



## At a Glance

**NEWS**  
**Foreign Exchange**  
 ¡Bienvenidos a SLUH!: Students from Chile and Colombia flock to St. Louis U. High as foreign exchange program makes its return. *Page 4*

**NEWS**  
**New Faculty**  
 Foreign language, social studies, and math departments each gain new faculty members who bring an array of diverse experiences and talents to the table. *Page 2*

**FEATURES**  
**Donda**  
 Senior Luke Pierson, like many a SLUH student this week, offers his thoughts and opinions on Kanye West's polarizing new album *Donda*. *Page 3*

**OPINION**  
**Letter to the Editors**  
 Finan '85 outlines the reasons for gratitude toward our teachers, while Huether, '74 reminisces on his time at SLUH after hearing about the Jr. Bill mascot's recent summer shenanigans. *Page 3*

**SPORTS**  
**Football**  
 Despite a strong first quarter, football falls to MICDS 42-28 after relinquishing 21-point lead, sets focus to Chaminade next Friday. *Page 6*

**SPORTS**  
**Soccer**  
 Strong game for Varsity soccer against state contenders Marquette ended early by lightning, game finishes in a 2-2 draw. *Page 7*

**INDEX**

- 2 **New Faculty**
- 3 **Entertainment**
- 4 **News**
- 5 **Afghanistan**
- 6-7 **Sports**
- 8 **SLUHsers**

The weekly student newspaper of  
 St. Louis University  
 High School  
 4970 Oakland Ave.  
 St. Louis, MO 63110  
 (314) 531-0330 ext. 2241  
 online at [sluh.org/prep-news](http://sluh.org/prep-news)  
[prepnews@sluh.org](mailto:prepnews@sluh.org)

©2021 St. Louis University High School Prep News. No material may be reprinted without the permission of the editors and moderator.

## Initiated at last! Sophomores finally experience Running of the Bills at football opener



Sophomores celebrate a SLUH touchdown.

photo | courtesy of SLUH Facebook

BY JACK FIGGE AND CHARLES TURNELL  
 EDITOR IN CHIEF, REPORTER

Two hundred and fifty shirtless sophomores, 30 gallons of blue paint, and a one way street: it was the perfect equation for the first-ever sophomore

Running of the Bills. Last year, the Class of 2024 could not run in the annual freshman initiation tradition—Running of the Bills—due to Covid restrictions at the time, yet they were promised that one day they would be able to descend upon Oakland Avenue

in a sea of blue. Since then, the Class of 2024 has been eagerly awaiting its chance to complete the ultimate testament of school spirit. “I mean the school spirit was really really intense, but in a fun way,” said sophomore class moderator Frank Corley.

“At some point I stood out there, put some blue paint on my own cheeks, and I even got into it.” Corley and others were initially concerned that the class of 2024 would not have been enthusiastic after the long wait, or that sophomores would believe

## Freshman Running of the Bills tonight during soccer game

BY NATHAN RICH AND LUKE DUFFY  
 SPORTS EDITOR, WEB EDITOR

Saint Louis U. High has had to cancel its plans for tonight's football game and adjust the plans for Freshman Running of the Bills, after their scheduled opponent, Roosevelt High School, canceled the game on Wednesday morning following a Covid outbreak at the school.

Roosevelt did not have precise contact tracing for Covid spread, so when nine students tested positive, they had to send everyone home. Their announcement that the football team couldn't play Friday sent SLUH scrambling to find an opponent.

“If this was 2018, I don't know what kind of options you have—it's Wednesday, the game's set for Friday,” said Athletic Director Chris Muskopf. “But we're in a pandemic, and we're not the only school in the St. Louis area, in the state, the midwest, how-

**continued on page 4**

**continued on page 7**

## Sacred Heart Award honors non-alumni benefactors

BY JACK FIGGE  
 EDITOR IN CHIEF

The Sacred Heart Award, a new award meant to recognize members of the SLUH community who, while not alumni, have dedicated their lives to the mission of SLUH, was introduced at Tuesday's annual Mass of the Holy Spirit. The award is intended to be of the same esteem as the Backer award.

The inaugural award was presented to two members of the SLUH community during the Mass of the Holy Spirit: long-time SLUH Latin teacher (and current Greek teacher) Mary Lee McConaghy and long-time friend of SLUH John Vatterott. McConaghy has been teaching at SLUH for over 40 years. At one point, she was the only female teacher in the building. Since her tenure began, McConaghy has been dedicated to helping her students learn Latin by bringing life and joy to her classes. Throughout her time teaching, McConaghy has revolutionized how Latin was taught and started and

**continued on page 4**

## CONVERSATION Peter Lucier '08 discusses time in Afghanistan as US finishes up withdrawal

JACK FIGGE  
 EDITOR IN CHIEF

*Editor's Note: This past April, United States President Joseph Biden announced that all US forces would be withdrawn from Afghanistan by Aug. 31, signalling the official end to the 20-year conflict. While the US attempted to implement a plan to leave a stable government in place, the Afghan government collapsed due to pressure from an advancing Taliban force. The capital city of Kabul fell on Sunday, Aug. 15 to the Taliban, leaving chaos and uncertainty for thousands of Afghan citizens and foreign ambassadors*

attempting to flee the country. Prep News 86 Editor in Chief Jack Figge sat down with former ASC and SLUH alum Peter Lucier, a marine and Afghanistan veteran, to talk about his experiences serving in Afghanistan and where we go from here.

**Jack Figge (JF):** Mr. Lucier, thank you for taking time out of your day to talk with me. My first question is how long did you serve in Afghanistan?

**Peter Lucier (PL):** I was there from November 2011 until May 2012. So I was there for about seven months.

**JF:** For many SLUH students, I assume, Afghanistan seems like a very foreign place. What is the atmosphere and physical area like?

**PL:** It's different. Like the US, there are many different parts to Afghanistan. I was in the southern part of Helmand

**continued on page 5**



Lucier (right) and a fellow soldier. photo | courtesy of Peter Lucier

## Activities Fair showcases wide variety of clubs

BY ROARKE UNRAU  
 NEWS EDITOR

After its one year hiatus, the ever-popular Activities Fair made its return last Friday, where clubs ranging from the Robotics Club and French Club to the Fishing Club and the Knitting Club, had stations for students to and could sign up to be on the emailing list. Students typically face an immediate sensory overload

upon entering the fair, with noise and colors exploding all over the room. This year's Activities Fair was the first for the both the freshman and sophomore classes at SLUH.

“Overall, looking at all the freshmen and sophomores, I think they really enjoyed it,” said French Club president Craig Ortwerth. “It's something that they've all never really had, especially the sophomores who,

for all of last year, barely even saw people outside of their classrooms. It's kind of good for them to not only meet upperclassmen but join something that they're in.”

“Definitely one of my favorite moments of the Activities Fair every year is seeing the Robotics Club with an actual robot going around, or the Circus Club juggling or riding a unicycle. It's just really fun to walk in and see all this,” said senior

Mark Wappler. Last year's fall Activities Fair was a hybrid version, where students could sign up for clubs they chose from slideshows sent out to them. But this year students and faculty alike were grateful to return to a more normal experience.

“We sent out a slideshow to freshmen and sophomores last year, where they could click on a slideshow

**continued on page 4**

## NEW FACULTY

## Hill, JV swim coach, joins the Social Studies Department



Rob Hill, social studies. photo | Mrs. Kathy Chott

BY ALEX PREUSSER AND BEN CROAT REPORTERS

St. Louis U. High welcomes new teacher Robert Hill, a familiar face to some, as a full-time member of the Social Studies Department. Hill has coached the JV swim team for three years and subbed part time last year.

Hill will be teaching four periods of AP Microeconomics this semester and will take on four periods of AP Macroeconomics in the spring, utilizing his previous background in business finance.

“Economics is not very common in many high schools, so it’s kind of unique to even offer it, and I get to teach it, so that’s fun,” said Hill. “I worked in business for 25 years, doing investment banking, private equity, corporate finance jobs, and I’m trying to figure out

ways to bring that into the economics platform.”

Leading up to his time in corporate America, Hill gained a wide range of life experiences that will provide a new perspective for his classes and students. This started as early as his childhood, and the experiences he had growing up overseas.

“I moved around a lot growing up. We lived in Saudi Arabia during my high school years, and the company my dad worked for paid for me to go to boarding school, so I went to Phillips Academy Andover,” explained Hill, chronicling his life in the Middle East and in New England.

As he steps into his role in micro- and macroeconomics, he will continue as the JV swim coach, which in the past three years has given him the opportunity to use his experiences at Princeton

as a water polo player and swimmer. While coaching, Hill also taught American History at St. Louis Community College and hopes to incorporate the knowledge he gained from that classroom into his courses at SLUH.

