

UNIVERSITAS

THE ALUMNI MAGAZINE OF SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY

—
WINTER
2021

Back to Campus: COVID-19 Edition

STORIES FROM SLU'S
SUCCESSFUL SEMESTER

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Pestello with his spouse, Dr. Fran Pestello, on campus in August

This special issue of Universitas reminds us of how blessed we are to be part of a community of men and women who are truly for and with others.

In this issue, you will hear the stories of seven members of our campus community who share their experiences during the COVID-19 pandemic, navigating challenges and finding opportunities to thrive and serve. You will read about the remarkable work happening at Saint Louis University to address racial injustice on our campus, in the greater community and beyond. And you will meet some remarkable people along the way — people who live the mission of our resilient University.

I am filled with pride about SLU when I read their stories, which reflect the everyday work and sacrifice of our faculty, clinicians, staff and students under current COVID-19 restrictions.

It is important that each of us seek the things that bring us peace, joy and happiness amid the suffering and isolation caused by this raging pandemic. I can best explain what I try to do by sharing a tale that goes straight to the essence of our University. One of the best-known stories about the Jesuits is the story of the cannonball and the conversion of Iñigo Lopez de Loyola, better remembered as St. Ignatius Loyola.

In 1521 during the Battle of Pamplona, Ignatius — a dashing soldier — was gravely wounded by a cannonball. This was devastating for the vain man from a wealthy family who lived the good life and would be called a playboy in today's language. Bedridden for months, a bored Ignatius read the only two books around. One was a life of Christ and the other was a collection of stories about the saints. As Ignatius read, he came to admire the saints, yet, he continued to dream of returning to the life of fame and luxury. Over time he found, however, that he felt more satisfied and at peace when he contemplated the lives of the saints. His values began to change, and he was converted to a spiritual life dedicated to serving Christ — a simple life this man of privilege found to be more meaningful.

This virus-imposed isolation has found many of us, me included, cut off from many routine pleasures — attending celebrations with family, dining out with friends, conversing with co-workers in person and traveling to faraway cities.

My COVID-19-restricted life has led me to reconsider what gives me the greatest pleasure and reflect upon what truly matters. I find joy in the much simpler pleasures of life — the beauty in nature and architecture in my Central West End neighborhood, nearby Forest Park and on our beautiful, urban campus; a glass of wine on the back patio; and meaningful conversations with my spouse, Fran, and our family.

As a person accustomed to working long days out of the house, rushing from one meeting or event to the next one, on and off campus, I have surprised myself by finding happiness in the slowing down and the rediscovery of the spiritual dimension of my life and work. I pray that you and your families have found and continue to find peace and joy during this time of substantial social contraction.

May God bless you, and may God continue to bless Saint Louis University.

Dr. Fred P. Pestello
President

UNIVERSITAS

VOLUME 47, ISSUE 1

EDITOR

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

ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Amy Garland (A&S '97)

ART DIRECTOR

Matt Krob

CONTRIBUTOR

Marie Dilg (Grad SW '94)

ON CAMPUS NEWS STORIES

University Public Relations
Billiken Media Relations

ON THE COVER

Students near Lipic Clock
Tower Plaza on the first day
of classes, Aug. 17, 2020

Photo by Douglas Garfield

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

We accept email at:
universitas@slu.edu

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Dr. Amber Johnson with a Justice Fleet truck.
For more, see the story on page 24.

PHOTO BY STEPHEN DOLAN

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THE LAST LOOK



At the ribbon-cutting for the ISE Building on Sept. 26: (from left) Jim Shaughnessy (CSB '89) of BSI Constructors Inc.; Dr. Michael Lewis, interim provost; Chris Chivetta, president of Hastings+Chivetta architects; Paul Shaughnessy of BSI; Joseph Shaughnessy (IT '57), co-founder of BSI; David Suwalsky, S.J., vice president for mission and identity; Joe Conran (A&S '67, Law '70), chairman of SLU's board of trustees; Dr. Fred P. Pestello, SLU president; Dr. Michael Goldwasser, chair of the Department of Computer Science; Dr. Terra Edwards, assistant professor of sociology and anthropology; and Sophia Izhar, a biology major and member of the Student Government Association.



SLU Dedicates Interdisciplinary Science and Engineering Building

Saint Louis University dedicated its newest academic building, the \$50 million Interdisciplinary Science and Engineering (ISE) Building, during a virtual ceremony in September. The 90,000-square-foot, three-story structure opened in July.

University President Dr. Fred P. Pestello said the building furthers SLU's vision of being a global, Jesuit university — one that is mission-focused, student- and patient-centered, and research-driven; one that works with citizens in the region to reimagine, transform and unify St. Louis.

The ISE Building features innovative teaching lab spaces for bioinformatics, biology, biomedical engineering, chemistry, neuroscience and computer science courses that support all science, engineering, nursing and health science majors.

Pestello and others praised everyone involved in ensuring the building opened on time despite the COVID-19 pandemic, including designers Hastings+Chivetta, general contractor BSI Constructors Inc. and SLU's Division of Facilities Services.

PHOTO BY GARRETT CANDUCCI



Frey

SLU Conducts Two COVID-19 Vaccine Trials

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to take a toll worldwide, researchers at Saint Louis University's Center for Vaccine Development enrolled participants in two different phase 3 clinical trials. The trials studied the effectiveness, safety and immune response generated by vaccines co-developed by scientists at Moderna and the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) Vaccine Research Center and by Janssen Pharmaceutical Cos. of Johnson & Johnson.

In August, SLU's vaccine center enrolled participants in the first study as part of a larger Moderna trial that involved 30,000 participants across the country. Participants received two injections, 28 days apart.

The vaccine center began enrolling participants in the Janssen trial in December. This trial evaluated the safety and efficacy of a single vaccine dose of the Janssen investigational COVID-19 vaccine candidate.

"Scientists around the country have been working tirelessly to develop a vaccine that is safe and protects against COVID-19," said Dr. Sharon Frey, clinical director of SLU's Center for Vaccine Development and principal investigator of both trials at SLU.

"St. Louisans will play a key role in the historic effort to develop a COVID-19 vaccine," Frey said. "It's important that we study the vaccine for all people, including healthy people, those with underlying conditions, people over 60, as well as those who are younger and people of all races and ethnicities."

For both trials, researchers evaluated the vaccines in adults 18 years and older who were randomly assigned to receive the vaccines or placebos.

SLU's Center for Vaccine Development is part of the NIAID-supported COVID-19 Prevention Network (CoVPN). The CoVPN is composed of existing NIAID-supported clinical research networks with infectious disease expertise and is designed for rapid and thorough evaluation of vaccine candidates and monoclonal antibodies for the prevention of COVID-19.

SLU Noted for COVID-19 Community Outreach

SLU ranked No. 7 in the nation on Great Value Colleges' list of the 30 U.S. colleges excelling in community outreach. The ranking specifically highlighted the University's continued commitment to service since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The ranking methodology reflects how colleges and universities have adapted their community support during the pandemic.

RANKINGS

SLU Honored with Top Rankings

Each fall, college rankings are released by organizations from *U.S. News & World Report* to Niche to the Princeton Review. Here are some of the latest rankings earned by Saint Louis University.

U.S. News Best Colleges 2021

103 of all national universities, schools that "offer a full range of undergraduate majors, plus master's and doctoral programs, and emphasize faculty research or award professional practice doctorates"

15 in INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS (UNDERGRADUATE)

36 in ENTREPRENEURSHIP (UNDERGRADUATE)

48 in "BEST VALUE SCHOOLS"

68 in "BEST COLLEGES FOR VETERANS"

The Princeton Review Best 386 Colleges 2021 Edition

2 among the universities MOST ENGAGED IN COMMUNITY SERVICE

4 in "IMPACT SCHOOLS," based on student responses about service opportunities, student government, sustainability efforts and on-campus student engagement

17 in "BEST COUNSELING SERVICES," based on student assessments of campus services

34 in UNDERGRADUATE ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Niche 2021 Best Colleges

8 among 164 CATHOLIC COLLEGES

8 in NURSING

10 in KINESIOLOGY AND PHYSICAL THERAPY

29 in PUBLIC HEALTH

39 in CRIMINAL JUSTICE

42 in SPORTS MANAGEMENT

45 in ACCOUNTING AND FINANCE



Dr. Sarah Cunningham
VICE PRESIDENT FOR STUDENT DEVELOPMENT

Cunningham, who joined SLU on Feb. 15, came to SLU from Johns Hopkins University, where she was the assistant vice provost for student life strategy and policy. Previously, she served in student affairs leadership roles at the University of Chicago, University of Florida and George Mason University. Cunningham succeeded Dr. Debra Lohe, director of SLU's Reinert Center for Transformative Teaching and Learning, who had served as interim vice president since December 2019.



Dr. Barnali Gupta
EDWARD JONES DEAN FOR THE RICHARD A. CHAIFETZ SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

Before joining SLU in January, Gupta was associate dean for curriculum in the Farmer School of Business at Miami University of Ohio, where she was also the first female faculty member to hold the rank of full professor in Miami's Department of Economics. She is an economist with a specialization in industrial organization and applied game theory. Gupta succeeded Dr. Scott Duellman, Alfred V. Dunkin Professor of Accounting and associate professor, who had served as interim dean since fall 2019.



David Suwalsky, S.J.
(Grad A&S '89, '10)
VICE PRESIDENT FOR MISSION AND IDENTITY

Suwalsky began his term in July 2020. Just prior to this appointment, he was chair of SLU's Department of Theological Studies. He also previously served at SLU as the director of academic initiatives in the Office of Mission and Identity and as director of museums and galleries. He also was president of Jesuit High School in Sacramento, California, from 2011-2017. Suwalsky succeeded Chris Collins, S.J. (Grad A&S '01).

ACCELERATING EXCELLENCE FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN REACHES MILESTONE

Two years into its public phase, the University's Accelerating Excellence fundraising campaign has reached another milestone, raising more than \$400 million of the historic effort's \$500 million goal.

Accelerating Excellence: The Campaign for Saint Louis University aims to propel SLU to further national prominence as a Jesuit research university through investment in five strategic priorities: scholarships, academic excellence, business education, health sciences and athletics. The campaign launched its public phase in November 2018.

"Across all schools and colleges of the University, the success of the campaign has enabled SLU to make investments in world-class faculty, leading-edge technology and state-of-the-art facilities," said Sheila Manion, vice president for development. "Additionally, Accelerating Excellence has increased scholarships, providing access to SLU's world-class education to even greater numbers of accomplished students from all socio-economic backgrounds. These advancements enhance academic and research excellence, meet marketplace demand and extend the University's international reach to build on SLU's legacy as a leader in higher education."

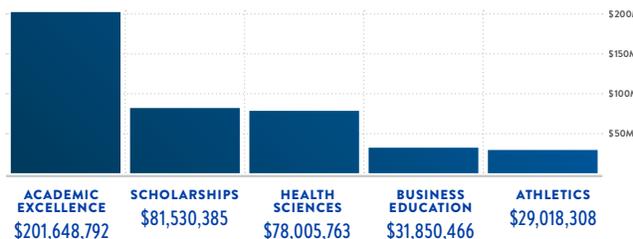
Manion added, "As a comprehensive campaign, Accelerating Excellence's latest milestone is also made possible by a wide variety of alumni and donors, whose gifts of all sizes contribute to the effort's total dollars raised."

The Accelerating Excellence Campaign is ongoing. For more information or to support the campaign, visit slu.edu/campaignforslu.

TOTAL DOLLARS RAISED TO DATE

\$422,053,714

DOLLARS RAISED SO FAR BY EACH CAMPAIGN PRIORITY



ACCELERATING EXCELLENCE
The Campaign for SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY

SLUMA Offers Online Exhibits

Looking for a cultural fix from the comfort of your home? Visit the Saint Louis University Museum of Art virtually and tour immersive exhibits ranging from the role rising temperatures play in affecting insect song to the Civil War.

The University's museums and galleries remain closed to the public until further notice.

Learn more and plan a virtual visit at slu.edu/sluma.



PHOTO BY GARRETT CANDUCCI

The new SSM Health Saint Louis University Hospital and Center for Specialized Medicine

New SSM Health Saint Louis University Hospital Opens

Saint Louis University and SLUCare Physician Group joined SSM Health in a celebration of the new SSM Health Saint Louis University Hospital and outpatient care facility. The new hospital opened Sept. 1.

University President Dr. Fred P. Pestello reflected on the decision to partner with SSM Health, a decision made early in his tenure at SLU.

"It became clear to us that SSM Health was the partner for us, sharing our Catholic values and mission," he said. "These two organizations always put patients first. So our patients will continue to get cutting-edge medical care by compassionate clinicians in a state-of-the-art facility."

The \$550 million SSM Health Saint Louis University Hospital features more than 800,000 square feet of space, 316 private patient rooms, an expanded Level I trauma center and emergency department, larger intensive care units, expanded parking, green space and areas for future expansion.

The new campus elevates the patient experience and enhances the clinical offerings of SLUCare, the University's academic medical practice.

The state-of-the-art Center for Specialized Medicine is an outpatient hub for SLUCare's primary care providers and specialists. It is located on Grand Boulevard, next to the new hospital.

SLU Partners with Neighborhood Association for Housing

Saint Louis University and the Gate District West Neighborhood Association held a groundbreaking ceremony in September to celebrate nearly 50 new homes and condos coming to the Midtown neighborhood near the University's medical center.

While SLU owned the parcels and was closely involved in the redevelopment process, the neighborhood association took the lead in issuing requests for proposals and selecting developers.

"You can do a development to a neighborhood or you can do a development with a neighborhood. This development was done with the neighborhood," said Lewis Reed, president of the St. Louis Board of Aldermen.

Marlene Davis, alderwoman of the 19th Ward, gave kudos to Brooks Goedeker (MSW '04), director of the St. Louis Midtown Redevelopment Corp. This joint effort between SLU and SSM Health oversees development in a 400-acre area that includes Gate District West.

The neighborhood association selected four development firms to acquire the SLU properties: Simone's LLC,



SUBMITTED PHOTO

A bulldozer breaks ground on one of the parcels in the Gate District West neighborhood that are being redeveloped for new housing.

Black Lab Development, Prime Property Investments and UIC Homes. Their plans call for a total of 35 single-family homes and 12 condos with prices ranging from the \$200,000s to \$300,000s.

The association also selected a proposal from Habitat for Humanity Saint Louis, which plans to build seven new affordable homes in the neighborhood. SLU sold the parcels at a below-market price and used the proceeds for a home-repair program for current neighborhood residents.

The new housing is expected to be finished in the next two years.

ATHLETICS

SLU Honored for Excellence in Green Power

Saint Louis University was named by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as one of the agency's 12 top Green Power Partners. Green power is electricity generated from environmentally preferable renewable resources, such as wind, solar and geothermal.

Teaching Award Honors Nursing Professor

Dr. GERALYN MEYER (VSN '79, Grad VSN '83), a professor in the Trudy Busch Valentine School of Nursing, was selected as the winner of the 2020 Nancy McNeir Ring Award for Excellence in Teaching.



Meyer

Meyer has been a nurse educator for more than 25 years. She also has received the nursing school's Teaching Excellence Award twice, as well as the SLU Student Government Association Faculty Excellence Award and the *St. Louis Magazine* Excellence in Nursing Education Award.

A-10 Honor Roll Included Record Number of Billikens

Last summer, a record number of Saint Louis University student-athletes — 259 Billikens — earned inclusion on the 2019-20 Atlantic 10 Conference Commissioner's Honor Roll.

To be listed on the honor roll, a student-athlete in an A-10-sponsored sport must have at least a 3.0 cumulative grade point average for the entire academic year.

Two \$1 Million Gifts Support Campaign



Chan

THE BIONDI CHAN SCHOLARSHIP

SLU trustee Dr. Winston Chan (A&S '81, '83) made a \$1 million gift to the University to create the Biondi Chan Scholars Fund, which supports students from rural areas of China who require financial assistance to study at SLU.

The new scholarship is named in honor of SLU President Emeritus Lawrence Biondi, S.J., whom Chan has worked with extensively on student recruitment and alumni engagement in Asia, and Chan's father, Frank L. Chan, whom he credits with giving him the opportunities that led to his success.

"Father Biondi's global mindset has done good things for the University," Chan said. "I think everybody should have a chance, and with this funding, we'll be able to get really top-notch but underprivileged students to SLU."

Raised in Hong Kong, Chan is the chief executive officer of Corvusys Inc., a financial services company headquartered in Virginia. A long-standing SLU supporter, Chan received the College of Arts and Sciences Alumni Merit Award in 1998 and became a University trustee in 2007.

THE WHEELER ENDOWED ONTOSSCIENCE RESEARCH FUND

Former SLU faculty member Dr. Robert Wheeler Sr. (Grad A&S '78) gave \$1 million in support of the psychology department.



Wheeler

The gift creates the Wheeler Endowed OntoScience Research Fund. Inspired by the Greek word "ontos," which translates to "meaning of existence," the fund will advance research about basic human motivation and will include graduate psychology research, assistantships, seminars, courses and more.

"The psychology department at SLU has great potential for pursuing this line of research and really helping humanity," Wheeler said. "I have become convinced that the secret to further advancement of humanity is for people to get back to their basic motivation, the basic thing that we are driven by. And that's to understand what's going on, to try to contribute and advance the cause of civilization, society, humanity."

Wheeler earned his doctorate in psychology at SLU after 20 years in the military. He had a 20-year career at the University and held various positions, including the director of health promotion research and adjunct associate professor of psychology.



PHOTO BY DOMINIQUE NABOROV

Smith

Zadie Smith to Receive 2021 St. Louis Literary Award

The Saint Louis University Library Associates selected British author Zadie Smith to receive the 2021 St. Louis Literary Award. She will come to St. Louis in the fall to accept the award.

