On Exhibit

A LOOK INSIDE SLU'S ART MUSEUMS
PAGE 8
{ president's message }

I am often asked, "What's new at SLU?" It is a simple question, but there is not a simple answer. That's why I am pleased to share a brief state of our great University and bring you up to speed on many exciting things taking place at your alma mater.

Our financial foundation is strong. As of April 30, our endowment reached a market value of $848.6 million, a $219.5 million gain since the same period just two years ago. In fact, it is the 18th largest in the United States and the third largest among the nation’s 28 Jesuit colleges and universities, according to a 2010 endowment study. Furthermore, our financial strength has been recognized by Moody’s and Standard & Poor’s, affirming our A1 and AA- bond ratings, respectively.

Our national reputation continues to rise. U.S. News & World Report’s “America’s Best Colleges” ranked SLU 86 out of more than 360 national universities and gave high marks to our undergraduate programs in international business (No. 12) and entrepreneurship (No. 14). Also, high school counselors ranked us among the top 75 universities in the nation. And several of our graduate and professional programs were listed in U.S. News’ latest “Best Graduate Schools” rankings: health law (No. 1), health administration (No. 9), entrepreneurship (No. 13), supply chain management (No. 16), geriatrics (No. 16) and international business (No. 20). We also made Forbes’ “Best American Colleges” and Princeton Review’s “Best 371 Colleges.”

We experienced record enrollment, yet again. Last fall, we welcomed 13,785 students, setting records at every level — undergraduate (8,406), graduate (2,437) and professional (2,942). Ninety percent of our students received more than $500 million in scholarships and financial aid. This spring, we announced the $1 million SLU Jesuit Community Scholarship program for local Catholic high school students and another $1 million in assistance for international students. And the University was listed in Barron’s “Best Buys in College Education” and The Fiske Guide to Colleges “Best Buy Schools.”

We invested in academics. During the past fiscal year, we allocated more than $1.5 million in new spending, most of which went to academic programs and student support services. We launched 13 new degree and certificate programs, including three master’s degrees that are live in Missouri, and we added new faculty positions.

We nurtured discovery. As of May 31, SLU has received $44.8 million from funding sources including the National Science Foundation, the National Institutes of Health and the Centers for Disease Control. We also sponsored another 21 promising research projects through our own five-year, $5 million President’s Research Fund initiative.

We took chances. When Phizer announced its plan to lay off more than half of its workforce last year, we stepped in and forged an exciting partnership that led to our new Center for World Health and Medicine. This more saved critical intellectual capital for St. Louis, but more than that, it has the potential to make a substantial global impact as we work toward eradicating diseases that threaten the developing world. To date, the center has received $400,000 for research, and it is initiating an international partnership with investigators in China to conduct studies.

We reached out. During Make a Difference Day on Oct. 28, some 2,700 Billikens volunteered, and at Homeless Awareness Week, March 28-April 1, we offered assistance to approximately 400 people. Also, more than 150 students, faculty and staff took Spring BreakOut Mission trips around the United States and abroad, and from August to April, our student-sponsored Campus Kitchen clocked 3,656 hours preparing 32,445 pounds of food to deliver 19,927 meals to feed St. Louis’ hungry.

We focused on growth. At our Medical Center, the Recreation Stadium and state-of-the-art Health Sciences Education Union are nearing completion. Work also continues on our new Center for Global Citizenship project, which renovates and connects DePaul Hall and the West Pine Gym. And we are studying possible renovations of Pius XII Memorial Library. Near our Medical Center, we purchased property for a potential new Ambulatory Care Center, and in Spain, we agreed to purchase a building for our thriving Madrid campus.

And that’s all that I have to include? There is so much else happening here at SLU. In fact, in this issue of Universitas you’ll get an inside look at the 51-room upscale Hotel Ignatius, read about the innovative living and learning opportunities we offer our new students, and even see a photo of the Grand Bridge project. You were warned — sharing what’s new at SLU isn’t as easy as it seems.

Lawrence Biondi, S.J.
President

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HOST FAMILY PROGRAM SEeks ALUMNI

Early Saint Louis University enrolls nearly 1,000 international students from 80 different countries. SLU’s office of international services strives to make sure those international students feel like members of the SLU family.

Now alumni are invited to make these international students members of their families, too, by joining the Host Family Program.

Host families meet once per month with their international student and participate in one or two SLU events each semester. Along the way, families not only will help a student learn about American life but also will gain an understanding of other cultures, traditions and customs.

To learn more about the program, visit hostfamilies.slu.edu. Or contact Dr. Lola Dong (Grad ‘08), director, at (314) 977-4082 or ldong1@slu.edu.

CADE ENDOWED PROFESSORSHIP ESTABLISHED

During an investiture ceremony on May 12, Dr. Rolf Gordon Behrents was named the En\ndowed Eydie L. Johnston, Jr. Professor in Orthodontics. Behrents came to SLU in 2003 as the executive director of the Center for Advanced Dental Education, as well as a professor and the director of orthodontics. His research has appeared in more than 90 publications and served as the topic of more than 300 presentations and lectures worldwide.

Johnston was a professor and chairman of SLU’s department of orthodontics for 15 years until he left in 1991 to return to his alma mater, the University of Michigan. Following his retirement, Behrents asked Johnston to return to SLU to teach part time.

“Over time, bricks crumble, books rot, but this professorship will last forever,” Johnston said. “It is quite gratifying that a good portion of my students valued my teaching enough to want to give back to the University to create this professorship.”

Saint Louis University has once again been named to the President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll. This is the fourth consecutive year SLU has received the highest federal recognition a school can achieve for its commitment to service-learning and community engagement. The award honors exemplary service efforts and service to disadvantaged youth.

