

# Prep News

"If nothing else, value the truth."



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St. Louis University High School | Friday, March 6, 2020

sluh.org/prepnews

## Administration prepares for potential coronavirus fallout

*school advising regular health cautions, rational rhetoric*

BY JOHN JACKSON  
EDITOR IN CHIEF

As the spread of COVID-19, also known as coronavirus, commands the attention of nations around the globe, St. Louis U. High joins the community of institutions big and small preparing for a potential outbreak.

SLUH is quickly developing a thorough body of protocols for dealing with potential scenarios coronavirus may pose, many of which are facing schools, businesses, and other institutions abroad and in the United States.

The school administration is relying on a three-pronged approach to information gathering and protocol development to respond to the disease: The World Health Organization (WHO), which tracks the global spread of

coronavirus; the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), which is studying and outlining policies for Americans to follow; and the St. Louis City and County Health Departments, which work locally and would play a primary role in coordinating a response if a St. Louis area outbreak occurred.

"Obviously, there are a lot of moving pieces and unknowns with the growth of an epidemic or even a pandemic, like coronavirus," said Principal Ian Gibbons, SJ. "Due diligence, caution, care for the whole community, not overreacting, not being complicit—all of these pieces are a balance."

A recent email update sent to parents outlined the school's approach to the is-

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## DECADE OF DOMINANCE

### Racquetball wins tenth straight National Title

BY KYLE MCENERY  
CORE STAFF

As of this Sunday, a new dynasty has taken over the St. Louis U. High community. The SLUH racquetball team traveled to Portland, Ore. to participate in the National High School Racquetball tournament, winning their tenth championship in a row, 14th overall.

The National Tournament has six different Olympic-style brackets. Each school is only allowed to enter one player into the first five brackets, so the rest of every team's players play in the sixth bracket. Each team is awarded

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## Team of seniors victorious at Academic WorldQuest

BY NICHOLAS DALAVIRAS  
NEWS EDITOR

No one was more surprised with the results of the St. Louis University Academic WorldQuest than the team from St. Louis U. High, which, after preparing for less than a month, left the world affairs quiz bowl competition victorious on Wednesday night.

The team, led by AP Comparative Government teacher Sarah Becvar and made up of seniors PJ Butler, Peter Curdt, Matt Friedrichs, Johno Jackson, and alternate Komlavi Adissem, won the competition by answering 47 of 70 questions correctly; the win secured the Jr. Bills' spot in the National Championship that will take place in

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## Groundbreaking ceremony commemorates construction of Center for Academic Success



Anthony Dill (left) with SLUH President Alan Carruthers at the groundbreaking ceremony.

photo | Miguel Cadiz

BY BEN KLEVORN AND MITCHELL BOOHER  
NEWS EDITOR, CORE STAFF

The old cafeteria will be no more. Following a groundbreaking ceremony this past Tuesday, construction on the J. Anthony '57 and Donna M. Dill Center for Academic Success has officially begun. The Center is part of the Go Forth campaign and will house new office space for administration, college counseling, and school counseling.

The J. Anthony '57 and Donna M. Dill Center for Academic Success will be a 6,300 square foot space located in what is now the old cafeteria.



A digital rendering of the Center for Academic Success.

photo | courtesy of goforth.sluh.org

It will contain 14 individual office spaces, three reception lounges, and two conference rooms, along with other useful features.

Director of Advancement Sean Agniel, '96, estimates the final cost for this project will range from \$2.5 to 3 million. As with any project, the Advancement Office makes it a priority to raise the funds prior to the renovations beginning, to avoid going into debt.

The plan is for the Center for Academic Success to be completed by the beginning of August, allowing for counselors and administrators to move into the space for the 2020-21 school year.

"We're really excited how this will impact students' lives both from a personal counseling standpoint and how it will better serve students and families, but also on a college counseling level, and on our learning supports," said President Alan Carruthers. "This will, I think become a new hub for student services, and it will bring back to life a piece of the building that was been underutilized and dormant for a long time. I think this is a really exciting time for the school."

The western end of the space (closer to the Si Commons) will contain the offices for the Dean of Students and Assistant Dean of Students,

Principal, Assistant Principal for Mission, and Assistant Principal for Academics. The eastern wing will serve as the new counseling offices, for both school and college counseling. Each counselor will receive their own new office space.

During activity period on Tuesday, a groundbreaking ceremony was held to honor Anthony and Donna Dill—who committed \$3 million to the Center for Academic Success—and celebrate the beginning of construction.

"I've gotten to know Donna and Tony a little over the past year; they're wonderful people. They've done extraordinary things in life but under very ordinary appearances, and they're people of faith that care a lot about the community, their family, the institutions that have formed them, and they want those experiences to be shared by the next generation. What they are doing for St. Louis U. High today is going to last for decades and generations, and it's inspiring. It's humbling to welcome them and an incredible honor to thank them," said Agniel.

Dozens of people with a connection to St. Louis U.

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Time Tik Toks away when you spend too much time on your phone. Learn about AP Chem's study on screen addiction.

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## AP Chemistry and Counseling Department take on screen addictions through *Screenagers: Next Chapter*

BY JACK FIGGE AND  
JACK FEISE  
REPORTERS

Most St. Louis U. High faculty, students, and parents would agree that technology plays a fundamental role in their day to day life, but what they sometimes do not realize is how detrimental screens can be to their mental health. Students learned about these hazards by watching the documentary *Screenagers: Next Chapter* and were able to better educate themselves about how screens pose a risk to their mental well-being.

Before school on Wednesday and then again last night, students and parents had a chance to watch and discuss the documentary. This viewing was coordinated by the Counseling Department and students in science teacher Mary Russo's AP Chemistry class.

Every year, students in AP Chemistry conduct a se-

mester-long study on a topic relevant to the lives of SLUH students. Last year, the class studied Juuls and E-cigarettes and their effect on students and teenagers. This year, Russo decided that she wanted to stick with the topic of addictions and choose to study screen addictions.

"Addiction just stuck with me, and the AP Chem class for this year decided to tackle addiction," said Russo. "This is a big topic, so we wanted to look at something more focused and the issue of 'screen time' and brain chemistry came up."

For Russo, screen addiction is a prevalent problem in our society because screens provide users with an easy escape from the world.

"Addictive games and social media apps are providing users quick and easy 'escapes,'" said Russo. "The teenage brain is in a critical point of development and this development is quite naturally

affected by one's activities and choices."

To help educate the student body better on this topic, Russo and the AP Chem class teamed up with the Counseling Department.

"Screen addiction can come into play in a number of ways," said school counselor Mary Michalski. "Whether or not it is a problem for students trying to get homework done, or it can be a distraction as far as developing relationships with others or relationships that you have with your family, it can really interrupt that."

One of the most pressing technology addiction issues for the teachers and counselors of SLUH is that screens affect a student's capability to socialize and complete homework in a timely fashion.

"Screens make it hard for somebody to have the focused space that they need to have in order to accomplish a task at hand," said Director

of the Learning Center Tim Curdt. "Because (screens) are that stimulus it is very hard to engage in the deep learning that has to happen in certain classes and contexts."

Senior Braden Kramer, who takes AP Chemistry, helped plan the movie screening. He explained how screens are a major part of his life, and that he uses screens for a multitude of different reasons, such as school, projects, and just personal usage.

"The long-standing practice of the Examen in Jesuit communities and schools calls us to the daily practice of making space in our busy lives for silence and reflection," said Kramer. "The way we implement technology should not be determined primarily by ease, convenience, or prevailing cultural trends, but rather by the patient and deliberate process of asking: What is the formational goal of using or not using technology in a particular context?"

Part of Russo's and Michalski's plan for educating the faculty and students was showing the documentary *Screenagers: Next Chapter*. This documentary is the sequel to *Screenagers*, a 2017 documentary made by physician Delaney Ruston that explored how phones and technology impact teenagers' social lives. *Screenagers: Next Chapter* continued the theme of how technology impacts teenagers' lives, but focused more on how a teenager's mental health is connected.

"One of the things that strikes me is that they talk a lot about mental health and how it relates to screen time," said Michalski. "For example, if you're not feeling great about things, going to social media may not be the best idea because people only post the best things, which can lead to those feeling a little sad thinking: 'why doesn't anything good like that happen to me?' or 'I could never measure up to that person.'"

The movie began by explaining many mental health issues, including depression, anxiety, and irritability. The documentary then discussed how a teenager's brain is undergoing enormous changes and developing rapidly, which can affect a student's mental health. Studies conducted by the producers of the film found that a teenagers' mental health issues often grow worse if they begin to spend more time on their screens.

