

# Prep News

If Nothing Else, Value the Truth

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How has the Pandemic  
affected...

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## The Covid Anniversary Issue

Two years into the pandemic, Covid has shaken everything about life at St. Louis University High School. Where have we been and what have we learned?

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[sluh.org/prep-news](http://sluh.org/prep-news)

### Construction Resumes

After brief hiatus, construction continues on the new Dill Center for Academic Success

BY ALEX PREUSSER AND  
CHARLIE DOUGHERTY  
CORE STAFF, REPORTER

Every Jr. Bill is sure to have noticed the construction happening at the south end of freshman and senior hallways, and the wall that has mysteriously moved forward a few feet. This is the site of what will soon be the Dill Center for Academic Success, a project two years in the making that is finally nearing completion.

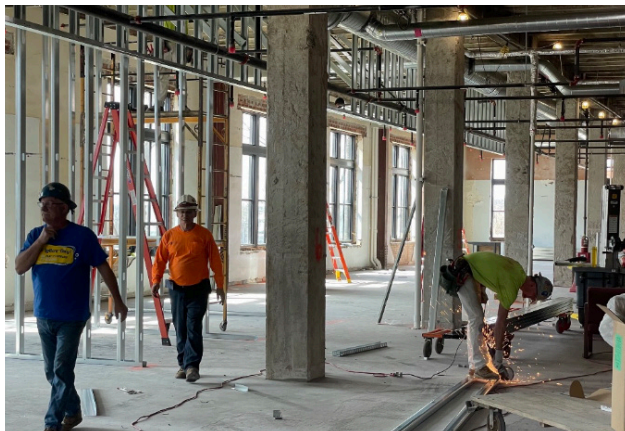
The Dill Center is a part of the Go Forth Campaign, a \$70 million program that originally launched in 2018 with a goal of continuing SLUH's Jesuit tradition and commitment to excellence through a series of renovation projects and program enhancements, and by growing

the school's endowment for financial aid.

"The Go Forth campaign had several high-level objectives," explained Director of Advancement Sean Agniel. "First, we wanted to ensure that financial aid would be available for any student

capable of thriving at SLUH. The campaign also invested in our Jesuit Catholic mission and faith formation. We constructed a retreat center, and we're going to be renovating the chapel and building a new Campus Ministry center, as

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Construction workers in the Dill  
photo | courtesy of SLUH Facebook

### Admin. relaxes VisitU check in process

BY AUSTIN WALD AND  
JACK EVANS  
STAFF, REPORTER

At last, the doors of the St. Ignatius entrance are finally re-opened for student arrival, something that only the junior and senior classes have experienced. Gone (for now) are the days where students trudge up the massive theatre lobby staircase and get their phones out for VisitU.

As pandemic metrics continue to fall in the region and the nation as a whole, St. Louis U. High has slowly been shedding many of its pandemic protocols as their collective importance diminishes. At the beginning of this week, VisitU check-ins and the temperature

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### Global Ed hosts speakers to discuss Ukraine Crisis

Presenters share professional viewpoints into Russian invasion

BY JACKSON COOPER AND  
THOMAS JUERGENS  
CORE STAFF, STAFF

Over the past month, Russia's invasion of Ukraine has dominated news cycles throughout the world, giving way to portrayals of immense human suffering and depictions of the true horrors of modern war. In an effort to educate the school community on the dire situation in Ukraine, St. Louis U. High's One World Club hosted a roundtable discussion on Thursday, Mar. 10, exposing students to just a few of the many diverse viewpoints and perspectives surrounding the complex geopolitical circumstances of the invasion.

The initiative to hold a discussion on the topic began in late Feb., just days after Russia's initial invasion, when junior

Freddy Laux—a member of One World's group of student leaders—began communicating with other club members about acknowledging the situation in Ukraine.

"Our club leaders have been very motivated and responsible for taking on (their role as leaders) in a really good way," said One World co-moderator Maria-Paz Campos. "These are all ideas that came from them. They reached out to us and said we should do something about this, that we should educate our school community about this. It's super easy to default to being angry with the Russian people when not all of them really know what's going on, and a lot of them are misinformed, which you could see in the experiences shared."

Early on in the process, One  
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## Band and Choir flock to the Florida warmth for Spring Break trip



SLUH Band performing by the Hard Rock Cafe.

photo | Rita Jana

BY NATHAN RICH AND  
MARK WAPPLER  
EDITOR, CORE STAFF

Sixty SLUH students spent last week in the most magical place on earth. After an extended Covid-related hiatus from music trips, members of both St. Louis U. High's band and choir traveled to Orlando, Fla. to take Walt Disney World and Universal Studios by storm.

The five day trip was centered around a 40-minute performance inside Universal Studios by both groups last Thursday. Performing on Universal's main stage, in front of a scenic backdrop of the central lagoon and the Hard Rock Cafe, the choir performed a wide variety of songs from Stevie Wonder to *The Greatest Showman* while SLUH's Jazz and Symphonic bands wowed with more traditional orchestral arrangements and recognizable hits like Toto's "Africa."

The performances were a big success in the eyes of choir director Addie Akin and band director Jeff Pottinger.

"(The performance) was magnificent," said Pottinger. "I really felt like we came together in the warmups beforehand and that was really exciting for me. It was a relief to play someplace with a stage, a place that felt like it was worth performing at. The backdrop was great and it was even better to have some families there."

The faculty duo was instrumental in organizing the trip. After both teachers expressed a desire to get back on the road following the pandemic shutdown, talks of a trip began last May.

"For this trip, both Mr. Pottinger and I thought that, because of Covid, we just wanted to give as many students as possible the opportunity to experience a cool trip like this. The more we got to talking, though, the more we thought: why not go together? That would be pretty cool," said Akin.

And thus, the first ever joint band and choir trip at SLUH was born.

Despite the successful ending, the trip's start was rife with ups and downs. For one, Covid made it unclear if the trip would even happen in the months leading up to it. Plus, complications with the travel company raised other ques-

tions, like where the group would get percussion equipment and whether or not they would even be able to get inside Disney World.

Fresh off of these complications, day one of the trip began with a disappointing performance at the Ron Jon's surf shop in Cocoa Beach, Fla. After a delayed lunch, the Jr. Bills arrived to find that the concert venue was not what had been promised to the band and choir, but students made the best of the situation and held an abridged concert. Even with the day one letdown, Pottinger was inspired by the community he saw among the band and choir kids.

"That meant the world to me because (the leadup) was so stressful," he said. "I saw guys off of their devices running around, throwing frisbees, talking, just goofing around and at that moment, I thought: that's what this trip is all about, especially after the pandemic. It's about spending time together."

Luckily, a quick trip to the beach put the Ron Jon's experience behind the Jr. Bills, as they enjoyed the sunny, 70-degree weather at Cocoa Beach. However, they were left with some mementos to remember the surf shop.

"After our first performance at Ron Jon, they brought out these goodie bags with some coupons in them," said senior Alex Nance. "Let's just say, the Universal performance went way better after we found our evenflow."

The next day, as part of their performance package with Universal Studios, the choir and band both received

special hour-long clinics with music experts in Orlando. Akin was impressed with the choir's clinician, Dirk Donahue, and his experience as a singer.

"I was really pleased with our clinic that we got to do. (Donahue) was fabulous. I thought he gave the guys a lot of good vocal things to think about and also (talked about) how to be a musician, how to be a collaborator and how to work as a group," said Akin.

Pottinger had similar things to say about Keith Galasso, who worked with all three of SLUH's groups.

"The clinic went very well," said Pottinger. "I was a little worried about that because even great clinicians are not as good with all genres: Jazz band, concert band and orchestra, but he really did a great job."

When they weren't performing, the students had extensive time in the parks. Three days in Universal Studios and one day split between Epcot and Hollywood Studios meant that the Jr. Bills had plenty to do.

"I finally got over my fear of roller coasters," said senior Danny Hillmeyer. "They played 'Rainbow Connection' by the Muppets on the Hollywood Rip Ride Rockit which was a scary scene. The song is so calming and the ride is so thrilling that it made for a creepy experience."

"I think for me, one of the reasons I love going on trips like these is because I get to see students in a different light and vice versa. I think that's a really important relationship building experience that you don't get just in the classroom," Akin reflected.



SLUH Band posing in front of Universal Studios.

photo | courtesy of Jeff Pottinger

## Immersion trips return: students spring break in Brownsville, Camden

BY ANDREW HUNT AND  
MATTHEW MUSIAL  
STAFF, REPORTER

Last week, sixteen SLUH students and four teachers spent their spring break serving the less fortunate. After two years of canceled immersion trips, SLUH representatives eagerly set off to serve in Brownsville, Texas and Camden, N.J.

The Brownsville trip focused heavily on the U.S. migration crisis at its Mexican border and assisting migrants on both sides of the border. It was a brand new trip that was quickly created after the school's inability to book the usual trip with the Kino Border Initiative.

"With the pandemic, they were flooded with a bunch of schools coming back to trips so we were not able to get a spot locked in," explained immer-

cating themselves and gaining new perspectives. By spending a week with each other, they formed a community. They also gained much more knowledge of the Spanish language, even for the four students on the trip who have not taken Spanish classes.

"We could unite with the kids by playing soccer and speaking some Spanish," recalled junior David Hunt. "It was a really cool experience to transcend our cultural boundaries."

Most importantly, though, through their work in Brownsville, the students found exactly that which was the goal of the trip—the humanity in the situation.

"By spending that time with them, you don't even really see them as different than you, you just see them as your equals," said Hunt.

"Before going on the trip, I

students in the classroom and playing games with them at recess.

"It's been years since I've been to recess," said junior Trey Smith. "Being able to be a kid again and play basketball with the students was a lot of fun for me."

One of the most powerful impressions from the trip was the prevailing sense of hope and resilience among the Camden residents, especially those involved with UrbanPromise—an organization that helps Camden youth through various after-school and summer programs designed to give them opportunities many people elsewhere take for granted.

"The leaders were incredibly passionate when they talked about these programs," said Stahl. "I could tell it was something that really meant a lot to them and they wanted us to see the difference it made for



Students do crafts with immigrant children in Brownsville.

photo | Terry Quinn

sion trip coordinator Stephen Deves. "So we reached out to two recently-ordained SLUH alum priests working at the border to see the chances of them accepting a group of students."

SLUH worked with Fr. Louie Hotop, SJ and Fr. Brian Strassburger over the course of the year to plan out a meaningful experience that encompassed many aspects of their traditional trip. Then finally, ten brave students, led by Spanish teacher Javier Moreno and English teacher Terry Quinn, embarked on the journey. While in Brownsville, they worked with multiple organizations such as Team Brownsville, the Humanitarian Respite Center, and Senda de Vida to hand out donations, learn about the migrants' situation, play with the children, and overall immerse themselves in one of America's most pressing issues.

"We hear about the difficulties of being an immigrant and the complicated process that it is to enter the US but we don't really know it until we see it," commented Moreno. "That's what was great about this trip, that you got a better understanding of the process and the challenges these people go through as well as how quickly their reality can change."

The trip did not fall short of the students' hopes for edu-

just had pity for the situation," observed senior Ben Harmon. "But now I can say that I have empathy. I've been able to be with the people affected. It's not just researching a problem and feeling bad for people; it's actually going down there, seeing it, and being able to relate to those people and experience the problem with them."

While the Brownsville trip was brand new, the Camden trip has been a longstanding tradition at SLUH due to a 20-year partnership with the Romero Center in Camden, NJ. This year, six students along with Biology teacher Chris Stahl and social studies teacher Tom Kickham embarked on their own urban challenge.

"The program is exactly what we want in terms of a combination of service and immersion and learning, all incorporated into one week," said Deves. "They have a very cool outline of allowing students to learn about the issues and experience them through their service, as well as having different reflections and discussions."

Over the course of the week, students served with UrbanPromise, South Jersey Food Bank and the Saint Joseph Pro Cathedral School. They completed tasks from maintaining the facilities and packaging items to helping

those kids."

While they learned so much about Camden and its revitalization, the group also had ample free time, which they spent bonding and building powerful friendships in the new environment.

"Instead of doing service the entire time, we actually had some time to bond with the other students there," said freshman Derek Nester. "It was a blissful time."

The students were from very different backgrounds and grades but they all willingly came together to form a tight, personal group. One of the main activities they did together was play the popular card game Spades, which fostered teamwork, trust and led to plenty of energetic reactions among the students.