A professor of fiction at New York University, Smith is the author of several novels, including *White Teeth*, her debut that won multiple literary awards, and *On Beauty*, which was shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize. Her latest work, *Intimations*, is a collection of essays written during the early months of the COVID-19 lockdown.

The annual St. Louis Literary Award has become one of the top literary prizes in the country. The 2020 award winner, Michael Chabon, will be honored during a virtual program on Thursday, April 15.

AHEAD Institute to Improve Public, Patient Health

Saint Louis University has launched the Advanced HEALth Data (AHEAD) Research Institute, a center for data-driven innovation and research aimed at improving the health of individuals and populations.

The institute brings together researchers from various disciplines to help improve patient and population health, advance the quality of health care and decrease costs.

Examples of work undertaken by AHEAD researchers include research on chronic prescription opioid use and pain management, studies to help reduce hospital readmissions, and assessment of access to diabetes technologies in underserved populations.

SLU Named a Center of Excellence for Maternal and Child Health

SLU has been named a Center of Excellence for Maternal and Child Health Education, Science and Practice. The designation comes from a new, five-year, \$1.735 million grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA).

SLU is now one of 13 Centers of Excellence in the United States and the only one in Region 7, which includes Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska and Iowa. Other HRSA Centers of Excellence for Maternal and Child Health Education, Science and Practice include Georgetown, Harvard, Johns Hopkins and U.C. Berkeley.

Dr. Pamela Xaverius, associate professor of epidemiology at SLU, is the principal investigator on the grant.

E-Transcripts Now Available

Saint Louis University has launched a new online ordering service that allows alumni to request official transcripts via the web at any time, any day of the year. The transcripts can be delivered electronically in as little as 20 minutes from when alumni place an order.

The ordering service is offered through the National Student Clearinghouse, a nonprofit organization serving the higher education community.

"We are excited to offer this change, which will significantly ease the transcript request process for alumni," said Jay Haugen (A&S '98, Grad CSB '08), University registrar. "Alumni can quickly access their transcript at any hour from anywhere in the world."

Other benefits of online transcript ordering include: secure financial transactions using any major credit card; immediate, secure electronic transcript delivery to any email address; the ability to upload a document to be submitted along with the transcript request; acceptance by graduate/professional programs; automatic order updates via mobile text alerts and email with online order tracking; and the ability to order multiple transcripts for multiple recipients in one order.

Visit slu.edu/registrar/services/transcripts.php to learn more and order a transcript.

University Maintains AA- Credit Rating

In a time when many colleges and universities are seeing their credit ratings or outlooks lowered due to COVID-19 disruption, S&P Global Ratings has maintained its current "AA-" rating of Saint Louis University's general obligation bonds.

One of the leading credit rating agencies, S&P said its rating reflects the University's "strong financial profile that reflects sound financial policies."

HONORS AND AWARDS

Dr. Rolf G. Behrents, a professor emeritus of orthodontics at the Center for Advanced Dental Education, received the 2020 Albert H. Ketcham Memorial Award, the highest honor from the American Board of Orthodontics. He continues to teach part-time at CADE and is editor-in-chief of the *American Journal of Orthodontics and Dentofacial Orthopedics*.

Dr. Suzanne Mahon (VSN '83, Grad VSN '86), professor of hematology and oncology at the School of Medicine, was inducted as a fellow of the American Academy of Nursing in October. It is the highest professional recognition in nursing.

Dr. Norma Metheny (Grad Ed '79), the Dorothy A. Votsmier Endowed Chair in Nursing at SLU, received the 2020 Marguerite Rodgers Kinney Award for a Distinguished Career from the American Association of Critical-Care Nurses. Metheny was honored for her contributions that enhance the care of critically ill patients and their families, and further AACN's mission and vision.

Dr. Krishnaswamy Ravindra, professor of aerospace and mechanical engineering at Parks College of Engineering, Aviation and Technology, received the 2021 American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics Sustained Service Award for his more than 30 years of contributions to both the organization and the field of aerospace engineering and teaching.

Dr. Daniela Salvemini, professor of pharmacology and physiology, received the 2020 Pharmacia-ASPET Award for Experimental Therapeutics from the American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics. She was recognized for her contributions to the understanding of molecular and cellular neuropathic pain; her research has led to the development of novel therapies that have entered clinical trials.

Dr. Karla D. Scott (A&S '81), professor of communication, received the YWCA 2020 Leader of Distinction Award for Racial Justice. Since 1979, YWCA Metro St. Louis has honored women for their outstanding contributions in the workplace and the community. Scott has taught at SLU for 26 years, earning numerous awards for excellence in teaching and advising. She served as director of the African American Studies program at SLU for 15 years, supporting its growth from an interdisciplinary certificate program to an academic major.

St. Louis Magazine's 2020 Best Doctors list included 164 **SLUCare physicians** across more than 40 specialties. The list is based on the annual "Best Doctors in America" database, which considers more than a million peer evaluations to create a directory of approximately 40,000 doctors.

Saint Louis University received the 2020 Partner in Hope award from Boys Hope Girls Hope. SLU was honored for its partnership with the organization on initiatives to support first-generation college students and help them graduate without major debt. The first Boys Hope Girls Hope scholar enrolled at SLU in 2017.

Professional Studies Launches Program for Cannabis Science and Operations

In fall 2020, the School for Professional Studies launched a Cannabis Science and Operations certificate program — the first of its kind in the St. Louis region.

In 2018, Missourians voted to legalize marijuana for medical use. Since then, medical cannabis manufacturing and dispensary licenses have been awarded across the state, including 70 in the St. Louis area, said Stacy Godlewski (Grad Ed '12), manager of SLU's new program.

“Legalized cannabis is expected to be an estimated \$150 billion industry by 2025,” Godlewski said. “Thousands of jobs are being created across the country, and there is an emerging need for educated employees to support and sustain the industry.”

Godlewski said there are numerous career opportunities in the industry, including positions in laboratory technology, regulatory compliance, quality assurance, and distribution logistics and wellness.

The new SPS certificate program requires 16 credit hours and is taught by industry professionals and SLU faculty.

SLU Chess Team Wins National Rapid Chess Championship

SLU's chess team took home the 2020 National Collegiate Rapid title at the National Collegiate Rapid and Blitz Championships.

Originally scheduled to host the tournament earlier in March 2020, SLU's chess players took to a virtual board last fall to match wits and moves with players from around the country.

More than 150 students participated, representing more than 25 different colleges and universities.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

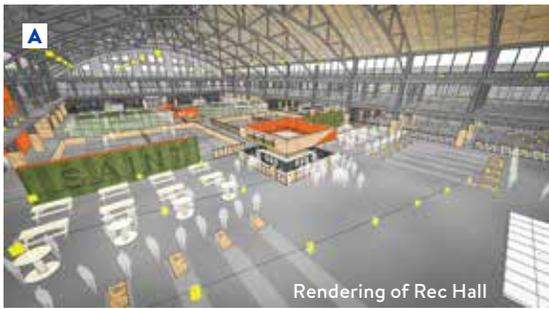
Abilleira in mission control at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California

SLU Alumnus Helped Send Rover to Mars

Two-time graduate of Saint Louis University played a leading role in sending NASA's most powerful rover to the Red Planet to seek signs of ancient life as part of the space agency's Mars 2020 mission, which successfully launched from Cape Canaveral on July 30.

Fernando Abilleira (Parks '99, '01) is the deputy mission manager for Mars 2020. He was at the mission control console at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory when the Perseverance rover separated from its rocket soon after the launch. The Jet Propulsion Laboratory is overseeing the \$2.1 billion mission.

Expected to land on Mars' Jezero crater in February, Perseverance is the first Mars rover to carry a drill for coring samples from rocks and soil, which could contain traces of past microbial life. Also on board the rover is Ingenuity, a robotic drone helicopter that will be the first aircraft to attempt controlled flight on another planet.



Rendering of Rec Hall



Rendering of City Foundry

PROSPECT YARDS UPDATES

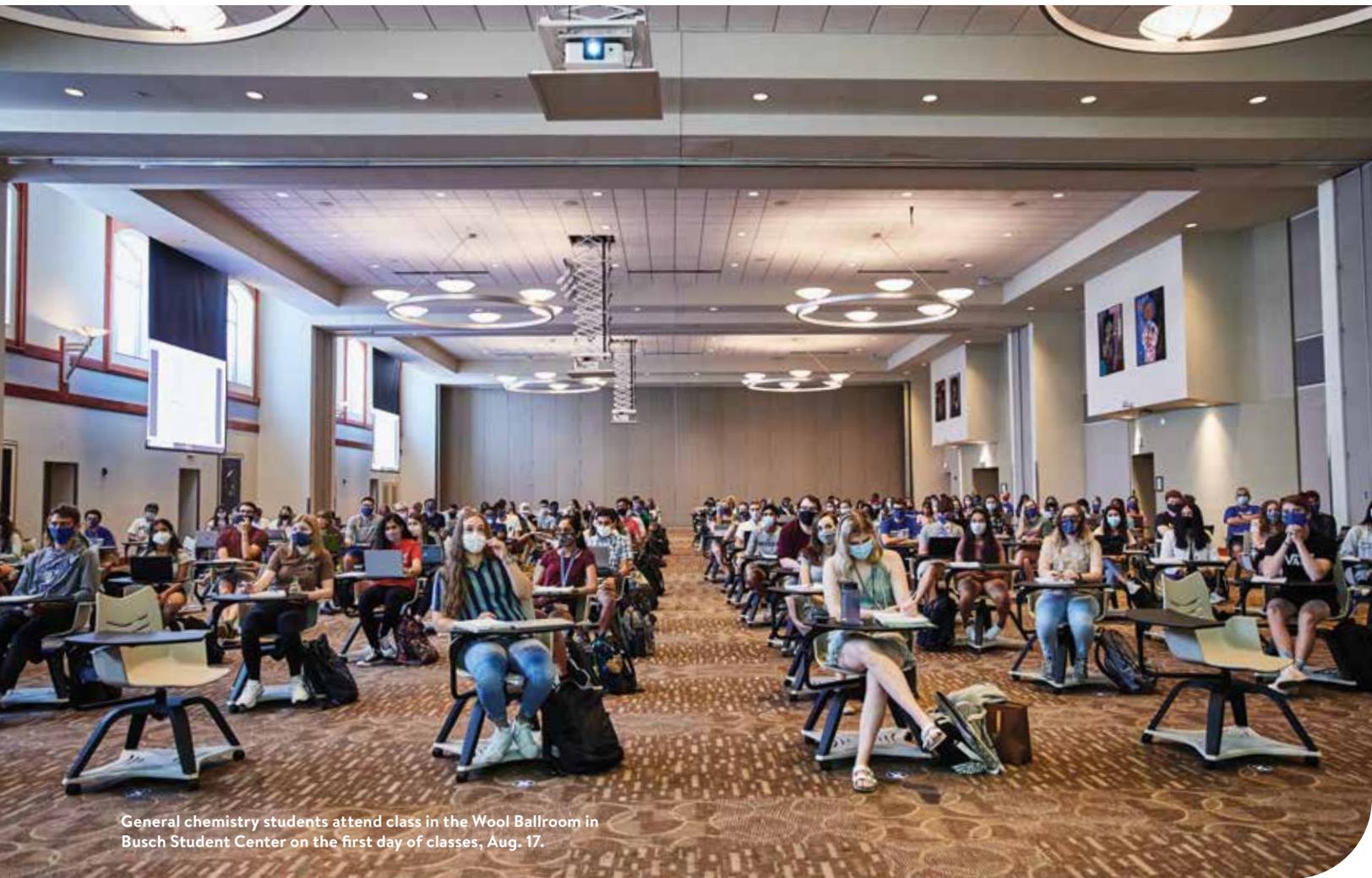
Progress continues in the 150-acre Prospect Yards district that connects Saint Louis University's north and south campuses.

A. THE ARMORY

The Armory, a redevelopment of the 1930s Missouri National Guard building near SLU's campus by Green Street St. Louis, will be home to a new entertainment venue called Rec Hall that features two indoor soccer fields and games such as pickleball, ping pong and cornhole, with food and drinks. Rec Hall is aiming for a summer opening. Originally, the Armory development was slated to be used as office and commercial space. Future plans for the Armory include renovating the whole 250,000 square-foot facility, building a rooftop bar and rehabbing the basement for special events.

B. CITY FOUNDRY

City Foundry will launch a second phase in mid-2021 with a \$115 million project to add a 14-story apartment building, 20,000 square feet of retail space and a 60,000-square-foot office building. Scheduled to open in spring 2023, the project by developer New + Found will include 282 apartments, a pool, a private rooftop park and co-working space. The office building will be the first St. Louis-area project constructed with mass timber, a sustainable new material that should garner the building a silver-rated WELL certification based on how well it positively impacts an occupant's health. City Foundry's first phase includes a food hall and destinations such as Alamo Drafthouse Cinema and Fresh Thyme Farmers Market.



General chemistry students attend class in the Wool Ballroom in Busch Student Center on the first day of classes, Aug. 17.

SLU's first full semester in a COVID-19 world succeeded because of the people who made it happen. Here are some of their stories.

How SLU Responded

— By Laura Geiser

WHEN SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY BEGAN CLASSES ON CAMPUS NINE DAYS EARLY ON AUG. 17, NOTHING WAS CERTAIN. Would students, faculty and essential staff stay safe and healthy? Could in-person classes and on-campus living persist throughout the semester? Would hybrid-style classes designed for students both in the classroom and online work?

By the time students left campus at Thanksgiving to take their final exams at home, the answers were clear: Yes, yes and yes.

Campus safeguards included a strict policy for face masks, requirements for social distancing and group gatherings, continued remote working for all non-essential employees, cancellation of all in-person campus events and limited visitor access to campus.

Allowing students and faculty to attend and teach classes in person, online or both also contributed to SLU's safe semester. In addition, the University reduced campus housing density and set aside space for approximately 150 students to isolate or quarantine on campus.

Testing also was a key component in SLU's pandemic response. In August, the University tested all 3,500 residential students for COVID-19 before they moved into campus housing. In September, SLU began weekly random testing of 10% of all residential students showing no signs of infection. Nursing students administered the tests for asymptomatic students. SLU also launched a rapid contact tracing program staffed by students pursuing master's degrees in public health.

Despite a small uptick in positive cases around Halloween that were linked primarily to off-campus social activities, SLU's overall positivity rate remained far lower than in the region or the state. There were no reported positive cases linked to classroom or lab exposure.

On the following pages, meet some of the people who played a part in SLU's fall success story.

FRESHMAN JAHMAL BORDEN'S FIRST VISIT TO CAMPUS WAS THE DAY LAST AUGUST WHEN HE MOVED INTO GRAND HALL.

His initial view of his new home came as he crossed the Grand Boulevard bridge at the end of his eight-hour car trip from his hometown just outside of Atlanta.

"I was planning to come in March, and then COVID hit," Borden said. "So I just took a walk out on faith. I thought, I'm going to try it. If it doesn't work out, I know the way home. But if it works and it succeeds, even better, because I'll have no regrets. My parents wanted me to stay locally, but I was determined I was going somewhere different from the world I knew. Life is about adventure, and I'm strapped-in for this one."

It was the start of a very COVID college experience. As soon as he arrived on campus, Borden met his roommate, and they went to take their mandatory COVID-19 tests together. Later in the semester, he was randomly selected for asymptomatic testing. He's seen his roommate moved into quarantine due to close contact with a person who tested positive for the virus. And though most of his classes are in person, some were virtual. He flourished in both settings. "My Chinese class was totally online, and the instructor was really responsive to her email," Borden said. "I've sent her an email at 2 a.m., and I got an email back almost instantaneously."

Borden, who is majoring in international business and considering a second major in Chinese, has brought his adventurous spirit to meeting new people on campus, despite social distancing restrictions and some virtual learning. "I'm naturally a social butterfly," he said. "During the introduction for business students on Zoom, I saw a kid and thought, 'Dang, he looks unnaturally just like me.' So I messaged him in the chat and said, 'Hey, you look scarily just like me. We need to meet for lunch.' And he agreed to meet. We hit it off, and just about every weekend we get together along with our roommates."

Of course, whenever they gather, they are staying safe. Borden is committed to doing his part to keep himself and others healthy. "You've got to wear masks all day and be socially distant," he said. "If we all do our small part, it'll add up to

JAHMAL BORDEN

FIRST-YEAR STUDENT

something greater. Caring for our whole selves and for the betterment of each other helps achieve that goal for SLU. They say a chain is only as strong as its weakest link. If we make sure our weakest links are protected, then that protects the whole chain."

That philosophy is certainly reflected in Borden's community service efforts during the fall semester. As part of his scholarship requirements — he received SLU's Martin Luther King Jr. and Dean's Scholarships, as well as two private scholarships — he began volunteering weekly in the St. Francis Xavier College Church rectory, assisting people who

need to track down vital documentation, such as birth certificates. "People come in from all walks of life and most are just trying to get their lives back on track," he said. "It's amazing who you meet and how a little piece of paper can make a big difference in their lives. It is rewarding every day I do it."

Borden closed out his high school days like so many members of the class of 2020 — with a drive-up diploma parade, a virtual ceremony and no prom. But he looks back on it with a wisdom that belies his age. "The COVID-19 crisis is a defining moment not only for me but for my generation," he said. "I say that because even though we're going through this struggle, I think it's going to strengthen us as we go forward. It's turned the world upside down, and it forced us to look with a new perspective. The world literally changed before my eyes, and I never thought that could happen."

He explained: "I always thought I'd be living that corporate lifestyle — thousands of people working in a skyscraper in some big city. But now I know that type of work will exist more in a virtual format. So I had to restructure my life goals and plans."

