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Lyons '04 talks about being on front lines of COVID-19

BY ROARKE UNRAU
REPORTER

As the fight against COVID continues, many doctors are called into action. All over the world doctors are doing everything they can to help people. In St. Louis, doctors are giving out tests daily. One doctor, Dr. Patrick Lyons, Class of 2004, is now doing everything he can to help his patients.

After graduating in 2004, Lyons remembers SLUH fondly. He remembers some of the friends he's made, and even keeps in touch with a few. He also remembers the workload throughout his four years.

"I still have a lot of close friends that I made in freshman homeroom and freshman classes, carried all through four years, and even time since then. I've kept in touch with a handful of my teachers since then, and I still hold a lot of them as the best educators that I've had in terms of challenging me to think critically, challenging me to write effectively, and to always be self-examining and self-reflective," said Lyons. "I think in a lot of ways I credit my SLUH experience and education with helping form a lot of who I am today as an adult."

At SLUH, Lyons—the brother of current math teacher Tracy Lyons—learned a lot about working hard and how to manage his time, but he didn't know what this would lead to until he was in college whilst shadowing doctors and seeing what their jobs were like was when he realized that he wanted to become a doctor. Lyons is thankful for many teachers at SLUH who taught him at a high level, and prepared him for the notoriously difficult medical school, including

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Junior Chris Brooks catching a touchdown pass while double teamed. (article on page 6)

photo | Vic Lewchenko

Board of Trustees welcomes two new members, Coleman and Huete

BY NATHAN RICH
CORE STAFF

St. Louis U. High welcomed Fr. Francis Huete S.J. and Kwofe Coleman, '01 to the Board of Trustees this past summer, and although the two men could not be more different, they are now both united by their devotion to the U. High.

Even though most students couldn't name a single Board member, SLUH's Board of Trustees is essential to their education. From overseeing economic and fundraising decisions to organizing student equality initiatives, the SLUH Board affects each and every student. As a result, the SLUH Board requires a multitude of diverse perspectives.

Huete, a graduate of a Jesuit high school himself, has been a Jesuit for 50 years, and a large part of that time has been spent in schools like SLUH. He currently serves as the Socius, or the companion, to the Provincial of the Jesuit's Central and Southern Province. Although he is now based in St. Louis, it's not a place he knows very well. Up until January of last year, Huete had lived and worked at Jesuit schools all throughout the South, in cities like Dallas and New Orleans.

"I hadn't really been to St. Louis, but I had heard of SLU High because it's very old," Huete said. "I actually haven't been on campus that much but when the pandemic ends I hope to go to see it and get a greater sense of what goes on at SLUH."

Huete also brings the experience of having served for decades in school administration.

"(Huete has a) wonderful background in education. He's a tremendous resource for us as a former Jesuit administrator," said president of SLUH Alan Carruthers. "It's great to have him and his insight into the province, as a leader within the Jesuits."

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Poll: Students, teachers, and faculty speak out about COVID safety and full return on Nov. 30

BY CARTER J. FORTMAN AND
JACOB SPROCK
EDITOR IN CHIEF, NEWS EDITOR

The Prep News sent out the second survey of the 2020-21 school year last Thursday, Nov. 5 asking students about their confidence in St. Louis U. High's safety programs as the school prepares to return to full in person schooling on Nov. 30 and their satisfaction with hyflex

learning.

The first survey, taken Sept. 5, analyzed satisfaction with full distance learning and confidence in the current hyflex model, where half of students in either the Ignatius (last names A-L) and Xavier (last names M-Z) were on campus for four days while the other half remained online. Results showed a high level of confidence in the polled group about the safety measures be-

ing taken in the hyflex model.

It is important to note that the results of each poll may not reflect the views of the school as a whole. Despite nearly a third of the school responding, there is an inherent response bias that comes with emailing a poll because those with stronger opinions may be more inclined to respond to the email. The results of the poll are available at the bottom of the article, but they can only

be used to reflect the views of the 324 respondents, not the entire school population.

With a surge of new cases in the United States and record-setting case numbers in Missouri in the past few weeks, many students and faculty feel less safe about returning to school completely in person following the Thanksgiving break.

Despite overwhelming

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Cross Country snags second place finish as historic season comes to an end

BY NOAH APPRILL-SOKOL,
PETER JAMES
NEWS EDITOR, REPORTER

It has been a rollercoaster ride for the Saint Louis U. High cross country program this fall, but at last, the 2020 cross country season has come to a close with a surprising second place finish at the 71st annual Missouri State Meet.

Last Saturday, the SLUH racers ran in Columbia, Mo. at the Gans Creek course, the second time that the State Meet has been hosted there.

The race conditions were perfect, and personal records were sure to be broken. Unlike the course in Sullivan last week, this course was fast. It hardly narrowed down, keeping the race from bottlenecking, and the wide turns gave the runners ample opportunity to accelerate throughout.