The John Cook School of Business has once again been recognized by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business for meeting the organization’s accreditation standards. The school has received continuous accreditation from the AACSB since 1948. AACSB accreditation has been earned by fewer than five percent of all the business programs around the world.

SLU’s Medical Center Library has received an American Heritage Program grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services. The grant will be used to improve the storage and retrieval of the library’s archives, which include more than 2,500 photographs and hundreds of rare books, scrapbooks and documents related to SLU.

More than 1,800 participants raised nearly $165,000 this year during the eighth annual SLU Relay for Life, held at Robert H. Hermann Stadium in April and benefiting the American Cancer Society. During the eight years of the event, the SLU community has raised more than $1.2 million. This is the fourth consecutive year SLU has received the highest rating in video, photos, words and song. The DVD touches on the history of the parish, which started in downtown St. Louis and moved with Saint Louis University to its present site at Grand and Lindell boulevards in 1864. The DVD also spotlights the church’s stained glass windows, choirs, parish ministries and Jesuit heritage. DVDs are available for $18 each, plus $2.25 shipping and handling. To order a copy or for more information, call Mary Beth Erickson at (314) 977-7564 or email church@slu.edu.

Marvin and Harlene Wool Center dedicated

Saint Louis University dedicated the Marvin and Harlene Wool Center on May 13 in honor the Wools’ many years of dedication and generosity to SLU. The building, located at 3545 Lindell Ave. and formerly a state office building, is home to the University’s human resources, information technology, and business and finance divisions.

“The training I received at Saint Louis University gave my business success and personal life guidance,” said Marvin Wool (A&S ‘48, Grad Cook ‘56), founder, president and CEO of DASH Multi-Corp., and a SLU trustee. “When we decided to donate to SLU, we never expected anything like this. We give to SLU because we feel it’s important.”

SLU-Madrid Graduates a Record Number

Saint Louis University-Madrid celebrated commencement on May 13. A record 72 graduates participated, representing 21 countries and 20 U.S. states. Undergraduate degrees were granted from the College of Arts and Sciences, the School of Nursing and the John Cook School of Business. Eight students graduated with master’s degrees in either English or Spanish. Rafael Alomos, head of the Spanish office of the international legal firm, Squire Sanders & Harmon, was the principal commencement speaker.

SLU Theatre season announced

Saint Louis University Theatre has unveiled its 2011-2012 season. It begins with Mary Zimmerman’s adaptation of four traditional fairy tales The Secret in the Wings, Sept. 30, Oct. 1, 2, 3 and 4. The season’s second show is the classic British comedy Blithe Spirit by Noel Coward, Nov. 11, 12, 18, 19 and 20. The season’s musical offering is the off-Broadway hit Bat Boy: The Musical, featuring music and lyrics by Laurence O’Keefe. It plays Feb. 24, 25, March 2, 3 and 4. The season concludes with a drama exploring the social hardship of women in the 17th century, Vinegar Tom by Caryl Churchill, April 27, 28, May 4, 5, 6 and 7. All shows begin at 8 p.m., except Sunday performances, which begin at 2 p.m. For more details about the season or to purchase season tickets, call (314) 977-5327.
Kem Miller is the new Billiken head volleyball coach. Miller comes to Saint Louis University after two seasons as assistant coach at the University of Illinois, during which he helped the team reach consecutive Sweet 16 and post a 20-15 record. He also helped Illinois sign two recruiting classes ranked in the top 25.

Miller has 27 years of coaching experiences, including 12 as head coach at the University of Toledo, and 10 years with the U.S. Women's National Team, where he was an assistant from 1987-96. He was with the 1992 Barcelona Olympic team that won the bronze medal and the 1995 World Grand Prix squad that won the gold medal.

“Kem Miller is a great hire for SLU,” said Kathy DeBoer, American Volleyball Coaches Association executive director. “It’s an experienced coach with a committed institution.”

Academic All-America honors with
Casey Miller was a second-team all-conference selection to the third team by the College Sports Information Directors of America. Junior

During either the spring 2010 or the fall 2010 semester, $4 SLU studio credits received straight A— or a 4.0 grade point average.

**BILLIKEN BEAT**

Kwasa and women’s tennis player Hailee Elmore were selected as SLU’s 2011 Outstanding Senior Student-Athletes of the Year. Selections are based on academics, athletics and community service. Kwasa is the school-record holder in five throws; the indoor shot put and weight throw, and the outdoor shot put, discus and hammer throw. Elmore is SLU’s career leader in singles and doubles wins, and she became the first SLU women’s tennis player to be named Atlantic 10 Conference first team for a second consecutive year.

Hailee Elmore was named Atlantic 10 Conference women’s tennis Most Outstanding Performer for a second consecutive year and added A-10 women’s tennis Student-Athlete of the Year plaudits. In addition, she becomes the first SLU women’s tennis player to earn Capital One Academic All-America honors with her selection to the third team by the College Sports Information Directors of America. Junior Jenny Nicoletti joined Elmore on the all-conference first team, while senior Stephanie Hollis was a second-team all-conference choice and joined Elmore on the academic all-conference squad.

Hailee Elmore

Senior softball left fielder Kristin Nicoletti was selected to the Atlantic 10 All-Conference first team for a second consecutive year. She also earned a second straight selection to the A-10 Academic All-Conference squad. A starter in all 53 games this season, Nicoletti holds the Billikens’ career records for games started, batting average, hits, runs, total bases, stolen bases, at-bats and stolen-base attempts.

What is planning given?

Planning given is the philanthropy an individual carefully considers as part of his or her overall estate and financial planning. It is also a method for connecting an individual’s values and interests with a charitable organization’s future needs. Gifts may be made either during one’s lifetime or upon death. 

Some may even provide periodic payments to the donor or other individuals selected by the donor.

