

UNIVERSITAS

THE ALUMNI MAGAZINE OF SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY

SUMMER
2021

DISCOVERY

SEE WHAT GOES ON INSIDE THE NEW INTERDISCIPLINARY
SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING BUILDING

.....
Page 14

REMEMBERING DR. SMITH

.....
Page 11

CHESS GRANDMASTER

.....
Page 21

CORE CURRICULUM

.....
Page 24

NEW HOSPITAL

.....
Page 26

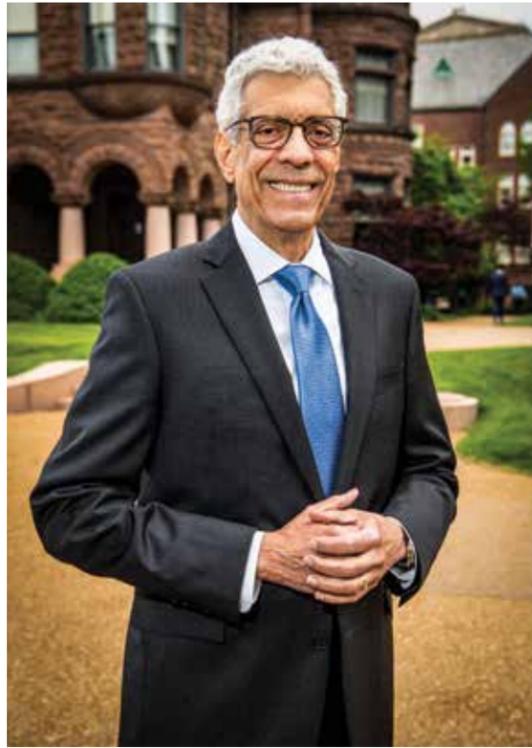


PHOTO BY STEVE DOLAN

We have had a remarkable year here at Saint Louis University. Amidst one of the greatest challenges in our lifetime — the COVID-19 pandemic — we persevered and succeeded thanks to the adaptability, hard work and compliance with COVID protocols displayed by the staff, faculty and students of SLU.

Through relentless planning of our campus experts and superb execution across our University, we were able to continue to advance knowledge, educate students and serve patients with the excellence and compassion for which we are known. I am sure that you, like me, could not be prouder of how of the SLU faculty, staff and students continued to serve our mission and advance our vision amidst the severe disruption of the pandemic.

In this issue of Universitas, we feature a few of the many successes of the past year, including the opening of the new Interdisciplinary Science and Engineering Building (page 14). We also report on some of those new to the University or moving into new positions, such as our provost, Dr. Mike Lewis, who is working to take SLU to new heights in academic success and as a preeminent research university (page 4).

Sadly, days before this issue was going to press, we learned the devastating news of the passing of our beloved vice president for diversity and community engagement. Dr. Jonathan Smith was always working to make things as they

ought to be. The grieving SLU community came together to host a memorial service that attracted Jonathan's family, friends and colleagues from across the country. One consistent theme of the service was that Jonathan's work is far from finished. It is up to those of us who remain to continue to advance the initiatives to which he devoted his life.

As the summer begins to draw to a close and we prepare to welcome one of the largest entering classes of students in our 203-year history, I want to express my appreciation to all of you who wrote and called in support of our efforts and decisions to navigate the complexities and challenges of the past year.

May God bless you and Saint Louis University.

Dr. Fred P. Pestello
President

UNIVERSITAS

VOLUME 47, ISSUE 2

EDITOR

Laura Geiser
(A&S '90, Grad '92)

ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Amy Garland (A&S '97)

ART DIRECTOR

Matt Krob

CONTRIBUTORS

Clayton Berry
Marie Dilg (Grad SW '94)
Maggie Rotermund
Maria Tsikalas

ON CAMPUS NEWS STORIES

University Public Relations
Billiken Media Relations

ON THE COVER

The Interdisciplinary
Science and Engineering
Building

Photo by Steve Dolan

Universitas is published by Saint Louis University. Opinions expressed in Universitas are those of the individual authors and not necessarily those of the University administration. Unsolicited manuscripts and photographs are welcome but will be returned only if accompanied by a stamped, self-addressed envelope. Letters to the editor must be signed, and letters not intended for publication should indicate that fact. The editor reserves the right to edit all items.

Address all mail to:
Universitas
DuBourg Hall 39
1 N. Grand Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63103

We accept email at:
universitas@slu.edu

Website: slu.edu/universitas

Universitas is printed by
Breese Printing and Publishing

Worldwide circulation: 129,296

© 2021, Saint Louis University
All rights reserved.

Reproduction in whole
or in part without
permission is prohibited.



The entry atrium of the Interdisciplinary Science and Engineering building, photographed from the third floor. For more on the research that goes on inside the ISE, see the story on page 14.

PHOTO BY DOUGLAS GARFIELD

Features

11

REMEMBERING A VISIONARY

Reflections on the life and legacy of Dr. Jonathan Smith, SLU's chief diversity officer. — *By Clayton Berry*

14

DESIGNED FOR DISCOVERY

The new Interdisciplinary Science and Engineering Building is a research hub. — *By Marie Dilg*

21

CHESS QUEEN

Student Dorsa Derakhshani came from Iran for a game and for a degree. — *By Amy Garland*

24

SIGNATURE EXPERIENCE

SLU has mapped out its first University-wide core curriculum. — *By Marie Dilg*

26

GRAND NEW

See the new SSM Health SLU Hospital and Center for Specialized Medicine.

Departments

2

ON CAMPUS

Success amid the pandemic // New provost // Commencement // Jesuit Center // Campaign update // Rankings news // Women's soccer // Ignatian Year

30

CLASS NOTES

31

HOW I GOT HERE

Erin Loos Cutraro (Grad A&S '02)

32

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Dana J. Boente (CSB '76, Grad CSB '77, Law '82)

34

IN MEMORIAM

36

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

37

THE LAST LOOK

SLU RESPONDS TO COVID-19

SLU Successfully Completes Academic Year Amid Pandemic

Saint Louis University successfully wrapped up its 2020-21 academic year — one that brought unprecedented challenges due to a global pandemic — without having to suspend its commitment to mostly in-person classes, entirely in-person labs and on-campus living.

“Every member of our Saint Louis University community should be proud of all we have accomplished this past year, much of which many thought impossible a year ago,” said University President Dr. Fred P. Pestello. “The pandemic tested us, and we pulled together and rose to the challenges as One SLU.”

Pestello continued: “I have heard from many students and parents about how well SLU communicated with them and how positive it was to them that we kept our campus open and taught primarily in person.”

But why was SLU able to keep its campus open at a time when other colleges across the country were being forced to shelter in place, suspend in-person classes or move completely online?

Among many other factors, University officials point to a decision early in the crisis to engage SLU’s experts and solicit them to lead the University’s response to COVID-19, including three uniquely qualified faculty members:



Dr. Terri Rebmann (Grad VSN '06), professor of epidemiology and biostatistics, and director of SLU’s Institute for Biosecurity, served as a special assistant to the president with overarching authority on all matters related to COVID-19. Rebmann has been at the center of the University’s integrated COVID-prevention team.



Dr. Rachel Charney, professor of pediatric emergency medicine and director of disaster preparedness for SLU’s School of Medicine and SLUCare, directed the University’s contact tracing program. The team’s quick work prevented extensive community spread as approximately 40 percent of quarantined students ultimately tested positive for COVID.



Deborah Horton (Grad VSN, PH '09), assistant professor of nursing and expert on disaster preparedness in schools, directed SLU’s weekly asymptomatic testing program, which conducted more than 22,000 COVID-19 tests. She also has overseen the University’s state-authorized vaccine clinics, which have vaccinated more than 13,300 people to date.

The three experts agree SLU was well positioned to succeed in the fight against COVID-19 as a Jesuit research university with medical, nursing, physician assistant, and public health schools and programs, as well as its own physician practice.

“We have expertise at Saint Louis University that is just not available at other universities,” said Rebmann, who also coordinated weekly meetings of area college officials and local health department leaders.

“And we worked together as a team to address what we needed,” added Charney, who helped organize similar sessions among the region’s health systems. “We used our own strengths to support each other, which I think was awesome.”

And one of those strengths was the commitment of students to do their part. Beyond complying with SLU’s stringent public health safeguards, students contributed in many other ways. Chief among them:

- Students from SLU’s Trudy Busch Valentine School of Nursing conducted weekly asymptomatic tests and staffed on-campus vaccination clinics.
- Physician assistant students from SLU’s Doisy College of Health Sciences also administered vaccinations.
- Graduate students in the University’s College for Public Health and Social Justice served as the primary members of SLU’s contact tracing team.
- Students from many majors conducted audits for compliance with campus safeguards and provided peer education as part of a Public Health Ambassadors program unique to SLU.
- Students volunteered to deliver meals to their fellow Billikens in isolation and quarantine housing, while Campus Ministry interns made them care packages.

“There were many students throughout the University who helped provide whatever support we needed,” said Horton, who also helped organized vaccine clinics for parishioners from area churches and local refugees, among others.

RESPONDING AS ONESLU

In keeping with the OneSLU spirit, winning the battle against COVID-19 required the hard work and dedication of every member of the University community. Key efforts included:

- Essential personnel reporting to work daily to keep the campus open; faculty managing face-to-face and online instruction simultaneously; and staff working remotely to help “de-densify” the campus.
- Improving ventilation and filtration systems in buildings, installing hundreds of touchless hand sanitizers in common areas, reconfiguring event spaces for use as classrooms and following enhanced cleaning protocols recommended by the CDC.
- Rapidly deploying new technologies to enable remote learning and working, launching the symptom-checking app #CampusClear and increasing on-site technical support.
- Developing a detailed housing plan — approved by the city’s health authorities — that allowed SLU to safely accommodate all students who wanted to live on campus.

PREPARING FOR FALL 2021

Planning for as normal a fall semester as possible — operating largely face to face with full classrooms and labs, on-campus living and in-person events — SLU announced in June that it will require COVID-19 vaccinations for all students, staff and faculty who are physically present on the St. Louis campus. The requirement also applies to students from the St. Louis campus studying abroad, including SLU-Madrid.

Recommended by a group of faculty, staff and students, SLU’s vaccine requirement aligns with the latest guidance issued by the CDC that states that institutions of higher education where all faculty, staff and students are fully vaccinated can return to normal, full-capacity operations. To date, nearly 600 U.S. colleges and universities have announced vaccine requirements for their campuses. —By Clayton Berry

PHOTO BY STEVE DOLAN



SLU’s first large-scale COVID-19 vaccination event at Simon Recreation Center in March. Additional clinics were held on campus throughout the spring. Volunteers, including undergraduate students, from the Trudy Busch Valentine School of Nursing and SLU’s physician assistant program worked the clinics. Non-clinical volunteers from departments across campus staffed the registration tables and assisted with scheduling second-dose appointments.

PHOTO BY STEVE DOLAN



A member of the SLU community receives a COVID-19 vaccination from nursing student Sarah Litzsinger (RIGHT) at Simon Recreation Center.

By the Numbers

70-80%

Approximate percentage of SLU classes this academic year that were fully or primarily in person.

3,500+

Students who lived on campus — of SLU’s 12,000-person student body. SLU reduced its housing occupancy by about 10% in a plan approved by city health officials.

0

Documented cases of disease transmission in SLU classrooms, lab spaces or other educational settings.

40,000+

Doses of vaccine stored on campus for the Missouri National Guard to support mass vaccination efforts in the region.

150+

Updates sent to the SLU community from University leaders since the crisis began last year. Communication was a priority during the pandemic.

Lewis Named Permanent Provost

In February, Dr. Michael Lewis was appointed permanent provost of Saint Louis University. The appointment followed a national search that began in August 2020.

The provost serves as the University's chief academic officer. In addition to academic oversight, the divisions of Enrollment and Retention Management, Research, and Student Development, and the Office of Diversity and Community Engagement all report to the provost.

Lewis had been SLU's interim provost since July 2020. Prior to that appointment he served as interim dean of the College of Arts and Sciences for the 2019-20 academic year, and as acting provost from August 2018 to January 2019. In 2013, he began serving as associate provost, overseeing the University's Office of Faculty Affairs. He has been a member of the chemistry faculty since 2004.

"I strongly believe Mike is the best person for the job. He is a trusted leader and a person who can dive right in immediately, without the need for a lengthy period of acclimation and trust-building with faculty, staff and students," said University President Dr. Fred P. Pestello. "He has a deep commitment to our Catholic, Jesuit mission and will be a champion for enhancing the diversity, equity and inclusion on our campuses and in our community."

"It is humbling to be named SLU's permanent provost," Lewis said. "I have been a member of the community for nearly 17 years, and I know the amazing capabilities of our faculty and staff."

"I understand the incredible talents of our students and the transformative nature of a SLU education," he continued. "I am thrilled to continue working with this community, enhancing our educational experience, expanding the impact of our research and scholarship, and leading with fidelity to our Jesuit mission as we seek to embody equity and justice at SLU and throughout the St. Louis region."

Lewis said one of his top priorities will be working with the deans and faculty on development of an academic strategic plan for the University. He also is committed to continuing his leadership of pressing and complex academic issues, including: unit resource disparities, recruitment and retention of faculty of color, implementation of the new core curriculum, faculty workload disparities, academic portfolio review, and minority student success and retention throughout the University.

"We need to address diversity, equity and inclusion at SLU, and this will be a long-term priority," Lewis said.

In a message to the SLU community at the time of his appointment, Lewis expanded on his goals. "Our new University core needs continued support, and we must assure the success of this fall's pilot," he said. "The attention to managing our resources more effectively and efficiently needs to remain a constant. And we must become more flexible and nimble in developing new ways to attract and enroll students."

In 2009, Lewis received the College of Arts and Sciences' William V. Stauder, S.J., Award for Excellence in Teaching in the Natural Sciences. And from 2016-19, he received funding from the National Institutes of Health as a co-investigator on research to understand the thermodynamics and structure of RNA secondary structure motifs.



Lewis

GeoSLU Awarded \$5 Million for Training Program

Saint Louis University's Geospatial Institute (GeoSLU) received \$5 million to train the Department of Defense and National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA) in geoinformatics and geospatial data sciences.

Over the next five years, SLU faculty will teach a variety of subjects, including GIS mapping, remote sensing, data science, geospatial analytics, coding, artificial intelligence/machine learning and cybersecurity, as a part of the NGA's GEOINT Learning through Academic Programs.

The agreement allows the existing workforce to be trained in these new technologies and methodologies. It also reaffirms GeoSLU's role as a leader in geospatial training and continues to build St. Louis' reputation as an international hub for geospatial science and technologies.

In addition, the agreement will allow SLU faculty to engage with GeoSLU and will help to build connections between students and government agencies, creating career and internship opportunities for SLU students.



Celebrate the Ignatian Year

The International Association of Jesuit Universities has invited Jesuit institutions across the world to celebrate the Ignatian Year, which began on May 20 — the 500-year anniversary of the wounding of St. Ignatius Loyola during the Battle of Pamplona in 1521.

During Ignatius' recovery from that wound, he underwent a spiritual conversion and set out to establish the Society of Jesus. The resulting Jesuit spirituality and form of education have shaped millions of people over the past five centuries.

"While this Ignatian Year encourages all of us to reflect upon what we have received through the inspiration of St. Ignatius, it also provides an opportunity to look forward to consider how the Jesuit works of a city or region like St. Louis might work together more closely, how we might more effectively promote the spirituality of St. Ignatius at Saint Louis University," said David Suwalsky, S.J. (Grad A&S '89, '10), SLU's vice president for mission and identity.

Throughout the Ignatian Year, SLU will offer resources for alumni, students, faculty and staff to reflect upon the life of St. Ignatius and deepen their understanding of his spiritual legacy.

The celebratory year will conclude on the Feast Day of St. Ignatius on July 31, 2022.

RANKINGS

SLU Graduate, Professional Programs Again Among Nation's Best in U.S. News Rankings

Saint Louis University has 25 graduate and professional programs ranked in the top 100 in the 2022 edition of *U.S. News & World Report's* "America's Best Graduate Schools" guide, which was released in March.