In the first kilometer, everyone went out fast and hard. The top guys ran 3:03 for the first kilometer, which converts to a 15:15 5K. The SLUH pack trailed by only four seconds

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Baker Pashea leading the pack.

photo | Mr. Brian Gilmore

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Retreat week

COVID can't stop Campus Ministry, team makes important changes to keep Thanksgiving week retreats alive. Page 2

NEWS

Day of the dead

Gone but not forgotten: Aliste's Day of the Dead memorial brings more than just a pop of color to library, offers students the chance to remember loved ones. Page 2

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Thanks to SLUH English

From *The Odyssey* to *The Road*, SLUH English has left a mark on Sam Tarter, who pauses to recognize those who have inspired him at SLUH. Page 2

OPINION

Where's the middle ground?

COVID is scary and stressful. Now, students are carrying even more anxiety as they anticipate the total return, leaving Nathan Rich to lament the loss of middle ground. Page 4

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Football

After coming tantalizingly close to a victory, Football ends their shortened season with loss to Lindbergh; offense keeps game close. Page 6

SPORTS

Swimming

Coming off of their 10th straight MCC Conference victory, SLUH swim and dive prepare to splash into competition at state, seeking a third straight state title. Page 6

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SLUH XC outperforms expectations, take second place at State Meet

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off of the leaders, but with the multitude of racers up front, the team was still only in seventh place.

"I think a lot of people at the start of the race freaked out and went too fast at the beginning," said senior Daniel Hogan. "Coach Porter said to us on Thursday that we should look at this race as just another 5K, and I think we did a really good job taking this to heart. We ran our own race and not getting caught up in the excitement of the state meet."

"I was not too concerned about being in seventh place at the first kilometer," said head coach Joe Porter. "I knew that everybody went out really fast, and I am proud of the guys for keeping calm and running their own race."

Despite the slower start, SLUH proceeded to do what they had been training for all season: move up. While many racers began to fade, the SLUH pack continued to take place through the middle mile. They were fifth at the second kilometer and fourth at the third.

"Going into the race, we knew that it would go out fast so our plan as a team was to stay calm through the first mile and then start to push it in the next two miles," said junior Sean Kellogg. "I think as a team we had a slow start, but we moved really well through the race especially in the second mile and put ourselves in a good position."

In the fourth kilometer, SLUH took the lead over Rock Bridge by a narrow margin of two points. Unfortunately, all of the moving up had taken



Photo | Mr. Brian Gilmore

its toll on the SLUH contingent. Over the final kilometer they could not capitalize on the momentum of the second and third kilometers, and the team had to settle for second.

"We had a narrow lead at the 4K, and I thought that we might pull out the first place finish when I saw the results," said Porter. "They were gaining places up to this point, and I thought that it might continue through the last kilometer. But, all moves will eventually have a toll, and for us, it was in the final kilometer. They still ran an incredible race, and I am very excited for them."

For many, the second place result came as a surprise. SLUH graduated five of the top seven last year and

only two of this year's state racers had run at the State Meet previously. According to MO milesplit, SLUH was not predicted to get second, and according to the virtual meet, they were expected to finish between third and fifth.

"We weren't projected to finish first or second going into the race so there was no reason to not to take risks as a team," said Kellogg. "I think we raced very smart that day and did an amazing job of running with each other and pushing each other, especially in the second half of the race, leading to a great day for all of us."

Impressively, SLUH managed to take second despite having no runners in the top 26 spots of the race. Instead,

they relied on teamwork, closing their one to five gap to just 15 seconds, its smallest gap of the season.

"We were definitely the topic among conversations for Missouri coaches after the race yesterday. It is rare for a team to win in the top three in state without having a runner in the top 25," said Porter. "I don't think that during my time coaching that this has ever happened."

Junior Grant Brawley led the charge in the 27th spot, and was followed by senior Ryan Kramer (29th), junior Baker Pashea (42nd), senior Hayden Zenor (45th), junior Sean Kellogg (46th), junior Justin Glass (57th), and senior John Hogan (60th). SLUH captured second place

with 125 points, falling behind the state champion Rock Bridge High School who had a score of 109 points. SLUH was ahead of the third place team Liberty High School by only 11 points.

"We could not have imagined being that close to winning at the beginning of the season, and I couldn't be more proud of my teammates," said Pashea. "At every point of the race, there was another SLUH guy near me pushing me to go faster. The amount of progress our varsity team was able to make this year is incredible."

This second place victory is not the first for SLUH cross country. It is part of a long history of successes at the state meet. Since 1999, SLUH

has finished runner-up six times and has finished first five times. This year's second place finish marks the third consecutive time the SLUH has finished second, a streak that was started in 2018.

