

SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY™  
**PRECOMMENCEMENT**

---

TRUDY BUSCH VALENTINE  
SCHOOL OF NURSING



**20  
25**

THURSDAY, MAY 15  
CHAIFETZ ARENA  
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

# ABOUT SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY



Saint Louis University is one of the oldest and most prestigious Catholic universities in the United States. Founded in 1818, the University is recognized nationally for world-class academics, life-changing research and a strong commitment to faith and service.

Guided by its enduring Jesuit mission, Saint Louis University offers students a highly rigorous and deeply transformative education that empowers them to become bold, confident leaders.

As a nationally recognized leader in research and innovation, SLU is a Research-1 (R1) university, advancing groundbreaking discoveries in St. Louis and around the world.

In 2024, Saint Louis University educated more students than ever before and experienced unprecedented international enrollment: 15,334 students, from all 50 states and 100 countries. SLU's campus in Madrid, Spain, enrolled 1,246 students last fall.

A dedication to values-based education and social justice has earned Saint Louis University widespread acclaim and bolstered its status as a character-building college. SLU offers more than 180 community engagement courses, and 75 percent of SLU students volunteer each year.

SLU is also a catalyst for urban renewal in the heart of a vibrant city. More than \$1.2 billion in housing, retail and business development is underway in Midtown St. Louis, and the University is in the center of the neighborhood's growth.

Inspired by its pioneering spirit, Saint Louis University continues to move forward, committed to serve a higher purpose while seeking the greater good.

## ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

One of the country's top colleges (The Princeton Review, *The Wall Street Journal* and *U.S. News & World Report* magazine) – and the No. 13 Catholic college in America (Niche)

## RESEARCH

SLU's R1 status places the University in an elite group of U.S. research universities. SLU has increased research expenditures by 104% over the last eight years.

## SERVICE

1.6 million hours of service completed by the SLU community annually

## ENDOWMENT

\$1.9 billion, an increase of 74% over the last decade

## ATHLETICS

NCAA Division I, Atlantic 10 Conference

## MASCOT

The Billiken, a mythical good-luck figure who represents "things as they ought to be"

## ALUMNI

134,336 alumni in 50 states and 154 countries

## WELCOME

### ACADEMIC PROCESSION

School of Nursing administrators

School of Nursing faculty

Candidates for the degree Bachelor of Science in Nursing

Candidates for the degree Master of Science in Nursing

Candidates for the degree Doctor of Nursing Practice

Candidates for the degree Doctor of Philosophy.