What is the most popular planned gift at SLU?

A testamentary gift to SLU through an individual’s estate is by far the most popular. Traditionally, the bequest is made through a will or revocable living trust. Designating SLU as beneficiary of a life insurance policy, retirement account or other financial account is another way to make a testamentary charitable gift through one’s estate.

Why are testamentary gifts such as bequests so popular?

Bequests and beneficiary designations are a comfortable way to support SLU. Once an individual’s will, trust or beneficiary designation has been updated to include the charitable provision, he or she still maintains control of those assets. Should the assets be needed for a rainy day, they may be used for that purpose. If the assets are not needed during the individual’s lifetime, the plans remain in place for the charitable bequest to be made to SLU.

Can any type of planned gift particularly attract the interest of the donor?

In the current low-interest-rate environment, this charitable gift annuity provides an attractive annual payment for life to the donor and possibly a second beneficiary. It also provides a charitable deduction for a portion of the amount used to fund the gift annuity. In addition, annual payments may be scheduled to commence immediately or to coincide with a donor’s retirement.

The second gift particularly attractive right now is the IRA charitable rollover. This gift opportunity first became available in 2006 and is set to expire at the end of 2011. Individuals who are at least age 70½ may transfer up to $100,000 from their Individual Retirement Accounts directly to SLU. The transfer does not generate taxable income or a charitable deduction for the donor, but may count toward the donor’s required minimum distribution from the IRA for 2011.

Are there any other types of planned gifts individuals might consider?

Noncash gifts are worth consideration by alumni and friends. These frequently include gifts of stock, real estate, artwork and books. If individuals have owned stock or real estate for years, they may find the values of those assets have appreciated significantly over time. A donation of appreciated stock or real estate may provide a charitable tax deduction based on current market value of the asset. SLU may then sell the donated asset. The individual may designate their planned gift for a rainy day, they may be used for that purpose. If the assets are not needed during the individual’s lifetime, the plans remain in place for the charitable bequest to be made to SLU.

Can planned gifts support a particular purpose at SLU?

Individuals may designate their planned gifts for their favorite areas at SLU, such as scholarship, research or a particular college, school or program. Frequently, alumni and friends will designate their gifts for the general endowment of the University. My office works with individuals to design gifts that achieve all of their philanthropic objectives.

How does SLU recognize donors who have made planned gifts?

About 12 years ago, my office introduced the 1918 Society to recognize planned giving donors. This program, which commemorates the year of SLU’s founding, provides a first way to thank donors during their lifetime for gifts ultimately made through their estates or arranged for some future time. Since the launch of the 1918 Society, many generous alumni and friends have become members.

How can someone learn more about supporting SLU through a planned gift?

The best thing to do would be to contact my office. We would be happy to discuss what type of planned gift would be most appropriate. We also can provide additional written information about a variety of available gifts and customized illustrations for gifts providing payments back to the donor. Another resource is our website at plannedgiving.slu.edu. It provides age-specific information on planned giving and includes planning and highlights some actual donors who have supported SLU with planned gifts.

For more information about planned giving, call (314) 977-2357 or (800) 758-3678, email plannedgiving@slu.edu or visit plannedgiving.slu.edu.
When the Jesuits moved Saint Louis University from downtown to its present Midtown location in 1888, the fourth floor of DuBourg Hall opened as a museum. The space, now known as the Sinquefield Stateroom, showcased European oil paintings, Native American relics and mementos from SLU’s history. At the time, it was the only art museum in St. Louis. That museum closed during the 1930s, but the University’s commitment to displaying works of art never disappeared. Throughout the next several decades, art found its way into Pius XI Memorial Library and many other campus locations. And beginning in the 1970s, when Samuel Cupples House opened its doors, museums started making a comeback at SLU.

Today, the University is home to three world-class museums — the aforementioned Cupples House, as well as the Saint Louis University Museum of Art and the Museum of Contemporary Religious Art.

**Samuel Cupples House**

Sometimes the wrapping can be as interesting as the gift.

Arguably, the ornate exterior of the historic Samuel Cupples House provides as much of a feast for the eyes as the collection of priceless furnishings that await visitors inside, said Mary Marshall, SLU’s marketing coordinator for museums and galleries. The home was designed by architect Thomas Annan and completed in 1890 for a cost of $500,000 — $15-20 million by today’s standards. The mansion features stone archways, 42 rooms, 22 grand fireplaces and rich woodworks carved by English craftsmen whom Cupples brought to the United States to create his mansion.

“The intimately lit interiors are heavily and substantially adorned with detail and pattern,” Marshall said. “The entire third floor of the house has been transformed into a gallery that displays the Eleanor Turshin Glass Collection, which is one of the largest collections of Steuben glass outside of Corning, N.Y.” While not original to the home, the collection does offer a sense of the uncommon art glass that was common in homes of this stature.

“This may be the home that Samuel Cupples built, but it is also known as the house that Father Maurice McNamee saved,” Marshall said. “Believe it or not, this treasured home was scheduled for demolition in the late 1960s. Father ‘Mac,’ a professor of literature and chair of the English department, petitioned then president Father Paul Reinert to take responsibility for restoring the house to its original glory. Benefactors, alumni and students joined Father Mac in his efforts to preserve the house. And in 1976, the historic Samuel Cupples House was placed on the National Register of Historic Buildings.”

The ornate mansion serves as an elegant venue for numerous events, including wine tastings and the popular “Rooms in Bloom” floral showcases each spring and Christmas.

Samuel Cupples House is open to the public from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. For more information, call (314) 977-6630 or visit the website cupples.slu.edu.
Beyond the University’s broad lawns and even broader minds, the Saint Louis University Museum of Art (SLUMA) offers a collection indicative of the modern SLU, one that has aesthetic significance, worlds of culture and a social conscience.