“It’s a little bit of a different crowd, (St. Louis Community College), but the community is great. Some of the students are stars and some of them just need a lot of help,” said Hill. “You’ve got a wide spectrum. Some people have a job, some people are married with kids and they’re older coming back to college, so it’s a unique way to teach.”

From Saudi Arabia, to one of the top boarding schools in the country, to teaching in a diverse environment at STLCC, Hill brings many skills to the table.

“I’m still working through certain ideas on finding and bringing more real world applications to the AP format,” said Hill. “I hope I make an impact on the kids, not just on getting a good grade, but more importantly just learning, and maybe finding a passion for this topic.”

This outlook, plus a personable approach to teaching, has already allowed Hill to make the most of his first couple weeks at SLUH.

“I think from a personality standpoint, I’m pretty flexible, in that I’m empathetic to others,” said Hill. “I think I can connect with students pretty well.”

With all of these great influences and insights in his back pocket, Hill is excited to move into the 2021-2022 school year to continue coaching and teaching the students of St. Louis U. High.

which he is honored to join.

One idea that Stickley tries to center his life and his teaching habits on is finding God and beauty in everything that he does.

Stickley had a high school math teacher that inspired him to become a teacher. He wants to create an atmosphere where everyone learns math and has a good time, and inspires others to love math like how the math teacher inspired him.

“Everyday is a day to perfect your craft,” said Stickley.

Stickley is also a singer songwriter for the band Falling Fences, a folk/rock/American band.

“I put my first album out in 2003,” said Stickley. “And we have put out albums ever since. These days I spend a lot of time playing with my band Falling Fences and we play about 75 shows a year.”

Family is another thing that is very important to him. He has a wife and two daughters who are at the center of his life.

The other new math department hire, Yane, previ-

## Yane and Stickley add new expertise to Math Department



Joe Stickley, math. photo | Mrs. Kathy Chott

BY ELLIOT MOORE AND DECLAN RICHARDS REPORTERS

The SLUH Math Department welcomes two excellent new teachers: Walker Yane, who will be teaching Algebra 1 and Geometry; and Joe Stickley, who will be teaching Precalculus and Geometry.

Before coming to SLUH, Stickley taught math at Crossroads, another St. Louis pri-

vate high school on the other side of Forest Park.

“One of the biggest reasons why I wanted to come to SLUH was because SLUH had the same dedication to justice and equity that we were so passionate about at Crossroads, and at the same time everything SLUH does is grounded in the Jesuit faith,” said Stickley.

Stickley was also drawn to SLUH because of the quality of the Math Department,

## SLUH says “bienvenue” to new French teacher Hilmes, who will take over all classes

BY JOHN BYTNAR AND JOHN POSEY REPORTERS

Madame Annie Hilmes has joined SLUH’s Foreign Language Department as the new, and only, French teacher, teaching all grade levels of French.

Hilmes earned a B.A. in political science at Missouri State University, where she minored in French, and then went on to study in France at Université Lyon III.

Hilmes originally wanted to be a lawyer specializing in international law, hence the international studies, but while in France, she fell in love with French language and culture. She returned to the United States and studied at SLU, earning a Master’s Degree in French and Education—and has been utilizing her educational abilities at both the college and high school level for the past 20 years.

“Going to France and realizing how many more people I could communicate with by speaking French changed my life, and I wanted to share that,” said Hilmes.

Madam Hilmes had known Russian teacher Rob Chura for a while before considering SLUH, and until recently the two lived in the same neighborhood in South Hampton. Hilmes had always heard that SLUH is a great place to work, so when the open position presented itself, she saw it as a great opportunity.

Hilmes enjoyed learning about the Jesuit tradition during her new teacher orientation.

“The Jesuit way of learning and looking at the world ... I feel very close to it, and

the idea of seeing God in all things,” said Hilmes.

Hilmes will also be working as part of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) team this year, especially focusing on gender equality.

So far, Hilmes says she has loved SLUH, she loves her colleagues, being part of a team, and all the faculty, her students have been very welcoming, and she looks forward to coming to work every day. While having attended SLU, teaching here at SLU High has been the first time Hilmes has been exposed to Jesuit thought, and already she has learned a lot about the Jesuits, and has begun to appreciate the Jesuit tradition. One of her favorite parts is the

examen.

“It helps you forget about anything in the moment that can be stressful and it really settles you.” She said.

French has opened doors for her. She said that speaking French has made it easier to express ideas or expressions that are difficult or complicated to say in English, especially descriptive things. Hilmes said that she finds the French language beautiful, not to mention the cuisine. Some of her favorite French foods are steamed espresso or a fresh chocolate croissant.

“The joy of teaching for me is that I get to meet students where they are and I get to be a part of their journey,” said Hilmes.



Annie Hilmes, French. photo | Mrs. Kathy Chott

room, coaching cross country.

By coaching cross country, Yane is incorporating one of his favorite activities into helping to build SLUH into a better place.

“Like everything there is a learning curve, so I hope to improve as a high school math teacher, and as a coach,”

Yane went through a special master’s degree program at the University of Notre Dame which sent him to an underprivileged Catholic school in Mobile, Alabama.

“I was thrown into it and had never taught in an actual classroom before,” said Yane. “But, despite the challenges I really enjoyed it, so I decided I was going to stick with it.”

Yane feels like the first few weeks have gone well, he’s enjoying SLUH, and is really excited to be here. One of Yane’s highlights has been a moment outside of the class-

room, coaching cross country. By coaching cross country, Yane is incorporating one of his favorite activities into helping to build SLUH into a better place.

Walker Yane, math.

said Yane.

“I would say both of them are very comfortable with the classroom, and seem to have a passion for teaching,” said Math Department chair Julie Moser. “There is also a level of collegiality amongst them, they are very easy to work with.”



Walker Yane, math. photo | Mrs. Kathy Chott

Letters To The Editor

Huether '74 looks back on past incident with Jr. Bill mascot head

TO THE EDITORS,

Last week, I saw the article about the Jr. Billiken mascot taking a tour of St Louis and the USA over the summer. It brought back memories of a similar, yet less creative Jr. Bill mascot heist in the summer of 1974.

Bob Moore and I (both class of '74) spent a good part of the fall of 1972 rebuilding the Jr. Bill mascot. It was a full sturdy chicken wire and papier mâché Jr Billiken about four feet high by three by three. (Photo attached from the 1973 yearbook.)

After a full year plus of use it was in a bit of disrepair by the end of our senior year of 1974. We were perturbed that no one from the class of '75 seemed interested in rebuilding our friend. So after gradu-

ation, Bob and I decided we were going to rebuild it again in his basement. We had both been Student Council officers and we still had the key to the STUCO office where the mascot was kept. One June evening, we came back and loaded the Jr. Bill into the back of Bob's pickup truck whisking it away from the hallowed halls of the Backer Memorial.

The previous fall some De Smet boys had almost stolen our mascot buddy and the Student Council moderator at the time, Fr. David Wayne, S.J., caught them just as they were loading it into the back of a convertible on the east side alley. Disaster was averted!

This time though, Fr. Wayne, having noticed the mascot was gone with the week, and also realizing we still had the keys, quickly sur-

mised we were the most likely suspects.

Fortunately, since we had officially graduated no jugs ensued.

Jack Huether, '74



The old Jr. Bill Mascot. photo | Jack Huether

Finan '85 offers thoughts on gratitude towards teachers

TO THE EDITORS,

When students thank their teachers, the response is often "no thanks are necessary." The fact that it is not necessary is precisely why students and parents should express their gratitude for the work that teachers do for students.

The last two years have not been easy for teachers. Two years ago, if you would have told teachers that they would have to pivot on a dime to online teaching because of an international pandemic they may have questioned what website you were reading. Teachers at SLUH made that pivot, and made it well. The

faculty, administration, and staff of SLUH are owed a great deal of thanks for their work.

As we move into a somewhat normal academic year, we should also remember to thank teachers and staff for their work outside the classroom as teachers, coaches, and moderators. In many cases, they give their time to chaperone dances like the Back to School Mixer (I'm looking at you, Tim O'Neil and Tom McCarthy) or they work the gate at the football games (good to see Mary Michalski and Nina See), or they provide food for the Fathers Club (so good to see Kathy Hylla). Do you think Mr. Corley would have imagined that he would be doing

a sophomore Running of the Bills several years ago? Well, he did, and Mr. Curdt was there to help him, knowing that he was going to do it again next week. And while he would REALLY say it is part of his job, Dr. Brock is always around to keep things on the level.

