

Prep News

"If nothing else, value the truth"

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PHOTO BY TED WIGHT

Ace pitcher Author (junior Jordan Bollwerk) gives Bruce (junior Christian Probst) a pep talk before a big game in the New York Mammoths' locker room. Bruce, a third-string catcher, has Hodgkin's disease, a terminal illness, and Author tries to get Bruce through his last season. The Dauphin Players' Bang the Drum Slowly premieres tonight and will have performances Saturday at 7 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m.

Hellwig plans independent Mexico trip

BY ZACH RAUSCHENBACH
REPORTER

Senior Luke Hellwig is planning a seniors-only mission trip to Reynosa, Mexico, to ensure that the relationship which was established through several years of St. Louis U. High's involvement in Reynosa's colonia is continued. The group will not be going as a SLUH-sponsored group but will make the trip as an independent mission group working through the organization Strategic Alliance, which coordinated SLUH's Mission: Mexico trips in the past.

According to Principal John Moran, the St. Louis U. High-sponsored mission trip during spring break will definitely not be going back to Reynosa this year, and SLUH is exploring other opportunities for service trips. Drug trafficking has been a large problem for the past few years in Reynosa, and mounting fears about safety have swayed SLUH not to go back.

Strategic Alliance, which does mission work in different parts of Mexico throughout the year, is the organization which SLUH has worked through since spring 2006. Led by organization leader Roland Ashby, Strategic Alliance does work building and repairing homes in Mexico.

Hellwig wrote a letter to the editors in see REYNOSA, 7

ACES hosts revamped Middle School Night

BY JOE KLEIN
STAFF

As part of an effort to increase applications to St. Louis U. High, members of the Association for Cultural Enrichment at SLUH (ACES) hosted a Middle School Night last Friday to work on St. Louis Public Schools (SLPS) students' exposure to SLUH.

Roughly 120 visitors attended this year, approximately half of whom were middle school students.

The night was directed exclusively at students attending local public schools, a demographic that, according to Assistant Principal Chip Clatto, SLUH has placed less emphasis on in the past.

"We want to open up to more students; we want to have a lot of applicants, a lot of highly qualified kids that want to SLUH regardless of that background," said Clatto.

ACES began the night with a pizza dinner for all attendees, who then listened to a presentation by Clatto before going on tours of the campus led by members of ACES and of the JV Football team. Those who stayed were given the opportunity to attend the SLUH-Chaminade football game afterward.

"It's the community engagement part of what we're trying to do here, providing opportunities for kids that normally wouldn't have access to high school games and so forth," said Clatto.

Linhares to be inducted into Track & XC Hall

BY ERIC MUETH
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

After 25 years of coaching cross country and six years of coaching track and field, Assistant Principal for Mission Jim Linhares will be inducted into the Missouri Track and Cross Country Coaches Association (MTCCCA) Hall of Fame in December. Linhares will have a place among 137 other Missouri high school coaches and athletes who comprise the Hall of Fame.

Linhares was nominated by an unknown source earlier this year and was placed

on the ballot by the president and four vice presidents of the MTCCCA. This past Friday, the MTCCCA notified Linhares that he had been selected as a member of the induction class of 2010 based on the voting results from all Missouri high school track and cross country coaches. Each year's induction class typically includes around five members.

"Getting this award sort of feels a little

bit like reminding me that (coaching) days are behind me, so there's a little bit of something bittersweet in it. But certainly much more significant than that is just feeling grateful that I have been able to (coach) for so many years and love it," said Linhares.

Cross country and track coach Tom Flanagan, who worked with Linhares for 19 years in cross country, said, "If he was nominated for the coaches' Hall of Fame, there was no reason for him not to be inducted because he's got all those years of success on lots of different levels."

"Obviously, I wasn't surprised," said

PHOTO BY FR. JON LAN TRAN



Jim Linhares announces at this year's Forest Park XC Festival.

head cross country coach Joe Porter. "The caliber of program that he has run for 25 years as head coach—this is a course that should have been expected, in the way that he ran the program as a first-class thing."

"To have the coaches who decide about these things decide that I get this honor—well, that's a pretty cool thing. I was very grateful for it."

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targeted especially by SLUH.

Although the admissions department was not involved in the planning of this event, Clatto stressed that it shares a common goal of trying to increase admission applications from these subgroups; however, this Middle School Night was planned solely out of Clatto's office.