Another issue that they discussed extensively was how screens are related to stress. One study that they conducted found that, for most students, whenever they feel stressed out or anxious,

their first instinct is to grab their phone. Instead of solving the problem of reducing stress, it often leads to more stress for the student since they now have less time to complete the task they were originally stressing about, causing the stress levels to escalate.

The documentary also explored how looking at social media platforms often leaves the viewer thinking of themselves in a negative way, which can cause somebody who already is depressed to fall into a deeper state of depression.

The documentary presented these problems in a relatable fashion by sharing the stories of how other teenagers have been affected by technology in a negative way and how they were able to overcome their problems.

"It gave some real human examples of something that we all know is happening in society that the way we are learning to communicate on social media is not conducive to mental health," said senior Noah Scott.

But the documentary did not just provide the facts, it also provided useful ways for teenagers to overcome the problems related to screen addiction. Some of their suggestions included setting an electronics curfew and having face to face communication, whether that be through service, hanging out with friends, or some other social activity.

"The main overarching goal is to help students make informed decisions about using technology at the right and wrong time," said Kramer.



Students watching "Screenagers: Next Chapter" in Room S201.

photo | Miguel Cadiz

## Music Unifies: SLUH and Cor Jesu bands collaborate in concert

BY NATHAN RICH AND  
NOAH APPRILL-SOKOL  
REPORTERS

Band students from SLUH and Cor Jesu gathered in the Commons last Thursday evening for a joint concert. The two schools have worked together for concerts several times over the past five years, but this year's performance marked the first official shared concert and featured a wide variety of music.

SLUH's entire band and orchestra combined with Cor Jesu's band to play three songs at the end of the concert, which the groups had practiced together only twice.

"It was a thrill. It really was," said Cor Jesu band director Carol Bauer. "Just to have all that talent behind the instruments. Whenever you are playing in the presence of greatness, it brings you up. It was a great opportunity for the Cor Jesu girls to just be in the company of these SLUH guys who love music. It is inspiring just to hear all of the sound, the music that we were making."

"I thought that it was very

fun. It was really nice together with another school and to be a part of a bigger orchestra and band," said Cor Jesu freshman Maylin Dunn.

The concert also featured performances from SLUH's Jazz 1 band, fresh off of its performance at the Missouri Music Educators Conference, and a string quartet comprised of members from both SLUH's orchestra and Cor Jesu's band. The quartet performed a short, moving piece by Antonin Dvorak. Despite having limited time to practice as a group, they were able to blend well together.

"It was interesting just because we didn't have too much practice. I think it went pretty well considering, and overall it was pretty fun being able to play with someone from a different school," said sophomore Lauer Stix, who played cello in the quartet. "We don't get to do stuff like this very often. That's why it's nice and refreshing ... to hear new voices in our orchestra."

SLUH's and Cor Jesu's chamber orchestra also combined to do a piece called "Baderinerie."

"It was nice to have the support of extra people playing," said Dunn, who played violin in the combined chamber orchestra group.

While the number of players added to the sound, the combined group allowed for different instruments to be heard. Each group brought together different instrumentation—SLUH with the lower instruments, brass, and percussion and Cor Jesu with the higher instruments of violins and flutes.

"I thought it was really interesting to see how we all worked on our individual parts and how they ended up combining," said junior saxophone player Albert Harrold. "It was really cool."

"There is a lot more percussion and trumpets and trombones, which we at Cor Jesu don't have," said Dunn. "It was nice to hear the darker layers that we are not able to hear when it is just the Cor Jesu band."

The partnership between SLUH's and Cor Jesu's music departments started five years ago when a group of SLUH string musicians went to Cor

Jesu to rehearse with the Cor Jesu chamber orchestra. The experience was great, as SLUH students were able to be directed by an actual string musician. Over the past two years, there continued to be joint concerts, but none of them were mandatory for students.

This year, SLUH band director Jeff Pottinger and Bauer decided to make the concert official.

"Certainly I thought (the combined concert) was a great opportunity for the guys and girls to get together. I think

that there needs to be more of them," said Pottinger. "I think we also complement each other's programs, as well. It also brings the communities together, both the students and the parents."

In a survey taken by the Cor Jesu band students, there were many comments of praise for the event. One response was: "Improvement! Met cool people! Soooo fun!!" Another was: "High-energy; Enthusiastic; friendly; chaotic; fun."

For many, the environment was fun and enjoyable.

"It was an experience on how music really is fun. The atmosphere of people eating, the jokes, and all the music just showed how much joy that music can bring," said Bauer.

Overall, Bauer thought the concert represented the goal and power of music.

Music unites. That is the purpose of music," said Bauer. "We really saw that happening at the concert."



Art | Jackson DuCharme



# Powers publishes book “Praying with Art” for Humanities class

BY SAM TARTER AND MATT FRIEDRICHS  
CORE STAFF, STAFF

Through his senior Humanities class, fine arts teacher Sean Powers, '05, has been connecting theology with the arts by combining prayer and poetry with artwork. With the publication of his new book for the class—entitled *Praying with Art*—Powers is furthering that connection while sharing an important part of his spiritual life with his students.

The Humanities course—a cross-listed fine arts and theology class that can be taken for credits in either section—places an emphasis on art history, architecture, urban planning, music, and film in connection with humane values.

“The Humanities class is what I like to call ‘applied theology.’ We are exploring traditional fields within the humanities from a theological perspective,” said Powers. “We use those traditional humanities and art fields to talk about deeper concepts within spirituality and theology, including ecclesiology, philosophy of the human person, transcendental qualities of God, and—in this case with this book—habits and methods of personalized prayer.”

In the Humanities course, Powers and his students study works of art with spiritual and religious implications along with prayers and poems that symbolize a similar meaning. In the last few years of teaching the course, Powers had projected a piece of artwork for his students and recited either a traditional prayer or poem along with it. To make the studying for

his students easier—and to further emphasize the connection between the two—Powers compiled the 32 most important artworks and accompanied each with a prayer or poem with similar spiritual significance.

After working on the book throughout last fall, Powers had it published by Mulligan Printing—a company Powers has worked with before—in December and then introduced it for his class in the second semester.

“The book is a prod-

uct of me sewing together two necessities in class: the prayers or poems we read and the artwork that accompanies them,” said Powers. “This is me putting what I had already been doing into book form; it’s very practical.”

For the book, Powers attempted to make both the prayers and the works of art represent all different eras in art history and Catholic/Christian perspectives.

“The writings range

from being as traditional as the Anima Christi prayer to more modern, contemporary poems written in the past few years, which I thought carried some transcendental weight to them,” said Powers. “As for the works of art, I tried to capture all the eras of art. There are some that are very famous and some that are rather obscure. Anyone reading this book could realize a few pieces of artwork and then be surprised by others. Some paintings are immediately religious; oth-

ers are not.”

For his class, Powers wants the book to fully embody and expand upon prayer and all its significance.

“Upon immediate observation, some art isn’t explicitly religious; but the more you study, sit with, and pray with those works of art, they start to come alive spiritually, and that to me is what prayer is,” said Powers. “On the surface level, prayer is a simple recitation

of words, but the more you grow and learn how to pray, the richer and more personal it becomes—the more alive it becomes—which is true with any work of art or piece of poetry.”

Along with being a material used in class, *Praying with Art* also holds a personal connection and significance that Powers is sharing with his students.

“While it is used for class content, the book is really the product of my own spiritual journey and my own artistic growth,” said

and our professional life as a teacher,” said Powers. “I thought since the Humanities course focuses so much on spirituality, this book could fit the need.”

For Powers, the creation of the book was both an enjoyable and enlightening experience, as he was able to expand his appreciation and knowledge of art and spirituality. Looking through thousands of poems, prayers, paintings, and other works of art for the development of *Praying with Art*, Powers was able to discover a more

profound meaning in classic and contemporary art that he was familiar with.

“What I particularly liked about this book is that most of the time as a working artist, I am making spiritual or religious art. In this case, I was just a connoisseur of it, and this is more art appreciation,” said Powers. “I always feel like I don’t get enough art history in my own life, so this was a nice chance for me to think creatively about what are some of my favor-

ite poems and prayers and what image might best or most uniquely capture the message and spiritual richness of that prayer. I really appreciated the opportunity to apply these interesting works of art to my spiritual life, in a very concrete way.”

Currently, *Praying with Art* is published strictly for class use, and Powers has no intention to publish it for sale but is open to doing so sometime in the future.

“As for right now, I just wanted to get a hard copy of this idea I’ve had for a few years out there,” said Powers. “We will see how much people like it, and if they like it, maybe I can take it to the next level.”

Even though its distribution is limited to his class, the book seems to be a hit, opening another avenue for the students to grow in spirituality through the arts.