### MISTRESS OF CEREMONIES

**Cristina McGroarty,**  
Ph.D., RN  
Assistant Professor

### INVOCATION

**David Suwalsky, s.j.**  
Vice President for  
Mission and Identity

### WELCOME AND REMARKS

**Kristine L'Ecuyer,**  
Ph.D., RN, CNL, CNE  
Interim Dean,  
School of Nursing

### PRECOMMENCEMENT SPEAKER

**Trudy Busch Valentine,**  
RN, BSN, MAPS  
Alumna

## PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES

*Presented by:*

**Karen Cugar, RN, Ph.D., CNE CNL**  
Associate Professor of Nursing

*Traditional BSN Program Coordinator Level One*

Candidates for Bachelor of Science in Nursing Degree

Candidates for Master of Science in Nursing Degree, Accelerated

Candidates for Master of Science in Nursing Degree, Clinical Nurse Leader

Candidates for Master of Science in Nursing Degree, Family Nurse Practitioner

Candidates for the Doctorate of Nursing Practice

Candidates for Doctor of Philosophy in Nursing

## RECOGNITION OF NOMINEES AND RECIPIENTS OF AWARDS AND HONORS

### PRESENTATION OF AWARDS AND HONORS

**Devita Stallings, Ph.D., RN, FAAN**  
Associate Professor

*Associate Dean of Undergraduate and Prelicensure Nursing Education*

## BENEDICTION

**David Suwalsky, s.j.**  
Vice President of Mission and Identity

## CANDIDATES FOR BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN NURSING

### TRADITIONAL OPTION

#### MAY 2025 GRADUATES

Sadie Allen ○ □  
 Megan Anderson ○ □  
 Marie Anzilotti ○  
 Grace Audette ○ □  
 Julissa Avalos ○ □ ◇  
 Karly Avila  
 Samantha Banegas  
 Keith Barrett  
 Ava Bartos  
 Dominic Benben  
 Andrew Bergman  
 Kaela Bittner ○  
 Lauren Bles ○  
 Grace Blouin ○  
 Emilia Bosaia ○  
 Ella Brennan ○ □  
 Katelyn Brinkman ○  
 Leah Brockman ○  
 Caroline Brouwer □  
 Natalie Bui ○  
 Abigail Burns  
 Therese Cacayan □  
 Grace Camel ○  
 Yasmin Ceballos ◇  
 Paris Cribb † ○ □  
 James Cruz ○  
 Lauren Curtis ○ □  
 Annalise D'Angelo  
 Hannah Dal Ponte ○  
 Lauren Degenhardt ○  
 Meghan Delahunty ○ □  
 Jenna Delap  
 Rachel Dondalski ○  
 Emma Dunaway ○  
 Hannah Ernsteen  
 Emilia Filipek ○  
 Alexandra Gahring ○  
 Julianna Garcia □  
 Serena George

Elliot Gerwing † ○  
 Elizabeth Golinski ○  
 Samantha Green  
 Rose Gundrum ○  
 Paige Halcomb ○  
 Riley Hanke ○ □  
 Emma Hansen ○  
 Lilli Hansen ○ □  
 Emma Hartung □  
 Madeline Hellmann ○  
 Ally Holtebeck  
 Emma Horsley ○  
 Isabella Hunt ○  
 Ava Jakubczak ○ □  
 Amala James □  
 Ella Jerina □  
 Erin Johnson ○ □  
 Frances Kent ○ □  
 Bridget Koehler ○  
 Julia Kopacz  
 Alexa Kozminski ○ □  
 Emma Lamberti ○ ☆  
 Emily Lentz ○  
 Molly Lentz ○  
 Mary Leonard  
 Emma Linane ○  
 Ella MacVane ○ □  
 Rachel Maller ○  
 Joan McKeough  
 Alexander Mendieta-Olive ◇  
 Hailey Meyer ○  
 Julia Michaelson ○  
 Sara Micheline ○ □  
 Isabella Millner ○ □  
 Ginger Mirabelli † ○  
 Sonja Morin ○  
 Megan Morris  
 Mary Clare Murphy ○  
 Michelle Murphy ○  
 Ashley Nguyen ○

Colleen O'Connor  
 Ella O'Neill ○  
 Frances O'Shea ○  
 Eirinn O'Sullivan ○  
 Sophia Pak ○  
 Lyla Perrelli  
 Mia Pettitt ○ ☆  
 Rhea Pinto

Josephine Poe  
 Jayden Ponce  
 Erica Pulido ○ ◇  
 Olivia Ross □  
 Janelle Rulla ○ □  
 Patrick Rycerz ○  
 Jackson Ryson  
 Myriam Sakho-Castanou □ ◇  
 Sarah Samoska ○  
 Caitlin Saso ○  
 Megan Saso † ○

Jenna Scarborough ○  
 Anna Scheffert ○  
 Sara Schuleit  
 Emma Segura ○ ◇  
 Deidra Sinkey ○  
 Emma Sinnwell ○ □  
 Jacqueline Stegmayer ○  
 Kaytlin Stover ○  
 Laney Sturgeon ○  
 Camila Swiatlowski ○  
 Zoe Tafreshing ○ □  
 Diora Ton ○  
 Emily Toomey ○ □  
 Emily Tran ○  
 Noelle Treacy ○  
 Skyelar Verderber ○  
 Leslie Viveros  
 Anna Voelker  
 Mary Grace Voirin ○ □  
 Nhi Vu ○  
 Kayla Walker ○ □