The School of Law's health law program was named No. 2 in the country, continuing a long tradition of holding a top spot since rankings for the discipline were first published nearly 20 years ago. A dozen other SLU law programs were ranked in the top 100 as well, including clinical training, which improved 30 spots to No. 56.

Several graduate programs at SLU rose in the U.S. News rankings this year, including the Master of Science in Nursing program, which climbed 18 spots into the nation's top 50 among more than 500 nursing graduate programs.

Rankings for the School of Medicine also improved this year. Among the more than 150 accredited M.D. programs in the United States, SLU ranked No. 46 for primary care and No. 70 for research.

The data for the rankings came from statistical surveys of more than 2,125 programs and reputation surveys sent to more than 23,000 academics and professionals, conducted in fall 2020 and early 2021.

SLU's Top 50 U.S. News Graduate Rankings for 2022

BUSINESS	LAW	HEALTH AND MEDICINE
9 International	2 Health Care	46 Medical Schools - Primary Care
14 Entrepreneurship	31 Law - Part Time	48 Nursing Schools - Master's
16 Supply Chain		

NOTE: *U.S. News & World Report* does not re-rank all graduate programs every year; some disciplines are ranked on four- or six-year cycles.

More Recent Rankings

■ Saint Louis University made *The Princeton Review's* list of Best Value Colleges for 2021 and was ranked **No. 10** on its list of the **Top 20 (Private) Schools for Making an Impact** — the only Jesuit university on that list.

■ SLU ranks **No. 8** on *The Wall Street Journal's* 2021 list of the **top 10 colleges in big Midwestern cities**. *The Wall Street Journal/Times* Higher Education College Rankings also put SLU **No. 6** among the **top 10 Catholic universities in the country**, a placement SLU has held for multiple years.

■ Niche ranked the Trudy Busch Valentine School of Nursing as the **No. 8 best college in the country for nursing**.

■ College Consensus ranked SLU as the **No. 9 best Catholic college in the country with online degree programs** and **No. 24 overall**. The site called SLU "one of the most respected Catholic universities in the nation."

■ SLU ranks **No. 22** on Intelligent.com's list of the **top Project Management Degree programs for 2021**. SLU's Bachelor of Science in Project Management was recognized for **Best Accelerated Program**.

■ College Factual ranked the College for Public Health and Social Justice as the **No. 1 undergraduate public health program in the Plains States region** and **27th in the nation**. The site's ranking analyzed 105 colleges and universities that offer a bachelor's degree in public health.

■ Best Health Degrees named SLU's radiation therapy program among the **top 25 Best Radiation Science programs, ranking No. 8 in the nation**.

■ SLU's Richard A. Chaifetz School of Business was recognized by *Poets&Quants for Undergrads* on its 2021 list of the **top 100 programs for undergraduate business schools**. SLU ranked **No. 60 for outcomes** and **No. 72 overall in the nation**. The Chaifetz School of Business was one of only two schools in Missouri to make this national ranking.

ATHLETICS

Women's Soccer Ends Winning Season at NCAA Tournament

SLU's women's soccer team captured the A-10 Championship title in April, becoming the first women's soccer team in conference history to capture both regular-season and tournament titles in three consecutive seasons.

The team secured an automatic bid and was the No. 15 seed in this year's NCAA Women's Soccer Championship, marking its third consecutive appearance in the championship and fifth in program history. SLU earned a first-round bye in the NCAA Championship, which was reduced from the customary 64 teams to 48, with the top 16 teams seeded into the second round. Unfortunately, the Billikens were eliminated in penalty kicks following a 0-0 tie with the Washington Huskies.

The Billikens went into the national tournament on the heels of a 10-game winning streak, having outscored its opponents 40-9 this season.

PHOTO BY BILL BARRETT



The women's soccer team celebrates. FROM LEFT: Karsen Kohl, Hannah Friedrich, Abbie Miller, Emily Groark and Hannah Larson

PHOTOS BY STEVE DOLAN

2021 Commencement Reflects COVID Protocols

For the first time, Saint Louis University held in-person and virtual events to celebrate its graduates.

Members of the class of 2021 had the opportunity to attend in-person precommencement ceremonies where they celebrated with fellow graduates from their college or school. To accommodate COVID-19 protocols, there were 16 precommencement ceremonies May 18-22 in Chaifetz Arena. Each ceremony was capped at 250 graduates, who could bring four guests each. All attendees were required to wear masks and keep a safe distance from others in the arena. The events were livestreamed for loved ones to view at home.

The University's main commencement ceremony took place virtually. The video event, featuring speakers and degree conferrals, was released May 23.

The high-profile physician leading the St. Louis region's fight against COVID-19 delivered this year's commencement address. Dr. Alexander Garza (Grad PH '03), incident commander of the St. Louis Metropolitan Pandemic Task Force, gave advice to SLU's newest alumni, calling them "my future heroes."

"You have been through a lot over the past four years. You have strived, you have endured, and you have undoubtedly suffered," Garza said. "And now, you have experience and understanding. And you will be there when the next pandemic or other complex, hairy, insurmountable, worldwide problem comes along, and when they ask 'Who shall we send?' you will say, 'Here I am, send me!'"

The chief community health officer of SSM Health, Garza was tapped in April 2020 to lead a coalition of the region's four largest health care systems in a unified response to COVID-19. A colonel in the U.S. Army Reserve medical corps, he was deployed to Iraq in 2003 with a civil affairs team to rebuild hospitals and clinics. In 2009, he was appointed by President Barack Obama to serve as the assistant secretary and chief medical officer of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. In 2013, Garza returned to his *alma mater* to become the associate dean for public health practice and an associate professor of epidemiology at SLU's College for Public Health and Social Justice. In 2016, he started at SSM, where he also has served as chief quality officer and chief medical officer of the health system.

Garza joined four others in receiving honorary doctoral degrees from SLU this year.

Dr. Brenda (Grad A&S '81) and Larry Thompson were recognized for their dedication to collecting, sharing and preserving African American works of art. The Thompsons donated 100 works of art celebrating African American culture to the Georgia Museum of Art in 2012. And they have donated 55 pieces of artwork by African American artists to the Saint Louis University Museum of Art. Recently, they established a graduate scholarship at SLU to support students who have an interest in art by African American artists.

Linda and Alan (CSB '69) Vogt were honored for their longtime support of Billiken athletics and SLU student-athletes. During the past 25 years, the couple has made contributions that provide resources to all student-athletes at SLU, including academic support services, nutrition programs and campus life activities. In 2017, they received SLU's Bauman Sportsmanship Award and were inducted into the Billiken Hall of Fame.

Because no midyear ceremony could be held in December 2020, the May 2021 ceremonies honored both fall and spring semester graduates.



Class of 2020 to be Honored in August

To celebrate SLU's May 2020 graduates — whose commencement was postponed last year due to the pandemic — the University will host Commencement and Celebration Weekend Aug. 6-8, with an official ceremony taking place on Saturday, Aug. 7. In addition, activities to honor and celebrate the class will be held throughout the weekend.

"Honoring you is important to all of us, as is recognizing the work and dedication you exemplified during your time at SLU," University President Dr. Fred P. Pestello said. "We are excited to welcome you back on campus."

May 2020 graduates completed a survey to select the dates for the ceremony weekend.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: The School of Nursing precommencement ceremony at Chaifetz Arena on May 19; commencement speaker Garza; nursing graduate Irene Rojo celebrates at her seat as her name is called; law graduate William O'Shea (RIGHT) and Eva Schuller rub the Billiken's belly outside Chaifetz Arena; law graduate Neireida Morris (Grad PH '18) (RIGHT) is hooded by Prof. Kerrin Kowach.

CAMPAIGN NEWS

\$1 MILLION GIFT SUPPORTS ENTREPRENEURSHIP

In May, Donald and Nancy Ross made a \$1 million gift to the University in support of the Chaifetz Center for Entrepreneurship and Accelerating Excellence: The Campaign for Saint Louis University.

The gift created the Donald L. Ross Entrepreneurship Opportunity Fund, which will be used for programs and initiatives to promote the Chaifetz Center for Entrepreneurship. Additionally, the gift serves as a foundation for a \$10 million endowment for the center.

Founded in 1987 and housed within the Richard A. Chaifetz School of Business, the center helps entrepreneurs combine business passion with the skills necessary for successful organizations.

“Entrepreneurship is not only creating, but also committing to providing a product or service that exceeds customer expectations while creating employee opportunity,” Ross said. “Saint Louis University embodies this by combining high-quality education with its mission to contribute to the greater good. I believe it is uniquely situated to promote the growth of entrepreneurship in the region.”

Ross is the former vice chairman of Enterprise Holdings Inc. He joined Enterprise Rent-A-Car in 1964, seven years after its founding, and was instrumental in the company’s growth. SLU awarded him an Honorary Doctor of Commerce degree in 2019.



Ross

\$1 MILLION GIFT TO FUND ENDOWED CHAIR HONORING SLY

SLU School of Medicine researcher and faculty member Dr. Abdul Waheed, made a gift of \$1 million in support of the school’s biochemistry and molecular biology department and Accelerating Excellence: The Campaign for Saint Louis University.

The gift is in honor of Dr. William Sly (Med ’57), former chair of the Edward A. Doisy Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology and emeritus professor in the School of Medicine. It will support the future Centennial Chair in the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, which will celebrate the department’s upcoming 100th anniversary. The chair is not yet endowed; \$1.5 million has been raised to date, and the department aims to secure the remainder of the required \$2 million in funding by the department’s centennial in 2024. In recognition of Waheed’s gift, the endowed position will be called the William S. Sly Centennial Chair.

“When I came to SLU, Dr. Sly became a trusted mentor, and I am proud to honor his legacy through a bequest. Celebrating the 100th year of the department by supporting an endowed chair and simultaneously recognizing Dr. Sly is a rewarding experience and essential for the future of research,” Waheed said.

Waheed joined SLU’s Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology as an assistant research professor in 1990. He became a research professor in the department in 2001 and was named emeritus research professor in 2017.



Waheed

TOTAL DOLLARS RAISED TO DATE

\$464,820,980 *(goal: \$500 million)*

ACCELERATING EXCELLENCE CAMPAIGN REACHES \$464 MILLION

Accelerating Excellence: The Campaign for Saint Louis University has raised more than \$464 million in the three years since its public phase began.

As a comprehensive campaign, gifts to any area at SLU contribute to the success of this historic fundraising effort. But as Accelerating Excellence draws closer to its \$500 million goal, the University has launched several focused initiatives within the campaign’s five strategic priorities of scholarships, academic excellence, business education, health sciences and athletics. These are:

- **Humanities Endowment:** A new \$10 million endowment for the humanities will ensure that this essential component of a Jesuit liberal arts education remains at the forefront of the SLU experience.
- **STEM@SLU:** The University aims to raise \$30.5 million to increase the stature of STEM disciplines at SLU by providing the necessary physical infrastructure and ensuring the diversity of STEM opportunities on campus.
- **Accelerating Access Term Scholarship Program:** Developed in response to the sharp rise in financial aid requests during the pandemic, this program offers a special scholarship naming opportunity and provides essential scholarships that are made available to students immediately. Donors who make a four-year pledge of \$2,500 or more annually may name the scholarship and direct it to any undergraduate school or college at SLU; those who make a five-year pledge of \$5,000 or more annually may name the scholarship and direct it to either the School of Law or School of Medicine.
- **Vaccine Science:** The University seeks to raise \$30 million to expand its renowned Center for Vaccine Development with the addition of the Stephen C. Peiper and Zi-Xuan Wang Institute for Vaccine Science and Policy, a new center of excellence that will be an interdisciplinary hub for vaccine research. The institute will bring together the expertise of faculty from SLU’s School of Medicine, College for Public Health and Social Justice, College of Arts and Sciences, and School of Law.

Accelerating Excellence is ongoing. To support the campaign, visit slu.edu/campaignforslu.

SLU GIVING DAY SETS NEW RECORD

The Office of Alumni and Donor Engagement invited the SLU family — faculty, staff, students and alumni — to participate in the fourth annual SLU Giving Day in April. The response was a new record total.

In just 24 hours, the University raised \$543,858 from 970 gifts for various student organizations, scholarships, programs and service organizations.

NEW SCHOLARSHIP SUPPORTS STUDENT SUCCESS

Saint Louis University has created a new scholarship program designed to support low-income, first-generation SLU students from historically underrepresented minority populations, many of whom start college but do not complete their degrees.

The Accelerating Access and Success Scholarship aims to enhance college readiness, increase degree completion rates and lower student-loan debt loads by providing funding at two critical points in the student life cycle: the final 45 to 60 hours — junior and senior years — and summer learning opportunities that enhance college success skills.

The new scholarship is made possible by a gift from the Enterprise Holdings Foundation.

Eligible students must be enrolled as degree-seeking undergraduates at SLU. The awarding process prioritizes local students who graduated from one of 25 high schools in the St. Louis metropolitan area and who intend to major in business, entrepreneurship, STEM and health care fields. The scholarship will provide support to 40 to 55 students per year.



An artist’s rendering of the new Jesuit residence on SLU’s north campus

University Breaks Ground on New Jesuit Center

Saint Louis University and members of the Jesuit Central and Southern Province celebrated the groundbreaking of a new Jesuit Center on campus in April.

Since 1973, SLU Jesuits and other members of the Society of Jesus have resided in Jesuit Hall, the former Melbourne Hotel, located on the northwest corner of Grand and Lindell boulevards. In 2020, former Jesuit Provincial Ronald Mercier, S.J., confirmed a plan to create two new communities from Jesuit Hall: one designed for retired Jesuits and those who need medical support, and the second for Jesuits missioned as professors, pastors and staff members at SLU.

The new Jesuit Center will house the latter group and create a space for enhanced interaction between SLU’s Jesuits and the community. It will be located on the north side of Laclede Avenue just west of Spring Avenue, with Fusz Hall to the north and Beracha and Spring halls to the east.

“Jesuit Hall needs extensive repairs and maintenance and no longer serves the needs of the Jesuit community,” said Vice President for Mission and Identity David Suwalsky, S.J. (Grad A&S ’89, ’10). “The new residence is designed to be an apostolic center meant for hospitality, and the University Jesuits look forward to welcoming SLU faculty, staff and students to the residence.”

The facility will have 20 bedrooms for SLU Jesuits and five for guests. It will also have a chapel, dining space and meeting rooms. The chapel will be visible from the West Pine Mall. The project will take 18-20 months to complete.

The University has launched a fundraising campaign to help pay for the project. In addition, the proceeds from the pending sale of Jesuit Hall will be applied to the expense of the new residence.



A site plan for the new Jesuit residence at SLU

New Institute Focuses on Drug Discovery and Development

Saint Louis University's new Institute for Drug and Biotherapeutic Innovation (SLU-IDBI) brings together University researchers in medicine, biology, engineering, and computational and applied chemistry to discover, develop and translate medical therapies to address unmet patient needs.

SLU-IDBI is one of the University's largest institutes, with more than 100 members. Collectively, these experts have launched several startups and companies, obtained multiple patents and secured more than \$37 million in drug-discovery grant funding.

Current research features the discovery and development of therapies for diseases including cancer, chronic pain, central nervous system disorders, liver disease, infectious diseases, genetic disorders and neglected diseases.

The institute is interested in developing partnerships with researchers in both industry and academia to share expertise, stimulate ideas and drive discovery.

SLU-IDBI was formalized through an internal Big Ideas competition sponsored by the SLU Research Institute to define University-wide strategic research priorities. For more information about SLU-IDBI and partnership opportunities, or to support SLU-IDBI's work through a donation, visit the institute's website at slu.edu/idbi.



An artist's rendering of a Food Discovery Center class

University Partners with Culinary Innovator

Deli Star Corp., an industry leader in protein manufacturing and culinary innovation, and Saint Louis University's Doisy College of Health Sciences have entered a strategic partnership. A focal point of the new partnership is the Food Discovery Center (FDC), Deli Star's new hub for research and culinary innovation located at City Foundry STL in Prospect Yards near campus. Through the partnership, SLU students and faculty in the Department of Nutrition and Dietetics will have access to the FDC for labs, coursework and mentoring. Students will gain hands-on experience with the product-development process, commercialization and food nutrition.