“We start class with Mr. Powers leading prayer with one of the pieces from the book, usually with music in the background,” said senior Kam Moses. “It’s an interesting twist to how we usually pray; you don’t typically think of artwork as something you’d tie in with prayer, but the environment really immerses you fully in the experience and gives a deeper connection to it. You get a sense of a mysterious, abstract feeling as you reflect on the picture.”

“We use it every day, and it’s a very pure form of prayer that I always look forward to,” said senior Peter Michalski. “The ability to create leads one closer to God, and God leads one to take joy in His creation. Through God we can find peace in art, and this book exists with that intention firmly in mind.”

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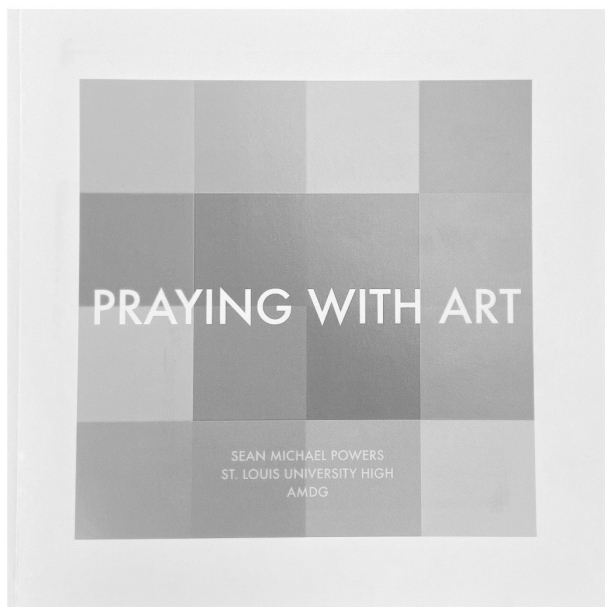
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Front and back covers of Sean Powers’ “Praying with Art.”



courtesy of | Sam Tarter

## College events inform students on their futures

BY PETER LABARGE AND JACK ANDREW  
CORE STAFF, REPORTER

St. Louis U. High hosted two college counseling events over the past week: the Engineering and Computing College Fair on Friday, Feb. 28, and the Exploring College Options on Tuesday, March 3.

The Engineering and Computing Fair was created two years ago by the SLUH college counselors with the goal of introducing students from a variety of backgrounds to jobs and majors in the world of tech.

“It all started really after Ferguson, and it was when I was reflecting on something that I can do to make a difference,” said college counselor Elaine Floyd. “One of the best ways for social justice and social change are wonderful jobs for people who currently don’t have them, and, if you look at the data in our world, the tech world has many of the highest paying jobs, yet it’s where the lowest number of students are

people of color and diversity.”

With nearly 40 colleges in attendance, there were around 400 people at the event, including 214 students, around 100 of them from SLUH. Students and their families could move around the Si Commons and meet with reps from the colleges. Additionally, there were four short presentations given about tech and engineering majors and careers, given by Floyd, science teacher Bradley Mueller, and math teacher Dan See.

“Mr. Mueller talked about flight science because there’s a huge shortage of pilots and people to work at airports,” said Floyd. “Mr. See talked about computer science majors and all the different ways to get a tech job and include not even majoring in computer science at all, but learning to code and then combining it with other things.”

Overall, the evening was a success and Floyd was grateful that SLUH got to share its

facilities and staff to benefit its community.

“It is nice from time to time doing things that do share kind of what we have here,” said Floyd.

The Exploring College Options event took place in the Si Commons four days later. Formerly known as Tips from the Pros, this event has taken place at SLUH for the past ten years, excluding last year.

The event allowed students to hear from representatives from a range of different colleges from across the country in the comfort of their own school. The University of Missouri represented a large, flagship state university; Boston College represented a Jesuit school; Washington University represented a selective private university; and DePauw University represented a smaller, liberal arts college.

With a turnout of close to 200 students, the event began with a panel discussion followed by individual breakout

sessions. The panel consisted of representatives from each of the four schools attending: Chuck May from the University of Missouri-Columbia; Chris O’Brien from Boston College; Kriston Burroughs of Washington University; and Natalie Lugg of DePauw University. The panel gave the opportunity for the speakers to present their schools to the audience.

“The panel discussion went so well, and they had such really good answers to our questions,” said college counselor Kate Kindbom.

The breakout sessions that followed allowed students to hear from two of the universities listed for further information about that school.


“I really enjoyed the breakout sessions because I got to ask questions to reps that were more specific to me,” said sophomore Tag Arens. “I found the breakout sessions to be very helpful for me.”

## Fish Fry

Today after school from 4:00-7:00 p.m. in the Si Commons, SLUH Pastoral Teams are hosting a fish fry.

The menu will include breaded cod, shrimp, a variety of sides, and desserts.

The fish fry will also include live music, games, socializing, and Kahoot.





# Center for Academic Success will house administration and counseling



Digital renderings of the Center for Academic Success.



photos | courtesy of goforth.sluh.org

(continued from page 1)

High—students, alumni, and friends—as well as workers for BSI, the construction company for this project, and Hastings + Chivetta, the architecture firm, gathered in the corridor outside the old cafeteria. At the ceremony, Carruthers and Principal Ian Gibbons, S.J. briefly spoke, as did Anthony and Donna Dill. The event also included a ceremonial wall-smashing to commemorate the beginning of the construction.

“I think the biggest part of that was thanking the Dills for their generosity, hearing a little about Anthony’s own story and motivations for supporting an alma mater which he graduated from many, many years ago, and just recognizing and celebrating another step forward through this Go Forth campaign,” said Carruthers.

While speaking at the ceremony, Anthony Dill reflected on some of his experiences after his time at SLUH and tied it to one theme: confidence. He gained a lot of confidence from SLUH and is hopeful that the Center for

Academic Success can bring confidence to the Jr. Bills of the future.

“As I mentioned, one word of what I got here was confidence ... Using the facilities of counseling, college counseling, give you the confidence to know this is what I’m suited for, this is what my abilities are, confidence I can do this. Bingo—this is what we’re looking for,” said Anthony Dill.

One of the main advantages of the Center for Academic Success is the additional space and potential for collaboration.

The College Counseling Department contains four counselors, but they are currently split up into three different office spaces. Ever since the creation of that department prior to the 2016-17 school year, they have been split up as a department.

Gibbons is also excited that the new space will feature two conference rooms. The current administrative and counseling offices are without conference rooms; they are forced to migrate to other areas of the school if the need to

use a conference room arises.

“Meetings with families, meetings with students, meetings with groups of students, meetings with job candidates, meetings with members of the communities—there’s all sorts of meetings that have to happen, and some of them range in confidentiality and privacy. Some of them range in need for better space to have these meetings. Larger group meetings we need to have areas for college visits, eight, ten, 12 people,” said Gibbons. “We can’t really do that now but we’ll be able to do that in the future.”

The offices for Assistant Principal for Student Life Brock Kesterson and Assistant Dean of Students Dan Schulte will also include some new features that will help them do their jobs. The location of the office in the southwest corner of the new space provides them with a clear view out onto the turnaround, and the two will finally have the luxury of having their offices adjacent to one another.

“I think location is a really nice thing. We worry all the time about where guys are,

where they should be, so having that window into the outside world is nice. If guys are heading out to the parking lot, a simple glance outside can be helpful,” said Kesterson.

The reception area where Secretary to the Assistant Principal for Student Life Rita Mulligan’s desk is located will also be significantly bigger, thus allowing for more student traffic, especially after school when that area can get crowded.

After residing in the interior corridor of the school building, Gibbons, Kesterson, and Michalski are especially excited at the prospect of having an office with a view.

“I’ll finally get a window in my office. That’ll be nice; it sometimes feels like I live in a cave,” said Gibbons. “That will be a nice bonus for a project.”

College Counselor Elaine Floyd mentioned the possibility of the College Counseling Department using the new space to host smaller college-related programs.

“There is more common space that we could have space to do more smaller programs. For instance, there will

be a conference room where colleges could meet with students, so there is some space we’ll be able to utilize, and once we’re there I’m sure we’ll figure out more ways to utilize it,” said Floyd.

The Center for Academic Success will also feature improved storage areas and a reprieve room—a space where a student can regroup or recover before heading back to class.

Before the renovations could start, the SLUH Maintenance Department cleared the space of all objects and equipment. Fr. Marco’s office and the Archives Committee were relocated over winter break, and the last three weeks have been spent cleaning up the space and stripping it down.

“We had to clean up the inside area and tear down the plaster ceiling, take down the existing drop ceiling, remove wall material; any type of flooring was removed and thrown away, any type of that stuff had to be disposed of properly if it contained any hazardous materials,” said Director of Facilities Joe Rankin, ’83.