Lilian Weaver  
 Devin Weber ◇  
 Kristen White ○  
 Alyse Wilken  
 Kiera Yock ○  
 Anabelle Zeller ○

#### AUGUST 2025 GRADUATES

Emily Airaghi  
 Jaclyn Blazevic  
 Deborah Dimitrov  
 Sara Estrada ◇  
 Karizza Gong  
 Dai-lin Hummel  
 Jun Hwang □  
 Anastacia Muratov  
 Alexandra Smith

### ACCELERATED OPTION

#### MAY 2025 GRADUATES

Fatima Akram ○  
 Sofia Alkalaf  
 Ericka Carter  
 Erika Clark  
 Brianna Di Benedetto ○  
 Deja Drummer  
 Sarah Edelen ○  
 Caleb Harlon ○  
 Selci Hopkins  
 Seena Khajavi  
 Chan Mi Kim ○ ☆  
 Jessica Kirchner  
 Andrea Leenerts ○  
 Anna McMahan ○  
 Michael McManigal ○  
 Kylie Miller  
 Elijah Moh  
 Claire Myers ○  
 Kharissa Norvell ○ ☆  
 Bailey Pentino ○  
 Morgan Polcar ○ ☆

## CANDIDATES FOR BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN NURSING

Maisam Rajeh ○  
 Julia Schmidt ○  
 Marissa Sharp ○  
 Kathya Vides ○ ☆

Benetta Ward ○  
 Gavin Wood ○ ☆  
 Alexandria Wright ○ ☆

### RN TO BSN

#### MAY 2025 GRADUATES

Ramona Cox  
 Kyle Jones ○  
 Melanie Krull

Amber Maxwell  
 Kyle Norris  
 Yuleide Quintero Nino  
 Elise Vanderheide

## CANDIDATES FOR MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NURSING

### ACCELERATED

#### MAY 2025 GRADUATES

*Hooded by Heather Wade DNP, FNP-BC, RN, CNL*

Thamer Alwadani  
 Sumantha Reddy Billa  
 Damaris Carter  
 Jasmine Carter ☆  
 Nkechi Chilaka  
 Kathryn Curtis ☆  
 Danielle Edwards  
 Mikaela Loucks  
 Katelyn Lynn  
 Tiffany Mesa  
 Sylvia Morfin  
 Luke Najera

Jocelyn Nelson ☆

Aaron Nyadawa

Swati Patel ☆

Gabrielle Penn ☆

Marissa Perino ☆

Joyce Peter

Kaylen Rice ☆

Emma Riley

Rachel Rodger

Lauren Sellars ☆

Teacora Sims

Hope Smith

Olivia Sublette

Morgan Talir

Leighana Weaver

Adrianna Zovich

### FAMILY NURSE PRACTITIONER

#### MAY 2025 GRADUATE

*Hooded by Shellie Hill, DNP, APRN, FNP-BC*

Paige Niepotter  
 Kayla Yu Finnegan

### CLINICAL NURSE LEADER

#### MAY 2025 GRADUATES

*Hooded by Bobbi Shatto, Ph.D., RN, CNL*

Kathleen Hickey

Daniel Joyce

Courtney Mangin

Jenifer Schilpzand ☆

Rachel Zander

† Alpha Sigma Nu Jesuit Honor Society

○ Anticipated Honors

□ Certificate in Family Nursing

◇ Nursing Workforce Diversity Program

☆ Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing

**Graduation honors** for candidates appearing in this book are calculated based on the Grade Point Average at the end of the Fall semester.

