Members of the Saint Louis University community continue to live the institution’s mission as 16,156 students, faculty and staff contributed 758,093 hours of community service and outreach during 2004, according to a recently released University report.

The reported number of service and outreach participants increased by more than 20 percent during the past year, from 13,341 in 2003 to 16,156 in 2004.

“When we volunteer our time and talent, our SLU community is strengthened in the fulfillment of our Jesuit mission to become women and men for others,” said University President Lawrence Biondi, S.J. “I am proud that our students, faculty and staff continue, year in and year out, to demonstrate their dedication to making our world a better place.”

According to the report, more than 1,100 organizations and events benefited from SLU faculty and staff volunteerism. Faculty and staff spent 41,533 hours performing community service in 2004.

The number of students participating in community service was up almost 10 percent, from 8,397 in 2003 to 9,170 in 2004. One great opportunity for students to reach out to the community is through academic courses or programs with service components. In 2004, 1,642 students performed more than 21,000 outreach hours through 60 courses offering service experiences.

Saint Louis University also organizes numerous events with service components throughout the year, including the annual SLU Make a Difference Day in October. During this event in 2004, more than 1,500 volunteers visited more than 70 area locations to perform community service.

New freshmen take part in SLU’s Gateway to Service program by working on community service projects during their first week on campus. Also, students, faculty and staff extend their service around the world through spring break mission trips.

Several University events and initiatives serve the poor and marginalized, including Open Doors, which provides meals and services to the homeless; Pack ‘em Back to School, which provides school supplies for elementary school students; and SLU Campus Kitchen, which delivers meals to individuals and families in need.

The report, “Beyond the Classroom: Men and Women Making a Difference,” is available on the University’s Web site: slu.edu.

Several University events and initiatives serve the poor and marginalized, including the Campus Kitchen at SLU, where volunteers prepare and deliver meals to people in need.

Coro Leadership Center Honors Father Biondi

The Coro Leadership Center—St. Louis has selected Saint Louis University President Lawrence Biondi, S.J., to receive the organization’s top leadership honor, the Mayor John H. Poelker Award.

The award was created to honor community leaders who share the center’s commitment to excellence in public affairs and who demonstrate the passion Poelker had for the neighborhood and economic development in the city of St. Louis. Poelker was the city’s 44th mayor, from 1973-1977. The award will be presented during the 17th annual Coro Leadership Awards Celebration (formerly known as the Thomas F. Latzer Dinner), Thursday, May 19.

“Father Biondi’s visionary leadership of SLU and his commitment to neighborhood development and revitalization have dramatically impacted our region for the better,” said Coro Executive Director Andy Thorp. “Coro is honored to welcome him to the prestigious circle of past Poelker winners.”

The St. Louis-based Coro Leadership Center is designed to train leaders to strengthen communities, including the religious community. Through “Giving Voice: Civic Strategies for Religious Leaders,” a collaborative project of the Incarnate Word Foundation, Lutheran Foundation of St. Louis, Deaconess Foundation and Coro, religious leaders learn how to strengthen their voice and become more visible in the civic arena.

Coro is a non-profit, non-partisan organization that is one of five national centers dedicated to the mission of training leaders to strengthen communities. More than 3,000 men, women and young people have participated in Coro’s programs.

For more information about the Coro Leadership Center or the awards dinner, go to the program’s Web site: www.coro.org/coro_centers/stl/stl.html.
Three members of the Saint Louis University community recently received an award from the president of the United States for their selfless efforts.

Senior Anthony Lancia, fifth-year student Tim Lange and 2004 SLU graduate Sangita Gosolia, all participants in the Service Leadership Certificate Program at SLU’s John Cook School of Business, were recognized by President George W. Bush with the President’s Volunteer Service Award. The award is a presidential recognition program for Americans who contribute a significant amount of time to volunteer service.

The students received a note of congratulations from Bush, a certificate of achievement, an official President’s Volunteer Service Award pin and a letter from the President’s Council on Service and Civic Participation.

“These students are leaders who have demonstrated a commitment to service far beyond their peers,” said Debra Faughn, Ph.D., director of the Service Leadership Certificate Program.

To earn the award, participants must record a high level of service hours in a 12-month period. Throughout their careers at SLU, Lancia earned more than 953 hours, Lange earned more than 650 hours and Gosolia earned more than 400 hours. For the award recipients, however, serving their communities is nothing new.

“I joined the Service Leadership Program because it’s a continuance of what I did in high school,” Lange said. “The program challenges you to look at how you’ll keep up with service work after graduation.”