Deli Star executives, chefs and food scientists will lead learning sessions for SLU students focused on Deli Star's five fields of food-science expertise: food microbiology, food engineering and processing, food chemistry and biochemistry, nutrition, and sensory analysis.



Tinson

African American Studies Program to Become Full Academic Department

This fall, Saint Louis University will become the fourth Jesuit university in the nation to formally establish a Department of African American Studies. It's a historic milestone for SLU's African American Studies Program, which has existed in some capacity at the University for more than 40 years.

"I think this moment speaks to the seriousness of the University's approach toward intellectual production of the African diaspora, and will help our faculty and students contribute to the intellectual and social aspects of Saint Louis University," said the program's director Dr. Christopher Tinson, who will become the new department's first chair.

Elevating the program to an academic department was supported at all levels of the University, including faculty and student representatives from across the institution; senior administrative and academic leaders; and SLU's board of trustees, which ultimately has approval authority for new academic departments and programs.

"This move to department status brings with it a number of opportunities," said University Provost Dr. Michael Lewis. "I look forward to seeing the incredible work of this group of faculty and students becoming an even more integral part of SLU in the coming years."

In addition to greater visibility on campus and additional resources to support teaching, scholarship and service, academic departments also have more autonomy to hire their own faculty, grant tenure, set curricula and establish graduate-level programs.

The University began offering courses in African American Studies in the early 1970s under the direction of the late professor Dr. Barbara Woods (Grad Ed '82, '97), who led the program for more than 20 years. Her successor, communication professor Dr. Karla Scott (A&S '81), directed the program for 16 years and was key to launching SLU's Bachelor of Arts in African American Studies in 2010.

The new department will continue to be housed in the College of Arts and Sciences and will remain interdisciplinary in nature, with numerous course offerings cross-listed with other academic departments, including English, history, psychology and health care ethics.

Collins Appointed to Lead ITS

After leading Saint Louis University's Division of Information Technology Services on an interim basis since March 2020, Kyle Collins was appointed permanent vice president and chief information officer in May.

Collins, who most recently served as assistant vice president for technology transformation, has served in higher education IT leadership roles for more than 20 years, including 11 years with SLU. He became interim CIO shortly before SLU had to transition to remote learning and working because of COVID-19.

As interim VP and CIO, Collins led efforts to procure and implement SLU's contract with Zoom in just four days last March, which allowed University operations to continue successfully upon the overnight transition to remote work for the majority of the University's faculty and staff.



Collins

SLU's chief diversity officer
Dr. Jonathan Smith died suddenly in June.

But his legacy lives on.

REMEMBERING A VISIONARY

— By Clayton Berry



champion for diversity. A force for good. These are just a couple of the ways members of the Saint Louis University family are describing Dr. Jonathan C. Smith, SLU's vice president for diversity and community engagement, who died suddenly on June 19, 2021, at the age of 61 following an earlier stroke. (A story about Dr. Smith appeared in the last issue of *Universitas*, winter 2021.)

"Dr. Jonathan Smith had a profound impact not only on our campus and well beyond, but also on the individual lives of all those who were blessed to know and love him," said SLU President Dr. Fred P. Pestello.

"As we mourn and celebrate this extraordinary man, we must also recommit ourselves as One SLU to advancing essential work about which Jonathan was so deeply passionate. We honor his legacy by carrying forward his vision of a more just and equitable world."

Following Dr. Smith's unexpected passing, there was an outpouring of grief from all corners of campus and across social media.

"His departure from this Earth is going to leave a massive hole in all of us as individuals, and us as a community and a university," said Dr. Amber Johnson (A&S '01, Grad A&S '03), associate professor of communication and the newly appointed vice provost for diversity and community engagement. "Part of me feels like he's going to continue this work as an ancestor, and now he doesn't have any constraints. He has the freedom to show up in ways we have only dreamed of, and that's comforting."

Dr. Smith was born on Dec. 17, 1959, in Montgomery, Alabama. After graduating in the top 10% of his class at Thornton Township High School in Harvey, Illinois, he attended Princeton University, earning a bachelor's degree in philosophy. He later received a Chancellor's Fellowship from Washington University in St. Louis where he completed a master's degree in creative writing and a doctorate in English and American literature.

Dr. Smith joined SLU's faculty in 2002 as an assistant professor in the Department of American Studies. He transitioned to the African American Studies Program in 2011. Over time, he established himself as an accomplished academic and an award-winning author and poet.



PHOTO BY MICHELLE PELTIER

Dr. Smith talking about SLU's Oath of Inclusion at a 2019 student event in Chaifetz Arena.

MEMORIES OF DR. SMITH

Jori Brewer (DCHS '21), former president of the Black Student Alliance at SLU, met Dr. Smith when she was a freshman and stayed close to him throughout her undergraduate years.

"I was always taken by his ability to capture the attention of any person in his presence. Dr. Smith was not only a vice president, but a role model and father figure to me during our time together. Forgiveness was his middle

name. In his eyes, as long as you were breathing and treating people with respect, you were doing life the right way. He was an advocate for Black, brown and queer students on campus and was always sure to include us in the conversation. I will carry his words and love with me all the days of my life. Rest in Power, Dr. Smith. I love you!"

Danielle Harrison (Law '90) called Dr. Smith her "co-director, friend and brother." The two worked closely together on the Slavery, History, Memory and Reconciliation Project.

"When I came on as co-director of SHMR last year, Jonathan was so gracious and welcoming. Our weekly meetings soon became the highlight of the week: not only sharing stories about the work but always checking in on how we were 'living in the time of COVID.'

"His last words to me were of encouragement: 'Don't you dare dim that bright light that is you, Danielle. The world is in need of your spirit!' I know his light will keep shining through me and all the people he touched."

L. Michelle Lewis is director of the Office of Institutional Equity and Diversity at SLU.

"Jonathan was a gifted storyteller. His ability to weave personal and historical narratives into the theme of any occasion was captivating, charismatic and memorable. Those of us who were fortunate enough to inhabit a shared space with Johnathan must continue that tradition of telling his story.

"Tell how he was a consummate educator — in the board room or classroom, in a church pulpit or at a conference podium, he was always instructing, enlightening and invoking you to a place of deeper reflection.

"Tell how graciously generous he was with his time, talents and treasures. His faith in God and strength of character produced in him an enduring empathy with the plight of the disenfranchised, the marginalized and the voiceless. He was ever mindful to keep them at the forefront of consideration, serving as their advocate, their champion, their voice.

"Tell how his most admirable trait was his modesty. Even though he had every cause to boast of his Ivy League education, his titles and positions, his standing in the community and the accolades too numerous to count, the introduction with which he was most comfortable was 'husband and father of daughters.'"

Luella Loseille (A&S '17, Grad '19), assistant director of diversity and inclusion in SLU's Cross Cultural Center, worked with Dr. Smith in several capacities, from SGA senator to AmeriCorps VISTA to Atlas Week program coordinator.

"He always encouraged me. Even when I had my own self-doubts, he never failed to say 'I'm proud of you.' He was so excited to see me reach my full potential. That was how influential, how impactful he was for so many people, not just in the SLU community, but in the world in general.

"When you came into the presence of Dr. Smith, you immediately felt assured, supported and valued. You left a better person after speaking with him."

Dr. Richard Marks, director of SLU's Cross Cultural Center, first met Dr. Smith seven years ago during a meeting of the African American Male Scholars Program.

"Dr. Smith was a champion for so many people. He gave everybody a voice, but more importantly, he gave underrepresented and marginalized students a larger voice than what we've heard in the past. His willingness to not only listen but to act has been very important.

"He was very wise and gave us wonderful nuggets of knowledge that would carry us forward, not only in that moment but for a lifetime. He was able to impart his wisdom while he was here with us. Now, he is able to watch over all of us."

Jonathan Pulphus (A&S '17) got to know Dr. Smith as an African American studies major and campus organizer. A former leader of SLU's Black Student Alliance, Pulphus worked closely with Dr. Smith during the Occupy SLU movement and the implementation of the Clock Tower Accords.

"Dr. Jonathan Smith was more than just an employee, he was a member of one of America's best traditions: the Black freedom struggle. He embodied this as a husband and father to his immediate family and a brother to his extended family, hoping to leave his village better than he found it. May the spirit of Dr. Jonathan Smith, as he joins that of Dr. Norm White, continue to push SLU to remain faithful to its promises and Jesuit mission. I miss him dearly."

Dr. Karla Scott (A&S '81) is a professor of communication. She was director of African American studies at SLU in 2011, when Dr. Smith transitioned to the program from the Department of American Studies.

"When Jonathan Smith joined the African American studies faculty, he brought a poetic presence to our community. His joy working with the students was obvious in classes where he gently guided and mentored young minds — creating opportunities for them to ask more questions, seek more answers and develop the confidence of a 'scholar.' With grace and generosity, he created a culture of care and inclusion for all who entered the African American studies space, modeling social justice and *cura personalis* in all his interactions."

Dr. Kelly Schmidt worked with Dr. Smith on the Slavery, History, Memory and Reconciliation Project, where she researches the people the Jesuits held in slavery and coordinates genealogical research to find and connect with their living descendants.

"I am filled with deep gratitude for the individual care Jonathan showed me and so many people in his life. Despite his unceasingly busy schedule, when I sent him a picture of a page of a book I was reading, he called me almost immediately to reflect on it. He invited us to Saturday morning Zoom brunches during the pandemic.

"I was so honored when he enthusiastically agreed to join my dissertation committee, when he drove to my home to give me a big hug after my defense, and when he made the time to hood me when I couldn't attend my graduation ceremony."

Regina Walton supported Dr. Smith as his executive assistant for approximately seven years.

"I remember when he started his position, I left a note on his computer from Jeremiah 29:11 that read: 'For I know the plans I have for you,' declares the Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.'

"I could always feel the love and support Dr. Smith had for every single person who came through our office. We lost a giant. We lost our best friend. We lost our father. He truly lived out the mission of Saint Louis University." UTAS

When hundreds of demonstrators gathered on SLU's campus in October 2014 in response to the recent shooting deaths of Michael Brown and VonDerrit Myers Jr., Dr. Smith felt he had to be involved. Not just because he had strong connections with the students and activists participating, but because it was in his DNA. His parents, Rev. J.C. Smith and Willie Mae Smith, were part of the 1956 bus boycott in Montgomery, Alabama, where his father was arrested alongside Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Dr. Smith took his classes out to the clock tower, where demonstrators had set up a camp, and invited activists into his classroom. He marshaled his church to bring umbrellas, water and blankets to campus. And while he didn't participate in official negotiations, he had conversations with students about some of the things that ended up in the Clock Tower Accords, which peacefully resolved the weeklong campus encampment.

The following year, he was tasked with fulfilling those accords when he was chosen to become SLU's first assistant to the president for diversity and community engagement — a move that was celebrated by colleagues and students across the campus. In 2016, his position was elevated to chief diversity officer, and he was promoted once again in 2017 to vice president for diversity and community engagement.

As SLU's senior leader for diversity, equity, inclusion and community engagement, Dr. Smith led efforts to make the University more inclusive and welcoming to diverse populations, as well as to increase outreach to the St. Louis community and improve access to a SLU education for young people from the region's most disadvantaged areas.

While the Clock Tower Accords were Dr. Smith's primary focus during his first year as chief diversity officer, he quickly made the case that the University needed to research its history with slavery as other institutions around the nation had done or were doing. As he was bringing that to the table at SLU, similar discussions were underway in the Jesuits USA Central and Southern Province.

The University and the Province decided to work together and launched the Slavery, History, Memory and Reconciliation project, with Dr. Smith as its co-director. While the overall aim is to determine appropriate responses to the organizations' history with slavery, Dr. Smith believed the effort's focus should be on the lives of enslaved people.

Even as Dr. Smith's responsibilities grew in scope, involving larger University matters, he maintained a strong presence in African American studies, frequently teaching the first course most new majors in the program take.

"He was such an ambassador in that role — a pace-setter in many regards," said Dr. Christopher Tinson, who joined SLU as the program's director three years ago. "From day one, I could see how kind and sensitive and patient he was with students. He encouraged them to be curious and rigorous at the same time."

It was a compassionate approach that Tinson says extended far beyond the classroom.

"Jonathan moved through all levels of the University with a grace that will be unmatched," Tinson said. "I will remember his generosity of spirit and his willingness to engage people on their own terms and to make them feel that their ideas were always welcomed and valued."

Johnson agreed, joyfully recalling how Dr. Smith helped secure the first box truck that was transformed into a mobile museum for Johnson's Justice Fleet program — just one story in a sea of thousands, Johnson reckoned.

"He would take your idea and say: 'I see you, I value this idea, and I will put every effort into making it come alive,' and then it just happens,"

Johnson said. "Jonathan was a visionary. He was the man who brought all of our ideas to life. Now, it's our turn to give his ideas life and to make sure what he wanted to see happens."

Dr. Smith is survived by his mother; his wife, Rochelle; daughters Lauren, Rachel, Mariah, Brooke and Shannon; four siblings, and countless family members, friends and colleagues. A memorial service to honor his life and legacy was held June 30 in Chaifetz Arena.

THE DR. JONATHAN C. SMITH MEMORIAL ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP

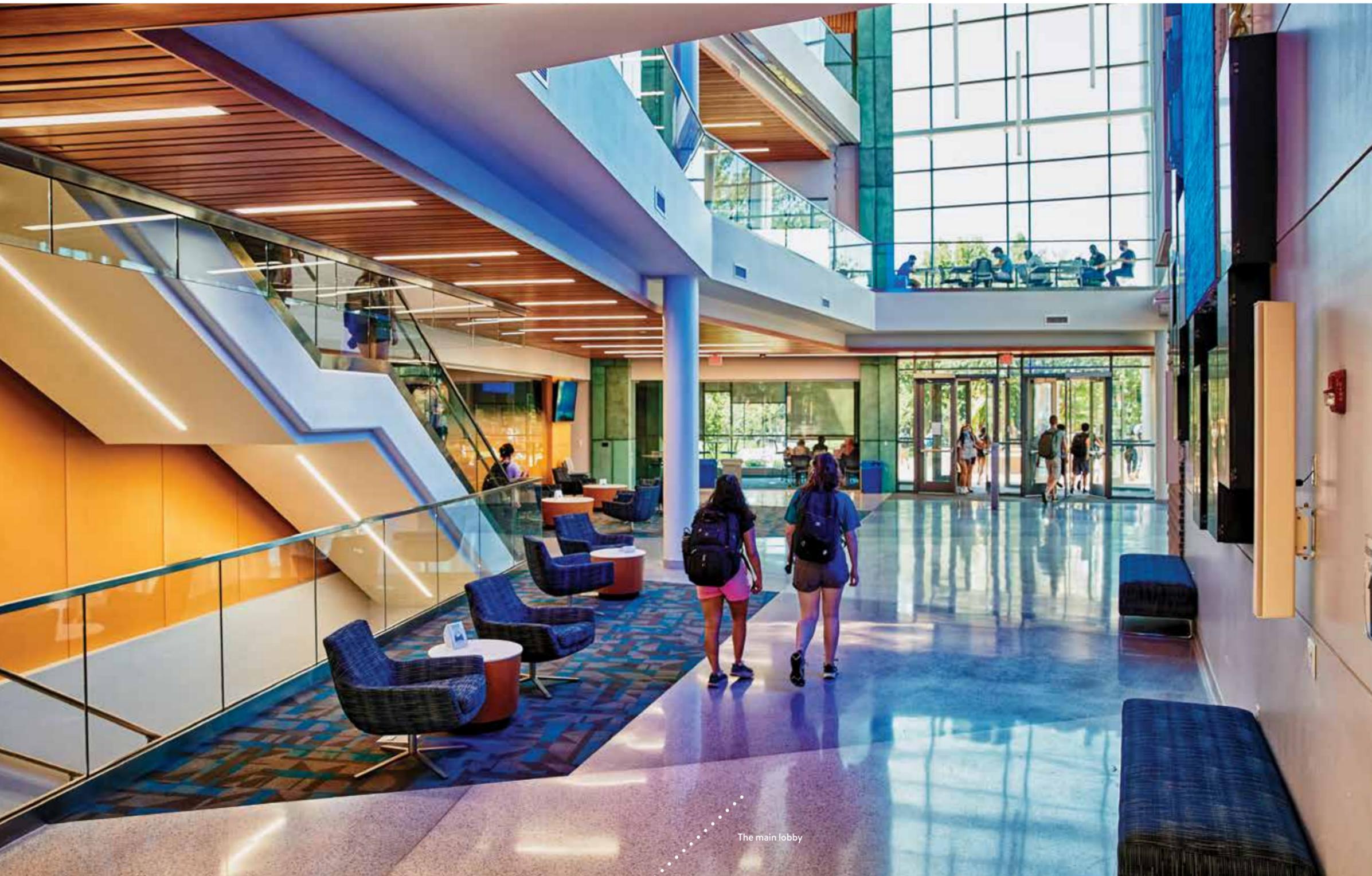
Established in memory of Dr. Smith, the endowed scholarship will support SLU students who graduated from St. Louis-area high schools who demonstrate a commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion. All gifts will be matched by SLU.

slu.edu/remembering-jonathan-smith.php

DESIGNED FOR DISCOVERY

SLU's new STEM building is home to some of the University's most innovative research.