The Center for Academic Success is a part of the Go Forth campaign, which over the past several years has brought in new resources and projects to SLUH. In addition to the Center for Academic Success and the recently completed Innovation Lab, Go Forth also produced the enhanced retreat and service programs, the Madonna Della Strada Retreat Center, and the implementation of the Arabic program.

“We’ve got an early 20th century building, 21st century students, and a super-talented faculty, and we want to line all three of those up,” said Agniel. “We’re proud of our very talented, hard-working students and faculty, and we want the physical plan to keep up with them.”

Other renovation projects, such as the World Learning Center, the Chapel, and the Campus Ministry Center, are a part of future plans, but at the moment there is no official timetable for those projects.

—Luke Wagner contributed reporting

## Plans in place for potential coronavirus threat

(continued from page 1)

sue. By being prepared and sharing resources, the administration hopes to curb unnecessary fear or alarmist discussion. Regular communication will happen via email updates.

“The United States is still considered very low risk, and that’s something I want to emphasize,” said school nurse Scott Gilbert. “But it does have potential, so it’s something we really need to keep our eyes on.”

As of right now, the administration is advising regular health consciousness.

“Whether it’s coronavirus, influenza A, or influenza B, the message is very simple: if you’re sick, you need to stay home, and we need to make sure that we’re washing our hands and doing the things we’ve been told to do for years and years to protect ourselves from illnesses like the flu,” said Gilbert.

Weeks ago, the school administration opted to cancel the spring break trip to China, which is designated a level three on the CDC’s one to three travel risk assessment scale. This choice was a disappointing but clear one

to make. Still, some traveling in lower risk zones feel a slight anxiety over contact with coronavirus. The school is closely monitoring the situation in areas where there will be Campus Ministry-sponsored immersion trips. None of these have been designated areas of concern, so the trips are expected to continue as planned.

Spring breakers traveling on their own are advised to follow regular health precautions. In Florida, a popular spring break destination, just five cases have been confirmed and each involved travel to China. No cases have been reported in the Mexican states Quintana Roo and Baja California Sur, the states containing resort destinations Cancún and Cabo San Lucas, respectively.

SLUH is asking anyone visiting a level two or three country to self-quarantine for 14 days following their return and to refrain from coming to campus. Absences during this period are excused.

School closings because of an outbreak are decided by the St. Louis County and St. Louis City Health De-

partments. Both individual absences and whole school closures pose obstacles to keeping up with the regular timeline of classroom curriculums. For students to go without instruction for an extended period of time, especially considering that the odds are they are not ill, would be, in the administration’s view, both inefficient and unnecessary. To many students’ disappointment, days home would not be days off. As expressed in the email to parents, SLUH is setting a “virtual school protocol” to “ensure the continuity of instruction.”

According to Gibbons, administrators and teachers are thinking through what short term online-based instruction would look like. This creative challenge to teachers is a potential self-discipline challenge to students, some of whom have joked about what they see as a silver lining of cancelled classes. Faculty meetings on Monday and Tuesday will inform faculty of the hypothetical scenarios they may need to prepare for.

## Four students compete in TEAMS competition at Florissant Valley

BY JACOB SPROCK AND JOEY KNESE REPORTERS

St. Louis U. High sent four students to the St. Louis Community College Florissant Valley campus to compete on Feb. 29 in the Tests of Engineering Aptitude, Mathematics, and Science, formally known as TEAMS.

Three sophomores—Richard Taylor, Paul Xu, and Tom Nguyen—and a senior, Quinn Dunivan, participated in the event.

The competition was split into three parts: a 90-minute multiple choice test on science and math, a building competition, and an essay. As the name suggests, the competition was team-based, with each team allowed up to eight members.

The topics on the test vary from year to year. This year’s test covered physics, chemistry, and some calculus. Normally, the underclassman teams take an easier test and the upperclassman teams a more complex one. Since the SLUH group contained a senior, they took the upperclassman test.

“We only had a team of four people total and there were teams who brought seven teams of eight, so we had a small team taking a hard test and had a pretty good showing still,” said Craig Hinders.

“The tests are designed where you aren’t supposed to get all of them right,” said Dunivan. “This leads to a lot of difficult problems that you don’t know how to solve, even with senior classes. It gives you the same feeling that you get after taking the ACT.”

The next step was the build competition. This year’s task was building a crane that was tall enough and strong enough to save an animal stuck in a tree. The catch was that they had to choose their materials before the build. The team had to anticipate what their assignment could be and bring in materials applicable to a variety of situations. Each team was split up according to the size of the school.

With an assortment of string, toothpicks, and wood, SLUH’s team built a fourth place crane within the hour of given time.

“The goal was to raise as

many pennies as high as possible, and we got points for each category,” said Dunivan. “We ended up using a pulley system attached to a cup. The thing that makes it easier, though, is being able to do it with friends and laugh at your mistakes.”

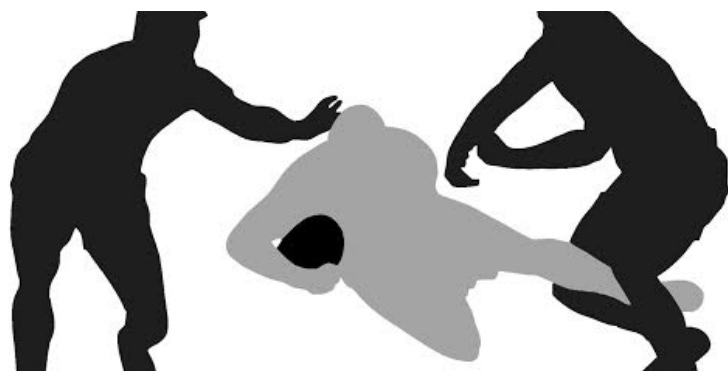
Overall, the participants felt that they made a significant improvement since last year and are looking forward to the possibilities the future holds.

“We had a pretty good build this year, actually,” said Hinders. “Obviously, we did better than last year, so we’re happy about that.”

“I’m very pleased with the outcome,” said Dunivan. “It was a lot of fun, and I was able to work with some really great guys. Math and science have always been the subjects I have gravitated towards during school, and this was just an interesting way to not only test those out but to also lead a team of like-minded guys to see what we could accomplish. I’m really excited to see what my teammates are able to do in the future.”



# SPO



# RTS

## Basketball finishes season with tragic loss to Webster in playoffs



art | Bob Devoll

JIMMY STANLEY AND  
MICHAEL TROWER  
SPORTS EDITOR, CORE STAFF

The St. Louis U. High  
varsity basketball sea-

son ended the same way it  
has the previous two: a first  
round loss in the district  
playoff. Ending their season  
with a .500 record and a dis-

appointing loss to Webster  
Groves High School, the Jr.  
Bills were unable to overcome  
the adversity that challenged  
them all year, experience and  
toughness.

SLUH had defeated Web-  
ster Groves handily earlier in  
the season by seven points.  
Though the Jr. Bills dominat-  
ed the Statesmen at the begin-  
ning of January, they could  
not say the same in their first  
elimination game.

"We could not take any-  
thing for granted. We knew  
they were going to have a dif-  
ferent mindset from the first  
game," said head coach Erwin  
Claggett. "We just needed  
to focus on the fundamen-  
tal keys needed to finish the  
game."

The first quarter set the  
tone for the whole game as  
SLUH's only points came  
from a wide open three-  
pointer from senior Demar-  
cus Bond. Webster's seniors

dominated the Bills off of the  
dribble-drive and scored easi-  
ly against the defense. With  
SLUH only being able to score  
three in the first quarter, they  
found themselves in a hole  
early, 9-3.

"We were slow and not  
able to go to the basket," said  
Bond. "We were only shoot-  
ing perimeter shots and that  
wasn't enough."

The second quarter car-  
ried the same slump for SLUH  
as their first basket came just  
over three minutes before the  
half, junior Freddie Cooper  
hit a deep three-pointer that  
momentarily woke up the Jr.  
Bills' offense. SLUH went on  
a much needed 9-0 run to end  
the half, but the offense was  
still stagnant.

"I thought both teams  
were tough throughout the  
game, but (Webster's) ability  
to get offensive rebounds and  
drive the ball to the paint was  
the difference," said Claggett.

SLUH came out only  
looking at a four-point deficit  
to start the second half. Luck-  
ily, they were able to prevent  
any major scoring opportuni-  
ties in the first half by almost  
completely eliminating the  
three-ball.

To open second half play,  
Webster went on a 6-0 run  
and once again set the tone  
for the half. Claggett called a  
timeout to attempt to restore  
the young Jr. Bills team, but  
the game seemed to slip away  
even in the middle of the  
third quarter. Webster's of-  
fense began to pick up, as did  
SLUH's, but SLUH could not  
seem to get a rebound.