Think Lichtenstein and Picasso, Motherwell and Warhol — artists known by single monikers or those who are well known in the international art world.

“Our permanent collection reflects world history and culture — aesthetics through the centuries,” said Petruta Lipan, director of SLUMA and Cupples House. “We also attract interesting traveling exhibits well worth visiting.”

And SLUMA’s permanent collection is just as captivating, she said. The main room on the second floor provides some of the most notable names in the collection. Dark and deep Motherwells hang across from a speckled Lichtenstein that in turn, shares the space with Jasper Johns, Chuck Close and Kiki Smith.

Winding through the various galleries provides a view of the playful and the placid, the strange and the striking. “Particularly eye-catching are the glass sculptures of Dale Chihuly that resemble enormous oyster shells in vibrant colors and fluid shapes — classic Chihuly,” Lipan said.

Also on the second floor, the museum’s Andy Warhol room features his series of Polaroids. In black and white, virtual unknowns as well as icons like Sophia Loren lounge casually, sometimes staring directly at the camera; other times looking off seemingly unaware that the pop artist was capturing the moment.

Up another flight, more than a bit of history awaits along with the art, for the third floor houses two of SLUMA’s most prized pieces — a rare pair of 17th century Willem Bleau globes. Nearby, visitors will see a rich collection of artifacts from Pierre-Jean De Smet, S.J., and his travels to the Western frontier to work with Native American tribes. This Collection of the Western Jesuit Missions fills the entire third floor of the museum, illustrating not just the experience of the Jesuit missionaries but also Jesuit and Catholic life.

On the fourth floor, visitors will find more than 1,800 17th century Japanese netsukes. These intricately carved pieces were generally worn by men on their kimonos and are the centerpiece of the John and Ann MacLennan Collection of Asian Decorative Arts.

SLUMA’s first floor, the Aronson Gallery, is dedicated to 15 traveling and special temporary exhibits annually. The next is “Urban Wanderers,” which opens July 15 and runs through Aug. 28. Offering art with a heart, every piece is up for auction to raise money for Stray Rescue, St. Louis’ only no-kill dog and cat shelter. This year, some 40 artists will create works inspired by rescued pit bulls.

SLUMA is open from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday. For more information or to plan a visit, visit sluma.slu.edu or call (314) 977-2666.
Museum of Contemporary Religious Art

Saint Louis University’s Museum of Contemporary Religious Art (MOCRA) is housed in a chapel once used by Jesuits in training for the priesthood and brotherhood. That setting is a perfect fit.

“The Fusz Memorial Chapel space that houses MOCRA provides visitors with a sacred environment designed to help people understand the works so that we each may address the ultimate questions that we have been asking for centuries,” said executive director Terrence Dempsey, S.J. (Grad ’70, ’82), who also holds SLU’s May O’Rourke Jay Endowed Teaching Chair in Art History and Religion.

Another dimension that makes MOCRA special is that it is the world’s first interfaith museum of contemporary art. Both in the main space and the side chapels, visitors find works made by the artists of this time that speak to the meaning of life, answer questions of place and purpose, and serve as thresholds to the holy.

As MOCRA people visit the art. This is not a museum to be casually glimpsed, Dempsey noted, but rather mindfully mined. Its treasures lie out in the open in the main gallery space and tucked away in intimate side chapels, all equipped with chairs. “I didn’t want benches — I wanted chairs,” he said. “I wanted people to be comfortable sitting and not worrying about their bodily comfort so they could focus on the work.”

And that decision has fostered just the sort of contemplative response he desired, if not what Dempsey imagined.

“Afër 9/11, one woman came in to see our 2001 installation of Andy Warhol’s Miserere et Guerre Grant (1992); prints from Georges Rouault’s Stations of the Cross for Latin America: La Pasión (1981–1988) commands the west end of MOCRA’s spacious nave gallery. in the foreground are prints from Georges Rouault’s Le Pêcheur (1914–1927); and a soaring spire signals the first incarnation of MOCRA’s space in Fusz Memorial Hall — a chapel used for 35 years by Jesuits studying philosophy at SLU. From now through July 31, the museum is featuring an exhibition of works by the French artist Georges Rouault.

MOcRA is open 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday. For more information, visit mocra.slu.edu or call (314) 977-7170.

Art in the neighborhood

In addition to the world-class museums on its campus, Saint Louis University’s neighborhood is home to several other notable museums and galleries.

Designed by Pritzker Prize-winning architect Tadao Ando, the Pulitzer Foundation for the Arts features changing exhibitions with themes relating art and architecture. Now on display through Aug. 13 is “La Salle de Spectacles,” which features dream-like artworks juxtaposed with Ando’s architecture. For more information, visit www.pulitzerarts.org.

Next door to the Pulitzer is the Contemporary Art Museum of St. Louis, a non-collecting museum with main exhibits that change three times a year and smaller exhibits that change every few weeks. Through Aug. 14, see “Cypriote: The Use of Allegory in Contemporary Art with a Master Class from Glykas,” which features sculptures, paintings and videos by six international contemporary artists displayed with works by the Greek master. For more information, visit www.camstl.org.

Located directly across from the Pulitzer and CAM, the Bruno David Gallery specializes in contemporary art. For more information, visit www.bradavidgallery.com. A few blocks east is the Sheldon Art Galleries, also specializing in modern works. For more information, visit www.sheldonart.org.

The neighborhood is home to several other notable museums and galleries. For information, visit www.sheldonart.org.

For something out of the ordinary, visit the Mock Museum, which is home to 300 rare and vintage motorcycles. For more information, visit themotomuseum.com.