"We admit students regardless of their ethnic background, where they live, their geographic location, or their socioeconomic background," said Schmelter.

Schmelter and Clatto both noted that this night was not held as a response to any potential decrease in applications. A similar Middle School Night has been held in past years, but on a much smaller scale; only six students attended last year's event.

"This is nothing new," said Schmelter. "As a school, we're always trying to get out our message of who we are, all the time."

"You always want more, but this is a good first step," said Clatto, whose goal was "just to get the word out in the St. Louis community about SLUH even more than it already is."

Although the effects will not be known until November, when the pool of applicants is finalized, Clatto felt that the endeavor will be seen as successful.

"I think it was a really good effort on our part," said Clatto. "We got a lot of wonderful feedback from some parents."

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SPORTS

XC sixth at Palatine, Rackers stars
SLUH ventured to Palatine to take on some of the top Illinois talent. Senior Tim Rackers ran a record 14:55 in the three-mile race. Page 6

Football picks apart Griffins
The offense scored 45 points in the first half, and junior receiver Stefan Sansone set a receiving record in the 52-20 win. Page 5

NEWS

Henry to be deployed to Kandahar
The war in Afghanistan hits home as Danny Henry, '05, is scheduled to be deployed to lead a platoon in Kandahar province. Page 4

Service programs at other schools
Giving back to the community is part of the mission of any Jesuit high school. How does SLUH compare to other schools? Page 2

OPINION

Letter: Forum was one-sided
The ACES Forum last week, billed as an open discussion, presented only one perspective, failed to live up to the spirit of debate. Page 3

Notebook: What is home?
Discovering what home and history really mean in the face of moving on. Page 3

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said CSP coordinator Nick Ehlman. "Now, there is nothing as formal as like, 'Here we are having (reflection) in theology class' or we're having a paper due, and which I think we need to be better (about). Let's write a paper about the service you did. Let's reflect about it. Let's give a presentation."

After completing the Ignatian Service requirements, St. Joseph's students can continue to do service through the daily trips to Philadelphia organizations.

St. Peter's Preparatory

St. Peter's Preparatory in Jersey City, N.J., has an extensive Christian Service program, and St. Peter's provides examples for what SLUH's CSP could look like with more extensive service requirements.

Interestingly enough, St. Peter's service program is essentially the reverse of SLUH's program: St. Peter's freshmen, sophomores, and juniors have service requirements but seniors do not.

Freshmen at St. Peter's Prep complete about 20 hours of service. As part of a new program, freshmen go out with their respective homerooms on weekends, and then reflect on their experiences at school.

St. Peter's sophomores are required to attend a service retreat with their homeroom. During the retreat, sophomores will feed the homeless at a local shelter, volunteer at a food bank, and visit senior citizens.

"It's been really successful. This (retreat) allows us to satisfy service requirements and it gives them the opportunity to process service work as it is happening," said Christian Service Director Ryan Heffernan. "The sophomores really, really have enjoyed this. It's probably one of the best changes we've made in the past few years to the Campus Ministry program."

While SLUH already has the CSP Retreat, it can only take a limited number of students. A larger service retreat is being considered at SLUH, and is a possibility for the sophomore retreat, a retreat that has been revamped many times.

"We have talked about ideas like that before and hopefully in the future we will have something similar," said SLUH retreat director John Lan Tran, S.J. "I think all service programs must have a reflection component to them, and a service retreat is one of the best ways to do it."

The Christian Service requirements of St. Peter's juniors resemble SLUH's Senior Project. Juniors must volunteer for 60 hours with people who are materially poor or marginalized in some way. The 60 hours can be completed through summer immersion trips like Urban Challenge or trips to West Virginia and Ecuador or through 60 hours of local service. Juniors are required to reflect on their service experiences.

"We have it junior year purposely because we have found that having the climactic experience of Christian service in the junior year allows them to come back senior year as pure leaders," said Heffernan.

"I think (junior year service project) also helps us build better relationships with our friends and also with people we are just meeting for the first time," said St. Peter's junior Colin McNamara, who attended Urban Challenge for his junior service.

Creighton Preparatory High School

According to CSP coordinator Simonie Bieber, Creighton Preparatory High School in Omaha, Neb., has one of the most impressive high school service programs, and she looks at Creighton Prep's program as part of CSP's dream for the future because of its fantastic freshman and sophomore programs. All Creighton Prep freshmen, with their big brothers from the senior class, are required to participate in a service day and are also required to complete two hours of service together.