"It felt closer to the end,"  
said senior Eric Tice. "The  
huddles didn't end with the  
enthusiastic breakdowns that  
they usually did. It wasn't our  
night."

SLUH was only down six  
points to start what would be  
the final quarter of their sea-

son. Webster began to knock  
down three pointers and held  
all of the energy. Webster be-  
gan to dominate on offense  
and SLUH was unable to close  
the gap. Claggett pulled out  
his starters with just over a  
minute to play and SLUH  
dropped their final game of  
the season 41-29.

"We didn't look energetic  
throughout," said Claggett.  
"In a district game you must  
have great energy from start  
to finish because one game  
could end your season and I  
thought our guys didn't do  
that consistently."

SLUH finished with only  
17 rebounds and a mere 29  
points—the lowest point total  
they scored all season.

"Still, with the amount  
of youth and inexperience on  
this team, this was a great sea-  
son. 13 wins with our group  
laid the groundwork for a  
great season next year," said  
Claggett.

## Junior Bobby Conroy has dominant season; sets high expectations for 2020-2021 campaign

BY LUKE ALTIER  
CORE STAFF

Like so many other high  
school wrestlers, Bobby  
Conroy had only one goal  
for his junior campaign: to  
place at the State Tourna-  
ment in Columbia, MO. Having  
wrestled since early  
middle school, Conroy fi-  
nally reached his goal of  
placing at State this year,  
taking fourth in the State  
Tournament, as well as es-  
tablishing a dominant pres-  
ence in the 182-pound class  
by finishing the season with  
a 43-4 record.

"Practicing seven days  
a week and working when-  
ever I can has really helped  
me get better," said Conroy.  
"It (State) just felt like any  
other tournament, and it  
felt great to represent my  
school. I just have to be  
classy about everything I  
do and remember what and  
who I wrestle for."

Conroy won almost all  
of his matches this season.  
His trophy case has defi-  
nitely been filled, as he took  
first at the Patriot Classic,  
Fort Zumwalt East Invita-  
tional Tournament, the 53rd  
Annual Wrestling Tourna-  
ment at Vianney, and the  
Class 4 District Tourna-  
ment. He also finished in  
second place in the Eric  
Lewis MICDS Invitational,  
Route 141 Rumble, and the  
4th Annual King of the Jun-  
gle Tournament.

"At the 141 Rumble, I  
lost to a Northwest wrestler,  
which was one of my earliest  
losses," said Conroy. "I end-  
ed up seeing him in State  
and beating him, which felt  
good to come back and do."

Conroy has shown not  
only the SLUH community

but the state of Missouri  
that he can wrestle with  
the best in his class. He has  
made his motivations clear;  
he emphasized that it's all  
about "us over we."

"I wrestle for my school,  
my coaches, my teammates,  
and myself, in that order,"  
said Conroy. "I owe every-  
one a lot for where I'm at."

Conroy has had a lot

reer, I've had really intense  
coaches. Coach Nahlik is  
a great coach, and we've  
found a way to make it more  
comfortable and has made  
wrestling more enjoyable,"  
said Conroy. "He's been re-  
ally helpful as my coach,  
especially last year when he  
helped me push through my  
loss at districts."

Conroy also has a great

the long term game now. He  
is much more controlled of  
his emotions on the mat and  
sets the tone for the room,"  
said senior Kevin Flack.

Conroy has made it  
clear that his motivations  
for next year have slightly  
adjusted, and he is willing to  
put in all the work needed  
to get there.

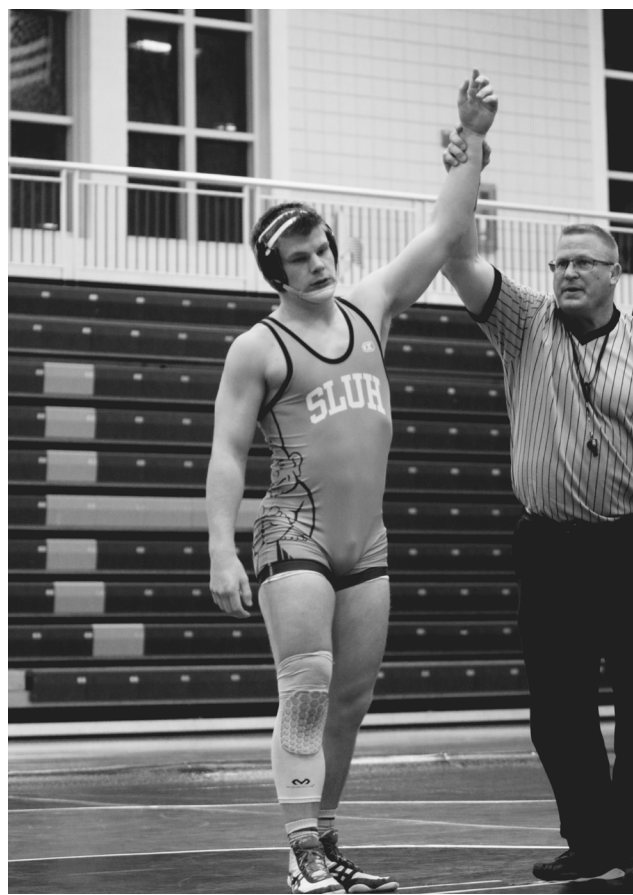
"The goal for me next  
year is obviously to make  
it to the championship. If  
I get there, I feel like I can  
compete with anyone," said  
Conroy.

Nahlik was ecstatic for  
Conroy this year at State,  
and knows he'll be a hard-  
nosed contender next year.

"He did an excellent  
job preparing his skills  
and his plan to go out and  
win matches against the  
best competitors in Mis-  
souri," said Nahlik. "We are  
all ecstatic about Bobby's  
achievement and so grateful  
for everyone that contrib-  
uted to the success SLUH  
wrestling had this postsea-  
son."

Looking into the future,  
Conroy looks to be a leader  
as well as a champion in his  
2020-2021 campaign. His  
goal has always been to be  
the best, and he came close  
this year.

"I'm just going to try to  
be a teacher, friend, and a  
disciplinarian," said Conroy.  
"I want to put everyone on  
the team in the same posi-  
tion I was in freshman year;  
I'm gonna be there to help  
when you're learning and  
I'm going to correct you and  
try to help you if you're not  
doing something right."



Junior Bobby Conroy.

photo | Mrs. Kathy Chott

of wrestling coaches, given  
that his wrestling career  
started when he was just be-  
ginning middle school. The  
chemistry that he shares  
with head coach Robert  
Nahlik is important to him  
as it has helped him contin-  
uously push himself to  
higher milestones with each  
season that he wrestles.

"All my wrestling ca-

relationship with his team-  
mates.

"Bobby's a great team-  
mate off the mat," said ju-  
nior teammate Will Co-  
vert. "He always lightens the  
mood but also knows when  
to get serious. He deserves  
to be the first SLUH placer  
in a while."

"This year was a big  
step for him. He is playing

## Rifle Team places second at state; will shoot for spot in Nationals

BY JACK RYBAK  
REPORTER

The St. Louis U. High ri-  
fle team placed second  
at the Missouri State Cham-  
pionship, losing 2287-2255.

The team was led by  
team captain Ryan Janson  
(Jr.) with a 574/600. Follow-  
ing Janson was junior Nick  
Storer (566), sophomore  
Sam Quinlivan (563), and  
sophomore Lauer Stix (552).

"Overall it was a good  
match. Varsity shot their  
second highest score of the  
year," said head coach Will  
Bresnahan. "The freshmen  
finished 13th out of 29."

Janson placed third  
overall, beating over 25  
other shooters. Junior Cole  
Stranczek's team placed

third with a 2228.

The shooters are now  
forced to qualify for Na-  
tionals through the regional  
matches on March 25 to 28,  
a much more difficult task.  
While official qualification  
scores have not been pub-  
lished, the shooters must  
place in the top 26 teams to  
go to Nationals.

Several weeks ago the  
rifle team shot in a Jr. Olym-  
pic qualification match. In-  
dividuals who scored high  
enough are invited to shoot  
in the Jr. Olympics, which  
can then lead to a place on  
the USA team. Janson and  
Stix both qualified for the Jr.  
Olympics and will be repre-  
senting SLUH in Colorado.



art | Jackson DuCharme



## Deves's Dynasty: Racquetball wins tenth national championship in a row

(continued from page 1)

a certain amount of points for winning a match, with the later and higher bracket matches earning a team more points. SLUH was able to win three of the six brackets, taking the No. 2, 4, and 5 brackets.

"I will fight to my grave on defending any misbelief that it's easy for the racquetball team to win because it's absolutely not," said coach Stephen Deves. "Just because we win every year, just because we've won a lot, does not mean it's easy, but that every year we win because the players work so hard because they put in the time to drill. They play in tournaments and intense matches. That's why we win: because we work for it."