BY MARIE DILG



The main lobby

PHOTO BY DOUGLAS GARFIELD

Saint Louis University's Interdisciplinary Science and Engineering Building (ISE) was constructed with 125 tons of structural steel, 94 miles of power cabling, 8,000 cubic yards of concrete and a vision for STEM breakthroughs.

The three-story, 90,000 square-foot ISE Building represents the heart of SLU's science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) programs. It was designed to enhance the University's STEM offerings and its overall mission as a premier research institution.

The \$50 million building is strategically located to attract students, faculty and staff across disciplines. It sits in the middle of the north quad near McDonnell Douglas Hall, home of Parks College of Engineering, Aviation and Technology, and Tegeler and Ritter Halls. Its layout invites visitors to walk through rather than around the structure.

A dynamic three-story video wall of calendar events, news and research updates beckons passersby to drop in. Large exterior windows and glass interior walls allow visitors to see SLU researchers and students engaged in discovery. The building's transparent design also allows students and professors to benefit from working in natural light.

Flexible interior features enable researchers, faculty and students to break down research silos and talk across disciplines, not just among the hard sciences but also in the social sciences, arts and humanities. Flexible spaces also allow for both open and closed meeting spaces, as well as incubator space where ideas become projects or programs.

OPEN TO ALL

University administrators anticipate that every undergraduate student will be assigned a class in the ISE Building during their time at SLU. They will gather in "scale-up" classrooms — integrated learning environments where the physical space is designed to discourage lectures and encourage interactions between small groups. The facility boasts 10,000 square feet of undergraduate research space.

Exposed staircases lead to large informal study areas where students and faculty can gather and have an exchange of ideas.

The building, completed in July 2020, houses lab space and teaching spaces for bioinformatics, biology, biomedical engineering, chemistry, neuroscience and computer science courses. It is home to the departments of computer science and computational/structural biology. It also is inhabited by a unique group of SLU researchers, centers and programs strategically chosen to help nourish collaboration across campus and the community.

WATER INSTITUTE

Researchers with the Water Access, Technology, Environment and Resources

(WATER) Institute are working on critical and persistent water-related issues including access to clean water, reducing the impact of water-related natural disasters and protecting aquatic ecosystems. The institute brings together researchers in engineering and science, policy and economics, and public health and social justice.

The WATER Institute is the first research collective of its kind in the Midwest.

Dr. Elizabeth Hasenmueller, associate professor in the Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences and associate director of the institute, concentrates on the impact of microplastics on freshwater systems. Microplastics are tiny plastic particles less than one-fifth of an inch in diameter that are produced when larger plastic items break apart.

"Many of us focus on plastic pollution we can see," Hasenmueller said. "But tiny microplastics can be harmful to wildlife if animals mistake them for food. Microplastics also move easily through the environment and can seep into the groundwater we use for drinking."

Hasenmueller and her team of researchers, graduate and undergraduate students, collect groundwater samples at Cliff Cave County Park in south St. Louis County to understand how microplastics move through groundwater and affect underground ecosystems.

Dr. Amanda Cox, associate professor of civil engineering and director of the WATER Institute, is conducting collaborative research to develop methods for computing water volume in reservoirs across the country.

Over time, sediment builds up in reservoirs and reduces their capacity to hold water used by municipalities or for irrigation. Cox said it is crucial to have a better understanding of a reservoir's volume, particularly in western states where there is rapid population growth and frequent droughts, and in eastern states, where reservoirs are used to store excess water during the flood season to mitigate potential downstream flooding.

WATER Institute researchers have partnerships with several organizations including the Environmental Protection Agency, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the U.S. Geological Survey and GeoSLU, SLU's own geospatial science and technology group, among others.

Social justice is an integral part of the institute's mission. Dr. Craig Adams, Oliver L. Parks Endowed Chair and professor of civil engineering, leads the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) initiative with the Mayan people in Belize.

Adams and his team, which includes members of the group Billiken Students for Clean Water, travel to Belize to assess water quality and assist with community water supply projects, including a high efficiency water filtration system that can remove viruses, bacteria, parasites and microplastics from drinking water.



PHOTO BY STEVE DOLAN



PHOTO BY STEVE DOLAN



PHOTO BY STEVE DOLAN



PHOTO BY STEVE DOLAN

CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE:

Laboratory manager Sofie Liang (FOREGROUND), students (FROM LEFT) Emilio Mattingly-Hernandez and Warren Radford, and Dr. Amanda Cox use a water and sediment flume on the lower level of the ISE Building to evaluate the response of a river's form, such as size and shape, to channel modifications.

Mattingly-Hernandez (LEFT) and Liang use the Quadrupole Time-of-Flight Mass Spectrometry system to quantify organic compounds in water samples to help address water quality issues.

The energy dashboard monitor in the main lobby shows the building's daily electric consumption as well as weekly views of gas and water consumption.

Students (FROM LEFT) Nitya Nagarajan, Zaryn Kamara and Yojana Jagadish collaborating in a glass-paneled study room in the ISE Building.

A view of the lobby featuring the three-story video wall.

PHOTO BY DOUGLAS GARFIELD



PHOTOS BY STEVE DOLAN



PATH GROUP

Investigators with the People and Technology Horizon (PATH) group are finding ways to make technology adapt to humans rather than

the other way around.

“Technological advancements have had an impact on almost every facet of life as we know it, and yet with innovation comes limitation,” said Dr. Jenna Gorlewicz, associate professor of mechanical engineering and a member of the PATH leadership team.

“Technology has enabled humans to interact in new ways, across new domains, but too often, the experience feels incomplete, tedious and unintuitive,” she said.

Through cross-disciplinary collaborations, PATH investigators use research in human language, interactions and communication to drive the design of next-generation technologies and increase their utility. PATH computer scientists, engineers and anthropologists work closely with diverse communities to address limitations from perspectives not often represented in the design of new technologies.

For example, in close collaboration with the pro-tactile deaf and blind community, PATH researchers are developing a haptic armband that can simulate different tapping sensations. Such a device could help facilitate remote conversation, which largely is a visual or aural task. Investigators also are developing ways to translate STEM educational content, such as graphs, diagrams and charts, into content that individuals can hear (through sounds), see (on screen) and touch (through vibrations).

“In technology design, we talk about accessibility, yet it often feels like an add-on or an afterthought,” Gorlewicz said. “PATH’s design approach is rooted in ensuring that accessibility is a non-issue. PATH works with diverse communities from the very beginning so as technology is created, it has the capacity to provide an intuitive, meaningful user experience.”

Gorlewicz said everything at PATH is rooted in the student experience.

“PATH brings together researchers and students from across STEM and the social sciences at SLU,” she said. “Seeing designs created by engineering students challenged by an anthropologist’s understanding of interaction, for example, is a highly unusual but valuable learning experience. I love that for our students. Perspectives are immediately challenged and strengthened because of the shared perspectives.”

TOP: Dr. Flavio Esposito (FAR LEFT, BACK TO CAMERA), assistant professor of computer science, and Dr. Jenna Gorlewicz (CENTER FRONT, BACK TO CAMERA) assist students in the PATH lab.

RIGHT: Members of the AI@SLU team (FROM LEFT) Dr. Mamoun Benmamoun (Grad CSB '03, Grad A&S '09), Dr. Srikanth Gururajan, Dr. Michael Goldwasser, Esposito, Amy Penick and Dennis Thomas with Dr. Kevin Scannell (ON THE SCREEN) meet in a computer lab.



AI@SLU

The leadership team of AI@SLU is charged with leveraging the University’s strengths across disciplines to explore how artificial intelligence (AI) can aid in tasks as diverse as diagnosing medical conditions, predicting crop productivity, preserving endangered languages and piloting drones.

“There is robust activity in AI at SLU,” said Dr. Michael Goldwasser, professor and chair of the Department of Computer Science and AI@SLU director. “Researchers in different areas may want to use AI or are already using AI but could benefit from our expertise. Our goal is to bring together these researchers, identify collaborations and help them use AI to advance their missions.”

AI@SLU received a Big Ideas planning grant in 2019 to build a framework for a larger initiative that would grow the sense of community at SLU and provide greater support for use of AI techniques. Goldwasser said the University made AI a priority with the hiring of several new faculty members who specialize in the field and with the development of a new graduate program in artificial intelligence.

The AI@SLU leadership team creating the framework for the larger initiative includes faculty from a variety of disciplines such as computer science, engineering, international business and medicine.

SLU projects under way that explore this transformative technology include:

- A cardiologist using AI to minimize observer variation and provide accurate diagnosis in the field of echocardiography
- A computer science fellow using AI to classify photos that can help locate victims of human trafficking
- In collaboration with GeoSLU and the St. Louis area’s Donald Danforth Plant Science Center, a computer scientist using AI to gather images of farm fields in Arizona for analyzing crop health
- A bioinformatics expert using AI to study how proteins fold, which could have an impact on drug design
- An aerospace engineer using AI to study how groups of drones interact and whether drones can operate autonomously or semi-autonomously

Goldwasser said while the AI@SLU planning group’s primary objective is harnessing the potential of AI across campus, it also is committed to exploring the ethical implications of the technologies and ensuring they do not exacerbate existing inequalities and biases or create new ones.

“We not only research what we can do with the technology,” he said. “We look at how it can affect criminal justice, medicine, education, anywhere AI can be used. We take a more holistic approach, which speaks to the University’s Jesuit ideals.”



INCUBATOR SPACE

WALTER J. ONG, S.J., CENTER FOR DIGITAL HUMANITIES

STEM meets the humanities on the ISE Building’s second floor.

Housing the Walter J. Ong, S.J., Center for Digital Humanities (CDH) in the ISE building makes it easier for faculty, staff and students in the burgeoning field of digital humanities to establish connections with SLU’s scientific and engineering community.

CDH faculty and staff help advance scholarship in the humanities by facilitating methodologies and appropriate digital tools to foster research and learning.

Dr. Phyllis Weliver, professor of English and director of the CDH, said the high-profile location is fitting for a center with an international reputation.

“Our center is unique among digital humanities centers because it not only is a focal place for learning about digital tools, which many universities offer, but we also have a team of digital technicians who are creating software and new tools,” Weliver said.

Among other achievements, CDH team members helped develop protocols for T-PEN, an online transcription service used with digitized images of texts in many forms, from personal letters to manuscripts. T-PEN has users worldwide, including the Newberry Library. CDH team members also helped establish the International Image Interoperability Framework, a set of best practices for digitizing image repositories in university archives, libraries and museums across the globe.

SLU is a pioneer in the field of digital humanities. Seeds were planted decades ago by longtime professors Walter J. Ong, S.J. (Grad A&S '41), and Maurice B. McNamee, S.J. (A&S '33, Grad A&S '34, '45), as well as Dr. Marshall McLuhan, who laid the cornerstone for the study of media theory.

Weliver said the CDH’s visibility in the ISE Building communicates to the SLU community what the international community already knows.

“Until now, the center mostly has been a College of Arts and Sciences resource,” Weliver said. “We hope that our new location will encourage interactions with other members of the University and generate new collaborations. The center is a part of SLU’s history and future, and we are excited for it to be showcased in the way it deserves.”

TOP: Bryan Haberberger (A&S '13) (LEFT) and Patrick Cuba of the Ong Center for Digital Humanities in the building’s incubator space.

RIGHT: At work in the Center for Additive Manufacturing lab are (FROM LEFT) Dr. Andrew Hall; Dr. Andre Castiaux, lead engineer in biomedical engineering; Dr. Scott Sell, program coordinator in biomedical engineering; and Dr. Scott Martin, chemistry department chair.

CENTER FOR ADDITIVE MANUFACTURING

Only imagination and inspiration are needed to access the SLU Center for Additive Manufacturing.

“Sometimes students and faculty walk in with sketches on napkins and a lot of arm waving,” said Dr. Andrew Hall, associate professor of biomedical engineering and center co-founder. “Our mission is to give anyone with an idea access to additive manufacturing so they can realize their plans or advance their research.”

The University has invested substantial capital and talent into establishing SLU as a regional hub for additive manufacturing, also known as 3-D printing and computer-aided design (CAD). The center’s team, with the support of a Big Ideas grant, created a state-of-the-art facility with at least 10 different types of technology. This includes more than half a million dollars’ worth of industrial 3-D printers, laser cutters and 3-D optical surface scanners. Hall said the center is open to students, faculty and the community.

The center was founded in 2019, and soon after, COVID-19 hit. Within a short period of time, the team developed user-specific N-95 respirators for the University health care provider community.

Team members collaborated with chemistry faculty to create microfluidic devices, merging cell culture and analytical measurement schemes together on the microscale. The team also collaborated with a biology professor to produce several 3-D models of a delicate fish skull so each of her students could have one for study.

Engineering and medical students use the center for help with capstone projects, and the team works closely with MEDLaunch, an incubator that brings together SLU students across disciplines to create medical devices.

Hall said the center’s future will encompass community outreach — helping larger manufacturers train their employees to use additive manufacturing and showing smaller manufacturers how additive manufacturing can grow their businesses.

The center grew out of the Tinker Lab, a small lab in Parks College founded by Dr. Sridhar Condoor, professor of mechanical engineering.

“It was a great little lab, but if you weren’t part of Parks, you had to work to find it,” Hall said. “This central location where people can walk by our big glass windows and see what we’re doing raises our visibility. It takes us to the next level. There is nothing like it in the St. Louis area.”





3RD FLOOR

A chemistry lab

PHOTO BY STEVE DOLAN

BY THE NUMBERS

What it takes to build a STEM hub

500 tons of reinforcing steel

125 tons of structural steel

30,000 square feet of roofing systems

2,500 feet of fiber-optic cable

1,875 data outlets

1,290 gallons of paint

3-story video wall made in part from recycled plastic water bottles

SUSTAINABILITY FEATURES

2 bio-retention basins with native Missouri plantings

63 water-saving plumbing fixtures

955 LED light fixtures

6 electric vehicle charging spaces in nearby Compton Garage installed as part of the project

68,500 square feet of passive lawn area (an environmentally sensitive area)

More than \$53,000 in annual energy cost savings compared to a typical equivalent lab building

CHEMISTRY LABS | With modular classrooms on the second floor and leading-edge teaching labs on the third floor, the chemistry department has created the ideal staging ground for scientific breakthroughs and engaging students in the process.

The number of general and organic chemistry labs nearly doubled when the chemistry department moved its teaching labs from the lower level of Monsanto Hall to the ISE Building.

Dr. Scott Martin, department chair and professor of chemistry, said the lab space was designed to offer chemistry students unprecedented opportunities for interdisciplinary collaboration with other faculty and students in the building, as well as give students access to state-of-the-art research instrumentation. This includes installation in April of a new nuclear magnetic resonance instrument, the preeminent technique for determining the structure of organic compounds.