"But if something's easy, you don't get anything out of it. So in struggling to adapt my goals, I started learning more things, especially in my information technology management class. My professor recommended different skills to acquire if you plan to enter fields where computers will be your whole life. It gives you a little bit of comfort that though the world is changing, there are small things that you can do so you don't get left behind."

"That was the most rewarding part of it — when you get shot down in life, you open up new possibilities. I'm reevaluating my plans and the paths I want to take in this life. There's a big world out there, and I'm learning more about the unforgettable impact that I can have on it every day!"



Borden

PHOTO BY STEPHEN DOLAN

HOW SLU RESPONDED

FOR DECADES, RECRUITING A STUDENT TO SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY HAS RELIED ON A PERSONAL TOUCH — CONVERSATIONS AT COLLEGE FAIRS, ON-CAMPUS TOURS, SPECIAL EVENTS. When the world shut down in March, Kathleen Davis and her enrollment and retention management team were already working to figure out college recruitment in a virtual world.

“I took a recruitment trip to India in mid-February,” she said. “Coming back, we knew that something was askew. So, on March 16, when SLU sent people to work from home and students had been informed that classes would be virtual, my team had already pre-planned. We knew what we needed to do to get home offices set up, to have digital activities arranged so that we could be running on day one.”

Davis’ team includes not just admission counselors recruiting new students but also the staff in financial services, international student services and the registrar’s office, all of whom serve current students. “The goal for all of us within the division was to focus on how do we best serve the students, both new and continuing,” she said. “We had to make very certain that what we were doing was done well initially and then build upon it.”

“We had enrolled the University’s largest class in fall 2019,” Davis said. “And we needed to keep motivated as a team, but also help students and their families make decisions when they were experiencing what they felt was a loss. So, our team really worked hard on how we enroll students and how we also retain the continuing students.”

One key group of continuing SLU students they had to consider were those studying abroad in the spring. “We had students abroad whom we had to bring back because study abroad experiences closed,” Davis said. “There was a rush to get into the country. On top of it, the consulates shuttered, and so we couldn’t process visas through for fall the way that we would have historically.”

Other efforts to assist current Billikens included developing online outreach for financial aid, billing

VICE PRESIDENT

KATHLEEN DAVIS

ENROLLMENT AND
RETENTION MANAGEMENT

venue to doing college fairs in a digital environment,” she said. “All of our on-campus tours went digital this summer. We’re now back to offering small family tours in person, but still, the bulk of our tours are done digitally, as are the information sessions. Our financial aid office, for their part, is holding high school financial aid information nights on YouTube.”

The first big test of the online approach to recruitment came early in the summer, when the new first-year undergraduates attended their orientation, known as SLU101, entirely virtually. Typically held on campus for two days, the SLU101 sessions aim to build spirit and connections among the new students.

Despite the challenges, Davis and her team met their goals, enrolling a freshman class of more than 1,500 students this fall. Still, those students had a normal college-search experience until March 2020. “The real COVID year is 2021,” she said.

“The current high school seniors will have never, unless they were early starters, gone to a college fair or talked with a visiting college counselor at their high school,” she continued. “Our entire recruitment process will have taken place in a digital environment that began when these students were juniors in high school. Plus, some prospective students were delayed in launching their college search process because they and their high schools had to transition how they do it. What we are hearing from many is, ‘We don’t like the unknowns. We’re going to take our time.’”

As Davis and her team nimbly react to the evolving admission landscape, they know one thing for certain: The admission process likely will never go back to the way it was. “People have changed their expectations,” she said. “We modified our style and approach to meet students and families where they are. And while we don’t prefer it to personal contact, we are having more interactions because we can be in multiple spots in a day. For example, I think back to when I was a recruiter in New England. I covered five states, and you couldn’t do two visits in Connecticut the same night. Well, guess

what? Now I can. So it expands your scheduling capability because you don’t have to account for travel time.”

As SLU adjusts to a new normal and revised expectations, Davis is committed to ensuring that she and her staff move forward with creativity in a collaborative environment. “What I’ve come to realize is that the team is more important than ever,” she said. “And when I say team, I mean the entire institution as a team because we rely on the staff and faculty for all of the activities we do. At the end of the day, if we’re all working together, the successes are wins for everyone.”

“We modified our style and approach to meet students and families where they are. And while we don’t prefer it to personal contact, we are having more interactions because we can be in multiple spots in a day.” — Davis

WHEN THE UNIVERSITY DECIDED TO FINISH THE SPRING SEMESTER REMOTELY IN MID-MARCH, MANISHA FORD-THOMAS AND HER HOUSING AND RESIDENCE LIFE TEAM HAD TO QUICKLY FIGURE OUT HOW TO SAFELY MOVE STUDENTS OUT OF THE RESIDENCE HALLS NEARLY TWO MONTHS EARLY.

Then, before they could catch their collective breath, they were already thinking about fall. “We had to figure out what the proposal was going to look like for students living on campus in a COVID-19 situation,” Ford-Thomas said.

Working closely with colleagues from all across SLU and using recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Ford-Thomas and her team put together a plan that needed approval from Dr. Fredrick Echols, director of the City of St. Louis Department of Health. “He was able to give strong guidance on what our occupancy needed to be for this year,” Ford-Thomas said. And, surprisingly, the final plan was not as drastic as some originally expected. While some had anticipated having only one student per residence hall room, that was not required. Instead, all rooms would have a double occupancy, even those that typically housed three and four students.



PHOTO BY STEPHEN DOLAN

Ford-Thomas

DIRECTOR

MANISHA FORD-THOMAS

HOUSING AND
RESIDENCE LIFE

after the fact. But testing was definitely a key step because it meant that we did not have to guess whether or not students were asymptomatic, and thus it made a difference in having students live on campus for the whole semester.”

Of course, that success has come with its own challenges, especially with helping students socialize during these socially distanced times.

“When we moved to this current model of on-campus living, we were so immersed in logistics, we didn’t spend as much time planning for community-building virtually or thinking about how our first-year students would meet new people,” Ford-Thomas said. “It was just hard. I especially think about our less-social students and how we help them to find their community.

“Before COVID, we can often see that. You see a student and they’re alone, and the housing and residence life staff figures out ways to help them. But no one is really interacting in the usual places, so it’s harder to identify those students who need help. Our staff is used to knocking on doors and calling people together and going to the movies or eating together. So many of the things that we normally do are not a part of our routine anymore.

“Now, the students are telling us what they want and what they need. So we’re trying to be intentional to continue to give them support. And our team had to learn that they can be creative. We’re pushing ourselves and learning along the way.”

She continued: “I’m grateful because I don’t know if we would have thought as intentionally about how we do so many of the things that we are doing virtually. And now we can improve from what we had to put together quickly.”

All this planning has prepared Ford-Thomas for what uncertainties the spring holds. “We work in crisis management,” Ford-Thomas said. “You never quite know what’s coming. Throughout the fall semester, our efforts continued to evolve, knowing that these students have done an amazing job keeping each other safe and accountable. We also know that going forward, we need to support families who are very engaged with life at SLU, even if they’ve never set foot on campus.

“We’re really preparing for whatever comes next. After this semester, we’re going to be able to confront all that it means to live on campus and knowledgeably support those who need us.”

“One of the blessings for us was that Clemens Hall had just been renovated in 2020,” Ford-Thomas said. “It allowed us to offer spaces to about the same number of students as we typically do. We accommodated everyone who wanted to live on campus, and that filled about 90% of what we had available.”

Still, when classes started Aug. 17, there was no certainty how the semester would play out. “At the start of this process, if you had told me that we would have ended the semester with the low positivity numbers that we have had, I would have been the biggest naysayer,” Ford-Thomas said. “But truly listening to SLU’s resident epidemiologist Dr. Terri Rebmann (Grad VSN ’06), who was clear about what we’re going to be able to do and not do, was very helpful for how we proceeded.

“And ultimately it’s about the students. The students have taken this situation seriously.”

That serious approach began day one when students were required to take a COVID-19 test during move-in. “We made a decision, a little late in the typical process, to test all of the students as they were moving into their residence halls,” Ford-Thomas said. “And it was an amazing opportunity because it wasn’t something that we had initially planned for as we were organizing the move-in schedule. So it had to be accommodated



PHOTO BY STEPHEN DOLAN

Jennings

DURING THE 2019 CHRISTMAS BREAK, DR. JOEL JENNINGS (GRAD CSB '20) TOOK A COURSE DESIGNED TO TRAIN FACULTY MEMBERS TO TEACH ONLINE. Little did he know then how quickly he'd put that training to use. "It was an incredibly fortuitous opportunity," he said.

Like all SLU faculty, when the pandemic first hit in March and Saint Louis University transitioned to virtual learning, Jennings brought his spring semester classes online. And he taught his first fully online class over the summer. Jennings also used many of the techniques he learned when developing his hybrid classes this fall.

In the spring, Jennings served on a SLU COVID-19 planning committee, so he knew fairly early on how the fall would look: Most classes would be in person with the option for students to take their courses virtually. This hybrid model — with some students online and a larger number in the classroom — presented new challenges for Jennings and his faculty colleagues that they didn't encounter in a purely virtual setting.

"I understood the necessity for us to be back in the classroom if that was physically possible," he said. "And I would always prefer to be live in the classroom because it allows me to read the students at a much higher level. But I will admit to having some anxiety going into the semester.

"The biggest concern was making sure that everything was integrated seamlessly so that if we had students who needed to move from in-classroom instruction to online instruction for any reason, we're able to accommodate them," he said. "That meant over the summer spending a significant amount of time transforming classroom materials, examinations, quizzes and the teaching instruction into a format that can be offered just as effectively online as in person.

"For me, that meant reformatting my classes fairly significantly and moving a lot of my content completely online so that all students, even those in the classroom, would then be able to use it."

Jennings, who taught four classes in the fall, had approximately 145 students and regularly saw 100 in the classroom. Though he felt prepared by his training, particularly thanks to assistance from SLU's Reinert Center for Transformative Teaching and Learning, he said there were still worries as fall approached. "As faculty members going into the semester, we wondered whether we would be able to deliver the quality of education that we expected at the standards to which we hold ourselves," he said.

What Jennings learned is that rigorous education is possible online. "I've actually been quite pleased with the outcomes this semester," he said. "In some ways, the changes that I have made due to the COVID protocols have resulted in students performing better on some outcomes than they did previously. And as a result, I'm going to

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR AND
UNDERGRADUATE DIRECTOR

DR. JOEL JENNINGS

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY
AND ANTHROPOLOGY

keep some of the quizzing formats that I have developed over the semester in place, even after protocols end.

"There are always challenges" he continued. "Being on Zoom a lot is a significant challenge. But I have been really proud of the students and the work that they have put in to deal with the extra challenge of taking courses on Zoom and being socially distanced. By and large, the discipline that they have shown and the commitment to their education has been really impressive."

Also impressive to Jennings are his encounters with students. "I've been really pleased with the interactions that I've

had, both online and in person, throughout the semester," he said. "I have seen a high level of engagement from students across my classes. And that has been both comforting and affirming to see that students are connecting with the material.

"I'm teaching in a classroom with a mask on while I'm also mediating an online experience, and the students are still engaging fully with the class. And a number of students have reached out after class for either assistance or for guidance about becoming a sociology major. Students really are fully encountering the courses. To me, that's as much a measure of success as we could have hoped for."

Though Jennings was regularly on campus in socially distant classrooms during the semester, the rest of his work has been strictly online. "All of our department meetings are virtual," he said. "All of our office hours are virtual. So I really don't encounter my colleagues unless we happen to be passing at the beginning of a class."

And, yet, Jennings and his faculty colleagues learned as much as their students during the pandemic. "As a colleague of mine in the department says, 'Chaos can be revealing,'" he said. "And in this particular case, the challenges posed by COVID led to an opportunity to rethink assignments, to rethink the way that we deliver classes and in doing so, reinforce the things that were working. They also opened up some new opportunities for doing things differently that have led to some positive outcomes."

GABRIELA KEATOR

CAMPUS MINISTRY INTERN

GABRIELA KEATOR'S SENIOR YEAR IS NOT HOW SHE IMAGINED IT. Keator, who is from western Massachusetts and is studying sociology with a concentration in immigration, had long looked forward to her stint as one of four undergraduate campus ministry student interns.

The coveted and active internships typically involve attending the Ignatian Family Teach for Justice in Washington, D.C., leading retreats and days of reflection, organizing residence hall Masses, and helping out with Sunday liturgies. The "minterns" (as they refer to themselves) also normally spend time planning pop-in campus ministry events.

But not this year.

"It's usually a lot of very human, face-to-face contact, and that's just not possible right now," Keator said. So she got creative.

Keator, along with fellow senior minterns Brielle Heraty, Joe Laughlin and Will Sigmund, came up with a plan to provide care packages to SLU students who were isolating or quarantining due to COVID-19 positive diagnoses or exposure.

"I come from a background and style of ministry that is really focused on accompaniment, making sure that people know that they are seen, known and loved, wherever they are and whatever their circumstances," she said. "One of my go-to quotes is, 'Where your Creator calls you to be is where your greatest passion meets the world's greatest need.' Care packages filled my passion for accompaniment with the need for very direct care and outreach in a socially distant way to students who are experiencing a period of quarantine and isolation. We believe that the narrative changes when someone walks into a quarantine or isolation unit and sees something there for them.

"It can change the narrative from 'I'm really scared and alone' to 'I'm scared, and I'm alone, and people still know that I'm here and care about me.' So the other minterns and I got together and wrote a proposal. With the help of Sue Chawaszewski (Grad Ed '98), director of campus ministry, we were planning care package distribution one week later."

The care packages come in a campus-ministry-branded tote bag and contain a water bottle, journal, pen, stress ball, travel-size toiletries and an assortment of snacks. They also include a handwritten note from a student, a list of resources and a letter from the vice president for student development. It took less than a week to raise \$4,000 to fund the supplies, with donations coming mostly from the parents of current students.

The minterns, along with campus ministry student workers, do the prep work, collecting and packaging. SLU's coordinator for quarantining students makes sure the care packages get delivered.

Keator's care package idea came to her because she listened. "My mom saw in SLU's Parent and Family Facebook group that parents had been talking about how they could support students in quarantine and isolation," she said. "I also have friends who are resident advisers who were talking about how their residents felt when they were in quarantine and isolation and just how hard that is. There's not a great way to make it easier. And I don't think that a care package makes it exponentially easier. But it does create a little bit more connection."

Keator, who also works as a barista and still plans virtual Masses and online campus ministry events as part of her internship, juggles a lot with ease. But outreach via care packages presented its own internal obstacles for her. "I have always seen accompaniment as a thing that is done in person," she said. "So I've had to shift my mindset to remember that just because I do not see the recipients of the care packages does not mean that this activity is any less good, important or holy. This is ministry; it's just unconventional ministry."

PHOTO BY STEPHEN DOLAN



Keator (LEFT) and fellow campus ministry intern, Joe Laughlin

And for Keator, it's just one part of redefining care during a pandemic. "I'm from the Northeast, and COVID-19 hit us hard," she said. "My dad is immunosuppressed, so my family takes this very seriously. And I was really concerned about coming back to college in general, but my expectations have either been met or exceeded every day because SLU has made it easy to stay safe. You wear a mask, you don't allow other people into your living space, and you do whatever you can do outside.

"I want to be able to leave my experience as a Billiken saying I did whatever I could do to keep myself and my community safe, and that doesn't mean that we're sacrificing all of the fun and the joy that comes with college. COVID is forcing us not only to be safe but to be really creative and intentional."

The minterns' efforts have been well received, generating notes and social media posts of thanks.

Keator said safeguards and care packages come back to one thing — love. "It's just people loving people," she said. "I think we desperately need more of that. Being able to play a role in enhancing the clarity of what it looks like to love people right now is a feeling that's going to stick with me for a while."

MICHAEL LUCIDO (A&S '98) DOESN'T TEACH, BUT HE WORRIES ABOUT EVERY CLASSROOM AT SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY. As

vice president for facilities services, Lucido also keeps watch over every office, light bulb, flower bed and air conditioner. It's a big job any day. It's a gargantuan job during a pandemic.

"In planning for fall in light of COVID-19, we looked at everything that we could put in place to make campus a safer environment," Lucido said. "Among our top priorities was improving ventilation within our buildings, bringing in the most amount of outside air that our systems could handle and changing our filtration in our air handling systems to filter out more microorganisms from the air."

Lucido and his colleagues didn't stop with the air. They installed more than 900 hand sanitizers in all common spaces on campus. They worked with departments that offer face-to-face service to install Plexiglas barriers. They increased the frequency of their cleaning routines, ensuring that high-touch areas, such as doorknobs, were cleaned multiple times a day. They mounted signs about mask-wearing, social distancing and elevator use throughout campus. They even installed foot pulls on SLU restroom doors so users could enter touch-free.

But their biggest undertaking was adjusting SLU classrooms for social distancing and reconfiguring event spaces, such as the ballrooms in Busch Student Center, for use as classrooms. "Our University architect had to lay out each space, and it wasn't just the square footage calculation. It was physically calculating a three-foot radius, six-foot diameter around an individual to see how many individuals we could put in a space," Lucido said.

"Then we also had to account for the furniture that was in the space," he continued. "Some furniture is fixed; some furniture is movable. We had some lecture halls that lost 70% capacity. They went from 300 to 46 people."

To ensure distancing in rooms and lecture halls with fixed furniture, Lucido and his team put green and red stickers on seats to identify where students should and shouldn't sit, marking more than 300 spaces on campus with roughly 14,000 stickers.