Following a first round bye, senior Nick Schulze faced some of the nation's toughest competition in the No. 1 bracket, leading to a match in which he defeated Sam Healy from South Salem High school (Ore.) 15-6, 15-6. He went on to play Rory Lampe from Sprague (Ore.) one of SLUH's biggest competitors and put his heart and soul onto the court. With heavenly drive shots, he took Lampe to the tiebreaker but eventually lost 10-15, 15-5, 11-5.

From there, Schulze entered the Blue No. 1 bracket and first faced Atom Fjeldsted from Beaverton High (Ore.), winning 15-6, 5-15, 11-5. Following that already tough match, Schulze played a familiar player in the semis: Lindbergh's Edwin Miller. Schulze and Miller had an exhausting battle, both with quick passes and fast serves, but Schulze came out on top in the tiebreaker 9-15, 15-9,

11-9.

"Coach Kleinschmidt kept repeating this to me and it stuck: 'Good serve, bad return, and put it away,'" said Schulze. "Basically I just had to focus really hard on getting a good serve that forced a bad return so I could easily put down the ball with a pass or a pinch."

In the finals, Schulze played against Lafayette's Will Sherman in one of his most challenging matches yet. Both players put their heart and soul on the court, knowing it was their last match, with Sherman eventually coming out on top, winning 15-7, 15-10.

In the No. 2 bracket, SLUH's Andrew Porterfield was the No. 3 seed, giving him a bye in the first round. In the 16s, Porterfield's first match of the tournament was against Alex Hinds (Colo.), which he won 15-1, 15-0. Porterfield continued to sweep through the No. 2 bracket as he played Lindbergh's Nathan Elmo in the quarterfinals, winning 15-0, 15-3. Because of his percentage racquetball and powerful shots, Porterfield beat Chaminade's Adam Pendleton in the semifinals, 15-3, 15-8.

"My serves and my drive shots were really able to help me out," said Porterfield. "I think that might be the reason I got so far. They really saved me during the finals match too."

Porterfield was truly put to the test in his finals match. He appeared to be dominating the first game with his serves and shots, but his opponent, Cole Hartman (Minn.), began to fight back in the second match, taking them to the tie-

breaker. Porterfield won the match 15-9, 9-15, 11-2, making him the champion of the No. 2 bracket.

"(Andrew is) someone who drills frequently, who comes up on his own," said Deves. "He's someone who sees the court and is always thinking about what's the smartest shot to take. And he did that and that's what carries him through every single match."

Senior Tommy Phillips



Senior Kyle McEnergy. photo | courtesy of USA Racquetball

entered into the Gold No. 3 bracket as the No. 1 seed, giving him a bye first round. In the 16s, Phillips steamrolled Holden Koch (Colo.) with smart ceiling balls and placement, winning 15-2, 15-2. He faced a familiar opponent, Joe Hartrich from De Smet, in a tough match. Hartrich fought against Phillips' ceiling balls, but Phillips eventually came out on top 15-4, 15-10.

During the semis, Phil-

lips continued to play smart and hit outstanding shots, defeating Hunter Honkanen (Ore.) 15-4, 15-8. However, at this point, Phillips was putting in a lot of work in both his singles bracket and doubles bracket (partnered with Kyle Zoellner) to be able to dominate the way he was.

"Having to deal with fatigue and injury was my biggest challenge during the trip," said Phillips. "Especially with Nationals coming

Zoellner absolutely dominated the No. 4 bracket as the No. 1 seed with a bye first round and an easy 15-1, 15-5 win against De Smet's KC Toczykowski in the quarters. Zoellner is known for his smart and percentage play style, leading to another victory in the semis against Lindbergh's Jack Fredrickson with a score of 15-3, 15-4. In the finals, Zoellner battled against Parkway West's Adam Lancia, winning 12-15, 15-9, 11-7 with strong shots to the backhand corner.

"I have played that guy, Adam, since I was in JV3 and it was awesome to end my career playing such a great player who exhibits amazing sportsmanship," said Zoellner.

Champion of the No. 5 bracket Oliver Allen entered as the No. 2 seed and defeated Kirkwood's Tyler Kraichely 15-6, 15-9 in the 16s. He went on to play Cole Hansen (Ore.) and, with strong passes to the backhand, defeated him 15-3, 15-2. Allen kept up his smart play as he battled against Sprague's Justin Gonzalez, defeating him 15-6, 15-2.

Allen was given a run for his money in the finals match against Parkway West's Nio Hulén. But Allen's serves powered him all the way to a 11-15, 15-1, 11-8 victory.

"The wheel turns man," said Allen. "First game, it seemed everything was skipping in front of the wall. Second game, everything was rolling out."

The No. 6 bracket contained three of SLUH's varsity players: Danny Juergens, John Hilker, and John Prichard. Juergens, being the No. 1 seed, had a bye first round

and went to play Jason Wahl (Ore.) in the 64s, winning 15-1, 15-0. However, in the next round, Juergens was upset by SLUH sophomore Jared Thornberry and lost 15-12, 15-11.

Hilker entered the bracket with a bye as the No. 3 seed and played Sprague's Cole Youso in the 64 and handily defeated him 15-4, 15-0. Hilker continued his hot streak in the 32s, winning 15-6, 15-4 against Parkway West's Tristan Henschel, but unfortunately was injured in a tough match against SLUH freshman AJ Zepeda, who went on to tragically lose to the No. 6 bracket champion Sprague's Ian Bell.

Prichard also received a bye first round as the No. 7 seed and defeated Lindbergh's Cole Lilledahl 15-6, 15-7 in the 64s. Prichard faced a tough match in the 32s and lost in a tiebreaker to SLUH sophomore Will Shorey 10-15, 15-3, 11-6.

The SLUH team ended up playing a total of 241 matches, several of which went to a tiebreaker. After a long season of practicing and grinding, the seniors are all ready to rest for a few days, despite how much they will miss and be missed by the organization.

"All I'll say is I'm looking forward to enjoying retirement for a bit," said Phillips.

"I'm going to really, really miss this group," said Deves. "I love this group tremendously and I know they have set a reputation and a culture throughout the program that will continue and carry on for a long time."

## Tennis begins season as front-runners for state title after finishing second last year

BY VICTOR STEFANESCU  
CORE STAFF

The 2020 St. Louis U. High tennis team has large shoes to fill: their own. With all top-six starting varsity players returning, the Jr. Bills hope to follow up their second place state finish last year in a grand way.

The goal for the season is not to be humbled—the Jr. Bills want SLUH's first tennis state title since 2006.

"Obviously, our goal is to win state and get as many individual players to state as possible," said varsity coach Brian Kirk. "I think our strength is just being very talented from top to the bottom of the lineup. We will continue to work on our fundamentals and mental aspect of the game. We also want to continue to improve our doubles game."

In a larger sense, the Jr. Bills want to be the first team since that 2006 title without a "Rock" in its name—Rockhurst or Rockbridge—to win state. With a talented—and now, experienced—group of young guns, the team's goals are not so lofty.

"I mean, skill-wise we are there," said sophomore Gus

Tettamble—last year's varsity No. 1 seed. "Now, we just need to come together as a team, and prepare mentally for a season that's going to hold a lot of ups and downs. If we do that, then we are in good shape."

This season, the Jr. Bills are up to a few new challenges, the most daunting being the 2020 DecoTurf High School Team Championships. The tournament attracts the country's best, as 26 defending State Champion teams are set to participate. The Jr. Bills go into the tournament as newcomers, not having many expectations for it. They just hope that the championship will give them experience in the high-level matches that they are due to see in the State Tournament.

"DecoTurf Tourney is an excellent opportunity for varsity to play against elite competition from teams from 12 different states," said Kirk. "I think we will be very competitive in the tournament."

"I hope we gain a lot of confidence that we can compete with some of the best high school teams in the country, which will hopefully carry over to our regular season matches," said Tettamble.

In terms of regular season dual matches, the Jr. Bills hope to improve on last year's performances, which yielded inconsistent results. The team wants to establish a win streak quickly this year, and hopefully go undefeated to help build a bigger reputation for the team.

With matches early in the season against Ladue and Marquette—some of the strongest state competitors this year—the team will look to assert itself as the one to beat this year.

The team, albeit still young, with half the top of the lineup occupied by underclassmen, will look to capitalize on last year's 'get to know you' period. They hope to build a stronger team dynamic based on stronger moral support and team spirit.

"I just want us to have fun," said Tettamble. "The team is full of great tennis players, but also just great guys that love the sport. I am really excited for us. I can't wait to see how we do this year."

Tennis will start their season on March 25 when they face off against Lindbergh.