Martin also noted that biochemistry students taking courses in the building are learning to analyze molecules with another tool called a polymerase chain reaction instrument — the gold standard for detecting viruses, including COVID-19.

“The new space allows for greater hands-on experiences for students who can make new molecules and analyze those molecules in attached instrument rooms,” Martin said.

Martin hopes the highly visible space will help ignite a passion for STEM education at the earliest stages of a student’s journey. All freshman and sophomore chemistry labs are held in the ISE Building.

“Students just seem happier in the new building,” Martin noted. “Going from the basement of a building constructed in the middle of the 1960s to this beautiful building with large windows overlooking a fountain and Grand Center is a great improvement. It demonstrates the University’s commitment to STEM research and the student learning experience.”

Martin also said the expanded space allows the department to offer more lab sections, which reduces scheduling conflicts that existed previously. Martin said next steps involve renovating the teaching space vacated in Monsanto Hall into research space for upper-level and graduate students. **UTAS**



Derakhshani (right) after one of her first chess tournaments, a national championship in Iran

Chess Queen

Grandmaster Dorsa Derakhshani has made a name for herself around the world, but she’s happy to call Saint Louis University home.

— By Amy Garland

At 8 years old, Dorsa Derakhshani won one of the first chess tournaments she ever played, a national championship in her native Iran. She accepted her award in a princess gown and tiara, sweetly standing out among the other girls wearing traditional headscarves.

It wasn’t the first time Derakhshani stood out, and it wouldn’t be the last.

Like the queen in the game of chess, Derakhshani knows what it is to be the lone female in the crowd. But also like the queen — generally considered the most powerful piece on the board — she draws on her ability to move exactly as she wants in any direction.

Derakhshani grew up in Tehran, the first-born of a pediatrician father and psychiatrist mother.

Her mother didn’t have many professional opportunities as a woman in Iran in the late 1990s, so she “decided to stay home and work on me instead,” Derakhshani said. That meant undivided attention and instruction from the very beginning. It soon became clear that the child reached milestones before anyone else around her.

At 18 months old, she could read.

At 2.5 years, she finished the equivalent of first grade. At age 4, fourth grade.

It was extraordinary, but when it came time for the little girl to begin her formal education, it posed a problem: There was no real precedent for the situation in her country. Eventually, Derakhshani started school in a first-grade classroom, even though she was academically years past her classmates.

Her parents realized their daughter needed more. They sought enrichment for her at every turn: ballet, swimming, painting, music and, of course, chess. She had been around the game for as long as she can remember.

“My father played chess in high school before the revolution in Iran,” Derakhshani said. “But after the revolution, it was banned for a while. He couldn’t play in public, but he would play in the house with my mom. That’s how I learned.”

By 6, she started chess lessons, but the hobby quickly turned into something more, as Derakhshani’s competitive nature kicked in. Unlike some of her other pursuits, chess produced obvious winners.

“I always wanted to be the best at everything. Chess had the clear category of what I was best at, and I really liked that,” she said.

She started winning and went on to score straight gold medals at the 2012, 2013 and 2014 Asian Youth Championships. In the numerical chess ratings, she was at the top for all girls in Asia and second-highest for girls under 18 in the world, 2015 through 2017.

Soon, Derakhshani had achieved every possible women’s chess title, including grandmaster in 2016. But it wasn’t without struggle. The restrictive culture of her home country hindered her, again and again.

“In Iran, women are seen as second-class citizens, so they weren’t allowed to play in open tournaments. And there weren’t enough women chess players to organize a big event,” she said.



PHOTO BY THEO R. WELLING

Derakhshani in the chess team's training space in Morrissey Hall

Even when she could play, Derakhshani found herself at odds with the Iranian Chess Federation. Many of the issues stemmed from the official Iranian dress code. She'd been told her jeans were too tight, her clothes too revealing and that she needed to cover her hair in public.

"I never planned to stay in Iran and have that type of life," she said. "The culture wasn't for me — such strict gender roles and the whole idea that I couldn't speak up for anything, ever. It was oppressive."

The last time she officially played for Iran was in 2015. At that point, she'd already started talking with universities outside of Iran, looking for one with both a chess program and an academic program she liked. But first she wanted to spend a year focusing on chess.

She played for different European leagues, talking with chess federations and countries across the continent, trying to find a fast path to residency. She settled on Spain, moving by herself to Barcelona and staying for about a year.

As she was deciding whether to switch her chess federation to Spain, her home country took a drastic measure: They barred her from playing in Iran for not wearing a hijab (a headscarf worn by some Muslim women) at a recent competition. It was a moot point, since she'd already left the Iranian national team, but it gave her a sense of resolve in her decision: She needed to go where she had more freedom in her choices.

For the girl whose name means "like pearl" in Persian, it seemed the world was her oyster.

She'd been offered scholarships from a couple of American universities, but Saint Louis University's academics won her over — especially SLU's reputation for health sciences studies. Plus, St. Louis' reputation as a chess hub helped convince her to immigrate here and play for the U.S. Chess Federation.

"SLU was a great fit for me. The biology program was better, the pre-med track was better, the chess team was more developed than at other schools I considered," she said. "I also knew the coach."

The coach, Alejandro Ramirez, said he's "known Dorsa forever." He had played chess professionally, and the two had friends in common. When the University brought him on to develop its chess team, he thought of her. She became the first woman on a scholarship for SLU's chess team, moving to St. Louis in the summer of 2017 and starting classes that fall.

At SLU, Derakhshani continued to evolve as a chess player and revel in her freedoms. After getting international attention for her refusal to wear a hijab, she penned an op-ed for *The New York Times* and gave a TedxTalk about the societal pressures and expectations she faced as a woman both in everyday life and in the chess world.

Then last fall, the Netflix hit *The Queen's Gambit* — about a girl who's a chess prodigy — brought chess to popular consciousness. Suddenly everyone from *People Magazine* to *The Telegraph* wanted to talk with Derakhshani.

Team of Champions

Since its founding in 2016, SLU's chess team has become nationally known, and it is considered one of the most competitive collegiate chess teams in the country.

In March, the team clinched the International Chess Federation's (FIDE) 2021 World University Rapid Cup Championship over the University of Missouri team.

The championship attracted more than 1,300 students representing more than 200 universities from 84 countries. Due to COVID-19, the event was played virtually.

SLU then placed second in the Final Four of Collegiate Chess (the U.S. national championships), finishing only half a point behind University of Texas at Rio Grande Valley.

"SLU's team is gearing up for a very busy summer, including the defense of our World Championship title offline — COVID permitting — in Paris, France, in July," said SLU Chess Team Coach Alejandro Ramirez.

Established as a partnership between Saint Louis University and the Chess Club and Scholastic Center of St. Louis, with support from University trustee and chess enthusiast Rex Siquefield (CSB '67), the team is not just a club activity but rather a strategic effort by administrators and alumni to recruit promising players and build on SLU's academic reputation.

The team currently has 14 members, and recruitment efforts continue through donor-sponsored competitive chess scholarships.

"Dorsa always has a lot to say and a lot to offer," Ramirez said. "She's a strong player and a competitive teammate. She makes SLU look good."

Last fall, she gave the University reason to be proud by taking third place in the 2020 U.S. Women's Chess Championship. Entering as the 12-seed, Derakhshani's top-three finish was the surprise of the event. The event was hosted by the Saint Louis Chess Club in late October; however, due to COVID-19 restrictions, the championship was held online for the first time.

"I really miss playing over-the-board chess," Derakhshani said. "Online chess is fun, but I want to be able to interact with a real person, not a computer."

Fortunately, her commitment to the sport will outlast the limitations dictated by the pandemic. Derakhshani intends to become a surgeon and wants to continue playing chess when she attends medical school. She has a green card and is on a path toward U.S. citizenship. She would love to stay in St. Louis after she finishes her bachelor's degree in health sciences and biology in 2022.

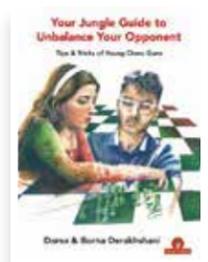
"I'm pretty settled here," she said. "My family is still in Iran, and I don't want to move again on my own. I would like to actually be able to hold that stability for longer."

After making her own way all over the globe, even the queen can stay put for a turn.

UTAS

Writing the Book on Chess:

Derakhshani and her brother, Borna, recently collaborated on *Your Jungle Guide to Unbalance Your Opponent: Tips and Tricks of Young Chess Guns*, which will publish this summer. The book is for chess players of any level who want to think more critically about the game.





SLU's new core curriculum will help students find themselves and God in all things.

— By Marie Dilg

Three years ago, Dr. Ellen Crowell, associate professor of English, asked members of the University Undergraduate

Core Committee (UCC) to dream big.

The group was tasked with creating SLU's first-ever University-wide core curriculum. The curriculum would prepare students to be flexible, creative and critical thinkers. It also would nourish students' minds, hearts and souls, as well as guide them to discerning how to use their talents for the good of others.

"It was a tremendous undertaking," said Crowell, director of the University core and chairperson of the UCC. "We weren't reforming curriculum. We were creating an inspirational, distinctive approach to a Jesuit, liberal arts education from scratch."

The collaborative process involved months of discussion among faculty, students, alumni, staff and administration on campuses in St. Louis and Madrid. After several drafts and formal feedback, SLU faculty and leadership approved the new 32-hour core curriculum in 2020. (See sidebar.) Portions of the curriculum will be piloted for incoming students this fall, with a full rollout launching in fall 2022.



Crowell

FORK IN THE ROAD

A core curriculum serves as the centerpiece of an undergraduate intellectual experience. The Higher Learning Commission, SLU's accrediting body, mandates that an institution's core be consistent with its stated mission and that the curriculum be assessable. Graduates need to know what the institution expects them to know regardless of major. Crowell said the new core meets these criteria.

Understanding why SLU lacked a uniform core curriculum until now requires going back more than 140 years.

When SLU's first Jesuit president, Peter Verhaegen, S.J., took office in 1829, one of the administration's first undertakings was to revise the curriculum to reflect the typical academic expectations of a Jesuit university. Rigorous courses in philosophy, ethics, languages, history and literature were designed to prepare students to become educators, politicians, philosophers and ministers.

By 1858, SLU became the first Jesuit university in the country to offer curricular choice. It developed a "commercial" track to prepare students to enter the workforce in such fields as medicine, engineering and business. Commercial, or professional, students took far fewer courses in the humanities than classical students.

The problem, Crowell said, was that every time a new college or school was founded within the SLU system, the college or school leaders developed their own approach to general education that suited their students.

"Our approach to general education has been wildly divergent," said Crowell, an expert in curricular design. "Some professional schools require their students to take no more than 18 credit hours unrelated to their majors, while other colleges, such as the College of Arts and Sciences, require students to take up to 66 hours outside their majors."

FREEDOM AND FLEXIBILITY

Crowell said this disparate approach to general education created several challenges. SLU's general education requirements have left little room for SLU students to explore subjects that, on the surface, seem unrelated to their major but could enhance their studies by expanding their ability to think beyond disciplinary boundaries.

SLU's lack of a common core curriculum also made it challenging for students to change majors. If an engineering student, for example, wanted to switch from Parks College of Engineering, Aviation and Technology to another college with a different core curriculum, the student would have to take additional general education courses to get in sync with the new major. This delayed graduation and added to tuition.

Jean Marie Cox, assistant vice president of enrollment and dean of admission, said the new core curriculum allows students greater flexibility to switch majors, double major or minor in other areas of interest without moving their finish line. It also gives transfer students greater clarity as to what courses will transfer in.

"The other exciting thing is that the core allows us to provide students with a wonderful, well-rounded liberal arts background no matter what major a student chooses," she said. "This speaks to our Jesuit mission of educating the whole person."

CLARITY OF PURPOSE

Another push for a uniform core came from faculty and students who felt the lack of a common core put a soft focus on what it means to study at a Jesuit university. Crowell said the new core, with its emphasis on philosophy, theology, collaboration and diversity, makes it crystal clear why an education at SLU is distinctive.

"Every student who encounters this curriculum will not be a Catholic or a Christian or a person of faith," Crowell said. "But every student who goes through this curriculum will richly understand why it matters that they're being educated within Jesuit, Catholic, faith-based traditions that purposefully, carefully guide students through intellectual experiences and simultaneously invite them to think about who they are and what they can bring to the table for the good of all. This core encourages students to ask, 'Who am I? Who is with me, and who do I serve? And, how can we collaborate to make this world a better place?'"

Dr. Michael Lewis, provost and the University's chief academic officer, said SLU already does an excellent job of defining itself as a strong Jesuit academic institution. The core underscores this.

"You can get a degree in biology or history or education from a lot of different institutions," he said. "This core illustrates why students choose to study at SLU. It provides an intellectual and spiritual foundation for their education, one that allows them to assess the moral and spiritual implications of their actions and life choices."

David Suwalsky, S.J. (Grad A&S '89, '10), is vice president for mission and identity at SLU, and he served as an adviser to the UCC.

He appreciates how much more intentional the core makes the University's mission of educating the whole person.

"We're all here in order to eventually be from SLU, to be out in the world of neighborhoods and communities sharing our gifts and talents that have been refined by our SLU experience," he said. "The core assumes engagement not only with ideas and values, but that the engagement will lead to greater interest in participating in the dynamism of God's creation. We do this first by being in community with one another and sharing common experiences that will converse with the experiences we bring to SLU."

COLLABORATION MEETS CREATIVITY

Crowell said the unified core will give students a greater sense of the diversity on campus because they will share a common experience with peers. Rather than staying in their lanes, students from all colleges and schools will be in the same classrooms for core courses — nurses will be talking to artists, engineers will be collaborating with philosophers.

Faculty also have an opportunity to grow. Crowell said the

new curriculum is designed to foster cross-campus collaboration and innovation by offering faculty members opportunities to step into new configurations with colleagues. Faculty are encouraged to develop courses to meet the new core requirements and to meet the curiosity of students they previously would not have encountered.

"The great hope for our core is that it inspires faculty to participate in teaching the new curriculum because they see how it allows them to shape the student experience across all of SLU's colleges, schools and campuses," Crowell said. **UTAS**

ONE UNIVERSITY. ONE CORE.

The core consists of 32 credit hours to be completed by all undergraduate students regardless of major, program, college, school or campus. The small, discussion-driven seminars will be led by interdisciplinary faculty. The curriculum includes the following components.

IGNITE SEMINAR: Designed to introduce students to what makes teaching and learning at SLU distinctive and transformative

CURA PERSONALIS SEQUENCE: Designed to launch students on a path of reflection and self-discovery by exploring fundamental questions of identity, history and place

THEOLOGICAL AND PHILOSOPHICAL FOUNDATIONS: Designed to engage students in "ultimate questions" regarding the meaning of human existence, faith and human destiny

ELOQUENTIA PERFECTA: Designed to teach eloquence in written, oral and visual communication

WAYS OF THINKING: Designed to expose students to a breadth of disciplines and intellectual traditions, a hallmark of a Jesuit liberal arts education

COLLABORATIVE INQUIRY: Designed to give students the opportunity to integrate and collaborate with peers on information learned earlier in the core and through other coursework

EQUITY AND GLOBAL IDENTITIES: Designed to help students understand the world in which they live so they can better advocate for justice and act in solidarity with those who are disadvantaged or oppressed

THE NEW CORE

→ INVITES DISCOVERY

PROMOTES INTEGRITY

INSPIRES COURAGE

FOSTERS CONNECTION

TAKE A LOOK
INSIDE THE LATEST
ADDITIONS TO
SLU'S MEDICAL
CENTER.

Grand New

At the new SSM Health Saint Louis University Hospital and Center for Specialized Medicine, the numbers tell the story:

- + A 10-floor, 600,000 square foot hospital
- + A four-floor, 200,000 square foot Center for Specialized Medicine, the outpatient hub for SLUCare's primary care providers and specialists
- + A two-story chapel in the central commons building that also features a café, gift shop and conference center
- + 316 private, inpatient rooms
- + \$550 million in construction costs
- + 3,000 panes of glass installed during construction

It all adds up to a light, airy and state-of-the-art medical complex that opened Sept. 1, 2020, after three years of construction.