“After graduation, it’s important to be the person you are, not just part of the job,” said Lancia, who attended DeSmet Jesuit High School with Lange. “Part of why I joined the Service Leadership Program was to see which service projects appealed to me and which my heart was in.”

For more information about the Service Leadership Certificate Program, visit the program’s Web site: www.slu.edu/colleges/business/slp/.

Saint Louis University is one of the area’s “Great Places to Work,” according to St. Louis Magazine. The University is among 23 employers on the 2005 “Great Places to Work” list put together by the magazine and based on surveys sent to 60 area employers. The surveys asked employers for information about such areas as compensation, benefits and perks offered; the average tenure for employees; and opportunities for advancement.

The list also looks past the tangible benefits offered to employees. According to the magazine, “The ones that stood out have a certain ‘it’ factor that can be hard to define. Whether through amazing physical environments, leadership that is both hands-on and accessible, an understanding of the work-play balance, perks that go beyond the standard holidays off and a birthday cake in the lunch room, or all of the above, these employers foster an atmosphere of respect and admiration.”

Kathy Hagedorn, SLU vice president for human resources, said this recognition is a testament to the University’s mission and the dedication of those who teach, heal patients and serve in numerous roles supporting that mission.

“The University is a wonderful place not only to learn and develop as a student, but also to work and grow as a professional,” said Hagedorn. “All of us who work at SLU know this is a great place to be every day, but it’s also nice for the public to realize that, as well. This designation will help the University continue to attract and retain some of the top faculty and staff in the nation.”

SLU was recognized for the outstanding benefits it offers to employees. The writers highlighted the University’s 13 holidays and up to 22 days of vacation each year.

Saint Louis University’s contribution to employees’ 403(b) retirement plans also sets the University apart from other area employers. Starting in the 2006 fiscal year, the University will contribute 10 percent for those faculty and staff who contribute at least 5 percent to the plan. Employees become fully vested in this program after just one year of service.

The magazine noted SLU’s tuition remission program and flexible work schedules as well as adoption assistance and housing programs that feature $5,000 forgivable loans. The University also stood out to the editors because of employees’ sense of contributing to a worthy mission.

“We are all working toward a higher mission that focuses on excellence and learning,” Hagedorn told St. Louis Magazine. “We are energized when we come to work because we educate and serve some of the nation’s best and brightest students.”

Saint Louis University is one of the area’s leading employers with 7,111 employees, including 3,591 full-time workers. The average length of service for a SLU employee is more than nine years.

Service (continued)

and Women for Others, a Celebration of SLU Service and Outreach 2004,” was compiled and published by the University’s office of planning and decision resources (OPDR), with assistance from the Center for Leadership and Community Service (CLCS).

For more information about community service opportunities at SLU, call CLCS at (314) 977-1570. For a copy of the report, call OPDR at (314) 977-3479.
Possibly more than any other time of the year, spring is an active outreach season for the Saint Louis University community. This spring, SLU students, faculty and staff have been busy with several annual projects that benefit the St. Louis community.

Give Kids a Smile
Saint Louis University Center for Advanced Dental Education (CADE) hosted Give Kids a Smile, a two-day clinic that provides free dental care for middle-school-aged children. This year, more than 400 dentists, specialists, hygienists, dental assistants and students provided more than $177,000 worth of free dental services to nearly 600 children.

Homeless Awareness Week
During one week in April, SLU hosted events, such as a film festival and an open mic night, to raise awareness and break down the misconceptions that surround homeless people. Leading up to the week, the Center for Leadership and Community Service held a clothing drive that directly benefited the St. Louis homeless population. Representatives from social service agencies offered information and free legal advice to hundreds of those in need at the Open Doors event.

Relay for Life at Saint Louis University
For 12 hours overnight April 2-3, members of the SLU community walked the track at the Robert R. Hermann Stadium for the second annual Relay for Life at Saint Louis University. This year, 1,300 participants raised more than $137,000, surpassing last year’s total of 800 participants and $85,000 in donations. Relay for Life is a national event that benefits the American Cancer Society.

Showers of Service
On April 16, more than 500 students, faculty, staff and alumni volunteered at various sites around St. Louis for this fourth annual daylong community service event. Showers of Service is sponsored by SLU’s chapter of Alpha Phi Omega (APO), a co-ed service fraternity.