## Track prepares for new season after MCC championship

BY BLAKE OBERT AND  
PETER LABARGE  
SPORTS EDITOR, CORE STAFF

The St. Louis U. High track & field team returned to action this past Monday, beginning their campaign to protect last year's MCC title and to record impressive feats at State.

In preparation for the season, the coaches picked juniors Tilahun Murphy, Britt Nelson, and Daniel Salcedo and seniors Patrick Hayden, Noah Scott, Adam Mittendorf, Lucas Rackers, Solomon Elliot, and Lazarus Williams to be captains. These captains look to bring strong leadership to the team.

"I hope that we can be effective leaders for the team and try to be an encouraging figure to help my team members grow as athletes and people," said Mittendorf.

With the beginning of the season comes a big challenge to get the over 100 team members ready for their first meets of the year.

"Right now (our focal

point is) fitness," said head coach Joe Porter. "Some guys are out of shape, some guys have been training a lot over the winter, some guys were doing winter sports—they're probably in better shape than those that weren't—but we're gonna start with fitness and the foundational aspects of the events."

In order to get prepared for meets, the team looks at the importance of daily practices paying off later in the season. Individuals are focusing on getting better themselves and not focusing on their competition.

"We talk a lot about getting one percent better every day," said Porter. "One of the great things about track and field is that you don't have to measure yourself against other people, you can measure your own improvement in the event you compete in from week to week. Our goal is to focus on the process every day of getting better and then the results will take care of themselves. We're going to focus on individuals get-

ting better throughout the season and not competing against."

Even this early in the season, the team does have high expectations for many athletes, including Williams, who is the reigning State Champion in the 800-meter dash. Additionally, the team hopes to avenge last year's state runner-up finish to Kirkwood in the 4x800.

"I want to win State in the 800, and we should win State in the 4x800 as well," said Williams.

Despite hefty achievement goals for the season, the team wants to focus on strong teamwork.

"Our biggest goals are to be more of a team and work together as a team," said Williams. "We want to help bring each other up and help each other get better."



## The future of SLUH racquetball looks strong: several JV state championships, progress in the national brackets



Sophomore Max Telken.

photo | John Hilker

BY JARED THORNBERRY  
REPORTER

The future looks bright for St. Louis U. High underclassman racquetball, which captured state titles at the JV1, JV2, and JV3 levels. The JV teams are made up of mostly freshmen, sophomores, and juniors who vary from first time players to players with a couple years of experience.

"It not only shows that SLUH is very strong at competitive racquetball, it also shows that we have a lot of depth from the bottom to the top," said head coach Stephen Deves. "We've got a lot of young players who are ready to play at a higher level next year."

JV3 had many top contenders, including sophomore Ismael Karim, who went 30-0 during the regu-

lar season and won the No. 1 bracket at state.

"The JV3 season ended phenomenally," said sophomore Matt Windler. "We won four out of the six brackets in state with the other two getting second."

These players played every Saturday afternoon and would switch back and forth throughout the weeks between singles and doubles. Two freshmen, Max Adleman and Luke Danegggar, both finished their regular season matches with records of 24-3 and 24-6 respectively.

The JV1 team featured ten sophomores and two juniors. The JV1-1 team went a perfect 10-0 on the season and finished in first place. Not far behind, the JV1-2 team finished in second by just a few games.

The JV2-1 and JV2-2 teams had very strong seasons, both finishing strong at the end of the season.

"It was very good, and we saw massive improvements on every level. We started off slow but by the end of the season we saw massive improvements," said sophomore Joey Inserra.

JV2-1 ended up taking first place in their division and at State. When the 2020 National Racquetball Tournament came around, the team had everything in place to win another title.

Highlights included sophomores Ben Harmon and Clark Martin finishing in second place in the No. 3 bracket for doubles, sophomores Joey Inserra and Robert Naumann taking first place in the conso-

lation bracket for doubles, and sophomore Max Telken taking second place in the No. 6 gold singles bracket.

Martin finished first place in the No. 6 blue bracket and SLUH had three out of the four spots in the semifinal of the No. 6 gold singles bracket.

These underclassmen contributors helped SLUH win their 14th National Championship and tenth in a row.

"The SLUH racquetball program is in good hands for the coming years," said Deves.

## B-hockey finishes season strong; looks to make postseason run

BY JULIEN JENSEN  
CORE STAFF

St. Louis U. High's B-team hockey put together an impressive season with a record of 7-3-1 and a tie for sixth in the B-league conference, which includes 30 teams. With only one game left in the regular season, SLUH has scored 46 goals this season while letting in 35. The team looks to make a run in the postseason after finally hitting their stride at the end of the season.

"At the beginning of the season we started out good, but went through some ups and downs throughout the season due to inconsistent play," said freshman captain Grant McCormick. "We started to come together as a team and put in effort on a nightly basis which allowed us to string together a few games down the stretch."

The Jr. Bills started the season losing two of the first three games. The team looked rusty in those games, with some of the less experienced players getting the first real in-game tests of their careers. However, the first game was against Marquette, who is second in the league.

"We started out fine, but the new players were struggling a bit. Yet everyone had a drive to

get better from the beginning. Everyone quickly improved in the first month and every practice we get better and better," said McCormick.

Since the rough start, the Jr. Bills have put together an impressive run, winning six of their last eight games, with a tie and loss to Francis Howell, the best team in the league. Since January, the team has yet to lose a game, outscoring their opponents 17-9.

"As the season has progressed, the team has pulled out some great wins. This group has been able to beat teams that may have been more talented individually because they play well as a team," said head coach Sean Gallagher. "They have a lot to be proud of this year."

SLUH faces De Smet for the final game of the season on Sunday, March 8, and heads into the postseason after that.

"De Smet is a good hockey program, so the team knows they have a good game ahead of them," said Gallagher. "We won the postseason tournament last year, so every other team will be ready to give us their best effort, but that's nothing new for us. Everyone wants to beat SLUH, so we always know we have to give max effort every game."



Freshman Noah Nekic.

photo | Mrs. Kathy Chott

## C-White basketball fights hard all season long; finishes season 10-10

BY LOUIS CORNETT  
REPORTER

The White C-team basketball's season was a hard-fought adventure for all 20 games they played this winter. Never more than two games above or below the .500 mark, the freshmen of St. Louis U. High basketball displayed resilience, determination, and hard work to end the season at 10-10. Ending with the same amount of wins and losses does not seem impressive, but for C-team basketball it was.

Starting off the season struggling to score, the freshmen went 2-3 in their first five games while only scoring over 30 points in one game during that stretch. Winning required hard work on defense and a desire to improve on the offensive side of the ball.

"Defensively, we got better as the year went on, and offensively, we just became more consistent," said head coach Adam Cruz.

Although the C-team

began to perform well on both sides of the ball, injuries and other sport commitments caused Cruz to turn to his would-be bench players who now needed to become an essential part of the team.

"We had nine guys most of the time, and all of them started to play," said Cruz. "It was cool to see them rise to the occasion."

With every player on the team contributing points and minutes, the freshmen were able to stay healthy and in shape for most of the season. Being healthy, the C-team captured big wins against Westminster and De Smet.

In the game against Westminster, the C-team was up by three points with less than a minute to play. Westminster rattled off five shots in the last 30 seconds but were unable to score against the SLUH freshmen, who kept their composure and stayed strong defensively until the final buzzer.

The C-team's ability to

persevere through tough situations gave them their win against a gritty opponent in Westminster.

Along with their ability to push forward through adversity, the C-team fully demonstrated their desire for revenge and bouncing back when they faced De Smet in late January. Down 12 halfway through the third quarter, the C-team's hopes for the win against their Jesuit rivals seemed lost. Led by Harrison Freihoff, who scored 18 points off the bench, the C-team bounced back against their conference rival and won by 11 points.

"We tried to stick to what we were good at and each player stayed in his comfort zone," said freshman forward Garret Shearer, "and that's how we out-hustled and out-toughed all the other teams."

In a season defined by outplaying their opponents, the C-team almost reached their pinnacle of success when they played against

CBC with the conference title on the line. Left short-handed once again with their center Kenneth Kaid sick, the freshmen of SLUH came ready for the challenge. Playing with a small line-up, the C-team forced the game into overtime but was unable to convert a last second shot, which hit the rim and bounced out, ending the season as the runner up in the MCC with a 5-2 record.

That game against CBC in late February summed up the C-team's season this year. Always a fierce competitor due to their hard work and determined mindset, the C-team was usually in a game for all four quarters but was unable to capitalize on all of their opportunities during their 20-game season.

"No matter who we were playing, we always came out with the same intensity," said freshman guard Daniel Tice. "Whether we played the best team or the worst team, we played hard all season."



