body transformation” Altier

Features Editor

Sam “his father’s Ophthalmology degree” Tarter

Web Editor

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Louis “[removed by moderator]” Cornett
Jack “God only knows” Figge
Nathan “his volume” Rich
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Luke “his sophomore class” Duffy
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Nick “his lunch” Campbell

Staff Artist

Charlie “his apple pencil” Bieg

Reporters

Jackson “his Twitter” Cooper
Mark “his humor” Faulkner
Luke “his babysitting” Missey
John “his SLUH tours” Posey
Jared “his whiteboard” Thornberry
Leo “his muscles” Wagner

Advisor

Giuseppe “his shoes” Vitellaro

Guest Moderator

Adam “my humility” Cruz

Moderator

Steve “PN 74” Missey

Calendar

Friday, March 5

B Day

Lenten Confessions
AL Bosco Sticks
LUNCH Shrimp
7:50am SLUH Community First Friday Mass
2:45pm MAGIS Parents Prayer Group
3:00pm MC Mom-Son Trivia Night Set Up
6:00pm District Final at Pattonville

Saturday, March 6

4:00pm MC Mom-Son Trivia Night (Virtual)

Monday, March 8

A Day

AL Chicken Rings
LUNCH Meatball Sandwich
3:15pm Freshman Service

Tuesday, March 9

B Day

AL Chicken Bites
LUNCH Country Fried Steak

Wednesday, March 10

A Day

Basketball Sectionals
AL Pizza Stick
LUNCH Hand Breaded Chicken Tenders

Thursday, March 11

B Day

Philia Retreat
AL Bosco Sticks
LUNCH Papa John Pizza
3:15pm Freshman Service

Friday, March 12

No Classes

Philia Retreat
Release of District Assignments for MSHSAA Spring Sports

calendar | Roarke Unrau

Clarification from Fr. Gibbons

Last week the *Prep News* reported that our first case of internal COVID-19 transmission occurred on campus. Unfortunately, there was an important error in the details of the transmission provided to the reporters. Contrary to the information provided for the story, neither student was eating at the time of transmission, and both were wearing masks. No food was consumed by either outside of SLUH’s designated eating areas. These students were completely aligned with school protocols. Any suggestion otherwise was both inaccurate and unjustified. This statement didn’t represent the diligence of these students or our contact tracing.

We are grateful for our community’s dedication to reopening safely, and we are justifiably bolstered by our results. This record punctuates the need for accuracy and clear communication. I regret this error and recommit our school to ensuring timely and precise reports going forward.

Ian Gibbons, SJ