Students, remember to thank these people and the people who do things behind the scenes at every opportunity. As we all know, Ignatian prayerfulness begins with gratitude. You students are lucky to have these great people as your teachers, administration and staff. My thanks to all of them.

Thomas Finan, '85

**Congratulations to crossword champions: juniors Brendan Jones, Tyler Barks, and Nathan Abner!!!**

Kanye West's *Donda* a few duds, but worth it

BY LUKE PIERSON  
COLUMNIST

Kanye West's new album *Donda* is quite an experience—and a long one at that. With 27 tracks spanning an hour and 48 minutes, it almost quadruples the length of his three previous LPs. Long albums can be dangerous, though, because they encourage filler tracks.

Despite the odds, I believe Kanye manages to deliver an album with only a few duds and ultimately makes the most

of the longer run time. The first 10 songs really stand out to me. From the moment "Jail" starts playing to the moment "24" ends, we are reminded why no one can do it quite like Kanye.

Kanye himself seems to be at a much different level than he was for his most recent LP, *Jesus is King*, and this is evident in his much improved singing ability and energetic delivery on songs like "Off The Grid." Kanye's production talent is on point for these tracks as well. The guitar on *Jail* serves as a perfect backing to a strong Jay-

Z feature. Plus, the Lauryn Hill sample on "Believe what I Say," is one of the brightest moments on the track. I believe these first songs will quickly age to be Kanye classics.

Also elevating these songs are quality features from some of the most popular artists in today's Hip Hop world. Travis Scott, Lil Yachty, The Weeknd, and Lil Baby all make quality appearances in this first stretch. Lil Yachty's verse on "Ok Ok" is one of the best performances I've heard from him in a while.

The second half of the al-

bum is more of a mixed bag, though. "Remote Control," "Donda," "Tell The Vision," and "Lord I Need You" all fall short to me. These tracks prove the difficulty in making such a long album, all with content and outros that could have definitely been trimmed.

However, the second half shouldn't be completely overlooked. Songs like "Moon" and "Come to Life" stand out. On the former track, Kid Cudi and Don Toliver deliver smooth, crooning vocals that seem otherworldly, much like the

song's title. On "Come to Life," Kanye brings some of his most thoughtful bars on the whole album. These end up being two of the best tracks on the whole album.

Another unique feature of *Donda* is the part two tracks, which serve as extra cuts from songs on the main track list. For the most part, I'm not a fan of the part 2 songs except for "Junya pt 2," which I feel is much better than the original because of Playboi Carti's larger role.

One last thing I feel we need to address is the use of Marilyn

Manson and DaBaby in "Jail pt 2." While both these artists perform well, I have issues with the content of DaBaby's verse and just the fact that they even make an appearance given the situations both are going through right now. Marilyn Manson has been accused of sexual abuse and DaBaby is currently facing the repercussions of his public statements regarding H.I.V. This is why I'll personally stick to just the original "Jail." Overall I give *Donda* an 8/10 and plan on listening to a lot of the tracks for the foreseeable future.

PN 86 Puzzle: Proper Names

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10		13	
14					15						16			
17					18						19			
20				21				22			23			
			24				25							
26	27	28				29				30		31	32	33
34					35				36					
37					38				39			40		
41			42				43					44		
45						46				47	48			
			49		50				51					
	52	53						54				55	56	57
58					59		60				61			
62					63						64			
65					66						67			

crossword | Paul Baudendistl

- ACROSS
- Thunderstruck band
  - Home of the Wolverines of the NCAA
  - \*A proper name for a collector of revenue
  - \*A proper name for a gas station attendant

- \*A proper name for an undertaker
- Re-sound
- "Nobody doesn't like \_\_\_\_\_ Lee"
- Made a mistake
- \*A proper name for a worshipper

- San Francisco Bay or Chesapeake Bay
- Fads
- Not respect, in short
- \*A proper name for a detective
- "U. High, U. High, what what?", e.g.

- \*A proper name for a greenskeeper
- Emo emotion
- That guy
- Address for a knight
- \*A proper name for a certain jeweler
- Global news agency (abbr.)

- \*A proper name for a leaf removal service worker
- Nickname for Palmer or Schwarzenegger
- \*A proper name for a porter
- "... \_\_\_\_\_ in a galaxy far far away ..."
- He chose the red pill from Morpheus
- Casey \_\_\_\_\_, DJ and voice of Shaggy
- Tree cursed by Jesus
- Complete, as nonsense or chaos
- Consonant involving the back of the tongue and palate, such as k and g
- German grandma
- TV chef Lagasse
- "Coming to pick you up"
- Country with a name that's an English sentence
- \*A proper name for a knight
- See 46-Down
- \*A proper name for an excavator
- What Toothless becomes in *How to Train Your Dragon 2*
- Stench
- Gilligan's \_\_\_\_\_, in the theme song
- \*A proper name for a singer
- \*A proper name for a librarian

- Clearance rack abbr.
- Manger scene
- S.H.I.E.L.D. nemesis
- C6H6
- Frozen beverage
- Aircraft carriers for helicopters, such as the USS America
- <Hilarious!>
- Broadcast, like 60-Down
- At sea, and powered by the wind
- Pirate endorsed by France
- \*A proper name for a declutterer
- Statute assuring medical privacy
- Arab rulers
- Wrong prefix
- \*A proper name for an investor
- Small loose stones covering a slope
- Vocal range above baritone
- \*A proper name for a malpractice lawyer
- Anti-Israel grp.
- Poet
- "A box without hinges," according to Bilbo
- A dish best served cold
- With 61-Across, "Deck the Halls" lyric
- "Let me think ..."
- \*A proper name for a clothier
- Purple flower
- Shaq
- Greek counterpart of Cupid
- Sith killed by Obi-Wan
- Cuatro más cuatro
- \*A proper name for a life-guard
- Balm ingredient
- Sale site
- \_\_\_\_\_ Amin
- Wait Wait ... Don't Tell Me broadcaster

- DOWN
- Part of a church containing the altar
  - Nickname for Dickens or Barkley
  - Soil without nutrients
  - \*A proper name for a falconer
  - Drives around
  - \*A proper name for a wedding officiant

## After a year of waiting, Class of 2024 bathed in blue paint

(continued from page 1)

that they were too mature for what is usually a freshman initiation ritual.

“On one hand, you know that they missed that experience, but you don’t know if a year later, trying to do the same thing can work. I didn’t want to do another Freshman Fun Day,” said Corley. “Freshman Running of the Bills follows Freshman Fun Day. It’s kind of an essential climax to that event. So I wanted something a little more mature.”

However, these concerns were quickly dispersed, as Corley and the other teachers quickly realized that little work was needed on their part to inspire enthusiasm among the sophomores. From drenching themselves in gallons of blue paint, to maniacal sprinting into the bleachers, the sophomore class did not let up a moment to show their spirit.

The night started off with the sophomores being enthusiastically greeted by members of Blue Crew decked out in white tank tops. They then gathered in their homerooms to compete in a rock-paper-scissors tournament amongst themselves.

After the homeroom tournament, the entire class gathered together in the Field House, where the homeroom rock-paper-scissor champions competed to determine whose homeroom would get to lead the charge into the football stadium.

After the tournament, STUCO, accompanied by the Blue Crew, began teaching the sophomores beloved, classic SLUH cheers and some new ones such as “SLUH Jacks.”

“I think teaching the sophomores chants was great because it’s passing off a tradition that I was taught and that we were all taught as freshmen,” said senior STUCO spirit leader Matthew Kluba. “It’s like we all say, tradition never graduates whether it’s on the fields or in the classroom or in this case in the stands.”

Finally, with many of their voices already hoarse, and excitement running high, it was time to release the sophomore horde onto the south field. The sophomores eagerly crowded around the seniors so that they could be doused in blue paint as the parents watched from the margins.

“Putting on the paint with all the Blue Crew guys was awesome. Lathering ourselves up in the paint was really great, we couldn’t wait to rush the field,” said sophomore Keegan Kester-

son. “And when we went down to the Drury Plaza, the teachers had us held back, because we just wanted to get out there and we were supposed to go around the kickoff and they were taking too long to start the game, it was crazy.”

With their bodies lathered in blue paint, and adrenaline rushing through their veins, the sophomores took off from Drury Plaza and raced up Oakland Avenue and into the football stadium, roaring with school spirit.

“It was really cool to see. I was out on the field but I could see through the fence, I could see them getting ready, and it was great,” said sophomore football player Archie Carruthers. “It was a great experience for them. Then they finally got to sprint into the bleachers and fulfill this very important milestone in their SLUH career. It’s an experience, storming the bleachers, like everybody was having so much fun, it was really sick.”