"It's a game I learned a long time ago that I've had a lot of fun with in the past," said junior Max Gathemann. "I've been looking to bring it to new people and this was the perfect opportunity."

It caught on instantly and the students spent hours every night hooked by the simple yet strategic game and the challenge of defeating Gathemann's steady, consistent scores.

"It was such an awesome time doing things with these really cool guys," said freshman Greyson Mueller. "I'll never forget the trip."





Senior Jaden McClain drives to the net against CBC.

photo | Kathy Chott

# SPORTS

## COMING TO A CLOSE

### After winning Districts, Basketball falls to season rival CBC in sectionals matchup; seniors reflect on strong results this season

BY COBY SPRATTE  
CORE STAFF

The Jr. Billikens’ season ended after a thrilling District Tournament run, as they were knocked out in Sectionals by CBC 53-40. SLUH, who had already lost to the Cadets twice in two attempts this season, came out of the opening gates firing. They led for the entirety of the first quarter, largely controlling the rhythm and flow of the game, and, as a result, they carried a 14-12 lead into the second quarter. Yet, the Jr. Bills’ offensive momentum sputtered for the remainder of the first half and they were only able to muster eight second quarter points. The game remained tightly contested, but the Cadets strung together a 9-0 run to end the half, rewarding themselves with their largest and most comfortable lead of the half, up 29-22 at the break. SLUH battled and clawed with the Cadets, playing

them evenly through the third quarter and the back-and-forth basketball led to a 39-36 deficit for SLUH heading into the final quarter. The Cadets extended the lead to six points early on in the fourth quarter, but senior Nick Kramer gave the Jr. Bills a burst of life with an old fashioned three point play on a driving layup to cut the lead to 41-39. Yet, thanks to senior Rob Martin and his 29 points on 10 of 13 shooting, CBC continually answered the Jr. Bills, staving off the Jr. Bills’

**“This team had a higher drive and confidence than any team I’ve ever been a part of. We set our goal in the fall to make a run, and we never lost sight of that.”**

*- Jack Christanell*

comeback efforts and ultimately burying them. SLUH’s offense was stymied by the Cadet defense, which allowed the Jr. Bills to score just one point for the remainder of the game en route to the 53-40 loss. Big man senior Kevin Hogan locked up 7-foot-2 sophomore John Bol for the third time this season, holding him to a measly five points and Kramer added 16 points on the offensive side of the court, but that wasn’t enough to knock off the Cadets. CBC went on to eliminate Chaminade 70-52 in the state semifinals en route to beating Nixa 68-51 in the state championship, winning their first state championship in seven years. Although it did not end in a glorious fashion filled with championship hardware and ring fittings for the Jr. Billikens, this was an incredibly successful season that the team held pride in. “I’m very proud,” Kramer said. “We won districts, we won the tournament we

hosted, we had some great wins and we really grew as a team.” SLUH compiled its best record (18-8) and first season over the .500 mark since the 2016-17 season when the team finished 21-7. When the current seniors first joined the program as freshmen, the varsity team posted a miserable campaign of 5-22, but these seniors are the ones responsible for turning the program around and finally coming full circle this year, as they finished ten games above .500. “This team had a higher drive and confidence than any team I’ve ever been a part of,” senior Jack Christanell remarked. “We set our goal in the fall to make a run, and we never lost sight of that goal.” The team was led by its stellar five man lineup consisting of Kramer, who averaged 19.2 points per game and 5.8 rebounds; junior Zach Ortwerth, who averaged 9.9 points and 5 rebounds per game; senior

Jaden McClain (9.1 points, 4.4 rebounds, 3.3 steals and 4.3 assists per game); junior AJ Walker Jr. (10.5 points, 2.2 steas, and 4.6 assists per game); and Hogan, (4.3 points, 5.3 rebounds, and 4.0 blocks per game). Christanell and sophomore Charlie Isom-McCall served to be spark plugs off the bench down the stretch run of the season, and seniors Nick Witcher and Charlie Stewart never failed to lead the team in morale off the bench. While it may sting for a while, the basketball team won’t hold that final loss to Cadets at the forefront of

their mind when reminiscing upon the season. They’ll think fondly of team trips to Kansas City and Quincy, signature wins over Chaminade and Webster Groves, or simply the company of their teammates in the locker room. “I’ll always remember this season and how successful we were,” Hogan reflected. “We’ve been playing together for four years, and this year all our hard work finally paid off. I couldn’t ask for a better group of guys to enjoy this season with.”

**Congratulations to senior Guard Nick Kramer, who was one of 20 players selected to the Missouri Cass 6 All-State basketball team!**



## Talented volleyball roster preps to build on stunning 2021 season

BY GEORGE HENKEN  
CORE STAFF

“Undefeated” was the word along the side of the state rings, “perfect season” was the phrase plastered on the state champion t-shirts, and “80-0” was written on the final tally sheet of the season. These words and phrases did not come by chance. The St. Louis U. High varsity volleyball team found as much success as possible in their 2021 spring season. Winning a state championship is in and of itself an accomplishment to be proud of, but the Jr. Bills not dropping a set all season is virtually unheard of in the volleyball world. The last time such a feat occurred in St. Louis was a 2000 Vianney Griffins team that had an eventual Olympic gold medalist.

Returning to the practice gym for the first time since the 2021 season, it can be difficult to not have last year on the team’s mind.

“Obviously we are coming off a really big high of SLUH’s volleyball history with being undefeated and having a perfect season,” said senior Tanner Dougherty.

Such a monumental accomplishment is not something that is forgotten very easily, and members of the team still reminisce about the night the perfect season culminated. Even the school community at large knows and speaks of the team’s success of last year.

“There’s definitely been more talk around the halls about volleyball, especially after what we did last year. It’s definitely been in everyone’s mouths and ears for the past couple months,” said senior Craig Ortwerth.

However, the hype and excitement brings difficulties as well. It’s hard to focus on the upcoming season after last year’s success. That’s why a theme of this year’s team is to be in the present

moment of this season.

“This year we have to get back to the basics and work one point at a time. Our mindset needs to recalibrate to fight for each point and not get lost in results,” said head coach Jeff Cheak.

Each season, the coaching staff along with the team captain chooses a word or phrase that will act as the overarching theme of the season. The team’s word this year is ‘build.’ There are multiple reasons behind the strategically-chosen word. One is to keep building the focus of the present.

“We need to build a foundation forged in battling for each point and being the best teammates we can be. If we are not focused on building from the bottom up, we will not be prepared for the playoffs,” said Cheak.

Another reason is to build a team culture of brotherhood and camaraderie. Especially given the larger than usual roster size of 17 players this year, this task is more important than ever. Although the team’s core senior group of eight all played varsity last year, six juniors and one sophomore have limited to no experience with a varsity team. This allows for lots of opportunity for players to mesh and create an atmosphere of closeness. That closeness is something that starts off the court.

“We have a really great group of guys who are all very passionate about volleyball, and also are very social, so we all enjoy hanging out in the locker room and building a cohesive family. The memories I have from the time off the court with my teammates have stuck with me more than my time on the court,” said senior Jack Polansky.

The seniors on varsity have been tasked with building and shaping the team in

a way they can see leading to the most success for the program. “I think the seniors first off have to develop a standard for the type of team that we are going to be, working hard for every point but at the same time being welcoming towards those new to varsity,” said senior Phillip Bone.

One lingering question at the end of the 2021 was who would replace the shoes of graduated senior captain Peter Quinn. Adding energy and smart plays to the team, Quinn was a backbone to the SLUH team.

A 6-foot-5 transfer from the Kirkwood Pioneers proved to be the answer. Sophomore Jack Krausz, brother of 2021 graduate Michael Krausz, joined the Class of 2024 this past fall, and his volleyball skills are just what was needed after losing Quinn.

“Jack is great. I think he pushes everyone else harder because of how much raw talent he already has,” said senior Danny Hillmeyer.

The addition of a young Krausz also allows for seniors to mentor and lead a player new to the SLUH volleyball program.

“It’s going to be different without (Quinn) because he was like a brother to me, but I am excited to have someone under my wing the way that Peter taught me,” said senior Michael Yemm.

Even while emphasizing a focus on the present and an intention to create a unique team this year, a state championship in May is always a goal for the volleyball program.

“I’d say there is no doubt about it, the number one goal is to win another state championship. Everybody in the locker room knows that that is what we are going for,” said senior Ben Harmon.

## Water Polo dominates Chaminade across all levels, scoring 41 goals

BY BRODY NESTER  
REPORTER

In every great sports movie a team always comes into the season strong, crushing many of their opponents along the way. They work hard to succeed and manage to get good results. The SLUH water polo team is no exception, if you exclude the movie part.

On Tuesday, the Bills had their first regular season game against the Chaminade Red Devils. Chaminade was the first team that the varsity team had played last year and the game ended in a 11-8 win for SLUH. The varsity team was ready to see how they compared to the Red Devils this year after four hard weeks of practice.

Parents and alumni were able to watch the game in person, a rare occasion for both the JV and varsity teams. The fans were excited and there were cheers from the stands throughout the entire game.

Only 10 of the possible 15 players were able to play in the game, limiting the depth the team could have going in. As the varsity team jumped in the water and awaited the swimoff, (the start of every quarter where the the fastest player on each team will race for the ball at half) the deck fell quiet. A whistle was blown and junior Brandon Harris raced towards the ball.

SLUH’s first goal came shortly after, when an opposing field player and the goalie were both kicked out for 20 seconds because of a penalty. With a 6-on-5 advantage and the goal wide open, Harris notched the first goal. The Bills went on to score a whopping seven more goals by the end of the first quarter (Harris, Brawer, Zarilli, Brugnara (3), French).

SLUH maintained their momentum in the second quarter. They used their speed and instinct to catch the Red Devils off guard and managed to score another 8 goals by the end of the first half (Brawer, Zarrilli, Brugnara, Harris (2), French (2), Nester).

Although the Bills had used counters for almost every goal their energy was not depleted. Even though they only had four possible subs, they were refueled after the break like a NASCAR ready to fly after its pitstop.

In the second half the Bills maintained their control over the game scoring another FOUR goals in the third quarter (McDaniel, Brawer, Fennwald, Harris), which brought their total up to 20 goals. Meanwhile, junior goalie Christopher St. John stopped all three shot he faced in the quarter.

The Jr. Bills finished their first game off with three more goals (Brawer, French, Schroeder), ending the game at an impressive 23-4.

“It’s always good to get the first one out of the way, and the team played well,” said head coach John Penilla.

The JV team also dominated its game against the Red Devils. Although the Devils scored the first goal, SLUH was able to bring it back by scoring five goals before the end of the first quarter. The team managed to extend the score ending the first half with a 11-1 score.

In the second half the overwhelming number of subs that the JV team had allowed them to wear down their opponents and win the match with a final score of 18-4. The sophomore trio of Tommy Riley, Luke Figge, and Henry Molner proved to be too strong for the Red Devils. Riley scored a third of

the team’s goals, Figge had five steals, and goalie Molner managed to assist four goals.

Prior to this victory the SLUH team managed to clinch a win in a tournament of four games at the annual Parkway West Tournament. The Jr. Bills won every match with ease, but in the finals the Bills were up against the Parkway West Longhorns, a big rival for the Bills. SLUH was unshaken, though, and went on to play an excellent game. Their impenetrable defense held the Longhorns to only three goals. They won the match 10-3.

“We still have a lot to work on but we are in a good spot” reflected JV coach Paul Baudendistel. “It’s great to start the year playing some of the top JV teams.”

Both of the starting goalies, senior Nick Figge (varsity) and Molner (JV) proved to be vital for the Jr. Bills. Both goalies were like an impenetrable wall with arms, limiting the goals opposing teams scored to a minimum. In the varsity game, Figge allowed a mere two goals and had two saves.

“I was excited to finally see (Figge) start” said Penilla. “He has been working very hard”.

Molner is a unique case, as he only started playing water polo four weeks ago. Still, Baudendistel feels he’s had a great start to the season.

On Friday the varsity team is headed to Chicago for the York Tournament. This will be the first time in three years that the Bills will be able to participate in this tournament.

“The Chicago teams are very good,” noted senior captain Sam French. “We will put up a good fight”.

“The goal is to play our best and execute our plays,” Penilla agreed. “I am excited to see how we do.”