In April, the hospital was named the "Project of the Year" in the 2021 *St. Louis Business Journal's* annual Building St. Louis Awards, which honor the commercial real estate projects that made the biggest impact in the St. Louis region.

The accolade recognizes the hospital's expanded Level 1 trauma center and emergency department, larger intensive care units, expanded outpatient



ABOVE: The Center for Specialized Medicine (LEFT), Commons Building, SSM Health Saint Louis University Hospital and parking structure photographed from Grand Boulevard. The top of Desloge Tower is seen behind the Center for Specialized Medicine.

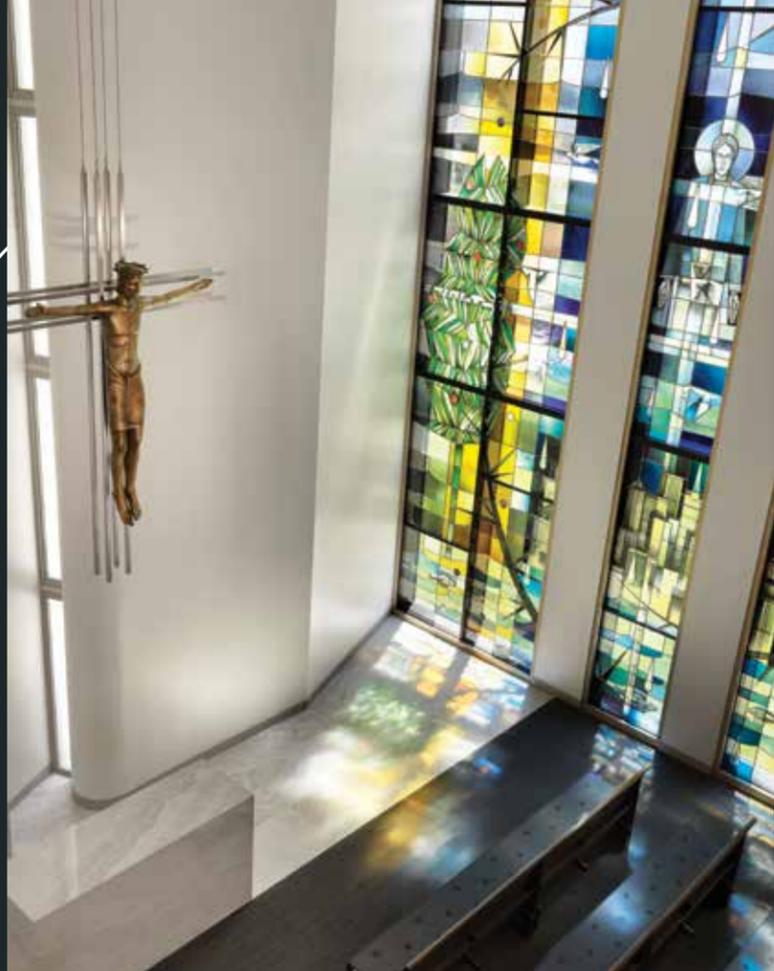
services and areas for future expansion. The medical complex is located on 15 acres adjacent to the long-standing hospital on Grand Boulevard between Rutger and Lasalle streets.

As for the old hospital facilities, Bordley Memorial Pavilion, the patient care addition that was dedicated in 1976, is closed. The 15-story, green-roofed Desloge Tower, known as Firmin Desloge Hospital when it opened in 1933, will be repurposed, but plans for its redevelopment have not been finalized.

The photos on the following pages offer a tour of the latest landmarks along Grand Boulevard.



← The new SLU Hospital features 14 operating rooms and three hybrid operating rooms located on the Interventional Platform on Level 1, as well as MRI and CT rooms, labs, procedure rooms, the post-anesthesia care unit and a 16-room short stay unit. Two of the operating rooms have been specially designed for living organ donation, featuring a sterile anteroom for more efficient transfer between the living donor and the recipient.



◀ The chapel, made possible by a gift from David Thornley Orthwein, features stained glass created by William Frank, a St. Louis-based artist at Emil Frei Inc., a nationally recognized stained-glass studio. The crucifix, suspended from the ceiling of the chapel, features an eight-foot stainless-steel cross and a five-foot figure of Christ, and was created by sculptor Alexander Tylevich.



▶ The cafeteria, located in the Commons Building, features floor-to-ceiling windows and colors reflecting the iconic copper patina of the roof of the nearby, historic Desloge Tower.



◀ The family waiting areas are located on the east side of the inpatient units, providing views of the St. Louis City skyline.

▶ “Through our exceptional health care services, we reveal the healing presence of God,” is displayed on the east-facing wall overlooking the coffee bar on the garden level in the Commons Building. Featured above, hanging from the ceiling, is artwork created by local artist Rachel Hayes.



◀ The new Center for Specialized Medicine features clinics with separate patient-only and physician-only spaces. One-stop registration features nine kiosks that allow visitors to check in.



▶ The new SLU Hospital offers all private inpatient rooms (except the ACE Unit on Level 8) with floor-to-ceiling windows and views of the city. The rooms are divided up into three zones, each one specific to the needs of the caregiver, the patient and their family members. The private rooms allow for better patient confidentiality and are adaptable to fit each specific patient’s needs, including ceiling-mounted patient lifts

and increased door widths with an additional leaf to better accommodate patient transportation. Each room has its own private bathroom, designed to allow for staff assistance. Digital whiteboards are featured in every room, with a patient care portal where patients can order their meals and have access to entertainment and additional hospital information.

A HISTORY OF CARE

- by Maggie Rotermund

The relationship between SSM Health and the University extends back more than a century. In 1903, SSM Health’s founding congregation, the Sisters of St. Mary (now known as the Franciscan Sisters of Mary) welcomed SLU School of Medicine students into their hospitals for education and training.

In 1928, the University and the sisters worked together to establish SLU’s School of Nursing. In 1933, the sisters and SLU opened the hospital on South Grand Boulevard that recently was home to SSM Health Saint Louis University Hospital.

Saint Louis University Hospital continued to be owned and operated jointly until 1959, when the sisters donated their share to the University. SLU sold the hospital to Tenet Healthcare Corp. in 1998.

In June 2015, SLU announced it would reacquire the hospital from Tenet and would contribute the facility to SSM Health in exchange for a minority financial interest and governance rights in SSM Health St. Louis. The deal became official in September of that year. **UTAS**

1964

Dr. Harry Graber (MED) retired as a cardiologist at The Ohio State University School of Medicine. He lives in West Liberty, Ohio.

1965

Dr. Tim M. Berra (A&S) wrote *Bourbon: What the Educated Drinker Should Know*. The book — Berra's ninth — is illustrated with 270 of his photographs. He is a university professorial fellow at Charles Darwin University in Australia and an academy professor and professor emeritus in the Department of Evolution, Ecology and Organismal Biology at The Ohio State University.



1969

Florence Sands (A&S) lives at Benedictine Manor in Jonesboro, Arkansas. She spends her time reading and writing.

1970

Kevin F. O'Malley (A&S '70, LAW '73), the former U.S. ambassador to Ireland, joined the mediator and senior arbitrator panels of United States Arbitration and Mediation.

1972

Dr. Shirley (Rocek) Anderson (GRAD ED '72, '81) wrote a memoir, *Poverty, Virginity and Love: Memoirs of Asia and Other Places*, about her adventures as a Maryknoll missionary in South Korea and later war-torn Vietnam. She was chairperson of the Department of Health Information at Saint Louis University in the late 1980s and became professor emeritus in 1997. She lives in St. Peters, Missouri.

1974

Rosemarie (Benedetto) Dunn (DCHS '74, GRAD CSB '79) has been in health care management for more than 45 years. *Dunn and Haimann's Healthcare Management*, a textbook that was written by longtime SLU business professor Dr. Theo Haimann and later transferred to Dunn, just published its 11th edition. She lives in Chesterfield, Missouri.

1976

Mark D. Hassakis (LAW) is a senior partner at Hassakis and Hassakis, P.C., a law firm in southern Illinois.

Bill Ring (A&S) spent almost 30 years in his family's South Florida automotive business before moving to Western Kansas and focusing on giving back to the community with organizations such as Habitat for Humanity and the American Red Cross. He recently retired as the director of public works for Ellis County, Kansas. He continues to assist those in need with the Knights of Columbus Council 6984.

1980

Alberta (Means) Hitchings (SW '80, GRAD SW '84) is a retired social worker and flight attendant. She was a Peace Corps volunteer in Liberia, West Africa, when she was in her 50s. A world traveler, Hitchings lives in Ballwin, Missouri.

1981

Tom Everson (A&S) is the executive director and founder of Keep Kids Alive Drive 25, a traffic safety nonprofit. The organization launched the "Keep Kids Alive" podcast to share stories of hope and action of families whose loved ones died in traffic incidents, along with traffic safety advocates from across the country. Everson lives in Omaha, Nebraska.

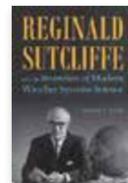
1983

Mike Dillard (PC) is a lead provisioning engineer supporting commercial and commercial derivative aircraft at Boeing Global Services. He earned a master's degree in business at Seattle University and is retired from the U.S. Air Force Reserves, having achieved the rank of lieutenant colonel. He is married and has two daughters who are in college. He lives in Auburn, Washington.

Ronald Motil (LAW) is an associate judge of the 3rd Judicial Circuit of Illinois.

1984

Chuck Passaglia (A&S), an employment attorney in Denver, published his first book, *Can I Bring my Pet Monkey to Work? Answers to 45 of the Wildest Workplace Law Questions*, which was a No. 1 new release on Amazon.com.



1986

Jonathan Martin (A&S) wrote *Reginald Sutcliffe and the Invention of Modern*

Weather Systems Science. Sutcliffe was a 20th century meteorologist who invented modern dynamical meteorology, the basis for modern numerical weather prediction. Martin lives in Madison, Wisconsin.

Beth Schulte (CSB '86, GRAD CSB '92) is principal and director of the outsourced CFO practice at Anders CPAs and Advisors. She has more than 30 years of accounting and fractional CFO experience. Schulte also serves as an adjunct professor and executive advisory board member for SLU's Richard A. Chaifetz School of Business.

BILLIKEN NIGHT AT BUSCH STADIUM

FRIDAY, AUG. 6
FIRST PITCH: 7:15 P.M.

Join fellow Billikens at Busch Stadium and cheer on the Cardinals as they take on the Kansas City Royals. SLU and the Billiken will be recognized on the field and during the game.

For more information, please visit alumni.slu.edu/slunight21

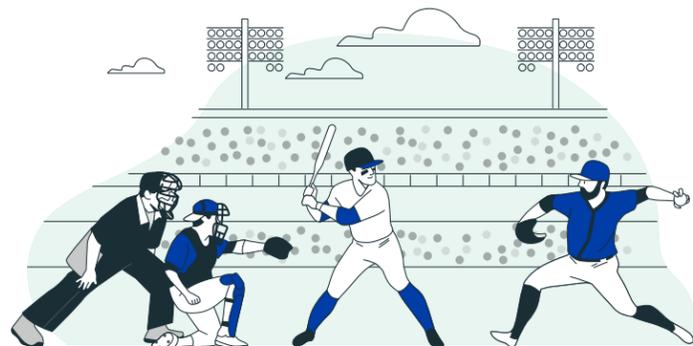


ILLUSTRATION BY STORIES

HOW I GOT HERE



Erin Loos Cutraro

{GRAD A&S '02}

Founder and CEO of She Should Run



Cutraro (RIGHT) with her mom and sister

'76 Cutraro is born in St. Louis. Her childhood is spent literally on Happy Lane, with her mom and sister.

"My mom showed me what it looks like to work hard and never give up."

'98 After earning a bachelor's degree in education, she teaches history to sixth graders in St. Louis County, in the same school district she attended as a kid.

"I loved teaching, but I became curious about educational systems and wanted to look at them through another lens."

'00 Cutraro studies organizational learning and change management as a graduate student in communication at SLU, graduating in 2002.

'03 She joins the training division at financial services firm Edward Jones. She gets her Series 7 broker license, which then requires her to report to a compliance team any of her political activity.

"It was a new experience for me to have to think about what I could and potentially could not do to support causes that I cared about. It forced me to question where I wanted to put my time in the long term."



Cutraro (CENTER) with fellow Carnahan campaign staffers

'04 A friend introduces her to the campaign manager for Robin Carnahan, the first woman to run for Secretary of State in Missouri. In "a testament to good networking," Cutraro signs on as deputy finance director.

In June, Cutraro gets married — and postpones her honeymoon to finish the campaign. Carnahan wins, and Cutraro helps during the transition.

"It was so different from the campaign trail. That fed how I learned about talking to candidates today."

'06 Cutraro and her husband move to Washington, D.C. She starts at The New Teacher Project, where she works on hiring practices in D.C. public schools.

"It was very hands-on. Figuring out the best way to apply policy — it was a dream role for me."



'07 She becomes director of politics and education and later managing vice president for Women's Campaign Fund (WCF), the first national women's PAC.

After several years, she starts She Should Run (SSR) as a project within the WCF.

"I craved more progress. I saw the tremendous effort that was going into supporting women running for office every election cycle — with little to no gains in the overall number of women serving. I wondered, what else can we do?"

'09 Cutraro's first daughter is born. A second comes along three years later.

'11 She Should Run becomes its own entity, with Cutraro as CEO of the nationwide nonpartisan nonprofit. Since its founding, more than 26,000 women have been encouraged to run for office through the organization's efforts.

"We know that when women are on the ballot, they win at the same rate as men. So the key to making our government look more like the population is first getting women to run."

'16 Cutraro helps build a partnership with Mattel, which results in the first Barbie President and Vice President set to help more girls envision the possibilities of leadership.



With her daughters on election day, November 2016

"I kept coming back to the reality of: You can't be it, if you can't see it."

In October 2016, SSR launches a virtual community and platform for women considering a run for office. The goal to sign up 400 women by the end of the year is far exceeded after the general election, with more than 4,500 women getting involved.

'19 *Entrepreneur* magazine selects Cutraro as one of its "100 Powerful Women."

'20 Cutraro amplifies SSR's 250KBY2030 campaign, which aims to add 250,000 women from all walks of life to the political leadership pipeline in this country by the year 2030.

"I'm doing work that I love right now, but I still ask myself: What lever can I pull that's going to make as much good as possible?" — By Amy Garland

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

DANA J. BOENTE

Most SLU alumni would be surprised to learn that, until recently, a “triple Billiken” worked among the highest echelons of American government. Nor would they suspect upon meeting Dana J. Boente (CSB '76, Grad CSB '77, Law '82) that this pleasant, unassuming Midwesterner was a key figure in the Mueller investigation, the sentencings of former Virginia Gov. Robert McDonnell and the conviction of former U.S. Rep. William J. Jefferson.

Boente is a veteran prosecutor who has dedicated his career to public service and works to uphold the rule of law no matter how important the players.

In 2018, he was appointed general counsel for the FBI after serving 35 years in the Department of Justice (DOJ). He retired in the summer of 2020.

“It reemphasized to me the dedication and patriotism that the FBI agents have to the job,” he said. “They put their lives on the line every day when they go out and they do their best to do the right thing. Everyone makes mistakes, and sometimes FBI agents make mistakes and they do their best to fix and not repeat them, but I think that they’re a dedicated group of patriotic men and women, and I was proud to work with them.”

After graduating from SLU in 1982, Boente clerked for Chief U.S. District Judge J. Waldo Ackerman for the Central District of Illinois — which he recommends for any law student wanting to pursue government service.

“Being a law clerk was a terrific experience, a great way to start and learn about litigation without the pressure of actually being the person up at the podium,” he said.

From there, Boente planned to become a trial attorney and expected to land at a large firm doing commercial litigation. Life took a different turn, however, when he was accepted into a prestigious, entry-level program with the DOJ in 1984. “No regrets,” he said. “I wouldn’t have traded my career for any amount of money.”