The sophomores quickly filed into the bleachers and immediately were led in numerous cheers, hoping to provide encouragement to the SLUH football team. And encouragement they did provide, with the Jr. Bills scoring a touchdown on the very first drive, and then adding two later in the first quarter, all the while holding the MICDS scoreless.

“Yeah, it’s always great to have a huge crowd. It’s great to have a crowd like that in the atmosphere,” said associate head coach Adam Cruz. “It was really exciting for the guys after playing in front of empty stadiums last year, to have a huge crowd. Even when things weren’t going so well it was really great having the sophomore class, their parents and their enthusiasm.”

Despite their best efforts, the horde of blue sophomores and the rowdy Blue Crew weren’t enough to help SLUH secure the victory over MICDS, with SLUH falling 42-28.

While many were disappointed with the game’s outcome, the sophomores enjoyed the experience and were grateful that despite it being a year overdue, they were still able to participate in the Running of the Bills tradition.

“Being able to finally, after a year of waiting, go through that initiation process of SLUH was very great,” said sophomore Vincent Weinbauer. “It was a great feeling running down Oakland, it was surreal in a sense.”

## Columbian and Chilean students welcomed in language immersion program

BY JACKSON COOPER AND JACK EVANS  
CORE STAFF, REPORTER

As St. Louis U. High gradually approaches pre-pandemic levels of normalcy, the school’s language immersion program has returned, allowing students from Colombia and Chile the chance to experience life as Jr. Bills.

With the return of exchange programs comes the return of SLUH’s longtime Jesuit partner school in Bucaramanga, Colombia: Colegio San Pedro Claver. New this year is a partnership with San Ignacio El Bosque, a Jesuit school in the Chilean capital city of Santiago, which gives Chilean students the opportunity to study in the United States, and for SLUH students to visit Chile.

Despite lingering Covid-19 protocols, the process of actually getting the exchange students into the United States was not terribly difficult. SLUH is a Sevis-certified school, meaning that the Department of Homeland Security

has certified the school to issue I-20 visas. These visas allow for foreign students to enter the country in order to take part in academic programs.

“The I-20 kind of helps us speed up the process, which definitely worked in our favor this summer. However, since we had people internationally (that were) not vaccinated, we did have them do a two-week quarantine before they came on campus just to be extra safe,” said Russian teacher and Director of Global Education Robert Chura.

Once in St. Louis, the students quickly began to immerse themselves in American culture. So far, the students have already visited several essential St. Louis sites such as the Gateway Arch, Grant’s Farm, Six Flags, and, of course, a Cardinals game at Busch Stadium.

For one of the Chilean students, Humberto Espejo, curiosity about participating in a foreign immersion program began in the summer of 2020, during some of the darkest days of the pandemic. Espejo

is hoping to use this exchange opportunity to improve his fluency in English, and to be able to experience life in a foreign culture.

“My parents were interested last year in sending me to an exchange program and they asked my school if there was a possibility of doing that. I had luck and they found an option and I had been selected to participate in this program. At first my objective was learning English, and it continues to be an objective for me, and I understand that the best thing that I will learn here is to have the experience of studying and living in a different culture, in a different country. I think that is my most important objective and what I want to achieve here,” said Espejo.

Espejo also appreciates that he can now experience somewhat of a normal school year in the United States, as Chile had enforced strict Covid restrictions for most of the duration of the pandemic.

“(Coming back to a normal school year) was easier I think because in Chile I was

very restricted,” said Espejo. “When I left the situation was becoming good but it continued being in a restricted situation with many complications to travel and to do programs like what I’m doing now. Here it’s more relaxed, the situation is better, I have more facilities to meet people, to have a social life here.”

The Department of Global Education is also hopeful that French students from SLUH’s partner school, L’Institution Notre Dame in Chartres, France, will be able to visit in April.

Over the next year, during both spring break and summer break, a litany of options exists for immersion trips, including but not limited to an Ignatian Pilgrimage to Spain, a Cold War-focused trip to Eastern Europe, and an archaeological dig in Ireland. Information about all of the trips available to SLUH students can be found on the Global Education bulletin board on the second floor, or under the Global Education tab on SLUH’s website.

## McConaghy and Vatterott first recipients of Sacred Heart Award

(continued from page 1)

coached the Latin Club for a number of years. In 2009, McConaghy retired from full-time teaching but continued to teach one section of Greek, a position that she retains to this day.

“Teaching is one of the most rewarding careers anyone could ever have,” said McConaghy. “I feel so grateful that I have been able to follow that career. SLUH is such a wonderful place, and to have the outstanding students I have had for 42 years and continue to have, and it’s just been a joy for me to be able to be here.”

The other honoree, Vatterott, was one of 17 kids born into a large Catholic family in Wisconsin. After college, he began a career in the Missouri Department of Education. He noticed a need for stronger trade schools in the region and in response co-founded Vatterott College which he was the president of until 2003.

Vatterott was a SLUH parent, is a current SLUH grandparent, and has served on the school’s Board of Trustees. Several years ago, he anonymously made the largest

single gift the school has ever received, which has helped develop the SLUH campus.

“Well it’s definitely a surprise, and a great honor,” said Vatterott. “It is just terrific. It’s great recognition and I am truly humbled to receive this award.”

The honorees were each presented with a hand-blown glass award, created by SLUH alum Doug Auer, ’95 who owns Third Degree Glass, that loosely resembles the shape of the Sacred Heart. The awards are colored in SLUH blue and etched into the glass is the symbol for the Jesuits, a heart that loosely resembles the symbol of the Sisters of the Society of the Sacred Heart, and a fleur-de-lis.

“All of that symbolism is meaningful,” said Carruthers. “What we are trying to do is infuse meaning into this award. We are not trying to duplicate the Backer Award but create an award that has a parallel level of gravitas for those that are not alumni but have done incredible work for the mission of SLUH.”

Going forward, the administration hopes to make the presentation of this award a yearly tradition to honor es-

teemed and deserving members of the community who would otherwise not be recognized.

“We have the Backer award to honor alumni who have gone off and done incredible things,” said SLUH President Alan Carruthers. “There are many people who are not alumni, but have done equally impressive things. And so, this is an attempt to capture the spirit of the Backer award and honor other great friends of SLUH.”

Named after the Sacred Heart of Jesus, the award is

a nod to St. Rose Phillipene Duschesne’s Sisters of the Sacred Heart. When the Jesuits first arrived in St. Louis, it was the Sisters of the Sacred Heart who provided much needed help and assistance to the Jesuit community.

“They (the awardees) are not alumni which allows us to honor a lot of the great women who have done so many things for this community,” said Carruthers. “(Sacred Heart awardees) demonstrate what it means to be a man or woman for and with others.”



Vatterott receiving the Sacred Heart Award. photo | Ryan Doyle

## Students explore various clubs at Activities Fair



Students sign up for a club.

photo | Michael Urbanski

(continued from page 1)

and then they could click through individual clubs and they either had a video or PDF, which is okay, but I think this year to be in person, it’s just a whole different ballgame,” said STUCO moderator Bradley Mueller.

One of the most appealing parts of the Activities Fair this year was how each club decorated their tables to be more eye-catching and engaging. Whether it was the

KSHE Club blasting music or the French Club with a French flag on the table, every club had its own way of attracting students.

“I thought my favorite part (was that) there were a lot of clubs that decorated their tables, more so than they have in the past, which I think if there’s decorations it attracts students to come and sign up for the clubs and activities,” said Mueller.

“I liked walking around

and seeing that it felt more like a fair than in years past. I liked seeing pictures, or the Spikeball Club playing spikeball, the Chess Club playing chess, and the KSHE Club was playing some good music,” said STUCO moderator Megan Menne.

Seventy-four clubs participated in the fair, and 28 of them held meetings the following week.

“I thought it was fantastic. I really enjoyed it. I

liked having it my freshman and sophomore year. I know that a big part of the first two weeks of school was signing up for as many clubs and activities as you could, and seeing if you could go to a couple meetings here and there,” said Ortwerth. “I thought it was a really good pick-me-up to start this year and get clubs back again.”

# Afghanistan vet shares reaction to US withdrawal



Lucier (Right Front) and his platoon deployed in Afghanistan. photo | courtesy of Peter Lucier

(continued from page 1)  
Province. But even there, from region to region, from province to province and district to district, the landscape changes. On my tour, I started out near the Pakistani border, where it was very mountainous and had a lot of desert. It was big and empty except for mountains on the border of Pakistan—supposedly the Taliban had pretty light defense up in the mountains. And then there was a cross border trading town that we didn't go to. We conducted some offensive operations there in a town called Barr Shat, but we were doing mounted patrols out of a place called KV Wolf Pack Patrol Base for only like a month, and then we demilitarized that patrol base, abandoned it, and moved further north up to what's called the fishhook region of the Helmand River, which is a Green River valley where the majority of the world's opium production takes place.