## Rugby ekes out 13-7 win against North County/Howell thanks to solid defense

BY BEN CROAT  
STAFF

After a rather shaky start to the season, SLUH’s rugby team faced off against North County/Howell for their first home game under the lights of Oakland Avenue. The game took place two weeks ago on a chilly Thursday night as the Jr. Bills looked to get back onto the right side of the win column.

“It was a very windy night on game day,” said junior Pau Thang. “That being said, we had to switch some game plans like going short in line-outs and stuff, but once I was playing I wasn’t really affected by the weather as the game pulled all my attention.”

While the final score was a seemingly unconvincing 13-7 win for SLUH, the game wasn’t really close as the Jr. Bills dominated possession but were struck with a series of unfortunate and costly penalties.

“We didn’t capitalize on a few opportunities, which made the final score of 13-7 a little

misleading,” said head coach Brian Corrigan. “Despite a very disjointed game due to sloppy play at the breakdowns and a pretty rough wind, we dug in and played a solid defensive game. For those not in attendance, North County/Howell was awarded a penalty try to end the game.”

“Everyone was not giving up and grinding through the end which was incredible to watch,” said Thang. “That being said, we still have some small details to fix it up and to improve on. It wasn’t our best performance but we will keep working and get better as a team.”

The game also stood as a teaching moment as SLUH’s series of penalties led to further complications with the sir which further slowed down SLUH’s offensive attack. In rugby, unlike many other sports, the referee (Sir) is revered by both players and coaches and is treated with a higher level of respect due to the innate nature of the game.

“The thing about rugby though, is there are many nuanced rules that are interpreted and called differently from Sir to Sir. However, when a team gets on the wrong side of a Sir, you can see how infractions are easy to find,” said Corrigan. “We as a team—boys, coaches and parents—all need to do a better job keeping quiet when calls aren’t going our way. By focusing on the bad call, we waste energy living in the past, we tick off the Sir and we aren’t focused on the path forward.”

The Jr. Bills hope to continue their winning form with their next match this Saturday against LaSalette in Springfield, Ill. Over the next month, the rugby team will face a multitude of top-tier regional and national competition that will begin with their trip to Illinois.

“Looking forward, we are heading into the meat of our season,” said Corrigan. “Over the next three weeks, we will be playing several top programs in the midwest and country. Let’s go beat them!”



art | Will Blaisdell



# After spending spring break in Florida, baseball starts 4-1, ready to capitalize on pitching depth and improve from last season

BY COBY SPRATTE  
CORE STAFF

The Jr. Billikens kicked off their 2022 baseball campaign with a trip to Vero Beach, Fla. last week—a season which holds lofty expectations for SLUH.

After an inconsistent and disappointing 9-16 record in 2021 hampered by injuries and unfortunate Covid testing schedules, the Jr. Bills are eyeing a turnaround season, anchored by an incomparable pitching staff and improved athletic depth throughout the lineup.

The starting rotation will consist of senior SLU commit Jack DuMont; sophomore An-

drew DuMont; junior Garrett Shearer, who led the team in innings pitched last season; senior Johnny McArthur, who will look to make a name for himself after being sidelined last year; and senior Tucker Thomas, who led the team with a 1.43 ERA in the 2020-21 season.

The staff will be bolstered in the bullpen with junior Parker Guthrie, senior Coby Spratte, senior John Loretta, and further reinforced with junior Michael Baudendistel, sophomore Henry McDaniels, senior Patrick Mooney, junior Nick Heinlein, junior Max Adelman, senior Dennis Jakubik, and freshman James Unwin.



Senior Liam Newbold leads off from third.



Seniors pose outside Dodgertown stadium.

“The rotation we have this year is special because of both the talent and depth we have,” Jack DuMont remarked. “We have starters that can go deep into games and dominate hitters, relievers who can go long innings and put up zeros, and a few different looks at the close role to finish out games.”

Jack DuMont was sidelined with an injury for the majority of the 2021 campaign, but the tall lefty will look to make an immediate impact as vies for the title of ace of the rotation, touting a 90-92mph fastball and a tight curveball.

“I’m pumped up to go out and compete alongside my teammates and classmates, which is something I’ve really missed,” DuMont said. “I’m also excited to showcase all the work I have put in the off-season to get healthy and stronger during my outings.”

Yet, the offensive side of the game may not come as easily for the Jr. Billikens this season. The team lost 59 percent of its run production from last season, including their middle of the lineup trio of seniors Tyler Ridgway, Andrew Loeffleman, and Jake Noonan.

The team will return leadoff hitter and 2020-21 All-MCC .300 hitter Tommy Etling, who will be the starting center fielder this season.

“My approach for this season will be to keep it simple,” Etling said. “I will continue to make plays in the outfield and get a good swing on the ball to continually put it in play this season.”

The outfield will be rounded out with appearances in the corners this season from seniors Mooney, Mikey Floretta, Loretta, and junior Nick Heinlein.

The infield will look to be a strong spot both offensively and defensively for the Jr. Bills, with Guthrie stationed at third base, junior Henry Zenor at shortstop, senior Alex Shelton at first base, and sophomore Charlie Isom-McCall at second, who has already made a splash this season on the Florida trip.

“Isom-McCall has already shown himself well in Florida both offensively and defensive-

ly,” head coach Ron Ramspott said. “We’re expecting a big season from him.”

The infield will be bolstered with depth, including senior Liam Newbold and Shearer at first base, and sophomore Dean Lyon and junior Owen Fitzgerald serving as utility men.

The receiving end of the battery will be led by aggressive junior Tyler Woodcock and supplemented with junior Grant Kuhn McDaniels earning some time behind the dish as well.

On top of the incredible depth and talent the Jr. Billikens hold, in regards to both pitching and hitting, they are blessed with one of the largest varsity coaches staffs in school history, touting six full-time coaches, one specializing in each area of the game.

“We are fortunate to have six varsity coaches assigned to hitting, pitching, fielding, catching, or base running,” coach Ramspott remarked.

After a few days of three-a-day practices and intrasquad scrimmages, the Jr. Billikens finally kicked off their regular season with three games in one day, beginning with a 12-2 win over Glenelg County, Md.

Jack DuMont started the contest and hurled three scoreless innings, allowing one hit and striking out seven. McArthur entered the game in relief and allowed two runs (one earned), on three hits and a walk.

The offense came out sizzling, as Mooney drove in three runs, Newbold scored three runs and went 2 for 2 at the dish, Zenor went 2 for 4 with an RBI, and Floretta finished 1 for 2 with two RBIs en route to a five inning mercy rule win.

The following game, SLUH got a crack at in town rival Westminster, whom they lost to last season. The Jr. Bills came out on top this time, 2-1.

Shearer got the nod on the bump, pitching four scoreless innings, striking out five, walking zero and allowing only two hits. Loretta allowed the lone run of the game out of the bullpen, but Guthrie came into the game in the 7th inning

and shut down the Wildcats’ efforts.

In the midst of a slow offensive afternoon, Isom-McCall produced the lone run of the first first six innings, driving in the runner courtesy of an RBI double. In the bottom of the seventh with the score at 1-1, Lyon found a way to get on base, managed to move up to third base, representing the winning run of the game. In stepped the freshman Unwin with two outs in the inning. Against all odds, he was able to poke a walk-off RBI base hit into right field, the first hit of his varsity career and only the second team hit on the day.

Even more drama ensued in the following game against Episcopal, Va. SLUH scored three runs in the top of the first inning, starting to believe the game might be a runaway for the Jr. Bills. Yet, it was not that easy.

Thomas started on the mound, but was unable to record an out before he walked in three runs in the first inning. Spratte entered the game with the bases loaded and no outs, simply trying to subdue the damage. Episcopal ran into an out at third base on a failed suicide squeeze attempt and Spratte struck out the following batter, before his third victim popped out to end the threat. He finished with 2.0 IP, allowing one hit and striking out two.

Both teams stranded an absurd number of runners throughout the marathon of a game, which ended up lasting about three and a half hours.

McDaniels contributed 1.1 solid relief innings, striking out three while allowing two runs, albeit none earned. Heinlein shined out of the bullpen, as well, tossing two innings and allowing no base runners while striking out five.

The Jr. Bills held a 6-5 lead heading into the bottom of the seventh, but trouble set in when closer Guthrie allowed second and third and nobody out. Yet, he bore down and struck out the following batter for the first out of the inning. On the following play, Episcopal botched another squeeze bunt attempt, popping

the ball up right in front of the mound. Guthrie made a diving snag and doubled off the runner on third to end the game and improve the Jr. Billikens’ record to 3-0.

The following day the team split up the squad into two platoons, half losing to Loomis Chaffee out of Connecticut 11-5 and the other half knocking off Priory 7-4.

The Jr. Bills never got off on the right foot against Loomis Chaffee, as they committed five errors in the game.

SLUH scratched three runs in the first inning, but thanks to a couple of errors, the game was tied heading into the second. It was closely contested for the next couple of innings, but due to a few more blunders in the field, Loomis put up an 8-spot in the fourth inning. This inning buried the Jr. Billikens en route to an 11-5 loss.

The alternate side brought brighter results in its 7-4 win over Priory. After Priory nabbed an early 3-0 lead, Baudendistel came in and threw 3.2 innings, allowing no runs and striking out four. Adelman contributed another perfect 2.0 innings with four strikeouts.

Sophomores Ethan Johnson, Lyon, McDaniels, and senior Thomas all picked up RBIs in the winning effort.

The Jr. Bills opened up their in-town schedule with a late game last night against Lake Forest High School out of Chicago at GCS Ballpark with Jack DuMont on the mound, and, weather pending, they will play third-ranked O’Fallon Township tonight with Shearer on the rubber.

The Jr. Billikens are taking it one step at a time for now, but, despite their up and down 2020-21 season, they feel they are capable of making a deep run this season, and really do something special in the MCC, in their favorable District assignment, and then in the State Tournament.

“Being 9-16 last year, I don’t think anybody is expecting us to run the schedule,” Ramspott said. “But, internally, we know that we have what it takes to win as a team, so that shouldn’t come as a surprise to us.”

## Commit’s Corner

### Hostetler heads to Rhodes College with ambitions of Olympic trials

BY ALEX WENTZ  
REPORTER

After leaving his name on both the SLUH and state record boards, senior Jonas Hostetler will be taking his swimming skills to Rhodes College next year as a butterflyer and freestyler for Rhode’s Lynxes. Hostetler was initially drawn to Rhodes when considering his academic future, but it was soon revealed as a great opportunity for athletics as well.

“(They) have a really great medical program, and I want

to go into medicine,” said Hostetler. “They’re also ranked really high for getting students into medical school, and I just really liked their internship opportunities.”

Aside from the education, Rhodes gave Hostetler a chance to further his fitness and go after his long term swimming goal of qualifying for Olympic trials.

“I like keeping in shape and I like competing in general,” said Hostetler. “I didn’t really want to quit after high school because I’m not that far off from Olympic trial

times right now, and my career (goal) has always been to make Olympic trials.”

While the practice commitment remains similar to his high school experience, at Rhodes there is far more flexibility in terms of timing and scheduling.

“There are far more opportunities to work around your own schedule,” said Hostetler. “Each day has like three practice opportunities, so you can pick and choose your schedule based on other classes you take. Some days I’ll be waking up at 6:00, others at 10:00, so

it’s nice to have (a choice).”

With Rhodes College being a D3 swim school Hostetler will immediately become one of the best swimmers in the program upon entry. Hostetler’s role at Rhodes is clear, an unrelenting force that dominates the competition.

“I’ll continue doing my normal events, so the 100 Fly, 100 Free, 50 free, and any relay opportunities,” said Hostetler. “My priority is to do sprint free and fly. (I’m excited) to be a valuable addition to the team.”





# Education in a Pandemic

BY JACK FIGGE  
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Initially, most students were excited. An extra week of spring break, every student's dream. Then two weeks of asynchronous school, an added bonus. But as the weeks began to stretch on, and two weeks turned into a month, and then the whole quarter, students began to grow tired of learning during a pandemic era. Yet, asynchronous learning would only be the beginning of a new set of tribulations and trials that education would face.

On March 12, 2020, students eagerly exited their last midterm exam, excited to embark on their spring break. Yet, after that day, St. Louis U. High would change forever. Later the following week, SLUH principal Ian Gibbons S.J. announced that the school would be closing its doors tem-

the school would undergo numerous schedule changes, a re-evaluation of the whole school, and the challenge of adjusting to a block schedule format, all while trying to maintain some semblance of a normal school for the student body.