For the ballrooms, which lacked classroom-style desks, they had to order more than 600 new tablet armchairs and work with SLU's Division of Information Technology Services to bring the event spaces up to classroom standards. "It was very important to the University that we offer in-person, face-to-face instruction," Lucido said. "To do that, we needed to find bigger spaces to accommodate some of those classes. The student center ballrooms and big meeting spaces in DuBourg Hall became easy, logical answers, especially



PHOTO BY STEPHEN DOLAN

VICE PRESIDENT

MICHAEL LUCIDO

FACILITIES SERVICES

Lucido (CENTER) and members of the facilities services team: (FROM LEFT) Maggie Nikolai (CSB '94), Don Shivers, Tammie Edmonds, Bruce Pratte, Lucido, Philip Capriano, Kent Smith, Denise Dorsey-Williams, Tony Sabat and Evelio Gonzalez

because we knew we weren't going to be hosting special events.

"But furniture takes time to get — typically seven to eight weeks. We went

to our CFO in May to order furniture because we anticipated the need, and that early planning allowed us to open in August with those classrooms in place."

Another task that kept the facilities team busy this summer was moving existing furniture from classrooms that previously accommodated dozens of students to new classroom spaces that weren't equipped with desks. "Moving furniture is not as high profile as some of the other projects we tackled this summer, but it was important and one of our bigger logistical challenges," Lucido said.

Lucido's team was not daunted by the long list of tasks they tackled during the summer. "Our facilities division — custodial, grounds, distribution, maintenance, parking, construction services — all of these areas played a role in helping us get to where we could maintain our students and faculty over the semester," he said. "And we worked with partners across the University, from the housing and residence life staff to the registrar to the department chairs and deans — all of them helped us look at different spaces within their own buildings.

"For example, we identified and socially distanced over 450 spaces, and we gave all of that information to Jay Haugen (A&S '98, Grad CSB '08), the University registrar. Jay then looked at our options to see what was usable as classroom space given the diminished capacity. It got narrowed down to 250-280 functional spaces."

Lucido continued: "It was a very collaborative process to work together and figure out solutions for some problems that none of us knew for sure if we had the answer to."

In the end, there was one answer Lucido knew from the start. "Not that I had any doubts, but the way I watched my team members pull together in a unified manner really showed that we are a division of men and women dedicated to serving others," he said. "From the very beginning, our actions showed a selfless approach to help ensure the safety of our community, and I'm extremely proud of them for that.

"I would say 90% of my team was deemed emergency essential. And they came in, they stepped up, and they did not look at their job responsibilities nor their job titles. I had everyone from my assistant to project managers to architects to me out stickering classrooms. It didn't matter what your title was, the job needed to get done. We jumped in together, and we did it."

KATIE SHIELDS SPENT THE SUMMER NAVIGATING UNCHARTED WATERS. In July, when she normally plans her women's soccer team's traditional fall competitive season, she and her coaching staff had what she called a "big mindset shift."

"We had to understand how we were going to *not* prepare for a fall season and instead prepare for a spring season," Shields said. "The No. 1 priority has always been the health and safety of our women. So we had two goals this fall. First, that soccer was going to be the best part of their day. Second, we would physically prepare them to play after being away from the game in a structured setting for five months."

That meant spending two weeks in a re-acclimatization process, including very small group training. It meant that the team does everything in masks. It meant no team meetings or video review sessions because the group is too large to gather. And it meant no activities indoors together other than sport performance training twice a week in small clusters.

"We also had to manage some expectations," Shields said. "We have two seniors who were planning to graduate in December who extended their studies through the end of the spring semester. There are so many unintended effects and consequences — financial, emotional — that come with moving the season. We've just tried to be very adaptable to the needs of our student-athletes."

Managing expectations includes attempting to plan for the unknown. Although SLU's conference, the Atlantic 10, moved the women's soccer championship to spring, as of early winter, the spring schedule was not yet set. "When you don't know who or when you're playing, it is very hard to say to the team, 'OK, we're working toward this,'" Shields said. "You like to have goals ahead of you."

Add the overlay of a global pandemic, and there is a risk of further stress for student-athletes. "We are in a competitive business," Shields said. "There is a seriousness to it, a drive to be the best and excel. But we really have to balance that. Within our program, we've dealt with some mental health challenges this fall. It's challenging to strike a balance between being a very competitive program that wants to succeed, and caring for that whole person and managing her well-being."

Adding to the pressure is the team's record of success. Shields' players are the back-to-back A-10 champions and have lost only one home game during the past four years. "All those things are wonderful," Shields said. "But there's a level of disappointment that we didn't win an NCAA Tournament game last season. So there's an incredible amount

HEAD COACH

KATIE SHIELDS

WOMEN'S SOCCER

of internal pressure and no space for it in the forefront right now. There are much more important things to focus on, both in the world and within our program."

And, yet, there have been many positive outcomes of this atypical semester. Shields said the team's eight freshmen have adapted

well to college life. "They're thriving in a pandemic," she said. "Freshmen usually come right into a competitive season, and it's go, go, go. It's easy for them to get lost in the shuffle. Now, they've had time to establish themselves, and I think they'll have a more successful spring competitive season than they would have had in the fall."

Without the usual wins and the losses to measure their success, Shields and her coaching staff are identifying other priorities. "There's the component of joy. Are they laughing? Are there smiles on a day-to-day basis?"

The team also posted their best set of midterm grades since Shields began her SLU coaching career nine years ago. And everyone has stayed healthy. "Keeping the group together and not having any major quarantine scenarios or contributing to any issues on campus are ways we know we're achieving our goals."

Another benefit has been the opportunity for Shields to spend more virtual time with her fellow SLU head coaches. "Of course, I haven't seen any of these humans since March. But every Monday we have a head coaches meeting with the administration via Zoom. And it's not necessarily Athletic Director Chris May speaking to us; it's the coaches sharing how they're navigating recruiting, player management and academic challenges. Usually, you're so in your lane, your season and your sport that you don't confer — and the fact that we do is a benefit."

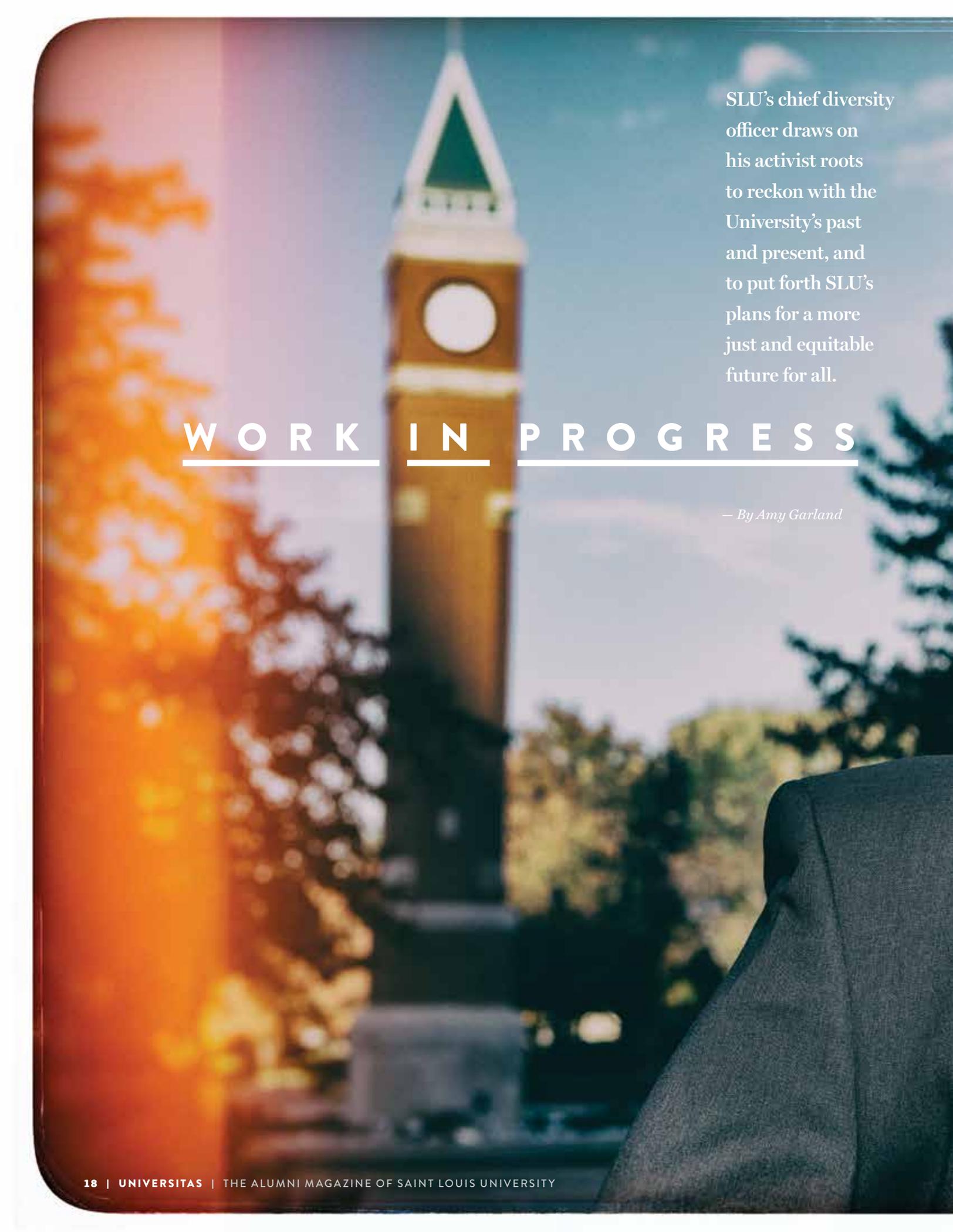
With a somewhat uncertain immediate season looming, Shields and her coaches must also look even further ahead to ensure the continued viability of SLU's women's soccer program. "Another element of pressure that we feel right now is how to recruit and prepare for those future classes," she said. "That has become significantly more challenging during COVID."

Still, Shields remains optimistic. "We expect our players to be women for and with others," she said. "The pause in competitiveness has given us a chance to return to our values, to focus on how we operate within a greater community. Maybe another positive unintended result of COVID is a centering that we've all gone through both individually and programmatically." **UTAS**

Shields (CENTER) with players Hannah Friedrich (LEFT) and Elli Brunts (RIGHT)

PHOTO BY STEPHEN DOLAN





SLU's chief diversity officer draws on his activist roots to reckon with the University's past and present, and to put forth SLU's plans for a more just and equitable future for all.

W O R K I N P R O G R E S S

— *By Amy Garland*



PHOTO BY STEPHEN DOLAN

Smith (SECOND FROM RIGHT) talks with an activist (LEFT) during the encampment at SLU's clock tower in 2014. Joining Smith are Dr. Kent Porterfield (SECOND FROM LEFT), former vice president for student development, and Michelle Lewis (RIGHT), director of the Office of Institutional Equity and Diversity.



DR. JONATHAN SMITH NEVER IMAGINED HIMSELF IN THE UPPER ECHELONS OF A UNIVERSITY. A CLASSIC ACADEMIC – IVY LEAGUE-EDUCATED, WITH A BACKGROUND IN PHILOSOPHY AND LITERATURE – SMITH IS STEEPED IN IDEAS, NOT POLICY.

But his parents, the children of sharecroppers in Alabama, instilled in him a propensity to activism that inspired him to stand up (and sit in) for his beliefs again and again. And that moved him, in due time, to become Saint Louis University's first chief diversity officer.

In the fall of 2014, Smith felt solidarity with activists whose protests led to an encampment near SLU's clock tower. The discussions he had with students and protestors during those tense days brought forward new ideas about diversity efforts on campus and led to his appointment as vice president for diversity and community engagement.

The years since then have been filled with both ideas and policy, putting plans into action. In this interview with *Universitas*, Smith reflects on his past, the University's past and present, and how to make a better future for all.

Dr. Smith, you came to Saint Louis University in 2002. What led you here? Would you talk about your first decade at SLU?

I finished my Ph.D. at Washington University in St. Louis and was looking for a full-time faculty position. My wife and I thought we wanted to leave St. Louis, but then there was a job posted in American studies at Saint Louis University. It was with the kind of colleagues that I would have wanted anywhere. The person who was key in getting me to see what SLU was all about was Sister Elizabeth Kolmer [A.S.C.], who was a professor in American studies then. That's what brought me here.

My first decade, teaching was most important to me, and graduate mentoring. By the beginning of my second year, I was advising graduate dissertations. One of the things I'm most proud of is that I directed a dissertation that won the Gabriel Prize in American studies: Our

student Rob Hawkins (A&S '11) won that national prize. If you go to the American Studies Association website to see the winners, it's something like Yale, Cornell, Yale, Yale, Brown and Saint Louis University.

Graduate advising helped me think about communication and mentoring, and shaped my thoughts and beliefs about race, identity and equity.

In what way?

My academic background is African American literature, and in that study, I started to think about how identity is formed in culture. The first time I learned that identities are social constructs was in grad school. But we never had a moment where we asked what constructs do. So I pushed my students: Don't ask what race is, ask what it does. What forms of power does it work with? What forms of power does it aim to distribute or strain?

A decade into your time at SLU is close to 2014. That summer, Michael Brown was killed in Ferguson, Missouri, and in October, VonDerrit Myers Jr. was killed in the Shaw neighborhood near campus. In response to their deaths, protests happened around the city and on campus. At the same time, SLU was welcoming its first new president in decades. What was that time like for you?

That fall, like many faculty members at SLU, I was involved on panels, planning programming, talking to students, and occasionally before October, being out on the streets. But the death of VonDerrit Myers changed the situation for me.

At that time, my wife and I were living in the Shaw neighborhood, where VonDerrit was killed. And that day, I had a bizarre experience.

Actually a few days before, when I left for work, there was a homeless guy, a white guy, hanging out near my house. I tried to engage him on a human level and offer help. As I went to speak with him, he literally

turned away. I was stunned — did he just dis me in my own neighborhood? Then I thought that perhaps there was an element of shame, right? But later, I saw him speak to one of my white neighbors. When he got nearer to me, he gave me that same treatment again. I assumed he dissed me because I'm Black.

On the morning VonDerrit was killed, there was a young Black man sitting in front of my neighbor's house. As I go to my car, he stops me to let me know he's working for my neighbor and waiting for someone to show up. I hadn't thought anything of it. But then I think, here's this homeless white guy in my neighborhood who feels empowered to disrespect me — while a young Black man feels he has to explain his presence to me.

That was the day VonDerrit was killed. So it was completely and profoundly personal to me. As soon as there was a vigil on site, I was there — because it's my neighborhood.

When did you realize you would be involved, from an institutional standpoint?

One of my colleagues sent me a text that campus was being occupied. I thought, I'm going to be in this because, again, this is my neighborhood. This is where I live. SLU is where I work. I can't not be involved.

I took my classes out to the clock tower and invited activists from the clock tower to my classes. I was teaching a course on Black comedy — one of my favorite things to teach. But I changed the syllabus, changed the lesson plan and invited activists, some of whom I had connections with. There was a group who were artists from New York, and my oldest daughter knew them, and one of my former grad students knew them. They connected us. I remember going out to the clock tower and yelling, "Where's Chris from New York?" (laughs)

I also got my church involved, asking them to bring umbrellas, water and blankets to support the occupation. I got my local coffee shop to donate coffee for the activists. I spearheaded and helped coordinate some faculty support letters. I connected with just about every group involved that week. And I didn't think of it as leadership — I just thought of it as what I could do.

At that point, you're getting actively involved, of your own volition. But no one had asked you at that point...

No one asked me to do anything that week. In official capacities, Dr. Pestello, who had just been inaugurated as president a few days prior, had no idea who I was. The faculty members who worked on the negotiations were Dr. Stefan Bradley, who was directing African American studies, and Dr. Norm White, who was an associate professor of criminology and criminal justice, and an activist. I wasn't in any of the official negotiations. I did have a strong connection with some of the students who were activists, and I had conversations with them about some things that ended up in the Clock Tower Accords, which ended the encampment and committed SLU to several diversity initiatives.

What was your mindset as you became chief diversity officer?

I initially didn't even want to apply for the position; I thought of other people I'd support. Then in a random conversation with the vice president for student development, he said, "You're applying, right?" Before that, I never had aspirations to be an administrator.

But then Dr. Pestello saw me and got to know me because, again, I ended up at the clock tower on the last day of the encampment. Not because anybody asked me, but because I wanted to be there. I knew that the Clock Tower Accords had been agreed upon. I went to campus to see that things were going OK because I had relationships with the activists and the students. And there was a long moment that day where it appeared it might fall through — and that was where I saw Fred in action for the first time. And I really liked what I saw. I think that's also the first time he saw me in action, doing this work, and liked what he saw. Over the rest of the year, I was the co-lead of one of the University Strategic

Plan working groups — which I think never would have happened had I not come to senior leadership attention during the occupation.

Let's switch gears a bit. Around the same time, you got involved with the Slavery, History, Memory and Reconciliation project, an initiative of the Jesuit Conference of Canada and the United States. What does it mean to you and to the University?

I brought that idea to the table early on. My first year as chief diversity officer, the prime objective was the Clock Tower Accords. But I also let everyone know that we needed to research our history with slavery. Institutions around the nation were doing that kind of research — and I thought it was imperative that we do it, especially as we were rolling up on our bicentennial. That conversation coincided with a conversation that the Jesuit province was already having. Early on, we decided to do the work together.

I think it's important to note that this wasn't something we were dragged into. There are a number of places where a student protest or exposé surfaced this issue, but we decided proactively.

The project's overall aim is to figure out appropriate responses to our history with slavery. But before we even began addressing responses, we wanted to do as much research as possible. I was the most pessimistic person in the room in terms of our ability to find out much beyond what we knew at the time, which was just the first names of the original six slaves who worked at the University.