In 2001, Boente became an assistant U.S. attorney in the Fraud Unit of the Eastern District of Virginia, and in 2012, he was appointed to serve as the U.S. attorney for the Eastern District of Louisiana. In 2015, after serving in an acting capacity for two years prior, Boente was nominated by President Barack Obama and confirmed by the U.S. Senate to return to the role as U.S. attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia. Well known for its role in terrorism and treason cases, the Eastern District of Virginia is known as one of the most important posts in the country.



Boente in February 2020 with the Order of the Fleur de Lis Hall of Fame award, the School of Law’s highest honor

He was appointed by President Donald Trump as acting U.S. attorney general on Jan. 30, 2017, and later became acting deputy U.S. attorney general from Feb. 9 to April 26, 2017. He also served concurrently as the acting head of the DOJ’s National Security Division. He retired from the department at the end of 2017 and joined the FBI in January 2018.

Boente said his eight years at SLU were “one of the better times in my life,” noting the uniqueness of the undergraduate experience and the influence of legendary law professor Vincent C. Immel.

“Everybody in my generation talks about Vince Immel. For most of us he defined the law school,” Boente said. “There are a lot of smart people in this world, but there are not a lot of really, really great teachers, and he was.”

Not only did Boente gain a solid understanding of the legal system, but his SLU education helped inform his worldview.

“The Jesuits emphasize service,” he said. “We can think of public service, but it can also be service to family, service to your church. They always emphasized service.”

Being nominated by the president and confirmed by the Senate to serve is “certainly not the kind of thing you ever think is going to happen,” he said. “It was a terrific honor. I have always felt in each of my jobs as a public servant that it’s been a privilege, and the privilege has been all mine.” — *By Maria Tsikalas*

Submit Your Class Notes

Want to share news with your fellow alumni?

We would love to hear from you!

HERE ARE OUR CLASS NOTES GUIDELINES:

Class Notes is one of the first sections we finish for each issue because its length determines the space for our feature stories. That means we often stop compiling notes for an issue almost two months before you receive it. So if you’ve sent us news and don’t see it in the issue, don’t worry; your update will run next time.

We welcome photos, but we cannot run every photo we receive due to space limitations.

We do not run information about upcoming marriages, births or other occasions. We prefer to share your happy news after the event has occurred.

Due to space limitations, we no longer include Class Notes about alumni being named to lists, such as best lawyers, doctors, etc.

In general, we run only one Class Note per alum per year.

How to submit:

EMAIL: universitas@slu.edu

ONLINE: slu.edu/universitas

MAIL: Universitas@slu.edu
Saint Louis University
1 N. Grand Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63103



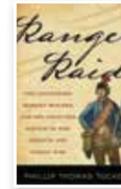
We hope to see you soon!

Check out upcoming virtual events and opportunities for alumni at alumni.slu.edu.

1990

Phillip Tucker

(GRAD A&S) has written more than 70 books of history, garnering recognition as “the Stephen King of history.” He lives in Central Florida, where he writes full time after a career of more than two decades as a historian with the Department of Defense, mostly in Washington, D.C.



1991

Elisha “Gentry” Sayad

(LAW) moved back to St. Louis after more than a decade in China and opened Sayad and Associates, a law firm specializing in international law and business consulting. During his two-decade-plus career, he has advised clients throughout the United States, Asia and Europe, as well as members of three U.S. administrations, members of Congress, state governments and educational institutions, regarding China policy.

1992

Dr. Matthew Diomede (GRAD A&S) wrote *For Father and Many Other Things*, a book of poetry. Diomede was an assistant professor of English at SLU’s Parks College from 1982 to 1992. He lives in Tierra Verde, Florida.

1993

Cindy Burke (A&S) is the director of value optimization for payer channels with United Healthcare. She lives in Siesta Key, Florida.

Sheila Long (A&S, CSB) wrote *Surrounded by Awesome Women: A New Model of Women’s Success in Business and Entrepreneurship for the Next Decade*, a book celebrating women by helping them grow professionally through an incubator model. She lives in Shorewood, Wisconsin.

1994

Bernabe Icaza (A&S '94, GRAD A&S '99, LAW '99) joined the Tampa, Florida, office of the law firm Carlton Fields. Icaza has more than a decade of in-house experience at large health care organizations, most recently serving as deputy general counsel at University of Florida Health Shands.

1995

Julia Pusateri Lasater (LAW) was appointed associate circuit judge for the 21st Judicial Circuit. She lives in St. Louis.

Suzanne Whitehead

(A&S) was elected to two terms as president of the Junior Service Club of St. Clair County in Illinois. She also is president of Leadership Illinois, and serves on the Gateway Region YMCA board and Illinois YMCA Youth and Government board. She lives in Belleville, Illinois.

1997

Dr. David A. Schmidt (GRAD ED) is president of the American University in Dubai.

1999

Pam (Fischer) Winter (CSB) received Alpha Delta Kappa’s Excellence in Education award for Missouri in spring 2020. In

September, she received the same award for the region that includes Missouri, Arkansas, Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas and Mexico. Winter also was named the 2021 Elementary Art Educator of the Year by the Missouri Art Education Association.

2000

Dr. Samina Sohail (MED), a family physician and community organizer, was named one of the 10 Women of the Year by the *Cincinnati Enquirer* in December.

2002

Dr. Scott Clemens (MED) is the president and chief medical officer of New West Physicians, part of Optum. He lives in Arvada, Colorado, with his wife and twin sons.

Dr. Bonita Jamison (GRAD ED) was named superintendent of schools in the Maplewood Richmond Heights School District in St. Louis.

2005

Dr. Curtis McKnight (A&S) co-authored an academic case report that “went viral” via Twitter and Reddit earlier this year. The report was about a man who became ill after injecting psilocybin mushrooms to self-medicate away his depression. McKnight is a faculty physician in the Department of Psychiatry at Dignity Health St. Joseph’s Hospital and Medical Center, and a tenured associate professor at Creighton University School of Medicine PRC, both in Phoenix.

2006

Christine (Donaldson) Maxwell (CSB) is the chief financial officer and vice president of operations at Northland Tackle. She is also a community

investment cabinet member for the United Way in Bemidji, Minnesota.

2007

Dr. Michele H. Riley (GRAD A&S) is the associate dean for the School of General Education at Purdue University Global. She lives in Madison, Alabama.

2011

Matthew Freeman (A&S) has written a new collection of poems, *Exile*. He lives in St. Louis.

2013

Chelsea Mannery (A&S) is in the litigation practice group at Capes Sokol. She focuses her practice on product liability and mass tort. She lives in St. Louis.

2014

Dr. Laura (Sowisdral) Schmidt (VSN) is president of the Organization for Associate Degree Nursing. Her term runs through November 2022. She lives in Kewadin, Michigan.

2017

Jessica Gottsacker (A&S '17, LAW '20) is an associate attorney with the law firm Danna McKittrick.

2018

Katrin Ratsaspepp (PS) is vice president of human resources, contracts and compliance for ACR Electronics Inc., a manufacturer of rescue beacons for boaters, hikers and aircraft. She lives in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

2020

Christie Voelker (GRAD PH) is a project manager at Steadfast City Economic and Community Partners in St. Louis.

Ms. Martha (Jakubiak) Brockmole (DCHS '43)
 Mr. Robert Helfrich Jr. (PC '44)
 Mrs. Elizabeth (Schmiemier) Schmidt (DCHS '45)
 Mr. Robert Hewett (CSB '48)
 Mr. Alfred Naunheim (CSB '48)
 Mrs. Justine (Datillo) Schluter (A&S '48)
 Dr. Eugene Schmitt (MED '48)
 Mr. John Waller Jr. (LAW '48)
 Mrs. Mary (Van Sant) Wheeler (VSN '48)
 Mr. Nicholas Karakas (A&S '49)
 Mr. Donald Lavin Sr. (CSB '49)
 Mr. Walter Lerch (CSB '49)
 Dr. Bernard O'Hara (MED '49)
 Dr. Harold Schierbecker (DENT '49)
 Mr. Glenn Strebeck (CSB '49)
 Mr. William Barnard (CSB '50)
 Mr. Joseph Budde (IT '50)
 Mr. Gerald Deppe (CSB '50)
 Mr. Harold Duchek (IT '50)
 Mr. Frederick Luth (CSB '50)
 Msgr. Robert McCarthy (CSB '50)
 Maj. Gen. William Nicholson III (PC '50)
 Mr. Wesley Wick (IT '50)
 Ms. Mary Ann (Grebel) Bradford (A&S '51)
 Dr. Joe Easley (PC '51)
 Mr. John Fitzsimmons (A&S '51)
 Dr. Fred Handler (MED '51)
 Fr. Daniel O'Connell, S.J. (A&S '51)
 Dr. Gene Stotlar (MED '51)
 Mrs. Marianne (Voss) Burnes (A&S '52)
 Mrs. Mary (Fearon) Drake (VSN '52)
 Lt. Col. James Fava (IT '52)
 Mr. Eugene Naes (CSB '52)
 Mr. Robert Rothschild (CSB '52)

Dr. Irene T. Schulze (DCHS '52, GRAD MED '62), professor emeritus in molecular microbiology and immunology and a world-renowned virologist, died May 6, 2021. She was 92 years old. Dr. Schulze came to work at SLU in 1970. She received research funding from the National Institutes of Health throughout her career until her retirement in 2002. In 1986, she was named a Woman of the Year by SLU's Women's Commission.



Mr. Wayne Fick (A&S '53)
 Mr. Donald Baker (SW '54)
 Mr. Fred Beeler (PC '54)
 Dr. Hugh Doherty (DENT '54)
 Mr. Paul Meyer (IT '54)
 Mr. Laurence White Sr. (CSB '54)
 Mr. George Whited (PC '54)
 Sr. Mary Bathe, R.S.M. (A&S '55)
 Lt. Col. Donald Benedict (IT '55)
 Mr. Kenneth Daues (CSB '55)
 Mr. Martin King (A&S '55)
 Mr. Edward Kolar Jr. (CSB '55)
 Mr. Richard Krueger (A&S '55)
 Mr. James Mannion Jr. (LAW '55)
 Mrs. Angeline (Tapella) Wacker (VSN '55)
 Dr. Winfred You Chang (MED '56)
 Mr. Anthony Daus Jr. (A&S '56)
 Mr. Richard Denness (A&S '56)
 Mrs. Joan (Livingston) McMahon (DCHS '56)
 Dr. Duane Messner (MED '56)
 Mr. John Neylon (A&S '56)
 Dr. William Ribeiro (MED '56)
 Dr. Rosemary Schmidt (MED '56)
 Dr. Buddy Shadid (DENT '56)
 Sr. Irene Duchesneau (VSN '57)
 Mr. George Hrdlicka (LAW '57)
 Mr. Gerard Nobiling (A&S '57)
 Capt. Kenneth Petroske (PC '57)
 Mr. Frank Chang (IT '58)
 Ms. Beverley Freeman (VSN '58)
 Mrs. Nancy (Hines) Harvey (ED '58)
 Mr. Richard Inman (CSB '58)
 Dr. S. Jerrold (MED '58)
 Dr. James Mackey (MED '58)
 Mrs. Mary Sue (Sweeney) McDuffie (VSN '58)
 Dr. Sotiros Chaparas (MED '59)

Dr. John Fenwick (MED '59)
 Mr. Harold Fleischmann (CSB '59)
 Dr. Chester George (DENT '59)
 Mrs. Mary (Long) Lawrence (A&S '59)
 Mr. Martin O'Malley (A&S '59)
 Mr. John Scott (A&S '59)
 Mrs. Mary (Reinhart) Feldhaus (DCHS '60)
 Dr. Philip Gelber (MED '60)
 Mr. Martin Gruettemeyer Sr. (CSB '60)
 Dr. Gilbert Kelley (PC '60)
 Mr. Leonard Kinealy (IT '60)
 Ms. Julie Nodson (SW '60)
 Mr. Robert Rudigier (CSB '60)



Dr. Martin Towey (A&S '60, GRAD A&S '65, '71), former chair of the Department of History, died April 5, 2021, at age 87. He taught at Riverview Gardens and the University of Missouri-St. Louis before coming to SLU to teach American history in 1975. He was named associate professor in 1981 and history department chair in 1987. He also was director of SLU's prelaw program from 1980-84. In 1978, Dr. Towey was in the second ordination class of permanent deacons in the Archdiocese of St. Louis.

Dr. Dennis Wachtel (A&S '60)
 Mr. Robert Wientge (ED '60)
 Dr. Robert Wood (DENT '60)
 Mr. Richard Zogg (CSB '60)
 Dr. Phillip Carr (MED '61)
 Dr. Walter Domash (ED '61)
 Mr. John Eros (A&S '61)
 Mr. Felix Heusinger (A&S '61)
 Dr. August Manier (A&S '61)
 Sr. Stephanie Mertens, A.S.C. (A&S '61)
 Mr. Bernard Nordmann (IT '61)
 Mr. Karl Schwerzler (CSB '61)
 Fr. Robert Doran, S.J. (A&S '62)
 Mr. Orville Elfrink (A&S '62)
 Mr. Benedict Fazio (A&S '62)
 Mr. Robert Grellner (CSB '62)
 Mr. Donald Hinnen (PH '62)
 Dr. Michael Huckman (MED '62)

Mrs. Mary (Reinhart) Murphey (A&S '62)
 Mr. Thomas Murphy (A&S '62)
 Dr. Gregory Seifert (MED '62)
 Dr. Algimantas Shimkunas (A&S '62)
 Dr. Alphonse Squitieri (MED '62)
 Dr. M. Allen (A&S '63)
 Mr. James Butler (CSB '63)
 Sr. Maria Joseph Cokely, C.S.J. (A&S '63)
 Mr. Lawrence Cullen (LAW '63)
 Mr. Henry Denning (A&S '63)
 Mrs. Janice (Mueller) Floyd (A&S '63)
 Mr. John Moellenberg (LAW '63)
 Mrs. Janice (Sassali) Petri (DCHS '63)
 Mr. David Ritchie (IT '63)
 Mr. A. Rosenkranz (CSB '63)
 Mr. James Sarkissian (A&S '63)
 Dr. Alfred Tector Jr. (MED '63)
 Mr. Melvin Arthur (DCHS '64)
 Mr. William Garvey III (LAW '64)
 Mr. Thomas Grandcolas (CSB '64)
 Sr. Ladonna Kassmeyer, F.S.P.A. (CSB '64)
 Dr. Edward Mansour (MED '64)
 Mr. Thomas Shanle (A&S '64)
 Dr. Joel Spiro (MED '64)
 Mr. Jerome Strange (CSB '64)
 Mr. Leo Howe (PC '65)
 Dr. John Rapko (A&S '65)
 Rev. Vincent Tobin, O.S.B. (ED '65)
 Mr. Hamid Alikhan (PC '66)



Dr. Phillip LeFevre III (MED '66), former SLUCare psychiatrist and professor of psychiatry at SLU School of Medicine, died Feb. 8, 2021. He was 82 years old. Dr. LeFevre joined the University in 2012 after more than 40 years in private practice. He had retired from SLU in July 2020.

Mrs. Patricia (Pizzini) Lynch (SW '66)
 Dr. Douglas Patton (MED '66)
 Mr. Paul Power (A&S '66)
 Mr. Thomas Tekotte (CSB '66)
 Mr. Richard Weber (PC '66)

Dr. Patrick Dugan (A&S '67)
 Mr. Richard Ellis (PC '67)
 Mr. Joseph Krebs Jr. (LAW '67)
 Ms. Nina Rusko (A&S '67)
 Dr. Patrick Sauer (MED '67)
 Mr. Albert Carney (CSB '68)
 Fr. James Costello, S.J. (A&S '68)
 Dr. Gary Gutting (A&S '68)
 Mr. George Henretty (A&S '68)
 Mrs. Marilyn (Ammann) Herr (CSB '68)
 Mr. Roger LeGrand Jr. (A&S '68)
 Mr. Cyril Post Sr. (PC '68)
 Mrs. Winifred (Schoenfelder) Touney (ED '68)
 Dr. Mildred (Rogers) Anderson (A&S '69)
 Mr. Patrick Fuller (A&S '69)
 Mrs. Catherine (Kelly) Hammond (A&S '69)
 Mrs. Mary (Long) Kovarik (A&S '69)
 Mr. Kenneth Kozel (A&S '69)

Mr. Wayne Loui (GRAD ED '69), former professor in fine and performing arts, died Jan. 29, 2021, at age 89. He joined SLU in 1967 and retired in 1999. Known in the St. Louis theater community as a noted teacher, he also was a founding director of the St. Louis Repertory Theater. SLU's theatre program honors him annually with the Wayne Loui award, given to a graduating senior. His wife, Dr. Shirley "Tuck" Loui, a former chair of American studies at SLU, died Feb. 7, 2021. (See her obituary on this page.)