Pack ’em Back to School
For 10 years, Saint Louis University has been helping children start the new school year with a positive attitude — and new clothing, shoes and school supplies. Since 1995, SLU faculty and staff have donated 1,870 backpacks to children from low-income communities. This year, the Pack ’em Back to School project will accept donations through the end of July. For information on how to get involved, call Mary Schmelter at (314) 977-2334.

Imagine this twist on your first year of college: Instead of meeting roommates, classmates and friends, you’re introduced to one group that will become all three at the same time. The Micah House Program, which fosters leadership, community and a passion for social justice in Saint Louis University students, is based on this premise. It’s a perfect fit for sophomore Andrea Ebers.

“It’s like having another family,” Ebers said. “We learn about each other on a deeper level than if we only lived together or only went to class together or only did service projects together.”

“Micahs,” as they are sometimes called, do outreach in the St. Louis area and take special versions of core-curriculum courses centered on issues of social justice. They are encouraged to live communally in one of SLU’s residence halls.

“Andrea represents all the things that make Micah House students special to work with,” said Donald Stump, Ph.D., director of the Micah House Program. “She has a deep commitment to helping people in need, an interest in getting at the roots of urban problems, a strong faith and a loving heart.”

To fulfill the program’s service component, Ebers volunteers weekly at “4000 Botanical,” a block in the Shaw neighborhood just south of the SLU campus.

“Wherever there’s a need on the block, we’re there to help,” she said.

She mentors and socializes with neighborhood children after school while their parents are at work. She also helps an older woman with her household tasks. Ebers said she has learned from her that elderly people can make a big contribution to neighborhoods.

Although Micah House is a big part of her life, Ebers’ commitment to service didn’t start there.

In high school, she was inspired by Sister Marcia Kruse, A.S.C., her Spanish teacher who had been a missionary in Bolivia for more than 10 years. Ebers credits Kruse with “introducing me to the reality of Latin American culture, which is much more than language and food.” After learning about the effects of big business on the economics of Latin America, Ebers became interested in the social justice movement.

“For me, social justice work is putting faith into action. To be dedicated to my faith means not only attending Mass every Sunday — it means actively making a difference in the lives of others,” Ebers said.

In addition to being a Micah, Ebers writes for the student newspaper and is a member of a Bible study group. She participates in the Catholic Campaign for Human Development and Retreat Evangelization and Prayer (REAP), which hosts retreats across the bi-state area.

Ebers is also a recipient of the St. Katharine Drexel Minority Teaching Scholarship through the Diocese of Belleville, Ill. The scholarship covers all expenses for four years, in exchange for four years of teaching in the diocese after she graduates. A double-major in secondary education and Spanish, Ebers plans to return to her alma mater, Gibault Catholic High in Waterloo, Ill., to teach and inspire others to pursue social justice work.

Ebers is just one of more than 100 students in the Micah House Program and one of more than 1,000 Saint Louis University students who volunteer in the St. Louis community every year.
Get cultured at one of the Saint Louis University campus art museums or put on your walking shoes for a good cause at one of St. Louis’ many charity races during the next couple months.

Saint Louis University Museum of Art
3663 Lindell Blvd.
11 a.m.–4 p.m., Tuesday–Sunday
(314) 977-3399
sluma@slu.edu

• Scapes
  Collection of landscape paintings by Brandon Anschultz
  Through Sunday, June 5

• Art Struck: The William D. Merwin Collection
  A private collection of contemporary art
  Through Sunday, July 17

Saint Louis University Museum of Contemporary Religious Art
3700 West Pine Mall
11 a.m.–4 p.m., Tuesday–Sunday
(314) 977-7170
mocra@slu.edu

• Junko Chodos: Breath of Consciousness
  Japanese-American artist’s first Midwest exhibition
  Through Sunday, July 31

Museum of Contemporary Religious Art
3700 West Pine Mall
11 a.m.–4 p.m., Tuesday–Sunday
(314) 977-7170
mocra@slu.edu

• Robert Motherwell, Dance 111 (Red) Slate 11, 1979
• Jasper Johns, The Critic Sees, 1967
• Claes Oldenburg, Profile Airflow, Test Mold – Front End, 1972

Arthritis Walk-St. Louis
5–9 p.m., Friday, May 20
www.arthritis.org

American Liver Walk and Run
6:30–11 a.m., Saturday, June 9
www.liverfoundation.org

Komen Race for the Cure
6:30–10 a.m., Saturday, June 18
www.komenstlouis.org

Send comments or suggestions regarding this newsletter or SLU’s community relationships to Kathryn Hundman at (314) 977-7413 or e-mail: hundmank@slu.edu

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