**JF:** Can you describe your feelings when you heard that US troops were withdrawing from Afghanistan?

**PL:** That announcement was made in April. It came right around the anniversary of when my friend was killed. April is always a time where me and my friends from that platoon reconnect and we remember Pat, we drink his favorite beer, we look at pictures, we'll eat the Munchies Snack Mix because he liked that. So April is always kind of an emotional number of weeks just because it's bringing back memories.

You kind of go back to that space and you live in it, no matter how long it's been. On days like that, the pain of loss surrounding that deployment comes back. Then this year there was the announcement that the US was going to withdraw, which is in some ways a good thing, it adds some finality to this whole thing that we've been living through for, you know, 20 years since 9/11. This war is older than you are and now we're putting a period on it. It's in some ways a good thing but also it's evidence of what we have known in our hearts for a long time, which is: that we lost. It was a confirmation. That was what was going through my head in April. Now things have changed pretty dramatically.

**JF:** Probably the most sig-

nificant moment that many students will be able to recognize is the fall of Kabul two weeks ago. What was your initial reaction to that?

**PL:** Just an overwhelming sense of helplessness, of powerlessness, a really, really terrible feeling that something horrible was happening, and that I have no way to affect the outcome, in that immediate moment. Those things have changed, but at the time I was thinking 'I can't do anything about this, there's a lot of people who are going to die, there's a lot of people whose lives are going to be ruined. There's going to be horrible atrocities committed in a place that I was in, some of them are going to happen to people that I know. And if they're not people I know there are people who helped friends of mine stay alive. And I'm 4000 miles away. And there's nothing I can do.'

There's nothing worse than, you know, feeling helpless, everybody hates to have that feeling. It is kind of like that helpless feeling when you get caught cheating or something and you're there in that moment and you're just embarrassed and ashamed and feeling like you've done something wrong. The feeling that you have no ability to affect the outcome. That you are facing down an adult who has all of the power and you who have none of the power, and you just don't know how much this is going to mess up your life.

You're just running through all the terrible scenarios in your head of how this could ruin everything, and you have no ability to affect it. Multiply that by the 80,000 lives of Afghans who are high priority targets for the Taliban, who are really trying to escape them at the time but have no avenue to do it. It was a bad day, I mean it was a sh\*t day. We just texted each other (Lucier and his old platoon members) and it's just like, what can you even say? I just wanted to reach out to somebody who understands, and somebody who gets it and who's feeling the same thing, because it doesn't necessarily affect the American public in the same way that it might affect those of us who have a personal connection.

**JF:** There have been a lot of images and stories that have surfaced about the horrors and the atrocities going on over there right now. Have there

been any particular ones that have, like, especially touched you, or impacted you in any way, they would like to share?

**PL:** The one that sticks with me is a suicide bomb back in April that targeted a girl's school and killed 90 high school girls. A friend of mine, named Thomas Gibbons-Neff, a fellow Marine veteran, is a reporter at The New York Times now. Side note: He's been a hero through this whole thing, he got evacuated by the Times and he was in Germany. But then he hopped back on a plane and went back to Kabul to get more people out, as a reporter, because he's just a champ. That's just what he does, he's fearless.

He covered the girl high school bombing and wrote a story about it. Now that is what most sticks with me. Since the fall, though, I have gotten involved in a bunch of different efforts to try to assist in any way that Americans can, including fundraising efforts for charities here in the United States that work with special immigrant visa applicants. That work has been so overwhelming for the past, however many days since the fall that, I mean all of the stories sound awful but there's not a particular one. What I'm paying attention to the most at this point is what's happening outside of Abbey gate at any given moment, and whether they're letting people through or not. There are so many stories of the Taliban beating people at the checkpoints before they let them get through to the American lines.

I think one story that just sticks with everybody is when you hear of a person that goes up to the gate and they have all the documents that they're supposed to have and they qualify for evacuation. However, they don't get in, they get turned away at the gate by American soldiers. Every time that happens, your heart just breaks because they qualify, they should be allowed to evacuate, but for whatever reason they're not let through, and there's nothing you can do about it.

You can get on the phone, and try and talk to the guy at the gate and be like hey I'm a Marine Corps veteran, like, I know that this happens, I've got a Congressperson on this person's case, let this person through, but often it just doesn't work. Those stories are probably what will stick with me the most, there's been other things

that, like, I can't talk about until all this is done.

**JF:** How did you feel after you learned about the 14 US service members who lost their lives after the bombing at Kabul airport?

**PL:** Yeah man it really sucked. We were right in the middle of like all the stuff that I got involved with and people were moving and it was a chaotic night trying to help people. I think it was like eight o'clock in the morning when reports started coming in a little bit before it hit the news, and that there was an explosion and rolling gunfire. Then an hour later, the news said they had been able to confirm that four Marines had died and another hour or two later, they had the full count. So in total 12 Marines, one soldier and one Navy Corpsman died. That morning I had class and I sat in the back and just cried. It just sucked. This was very different from other times when you lose people in combat because this wasn't combat, it was an evacuation operation. All that they were there to do was to help evacuate people and they had been doing it day after day. It's never a good day when we lose Marines. We're just a tight knit family. So even if you don't know any of those folks personally you know, they are a Marine and it sucks.

**JF:** With the final true soldiers leaving Afghanistan, there's a powerful picture of a soldier boarding a plane, in the middle of the night. What were your thoughts and reactions just to know that this war is over? That in a sense it is finished?

**PL:** Somebody said on Twitter, 'it started with an airplane and that ends with an airplane.' There's a lot of things to say about that picture, he was a major general, his name's Chris Donahoe and is the commanding general of the 82nd Airborne. There's something to be said about that's what leadership looks like. He's literally the last one off the ground and he's a two star general. That he doesn't get on the plane until every single other person is on the plane. That's interesting and powerful in its own way.

Wars are funny, they are never really over. There are moments that feel like watersheds. The Greek word is eschaton and eschatology, meaning the end or the end time, something that marks the ending of an age. I think we as humans, we like eschaton, we like endings. The thing about wars is they just don't work like that. There's too many people, it's too messy. Yeah, a guy got on an airplane and there's no US military left there but the consequences of 20 years of war don't end when we leave. Somebody made a comment a couple years ago about the civil war in Syria, which started in 2011. They said that we're probably at about the halfway point. Civil wars take about 20 years. That's true in the US too. The US Civil War lasted five years but it didn't end at Appomattox. It

just moved to a new vehicle. There was guerrilla fighting, then there was political fighting and there were still all kinds of stuff. The consequences certainly weren't trampled up. It took a long time even just for word to get around that the 13th Amendment had passed and slavery was illegal.

I'm still working on visa cases for people, there's still so many lives that are upset. There are so many people who are displaced, people whose lives are turned upside down. Nothing's really over. We're just not there anymore. But of course it is an end. There's a Marine friend of mine who's a reporter at Newsweek who tweeted out individually the names, by date of death, of every single service member who died in Afghanistan. It took, probably 48 hours each and every name, and the day that they died and more they were from in the US. I just cried again when the names of my friends appeared. It's a weird time. And it's weird to think about what this means going forward.

**JF:** You mentioned fundraising earlier so why are you so devoted to fundraising and helping the situation in Afghanistan and the people?

**PL:** I started fundraising, because, like I told you, I felt helpless. There are people who can pull strings and there's people that know about what is happening when a country falls and when there's a violent takeover of government. People who have seen this a dozen times in a dozen different countries and can predict with stunning accuracy the different waves of chaos that will ensue, and how everything will happen. Those people exist and they're doing good work right now.

But I'm not one of them. I went to Afghanistan one time, as a low level, junior enlisted infantry rifleman. At the time I didn't think I could be of any assistance with that kind of stuff, but I knew that there was about to be at least some number of thousands of refugees who were going to land here in the United States, and the very least that I thought I could do was if I can't help get people out, then I can come help when they get here.

Now, what I found out was, there is no barrier between resettlement and evacuation, because when you start fundraising for people to do resettlement, what you find out really quickly is the first thing people say when they get off the plane, isn't, where am I getting housed? Or, is there a job available for me? Or, can you help me? The first concern that people have is 'my family's still there' or 'the Taliban is trying to kill my cousin, my nephew, my grandfather, my dad, my mom'.

So I asked myself: 'what can you do right now? I'm an American and the government has all the power, so what can you do to help get people out?' I wanted to just raise money, because it seemed like something I could do and some way that I could affect change and help people when they get here.