An art-loving family or couple won’t want to miss SLU’s Ellen Clark Sculpture Garden (pictured above), at the corner of Grand and Lindell boulevards, which is home to a permanent collection of sculptures by celebrated local artist Brother Mel Meyer, S.M.
On a bright, late-August morning in 2007, freshman Erin Kelly walked into her Saint Louis University residence hall for the first time. She was nervous. The scene was overwhelming — the halls congested with moving boxes and emotions running high. Kelly looked forward to the evening event for the students living on her floor: A Mississippi riverboat cruise. That night while drifting past the Gateway Arch, Kelly and her new neighbors started talking about the “Honors Philosophy” course they were taking together on Monday mornings. After making plans to walk to class together and eat lunch after, Kelly thought to herself, “With a community like this — Monday morning? Bring it on!”

Kelly was a member of the Honors Learning Community, a residential program designed to create a sense of home and support for students who are transitioning from high school and their hometowns to SLU.
In a Learning Community, first-year stu-
dents who share a common interest — from a major to service to the arts — live together on one or more floors in a residence hall. In addi-
tion, the students can opt to take some classes together through the First-Year Interest Group (FIG) program. The idea is that by living and learning together, students not only collaborate and have a richer academic experience, but they also form strong, lasting connections with each other, with faculty and staff, and with the University.

For Learning Communities, the key word is community,” said Susan Fanale, director of SLU’s Student Involvement Center. Foraging that community is the primary goal of this relatively new program. Until 2006, Saint Louis University had just one themed housing option — the Mcih Program, whose student participants focused on service and social justice — that allowed residents to enroll in specifically designated academic courses together. Now, students can choose from 13 Learning Communities (see sidebar). “Learning Communities embody the Jesuit mission of educating the whole person both inside and outside the classroom,” said Kelly, who is now a senior.

Transitioning together

Sophomore Jared Lammert participated in the Health Sciences Learning Community during his freshman year and found that it helped him acclimate to SLU. “Transitioning from high school to college was quite a step for me,” he said. “Having people who were excited to be here at SLU and had similar interests allowed me to make friendships sooner. That allowed me to start my SLU experience off on a good note; instead of having to go through a stressful time of finding myself.”

Learning Communities also provide a home away from home. “My first week here was still difficult because it was a new situation,” said Sean Binkley, a freshman and Health Sciences Learning Community resident. “But knowing we are all honors students, it kind of felt like my group of friends in high school except more mature and with a better work ethic. They’re really my family. I call Fox Hall my home; all of my friends are there. I have a good support system from them.”

Upperscalpers like Erin Kelly have found that relationships built in Learning Communities tend to last throughout their time at SLU. “I definitely have a community that has been constant for four years,” she said. “I’m still very connected with the people I lived with my first year.”

Specially selected resident advisers work to build those relationships and ensure the transition process remains positive by focusing on a floor’s specific theme.

Lammert, who is now a sophomore resident adviser to the Sustainable Planet Learning Community, got things rolling even before Welcome Week. “Before the semester started, I sent out a mass email to the entire floor saying, ‘Hey, this is our community we’ll be living in for the next three years. “The Sustainable Planet Learning Community might take courses in the FIG’s “Markets and Morality” together.”

Most courses offered in the FIGs are core or elective courses. Noel Pettila, adjunct professor in the department of theological studies, partnered with John Cook School of Business professor Dr. Bob Boyle to offer an integrated business and theology FIG course for freshmen. “A big jigsaw of academics is not knowing what the other hand is doing,” Pettila said. “This is the best kind of education we can give students. They’re not separate. Blending courses and residential life together allows for a very purposeful experience.”

FIGs within Learning Communities truly integrate the first-year experience beyond the classroom. “As a resident adviser, I became really close to me who was in FIGs together, learning about the same things and sharing with everyone else,” Kelly said. “Having the FIGs all together learning in the classroom with what they’re experiencing outside of the classroom. If there was a controversial discussion in class, it would be the topic of discussion on the floor.”

Pettila recognizes the benefits of FIGs in something as simple as class participation. “When I see with students is a comfort level when speaking in class,” he said. “That’s what makes a Learning Community excellent. The relationship capital is already built. It really opens up conversations. When I first taught the class, I had to tap that back the enthusiasm.”

Living and serving together

Outside of studying and course work, Learning Community students engage in a number of activities together, integrating their academic focus with outside programming, like going to see speakers on campus or going to museums off campus. For example, the Health Sciences Learning Community visited the cadaver lab at SLU’s Medical Center and participated in CPR and first aid classes.

Resident advisers plan many of the activities for the Learning Communities, making sure to continue building upon each floor’s interest. Resident adviser Lammert, whose learning community is themed around the environment, organized a social outing for his residents to the City Museum, an eclectic, interactive space that combines children’s playground, funhouse and surrealistic pavilion made out of reclaimed building materials. The event related specifically to sustainable living. “It shows them that nothing is just trash,” he said. “You can see it in a different way. At the City Museum, it’s a lot of fun, but also inspiring, but it’s also related to building a sustainable planet.”

Lammert also looked for ways to integrate his residents’ focus with the service they do together. “For Make a Difference Day, we did the committee know that we were the Sustainable Planet Learning Community and that we wanted to do something related to that,” he said. “We went to a local elementary school and cleaned up their campus. We picked up trash around the perimeter and did some grounds work. Make a Difference Day is campus-wide, but we stepped up and made it our own.”

Growing together

So what are the benefits of Learning Communities? For the Washington Center for Improving the Quality of the Undergraduate Experience, a consortium of higher education faculty, staff and administrators from around the country, found that students in Learn-
ing Communities “show greater intellectual development and opportunity to analyze and integrate ideas, greater tolerance for difference and appreciation for pluralism, and demonstrate higher academic performance.”