That started in 2016. And then it was so fruitful that it took forever to reach the public phase, because at some point we understood we could reach living descendants. That was unthinkable at the beginning.

As we researched, we wanted to focus on the lives of enslaved people as opposed to the sins of the owners. At this point, we don't need to just find the transgressions. No one has to make the argument that slavery was wrong — simply owning another human being crosses a line. But what has been missing are the ways to enrich the narratives about the lives of the people who were enslaved, who did the work, who had families, married, moved about. That's important.

And then when we could reach living descendants, we wanted to include them in the conversation at the front end as opposed to the back end.

Smith (CENTER) and Patrick Cousins (RIGHT), assistant director of campus ministry, lead a discussion with students at the Center for Global Citizenship in the days following the 2014 encampment.



Direct Actions

Engage them — not tell them what we're going to do with this research, but ask them.

Yes. And this telescopes one of the demands that has come up in different places: Some people are calling on us to change the names of DuBourg and Verhaegen halls, and so on. And my response — and I think it's the appropriate and ethical and equitable response — is whatever we do, we want to prioritize the voices of descendants.

Look, we're discussing everything — nothing's off the table. But it's important to hear the priorities of the descendants. Changing the names of buildings doesn't materially benefit anybody. It doesn't change structures or history.

Now, the names of buildings and monuments and structures are important. I'm a person who believes that symbols are deeply important; I'm not saying that names don't matter. It's just that in this conversation, if the descendants say we'd rather those names stay and we'll put our names on new buildings, then that should be the plan.

I think that gets at how both the history and the priorities have evolved for that project.

What does the project mean for SLU going forward? Will the work continue to inform things?

Yes, but exactly how? Even as co-director of the project, I don't completely know. I do know that engagement with descendants of the enslaved people — that's not going away. The people who are descendants today will always be descendants, and so will their children.

And we don't think of the research as having an end date. Because who knows what records will be discovered? Who knows what scholar might come along and tie together a loose thread or see something differently?

Let's talk about other work that's ongoing, the University's response to the Clock Tower Accords. What progress has been made?

Yes, that work has been ongoing, and I refer readers to the Clock Tower Accords website — linked from slu.edu/about/key-facts/diversity/ — which we continue to update. And I want to say that we will continue to work not only toward fulfilling the accords but also to honoring and amplifying the spirit from which they were born.

With so many of the accords, the work happens in small spaces — but it happens continuously. Like the Diversity Speaker Series. Look at that list of speakers: so many people, so many different types, on campus under the auspices of the accords. It's been in conjunction with academic departments, student organizations, the Urban League — partnerships made that happen.

Some of the things at the heart of the accords — financial aid, bridge programs, retention of African American students — those are ongoing and, frankly, multigenerational projects. Also, some of that work is so

mundane. People don't want to check retention rates and financial aid data on a daily basis. And that's where the rubber meets the road. What is the debt load of Black students? Reciting data doesn't make for a great story.

Dr. Jonathan Smith also shared his thoughts on several SLU initiatives that focus on diversity.

AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES

"We're well down the road on having African American studies move from a program to a department under the leadership of Dr. Chris Tinson. He and the provost's are working steadily, and we'll hopefully be there next fall."

SLU HEALTH RESOURCE CENTER-URBAN LEAGUE PARTNERSHIP

"The HRC, which is a free clinic run by SLU medical students, is on track to get expanded space in their building. The Urban League is going to offer more of their services there, which will make that a hub for people who are looking for a variety of services and health care access.

"Especially now, considering what COVID-19 has amplified about the health disparities in our country, it feels more important than ever that we offer better access to health care."

NEW INTERNAL SLU COMMITTEE ON DIVERSITY

"That committee is essentially looking at what we've done. Look at the Clock Tower Accords. Where is progress being made, and where are we lagging behind? We will look at that in relationship to a set of demands and concerns that have come from Black faculty and staff, alumni, the Black Student Alliance over the last several months. We'll prioritize at a fairly high level. There may be some things we put broad timelines to, if there are things we think can happen within a semester or a year. But this is not a committee that will do implementation."

NEW DIVERSITY SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

"This is a regular subcommittee of the board, and I'm the administrator responsible for reporting to and engaging with the committee. It will allow us to ensure that there's board-level accountability and engagement about equity issues for the University."

But it's absolutely important. And there was a dramatic increase in the grant aid awarded to Black students. From the 2013-14 academic year to the 2016-17 academic year, there was a 36% increase in institutional gift aid to Black freshmen. That gets distributed across students, so it's hard to feel that progress in real time.

There's also reducing the debt ratio or the debt load. Reducing the amount of debt that a student has when they graduate is an important part of access and retention, and increasing the amount of institutional financial aid that's not loan-based contributes to access programs like the African American Male Scholar Initiative. And the pilot of our test-optional admissions initiative is a huge step toward access, just because of the disparities in test scores that exist along axes of race and socioeconomic status.

The University was talking about going "test-optional" before the pandemic?

Yes, it just happened to coincide. We'd been talking about that all year. Same with the Donald Suggs Scholarships for current SLU students from underrepresented backgrounds. None of this was in response to COVID-19. We saw it as related to Clock Tower Accords work. We consider scholarships retention because if we bring students here and they leave without a degree but have debt, that's a serious disservice. For those cases where finances make it hard to stay, we've tried to make it easier by partnering with the development division and working closely with the Black Alumni Association to provide resources for scholarship funds, such as the Pioneers of Inclusion Scholarship, the John Berry Meachum Scholarship and the St. Peter Claver, S.J., Service Scholarship.

Recently some students, young alumni and other members of the University community have spoken out about systemic issues and microaggressions they've experienced being Black at SLU. How do you respond to that?

How do I respond to that?

Those of us who live as Black people in this society experience that in so many places. Like the story I told earlier, walking out of my house and there's a homeless person who by so many criteria is a suspicious person in my neighborhood, who microaggressed me twice in my own neighborhood. When you throw that in the context of higher education, there's nothing surprising about those experiences. It's absolutely valuable for us to hear and learn from those experiences. And actually, this summer isn't the first time the hashtag #blackatslu came up. It may have started as far back as 2014.

In September 2020, students reacted to a racially charged incident on campus with a protest and a vigil. How does student activism inform your work? You talked about being an activist yourself during the protests on campus in 2014. How does that continue to affect you?

I think about Martin Luther King's 1963 speech at the Washington Monument, which begins with one of King's most oft-repeated phrases, "the fierce urgency of now." In 1963, the promise of freedom is already 100 years too late. So, the fierce urgency of now. But the part of the speech that everybody remembers is the "I have a dream" portion, and one of the key phrases is, "I have a dream that one day my children..." If you pull those two phrases together, they appear in conflict: the fierce urgency of now, and a dream that one day my children.

I see this as the necessary engine of change. I think the role of young people has always been to introduce the fierce urgency of now. I think the role of those of us in leadership is to secure change in a way that's transformational. And I think that for structures to be transformed and for progress to be real, we always need those two things in action with each other.

This is something I've thought about long before I was in this position. And I think of myself and my history as an activist, and my parents' history.

Both of my parents were involved in the Montgomery bus boycott. My father used his car to pick up people who needed to ride the buses; people would gather at parking lots that were owned by Black business people, and folks like my dad would drive them places. He was arrested with a large group of people, including Martin Luther King. And then my mother.

What my mother did was not ride the bus. For her, the thing to do was an inaction. And that inaction was activism, just like my father's activist action was to pick people up. It took me a while to even see that kind of dichotomy.

One of my earliest memories is sitting on the hood of my father's 1963 sea-green Pontiac Catalina — it's a very specific memory — and watching him picket outside of an A&P in Chicago. Later, he becomes a school board member. As he grew older and his circumstances changed, his leadership and commitment never waned, but he did it differently. For 40-some years, he was a school board member and at least 20 of those, he was president of the board. He was pastor of a church. He wasn't necessarily on the streets, but he set an example for me.

That's why in 2014, when people were scheduling marches via social media at like 10 o'clock on a Sunday night, I thought, "I'm 50-something, and I got sciatica, and I can't stay up late anymore." (laughs) I couldn't always be out on the streets, so what do I do? Because the aim is to secure transformation.

Do you have a history of activism, like your parents?

It was all I did in college. The big issue then was South Africa and university divestment. But yes, that's what I did for four years, often to the detriment of my studies — picketing. During the spring semester of my freshman year at Princeton University, we picketed behind the administration building every day. I was out there, rain, shine, snow.

There was a sit-in my freshman year in the administration building, on the hall with the president's office. Fast-forward to the summer of 2015.

One weekend I go into DuBourg Hall, and I've been told my ID will get me in. I don't trust it. I think, I'm going to pull the door handle, and the Department of Public Safety is going to descend because I don't belong here. But I get into my office and I'm sitting there thinking, why is this feeling familiar? It hit me: I'm alone in the senior administration building after hours — and I was reminded of the last time I was in a senior administration building after hours, when I was involved in the sit-in.

It helps me understand the fullness of King's speech. I appreciate being in a space where I still feel I can speak truth to power. I haven't had to make my view of the world fit into this job. I see myself as connected to this long arc of struggle that's anti-racist, that seeks to end sexism and misogyny and homophobia. Not an iota of that has changed.

So, what can you do, what can any university do, to make for a more equitable experience? How does a community that is starting to recognize that it needs to get better actually get better?

By simply doing anything you can.

Look, this structure of modern racism is minimally 400 years old. There's a case to be made that it's almost 600 years old. And it was built and cultivated through the settling of the Americas, through the American Revolution, the Enlightenment, the Industrial Revolution, the Civil War, through to World War I. On the flip side, we're at less than 100 years. If you go back to *Brown v. Board of Education*, that's only 1954. We have to understand that even though we have made quite a bit of progress, it's going to be a multigenerational struggle to fully change.

So, young people need to have the fierce urgency of now. Those of us in positions to make decisions about structures and institutions need to commit to the long haul.

That leaves space for a lot of possibilities. If it's about reading and training on a personal level, do that. If it's about organizational affiliation, do that. If it's about political activism, do that. If it's about caring for friends and family who are Black and other people of color, absolutely do that. If it's bystander intervention or even documenting events, do that. Whatever you can imagine to do in opposition to racism, do it.

Any other advice for our readers who want to make a difference?

Well, as a teacher, what I'd suggest is to read James Baldwin's *The Fire Next Time*.

In two beautifully written essays, it will give you a good look at what it means to be Black in the U.S. and what it means to be young, Black and male in the U.S. It will also give you a sense of what it means to love a place and to critique that place.

One of my favorite passages is near the end. Baldwin is talking about the possibilities of racial progress and change and reconciliation and transformation, and he says, "Everything now, we must assume, is in our hands. We have no right to assume otherwise." And then he says that we Black folk and white folk who are committed to this have an opportunity to change the world. **UTAS**



Smith with his parents, Rev. J.C. Smith (left) and Willie Mae Smith (right), in his office in DuBourg Hall



SLU SOCIAL JUSTICE
ADVOCATES FIND
UNIQUE WAYS OF
LEVERAGING THEIR
RESEARCH TO
MAKE THE WORLD
A BETTER PLACE.

REIMAGINING JUSTICE

— *By Marie Dilg*



Throughout history, art has served as an agent for social change. Dr. Amber Johnson (A&S '01, Grad A&S '03) literally drives the point home with the Justice Fleet, a network of trucks and mobile exhibits filled with art supplies, Legos, toys and ball pits. Johnson believes art and dialogue can help individuals heal from the wounds of injustice.

“Anything looked at as fun makes difficult conversations easier,” said Johnson, who uses they/them pronouns.

The associate professor of communication and their team, often comprised of SLU students, venture into St. Louis neighborhoods to engage community members in discussions about social justice, empathy, and implicit and explicit bias.

“Once you’re aware of the impact social injustice has on certain people, communities and institutions, it’s hard to sit and do nothing,” said Johnson, whose research interests include identity, social justice, healing justice and humanizing equity. “Healing from trauma associated with oppression is just as important as crafting policies that combat oppression. We talk about equity all the time, but we don’t talk about healing enough. Those things must happen at the same time.”

The Justice Fleet’s exhibitions include modules on radical forgiveness, a process that encourages repairing rather than reliving the wounds of social justice; radical imagination, a playful way to help participants imagine a more just and equitable future; and transfuturism, interviews and portraits to bring awareness to Black, transgender and gender-nonconforming people.

Johnson received two grants in 2020 to support the fleet. An award from the Arts and Education Council of St. Louis is keeping the Justice Fleet safe during the coronavirus pandemic by providing funds to purchase masks, gloves and disinfectant wipes for participants and volunteers and helping develop alternative ways of engaging with the hands-on activities. A grant from the Missouri Humanities Council will allow the fleet to travel to homeless shelters, transitional youth housing and senior living facilities this year.

FOSTERING RESILIENCE

Johnson’s endeavors fall under the umbrella of SLU’s new Institute for Healing Justice and Equity (IHJE), an interdisciplinary group of scholars, healing practitioners and community organizers using research, community engagement, advocacy and policy change to eliminate disparities caused by systemic oppression. The founders believe the IHJE has the potential to establish SLU as a national epicenter of healing justice, equity in policy and community research ethics.

Like Johnson, Dr. Kira Hudson Banks, associate professor of psychology and another co-founder of the institute, contends that racial equity and justice must include efforts to help people heal from the trauma of oppression. Her research team is working to understand the psychological experience of those who have been oppressed, as well as developing interventions to foster resilience.

“The negative messages individuals receive about their race or gender can damage their sense of self,” she said. “For example, how does a woman navigate the world and remain resilient when she hears that women don’t have a natural proclivity for science or should stick with more traditional roles?”

Banks’ research demonstrates a group-based intervention developed by her team is decreasing the negative mental health implications and increasing the protective factors in Black women who are exposed to racial and gender oppression. Banks said upcoming research will focus on individual intervention strategies.



PERFORMANCE POLICY

Ruqaiyah Yearby, a professor of law, and Dr. Keon Gilbert, associate professor of behavioral science and health education, also are co-founders of the institute. They are working with other SLU researchers, who are faculty affiliates of the institute, to explore the effectiveness of processes implemented by city and county governments nationwide to achieve racial equity.

“We’re interested in whether the processes result in community engagement and policy changes that improve racial equity in education, health care, employment and housing,” said Yearby, co-principal investigator on the project funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. “We want to know whether these changes are effective and whether they have unintended consequences.”

Paid sick leave laws are one of the project’s focal points. “You can imagine the impact policy can have on some employees,” she said. “If you don’t earn paid sick leave and you’re making minimum wage, you’re more likely to come into work sick. We’re learning from the COVID-19 crisis that this has significant consequences.”

In November, the Missouri Foundation for Health awarded IHJE researchers a grant to study the impact of COVID-19 on vulnerable populations, particularly in the St. Louis metropolitan area and the Missouri boot-heel. Gilbert said researchers will explore the impact the virus is having on individuals, how the virus is altering support structures and what policy changes might address disparities.

FROM LEFT:

Yearby, Johnson,
Banks and Gilbert

A LITTLE OFF THE TOP

Gilbert was selected as co-investigator of the project because he has spent more than a decade exploring racism as a determinant of health care, specifically related to Black boys and men.

“Black boys and Black men often feel excluded or pushed out of systems of care, whether it’s health care or social services,” he said. “As a result, they don’t prioritize their health, which, of course, has an impact on other aspects of their lives — jobs, family, church, recreation.”

Gilbert’s expertise is taking his research findings and leveraging them through community engagement to create interventions and identify sources of resilience. Before joining SLU, Gilbert was a W.K. Kellogg post-doctoral researcher working with communities in North Carolina where he, other researchers and students harnessed supports found in churches and schools to promote healthier behaviors in Black males.

When he arrived at SLU, Gilbert was invited to join the local chapter of the national 100 Black Men of America Inc. With the organization, Gilbert co-coordinates health screenings in north city and north county barbershops where he, SLU nursing faculty, and SLU nursing and public health students screen patrons for high blood pressure, promote wellness and conduct surveys about social and behavioral influences on health that matter for these communities. A SLU nutrition and dietetics faculty member brings food samples and offers healthy eating suggestions.

“One of the cool things about the project is that I’ve been able to integrate opportunities to teach and demonstrate community engagement into some of my courses,” Gilbert said. “It helps students understand community settings and be creative in how they can deliver public health initiatives in comfortable and natural settings, such as barbershops.”

Gilbert also works with students to understand how to help communities evaluate their efforts to eradicate disparities.

“Most communities don’t have the resources to properly evaluate their projects and generate evidence to document success, but we do,” he said. “We can provide the assistance that allows communities to compete more effectively for much-needed resources.”

Startup funding for the IHJE came through the University’s Big Ideas competition, a multi-year process launched two years ago to identify and invest in collaborative projects designed to solidify SLU’s reputation as a leader in research, training and innovation. **UTAS**



SLU's own infectious disease specialist has been keeping campus safe.

Resident Expert

— By Marie Dilg

If Dr. Terri Rebmann (Grad VSN '06) had paid closer attention to her internship application, she likely would have been a labor and delivery nurse. Instead, she became an expert in infectious diseases and is advising Saint Louis University's president on how to keep SLU safe during a pandemic.

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Rebmann was in nursing school at Truman State University when she applied for an internship with the Commissioned Core of the U.S. Public Health Service. A friend told Rebmann about her internship experience delivering babies on a Native American reservation. That sounded ideal to Rebmann. She completed her application, glanced at a map and chose what she thought was a reservation near Springfield, Missouri. Instead, she unintentionally volunteered to work at an all-male maximum-security prison hospital.

"It was about as far away as you could get from labor and delivery," she said.

Rebmann was assigned to a unit that provided care for patients with HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and sexually transmitted infections. She became engrossed with studying infectious disease transmission and passionate about caring for the often-stigmatized patients who contracted HIV/AIDS.