"It was a period of great uncertainty. Wondering if you were reaching students, we had to do a lot of quick pivoting, putting things online, coming to school, not coming to school, Zooming, not Zooming and just not knowing what was to come in a given week," said chemistry teacher Mary Russo. "We were handling all of this while trying to ensure a high quality experience for the students."

Unlike the students who enjoyed the much slower pace of asynchronous learning, many teachers, however, struggled with the adjustment. Not only

**"I certainly realized, as a lifelong learner, that there are ways that I can adapt and make things better for my students. Those are the things we really want to concentrate on as we move forward."**

*-Craig Hannick*

porarily and transitioning to an asynchronous, online format of learning as the novel Covid-19 began to sweep across the nation and the world.

So began an era marked by uncertainty and constant change. Over the next two years,

did they have to learn how to provide quality instruction to their students virtually, but were also having to balance their private lives with their work duties as many had to care for their own children who were also forced to be learning from home.

## Pandemic struggles leaves educators and students with tools

"I did not have the seven or eight hours of school that I'm used to a day to get stuff done," said English teacher Jennifer Carroll, whose two children were Pre-K at the time. "My husband would take a two hour break

from his work during the day, and I would use that time to hop on the computer and get some work done and then he would work while I watched the kids. That meant that between him and I, some days we would start

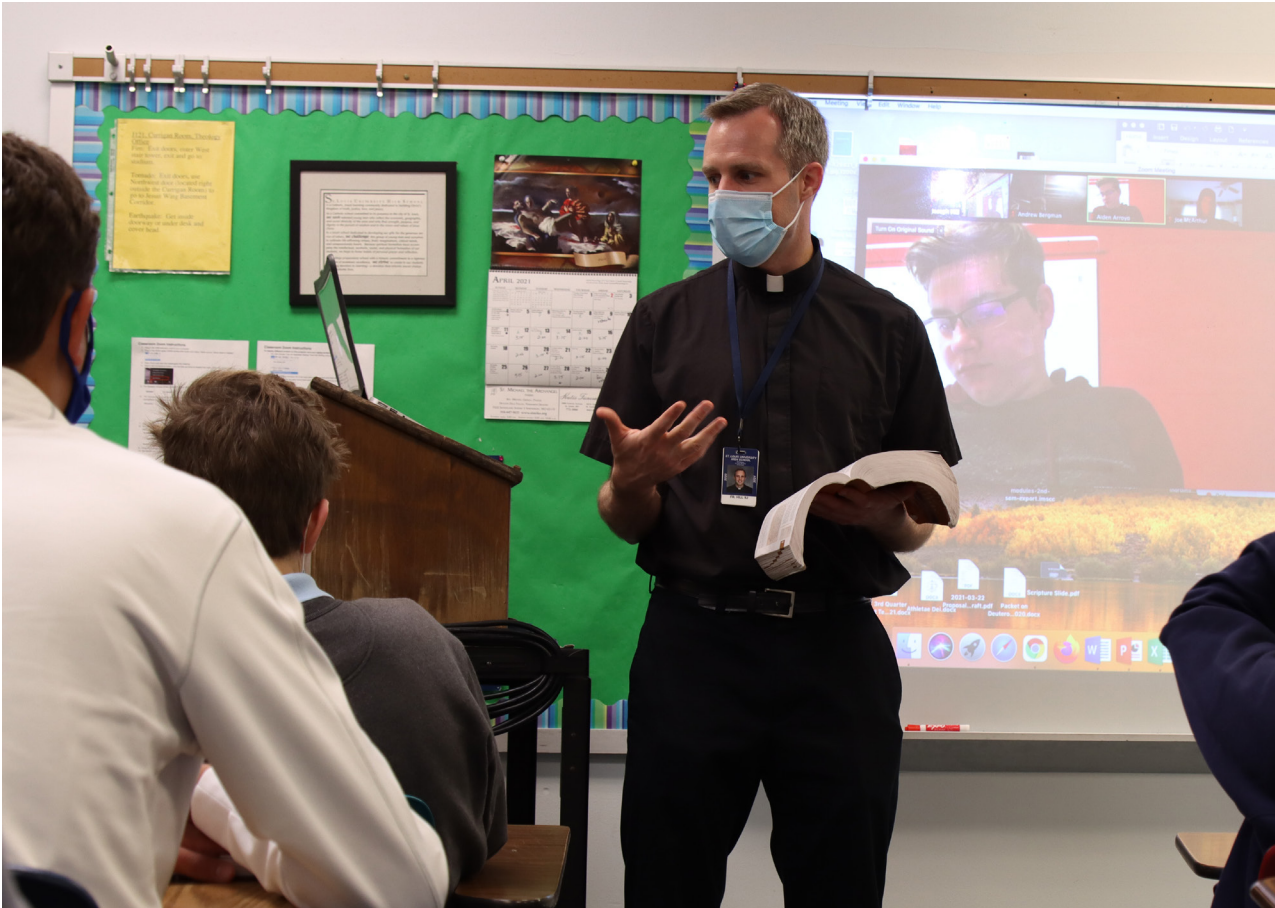
work at six in the morning and not end work until 10 o'clock at night."

After three months defined by little personal interaction amongst students and teachers and hours spent staring mindlessly at a screen, the quarter drew to a close and, except for the occasional snow day, the door to a world of asynchronous learning would be closed. As one door closes, a new one opens. And so opened the door—or

the breakout room—of Zoom teaching.

"Over the summer I taught Computer Fundamentals and Internet Business Entrepreneurship, synchronous live via Zoom," said Assistant Principal of Academics Dr. Kevin Foy. "It felt more like teaching, using all the boards and breakout rooms, but it felt like a really crummy classroom experience."

Over the summer, some **continued on page 8**



Fr. Joseph Hill SJ teaching his senior Ignatian Spirituality class.

photo | Kathy Chott

# Sports in a Pandemic

**Testing and no crowds:  
SLUH sports persevere  
through countless issues**

BY NATHAN RICH  
EDITOR

Over the past two years, athletes at SLUH have endured a lot. They have seen numerous game and practice cancellations, panted through paper masks, witnessed silent student sections, and had more swabs shoved up their noses than they care to count. Through it all, one thing has remained consistent: constant change and uncertainty. The path to today's current state of sports, where students enjoy an atmosphere similar to that of before the pandemic, has been rife with ups and downs, protocol shifts, and questions.

Two years ago, it began with total cancellation. Just like the professional sports leagues around them, SLUH students were forced to put their seasons on hold for the spring of 2020. This destroyed the playoff hopes of every team, but it really hit home for a few in particular.

"It was heartbreaking just because we had so much potential and we had a good team," said senior Henry Dowd, who was a member of the talented 2020 varsity tennis team. "It would have been a good year for us and now we have to live with what ifs and

that's kind of hard. I wanted to see that state banner be hung up in the Field House and unfortunately it wasn't so."

The cancellation of spring sports in 2020 was no doubt the easiest to manage for Athletic Director Chris Muskopf. However, the disappointment he felt for students, especially seniors, was significant.

"The challenges were evident from the very beginning," Muskopf said. "We had a season canceled and that took away experiences, connections, and for seniors a really important conclusion to their school year. To have in person school and activities taken away from that class is tough. How do you show appreciation for those people and those student athletes and make up for their circumstances?"

It was indeed tough to watch the Class of 2020 graduate without the chance to compete for rings or trophies, but the challenges were just ramping up for Muskopf, the Athletic Department, and all of SLUH's coaches.

After relentless questions of whether or not fall sports would be able to compete in 2020, it was eventually decided, in collaboration with the city, that a season would be held, although not with-



Left: senior George Henken, junior Will Blaisdell, and Peter Quinn '21 during a volleyball match last year.

photo | Kathy Chott

out significant setbacks, most predominantly: a shortened season.

"We were blessed to be able to come back in the fall but it was a never ending shift

fewer restrictions because they were not deemed close contact, football and soccer matches were limited to only one hour and opponents had to come from one of the five counties

**"We didn't have a playbook so we were always doing the best we could. And I think we did just that."**

*-Chris Muskopf*

of things," Muskopf reflected. "Credit to everybody here, though, we found a way to do it."

While cross country and swimming were able to enjoy

surrounding the St. Louis area, restricting the teams' ability to travel. Plus, both teams went through rigorous bi-weekly testing to compete.

"Covid made everything

more challenging because we were having to get tested every two weeks. There was always a worry that if someone tested positive, then it would affect other people on the team and force them to be out," said senior Ben Ridgway, who played on the fall 2020 soccer team.

For both teams, practices looked different as well. The need to stay further apart put a greater emphasis on conditioning, which is not as enjoyable as traditional scrimmages.

Through the changes, the SLUH football team finished 2-3 in their shortened 2020 season, with one win coming

as a result of a Covid-related forfeit. Soccer had limited success as well that season, finishing 5-6. They too had schedule issues, though. An Oct. 13 match against CBC had to be postponed due to Covid concerns.

As the pandemic continued throughout 2021, the disparities between SLUH and other high schools in the world of sports became clearer. SLUH, from its location within the city of St. Louis, had to contend with stricter mask policies and limits on indoor gatherings than its county **continued on page 8**



# Mental Health in a Pandemic

BY LUKE DUFFY  
WEB EDITOR

Social isolation. Pivot. Quarantine. These are some of the buzz-words that have infamously come to symbolize how we have been forced to adapt to the pandemic over the past two years. Their overuse has made these words triggering to people, reminding them of the monotony of life during

a lockdown, their hopes of going “back to normal” trampled by yet another variant. Needless to say, the pandemic has taken its toll on everyone’s mental health. This is why, since March 2020, St. Louis U. High has not only worked to preserve learning, it has also prioritized maintaining a sense of community.  
“I think our overall concern at the very beginning

## “Burned out” students and teachers alike reflect on mental burden of Covid-19

was how do we make school happen, not how do we make SLUH happen,” said Director of Financial Aid Craig Hannick. “We realized very quickly that we were doing school very well, probably better than most. But we needed to make sure that

SLUH was happening, which is so much more than just the classroom experience.”  
The initial phase of the pandemic turned the fourth quarter of the 2019-2020 school year into an online muddle of Canvas quizzes and

daily deliverables. Academics were forced to take a back seat to allow families to protect their health and safety first and foremost. Students and teachers alike were navigating an uncertain world with no choice but to persevere.  
“There was a lot of uncertainty about how long it would last, what the measures we would have to take,” said Principal Ian Gibbons S.J. “We were asking big questions, like ‘am I going to be safe?’ ‘What happens if I get sick?’ ‘What happens if my grandparents get sick?’ All of these abnormal questions were very serious, very eminent. We were dealing with this as a community, but also an individuals.”  
“Initially I was happy because I wouldn’t have to do

to see people again, believe it or not; that’s not something I normally would feel.”  
“I feel like it was much harder to find motivation,” said junior JT Emke. “I still had energy, but I got burned out really easily.”  
“We had already established the routines of the class, and we already knew each other, so it was just adapting what we were already doing to a new model,” said AP Physics teacher Paul Baudendistel. “Obviously, for things like labs and demos, it was often a mess. But as far as establishing relationships or understanding how to write a lab report, those things are just so much easier in person than virtually, so that was not ideal, but manageable.”  
The summer of 2020 al-



Senior Matt Windler practices yoga during a mental health initiative as part of the 2021 Mission Week. photo | Kathy Chott

“Once we came back to the classroom, we kind of understood when something’s difficult, we have people to lean on. I think that’s so much easier when that’s the person sitting next to you rather than a screen tile next to yours on Zoom.”