At SLU, staff and resident advisers invite students to think critically about how each of their courses relates to others. “We challenge them to think about the connections between their courses,” Fanale said. “Doing this early helps them see the deeper meaning in the college experience. This reflects our identity as a Jesuit university built on holistic reflection and educating the whole person.”

This integrated experience encourages students to remain at SLU, an outcome of the pro-
gram that Pettila applauds. “I appreciate the focus on freshmen,” he said. “In universities across the country, there’s an issue with retention. This program does not allow them to fall through the cracks. Any time you can get students to feel they belong, that will bring educational success.”

It seems SLU students are seeing these benefits. Fanale has heard from students in Learning Community program grow from 411 participants in 2007 to 754 in 2010, an increase of 91 percent in three years. “The program is growing, but more importantly, we are making sure the quality of student’s experiences is improving, too,” she said.

And students’ FIG assessment indicates that they feel the program is worthwhile: “90 per-
cent of students who completed the assessment said they would recommend FIGs to incoming students.”

Pettila said the programs’ popularity with faculty is growing, too. “The Learning Community and FIG organizers have done a great job of pushing the culture across the University,” he said. “They’ve set up opportunities for us to look at each other’s syllabi, meet with other professors and interact with each other.”

The programs’ reach also extends beyond SLU. Fanale said that as one of the few Jesuit schools with Learning Communities, “there to four schools contact me a year to gather more information about our program.”

Students are also spreading their enthusiasm for Learning Communities. “There is a lot of pride in being in Learning Communities,” Kelly said. “It’s an experience that’s not different from the college experience; it just adds to it.”

Themed Living Communities will be available at Saint Louis University for 2011-2012

The Arts
Billiken Connections
Careers and Majors
Exploration
Diversity and Unity

Honors
Health Sciences
Life Sciences

Mcih (Faith and Service)
The Sustainable Planet
Transfer Students

Global Villa

Engineering
Ethical Leaders in Business

SU MME R ’11      UNIV e RSITa S

16 | U NIV ERSITAS | W W W . S L U . E D U | 17
IN THE FALL OF 1995, TWO JESUIT PRIESTS IN BALTIMORE SENT A SMALL GROUP OF RETIRED MEN AND WOMEN INTO THE COMMUNITY TO SERVE THE POOR.

The Ignatian Volunteer Corps (IVC), as the group became known, offered the retirees an opportunity not only to help those in need but also a chance to find a deeper meaning in their service. Adhering to the Ignatian practice of taking time to reflect and pray, the volunteers were required to keep a journal, participate in monthly mornings of reflection and attend a series of short retreats. This blending of service and spiritual reflection caught on. Since that pilot program 16 years ago, IVC has established chapters in 13 regions with more than 300 volunteers, age 50 and older.

One of the chapters is in St. Louis, where volunteers are carefully matched with non-profit agencies that could benefit from their specific experience and wisdom. The volunteers meet monthly with each other and a spiritual reflector to pray together. They also discuss assigned readings about Ignatian spirituality, theology and social justice.

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Mary Haggerty is regional director of the IVC chapter in St. Louis.

"The opportunity to reflect gives our volunteers a depth of experience they may not get with other volunteer organizations," Haggerty said. "And in the process, it can strengthen their relationship with their community and with their God."

Another atypical aspect of IVC’s program is the level of commitment required of volunteers. The program asks retirees to commit to the equivalent of two days of service each week from September through June — approximately 600 hours a year.

Since its formation five years ago, the IVC chapter in St. Louis has tripled in size, with volunteers serving in homeless shelters, free clinics, schools, shelters for pregnant women, churches and food pantries. Nearly half of its 22 volunteers are Saint Louis University alumni.

THE DECISION TO VOLUNTEER

I retired early, so I still have drive and ambition. I didn’t want to sit around the house every day. That was never my retirement goal.

And after 30 years in sales, I was ready to do something that was more fulfilling, more rewarding. I wanted to step out of my box a little and try something I hadn’t done before. I liked the idea of educating children.

THE RESPONSIBILITIES

This is my second year with IVC. My first placement was with a program through Catholic Charities where I taught reading and helped kids with their homework after school. That was great. Funding dried up about a month ago though, and I’ve been at Holy Trinity since then.

I’m a desk in the principal’s office, and every 45 minutes the teachers send students to me. I started helping them with their class work, but quickly learned that most of their difficulties came from missing fundamentals. So, I now work in some math facts, reading or word recognition each day. Some of the kids don’t know even the most basic math. You wonder how that can be, and then you find out this kid is struggling because his family has been homeless for a year. It puts things in perspective.

THE COMMITMENT

I didn’t want to just pass the time while volunteering. I wanted to be a part of something. I felt like I was part of something at Catholic Charities, and I feel like that at Holy Trinity. I’m not just an ancillary piece. I’m not there, you can’t just plug someone else in. The work doesn’t get done. It’s amazing how quickly you become valued.

THE REWARDS

It’s a pleasure to give these kids something that was given to me a long time ago — a basic understanding of how math and language work. Hopefully, it will benefit them as they grow. It’s also nice to see how they respond when you give them undivided attention. They open up, and you can see the concepts click. It’s very rewarding, very reassuring.

THE MISSION

I think my desire to give back comes from my Jesuit educational background — although I have to say I wasn’t fully aware of it until I began volunteering with IVC. We talk about Jesuit philosophy during our group discussions, and I realize a lot of my reasoning process is Jesuit based.

THE IMPORTANCE OF REFLECTION

Reflection is a very important piece for me because there are lots of frustrations that come with volunteering. Kids come in and don’t want to work with me, or a good program shuts down because it loses funding. It’s nice to be able to discuss these frustrations with the other volunteers. It gives me a sense of belonging and encouragement. Their support keeps me plugging along when things aren’t going well.