That matters, and we should and we need to raise that money. Other people need to be worried about it. But you can't do that work and be involved with those people without immediately being sucked into the lives of people on the ground in Afghanistan which is what happened to me, kind of quickly.

One of the people for one of the charities that I fundraise for reached out and said, 'hey, there's this person who's the family of some people that we helped to resettle, and they're trying to get out. And we've had dead ends. So, what can we do to help us?' And I thought: 'What can I do to help someone that is 4000 miles away in Afghanistan under an active threat of being hunted by the Taliban?' I thought: 'Well, you know, I can try.'

All you can do is say yes to the thing that's in front of you. So you say yes to that thing and then you start asking people for help. Then you find out that not many people can help, but everybody else is in the same situation, and you start saying yes to more things because every single thing you come across is tragic, heartbreaking and urgent. Every single plea for help is one that involves people's lives. I mean how do you say no to any person when they're begging you for help to save their life? It's just tough.

**JF:** As men of Jesuit education and students at SLUH what is our calling? How are we called to respond in an event like this? What can a student do to help?

**PL:** I know it's cliché, at this point but we are called to be men and women for others or with and alongside others. There is a Jesuit, Greg Boyle, who wrote Tattoos on the Heart and said something like: No, we need to move from a people who judge the poor or the oppressed, and we need to be people who see the burden that the poor and the oppressed carry, and stand in awe of their ability to carry it. I think one of the first things is to try to put yourself in that mindset. Our first step is not to feel pity but to recognize the ability for the Afghan people to even carry the incredible burden that they carry and have carried for the last 40 years.

Of course there are things we can do to help. The easiest and the most simple is getting in touch with the International Institute, with ISTL. There's going to be Afghans who are arriving here. They're going to come with not a lot. The thing that we can do is do the neighborly thing and welcome people into our community and try to help them transition. ISTL needs money, furniture and lawyers right now. SLUH students can't really provide lawyers, but furniture and household goods for those arriving here, whether new or gently used, can be a big help. The first thing is just to put yourself in a mindset of appreciation, thankfulness and solidarity for the Afghan people and then the second thing is, give to a ISTL or other resettlement organizations.



## Defensive struggles plague SLUH in season opener loss to MICDS

BY JACK RYBAK AND COBY SPRATTE  
CORE STAFF

Despite a dominant first quarter, the Jr. Bills ultimately fell to the MICDS Rams by a score of 42-28. The offense made major plays in the first half, but couldn't keep the momentum going in the second half, as the defense missed several tackles and began to fall behind.

MICDS deferred the opening kick off and the Jr. Bills' offense looked scalding hot right out of the gates.

Senior halfback Derrick Baker ran the ball on the first six plays of the game, and was able to flip the field. Senior quarterback Luke Johnston completed his first pass across the middle to senior wideout Chris Brooks for 27 yards which put the Jr. Bills at the goal line.

Baker finished the drive

off with a one-yard touchdown run for his and the team's first touchdown of the year with 7:15 remaining in the first quarter.

The Jr. Bills' defense got off the field in just six plays on the Rams' opening drive.

The offense opened their second drive on their own 17-yard line, and it took them only five plays to march 83 yards down the field for their second touchdown of the game. This quick hitting drive was capped off with a 38-yard touchdown to senior Isaac Thompson which put the Jr. Billikens up 14-0 with 3:19 left in the first quarter.

The Jr. Bills' defense forced their first three and out of the season which, again, put the ball right back into the hands of Johnston on the opposing 29-yard line.

On the first play of the second quarter, Johnston

connected with his big tight end, junior Zach Ortwerth, for a five-yard score to put the Jr. Bills up 21-0.

It seemed as if this may be a cakewalk of a game, but MICDS never waved the white flag.

"You look at their sideline when it was 21-0 and you'd think they were up 21-0. They were calm, they were cool, there was no sense of panic, and that's what good teams do," said coach Adam Cruz.

MICDS punched back on a drive highlighted by five runs of 12 or more yards which was capped off by a 21-yard rushing touchdown by their halfback, Steven Hall.

The Jr. Bills put together a lengthy drive, but were forced to settle for a 33-yard field goal after it stalled. Placekicker Connor

Greninger, however, missed his first attempt of the year which gave MICDS another chance to score in the waning moments of the first half.

On the final play of the half, MICDS wide receiver Oliver Rohan gained a step on the secondary and corralled a 77-yard touchdown reception which put the Rams only down a score going into the locker room.

After deferring to begin the game, the Rams received the second half kick off and proceeded to run the ball down the throat of the Jr. Bills defense.

After running the ball on nine consecutive plays, the Rams knotted the game at 21 on a 10-yard touchdown pass to Tyler Schutie with 6:34 remaining in the third quarter.

The Jr. Bills found some much-needed life and were able to take their lone drive

of the third quarter the length of the field to regain the lead 28-21. The drive, highlighted by a 20-yard run by Johnston and a 33-yard completion to Thompson, was capped off by a 9-yard touchdown pass to sophomore Joe Harris with 55.9 seconds left in the quarter on a crucial third and 9 play.

Despite this burst of momentum, the Jr. Bills offense was shut out the remainder of the game, unable to add any insurance to their lead.

Johnston believed the Bills hurt themselves more than anything.

"We had too many penalties," he admitted.

With 11:00 remaining in the game, the Rams tied the game at 28 with a 33-yard touchdown pass over the middle to PJ Behan. The throw was quarterback Reagan Andrews' third passing touchdown on only his sixth completion.

MICDS continued to run circles around the Jr. Bills in the remaining time, easily scoring the go ahead touchdown on a 7-yard quarterback scramble with 5:22 remaining in the game.

"Defensively we got kind of tired in the second half and started missing a lot of tackles," said Thompson. "We started to make mistakes and play kind of sloppy and MICDS kept playing hard."

Back on offense, the Jr. Bills were backed up in their own territory for a second and 16. Johnston fired a strike on a deep ball to sophomore Ryan Wingo, but the pass was broken up on an early hit from the MICDS defender which caused Wingo's helmet to fly off. The Jr. Bills thought

they had caught a break, but the referee never threw a flag.

In the ensuing days, the referees actually reached out to the SLUH coaching staff and admitted that they missed this pivotal call.

SLUH was forced to punt and MICDS drove down the field and scored once more on a 1-yard touchdown run which cemented the win for the Rams by a score of 42-28.

The defense did not force any turnovers, but they were led by senior Dontavion Sullivan with 11 tackles, followed by fellow senior captain Philip Bone, who contributed 8 tackles.

On the offensive side of the ball, Johnston finished the game with three touchdowns, no turnovers and 293 yards on 16-for-27 passing.

Baker made the most of his opening game opportunities with 136 yards on the ground and an impressive 6.5 ypc.

Brooks and Thompson each rattled off a couple big plays which gave Thompson 114 all purpose yards and Brooks 84 yards on three catches, yet Harris, a name to look for in the coming weeks, led the team in receptions with five for 46 yards.

The football game scheduled for tonight against Roosevelt has been cancelled due to Covid quarantines at Roosevelt.

The Jr. Bills will shift their attention to next Friday for their MCC opener against Chaminade at SLUH at 6 p.m.

Looking back on Friday's opening loss, Thompson believes that, despite this team's opening loss, the Jr. Bills will still be a dangerous team to play in the coming weeks of the season.



Derrick Baker rumbles through MICDS defenders

photo | courtesy of viclewchenko

## XC underclassmen impress at O'Fallon, Varsity gears up for Granite City

BY JACKSON COOPER AND PETER JAMES  
CORE STAFF, STAFF

After months of summer running and four weeks of practice, St. Louis U. High's cross country program finally starts its season this week with two meets on the other side of the river.

All freshmen and sophomores began their seasons on Wednesday, Sept. 1, at the O'Fallon Futures Meet, which was held at O'Fallon High School's Milburn Campus. The course, which features a straightaway-laden 2-mile loop that runners complete one and a half times, was turned muddy in some places by Tuesday night's rains. This obstacle was not enough to stop some of SLUH's underclassmen from having excel-

lent races to begin their season.

SLUH's highest finisher in the freshman classification was Gus Talleur, who finished in third place with an outstanding three-mile time of 18:03, which already earns him a JV letter. Talleur was followed by Logan Phillips, who earned a top-10 finish with a time of 19:17.

For head coach Joe Porter, the freshman race offered a good starting point for what he hopes to be a successful year for the freshmen.