After her internship, Rebmann earned her master's degree in nursing and became a clinical nurse specialist. She hoped to care for patients with HIV, but jobs were difficult to find. As a fallback, Rebmann accepted a position at Barnes-Jewish Hospital in St. Louis as an infection preventionist, protecting hospitalized patients and health care providers from infection. The field quickly became a calling for Rebmann, who earned certification in infection prevention and control. The hours, however, were tough on her family.

"It seemed that outbreaks only happened on major holidays or at 5 p.m. on Fridays," she said. "My kids were young at the time, and I was on call quite a bit. I needed to find a job with more traditional hours."

THE UNTHINKABLE

In 2000, Saint Louis University received a grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to develop one of the original Centers for Public Health Preparedness. Researchers in the center, which eventually became the Saint Louis University Institute for Biosecurity, studied bioterrorism preparedness and invited Rebmann to join the team. The grant was anticipated to last two to three years.

“At the time, I thought bioterrorism was a little implausible, but a year into the grant, 9/11 happened and then a week later, the anthrax attacks occurred,” she said. “That was another turning point in my career.”

Letters containing anthrax spores were mailed to several media offices and two U.S. senators, killing five people and wounding 17 others. It was one of the worst biological attacks in the country’s history.

“It was an incredible challenge responding to a bioterrorism attack at a time when there were so few experts in the field,” Rebmann recalled. “It definitely brought attention to the need to be prepared for these types of events.”

A BETTER PLAN

The short-term grant evolved into a long-term commitment for Rebmann.

She earned her doctorate in nursing at SLU and joined the faculty. A professor of epidemiology in the SLU College for Public Health and Social Justice, Rebmann teaches courses on infection prevention, disaster planning for infectious disease disasters, epidemiology of infectious diseases and the challenges of international bioterrorism.

She is a fellow in the Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology (APIC) and former chair of the APIC Emergency Preparedness Committee. She has served on national and international task forces focused on reducing infection rates, preparing staff to care for patients during emerging infectious disease outbreaks and advocating for health care worker safety.

Her research interests include improving the country’s ability to dispense medical countermeasures during an infectious disease disaster, safe long-term use of respiratory protection, barriers to vaccine uptake, and reunifying children and families during disasters.

Rebmann now directs SLU’s biosecurity institute and is dedicating herself to preparing leaders in biosecurity and disaster preparedness. She has been ascending as a national leader in using evidence-based research to educate health professionals on mitigating the spread of infectious diseases in health care settings and the population at large.

“The institute functions at the cross-section between all my areas of interest: infectious diseases, infection prevention and disaster preparedness,” Rebmann said. “We’re constantly learning about new diseases and threats.”

Rebmann also assisted in SLU’s development of the Master of Public Health with a concentration in biosecurity and disaster preparedness, the only program of its kind in the country.

MINIMIZING IMPACT

Though bioterrorism preparedness was at the center of the institute’s original mission, Rebmann said researchers quickly learned that emerging pathogens and pandemics are more viable threats to populations than human-made biological disasters because they happen on a more regular basis.

Rebmann, her colleagues and public health students have helped address emergency readiness for various outbreaks, including SARS Co-V (2002-2003); MERS Co-V (2012); the H1N1 influenza pandemic (2009); and the emergence of Zika and the Ebola crisis (2014-2016), to name just a few emerging infectious disease events.

COVID-19 is proving to be more vexing.

“A large part of responding to an outbreak is identifying people who are infected, so they can be isolated and treated quickly,” she said. “With COVID-19, a large percentage of infected individuals do not show symptoms, even though they are shedding the disease and can infect others. That makes disease control much more challenging.”

When COVID-19 hit last March, Rebmann was asked to review the University’s measures aimed at keeping students safe on campus and abroad. When should campus close? What procedures should be followed to safely move students out of their on-campus residences? When should study abroad students return home? What events could and should be moved online or canceled altogether?

“Terri Rebmann provided a voice of reason while we were planning for the fall semester,” said Michael Lucido (A&S ’98), SLU’s vice president for facilities management. “She is educated in the science but also understands the practicality of it all. Terri combines the practical and the academic, and has led us to great success.”

Rebmann has become a key resource for the University’s COVID-19 task force and a special advisor to SLU’s president — so much so, she needed to shelve her academic duties temporarily to focus on keeping campus safe.

And her outreach goes beyond campus, too. At the height of the shortage of personal protective equipment (PPE), she donated her personal stockpile of masks and respirators to friends, colleagues and SSM Health. Through APIC and the American Nurses Association, Rebmann hosted a webinar with nurses across the United States to discuss what to do when they deplete PPE supplies and how they can prevent bringing the infection home to their families. More than 150,000 individuals registered for the webinar.

SELLING SAFETY

Rebmann said the most challenging aspect of her work is allowing students to have a normal-as-possible college experience while following public health safeguards to prevent disease transmission. Her mission is personal. Her daughter is a senior at SLU.

“These are young adults who are very social,” Rebmann said. “They want to spend time together. They are forming tight bonds with friends, establishing new romantic relationships, and it is difficult for them to be vigilant about wearing masks and staying six feet apart. It’s easy for our team to come up with policies that would limit disease spread, but you need to find ways to implement policies students are going to be able and willing to follow.”

She said SLU is doing exceptionally well with this mission for several reasons. She said faculty, students and staff across campus and disciplines — nursing, medicine, public health, athletics, student government, food service — have helped encourage buy-in on safety measures. Student volunteers also serve as Public Health Ambassadors on campus, identifying potential safety concerns.

Rebmann also said the University’s policy of communication and transparency regarding COVID-19 protocols goes a long way toward fostering cooperation with safety measures. In addition, she noted SLU has a strong internal contact tracing team that can respond to positive cases in less than 24 hours.

“Overall, we had a very successful fall semester,” Rebmann said. “We saw an increase in cases tied to Halloween parties and social gatherings, but that was very short term. Our infection and positivity rates on campus stayed extremely low all semester — much lower than what we saw in St. Louis city or county, as well as the state and across the United States. We clearly did something right.”

Rebmann said she is hopeful campus will remain as safe and successful as it has been. **UTAS**

KEY

Following each alumni name in *Universitas* is an abbreviation of the college or school from which that alum graduated. Here's a key to the abbreviations.

- A&S** COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
- CSB** RICHARD A. CHAIFETZ SCHOOL OF BUSINESS
includes alumni who graduated under the school's previous names, the John Cook School of Business, the School of Commerce and Finance, and the School of Business and Administration
- DENT** SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY
- DCHS** DOISY COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES
includes alumni who graduated from the School of Allied Health Professions
- ED** SCHOOL OF EDUCATION
- GRAD** Used in front of other abbreviations to indicate a graduate degree
- IT** INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
- LAW** SCHOOL OF LAW
- MED** SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
- P&L** COLLEGE OF PHILOSOPHY AND LETTERS
- PC** PARKS COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING, AVIATION AND TECHNOLOGY
- PH** COLLEGE FOR PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL JUSTICE
- PS** SCHOOL FOR PROFESSIONAL STUDIES
- SW** SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK
includes alumni who graduated under the school's previous name, the School of Social Service
- VSN** TRUDY BUSCH VALENTINE SCHOOL OF NURSING
includes alumni who graduated from the School of Nursing

1952

Gene H. Kuhn (IT) published a book, *Union Pacific Communications History*. He lives in Omaha, Nebraska.

Loretta (Sido) Leimkuehler (A&S) retired from St. Louis County Library after working part time for 50 years.

1960

Jack Bray (A&S '60, LAW '62), senior counsel at King and Spalding, wrote *Alone Against Hitler: Kurt Von Schuschnigg's Fight to Save Austria from the Nazis*. Von Schuschnigg was chancellor of Austria when it fell to Nazi invasion. After World War II, he emigrated to the United States, where he worked as a professor of political science at SLU from 1948 to 1967. Bray lives in Washington, D.C.

1962

Dr. James M. Stedman (GRAD A&S '62, '66) co-authored a book, *The Human Person: What Aristotle and Thomas Aquinas Offer Modern Psychology*. He is a professor in the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Texas Health Science Center San Antonio, where he's been for 52 years. He and his wife, Sue, live in San Antonio.

Dr. Susan (Gleeson) Stein (A&S '62, GRAD A&S '64) wrote

On Distant Service: The Life of the First U.S. Foreign Service Officer to be Assassinated. Stein spent 35 years teaching on the secondary and post-secondary levels, including pedagogical collaborations in Ukraine and Uganda. She was a columnist and feature writer for the *Omaha World Herald* for 15 years. She was also a



co-founder of Computers for Africa and chair of the Black Student Catholic Scholarship. She lives in Omaha, Nebraska.

1965

Bob McAndrew

(PC) retired a few years ago after spending more than 50 years in international aviation marketing. He wrote a novel inspired by some of those experiences, *Special Plays: Win the Game*. He and his wife of 49 years, Kay, live in Edmond, Oklahoma.



1967

Dr. John Dolis (A&S) published his latest book of poetry, *Departed Quantities: (A) Quantum Epic*. He is a professor emeritus of English and American studies at Penn State University, Scranton.

1968

Helene (Ballmann) Dudley (A&S) served in the Peace Corps in Colombia after graduating from SLU. Twenty years ago, she helped create The Colombia Project to provide affordable micro-loans for entrepreneurs displaced by violence in the country. In 2015 the project evolved as TCP Global and now offers loans in more than 30 sites around the world. Dudley lives in Miami.

1971

Bill Brandt (A&S), founder and executive chairman of Development Specialists Inc., received the Albert Nelson Marquis Lifetime Achievement Award from Marquis Who's Who, a publisher of biographical profiles. Brandt lives in Winnetka, Illinois.

Catherine Frasca Erkmann

(DCHS) retired as director of health information management from Olathe Medical Center, a hospital in suburban Kansas City. Erkmann's HIM career spanned 40 years, half of which were at Olathe Med. She now spends her time enjoying her family, which includes eight grandchildren, and she hopes to travel again when it is safe.

G. Tracy Mehan III (A&S '71,

LAW '74), executive director of government affairs for the American Water Works Association, was appointed to the board of directors of River Network, a national environmental organization. He lives in Potomac Falls, Virginia.

1973

Clayvon Ambrose Wesley

(A&S), a painter and former social worker, participated in an artist residency in South Africa in 2019 to study with Dr. Esther Mahlangu, who teaches the traditional style of the Ndebele people. In 2018, Wesley helped promote the grand reopening of Soldier's Memorial in St. Louis; he is included in the museum in the oral history section for Vietnam veterans, and is being catalogued for the Vietnam Veterans Project for the Library of Congress. He lives in Lake Saint Louis, Missouri.



1974

Al Raddi (GRAD SW) had two philatelic books published

recently, *Cachet Catalog for Scott 1285 Albert Einstein Prominent Americans Series* and *Albert Einstein on Stamps: A Catalog*. Raddi is retired, lives in Milford, Michigan, and is a frequent contributor to stamp and coin-collecting magazines.

ALUMNI REFERRAL PROGRAM

DO YOU KNOW A HIGH SCHOOL JUNIOR OR SENIOR WHO WOULD BE AN EXCELLENT ADDITION TO THE SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY?

Complete the alumni referral nomination form online at alumni.slu.edu/alumnireferral, and the Office of Admission will contact the prospective students you've referred.



1975

William E. Baxter {A&S '75, GRAD A&S '78} retired from the Smithsonian Institution, where he served as assistant director of collections and research. Baxter and his wife, Robin, are relocating to St. Michaels, Maryland, where they will see more of their five children and seven grandchildren.

Eileen "NiNi" Harris

{A&S} wrote *Oldest St. Louis*, a book that brings the city's most iconic buildings and homes to life. The second edition of her 14th book, *Downtown St. Louis*, also was released recently. It documents St. Louis' architectural legacy and its ethnic heritage.



1976

James Georgen {PC} recently retired after 41 years flying for TWA/American Airlines. His last flight was as captain on a B767 from Philadelphia to Miami, accompanied by his wife and three daughters. Georgen said he volunteers periodically at SLU out of gratitude for the foundation upon which he was able to live out his dreams. He lives in Florissant, Missouri.

John Pachak {SW '76, GRAD SW '78} wrote *At the Roots, Reaching for the Sky: A Story of Faith, Service and Community-Building in an American City*. The book chronicles Pachak's four decades of working with families and children in St. Louis city neighborhoods, and tells the story of how people overcame their differences and built community.

Join SLU's New Career Consultation Platform

SLU Connections, Saint Louis University's new career consultation platform, creates a space where alumni can provide career advice and knowledge to current students and fellow alumni through virtual consultations. Alumni are able to connect, access job resources, answer student questions and more. The platform replaces the University's former career consultation advising tool, SLUvisors. Join the community at sluconnections.slu.edu.

SLU | CONNECTIONS

Dr. Nader Entessar {GRAD A&S} is a professor emeritus in the Department of Political Science and Criminal Justice at the University of South Alabama. His latest book, *Trump and Iran: From Containment to Confrontation*, was published in 2020.

1980

Rick Butler {A&S} published his first work of fiction, *Turmoil: Short Stories from the Oil Industry*. He lives in Milpitas, California.

1981

Mary E. Chollet-Lordan {A&S} serves as director of ministry and communications for St. John Chrysostom Parish in suburban Philadelphia. She and her husband, Dr. Edward J. Lordan, a former member of SLU's communications faculty, have two grown sons, Dan and Brendan.

1982

Gerard V. Mantese {LAW} and **Theresamarie Mantese** {LAW '80} are part of a legal team representing 80,000 children and teens on Medicaid assistance in a class action lawsuit alleging systemic deficiencies in the provision of mental health care. The plaintiffs reached a historic interim agreement, with the State of Michigan agreeing to make major changes in the provision of care.

1983

Jane E. Hosmanek Kaiser {LAW}, writing as Seelie Kay, recently published her 16th novel, *Martimus*. She lives in Franklin, Wisconsin.

Dr. Howard Rosenthal {GRAD ED} authored the second edition of the *Human Services Dictionary*. He lives in St. Charles, Missouri.

1985

Dr. Morris Taylor (PS '85, GRAD A&S '00) is vice chancellor for administration and chief financial officer at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville.

1986

Dr. Linda (Brandeberry) Woolf (GRAD A&S '86, '88), a professor at Webster University in St. Louis, received the Charles L. Brewer Award for Distinguished Teaching of Psychology from the American Psychological Association/American Psychological Foundation last summer. The award is given to one person in the United States annually. Woolf also is president of the APA's Society for the Teaching of Psychology. In addition to teaching, she lectures about hate groups and is a frequent columnist in *Psychology Today* magazine.

1987

Dr. Patrick F. Foley (GRAD) became secretary and treasurer of the American Board of Orthodontics in May 2020. Foley is an associate professor and assistant director of SLU's Center for Advanced Dental Education. He previously had a private practice in orthodontics in Lake Zurich, Illinois, for 30 years.

1989

Joseph Zdrodowski (A&S '89, GRAD CSB '18), a captain in the U.S. Army, treated COVID-19 patients in Stamford, Connecticut, while assigned to Urban Augmentation Medical Task Force 811-1.

1990

Jose G. Obando (A&S) serves as the Clery Act compliance officer at Lindenwood University. He retired from the U.S. Postal Inspection Service after a 20-year career in federal law enforcement. He is married to **Lisa Gaertner** (A&S '91), a special education teacher. They met as undergraduates at SLU.

Dr. Phil Tucker (GRAD A&S) has published more than 100 books and articles. He has focused on books about women and African Americans, including several about courageous Black women such as Harriet Tubman. He lives in Davenport, Florida.

1991

Jennifer (McLaughlin) Safavian (CSB) is president and CEO of Autos Drive America, a Washington, D.C., trade association advocating on behalf of the U.S. operations of international automakers. Her husband, **David Safavian** (A&S '88), is general counsel of the American Conservative Union and the American Conservative Union Foundation.

1992

Grant Chapman (LAW '92, GRAD '93) is associate provost for international programs at Kansas State University. He lives in Manhattan, Kansas, with his wife, **Kara** (GRAD ED '97), and daughter.

Nicole Romito (CSB) became a partner and joined the management team for Private Vista in June 2020. She is a certified financial planner who has been with the firm for 15 years. She lives on the north side of Chicago.

1993

Michael J. Hussey (A&S '93, LAW '99) became interim dean of Widener University Commonwealth School of Law in July 2020. Previously the associate dean for academic affairs, Hussey is also an associate professor of law at Widener Law Commonwealth and co-director of its business advising program, which he founded. He lives in Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania.

Keith Stilwell (PC) successfully completed a six-month assignment as the aviation liaison/action officer at the Pentagon's Department of Army Systems Coordination Office. He also served on the Assistant Secretary of the Army - Acquisition, Logistics and Technology COVID-19 Task Force. He lives in Harvest, Alabama.

Stay Connected to SLU

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If not, be sure to update your email address so you can find out about upcoming events, programs and services that are exclusive to SLU graduates.

alumni.slu.edu/email

HOW I GOT HERE



Dr. Alexander G. Garza {GRAD PH '03}
SSM Health Chief Community Health Officer
Incident Commander, St. Louis Metropolitan
Pandemic Task Force



Garza is born in Maryland Heights, Missouri. His father owns a medical laboratory; his mother is a nurse. Garza is one of five boys, including his twin.

'85 Garza graduates from St. Thomas Aquinas High School.

"Catholic education brought a different dimension to my education. I didn't learn science for science's sake. I learned how to apply it toward doing good in the world."

'90 He graduates with a bachelor's degree in biology from the University of Missouri-Kansas City (UMKC). Garza delays medical school to gain hands-on experience as a paramedic. He helps pay his way through med school by working as a flight medic.