**University honors** will be officially calculated when final grades have been submitted and the degrees are conferred.

*This program is not an official document.*

## CANDIDATES FOR THE DOCTOR OF NURSING PRACTICE



**JANELLE BAIR**  
PROJECT TITLE:

The Effect of Cannabis Use  
on Postoperative Nausea and Vomiting

**CHAIR: Christopher Hemmer**  
DNP, ANP, ONP-C, FAANP, FNAON  
Associate Professor



**KIYOKO GUTHERIE**  
PROJECT TITLE:

The Effectiveness of De-Escalation Training  
on Staff's Level of Confidence When Managing  
Aggressive Patients in the Ambulatory Setting.

**CHAIR: Karen Moore**  
Ph.D., DNP, APRN, ANP-BC, FNP-C, CGNC, FAANP, FAAN  
Professor, DNP Program Director, Coordinator of  
Global and Planetary Health



**JENNIFER LUER**  
PROJECT TITLE:

Violent Restraint Use in Emergency  
Departments after HeartMath:  
A Multisite Retrospective Analysis

**CHAIR: Karen S. Moore**  
Ph.D., DNP, APRN, ANP-BC, FNP-C, CGNC,  
FAANP, FAAN  
Professor,  
DNP Program Director,  
Coordinator of Global and Planetary Health



**JULIE ROEHRIG WAGNER**  
PROJECT TITLE:

A Daily Hydration Intervention to  
Reduce Urinary Tract Infections, Falls,  
and Hospitalizations in Skilled Nursing Facility  
Residents: A Quality Improvement Project

**CHAIR: Helen Lach**  
Ph.D., RN, CNL, FGSA, FAAN  
Professor,  
Associate Dean for Research/Ph.D. Director

## CANDIDATES FOR THE DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN NURSING



**NANCY KURILLA**  
DISSERTATION TITLE:

Exploring Pregnant Women's Confidence in Their  
Ability to Breastfeed Their First Expectant Baby

**CHAIR: Denise Côté-Arsenault**  
Ph.D., RN, CPCLC, FNAP, FAAN  
Patricia and James R. Hemak  
Professor of Maternal Child Nursing



**HILLARY MUELLER**  
DISSERTATION TITLE:

A World Without an Autism Spectrum Disorder  
Diagnosis: The Lived Experience of the Journey  
of Adolescents and Young Adults to  
a Diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder.

**CHAIR: Verna Hendricks-Ferguson**  
Ph.D., RN, FPCN, FAAN  
Professor,  
Irene Riddle Endowed Chair

## NURSING ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

The Trudy Busch Valentine School of Nursing Alumni Association welcomes you as new alumni/alumna of Saint Louis University. Special thanks to all the graduates participating in the ceremony and those family members, friends, faculty and staff in attendance this morning to honor them.

We want to keep you informed about all the exciting things that are happening on campus and in your program, so please follow us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/slunurse](http://www.facebook.com/slunurse)

## SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF NURSING PLEDGE

As a Saint Louis University School of Nursing graduate, I solemnly pledge myself before God and in the presence of this assembly to faithfully practice my profession of nursing. As a health care professional dedicated to enhancing the well-being of individuals and communities, I am committed to fulfilling my responsibilities with compassion for patients' care. I pledge collaboration with all my colleagues similarly committed to meeting health care needs of individuals and their communities. I will constantly endeavor to increase my knowledge and skills in nursing and use them wisely. As a person for others, I will assist all in safeguarding and promoting the health and happiness of mankind.

### THE SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF NURSING PIN

The tradition of the nursing pin dates back to 1880. The school of nursing that initiated this tradition was Bellevue Hospital School of Nursing in New York.

The Saint Louis University School of Nursing pin, which dates back to 1928, expresses by its symbolism the spirit and objectives of the School. The upper left section of the shield displays a representation of what was the seal of the Sisters of Saint Mary (now the Franciscan Sisters of Mary) under whose direction the School of Nursing was first conducted as a University school for Sisters and lay nurses (1928). The seal of the Sisters of Saint Mary exhibited as its central feature a large capital "M" representing the name of Mary. The upper arms of the letter "M" enclose a heart, symbolic of Christ and His love. This compound symbol rests in the angle made by two crossed arms, one representing Christ, and the other, Saint Francis, whose spirit the Sisters of Saint Mary adopted.