"It doesn't matter if you were Gus and you were the top freshman or if you were further back in the pack," said Porter, "There was a point for us to get better, and we finally got to get out there and race. It's important to remember that we're a long way from the

races where we want to run our fastest, so this is a great starting point for us to kind of work forward and keep continuing to get better."

However, the biggest success for the Jr. Bills came later on in the sophomore race, with first-year transfer Mason Scargall coming away with the victory and nearly claiming a course record in the process. Scargall was followed closely by his classmates Anthony Zangara and Charlie Murray, who finished second and third, respectively.

"We were able to get the top three overall in the sophomore race," said Porter, "Mason, who just transferred from Maplewood, and then Anthony and Charlie went 1-2-3, so that was a great race for them. Mason, based on the 5K conversion that we got, ended

up with a 1:06 PR, which was great as well."

Tomorrow, the entire team runs at the Granite City Invitational at Wilson Park in Granite City, Ill. Like O'Fallon, Granite City is a 3-mile race as opposed to the more common 5 kilometer race, which features virtually no significant elevation change, often results in fast times. The meet also typically features very few, if any, Missouri teams, giving SLUH runners what is often their only chance to race against teams from around Illinois.

"We're just trying to kick the tires and see where we're at (for Granite City)," said Porter. "Edwardsville has a really good team, they're ranked fourth in the state of Illinois right now, so I definitely feel like it'll be a

good opportunity to compete and try to stick with them."

The top seven varsity runners will compete in the Varsity race at 9:10 a.m., which will be followed by the freshman/sophomore race, which will feature SLUH's top seven finishers from O'Fallon. All remaining runners will race in the Open Race at 11 a.m.

SLUH will look to continue a recent pattern of success at Granite City, and hopes to take home the team title in the Varsity race for a third consecutive year.

Further on the horizon is the return of the SLUH-hosted Forest Park XC Festival on Sept. 11, which typically features elite teams from as far away as Chicago and Kansas City, and was cancelled last year due to Covid-19 concerns.



Art | Alex Deiters

# Rain stunts Jr. Bills' strong showing against Marquette, game ends in tie

BY NATHAN RICH AND MICHAEL ROBINSON  
SPORTS EDITOR, REPORTER

The Jr. Bills took the field for the first official time on Wednesday at Marquette under cloudy skies, unconcerned about the chance for rain. Sixty minutes later, though, as the sky turned yellow and lightning forced a delay that ultimately ended the game, the varsity soccer team left the field in a 2-2 tie feeling unsatisfied.

The score was a letdown, especially after the Jr. Bills' strong first half. After a shaky start playing in transition and struggling to look confident on the ball, the star-packed SLUH offense got rolling 10 minutes into the first half, when an offensive push led to a corner kick for the Jr. Bills. Sophomore Gabe Hafner took the kick and sent it straight off the head of senior forward Tyler Van Bree.

Van Bree's goal put SLUH on top early against Marquette, a team that many SLUH players regarded as one of the best in the state. As Van Bree slid into the corner flag in celebration, head coach Bob O'Connell was relieved to see that their hard work in practice was paying off.

"One of our emphasis this year was to be better on restarts, and on our first corner of the year we get a great serve from Gabe and Tyler goes up and makes a play," he said. "I thought the first goal was great."

After Van Bree's score, SLUH dominated the rest of the half, maintaining near-constant ball possession. The second goal was a streak of brilliance from junior midfielder Sam Teiber, who rocketed a missile from just



Players celebrating after the second goal of the season was scored against Marquette  
photo | Richard Taylor

outside the 18 into the back of Marquette's goal.

From there the game grew more physical on both sides, not only from the teams, but from some jeers coming from the small Marquette student section. Jackson Griffiths-Hill, one of the fans' targets, chose to let the score speak for itself.

"I thought it was more funny than anything. If you can't take the heat, leave the kitchen," Griffiths-Hill joked.

After 45 minutes of play, the Jr. Bills entered halftime with a 2-0 lead. O'Connell was very happy with his team's performance.

"The first half we were incredibly dangerous going forward. We were great in the air and we were tougher than them. We scored two really good goals," he said.

The Mustangs came out strong in the second half, though. As the SLUH offense cooled off from the first half, the defense found themselves

facing more Marquette shots with mixed results. Marquette found the net early in the second half after a defensive mistake to make it 2-1.

"I've watched the goal a couple times already and we can learn from that first goal," O'Connell admitted. "There were some small things we could have done to put us back in the game. We had a chance to play our keeper and we didn't. We had the chance to kick it out of bounds and we didn't."

After this, SLUH seemed to slowly lose momentum. Roughly 10 minutes into the second half, the Jr. Bills let up a second goal from Marquette's star forward. Shortly after the score evened, though, lightning in the area forced a 30-minute delay which eventually led them to call the game at 2-2. The team was frustrated, as they recognized the potential they had to dethrone a team that received significant pre-sea-

son hype.

"I think if we would have played that game to completion, we would have scored another goal," said O'Connell.

In the end, though, it was defense that troubled the Jr. Bills in their season opener. O'Connell and his fellow coaches are looking to right that, though, as they try to find their starting goalie in SLUH's next stretch of games.

"All three goalies will get a chance here early and that's still the plan regardless of the result," said O'Connell. "By the CBC Tournament, maybe it'll be a little bit clearer who's going to play."

The next match for the Jr. Bills will be this afternoon against Glendale at SLUH. The soccer team will look to officially add a win to their record as they suit up at 6:00 for a game that will also feature this year's Running of the Bills.

"It should be exciting. As much as it's going to be fun, we still have to play the way we would any other time and not get distracted. Too much celebration, and coach will not be happy," said senior Jacob Lemley.

# Pivot to soccer game for iconic Running of the Bills

(continued from page 1)  
ever far you want to expand it, to have lost an opponent for this Friday night's game. So, are there options? Yes?"

The Running of the Bills added extra pressure on Muskopf and the Athletic Department to attempt to find another school to play. Ideally, they wanted to avoid postponing such an important part of SLUH initiation.

"You at least want to look, and especially given what this weekend entails for our community with Running of the Bills and other events happening, we want to try to do everything we can to find an opponent," said Muskopf.

Upon the announcement of Roosevelt's cancellation, the school looked into a multitude of possible solutions to try and keep Running of the Bills on schedule. Ultimately, they decided to use tonight's varsity soccer game against Glendale in place of the football game. The soccer game was pushed back two hours to accommodate the mass of freshman runners and parents. The move, however, was not the first choice of the administration.

"We came very close today to locking in a team from Chicago. It just fell apart, it was too late, and we just couldn't make it happen. It's a lot of challenges here and a lot of challenges in Chicago," said principal Fr. Ian Gibbons SJ.

SLUH committees also considered a team from Springfield but that, too, fell through. Many also suggested postponing Running of the Bills for a later date, such as next week's football game against Chaminade. As Gibbons considered that option, however, it became clear that this week was the only chance to hold the

event.  
"We can't do it next week because of the other programs that are going to be happening that are already set," he said. "You push things back, they bump into other pieces and we simply don't have the room and the stands. We don't have the capacity to be able to do Running of the Bills for that."

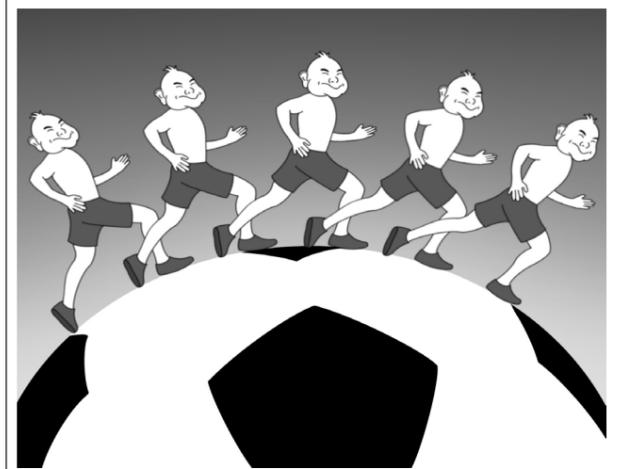
The soccer game will be played on the football field instead of the soccer stadium to allow greater crowd capacity. SLUH's Pep Band, which is normally reserved for football games, will also play at the event. Freshman Fun Day is still scheduled to take place with no changes. Even though the sport is different, freshmen can still expect an atmosphere very similar to a football game.

As for the football team, cancelling a game will have significant effects on the season. Since the team doesn't play very many games each year, it was a sacrifice to lose one.

"It's different from sport to sport," said Muskopf. "If you're playing 30 baseball games and you lose one opponent because of Covid, it's a different environment than if you're playing nine football games and you lose an opponent because of Covid. So, you know, everybody knew this was a potential."