Freshman Garrett Shearer.

photo | Oliver Malone



## Around the Hallways

### National Latin Exam

Yesterday during Activity Period, myriad SLUH Latin students rushed into the theater after the tornado drill to take the National Latin Exam. The students were assigned tests based on their level of Latin and had 40 minutes to finish. Due to the time constraints, however, many students tested into third period. The highest turnout was by

the underclassmen; only one senior showed up to take the exam. Scores will come out in about a month.

### Medical Careers Club

Some members of the Medical Careers Club went to Saint Louis University's Department of Biomedical Engineering on Wednesday after school. They learned about the career of Biomed-

cal Engineering and toured the SLU's Biomedical Engineering Labs. Overall, it was a great learning experience for the students.

### Tornado Drill

Yesterday's activity period was filled with moans and groans at the announcement of a tornado drill for Missouri's Severe Weather Awareness Week. Despite constant shushing from teachers, many

students talked throughout the drill as they made their way to the basement, rec room, or spaces near the locker rooms. The drill was a success and over quickly, leaving the students with 25 minutes of activity period.

—Compiled by Jacob Sprock and Noah Apprill-Sokol

## Group of seniors win Academic World Quest; head to National Championship in Washington, D.C.

(continued from page 1)

Washington, D.C. on April 25.

The St. Louis University Academic WorldQuest is the regional qualifying event for 25 area teams fighting to qualify for the national competition. Over 7 rounds with 10 questions each, the teams answered questions in the categories Brexit and the EU, U.S.-Russia Relations, Country in focus: South Korea, Preventing Extremism in Fragile States, China's Belt and Road Initiative, Germany: 30 Years after the Berlin Wall, and Qatar and the Future of the Gulf Cooperation Council.

While SLUH has competed in the WorldQuest in the past, they haven't done so since Becvar came to SLUH in 2016, so when she found out about the event for the first time last month, she pounced on the opportunity to showcase her most qualified students' vast knowledge of world events.

"I don't remember ever knowing about (the Academic WorldQuest) before this year, but I saw that you could win a trip and I thought 'I have some really qualified students, so let's go for it,' said Becvar.

The SLUH team did not finalize its roster until Feb. 11 because of Becvar's late notice of the event, but over the last three weeks, the team has worked extra hard to make up lost time and master the in-

formation in the thick study guide packet provided by the organizers of the competition. Being involved all over the school in time-consuming activities like STUCO, track and field, *Prep News* and ACES left the four team members limited time to learn their assigned topics, but ultimately, the lack of time to prepare was a non-factor in the team's win.

"Even though I studied the materials for the categories I had chosen, I didn't do much research or prep work because it's a busy time of year and the turnaround period from selecting the team roster was rather short," said Butler, president of STUCO. "For better or for worse, we as a team all felt like amateurs going in. I don't know what we were expecting of ourselves or if we prepared as well as we could have, yet we still pulled off a win in SLUH's first year back in the competition."

Luckily, the four members of the SLUH team that competed were already well-prepared for the competition since they all read a lot about world affairs and current events, and with the quartet all being AP Comparative Government students who just completed units on the UK and Russia, the team felt even more comfortable on the categories concerning those two states. Another strong suit for the team was the Extremism in Fragile States cat-

egory, content which hasn't been covered in the class. The team's success in this category is a testament to how well-informed the group is.

"Our group did very well in the 'Preventing Extremism in Fragile States' and the 'Brexit and the EU' categories. Our performance in those gave us the boost we needed in the middle rounds of the competition once we had settled into the competition format," said Butler.

After the seven rounds of competition, the SLUH team tallied its score at 47. They didn't think they had a chance at the win because of what they saw as a low score compared to past teams that had won. SLUH was just hoping to place.

"I had no idea what to expect since I had never been to the event before," said Becvar. "But I knew that we had put in some work and that the group we had was great about keeping up with current events and is interested in all this anyway, so I knew they had a decent shot but had no idea about whether or not they would win."

When the second place team was announced as having scored 42/70, the SLUH team was shocked and realized what they had pulled off after just three weeks of preparing.

"At first, I was really surprised," said Friedrichs. "I

thought we had missed too many questions to be in consideration for winning, but when they announced second place and I realized that we had won, it was really awesome."

"I couldn't believe it," said Butler. "We had kept track of our score the entire night, but when lower scores were announced for both the third and second place teams, that's when it became real for us."

The team is elated to earn a free trip to D.C. for the championship and can't wait to prove themselves on such a big stage. The team will have more than double the amount of time to prepare for nationals as they did for the regional competition, so they are confident in their chances come April.

"I feel better than I did going into the St. Louis area competition," said Butler. "All of us on the team understand the format now and have time to review and familiarize ourselves with the materials. We're facing the best-of-the-best, but we'll be ready for them."

"I'm super excited for the national competition, both to represent SLUH and our region, but also to just enjoy D.C.," said Friedrichs. "It's an incredible city, and I can't wait."

### Friday, March 6 Regular Schedule

7:00AM First Friday Mass  
AP University of South Florida, Tampa  
Snack—Mozzarella Stick  
LUNCH Special—Shrimp Vegetarian—Grilled Veggie  
Senior Tux Fitting  
4:00PM Fish Fry

### Saturday, March 7

Freshman/Varisty Rifle/Ill. Precision Champ  
Rugby vs LaSalette  
7:00PM Mother/Son Trivia Night, Si Commons

### Sunday, March 8

1:00PM Ultimate Frisbee vs Edwardsville  
3:10PM Ice Hockey (B Team) vs DeSmet B  
7:00PM Mom Prom Dance Lessons

### Monday, March 9 Half Day Schedule

University of Nebraska at Lincoln  
St. Mary's University of San Antonio

### Tuesday, March 10 Exam Schedule

Math Exams  
Theology Exams  
PACES Meeting

### Wednesday, March 11 Exam Schedule

Social Studies Exams  
Science Exams

### Thursday, March 12 Exam Schedule

English Exams  
Foreign Language Exams  
Billz II Men  
5:30PM C Lacrosse at St. John Vianney  
5:30PM Rugby vs DeSmet

### Friday, March 13 No School

Spring Break  
Spring Sports District Assignments Announced  
Exam Make-up Day  
6:30PM Lacrosse (V/JV) vs Lexington Catholic

### Saturday, March 14

Spring Break  
2:30-6:00PM Lacrosse (V/JV) vs O'Fallon

### Sunday, March 15

Spring Break  
Immersion Trips  
1:00-3:00PM Ultimate Frisbee vs Vianney

### Thursday, March 19 No School

Spring Break  
Immersion Trips  
Rugby/Spring Break Trip  
11:00AM Second District Officer Appreciation Luncheon

### Friday, March 20 No School

Spring Break  
Immersion Trips  
1st Possible Contest for Spring Sports  
Rugby/Spring Break Trip  
6:00-8:00PM Lacrosse (V/JV) vs Memphis University

### Saturday, March 21

Spring Break  
Immersion Trips  
11:00AM-1:00PM Lacrosse (JV/V) vs Christian Brothers Tennessee

### Sunday, March 22

Spring Break  
Immersion Trips  
Rugby/Spring Break Trip  
1:00-3:00PM Ultimate Frisbee vs CBC

### Tuesday, March 24 Regular Schedule

Regular Schedule  
Baseball (B) Tournament vs Rockwood Summit  
9:39-10:24AM Sophomore Class Meeting  
4:30-5:30PM Volleyball (C) vs CBC  
5:00-9:00PM Lacrosse (V/JV) vs Eureka

### Wednesday, March 25 Regular Schedule

Regular Schedule  
Spring Pep Rally  
Baseball (B) Tournament vs Rockwood Summit  
Varsity Rifle/CMP Regional Champ  
4:00-6:00PM Track and Field (JV/C)  
4:00-7:00PM Tennis (JV/V) vs Lindbergh  
4:30-6:30PM Baseball (C) vs Collinsville  
5:00-7:00PM Lacrosse (Fr) vs Chaminade

### Thursday, March 26 Half Day

Half Day Schedule-Parent/Teacher Conferences  
Baseball (B) Tournament vs Rockwood Summit  
Varsity Rifle/CMP Regional Champ  
Freshman Rifle/Regional Championship  
3:30-6:00PM Golf (C) vs Vianney at Four Seasons  
3:30-6:00PM Golf (JV) vs Vianney at Tapawingo  
3:30-6:00PM Golf (V) vs Vianney at Forest Park

### Friday, March 27 Late Start

Baseball (B) Tournament vs Rockwood Summit  
DecoTurf Tennis Tournament (V)  
Freshman Rifle/Regional Championship  
Varsity Rifle/CMP Regional Champ  
11:00AM-1:00PM Mix-It-Up Lunch  
4:45-6:45PM Basketball (C) vs CBC

## Prep News

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## Credits

### “What are you doing over Spring Break?”

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