In the lower right section of the shield is the seal of Saint Louis University. A modified American Eagle, taken from the Great Seal of the United States, symbolizes the presence of the Society of Jesus (Jesuits) in the United States. The large shield on the breast of the eagle exhibits the letters HIS (Iota, Eta, Sigma), the first three letters of the Greek name for Jesus and the symbol of the Society of Jesus. In the right talon, the eagle holds a cross, signifying the primary reason the Jesuits came to America – to teach Christianity. In the left talon,

the eagle holds a laurel branch or palm, signifying the Jesuits' secondary purpose for coming to America – to teach liberal arts. Around the eagle, there are three fleur-de-lis, the symbol of France and that of King Louis IX, the saint after whom the City of St. Louis and the University are named.

In the upper right small triangular field is the caduceus, which is universally accepted as the symbol of the medical profession. Traditionally, it is the wand of the god Mercury who was regarded by the Romans, the Greeks, and the nations of the Roman period as the god of healing or health. It reflects two serpents intertwined around a central staff. From the head of the staff springs a pair of outstretched wings. A capital "N" overlying the caduceus represents Nursing.

In the lower left of the shield, there is a lamp of science and of truth. Florence Nightingale is represented traditionally as carrying such a Roman lamp and is referred to as the "Lady with the Lamp." For this reason, a lamp has been adopted as a symbol of nursing.

The pin itself is shaped as a defensive shield with a very rigorous outline around the edges to symbolize the vigor and strength of the School. The border in the original design, though not in the pin, is blue enamel and the field of the shield is white. The two colors, blue and white, are the colors of the University. The blue signifies the Jesuits' devotion to the Blessed Mother Mary, and the white, the color of the lilies of France.

## ACADEMIC ATTIRE

The attire worn by graduates, faculty, trustees and officers of the University has historic roots in the medieval past.

The gown seems to be the adapted robe of the medieval friar or priest; the hood, like the monk's or friar's cowl; and the mortarboard cap recalls the skullcap that protected tonsured heads in drafty medieval classrooms.

Academic attire began to appear on U.S. campuses in the late 1890s.

## THE GOWNS

The gown of the bachelor is a yoked, closed-front garment with long pointed sleeves; that of the master has sleeves long and closed but slit just above the elbow; the gown of the doctor has full, bell-shaped sleeves. The doctor's gown is trimmed with velvet panels down the front and three velvet bars on each sleeve.

## THE HOOD

The hood at first seems to have been worn over the head and attached to the gown. When the skullcap was introduced, the hood was detached and worn as it is today.

Each degree (bachelor's, master's, doctoral) has its special hood, which varies in length and, for the doctor, also in pattern. The color or colors lining the hood are those of the college or university that granted the wearer's degree. Saint Louis University is known by blue chevron on white. The colored velvet edging of the hood, in different widths for bachelor, master and doctor, is determined by the field of study.

## THE CAP

The mortarboard has become the accepted style for U.S. colleges and universities.

## THE TASSEL

The tassel is perhaps the most iconic souvenir of academic attire. The doctoral graduate can wear a gold or black tassel on the mortarboard. However, varying the color of the tassel based on the field of study has gained acceptance throughout academia.

*Colors include:*

**Allied health professions:** Mint green

**Arts:** White

**Business:** Drab

**Education:** Light blue

**Hospital administration:** Salmon

**Law:** Purple

**Medicine:** Green

**Nursing:** Apricot

**Philosophy:** Dark blue

**Public administration:** Peacock blue

**Science:** Gold-yellow

**Social work:** Citron

**Technology and engineering:** Orange

**Theology:** Scarlet



SAINT LOUIS  
UNIVERSITY™

— EST. 1818 —

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