-Freddy Laux

social stuff every day, which sounded nice. After a while, I felt like, even if I don’t love going to school every day, I was kind of missing that aspect of social interaction and life slowly started to drain me,” said senior Eli Dernlan. “I wanted

lowed SLUH to learn about the pandemic, examine its options, and decide on the best way to learn going forward. Out of this planning period emerged hybrid learning. Students were divided into two cohorts, and  
**continued on page 9**



Students excited to be back at BTSM after a year away. photo | Isaiah Hinkebein

# Life in a Pandemic

## Students find ways to stay connected despite quarantine and seperation

BY ROARKE UNRAU  
NEWS EDITOR

What else is there to say about Covid that hasn’t already been said? It is something that has affected all of us, no matter our gender, our age, or our social status, Covid forced us to make changes in our life. Two years ago barely anyone knew what Zoom was. Today there are over 300 million users and since Dec. 31, 2019, Zoom experienced a 2900 percent increase in usership. This is largely

because no one could see each other in person. Everyone was forced to stay in their homes with their families. Whether it was Netflix or PlayStation, Houseparty or FaceTime, iMessage or Instagram, people found new ways to entertain themselves. A life without a face-to-face social life is something no

one thought they would have to experience, but over the past two years, a life with a mask-to-mask social life is something we’ve all had to endure.  
We all know the story: spring break 2020 extended a few days, then a few more, then a month or two more, until it was summer break. In the end, months

went by without students seeing their classmates, their friends, their brothers, their teachers.  
Not having a real senior year experience was the biggest miss for the class of 2021, as they missed out on prom and had a Covid-style graduation.  
“Because of Covid we couldn’t get to do a lot of senior year things. Whether it was going to football games and having to social distance or not even being able to go to football games at all. Senior year is supposed to be the coolest year of

high school where you’re kind of the leaders of the school. Normally seniors would get more freedom, but they had to crack down on us because of all the rules they had to enforce,” said Carter Fortman ’21.  
As tough as it was, it was almost expected because of how serious Covid was, and missing out on prom wasn’t the worst thing happening in the world at that time.  
“It was tough, you see the  
“Missing out on something hurts when you’re the only one missing out on it and other people didn’t, but with Covid I feel like everyone missed out on everything.”  
-James Saadi

with the timing of all this. I’ve been thinking about this since it started, it happened right in the middle for us, so we got a normal beginning and we got a normal end. But the class before us got to get a normal beginning and a Covid end, and then the people below us got a Covid beginning and a normal ending,” said senior James Saadi. “So I feel lucky about that.”  
To begin the 2020-2021 school year, SLUH created a co-

stereotypical ending of high school, and you anticipate it your whole life, but having the whole image ripped away was sad,” said Fortman. “It was easier for our class because we kind of expected it. Covid was originally two weeks, then a month, then a year, then two years, and I think after a month expectations were shot and you had to accept reality. A lot of us were living in the moment and appreciating what we had. We would take anything to get an ounce of normalcy. It wasn’t what I imagined when I came to SLUH, but it was as close as you could get to one following the guidelines of the city.”  
The current senior class at SLUH experienced the brunt of Covid from third quarter sophomore year to third quarter senior year—a gap that some feel was in an OK spot in their high school careers.  
“I feel like the current senior class, we got the luckiest

hort system, splitting each class in half alphabetically. For the upperclassmen, it was a problem of which of your friends were in your cohort, but for the underclassmen, it was a whole different story.  
“It’s interesting from a senior and a sophomore perspective, because the seniors would have been looking at the cohorts and thinking which of my friends are in my cohort? But the sophomores and the freshmen literally wouldn’t know anyone in the other half of their class,” said Saadi. “I would just be like, Oh, some of my friends are in the other cohort that sucks, but (the underclassmen) would see someone once it ended and be like, who is that?”  
For current sophomore Archie Carruthers, this was exactly the case.  
“Some of my good friends now I didn’t meet until first senior class, we got the luckiest  
**continued on page 9**



## Canvas and other technology emerge from pandemic as critical new tools for teachers

(continued from page 6)  
teachers sampled what it would be like to teach over Zoom as they instructed summer classes. Using those experiences, coupled with professional workshops and development programs, teachers began to prepare for the upcoming year where they would be tasked to tackle a variety of different teaching environments.

Excited about the prospect of returning at least part time to campus, students and teachers alike were disappointed when administrators announced that the first three weeks of school would be held online. This initial switch to synchronous, virtual learning was due to the school installing a new HVAC system to provide better ventilation and protection against Covid-19. Quickly, despite being in the comfort of their own home, students began to despise the notorious zoom classes.

“Zoom was so difficult because I would just be sitting in (the class Zoom) trying to listen as best as I could, which wasn’t very good because it was already on Zoom and I could always hear my brother banging the drums from the other room,” said senior Jared Thornberry. “There was just a lot going on.”

While the upperclassmen and sophomores were upset that they could not be back with their friends, there was a whole group of freshmen that were beginning their SLUH experience not through the traditional Direction Day shenanigans but through awkward ice breaker questions in a Zoom room.

“It was awful, it was disappointing,” said sophomore Charlie Isom-Mccall. “You didn’t really get the experience of a typical SLUH freshman experience that the rest of the other classes have gotten to have.”

“I didn’t know anybody,” said sophomore Sean Boyd. “I didn’t have any friends that I could text for help. I felt all alone. Sure, they would put us in breakout rooms but you don’t get a real friendship connection there.”

For some students, this loneliness and separation would continue throughout the entire school year as they choose to learn virtually in order to protect family members who were more compromised to the effects of Covid-19.

“Connecting with teachers became the hardest part for me,” said junior Griffin Reed, who was online for the entire school year to protect an immunocompromised relative. “They didn’t get to know me at all so it was hard for those connections to be made, but it didn’t bother me being online because I knew I had to do it in order to protect my dad.”

The connections and relationships formed between teacher and student is a hallmark of a SLUH education. Throughout the entire pandemic education experience, relationship dynamics became a focus point for educators and administrators as they hoped to maintain these critical bonds even if separated by a screen.

“Relationships are key to success in the classroom. If you

can’t get those kids in front of you, (in-person) with some consistency, it can be borderline catastrophic,” said Russo.

In the middle of September, however, most students received the chance to return to school, but for the time being only part-time. The school adopted a hy-flex model of learning in order to be in accordance with CDC guidelines regarding social distancing. To accomplish this, the student body was split into two cohorts, Ignatius and Xavier. Each cohort would attend one A day in person and one B day in person while the other group was at home and listened in on class via Zoom. Every Wednesday, the entire student body would be at home and Zoom into every class during Faber Days.

“The hy-flex system, I thought, was the hardest because you had a group of people live in front of you and a group of people online, both needing different things,” said Foy. “The live guys were much more inclined to be engaged and much easier to engage with than the guys at home. I committed pretty hard to basically paying attention to the guys on Zoom and letting the guys who were live coast along because their engagement was more natural.”

“One of the difficult things about being on Zoom was all of the background noise and having other people come into the background,” said senior Matt Kluba. “For me, it was my mom watering the plants in the background, and I would just swivel my chair and say ‘Hey, I’m trying to work here. I’m trying to listen to a class here.’ Paying attention was just difficult.”

Just as the asynchronous days faded away, so too did the hy-flex model. After Christmas break and a brief stint online to act as a buffer, the entire student body returned to campus on Monday, Jan. 11, 2021. With the return of most students to campus every day of the week and now sitting in a classroom for in-person instruction, so closed out an era defined by seemingly constant change and unpredictability. But educating in a pandemic for a year left its imprint on educators and students alike.

Emerging from the pandemic, educators now have a wider variety of tools and teaching techniques at their disposal. With the constant change of teaching formats, teachers had to rely on different tools such as Edpuzzle and YouTube videos to teach their students and are now implementing these tools in the post-pandemic classroom.

“Mathematics, of course, hasn’t changed a lot over the last 33 years that I’ve been teaching,” said math teacher Craig Hannick. “But (during the pandemic) I certainly realized, as a lifelong learner, that there are ways that I can adapt and make things better for my students. And I think that those are the things we really want to concentrate on as we move forward.”

For Hannick, the pandemic meant setting aside his trusty chalk and chalkboard, opting instead for an Apple Pencil and iPad to enhance the learning ex-

perience for his students. However, there was one constant tool for every teacher on Oakland Avenue: the pandemic meant learning how to utilize Canvas, the Learning Management System that had previously been accessible to SLUH teachers for a couple of years but used rather sparingly.

“I tried as best as I could to create a predictable, organized experience by utilizing Canvas. Was it always fun? Probably not. The school gave me some directives about how my Canvas page should look, and I wanted to make sure that the students kind of knew where to go when everything else might have been in flux,” said Russo. “And we have continued with that organization using Canvas even when we’re all back in person.”

Despite the teachers gaining many new tools, discipline, motivation and learning habits were lost amongst the student body during the pandemic. Now, students and teachers alike are having to face the reality of correcting these poor learning habits.

“Patterns and habits have been changed over this long period of time. It is going to take another long period of time to redevelop habits and patterns for success in a classroom,” said Russo. “I have personally given lots of flexibility with deadlines and due dates along with zeroes and test retakes because I felt that it was necessary because of the uncertainty of the time. But now I have a student body that it’s very much dependent on those things.”

“(On Zoom) you had the resources in front of you which was always hard, especially with tests and stuff like tests and quizzes,” said Kluba. “It became hard to motivate yourself because you knew that you could always take a little peek at your notes or use the resources given to you to help on a test.”

While the pandemic has taught educators and students alike new methods of teaching and learning, the pandemic prohibited classes from comfortably being in the same room together, taking away opportunities for students to dialogue and converse about what they were learning, prohibiting authentic reflection. Now, as the school emerges from the pandemic, educators will seek to bring back these critical cornerstones of Jesuit learning that were lost during a global pandemic.

“For a year or more, students were just so used to having content handed to them as opposed to them processing, working with others in a classroom and interacting with teachers,” said Hannick. “To me, I felt like the classroom was very one way, it was all content delivery, whereas a good classroom should be a two way street. Without that reflective piece that is the hallmark of Jesuit education, without the kids sitting around and talking to one another and talking to their teachers about what they are learning, we lost a significant part of our classroom. Now we must look to build that back.”

## Crowds return as Covid fears lessen, spring season to look mostly normal after many trials



Ben Ridgway lines up a shot against Lindbergh during the 2021 season. photo | Kathy Chott

(continued from page 6)  
competitors. This, Muskopf noted, was a cause of frustration for many students.

Still, students put up with a remarkable amount just to play the sports they love. The SLUH basketball team played indoors in masks for several games during the 2020-2021 season, on top of being tested every two weeks. Racquetball players faced similar precautions. At that point in the school year, testing was especially burdensome because it meant attending virtual school until the test results came back.

“The testing was a bit annoying, but I think it was worth it because it kept all of us safe and made it so we could play,” said senior Will Shorey, who played on the 2020 Racquetball team. “I was glad we didn’t have to do it again this year.”

As vaccines began to slowly permeate the world in the spring of 2021, though, many students saw slight glimpses of normalcy. Outdoor, low contact sports like tennis and golf proceeded in the spring without testing requirements or masks.

However, the fear of infection still remained. Dowd sat out the first few matches of his tennis season to keep him and his family safe from the virus. That was a challenge he and many other students faced.

“I had to miss the first couple matches and it was hard to be sidelined and watch my team play without me,” Dowd reflected. “I wanted to help them out and not being able to do that was tough but it made me come back with more motivation for the rest of the season.”

As the weather began to heat up, so did SLUH sports, especially the volleyball team. Covid and masks didn’t seem to affect them at all as they cruised to a state title after an undefeated season.

“We had a great year, and that made it easy to live with all the precautions, having to wear masks and not being able to use the locker room. Even with all the Covid stuff, we kept our eyes on the prize and saw the bigger picture,” reflected senior Ben Harmon,

who played on the state team last year.

Now, looking back on a record-setting 2021 soccer season, a deep playoff run from SLUH football, a state championship in hockey and racquetball and a district title in basketball, it seems as though SLUH sports are back to the way they used to be. With no indoor or outdoor crowd limits, mask requirements, or quarantine fears, students can enjoy playing and watching sports just like they did in 2019.

Muskopf, however, feels that the sporting world will never fully recover from Covid.

“Obviously the perspective is different. We could get an email later today that changes things in terms of (the condition) we’re at. I don’t know if we’re ever going to get back to 2018, 2019, the way things were then. I think it’s more about getting a full level of participation and creating a full scale of opportunities,” he said. “We’re always thinking about Covid and safety but for right now, things seem to be fairly on par because we’re traveling, we have spectators, and no one is required to wear masks. It does have that feel of a fairly similar experience to what we had pre-pandemic and that’s something to celebrate.”

One of the best parts about the Covid recovery in the world of SLUH sports has been the return of massive student sections. Throughout last year, each student was able to bring only two guests to each game, taking a lot of the magic out of home games.

“It made our games feel

real with fans there,” said Ridgway. “Two years ago in our district game there were just parents there and it didn’t really feel like a high school game. Having fans back was huge and it made the game feel more like it should be.”

Senior Gus Tettamble, a spirit leader at many SLUH games this year, agreed.