'96 He graduates from the University of Missouri-Columbia School of Medicine and begins his residency in emergency medicine at UMKC School of Medicine and Truman Medical Center. Garza spends 20 years in emergency medicine.

"I'm naturally curious about a lot of things, and emergency medicine allows me to see something different every day. It's the way I'm wired. I can't sit still."

After residency, Garza develops a cardiopulmonary resuscitation protocol that doubles the survival time for cardiac arrest patients and earns the American Heart Association's "Young Investigator of the Year" award.

'97 Garza joins the U.S. Army Reserve and rises to colonel in the medical corps and command surgeon for the 352nd Civil Affairs Command at Fort Meade, Maryland.

"I've always held people in the military in high esteem, and I wanted to be part of something bigger than I am."

'99 He finishes his residency and marries Melissa Heiman. They go on to raise three sons.

'03 Garza continues to work in emergency medicine at Truman Medical Center and commutes to St. Louis on weekends to earn a master's degree in public health from SLU. This proves to be a game changer.

"It was fascinating to pull back and see medicine from a population perspective. It became my focus."

That same year, he deploys to Iraq with a civil affairs team and rebuilds hospitals and clinics. He also coordinates with WebMD an effort to donate more than a million U.S. medical textbooks and journals to Iraqi medical colleges.



'04 Garza returns from Iraq and receives the Bronze Star Medal for Meritorious Service, the Combat Action Badge and the Valorous Unit Citation. He receives more than a dozen military awards and decorations during his more than 20 years in the military.

'09 The U.S. Senate confirms President Barack Obama's appointment of Garza as assistant secretary for health affairs and chief medical officer in the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. Garza evaluates pandemic threats and helps lead the nation's response to the H1N1 virus.



'13 Garza and his family return to the Midwest. He serves as associate dean for public health practice and associate professor in epidemiology at SLU's College for Public Health and Social Justice. He also joins the emergency medicine department at SLU School of Medicine.

'16 Garza becomes vice president for medical affairs and chief medical officer of SSM Health-St. Louis.

'18 Garza ascends to chief quality officer for the entire SSM Health system. A year later he becomes chief medical officer for SSM Health and then chief community health officer.

'20 Garza establishes emergency operations and leads the response to COVID-19 for SSM Health.



He becomes incident commander for the St. Louis Metropolitan Pandemic Task Force and volunteers for a COVID-19

vaccine trial at SLU's Center for Vaccine Development.

"It's my small way of contributing to the search for an effective vaccine."

The Consumer Technology Association appoints Garza to co-chair a committee of executives from Microsoft, CVS Health, Facebook and others to review the use of technology during health crises.

"There is always going to be a next public health emergency. If we can build the technology platform and identify challenges, we are going to be that much better prepared for the future." — by Marie Dilg

ALUMNI EVENTS

The Office of Alumni Engagement will continue to host a variety of virtual events and programs to connect graduates and create a sense of community during this time.

For more information, visit alumni.slu.edu/stayconnected.



ILLUSTRATION BY PCH.VECTOR

1996

Sondra Braun (CSB) is controller of Allsup, a nationwide provider of disability representation and return-to-work services. She lives in Columbia, Illinois.

1997

Terry Arnold (DCHS) is the director of medical affairs at DermTech Inc., a precision genomics company based in La Jolla, California.

Dr. Christopher Howard (GRAD CSB) wrote his first book, *Be Different: Finding the Resilience to Lead*. He lives in Locust, North Carolina.

1999

Dr. Sean Benson (GRAD A&S) is an endowed professor of English and the Frank W. Mayborn Chair of Arts and Sciences at the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor in Belton, Texas.

Brad Stein (LAW) is president of Intracorp Texas in Austin for Canadian real estate development firm Intracorp Homes.

Dr. Joe Squillace (GRAD SW '99, GRAD A&S '12) wrote *The Untold History of the First Illinois State Hospital for the Insane*, which traces the history of the institution from its origins in the 1840s to the 1930s. He lives in St. Louis.

Erin (Rieck) Valentine (A&S) is vice president of business development at McCarthy Building Cos. Since joining McCarthy in 2001, she was instrumental in McCarthy's national expansion into the federal government sector, helping to secure more than \$3 billion in projects over a five-year period. She lives in Fenton, Missouri.

2001

Paul Woody (A&S '01, LAW '08) was selected as a Party Leader/Elected Official (PLEO) delegate to the Democratic National Convention by the members of

the Missouri Democrat State Committee. He participated in the convention virtually. Woody is a member of the State Committee and a member of the St. Charles County Democratic Central Committee.

2002

Paula Kinney (SW) is chief executive of HavenHouse St. Louis, a hospital hospitality house that supports patients and their families traveling to receive medical care. Kinney joined HavenHouse in 2008 and has managed day-to-day operations of the 48,000-square-foot facility that serves 8,000 patients and family caregivers annually.

2003

Dr. Jason T. Eberl (GRAD A&S) wrote *The Nature of Human Persons: Metaphysics and Bioethics*, the latest volume in the Notre Dame Studies in Medical Ethics and Bioethics series. Eberl is professor of health care ethics and director of SLU's Albert Gnaegi Center for Health Care Ethics.



Eric Holthaus (A&S), a climate change advocate and

weather-related journalist, wrote *The Future Earth*, a book that explores how to reverse the effects of climate change. Holthaus has written regularly for the *Wall Street Journal*, *Slate*, *Grist* and *The Correspondent*, where he currently covers humanity's interconnected relationship with the climate. He lives in St. Paul, Minnesota.

Donald McBride (CSB '03, LAW '06) is an attorney with the St. Louis law firm Greensfelder, Hemker & Gale, practicing in the firm's securities and financial services industry group.

Philipp Skogstad (PC) is president and CEO of Mercedes-Benz Research and Development North America Inc. He lives in Palo Alto, California.

2005

Rose (Newport) Thompson (A&S '05, GRAD A&S '08) is chief operating officer at ButcherJoseph and Co., an investment banking firm. Thompson joined the firm in 2013, initially overseeing marketing efforts prior to her most recent role as director of business development. She lives in St. Louis.

2006

Sarah (Cichon) Holloway (CSB) married Darnell Holloway in August 2019 in Chicago, where the couple lives. She works in the fashion industry.

Susan (Budke) Ward Moore (GRAD VSN) is chief nursing officer for Greene County Medical Center in Kansas, building on 25 years of senior-level health care administration and nursing experience. Moore is married with four grown children and three grandchildren.

Brandon Moritz (CSB '06, GRAD CSB '07) became the market team lead for J.P. Morgan Private Bank across Missouri and Kansas in June 2020. He has spent his decade-long tenure in the St. Louis office, previously serving as an investment specialist and private banker. Prior to joining J.P. Morgan, Brandon was with the St. Louis Trust Company.

2008

Daniel Garner (LAW '08) is an attorney with the St. Louis law firm Greensfelder, Hemker & Gale, practicing in the firm's energy and franchising/distribution industry groups.

Fr. Nicholas Radloff (PC) was ordained a priest for the Archdiocese of Dubuque in May 2020. Previously he served for seven years in the U.S. Air Force. He is now pastor of several parishes in Iowa: St. John Nepomucene Parish in Fort Atkinson; Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish in Lawler; Assumption Parish in Little Turkey; Holy Trinity Parish in Protivin; St. Luke Parish in St. Lucas; and St. Mary Parish in Waucoma.

2009

Dr. Jackie Koerner (GRAD ED '09, '16) co-edited *Wikipedia @*

20: Stories of an Incomplete Revolution, which was published by MIT Press and Penguin Random House. She lives in Fenton, Missouri.

Jay D. Rumbach (CSB) is the vice president and general counsel of Barratt Asset Management, a real estate property management company. He lives in Indianapolis with his wife, Leah, and their son, Edwin.



2010

Emily Gehring (CSB) is a compliance associate for KeyBank. She received the 25 Under 35 award from her high school, Saint Joseph Academy in St. Louis, for displaying outstanding leadership and having a positive impact on her community. She mentors middle school and high school students through the Cleveland Metropolitan School District, as well as first-year law students at Cleveland-Marshall College of Law.

2011

Matthew Freeman (A&S) wrote *Ideas of Reference at Jesuit Hall*, a book of poetry.

2012

Andrew P. Stevens (A&S) is an associate attorney at the Chicago law firm of Corboy & Demetrio.

2016

Dr. Victoria Eschmann (A&S) graduated in 2020 from the University of Illinois Champaign Urbana with a doctoral degree in audiology. She hopes to work in St. Louis serving veterans.

2018

Daniel Carter (A&S) was a 2020 summer associate for the St. Louis-based law firm Lewis Rice.

Josh Concannon (CSB '18) was assigned to Colombia as a Peace Corps volunteer in 2018. Following the global evacuation of volunteers in March 2020, Concannon chose to stay involved; in May he joined the TCP Global team, helping provide affordable micro-loans for entrepreneurs displaced by violence in the country.

Dr. Ashlee Roberts (GRAD ED) is the executive director of student affairs planning and operations in the Office of the Vice President of Student Affairs at Stockton University in New Jersey.

2019

Meghan Casey Loftus (CSB), a junior account executive at Marc Jacobs, hosts a podcast called Raw and Real NYC, which is about the fashion industry.

2020

Melissa (Hollabaugh) Vien (GRAD CSB) is the board relations manager for SSM Health Cardinal Glennon Children's Foundation. She lives in St. Louis.

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
Saint Louis University
1 N. Grand Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63103



Dr. Howard Schlossman (MED '39)
 Mr. Harry Trembley (PC '40)
 Ms. Marjorie Wells (DCHS '44)
 Dr. Herbert Gebhart Jr. (A&S '45)
 Dr. Albert Resnick (MED '46)
 Dr. John Kmiecik (MED '47)
 Mrs. Virginia (Leonard) McGonigle (SW '47)
 Mrs. Peggy (Johnston) Crump (A&S '48)
 Mr. James Cullen (LAW '48)
 Dr. Roland Herbst (A&S '48)
 Mrs. Jo (Goeke) Vallo (ED '48)
 Mr. George Wilhoit Jr. (LAW '48)
 Mr. Herman Fikes (CSB '49)
 Mrs. Margaret (Hagedorn) Fissinger (A&S '49)
 Mr. Lorenzo Jarrett Jr. (IT '49)
 Mr. Bernard Overhoff (CSB '49)
 Mr. William Roewe (CSB '49)
 Mr. Lucilo Ayuso (A&S '50)
 Mrs. Mary (Meyer) Boska (VSN '50)
 Dr. Henry Bredeck (A&S '50)
 Dr. Wayne Cox II (MED '50)
 Mr. William Edwards (A&S '50)
 Mr. Irving Feldman (CSB '50)
 Mr. George Gregurec (PC '50)
 Mr. Gilfred Gursky (PC '50)
 Mr. Robert Hoehle (LAW '50)
 Mr. Charles Janku (CSB '50)
 Mr. Martin Judge (IT '50)
 Mrs. Mary (McEnery) McCarthy (CSB '50)
 Ms. Eulonda Pohl-Murino (DCHS '50)
 Mr. Henry Wrapp (CSB '50)
 Dr. Richard Holm (MED '51)
 Sr. Mary Luth, O.S.U. (ED '51)
 Mr. Owen Masterson (IT '51)
 Mr. John McGuire (CSB '51)
 Dr. Clarence Miller (A&S '51)
 Rev. Edward Sthokal, S.J. (A&S '51)
 Mr. Elmer Borgmeyer (A&S '52)
 Mr. Eugene Buckley (LAW '52)
 Mr. John Corbett (IT '52)
 Mrs. Betty (Beffa) Donahoe (DCHS '52)
 Mrs. Jean (Antal) Drahmann (VSN '52)
 Lt. Col. Thomas Hartman (CSB '52)
 Mrs. Helen (Robert) Knobbe (VSN '52)
 Mr. Donald Bachman (A&S '53)
 Mr. Richard Caswell (A&S '53)
 Mrs. Kathryn (Kilian) Conliffe (VSN '53)

Mr. David Flavan Jr. (PC '53)
 Dr. John Hodge (DENT '53)
 Ms. Mary Ann (Wilhelm) Kenney (VSN '53)
 Dr. Ralph Knowles Jr. (DENT '53)
 Dr. John McGee (MED '53)
 Mr. Thomas Russell (CSB '53)
 Mr. William Schott (CSB '53)
 Mr. Robert Abbott (IT '54)
 Mr. Stephen Dvorchak (PC '54)
 Ms. Dorothy (Brandt) Marra (ED '54)
 Dr. W. Martin (MED '54)
 Mr. Richard Medalie (CSB '54)
 Mr. Patrick J. O'Shea (A&S '54)
 Lt. Col. Nicholas Orsini (IT '54)
 Mr. Hugh Skees (A&S '54)
 Dr. Charles Ash (MED '55)
 Dr. Joseph Blanton (MED '55)
 Mrs. Margaret (Murphy) Gillespie (A&S '55)
 Mr. Franklin Henzler (A&S '55)
 Mr. Claude Martin Jr. (CSB '55)

Sr. Jeanne Marie Meurer, F.S.M. (VSN '55, GRAD VSN '62), a former nursing professor, died Sept. 11, 2020, at age 90. In 1956 Sr. Meurer helped plan Cardinal Glennon Children's Medical Center and was pediatrics supervisor until 1961. She taught at SLU from 1970 to 1982, initiating the graduate program of nurse-midwifery in 1972. She also taught at Aquinas Institute of Theology.



Dr. Robert Schafer (MED '55)
 Mr. Charles Sullivan (CSB '55)
 Ms. Carolyn Capolupo (SW '56)
 Mrs. Joan (Reisch) Liebermann (CSB '56)
 Mr. Earl Vuagniaux (LAW '56)
 Dr. Leo Wyrsh Jr. (A&S '56)
 Dr. Robert Bolinske Sr. (MED '57)
 Mrs. Diana (Robbins) Christen (A&S '57)
 Mr. John Cronin Jr. (CSB '57)
 Dr. Edward Desloge (A&S '57)
 Mr. William Fogarty (IT '57)
 Mr. Jesse Fox (PC '57)
 Dr. Charles Li (MED '57)
 Mr. Charles Monahan (A&S '57)
 Dr. George Schauf (MED '57)
 Mr. Robert Smith (LAW '57)

Mr. Cornelius Young (CSB '57)
 Dr. Maceola Cole (MED '58)
 Mr. John Cragin Jr. (PC '58)
 Mrs. Doris (Nigg) Douthat (VSN '58)
 Mr. Robert Evans (LAW '58)
 Sr. Catherine Glim, O.S.F. (ED '58)
 Mrs. Charlotte (Hiegel) Hardin (A&S '58)
 Mr. James Lang Sr. (A&S '58)
 Dr. James McCool Jr. (MED '58)
 Mr. Robert Pellin (A&S '58)
 Miss Violet Podnar (CSB '58)
 Dr. Harry Stathos (DENT '58)
 Mr. John Van Zeyl (A&S '58)
 Dr. Dennis Weyhe (DENT '58)
 Dr. Russell Zanowick (MED '58)
 Dr. Robert Bennett (DENT '59)
 Mr. Daniel Crowe (SW '59)
 Dr. Peter Hummel (DENT '59)
 Mr. Thomas Kadlec (IT '59)
 Dr. Myron Luria (MED '59)
 Dr. Richard Meyer (MED '59)
 Mrs. Alice (Leahy) Nouhan (VSN '59)
 Dr. Thomas Ridzon (MED '59)
 Dr. Paul Rusnack (MED '59)
 Dr. Edward Tank Jr. (MED '59)
 Dr. Thomas Tank (MED '59)
 Mr. Donald Bean (A&S '60)
 Mr. Lawrence Brennan (IT '60)
 Mrs. Joan Clarke-Mayes (VSN '60)
 Mr. Samuel Forder (CSB '60)
 Mr. Charles Hamilton (LAW '60)
 Mr. Raymond Kramer (CSB '60)
 Mr. William O'Brien Jr. (CSB '60)
 Mrs. Catherine (Graeff) Rentz (A&S '60)
 Sr. Mary Schrage, A.S.C. (DCHS '60)
 Cmdr. John Thomson (PC '60)
 Mr. Gerald Beyersdorfer (CSB '61)
 Mr. Richard Boyd Sr. (A&S '61)
 Mr. Jack Callicotte (CSB '61)
 Dr. Dennis Diederich (MED '61)
 Ms. Dorothy Maher (VSN '61)
 Deacon Joseph Morris (CSB '61)
 Mr. Vincent Nangle Jr. (CSB '61)



Mr. Dennis "Denny" O'Neil (A&S '61), a legendary comic book writer, died June 11, 2020, at age 81. During his four-decade career, he wrote and edited for almost every major Marvel and DC superhero, including Superman, Spider-Man and Wonder Woman. His reinvention of Batman in the 1970s made Mr. O'Neil one of the most celebrated writers in the history of the character.