This situation also marks the first time a sporting event at SLUH has had to be cancelled due to Covid, which is a testament to the work of the SLUH administration and SLUH athletes.

"We were pretty lucky last year," noted Muskopf. "We were pretty fortunate to not run into a whole lot of Covid-type cancellations where we had to scramble for an opponent."



art | Charlie Bieg



53 Posts    478 Followers    61 Following

# National Honor Society Inductees of 2021

## Juniors

- Giuseppe Abbate
- Nathan Abner
- Keller Anderson
- Evan August
- Kameron Bailey
- Tyler Barks
- Joseph Basse
- Michael Baudendistel
- Michael Baur
- William Blaisdell
- Thomas Bock
- Ryan Carpenter
- Luke Conran
- Connor Coolbaugh
- Jackson Cooper
- Cody Cox
- Alexander Deiters

- Luke Duffy
- John Emke
- Ian Erker
- Jack Evans
- Owen Fitzgerald
- Colin Fleming
- Oliver Floresca
- Nicholas George
- Timothy Greiner
- Luke Gund
- Parker Guthrie
- Lucas Hammond
- Joseph Hanks
- Nicholas Heinlein
- Connor Higano
- Jack Hulett
- David Hunt
- Walter Hurley
- Daniel Irvine

- Broderick Johnson
- Jakob Johnson
- Spencer Johnson
- Brendan Jones
- Ryan Kellogg
- George Keyrouz
- Cal Kreuter
- August Kriegshauser
- Grant Kuhn
- Benjamin Lampe
- Fredrick Laux
- Ethan Lee
- William Lubbring
- Nathan Ly
- John Martin
- Jacob McCarthy
- Benjamin McCaslin
- Grant McCormick
- Patrick Mehan

- George Mikhail
- Lionel Moise IV
- Luke Moorman
- Luka Okropirashvili
- Zachary Ortwerth
- Ethan Pini
- Alexander Preusser
- Noah Probst
- Eric Pudlo
- Nicholas Purschke
- Lucas Rammacher
- Jude Reed
- Griffin Reed
- Thomas Reh
- William Riggan
- Peter Roither
- Luke Rosenberg
- Wyatt Seal
- Joseph Simeri

- Grant Skube
- Jackson Slusser
- Matthew Sommers
- Nathan Spengemann
- Christopher St. John
- Daniel Tice
- Connor Whalen
- Nicholas Wilson
- Joseph Zarrilli
- Henry Zenor
- Adrian Zepeda

## Seniors

- Brian Critchfield
- Angad Gothra
- Sasha Gothra
- Shawn Gothra
- Timothy Gunn

- Francis Hohn
- Ardian Hoxhaj
- Indranil Kar
- Ismael Karim
- Samuel Kean
- Nicholas La Presta
- Brady Loehr
- John Loretta
- Peter Mueller
- Craig Ortwerth
- Daniel Phillips
- Alex Shelton
- Coby Spratte
- Timothy Thouvenot
- Charles Vonderheid

# Around the Hallways

### Fire Alarm

At the end of first period on Friday the 27th, the ears of still-half-asleep students were bombarded with the startling blare of the fire alarm. Confused, a thousand shuffling feet made their way down to the football field to find their designated yard lines. Soon enough, after watching a fire truck, sirens on and lights ablazin', fly down Oakland, Dr. Brock Kesterson's distinctive voice sounded across the turf. All clear, tripped by normal kitchen duties.

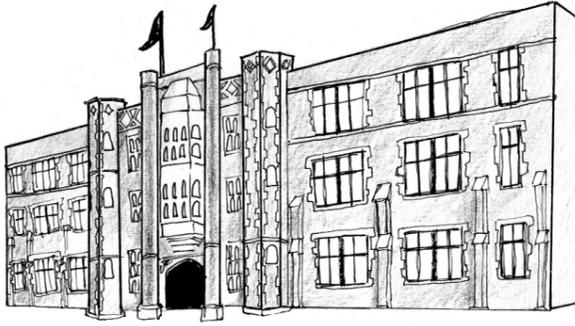
start of a new school year. Hopes were high for this event, as liturgies with the presence of the entire school population were impossible last year due to COVID. Despite some setbacks with St. Louis weather, from blazing heat to pouring rain, the liturgy occurred, though with a few changes. Even after rescheduling to avoid overheating, the outside mass needed to be moved inside to avoid a rainout. This meant, with pandemic protocol in effect, the liturgy needed to be celebrated simultaneously in two separate locations.

### Mass of the Holy Spirit

A long-held tradition of the first weeks of school at SLU High is the Mass of the Holy Spirit, the first all-school liturgy to mark the

### Traffic Issues

Recently, students arriving to school later than 8:15 have been plagued by traffic issues backing up the Oak-



land turn lanes and the turnaround. Principal for Student Life Brock Kesterson, in an effort to remedy this issue, sent out an email to clarify with parents the guidelines for morning drop off. In his email, Kesterson attributed these traffic jams to, among

other things, students being dropped off at the top of the turnaround, delays in student-parent driver switches, and confusion at the Oakland stop signs.

—Compiled by Jackson Cooper and Alex Preusser

# Calendar

## Friday, September 3

A Day

- Labor Day Soccer Event
- Freshman Class Meeting - Studium
- Class of 2025 Fun Day
- Running of the Bills - Class of 2025
- Chef Special Homestyle Battered Cod
- 7:50AM SLUH Community First Friday Mass
- 4:00PM JV Soccer vs John Burroughs
- 4:15PM Swimming vs Francis Howell Central
- 6:00PM Varsity Soccer vs Glendale

## Saturday, September 4

- Labor Day Soccer Event
- 9:00AM C Team Soccer vs Vianney (2 contests)
- 9:00AM Cross Country (C/B/JV/V) at Granite City Invitational

## Sunday, September 5

No Events

## Monday, September 6

- NO CLASSES - LABOR DAY
- 10:00AM B Team MCC Soccer Tournament (vs CBC)

## Tuesday, September 7

B Day

- Shadow Host Training
- Chef Special Loaded Potato Wedges
- 4:15PM JV Soccer vs Gibault
- 6:00PM Varsity Soccer vs Gibault
- 6:30PM C Football vs Kirkwood

## Wednesday, September 8

A Day

- Chef Special Chopped Brisket Hoagie With Onion Rings
- 4:30PM C Team Soccer vs Priory
- 5:45PM B Team MCC Soccer Tournament (vs De Smet)

## Thursday, September 9

B Day

- Chef Special Cowboy Nachos
- 8:30AM Parent Ambassador Meeting
- 3:30PM Parent Ambassador Orientation (Virtual)
- 4:30PM JV Soccer vs Webster Groves
- 5:15PM B Team MCC Soccer Tournament (vs St. John Vianney)
- 5:30PM Varsity Soccer vs Webster Groves

## Friday, September 10

A Day

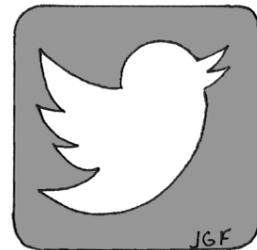
- Chef Special Cajun Shrimp Pasta
- 6:00PM Varsity Football vs Chaminade

calendar | Roarke Unrau

# SLUHSEERS #2: AN ACTIVE ACTIVITY FAIR



art | Jude Reed



# Prep News

Volume 86, Issue 2

## Credits:

“What sport should they do running of the bills at next?”

**Editor in Chief**  
Jack “Prep News” Figge

**Sports Editor**  
Nathan “speed chess” Rich

**News Editor**  
Roarke “co-ed indoor soccer” Unrau

**Visual Editor**  
Charlie “rifle” Bieg

**Web Editor**  
Luke “Kino border trip” Duffy

**Core Staff**

Louis “Indiana golf trip” Cornett  
Jack “mock trial” Rybak  
Jackson “JV cross country” Cooper

**Staff**  
Peter “youth tee ball” James  
Coby “hide-and-seek” Spratte  
Alex “JV3 racquetball” Preusser  
George “triathlon” Henken

**Reporters**  
Ben “curling” Croat  
Charles “hurling” Turnell  
Jack “cornhole” Evans  
Michael “flag football” Robinson  
John “gymnastics” Bytnar

John “extreme napping” Posey  
Elliot “swim” Moore  
Declan “Irish dancing” Richards  
Jared “bocce” Thornberry

**Artists**  
Jude “long distance swimming” Reed  
Alex “hopscotch” Deiters

**Photographers**  
Mrs. Kathy “periodic table memorization” Chott  
Michael “cricket” Urbanski  
Mr. Ryan “basketball” Doyle

**Moderator**  
Steve “reading like a professor” Missey