“Student sections are great to see, just the visuals of it all are just as great as the feeling that it gives you,” he reflected. “They make you feel as if things have returned to normal, which the world hasn’t completely but the fact that we can be together again, that extends from the fields and into the classroom and the halls. It goes a lot further than sports and it’s much bigger than that.”

Running a high school athletics program in a pandemic is not something Muskopf wants to ever have to do again, although he did express that the practice with safety protocols and the relationships he made within the city’s health department would be valuable in case of a future outbreak. For now though, as the spring 2022 season gets underway, he’s thankful not only for the opportunity to even have a season, but also for the dedicated work done by the SLUH community to make sense of the chaos and confusion of the past two years.

“We didn’t have a playbook so we were always doing the best we could. And I think we did,” he said. “That’s a huge credit to the school administration, to our coaches, and to our families and our students who all played a role in making everything work.”



Daniel Steingrubby in the rifle range under pandemic protocols. photo | Kathy Chott



# Friday night life on the rise as cases fall, students find new ways to have fun

(continued from page 7)

mester exams of my freshman year. So it was the entire first semester where I just didn't know these people," Carruthers said.

Arriving at SLUH in the middle of a pandemic completely changed what students thought going to SLUH would be like. Both making friends and joining extracurriculars became more challenging.

"More than anything else it was a challenge, because you came into SLUH because of the opportunities. But there were limited opportunities and you had to explore opportunities where you could find them. And oftentimes, you didn't really have someone who told you what to do. You kind of had to pave a path for yourself," said sophomore Tim Browdy.

"It was hard because some of the kids in my class, including me, came into SLUH not knowing anyone. Like no one from my school went to SLUH. And so how do you make those connections over Zoom? You can't," said Carruthers. "What saved me was football. I came in for summer football camp and we were restricted to little groups. We couldn't even throw footballs, it was crazy. But coming in as a freshman, I think what really saved my social life was the extracurricular activities the first half of that year."

Last year, something that everyone missed were student sections. Many SLUH students always look forward to seeing friends or cheering with their classmates on a Friday night football game against CBC or a packed hockey game at the barn versus De Smet, but that year the first student section came during the lacrosse season, a sport where packed student sections are not common.

"The first student section during our junior year was in



Students rejoice at being back in the student section for the first time at a varsity lacrosse game on May 18th. photo | Kathy Chott

the middle of the lacrosse season, which is at the end of the year. And we had a packed game against Lindbergh at Lindbergh Field, and we rushed the field at the end of the game. It was just some random season game and the entire student section rushed the field. Our coaches didn't like it, but I think that's like a perfect analogy for what was going on with everything when all these restrictions were lifted. Everyone wants to just get back into what they were doing before," said Saadi.

In the quarantine of 2020, SLUH held asynchronous classes where students had to turn in assignments by the end of the day. Since students couldn't hang out with friends on the weekend or do anything during the week, they did anything they could to keep themselves busy.

"A lot of the time I found myself on HouseParty. It's an app with all my friends where

you can just get in a room with your friends and talk, so it's like a Group FaceTime," said Saadi. "I also played a lot of Minecraft with my friends. We had our own realm and stuff."

"I spent a lot of time with my siblings, who are normally in college. I FaceTimed a good amount, group ones, and I actually bought an Xbox One so I could play video games with all my friends because we couldn't go out. Warzone was the big one. I was absolutely terrible, I was the worst one in every single game, I don't even know if I got a single kill. But It didn't even matter if I was good or not, I was just playing and talking to them," said senior Nick Esson.

Without the distraction of their friends, students were trying new things, or doing anything they could think of to not let boredom creep in.

"I played through every Halo game in chronological

order from Halo Reach to Halo Four," bragged Saadi.

"I played all of the Lego video games I had, like Lego Batman, Lego Superman and all those. I took apart a lot of my old Lego sets I had. I went through a Lego phase," said senior John Peretz.

"I spent 72 hours on Assassin's Creed Odyssey. I remember fighting the cyclops, it was awesome," said senior Jack Onder.

After quarantine ended and people were allowed to leave their houses again, they were eager to get out after being cooped up for months, but they had nowhere to go as restaurants, movie theaters, and more were still closed.

"And I feel like in May of 2020 was kind of like that transition period where like I would leave the house to see people but I wouldn't you couldn't go to restaurants or you can go to movies. So me and my friends then that

during that time, we couldn't go to anyone's houses either, which is like usually a place where you'd go to hang out with your friends but we would go to the Soccer Park and Fenton and just like play football because that was like the most social interaction we could have. But I actually learned to like, cherish it a lot more when I could just go to the park and play football with my friends," said Saadi.

"It was a weird time, but I would say it was a good one too. Most of the time we would just go to a friend's basement and hang out. It was pretty simple hangouts, just talking. That was enough of a social life especially after coming from nothing at all," said Esson.

No matter how different students think they are, one thing everyone hates is not being included. Whether it's not being invited to a friends party, or not being thought of, no one likes

being left out. But with Covid, not just one person missed out on things, everyone did.

"I think the missing out part is like, missing out on something hurts when you're the only one missing out on it and other people didn't, but with Covid I feel like everyone missed out on everything," said Saadi.

After missing out on over a full year of their school and social lives, students had one goal in mind beginning the 2022 school year: to get back what was lost.

"I think that this senior year has been really great and I honestly don't think it would have been as good if Covid never happened and we didn't lose everything we had, because now we're trying really hard to get it back and I think we've done a good job," said Saadi.

"BTSM was really fun because it was the first big social event I was able to go to in 2 or 3 years. It was pretty special. The long wait had built up the suspense, and I would say it delivered," said Esson.

Even though the pandemic is not over, it is definitely better than it was a year ago, and hopefully in a year's time we will be saying the same thing. But in ten, 20, or even 50 years from now, we'll all have different perspectives on one of the most interesting and important times of our lives.

"At the time I was like 'this sucks'. But in hindsight, that was a really unique time of my life that I didn't think would ever happen because I was just at home and had to change my entire lifestyle. So I look back on it fondly, with the house party and stuff," said Saadi.

"I think it'd be kind of fun to tell your grandkids 'yeah, I survived a pandemic,'" said senior Matthew Kluba. "I'm definitely going to tell them I never got it."

## Covid pandemic inspires student awareness of mental health issues

(continued from page 7)

when half of the students were on campus, the other half were learning from home on zoom.

"That was really tough," said Baudendistel. "Not just physical appearance, but turning to your partner and talk to him about this, you can do that with a breakout room for a thirty second conversation, but is that worth it? Physically being next to somebody working through a practice problem, being able to look over their shoulder and see what they wrote down, labs and being able to physically manipulate equipment—it wasn't working."

From a mental health perspective, this switching back and forth was overwhelming for most students. Between worrying about getting sick to the stress of transitioning out of isolation, students were faced with anxieties that they had not encountered before.

"I think it probably set back even the biological development of the prefrontal cortex, just because you don't have situations that you're interacting with people on a regular basis," said college counselor Kate Kindbom. "Everything's kind of more orchestrated versus

casual, and for some people, I think they are even paralyzed to the point of 'I don't know if I want to be around a lot of people.'"

**"With SLUH, it's always going to be stressful and we go in knowing that, but we also go in knowing that the fun is going to outweigh the stress."**

*-Phillip Hiblovic*

"I think really this sense that we're kind of like a 'Tik Tok' generation and the sense that we go from one thing onto the next, it says a lot about mental health," said junior Freddy Laux. "That type of mentality of just flipping from one thing to the next is really destructive for mental health."

Perhaps the group hit hardest by this new system of learning, though, was the Class of 2024. Their eighth grade year was cut short, they missed most of the traditional freshman orientation activities over the summer, and they began

their school year on Zoom. Instead of interacting with peers in class, during lunch, and at extracurricular activities, the freshmen had to remain in isolation, only speaking with classmates in occasional breakout rooms.

"I was walking around today and thinking, 'Oh my gosh, these sophomores, this is their first full quarter in the building without having to wear a mask or without going part time.' Isn't that crazy to think about? You're trying to make friends, you're trying to have lunch with people, you're trying to get engaged in clubs, all of this is a significant part of the Brotherhood. To have that be cut in half, would have a great impact," said Kindbom.

The Class of 2021 were also heavily impacted by the effects of the pandemic. Throughout the stress of virtual and hybrid learning, many seniors hoped for more normal graduation events. When many of these events had to be cancelled due to ongoing complications with the pandemic, they were left with only in-person classes to look forward to.

"With SLUH, it's always going to be stressful and we go in knowing that, but we also

go in knowing that the fun is going to outweigh the stress," said Philip Hiblovic '21. "Obviously it's going to be hard, but you also have all these other traditions to look forward to. We didn't have any of them our senior year."

During the second semester of the 2020-2021 school year, students were finally welcomed back on campus full-time. For many, this switch brought about mixed feelings: they were excited to finally see all of their classmates and return to some sense of normalcy, but on the other hand, they were so used to isolation that the increase in social interaction felt intimidating.

"It has brought different challenges and benefits," said Dernlan. "There's a benefit to being alone because you don't really have to worry about what other people are thinking about you. Being in person again, at least for me, I get very in my head about things, so the social aspect kind of starts becoming that new weight."

The 2021-2022 school year brought more stability and certainty as to how the school would continue to navigate through the pandemic. With greater knowledge of how the

pandemic works, the administration layed out a four-condition plan to determine what safety protocols to use based on the state of Covid in the region. That plan has allowed SLUH to keep infection rates low while also easing restrictions and restoring parts of "pre-pandemic SLUH."

"Once we came back to the classroom, we kind of understood when something's difficult, we have people to lean on," said junior Freddy Laux. "I think that's so much easier when that's the person sitting next to you rather than a screen tile next to yours on Zoom."

"One of the things that we need to do as a school is to preserve that SLUH-ness for the four years that students will be here with us," said Hannick. "Even talking this week about graduation, we'll be back to the way it was. Even as those sorts of things happen, I think we will for many years be talking about the lingering effects of the pandemic."

Overall, the pandemic has brought more awareness to mental health at SLUH. The Center for Mindfulness, established this year by Kindbom, Laux, and junior Jackson

Slusser, addresses the effects of the pandemic on mental health in using the practice of mindfulness to ease anxiety.

"At the Center for Mindfulness, we still don't have a large following yet," said Kindbom. "I think there are a lot of people who would benefit from it but don't necessarily know how helpful it would be for them. What we're doing through these announcements is trying to make people understand that this is actually Ignatian to be able to be in the present and to be in the now and to see God in the everyday. I think a lot of that will help to bring us back into normal."

"The pandemic really taught me to have a greater sense of priority in a student's mental health," said Hannick. "It is one of the top priorities because if a student is struggling in that area, you can't expect him to be a good student. That to me is the overarching key. I was relying on the resilience of kids just to go with the flow and make things happen, but then this was a big challenge. I think that's just one of the things that I'm always going to be conscious of before anything else."



# One World Club organizes roundtable discussion to share perspectives on war in Ukraine



James Hitch '67 speaking to students and teachers about the modern political situation in Russia at the Ukraine Roundtable. photo | Luke Duffy

(continued from page 10)

Director of Global Education Rob Chura, who helped with finding guest speakers for the discussion. Chura utilized his connections in the Russian community in St. Louis and amongst SLUH alumni—as well as with friends from Russia—to assemble an expert group of panelists, who each focused on a particular way of

viewing the conflict.

The roundtable was held in the Si Commons at 3:30, just after school, and was open to all members of the SLUH community. In addition, the meeting was broadcast via Zoom, allowing students from other Jesuit schools to attend virtually. Despite taking place right at the beginning of Spring Break, student turnout was relatively high

for the event, and is believed to be the best-attended One World event in recent years.

Proceedings opened with a prayer from Fr. Robert Reiser, SJ, the Executive Director of the Jesuit Schools Network, which stressed the need for a peaceful resolution to the conflict. The spotlight then shifted to Dr. Daniel Schlafl'y '57, who serves as a Professor Emeritus of Rus-

sian Studies at Saint Louis University. Schlafl'y's presentation centered on presenting an overview of the long, intertwined histories of Russia and Ukraine, ranging from the Middle Ages up to the post-Cold War era.

The presentation began with Schlafl'y noting the similarities of the first names of Russian President Vladimir Putin and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, both of which honor a saint who Christianized the oldest ancestor nation to modern Russia. After presenting the history of relations between Russia and Ukraine, which were oftentimes part of one singular entity, Schlafl'y then attributed the nations' shared history as a primary motivation for Russia's offensive in Ukraine.