Rev. Richard Poole, C.M. (A&S '61)
 Dr. Frank Seifried (MED '61)
 Dr. Thomas Berry (A&S '62)
 Dr. Alexander Cosentino (DENT '62)
 Bro. Edward Gill, S.J. (CSB '62)
 Dr. Indra Gupta (IT '62)
 Dr. Donald Henson (MED '62)
 Dr. Gerry Hooper (MED '62)
 Mr. Ralph Jenniches Jr. (IT '62)
 Mr. David Martin (PC '62)
 Mr. John Mayeski (A&S '62)
 Dr. Emanuel Rashed (MED '62)
 Dr. Aloysius Rieser (MED '62)
 Dr. Edward Roach (MED '62)
 Mr. Joseph Schmitz (CSB '62)
 Mrs. Dorothy (Darnell) Smith (VSN '62)
 Rev. Thomas Cummings, S.J. (P&L '63)
 Dr. Thomas Dalsaso Sr. (MED '63)
 Mr. Richard Deposki (A&S '63)
 Lt. Col. Ronald Dierker (CSB '63)
 Mr. Wilbur Jenkins Jr. (A&S '63)
 Mr. Paul Clement Kieffer (PC '63)
 Mr. James Kusewitt (IT '63)
 Dr. John Lindeman (MED '63)
 Mr. C. Terrance Nelson (CSB '63)
 Sr. Maria Padilla, O.S.F. (DCHS '63)
 Mr. Stephen Tapper Jr. (A&S '63)
 Dr. Charles Veith III (DENT '63)
 Sr. Carol Bialock (ED '64)
 Mr. Terrence Collier (SW '64)
 Dr. James Conaty (MED '64)
 Mr. John Dorenkamper (CSB '64)
 Dr. Daniel Fraser Sr. (MED '64)
 Mr. Thomas Meade (LAW '64)
 Dr. John Short Sr. (DENT '64)
 Mr. Joseph Taschler Jr. (CSB '64)
 Mr. David Trosky Sr. (PC '64)
 Mr. George Valentine (CSB '64)
 Ms. Katherine Wagner (SW '64)
 Bro. Charles Charlson (ED '65)
 Maj. James Devine (IT '65)
 Ms. Betty (Otto) Domer (A&S '65)
 Dr. Jeanette (Ehrhart) Ingrassi (A&S '65)
 Mr. Jordan Mavromatis (CSB '65)

Mr. James McDonald (ED '65)
 Mr. David Mutchler (A&S '65)
 Mr. Stephen Nichols (PC '65)
 Mr. Thomas Norman (A&S '65)
 Mr. Christopher Reid (LAW '65)
 Mr. Robert Schaefer Sr. (CSB '65)
 Mrs. Dale (Holloway) Steckler (DCHS '65)
 Mr. Michael Supler (DCHS '65)
 Mr. Larry Wiesenhart (A&S '65)
 Dr. Sheafe Ewing (MED '66)
 Mr. John Freund Sr. (CSB '66)
 Mr. Robert O'Connor (CSB '66)
 Mr. Ronald Pennell (ED '66)
 Mr. David Sanders (CSB '66)
 Mr. Woldemar Schlaegel Jr. (CSB '66)
 Mr. Gregory Vatterott Sr. (LAW '66)
 Dr. Sally (Salata) Brenner (VSN '67)
 Dr. John Daley (SW '67)
 Mr. Val De La Guardia (IT '67)
 Mr. Joyce DeRousse (CSB '67)
 Mrs. Margaret (Gomes) Jaski (VSN '67)
 Mr. Harry Moseley (CSB '67)
 Mr. Charles Paterson (A&S '67)
 Mr. Francis Sprinkel (PC '67)
 Mr. Raymond Trienskaskas (PC '67)
 Mr. Stanley Zarzecki (ED '67)
 Ms. Karen Allen (SW '68)
 Dr. Mary (Hogan) Collins (MED '68)
 Mr. Thomas Landy (CSB '68)
 Dr. Grace Lusk (MED '68)
 Dr. Richard Moyan (MED '68)
 Sr. Louanna Orth, S.N.D. (ED '68)
 Mr. David Powell (A&S '68)
 Mr. Stanley Rigdon (CSB '68)
 Dr. Robert Schultz Sr. (MED '68)
 Dr. William Andrews (A&S '69)
 Mr. Ronald Lindsay (CSB '69)
 Mr. Charles Maguire Jr. (CSB '69)
 Dr. Thomas Maher (A&S '69)
 Mr. John O'Reilly (CSB '69)

Mrs. Sister Theresa Taft (ED '69)
 Dr. Ralph Thatcher (MED '69)
 Dr. Wesley Van Fossen (MED '69)
 Dr. Zdzislaw Wesolowski (CSB '69)
 Dr. Charles Wetli (MED '69)
 Ms. Margaret Berkner (VSN '70)
 Sr. Dorothy Bertsch, S.M.P. (ED '70)
 Ms. Patricia Casserly (CSB '70)
 Dr. Patrick Dreiling Sr. (DE '70)
 Sr. Marianne Mullen, O.S.U. (ED '70)
 Mr. Carl Riepl (IT '70)
 Dr. Dudley Shearburn (ED '70)
 Col. James Elmer (ED '71)
 Mr. Jerome Klipsch (A&S '71)
 Ms. Joy Lending (ED '71)
 Mr. Robert Roy (A&S '71)
 Mrs. Gracie (Garriett) Thompson (VSN '71)
 Mr. John Hegeman (A&S '72)
 Dr. Kathleen Kinderfather (ED '72)
 Sr. Dorothy McDaniel, I.H.M. (ED '72)
 Mr. Vincent Motto (LAW '72)
 Dr. Ramon Mount (CSB '72)
 Mrs. Anne (Hart) Roberts (A&S '72)
 Mrs. Abby Braxton McCarthy (VSN '73)
 Mr. William Meyer (ED '73)
 Dr. James Noone Jr. (MED '73)
 Miss Frances Scaduto (DCHS '73)
 Dr. Daniel Barnett (MED '74)
 Mr. Donald Brehm (PC '74)
 Mr. Jack Carey (LAW '74)
 Dr. James Garrison (ED '74)
 Mr. David Tschanz (A&S '74)
 Ms. Jeanette Ganousis (LAW '75)
 Dr. Joan (Sinyard) Graham (SW '75)
 Mr. Mark Haywood (LAW '75)
 Mr. Michael Mooney (CSB '75)
 Hon. John Essner (LAW '76)
 Mr. Stephen Higgins (LAW '76)
 Dr. Joseph Jones (MED '76)
 Dr. Paul Mastropolo (MED '76)

Rev. Edward Rivett (SW '76)
 Mr. Gary Schultz (PC '76)



Dr. Irene (Duhart) Long (MED '77), an accomplished NASA physician who became Kennedy Space Center's first female chief medical officer, died Aug. 4, 2020, at age 69. She started at NASA in 1982 and went on to have a three-decade tenure that included several medical roles, biomedical research and emergency planning for space shuttle launches and landings.

Sr. Janet Dohr, C.P.P.S. (A&S '78)
 Mr. Stephen Eckelkamp (CSB '78)
 Mrs. Catherine (Schaefer) Flynn (ED '78)
 Dr. John Freeman (ED '78)
 Dr. Paul Lloyd (A&S '78)
 Dr. Andrew Norton (A&S '78)
 Ms. Catherine (Jaekels) Bianco (DCHS '79)

Mr. Thomas DeGroot (CSB '79)
 Dr. Robert Eskridge (ED '79)
 Mrs. Margaret (Lynch) Hanel (VSN '79)
 Mrs. Susan (Lindo) Ryan-Haupt (LAW '79)
 Mr. Robert Schmitt (CSB '79)
 Ms. Mary (Phegley) Yuan (SW '79)
 Dr. Patricia Demuth (ED '80)
 Mr. Terry Rebert (SW '80)
 Mr. Stephen Bramlett (CSB '81)
 Mr. Michael Burroughs (PH '81)
 Dr. Julius Dix (ED '81)
 Ms. Ellen Eccher (CSB '81)
 Sr. Mary Lee Englerth, M.M. (DCHS '81)
 Ms. Elizabeth (Fox) Wrigley (VSN '81)
 Mrs. Mary (Blount) Murtha (VSN '82)
 Miss Lela Sternberg (PS '83)
 Mrs. Dorothy (Bischof) DeGreeff (VSN '84)

Dr. Thomas Landholt Jr. (A&S '84)
 Ms. Ursula Rudolf (A&S '84)
 Mr. David Franklin (VSN '85)
 Mr. Robert Lacy (CSB '85)
 Dr. Ellen Friedla (A&S '86)
 Rev. John Manahan, S.M. (ED '86)
 Mr. Charles Brown IV (LAW '87)
 Mr. Monde Mnyande (CSB '87)
 Mr. Scott Berman (CSB '88)
 Mr. Kimble H. Scott (LAW '88)
 Mr. Patrick Andre (LAW '89)

Mr. Stuart Sproull (CSB '89)
 Ms. Barbara Barrett (LAW '90)
 Mr. Keith Glassman (PC '90)
 Mrs. Christine (Kleissle) Smith (A&S '90)
 Rev. Steven Peay (A&S '91)
 Mr. Michael Fitzpatrick (A&S '95)
 Dr. Randy Gehl (MED '96)
 Dr. James Tarter (MED '98)
 Dr. Brendan McGuire (A&S '06)
 Ms. Chelsea Thurman (CSB '15)
 Mr. Stephen Tanner (CSB '19)
 Ms. Mariaraphaella Nguyen-Truong (VSN '20)



Dr. Yelena Belyaeva-Standen, an associate professor of

Russian in the Department of Languages, Literatures and Cultures, died March 4, 2020. She was 76. Dr. Belyaeva-Standen joined the Saint Louis University faculty in 2000. She was also the faculty mentor to the Russian Club.



Dr. Linda J. Bufkin, an associate professor emerita in the School of Education, died Aug. 20, 2020. She was 71. She joined Saint Louis University in 1990 and retired in 2014. She was granted emerita status in 2015.



Dr. D. Gene Davenport, professor emeritus in SLU's Department of Psychology, died June 29, 2020. He was 88. Dr. Davenport joined the psychology department in 1960. During his tenure, he directed the doctoral program in experimental psychology for many years and served as department chair from 1979 to 1988. He retired in 2002.



Mr. Charles Drury Sr., a founder of Drury Hotels and trustee emeritus at Saint Louis University, died Sept. 7, 2020, at age 92. Mr. Drury and his wife, Shirley, received honorary degrees in 2008 in recognition of their many contributions to SLU, including creating the Charles and Shirley Drury Scholarship, and for their exemplary service to Catholic education throughout Missouri.

Dr. Ronald Rebore (GRAD ED '69, '74), a longtime faculty member in SLU's Department of Educational Leadership and Higher Education, died July 4, 2020, at age 77. He spent his career as a high school teacher, guidance counselor and superintendent, as well as a professor and associate dean for academic affairs at SLU's Graduate School.



Dr. Berton R. "Roy" Moed (MED '76), professor emeritus and former longtime chair of SLU's Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, died Oct. 22, 2020. He was 70. Dr. Moed came to the University in 2003. Ten years later, he was named the Hansjörg Wyss Endowed Chair in Orthopaedic Surgery in the School of Medicine.



Dr. Philip Gavitt, former chair of the Department of History and founding director of SLU's Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies (CMRS), died May 28, 2020, at age 70. Dr. Gavitt came to SLU in 1992 as the founding director of the CMRS, playing a key role in securing a challenge grant for the center.



Dr. George C. Kaiser, professor emeritus, founder and former chair of SLU's Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery, died July 1, 2020, at age 91. In 1972, Dr. Kaiser was part of the team that successfully transplanted the first heart in the Midwest. He came to SLU School of Medicine in 1963, and during his tenure, he also served as chief of surgery at the Veterans Administration Hospital, director of the Perfusion Technology School, and chief of cardiac surgery at St. Mary's Health Center.



Fr. Tom Kelly, S.J., died July 22, 2020. He was 81, a Jesuit for almost 56 years and a priest for 41. He pronounced final vows in 1994 at SLU Hospital's Chapel of Christ the Crucified King — the renovation of which he coordinated when he directed the hospital's pastoral care department. Fr. Kelly served SLU for 27 years: at the hospital in the 1980s and later in human resources and undergraduate admission.



Dr. David Lagunoff, former chair of pathology at SLU School of Medicine, died Aug. 3, 2020. He was 88. Dr. Lagunoff was a pathologist and cell biologist who studied mast cells and the allergic response. He came to SLU in 1979 to chair the Department of Pathology, a position he held for more than 20 years.



Mr. Robert E. McLean, professor emeritus of aircraft maintenance engineering, died March 22, 2020, at age 85. He came to SLU following his retirement from the U.S. Air Force after 26 years. During his 22 years at Parks College, Mr. McLean was also an FAA-designated written test examiner and coordinator of FAA airframe and powerplant testing. He retired from SLU in 2001.



Dr. Dorothy "Dot" Miles, professor emerita in the School of Education, died July 1, 2020. She was 83. Dr. Miles came to SLU in 1994. She taught courses in special education, foundations and graduate-level statistics, and she directed the graduate program in educational studies for several years. She also facilitated and taught in the Cyprus program. She retired in 2006.

Dr. James "Jim" Shoemaker, emeritus associate professor of biochemistry and molecular biology, died July 20, 2020, at age 66. He came to SLU in 1988 as a postdoctoral trainee in the School of Medicine. In 1989, he founded the Metabolic Screening Laboratory, an independent clinical lab owned by SLU that became known for diagnosing rare genetic diseases in infants. Dr. Shoemaker gained acclaim by helping exonerate Patricia Stallings, a St. Louisan wrongfully convicted in 1991 for poisoning her infant son, by proving that the child died from a rare genetic disorder.



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.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

LEGACY, LIFE LESSONS

I was saddened to read of Dr. Vince Punzo's passing (summer 2020). As a pre-med student at SLU, I needed a philosophy class to fulfill my core curriculum. Dr. Punzo's class looked interesting. As a coincidence, his two sons, Joe and Vince, lived in my dorm and were my friends. The stars seemed aligned, so I signed up for his class. My pre-med peers told me this was a great mistake: Dr. Punzo's class was difficult, and it would kill my GPA. At that moment, I made a momentous decision. I came to SLU to get an education, not merely to get into medical school. I signed up for his class. It was the best thing I ever did.

I loved his lectures. He was helping me to think better and write better. The material was challenging, and I struggled to keep up. I held my own but needed to ace the final to save a good grade. The night before the final exam was eventful. I had a performance to give — a major role in the SLU dinner theater production of *Don't Drink the Water*. (I was also a theater arts major.) As fate would have it, Dr. Punzo was there ... in the front row. I think I can still hear him laughing at one of my lines. Needless to say, I didn't have much time to study for the final that night. The next morning, I took the final and handed in my paper.

"I enjoyed the show last night," Dr. Punzo said as he received my work.

"I hope you enjoy my exam even more," I said, hoping to lobby for a good grade. I got a C+.

No matter. His class really helped me. I did not simply advance in my intellectual thinking. Dr. Punzo taught me that life, everyone's life, is worth examining. What we do day in and day out does have significance. I have carried that with me for almost 40 years.

Thank you, Dr. Punzo. You will be missed.

Dr. Mark Schroer (A&S '83)
Newport, Kentucky



THE 40-YEAR- OLD WALKWAY

This year marks the 40th anniversary of the West Pine Mall. The project, which turned a former city street into a pedestrian mall, began in June 1981 and was finished that fall. The first step in construction was removing 700 feet of pavement that was once part of West Pine Boulevard, running east to west from Grand Boulevard to Spring Avenue.

STREET NOT THROUGH

The block-long stretch of West Pine Boulevard from Grand Boulevard to Spring Avenue was closed to through traffic and ceded to Saint Louis University in December 1970. But throughout the following decade it continued to look and function like a street, albeit a private one. When the mall opened it was made clear that only emergency vehicles would now be allowed.

MAKING CONNECTIONS

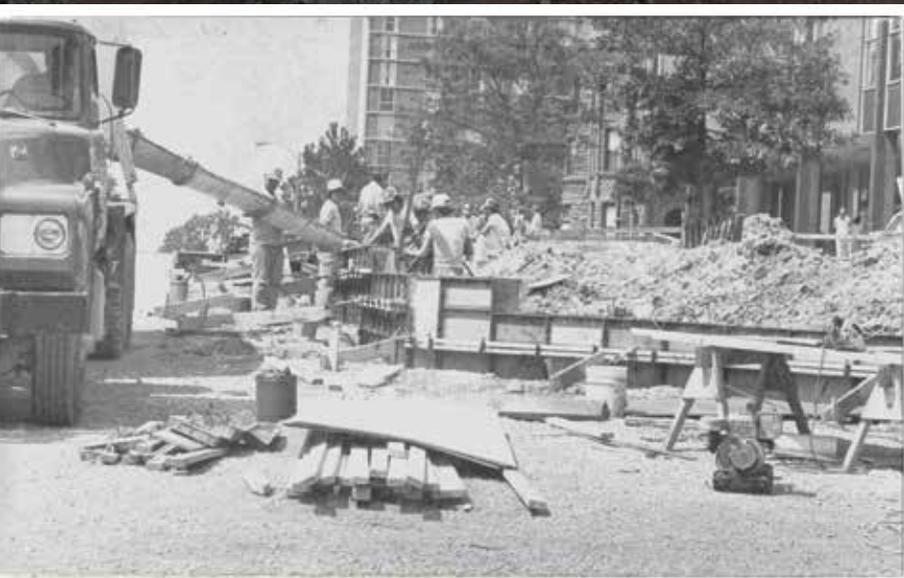
A motivator for the new mall was the construction of the Simon Recreation Center, which also was completed in 1981. The landscape architects who worked on the project sought to connect the mall with 150-by-250-foot promenade leading to the main entrance to the rec center. All the new pavement on campus totaled more than 100,000 square feet.

MALL WALKERS

Though some construction was still in progress at the start of classes in August 1981 (as seen in the photo of students above), it was some months before the grass, shrubs, bushes and trees were in bloom in the new areas for dedicated plantings dotted throughout the walkway. When the project was announced, these new flower beds and small lawns were described as “green islands.”

FUTURE FORETOLD

A summer 1981 *Universitas* story predicted: “The end result will be a more attractive campus, to be sure, but also a more unified campus. Given the broad array for architectural styles here, especially west of Grand, it hasn’t always been easy to see where the campus begins and ends. By tying the buildings together as it does, the landscaping program will define the campus as never before.”





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