"I think it shows the depth of our program and the key values of what we are all about," said Reed Milnor, '18, who was part of the second place team in 2018. "We are a team program and we have a tradition that continues and never graduates. I am just so excited for the guys, the coaches, and for all the XC guys. It is great to see from afar the tradition continuing."

Despite SLUH's long program history of success, for Porter, this second place finish is quite special.

"Each year is unique, and this year was very different," said Porter. "There are teams where you have superstars or teams where you have tight packs. This team really came together well with dealing with a pandemic and uncertainty. I think that this makes this second place victory particularly special."

In the end, even though only seven students ran for SLUH, the second place finish represents the entire cross country program.

"I think that it is important to think about when looking at this second place performance is that it is not just a success for the top seven on the line or even the top ten that got to travel to state," said Porter. "It is a victory for all 84 of our cross country runners. We are a program, not a team. This is a program victory, not a team victory."

SLUH soccer looks at ups and downs of shortened season



Photo | Mrs. Kathy Chott

BY LOUIS CORNETT
CORE STAFF

In a season like no other in the 1202 years of SLUH's existence, the varsity soccer team finished its 2020 season with a record of 5-6. Starting their season over a month delayed, the Jr. Bills overcame the adversity of the pandemic to string together a handful of resilient performances. After a 4-0 start, SLUH came into October looking like a powerful state contender. But four of the team's six losses were just a Jr. Bill goal away from being sent into OT, including their heart-breaking loss to Chaminade on Halloween which knocked them out of the State Tournament.

Even though the Jr. Bills' season ended earlier than they would have liked, there were still plenty of bright spots during their 11 games. Freshman

standout Grant Locker provided an offensive boost to the varsity squad in his first year, scoring four goals.

"My favorite memory from this season was our game against Vianney where I scored the winning PK," said Locker.

Against Vianney on Oct. 8, SLUH toppled their first MCC rival of the season. Tied 2-2 through regulation, the game went into two 10-minute overtime periods. Still tied through the two periods, the Jr. Bills' third game of the season went into PK's. Junior Stephen Saladin, senior Adam Wolfe, senior Jacob Hammond, junior Evan Yalaharthi, and Locker all converted their shots into goals, and SLUH came out on top 3-2. As they demonstrated in that performance, the Jr. Bills were a force to be reckoned with no matter whom they were playing.

"We were absolutely able to

play with everybody in every game," said varsity head coach Bob O'Connell. "We were just missing a few of the final pieces."

With 10 varsity players returning next year, O'Connell is hoping to add to their core group of players with new additions from the underclassmen.

"Our young players are good players," said O'Connell. "That's a good thing. Hopefully the rest of the group, the juniors on the JV will also contribute next year."

Returning players are also looking forward to next year, one they hope has a sense of normalcy.

"We had a pretty young team this year, so next year I look forward to seeing many skilled players returning," said Yalaharthi. "And I hope that we can make it even further in State."

Racquetball starts season Friday; varsity seeds named

BY JARED THORNBERRY
REPORTER

The Saint Louis U. High varsity racquetball team will open its season against Lindbergh on Friday. After many challenge matches and weeks of ladder play, the teams were finally confirmed and emails were sent to players on Monday.

With loss of six Varsity-1 seniors last year, five juniors and one senior have been added to the team. Returning seniors Danny Jurguens (No. 1) and Oliver Allen (No. 2) were announced as the top seeds after many back and forth challenge matches for the No. 1 spot. Juniors Max Telken (No. 3), Jared Thornberry (No. 4), Danny Phillips (No. 5), and Will Shorey and Ben Har-

mon (doubles team) were among the underclassmen added to the varsity team, and Nick Peterson (seed No. 6) was the only newly-added senior.

"This year in particular our varsity fell into place rather nicely," said head coach Stephen Deves. "Our JV-1 and JV-2 spots were a little more challenging because there were some of the JV-2 guys that could compete with the JV-1 guys and we like to offer these challenge matches to allow players to face off against each other."

Not only was the Varsity-1 team announced to all of the players this past Monday, but the Varsity-2, JV 1-1, JV 1-2, JV 2-1, and JV 2-2 teams were revealed. Seniors Sam Kleffner, Daniel

Klarsch, Tad Banker, Brendan Carr, Owen Cooney, Anthony Solari, and Andrew Loeffelman all earned a spot on the Varsity-2 team.

For most of the JV teams, the juniors occupy most of the spots with a few freshman and sophomores. Freshmen Nick Ferrari, Jack Mackey, and Andrew Peterson were among the underclassmen who earned a spot on a JV team.

"The awesome thing about our team is that we have so many people who want to play racquetball," said Deves. "There are many qualified players and makes our decisions difficult and I think since racquetball is an individual sport, it offers guys the opportunity to allow the players to earn the spot they are looking for."

If you are interested in writing, photography, or art for the Prep News, email prepnews@sluh.org.