Rev. David McKillin (A&S '69)
 Mr. Robert Neuroth (SW '69)
 Ms. Michele Murphy (A&S '70)
 Mr. John Reiley (LAW '70)
 Mr. Jerome Scherer (A&S '70)
 Dr. Edward Carlin (ED '71)
 Mr. Richard Coffin (LAW '71)
 Mrs. Jean (Rothweiler) Eckert (VSN '71)

Mr. George Glass (A&S '71)
 Mr. Samuel Hutchinson Jr. (IT '71)
 Mr. Douglas Jones (LAW '71)
 Mr. Richard Klostermann (A&S '71)
 Prof. John Boese (LAW '72)
 Mr. Alphonso Vaughn (SW '72)
 Mr. Melvin Bloom (CSB '73)
 Mr. Gary Kerr (PC '73)
 Mr. Thomas Maikoff (PC '73)

Dr. Philipp Stoeberl (GRAD CSB '73), professor emeritus of management, died Dec. 12, 2020, at the age of 79. Dr. Stoeberl joined the faculty of the business school in 1967, retiring with emeritus status in 2015. He held the Mary Louise Murray Endowed Professorship in Management and was named the Beta Gamma Sigma Outstanding Teacher and the Thomas M. Knapp, S.J., Faculty Member of the Year.



Mr. James Braun (ED '74)
 Dr. Clarence Haeye (ED '74)
 Mr. Anthony Igel Jr. (A&S '74)
 Mr. Joseph Webb (LAW '74)
 Ms. Emogene Alexander (VSN '75)
 Dr. Virginia Celmer (A&S '76)
 Dr. Jesse Harris Jr. (ED '77)
 Dr. Melvin Jones Jr. (MED '77)
 Mr. John Lilly (PC '77)
 Mr. Robert Sontag (SW '77)
 Sr. Marianne Travers, O.P. (A&S '77)
 Dr. Gerald Corley (ED '78)
 Mr. Steven Farrow (PH '78)
 Dr. Billy George (ED '78)
 Mr. Richard Kislin Jr. (VSN '78)
 Mr. Wayne Schaefer (A&S '78)
 Mr. William Brighoff (LAW '79)
 Mr. Pierre Hams (A&S '79)
 Dr. Bruce Ruoff (MED '79)
 Mr. Jerald Collier (PS '80)
 Ms. Jean Fowler (VSN '80)

Rev. Dale Maxfield (A&S '81)
 Sr. Jean Abbott (SW '82)
 Mrs. Cynthia (Smith) Greenwald (CSB '82)
 Dr. Robert Mudd (A&S '82)
 Mrs. Janice (Schwartz) Gale (CSB '85)
 Mr. Peter Hudson (PC '85)
 Mr. Mark Muschany (PC '85)
 Ms. Ann Weir-Cochran (VSN '85)
 Mr. Matthew Zavac (CSB '85)
 Ms. Patricia Moore (ED '87)
 Mr. Steven Wachtler (PC '87)
 Dr. Bruce Baker (DENT '88)
 Mr. James McCartney (LAW '88)
 Ms. Norma Oberschelp (PS '88)
 Dr. Stella Kamanda (MED '89)
 Mrs. Tracy (Lyston) Wetteroff (A&S '92)
 Mr. Christopher Curtis (A&S '96)
 Mr. Donald Fritschie (LAW '96)



Dr. Mary Elizabeth Hogan (GRAD A&S '98), former associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, died Jan. 29, 2021, at the age of 79. She came to SLU in 1998 and served as associate dean until 2006. She later was a special assistant for programming in the provost's office. In 2007, she received SLU's Woman of the Year award. She and her late husband, theology professor Dr. Ronald Modras, were known for their hospitality to the SLU community.

Mr. Adam Eades (LAW '13)



Dr. James Bohman, professor emeritus of philosophy and former Danforth I Chair in the Humanities, died Jan. 9, 2021, at age 66. Dr. Bohman came to Saint Louis University in 1986 and retired in 2015. An active collaborator, he co-edited books, co-organized conferences nationally and internationally and fostered a 20-year exchange program between the philosophy department and the University of Frankfurt. In 2007 he published his most influential monograph, *Democracy across Borders*.



Thomas P. Dunne Sr., a former member of SLU's board of trustees and a St. Louis business leader, died Jan. 3, 2021, at age 77. He started as a laborer at Fred Weber Inc. during high school and worked his way up after earning a degree in civil engineering; he retired in 2012, after 26 years as the company's chairman of the board and chief executive officer. Mr. Dunne was a SLU trustee from 2004 to 2013, and inspired two scholarships at Parks College of Engineering, Aviation and Technology.



Dr. Shirley "Tuck" Loui, former chair of the Department of American Studies, died Feb. 7, 2021, at age 90. Dr. Loui began her career as a reporter. After earning a doctorate in comparative literature in her 50s, she joined the American studies program at SLU. She led the University to charter membership in the Maastricht Center for Transatlantic Studies in The Netherlands in 1996. She retired in 2004. Her husband of 68 years, Mr. Wayne Loui, a faculty member in fine and performing arts for 32 years, died Jan. 29, 2021. (See his obituary among the 1969 entries.)



Mr. Ford Stuen, a member of the SLU men's basketball staff for the past five seasons, died May 11, 2021. He was 29 years old. Mr. Stuen came to SLU as director of player development in 2016. He served in that role for three years before being promoted to assistant coach two seasons ago. The nephew of SLU head coach Travis Ford, Mr. Stuen was named to the National Association of Basketball Coaches' 2020 Under Armour 30-Under-30 Team.

CORRECTION

The winter 2021 issue of *Universitas* incorrectly included Mrs. Catherine Schaefer Flynn (A&S '78) in the "In Memoriam" section. We apologize for the error.

This list of deceased alumni was compiled by SLU's Office of Research and Development Services. If you have a question or would like more information about an "In Memoriam" listing, please send an email message to devupdates@slu.edu.

ON THE BANDWAGON

The Last Look” in the latest *Universitas* (winter 2021) got me thinking about the time I almost gave Fr. Guentner a heart attack.

They actually closed West Pine from Spring to Grand in the spring of 1971, and for a while it became a giant graffiti board. Then over the summer they built barriers at both ends, pedestrian only at the Grand end and a landscaped barricade at the Spring end with one lane open for emergency and delivery vehicles. To allow for a continuous level sidewalk along Spring Avenue, that lane had a one- or two-foot “ramp” on each side, which made it also serve as a radical speed bump. That summer was also when Father Francis Guentner, S.J. (A&S '39, Grad A&S '41), the late beloved head of the music department and director of the University Chorale, acquired for the department a harpsichord, which became his pride and joy.

In the spring of 1972, Tegeler Hall was dedicated, and the Choraleers (a smaller, “pop” subset of the chorale), of which I was a member, were invited to provide entertainment at the ceremony, along with some members of the band. So we loaded the instruments, including the harpsichord, which Father was delighted to show off, onto a SLU stake-bed truck, which Father had me drive while he rode alongside. Our concert was well-received by Jerome Tegeler, August Busch IV and the other dignitaries. Afterward, though, the band members didn’t want to just pack up and go home; instead, they climbed onto the truck to do a “bandwagon.” We paraded musically around the dorms, which Father seemed to nervously enjoy until we headed to Griesedieck. That meant taking that “bump” at an angle, to go down West Pine. I knew it would cause the truck to tilt, and the band members were standing in the back with their instruments, so I took it slowly and carefully. Poor Father Guentner, though, was in a panic attack: “Oh, Jack, be careful! Oh, that harpsichord!” All went well, and we returned to Campion Hall — home of the music department, a big old house on Spring Avenue that stood about where the southwest corner of Cook Hall is now — and unloaded.

I graduated soon after that and, having completed Air Force ROTC, went away on active duty. I now live in Kansas City. So, other than infrequent visits and a while ago the Alumni Admissions Program, *Universitas* has been my main tie to Saint Louis U. It often resurrects old memories such as these.

John M. “Jack” Ryan (A&S '72)
Kansas City, Missouri

INCLUDING ALL ALUMNI

Like many other alumni, no doubt, I go first for the “Class Notes” then the obituaries, looking for people I knew in each. As our alumni connection advances, these two sections have become more sophisticated the past issue or two, though without any fanfare announcing the upgrades.

In “Class Notes,” the achievements of the alumni seem to have moved from dominance of law graduates, mostly in the St. Louis region, being promoted within their firms, to a much more diverse array of alumni from many more of the SLU divisions achieving things professionally that are unique, from books to educational ventures to professional awards. The past two issues, the geographical representation of our alumni better reflects the migratory patterns that our post-commencement lives take us.

The obituaries have also expanded. While these have always shown diversity of academic division, there are now expanded summaries of the many achievements that a SLU education enables, including a dear friend from my class this edition.

Seeking out this information, assuring the diversity and detail that we now see, takes special effort. It is very much noted and appreciated. Our magazine holds a dual purpose. It keeps us connected to our *alma mater*. It also reminds us of what our efforts in our years on campus can bring to our future. That second purpose seems much better emphasized now.

May you go from strength to strength.

Dr. Richard M. Plotzker (MED '77)
Wilmington, Delaware

THEN AND NOW

It was most enjoyable to read the winter 2021 issue of *Universitas*. Thank you!

As an arts and sciences student from 1951 to 1955, it was most pleasurable to contrast all that was part of my campus life with the stories presented by students in the issue.

I was part of a small group of Black students who commuted from their homes daily to classes and other activities. A clear remembrance for me was my participation as an Air Force ROTC cadet. During my senior year, it was my honor to have been the cadet commander of the crack drill team.

Thanks for the issue to bring this remembrance to life.

Dr. Walter R. Jacobs Jr. (A&S '55)
Columbia, South Carolina

Lovely issue (winter 2021). Very impressive. Lots of news and information.

The cover made me laugh, thinking what we wore to class back in the day.

It seems that every time I open an issue of *Universitas* there is a new campus building. Good for you!

John Coyne (A&S '59)
Pelham, New York

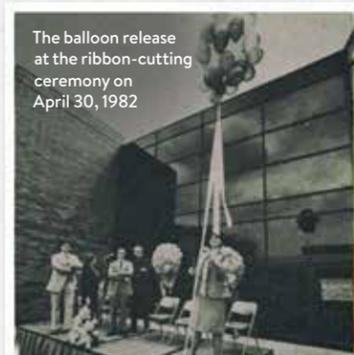
PROUD PARKS ALUM

What a pleasure to see my *alma mater* Parks College mentioned in the latest issue of *Universitas* magazine (“On Campus,” winter 2021).

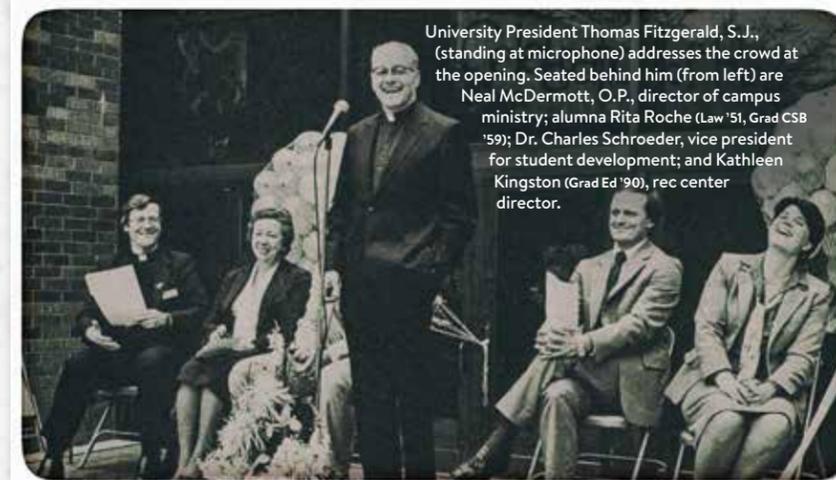
Fernando Abilleira’s (PC '99, Grad PC '01) career at NASA brought back some fond memories of my days at Parks College. For example, the famous Gene Kranz (PC '54) was a classmate of mine. Also, I once shared a ride in the college car with Wernher von Braun, the German rocket scientist who joined our side; I was hitchhiking back to Parks after my all-night job parking cars, and Fr. John J. Higgins, S.J., and Dean John J. Choppesky, S.J., pulled over to give me a lift. Needless to say, I never got to be famous, but I did help build aircraft jet engines and airborne radars, and my son and his wife have both worked at NASA.

It’s great to see Parks get some coverage other than just “In Memoriam” or “Class Notes.”

Terry C. Smith (PC '54)
Arnold, Maryland



The balloon release at the ribbon-cutting ceremony on April 30, 1982



University President Thomas Fitzgerald, S.J., (standing at microphone) addresses the crowd at the opening. Seated behind him (from left) are Neal McDermott, O.P., director of campus ministry; alumna Rita Roche (Law '51, Grad CSB '59); Dr. Charles Schroeder, vice president for student development; and Kathleen Kingston (Grad Ed '90), rec center director.



The entrance lobby and staircase



The rec center’s “great room” with six full-size courts for basketball, volleyball and tennis

FOUR DECADES OF REC

The Simon Recreation Center is celebrating its 40-year anniversary in 2021. In December 1981, the facility opened at a cost of \$5.2 million. At that time, the building encompassed 81,500 square feet and was unlike anything SLU had ever seen. Built for all students, it included six full courts, an elevated jogging track and a six-lane swimming pool. The Rec Center was formally dedicated with a balloon-release ceremony on April 30, 1982.

WHAT’S IN A NAME?

The building opened as simply the Recreation Center, though the plaza in front of the Rec Center had carried the Simon name since 1981 to honor a \$150,000 donation at that time. In 1985 the facility received its full name, the John E. and Adaline Simon Recreation Center, thanks to an additional gift from the St. Louis couple. Donors John Simon, a stockbroker, and Adaline Simon also endowed a professorship in economics at SLU.



The women’s exercise room

RESERVED PARKING

Constructed on the site of a former parking lot, the Simon Recreation Center opened with a parking garage on the lower level that offered covered spaces for 113 cars. For 25 years, those spaces were some of the most coveted on campus. When the center’s comprehensive renovation began in 2006, the parking garage was closed, and the lower level received a full makeover to expand workout space.

RECREATION RENOVATION

In 2007, the center debuted an \$8 million expansion that added 39,000 square feet, 150 exercise machines and a bouldering wall. Students no longer had to sign up and wait for exercise equipment. And to accommodate fitness classes, new spaces were added, including a spinning studio with 15 stationary bicycles. The renovated center also introduced multiple student lounge areas and a wellness suite, reflective of the newly named Department of Campus Recreation and Wellness, which runs the center.

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Some Simon Recreation Center features did not stand the test of time. At the 1981 opening, the only air conditioning was in the six handball/racquetball courts and the administrative offices, with the rest of the building serviced by a high-powered ventilating system. Back then the building also was home to a carpeted running track, male- and female-designated exercise spaces, and a 250-seat spectator space overlooking the natatorium.



SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY

1 N. GRAND BLVD.
ST. LOUIS, MO 63103

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
ST. LOUIS, MO
PERMIT NO. 134



THE BILLIKEN IS TIDYING UP AFTER ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL SEMESTER AT SLU, AND THAT INCLUDES ENSURING HIS CONTACT LIST IS SUPER CLEAN.

HELP US STAY CONNECTED!

Confirm or update your contact information, and we'll keep in touch with the latest SLU news, event invitations and special alumni benefits.

Scan the **QR code** or visit alumni.slu.edu/stayconnected to confirm or update your contact information.