"(The freshmen) don't do a whole lot of service, but I think it is kind of nice for the seniors to introduce the freshmen to the service work," said Creighton Prep Christian Service and Social Justice Director Dave

Lawler.

Ehlman thinks it is a great idea when upperclassmen complete service with freshmen. While he is unsure if senior advisors have done service with their advisees in the past, Ehlman is definitely open to the idea.

The sophomores of Creighton Prep go through a program that Bieber has described as "absolutely fantastic." Each Friday, ten sophomores and one faculty member are excused from classes in order to volunteer at a homeless shelter. The next week, sophomores reflect on their experiences in their theology classes.

"I think that the students have quality experiences and the experiences have an impact on them," said Lawler. "I think it's a good fit for our school in particular."

CSP is especially impressed with this part of Creighton Prep's program, as it places students in the community weekly and requires the students to think about the disadvantaged frequently. Yet SLUH's CSP realizes that this program has very difficult logistics.

"I know that we currently don't have the resources to make something like that happen, but I feel something like this should be on our dream list," said Bieber.

Creighton Prep juniors have to complete 20 hours of service through their semester-long Catholic social teaching class.

Though seniors at SLUH are the only students with service requirements, Creighton Prep has no service requirements for seniors, though seniors can take an Awareness Workshop, where they are granted two release periods three days a week and visit the same work site each time.

One final notable item about Creighton Prep's service program is that whenever a student does service, he is also required to reflect on it.

"We require reflection for whenever they are doing service, because I think it ties into Ignatian spirituality that they need to reflect on their experiences," said Lawler. "One of the characteristics of the Grad at Grad is committed to doing justice, and I think it is hard to get to be committed to doing justice unless you're taking time to digest what bigger change you need to make."

Mandatory Service

SLUH still has not mandated service for any class but seniors. Other Jesuit high school ministers have mixed feelings about mandatory service, believing that it comes with pros and cons.

"I started seven years ago and I definitely had major reservations about (mandatory service) then," said St. Joseph's Deitch. "It's become more mixed since I started. I see students who only do the hours because of the requirement and then have profound experiences that impacted them and change their lives. And I've also seen students who have no interest in doing service. And (I ask myself), are we doing a disservice to these service sites because (those students) do not want to do service? I don't know the best way to do service. I do know, though, that I have seen people transformed through service."

"There are very few schools without a mandatory service component. We appreciate it being mandatory because a lot of our students at first go into it hesitantly," said St. Peter's Heffernan. "At first, they go into it not wanting to take part in the experience, and I think, given the choice, a number of students would opt to sleep in on a Saturday. Then they go on the experience, and come back for the better and grateful that they did it. And then look to do it voluntarily the following year."

"I think you need to make some service mandatory, but if you mandate too much service it turns kids off," said Creighton Prep's Lawler. "I think sometimes quality is more important than quantity. I think incorporating reflection and spirituality into it is more important than the number of hours they complete. I think you have got to get some kids' foot in the door and that leads to good things."

REYNOSA

(from 1)

the Prep News last week, calling for SLUH to return to Reynosa for the spring break service trip.

Hellwig's letter caused many reactions throughout the SLUH community. PE teacher Patrick Zarrick approached Hellwig to express a shared desire to return to Mexico.

"I have a personal relationship with the people in the colonia that makes the experience of helping that specific group more meaningful and fulfilling," said Zarrick.

Moran empathized with Hellwig's letter, but continues to favor a trip to another area in need.

"I thought it was an impassioned (letter) and an impassioned plea from someone who has been to Mexico," said Moran. "I'm not surprised. In fact, I think it would be more surprising if he didn't feel that way. In some ways he wouldn't have gotten the point of why we were there."

However, Moran said that based on information from Strategic Alliance, a trip to Mexico would not be safe.

"For the time being, the sense is that (Reynosa) is not safe," said Moran.

Moran also stressed the potential of a service trip to another location.

"I hope there isn't the assumption that because we're not going to Mission Mexico, everybody should just stay home. Let's get excited about some of the places that we can go and do service as opposed to finding alternate ways to do a trip that right now we don't feel comfortable doing."

Among the places that Moran cited as possible locations for a SLUH mission trip were Costa Rica and the Appalachian Mountains.