THE IMPACT

I think volunteering has made me a little more compassionate, whether it’s because I’m growing older or because I’m seeing the poor in society who I hadn’t really looked at before. Conceptually, the poor are easy to overlook, but a disadvantaged child who I work with each week touches me in ways that are impossible to ignore. It’s tapped into a side of me that’s more empathetic than I was before. It spur me on to continue doing what I’m doing.
TIMOTHY GROSCH
Corporate attorney for Energizer Holdings Inc.
RETIRED

JOLENE APPRILL GROSCH
Pediatric physical therapist
RETIRED

THE DECISION TO VOLUNTEER

JOLENE: When they asked me to do parenting classes I wondered how I could teach these women how to raise their babies. Wouldn’t there be huge cultural differences? I had all this anxiety built up about it, but then I realized that we’re not so different after all. These girls are just like our kids, but they were born into different circumstances. They make mistakes just like our kids. It’s just that sometimes their family system is so broken they don’t have anyone trying to put them on a better path.

THE IMPORTANCE OF REFLECTION

JOLENE: We’re always talking about things at the shelter between the two of us, and that’s nice. We can reflect with each other. The group meetings also have been really important. You get to hear about everyone’s experiences, and we compare stories. Some of the stories are really touching, and you can see Christ in action.

THE SPIRITUAL ASPECT

I am very much on my spiritual journey of life. I am always spiritually seeking. I am a member of a contemplative outreach group, and part of a contemplative life is trying to get closer to God. Part of our relationship with God, of course, is our relationship and service with others. The program’s spiritual support is very important to me.

THE JOURNALING

I never actually kept a journal with any consistency before, and I find it extremely valuable. It forces me to reflect on my experiences and explore my frustrations. It’s a different dynamic when you go from having a job, making decisions and directing other people to being a volunteer. Adjusting to that and reflecting on that is good. Whether I’m working or volunteering, I’m still doing God’s work.

THE IMPORTANCE OF REFLECTION

I’ve always worked with poor people, people with drug addictions, tuberculosis patients, people on the margins of society I loved doing it, but a lot of my volunteer work in the past didn’t have a reflective component. Looking back, I think I did things for the wrong reasons. I did them because I thought it was the right thing to do or it was something I should do. I didn’t do it out of my love for God. IVC allows me to strengthen my relationship with God and see his work through me.

For more information about the I gnatian Volunteer Corps, visit ivcusa.org. St. Louis-area alumni can send an email to locdirector@slu-suits-mis.org or call (314) 361-7765.
In April, Saint Louis University unveiled Hotel Ignacio, a new boutique hotel in Midtown St. Louis.

It's just the latest development in a long line of University projects that have enhanced the neighborhood SLU has called home for more than a century.

"Hotel Ignacio is another important investment in our community," said University President Laurence Biondi, S.J. "Exciting developments are taking place in our Midtown St. Louis neighborhood, and this project helps sustain that momentum."

To move forward with the project, SLU tapped the expertise of local design and development firm, the Lawrence Group, which became a project partner and is part owner of the property.

"We have a deep commitment to revitalizing St. Louis, so it’s rewarding to work with an institution so connected to our city and with Father Biondi, whose leadership and vision have been essential to Midtown’s resurgence," said Steve Smith, president and CEO of the Lawrence Group.

Hotel Ignacio’s guest rooms reflect four distinct themes — architecture, fine art, performing arts and music — that showcase the hotel's location in the heart of St. Louis’ arts district. Although no two rooms are designed exactly alike, they all offer Tempur-Pedic mattresses as well as organic bamboo sheets and towels.

Hotel Ignacio also has the distinction of being the first hotel in North America to offer Avaya Guest Media Hubs — cutting-edge, multi-media communication devices — in all of its rooms. Guests have a number of food options available to them, including Café Pinxtos, a Spanish tapas and wine bar in the lobby; and Triumph Grill, which is connected to the hotel and is providing room service.

To run the property, Saint Louis University engaged the services of the St. Louis-based firm, EQUis Hospitality Management.

"Although the distinctive design is impressive and the amenities are outstanding, we believe it’s the exceptional and highly personalized service Hotel Ignacio offers guests that will keep them coming back," said Michael Mullenix, the chairman and CEO of EQUis Hospitality Management.

And about that unusual name: It’s a tribute to Saint Louis University’s Jesuit mission and history. Ignacio is Spanish for Ignatius, the saint who founded the Society of Jesus.

Checking In

Hotel Ignacio’s other attributes and amenities include:

- Smoke-free
- Pet-friendly
- Exercise room
- Business center
- Coffee and espresso bar in the lobby
- House bikes
- Three-wheel taxi
- Internet access (plug-in and wireless) in each guest room
- Organic bath products
- Recycling stations throughout the hotel
- Green-certified products
- Ultra-high-temperature steam cleaning to minimize the use of chemicals
- HEPA filtration on all hotel Occupants to reduce allergens

For more information about Hotel Ignacio or to make reservations, visit www.hotelignaciostl.com.
He is an independent researcher devoted to understanding how biological systems adapt to environmental change. He is the author of two books: "The Second Chance: How Life Is Better After 40" and "The Fourth Phase of Life: The Search for the Next Evolutionary Leap". He has written for numerous scientific and popular publications, including Science, Nature, and the New York Times. He is a frequent speaker at conferences and workshops around the world, promoting his ideas on the importance of rethinking our approach to nutrition, aging, and health.

Dr. Craig Bostick (Med) has dedicated his career to advancing treatments for patients with cancer. He is a pioneer in the field of immunotherapy, having conducted groundbreaking research on the use of vaccines to boost the immune system's ability to fight cancer. His work has led to the development of new therapies that are changing the landscape of cancer care.