After Schlafl'y's crash course in Russo-Ukrainian history, Chris Brennan '09 presented the conflict through the lens of a journalist working in Russia under the regime of Vladimir Putin. As an international journalist, Brennan was based out of Moscow from 2012 to 2014, where he covered events such as Putin's return to power in 2012

and Russia's invasion and subsequent annexation of Crimea in 2014.

Brennan's presentation largely focused on the effect of state-controlled media on the Russian populace, which has become increasingly pro-government throughout Putin's decades-long reign. Brennan then described the agenda which the government is attempting to push in spinning the conflict to citizens.

Once Brennan had finished with his contribution, James Hitch '67 gave his perspective on the conflict based on his experiences living and working in Kyiv as an attorney.

Next on the list of speakers was Irina Limanskaya, a Russian citizen who is involved with the opposition movement in St. Petersburg. In an at-times emotional speech, Limanskaya outlined the realities of being a Russian citizen in opposition to the Kremlin's invasion of Ukraine.

Limanskaya's segment of the discussion left a particularly strong impact on Laux, who was struck by the danger which Limanskaya faced solely

for expressing anti-Putin views.

"At one point in her speech, she was almost in tears because she talked about how much she was at risk to express her views and how much that risk has been forced upon her family and the people around her, and I thought that was really powerful," said Laux.

The panel's fifth speaker was Tom Monastyrski, a Ukrainian-Canadian, who focused his segment on the current reality of life in Ukraine.

After Monastyrski spoke, the panel finished with Fr. Damian Czerniak, SJ, who is coordinating the Jesuit relief efforts in aiding with the refugee crisis in Poland. In his segment, Czerniak talked about the difficulties faced in dealing with the influx of refugees, and spoke about ways in which students can help support Jesuits on the ground in Eastern Europe.

Following a 30-minute long segment dedicated to questions, the discussion was concluded. For anyone who was not in attendance but still wishes to watch the discussion, there is a video recording available on SLUH's YouTube channel.

## SLUH continues to move away from old Covid protocols into Condition I

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screenings were done away with as SLUH shifted into a second, less stringent phase within Condition 1 of the Covid protocol.

Principal Fr. Ian Gibbons, S.J., who has largely led the pandemic mitigation efforts within the school over the past two years, believes that there was great value in these two practices at one point in time, but that they are no longer necessary to keep the SLUH community safe.

"Temperatures are important, but not as important as things such as monitoring cases and follow-up with cases," said Gibbons. "The survey (was) helpful ... but it has become a sort of bogging down that we no longer need to do."

Although the check-ins have been removed, the school can always return to screening if Covid conditions become worse. This flexibility is attributed to the school's purchasing of measures like the bi-polar

filtration system and screening equipment.

"I think they were great investments and I think the school did a wonderful job of finding out what exactly our community needed back in March of 2020 and then adding to that," said school nurse Scott Gilbert. "Looking back, I can't think of anything that I would have done differently."

Not only does this pivot mark the school moving even closer to normalcy, it also creates the opportunity for a rite of passage for freshmen and sophomores that was taken away by Covid. Walking into school this week was a return to pre-Covid practice for the upperclassmen, and completely foreign for the underclassmen.

"It was definitely the move," said junior Kyle Verzino. "It was nice not to have to deal with VisitU and walking through that entrance is a scene straight out of freshman year."

## The drilling near Campus Ministry stops this summer with the completion of the Dill Center



The design for the Dill Center once complete.

photo | courtesy of SLUH Facebook

(continued from page 10)

The third campaign objective is continuing the long-standing tradition of academic excellence at St. Louis U. High."

As an institution constantly committed to academic excellence, SLUH is consistently working to provide students with top-notch facilities and resources, and the Dill Center is an important aspect of this mission.

"Resources have been secured to ensure that St. Louis U. High can continue to set the standard for academic excellence," said Agniel. "The Dill Center will be a state of the art facility for academic leadership and student support services. This project will allow us to bring together academic administration with college counselors and student counselors into a shared physical space so that students can be more effectively supported."

The groundbreaking ceremony for the Dill Center was originally held on March 3, 2020, but unfortunately due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the shutdown of the campus, the project was delayed.

"We had a groundbreaking ceremony weeks before the world shut down," said Agniel. "And then we stepped back and the school smartly took a conservative approach for how we were going to move forward on these significant capital projects. We wanted to make sure that our commitment to financial aid and supporting families facing extraordinary circumstances was our highest priority."

Even through the difficulties and setbacks of the pandemic, the project will be completed by the end of June. Throughout the summer the faculty and staff will begin to make their transition into the new space, allowing for them to be fully moved in for the start of the 2022-2023 academic year.

The Dill Center will now be a combined home for the counseling department, college counselors, and administration, including the offices of Principal Ian Gibbons, S.J. and Assistant Principal for Student Life Brock Kesterson.

"We're going to have an experience of the administra-

tion being in their own area with college counseling and counseling offices, which will better enhance the experience for students coming through," said Director of Facilities Joe Rankin. "That will just enhance the ability for people to understand that we're investing in our students by investing in the campus. The newly combined area will provide the community with a more welcoming, comfortable environment in which to continue to operate at SLUH's customary level of excellence."

The movement of three branches of the SLUH staff into the Dill Center will open up an expanse of space elsewhere on campus, which will allow for a wide range of possibilities for the future. One such possibility is a space dedicated to the SLUH student media groups such as the *Prep News*, Photography Club, *Gadfly*, and Yearbook.

"It has opened up creative conversations about how students and faculty might work together more effectively, and the opportunities that might be available to students with a

more efficient and collaborative use of space," said Agniel.

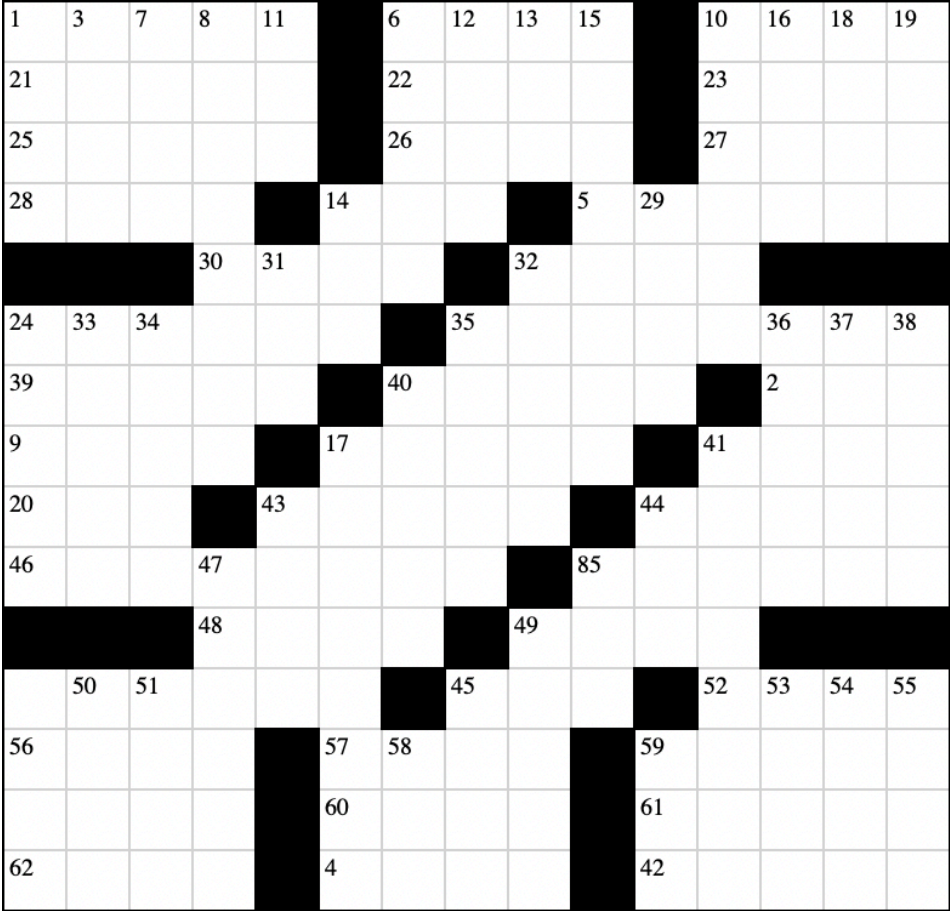
All of these expansions and improvements to the campus and school community are results of a multitude of generous benefactors that contribute to SLUH every year and have made special contributions to the Go Forth campaign.

"This has been made possible because of the amazing alumni, families, and donors that believe in you students," said Agniel. "Student mental health and wellbeing are important for you to be able to thrive and to achieve at a high level and pursue your faith in earnest. Many dedicated alumni and donors of SLUH, people most students will never see, are making the Dill Center possible. It is a privilege for all of us to be able to appreciate the selflessness and sacrifices that are behind the renewal of our campus. Underlying it all is a belief in the students of St. Louis U. High to go forth into the world under the banner of Christ as Men for Others."

Interested in writing, photography, or creating art for the Prep News? Email [prepnews@sluh.org](mailto:prepnews@sluh.org) to get involved!



PN Puzzle: Retirement Home



ACROSS

- 1. \*
- 2. \*
- 4. \* (in a few years)
- 5. \* (in a few years)
- 6. \*
- 9. \*
- 10. \*
- 14. \*
- 17. \*
- 20. \*
- 21. Haikus and sonnets
- 22. Field of Dreams locale
- 23. 1958 Pulitzer winner James or 1966 Rookie of the Year Tommie
- 24. \*
- 25. Word between innocent and proven guilty
- 26. Like Peep’s sheep
- 27. Some underwear
- 28. Musical chairs goal
- 30. What was the first name of the long-time host?
- 32. Answer, on the show referenced in 30-Across
- 35. City near the heel of the boot
- 39. Some underwear
- 40. Sporty Mazda model
- 41. Iron Chef Cat or Boston manager Alex
- 42. \*
- 43. Island known for its hot dogs
- 44. “... ping ... ping ...”
- 45. \*
- 46. Tactic to prevent stealing
- 48. Borders, as of clothes
- 49. Quitter’s word
- 52. Hobbled
- 56. Take \_\_\_\_\_ from
- 57. Letter opener
- 59. Lubricated
- 60. Snug as a bug in \_\_\_\_\_
- 61. Corp. shake-up
- 62. Answers, on the show referenced in 30-Across
- 85. \*
- \*
- \*

DOWN

- 1. Major work
- 3. Man-to-man alternative
- 6. Glass ingredient
- 7. Letter that is not last in the Greek alphabet
- 8. Does an impression of
- 10. Moved several spaces at a time
- 11. Subj. for immigrants
- 12. Bugs Bunny or Roger Rabbit
- 13. Sympathetic sounds
- 14. Lock opener
- 15. Birth rate
- 16. Puss in Boots villain
- 17. Clock currently set at 100 seconds until midnight
- 18. In the neighborhood
- 19. Sat., to Sun.
- 24. Puppy or impudent boy
- 29. Moon goddess
- 31. \_\_\_\_\_ Misérables
- 32. Word repeated in a famous call made by the last theme answer
- 33. Capital of Vietnam
- 34. Double-door words
- 35. Carmen composer
- 36. Numbered clubs
- 37. Desert inn
- 38. “Do \_\_\_\_\_ to eat a peach?”
- 40. –
- 41. More expensive
- 43. Only artist to have a Billboard number one in six consecutive decades
- 44. Our star
- 45. Data transfer unit of one bit per second
- 47. What a person has four of (tee-hee)
- 49. Welsh dog
- 50. Andean root vegetables
- 51. Slime
- 53. Surname of three brothers and one son who were MLB outfielders
- 54. \_\_\_\_\_ with a Mouth, nickname for Deadpool
- 55. Border
- 58. Stat for three of the theme answers
- 59. Baseball, e.g.
- 85. Talk and talk
- . Indian prince

Choir performs with Cor Jesu in third concert of the year

BY CHARLES TURNELL AND DANIEL TICE REPORTERS

Two weeks ago, the choir program, led by Addie Akin, had their third concert of the year. After a full quarter of practicing and rehearsing, the singers were able to put on a show on March 11th in the theater.

“The Choir program does about four concerts each year,” said Choir teacher Mrs. Akin. “This third quarter concert was the third annual concert of the year.”

This concert, however, had a major difference. The show was a collaboration between SLUH and Cor Jesu. This is the third year that this collaboration has happened and Akin hopes to continue this trend because of the benefits.