However, Moran said that if the group interested in going back to Reynosa acts on its own, the decision of whether or not to go is up to those individuals.

"If the trip is not going to be associated with SLUH, who am I to be deciding?" Moran said.

Though few have committed to going back to Mexico besides Zarrick, Hellwig said there is significant interest in the trip.

Hellwig is currently planning to limit

the trip to legal adults, meaning that only seniors who are 18, parents, and faculty could go. He will take a minimum amount of 11 volunteers, as that is the least amount of people that have built one house on Mission: Mexico trips in the past.

Hellwig has not yet contacted Strategic Alliance and therefore does not know Strategic Alliance's requirements for adult leadership. Hellwig knows of four adults who are interested in making the trip with the group, including his father, Frank Hellwig.

Zarrick said he believed there were several reasons why the trip last year became more dangerous. Last year's incident occurred around 4 a.m., as the group was returning to the United States; in the future, Zarrick believes that it would be better to leave after the last workday, and cross the border in the early evening. This strategy is different from last year's, when Ashby led the mission workers across the border in the middle of the night.

Zarrick said, "Elements out at three o'clock are much different than the elements out at five p.m. in the afternoon."

He continued, "Having a strong security background, I think that the threat level was only noticeable when crossing from Mexico into the United States. It was not noticeable on hotel premises. It was not noticeable to and from the colonia. With a few changes we can decrease the risks significantly."

Among those changes, Zarrick cited the use of walkie talkies as a major factor in increasing safety. Last year, the adult leaders carried and used walkie talkies throughout the week, but before crossing the border they returned them to Ashby. Also, Zarrick cited the need for some type of markings on the vans to identify the group as a service-oriented team.

"We need magnetic signs promoting our mission work," said Zarrick.

Of the potential dangers of the trip, Hellwig said, "I'm not going to act like there aren't any risks in going. But I've always felt that the violence isn't aimed at Americans. I don't think we are going to be targeted. The risk of being there is outweighed by the good that we can do there."

LINHARES

(from 1)

Linhares said.

Linhares helped build the cross country program into a state powerhouse, but he gives most of the credit to the runners themselves.

"I think the guys did the most promoting, because they had a great time and they took great care of each other and supported each other and really threw themselves into it and made it fun," he said.

In addition, Linhares did his part to promote cross country, and, later, track, and increase the level of respect for those sports, making sure the team was covered in local newspapers, recognized during pep rallies, and more visible in the hallways.

The main coaching philosophy that Linhares offered was his view of every athlete as an equal. "I tried to ask every athlete, the fastest to the one with the slowest time, to give me everything that he had and put his team in front of himself," said Linhares.

According to Porter, Linhares had the mentality "that winning isn't as important as developing character, not that winning isn't something that we want to strive and do."

This philosophy, most believe, led to the success of the team. In addition to leading the cross country team to three cross country State championships, Linhares was able to lead the track team to a State championship in 2006.

"Nobody ever thought SLUH would win a track title," said Flanagan, noting that Linhares knew how to convert a very talented team into a successful one.

Linhares said his coaching strategy was to "make sure you put high expectations out there, but then let them know you're really

paying attention and supporting everything that they do."

"Not only was he a great coach for cross country and track, but also really took time to help the personal growth of all the runners," said senior runner Alan Ratemann.

Junior runner Jimmy Griffard said, "Simple phrases like 'Keep your cadence,' 'Look at the top of the hill,' or 'This is where you start your kick,' helped about every runner maintain focus during those hard parts of the race."

In good times and bad, Linhares showed support for the team and all of the athletes and helped to focus on the positives.

Porter said, "He's been well-respected across the state for the way that he treats his athletes, the way he treats the fellow coaches."

Jeff Scott, a new SLUH cross country coach and the MTCCCA president until December, said, "I've watched him for so many years and I love what he's done with all of the SLUH athletes."

He added, "He's a first ballot Hall of Famer so that kind of says a lot."

Linhares' induction will take place on Dec. 10 in Columbia, Mo. The induction is part of a conference that focuses on "raising the intelligence level and the performance level of the state of Missouri" in track and field and cross country, according to Scott. The conference includes a luncheon, the induction ceremony and speeches, a social hour, and a series of presentations and guest speakers from all over the country to speak about cross country and track.

Linhares said, "I don't want to talk long, but I'll mostly just want to say thank you."