“It’s a really great experience for the guys to get to sing with the girls and to learn from a different teacher,” said Akin.

Initially the concert is structured into four parts for the four levels of SLUH Students in choir. From there the students each have a segment during the concert, where as an ensemble, they sing designated songs that they have been practicing all quarter.

“I structured the program just based on ensembles,” said Akin. “There were four SLUH ensembles: Zero-Hour choir, Concert Choir, freshmen choir and varsity choir. Each ensemble

had individual songs that they learned”

Led by Mrs. Pottinger, wife of SLUH band teacher Jeff Pottinger, the Cor Jesu choir rehearsed the same songs as the SLUH choir in preparation for the concert. With the final ensemble of both choirs reaching about a hundred kids total, practicing with the schools beforehand was implausible, and the first time singing together was the night of the concert.

“They learn everything separately, and then literally the day of the concert is the first time that we put everybody together and cross our fingers and hope that you know, everybody learned the same way. It’s a little scary just to hope that it works out,” said Akin.

Akin had nothing to worry about, though, as the practice throughout the quarter paid off.

“My favorite song of the whole concert was I to the very last song called off flyway. And it’s just a really fun gospel arrangement. That was a combined

number with Korea and I played piano for that which I love. I love doing so it was a lot of fun.”

Sophomore varsity chorister Tim Browdy noted how much he liked the collaboration between schools.

“The concert was a super neat experience because of the contrast in sounds between both the Cor Jesu and SLUH choirs. In our two pieces that we did together it was breathtaking to hear the blending between male and female voices.”

Junior Keller Anderson appreciated the variety of the selected music.

“The two numbers with the Cor Jesu girls was great. We started with Love Never Fails by Brandon Heath which is a very “poppy”, singer-songwriter type of a song. We did acapella for that song,” said Anderson. “Then after that, we did a version of Seven Bridges Road by the Eagles, with a piano accompaniment by Mrs. Akin. We also did some older religious songs as well.”



Students performing.

photo | Courtesy of SLUH Twitter

Letter to the Editors  
Let’s work on creating a safe enviornment for all at SLUH

TO THE EDITORS,

My name is Jack Janson, and I am an openly gay sophomore. I have heard every “gay joke” there is; heterosexual men flirting with their heterosexual male friends, heterosexual men labeling everything they see as “gay”, throwing around the derogatory slur “fag” like it’s a football, and many many more. Unfortunately, in 2022, a time of justice and change for all oppressed people and their allies, these “jokes” continue to prevail.

I cannot begin to explain how harmful these actions are to the queer students at SLUH. According to the Trevor Project, a website that surveys LGBTQ youths, reports that LGBTQ youth are four times more likely to attempt suicide than heterosexual youth. It also estimates that “at least one LGBTQ youth between the ages of 13-24 attempt suicide every 45 seconds in the US”.

The person sitting next to you right now may be queer, a teammate of yours may be queer. So many young teens struggle with their sexuality and they should be able to ex-

press themselves however they wish. To those people who are struggling with this, I am so sorry. To the boys that continuously say things that harm the queer community, you are not a queer student at SLUH. You will never have to walk the halls as a queer student at SLUH. You will never have to feel the eyes of so many boys burning your skin with judgement. Your ears will never be red with the gossip of so many boys criticizing what you wear, how you talk, how you walk, how you simply live your life every single day. You will never have to feel the anxiety of walking through the cafeteria. You will never have to walk across the school to simply use the restroom comfortably. You will never have to be completely looked through as if you’re a piece of glass because people don’t want anything to do with you. You will never understand what it is like.

Do not get me wrong, the small steps we have taken at SLUH have made a gigantic impact for creating a safer space in our community; simply look at the numerous brave students wearing rainbow lanyards around their necks

showing that we are present. Every year the club Ongoing Conversation grows with more and more new members, and our ability to take larger strides grows with it. The fellow members and I appreciate this more than words, yet there is still so much that needs to be different.

We are everywhere. Standing at the locker next to yours, sitting in the bathroom stall while you’re chatting with your friends by the sink, passing the soccer ball to you at practice after school. Listen to our stories and try to learn from our experiences. Stop saying harmful “jokes”, start looking at queer people differently, speak up when you hear homophobia, even if it’s subtle, change your mindset, educate yourself! We hear the things you say, and we are hurt. But we are tired of sitting in the stairwell waiting for change in our own community. We will continue to push until we feel safe at our school, and we hope you will join us. Thank you.

Jack Janson  
Class of ’24

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Kathy “Dmitri Mendeleev Place of Birth” Chott

Moderator

Steve “a-mulching” Missey



# One World Letter Writing Campaign concludes in meeting with Principal Gibbons

BY BEN CROAT AND  
WILL RIGGAN  
STAFF, REPORTER

Three weeks ago, principal Fr. Ian Gibbons S.J. met with the One World Club to discuss and respond to letters written by the club during their Letter Writing Campaign. The campaign was centered around students expressing their voice on diversity topics that could be changed to create a more inclusive SLUH community.

“The goal of the campaign was to teach students about the power of civil discourse and the importance of speaking up when you see something that you would like changed in your school. The goal of the campaign was also to try to engage in a respectful conversation with the administration on diversity,” said junior Freddy Laux.

The topics chosen for the letter writing campaign were centered around the theme of diversity and tackled ideas including respecting women, the Human Geography course, the LGBTQ community, and cultural inclusion.

“I think that already this campaign has brought to the attention of the administration the diverse perspectives of our student body and given outlets to those that add to the diversity of our community,” said Laux.

“I think they picked four very interesting and important topics to write letters for and

so I divided my administrative team into four different groups to meet with the representatives and to talk through the challenges and find ways to move forward,” said Gibbons.

The letter writing campaign was started to exemplify the topics of diversity in the school community and to create a space to practice mature discussions on real world issues affecting the school community.

“We’ve moved away from a more natural ease I would say, as a country and as a region and maybe even as a school, from the real ability to have civil discourses,” said Gibbons. “We’ve become very polarized, very tribal, and in some ways our approach to things has become ‘this is my truth, and you need to hear my truth,’ and not a whole lot of listening going on. So I think it was a remarkable project.”

One of the letters, written by junior Alex Brinkman, proposed an expansion of the Human Geography curriculum to better tackle the economic, political, and social struggles of people of color. The expansion would turn Human Geography into a year-long course and therefore fill up the requirement of a two semester course.

“A freshman year program addressing the struggles of BI-POC populations would allow an immediate stop to the problem we saw in our school community,” said Brinkman. “By making it a freshman year class,

we could stop intolerable comments and jokes students made as they entered SLUH, not as they exited.”

In the discussion, senior Luke Pierson raised a point about how hyper-focused many rising seniors tend to be on picking up AP classes instead of other social studies electives such as African-American History or Modern African Politics.

“During the meeting, I talked about my belief that having a class which teaches African American history should be mandatory,” said Pierson. “I pointed out how so many people at SLUH only ever take the AP level classes and since African American history isn’t an AP level class, many don’t ever even consider taking it as an elective their senior year.”

The administration responded to the request for a need of education on BIPOC issues by stating that those issues were already covered in senior history electives. Additionally, one of the main reasons given for the length of the freshman Human Geography course was to incentivise senior year history electives.

“They gave me more information on the intention behind Human Geography only being a semester long as well as how classes at SLUH tackle these problems,” said Brinkman.

Walking away from the conversations, both sides were able to gain a deeper understanding

about the other point of view and how SLUH plans on addressing these crucial issues moving forward.

“I think only time will tell how the discussion went,” said Pierson. “I truly do believe that in about 20 years or so the standard will be to have a class on African American History be mandatory for all high school students around the country, but in the meantime, I have no idea what change can come about.”

“I think it gave students who were not as involved in the letter writing process a place to give their own ideas about the letters and problems at SLUH,” said Brinkman. “I am incredibly grateful that Fr. Gibbons allowed me and my fellow classmates to directly talk to him about some of the issues we see at SLUH.”

While there is still some uncertainty into how many of these letters will be addressed, the practice of reaching out to the school administration and making sure that students’ voices are heard is one that must and will continue.

“My administration team came up with some proposals for some of these different groups to move forward,” said Gibbons. “Maybe they’ll be implemented, maybe they’ll be implemented in ways we didn’t anticipate, and maybe they won’t go anywhere. But the fact that we’re working toward solutions and possibilities is a great exercise, and I hope to see more of that.”

## Two years of Covid at SLUH



The *Prep News* Staff sends their thoughts and prayers to the family of Kathryn Hubbman, wife of theology teacher Jim Hubbman.

## Calendar

Thursday, March 24 B Day

Parent-Teacher Conferences  
4:00PM Volleyball vs Lutheran St. Charles (C/JV/V)  
4:30PM Varsity Baseball vs O’Fallon Township  
5:00PM JV White Team Lacrosse vs CBC  
5:00PM V Ultimate Frisbee vs Edwardsville  
**Friday, March 25** No Classes

PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES  
Varsity Water Polo vs York (IL)  
7:00PM Varsity Lacrosse vs Memphis University School  
**Monday, March 28** A Day

3:30PM Golf vs Vianney (C/JV/V)  
4:15PM B Team Baseball vs Lafayette (Summit Tournament)  
**Tuesday, March 29** B Day

Assembly Schedule-Voices of SLUH  
Varsity Lacrosse vs MICDS  
8:00AM Varsity Golf - Bantle Tournament  
4:30PM (C Team, Varsity) Baseball vs Oakville  
4:30PM JV Water Polo vs Lindbergh  
4:30PM Tennis (JV/V) vs Marquette  
5:30PM Varsity Water Polo vs Lindbergh  
**Wednesday, March 30** A Day

Junior Kairos  
Wilderness Retreat  
8:00AM JV Golf - Fox Tournament  
4:15PM Tennis (JV/V) vs Vianney  
4:30PM Volleyball (C/JV/V) vs Belleville East  
4:30PM Varsity Baseball vs Webster Groves  
**Thursday, March 31** No Classes - Retreat Days

Junior Kairos  
Wilderness Retreat  
ADV - Cashbah Set up  
Sophomore Retreat  
4:30PM Volleyball (C/JV/V) vs Mehlville  
5:00PM B Team Rugby vs Lindbergh  
5:15PM B Team Baseball vs Pattonville  
**Friday, April 1** No Classes - Retreat Days

Junior Kairos  
Wilderness Retreat  
ADV - Cashbah Set up  
Sophomore Retreat  
Spring Production Tech Week  
Edwardsville Spring Tennis Invite (JV/V)  
B Team Baseball (Summit Tournament)  
Varsity Baseball - Jesuit Classic  
7:50AM SLUH Community First Friday Mass  
5:00-7:00PM (JV, Varsity) Lacrosse vs Webster Groves  
**Monday, April 4** B Day

Spring Production Tech Week  
Domestic Violence Awareness Week  
ACT at SLUH  
3:30PM JV Golf vs St. Dominic  
3:30PM Varsity Golf vs Chaminade  
4:15PM Tennis (JV/V) vs John Burroughs  
**Tuesday, April 5** A Day

Spring Production Tech Week  
Domestic Violence Awareness Week  
ACT at SLUH  
3:30PM Golf vs Chaminade (C/JV)  
3:30PM Varsity Golf vs Ladue  
4:15PM B Team Baseball vs John Burroughs  
4:15PM Tennis (JV/V) vs Ladue  
4:30PM Volleyball (C/JV/V) vs Parkway Central  
4:30-5:30PM Water Polo vs Marquette (JV/V)  
4:30PM JV White Team Lacrosse vs Chaminade  
5:00PM Lacrosse vs Ladue (JV/V)  
**Wednesday, April 6** B Day - Late Start

Spring Production Tech Week  
Domestic Violence Awareness Week  
Department Meetings  
3:30PM JV Golf - Clayton Team Best Ball  
4:30PM Volleyball (C/JV/V) vs Marquette  
5:00-7:00PM Lacrosse (JV/V) vs Kirkwood  
**Thursday, April 7** A Day

Spring Production Tech Week  
Domestic Violence Awareness Week  
Varsity Water Polo - DeSmet Invite  
3:30PM JV Golf vs Westminster  
4:15PM Varsity Baseball - Lafayette Tournament vs Lafayette  
4:15PM Tennis (JV/V) vs Priory  
4:30PM B Team Baseball vs St. Dominic  
5:00PM B Team Rugby vs Eureka