Dr. Thomas Appeltrepp (Med ‘78, Med ‘79), a pediatric cardiologist, is professor of the St. Louis University School of Medicine and is involved in the care of children with congenital heart defects. He has made significant contributions to the understanding of heart disease in children and has been instrumental in developing new surgical techniques for the repair of congenital heart defects.
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 e-mail message to tvincen2@slu.edu.
Beating a Billiken traveler puts the world at your feet. This is your chance to see it all.

2011 TOUR SCHEDULE

AUG. 24-25 | Scotland
OCT. 21-24 | Treasures of Eastern Asia
NOV. 27-DEC. 4 | Mexican Riviera Cruise: Symphony

If you have questions regarding the Summer Send-off receptions, please send an email to Christy Sevier at csevier2@slu.edu.

ALUMNI CLUB PRESIDENTS

ALUMNI EVENTS

St. Louis Events
The Little Mermaid

THURSDAY, JULY 14, 8 P.M., PRESS ROOM, DUCHESS THEATER, FORTY FOREST PARK VICTORIAN CENTER, 6:30 P.M. PERFORMANCE, FOR THEATER.

Billy Elliot

SUNDAY, NOV. 6, 5:30 P.M., PRESS ROOM, DUCHESS THEATER, 6:30 P.M. PERFORMANCE, FOR THEATRE.

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John Cook School of Business

mezzanine | Kevin Elf (’10)

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Simple Joy

Even job rejection letters can become opportunities for joy. I learned this from my eight-month-old son, Micah. When my husband received yet another job rejection letter and started to rip it up to throw it away, Micah started giggling heartily. Marcus caught it on video, posted it on YouTube, and within weeks had we experienced a lifetime of a memory.

Our family is true blue SLU. As an MBA alumna, I work as a financial analyst. As a married couple, we attend Mass together every week and each have many ties to the university. Marcus has applied to a number of schools but has not received any acceptance letters with a professorship soon. Our desire is that we can switch roles so that I can be an at-home mom like I have always dreamed.

As if that wasn’t enough, our family was interviewed on KSDK-Channel 5 and KTVI-Channel 2 in St. Louis, and nationally on Inside Edition (weekday and weekend editions), MSNBC and Today show with weekend hosts Savannah Guthrie and Lester Holt; in times taping; and Micah in times Square.

The most memorable experience was the Today interview. As soon as we walked into the 30 Rock studio, staff and crew greeted us with excitement. We enjoyed navigating the subway system and the many sights, sounds and food of Manhattan — Times Square, the Staten Island Ferry, the Crow’s Nest at the Empire State Building, Macy’s, SoHo and New York pizza on Bleeker Street.

When I contemplate this whirlwind experience, I think of one thing — God’s encouragement to us in a time of trial. God had planned something bigger than us. We were ushered into the storm and met exactly and knowingly on the conch across from the news desk where anchor Matt Lauer was taping “Croztalks” and testing Micah’s video. Micah was filmed for each crookstalk for the various affiliates throughout the country. At the breaks, Matt would glance across the room and say, “Hi, Micah,” and Micah would smile right back at him. At 6:55 a.m., co-anchor Meredith Vieira walked in and sat at the couch and made many goofy faces at Micah. When Matt and Meredith joined us on the couch for the interview, both worked very hard trying to get Micah to laugh. Finally, Matt sneezed, and Micah found that simply hilarious. When we were back on air, they tried again, but to no avail. Although Micah didn’t laugh on cue, he had a great time. We all did.

When I contemplate this whirlwind experience, I think of one thing — God’s providence. In the midst of all the job applications and rejections, God gave us an experience that is better than what we could have hoped for, prayed for or imagined. God gave us an opportunity of a lifetime, creating a special memory for our family. This was God’s encouragement to us in a time of disappointment. Something so simple and so small as a baby’s giggles reminded us of the ultimate joy and comfort that we have in knowing that God is sovereign and God’s will is best.

MED SCHOOL PROGRESSIVE ADMITTANCE DATES TO 1930s

I’ve just read and received the spring edition of *Universitas*, and was greatly heartened by the story of Dr. Robert Christopher (Med ’59) in the “President’s Report” insert. The piece states, “SLUC’s School of Medicine had never admitted a physically disabled student.” But in my father, Dr. Kilian F. Fritsch, was admitted there and graduated in 1939, after contracting polio as a child. He had a full leg brace on one leg and only partial use of the other. He would carry his books in a bag around his neck and pull himself up the stairs, letting his legs trail behind him. He did his training in orthopædics at SLUC and was a clinical instructor and assistant profess- sor in the department of orthopedic surgery for the better part of four decades.

My father would broil at the term “handicapped,” especially the time in which he grew up and the consequences of that term. But 20 years prior to the inauguration of Dr. Christopher, my father, whose life was unchanged by polio, was also provided the opportunity to become a doctor by the School of Medicine. His master’s thesis in orthopedics (which was required in these days) was “Epidemiology of Poliomyelitis in the State of Missouri.”

Dr. Kilian J. (Joe) Fitch (A&S ’71) Philadelphia

PHOTO LEADS TO MEMORY LANE

Receiving the latest *Universitas*, I turned first, as most older do, to “Class Notes” and “In Memoriam.” Since my years of 1948-52 offered no immediately re cognizable names, I turned the pages and at the top on page 26 found a small photo captioned, “Crozewing around.” I studied it for a moment, realized it looked theatrical, and since I was in many plays at SLU, studied it further. Shakespearean, no doubt. The three figures struck a chord — an ominous figure on the right, a drunken servant and a — a jester!? I called to my wife, “Good Lord, that’s me!”

Dr. Kilian F. (Joe) Fritsch (A&S ’71) | Philadelphia

As I turned the page I saw a photo of a man who was a jester in a Shakespearean play. I thought this was an amusing photo and it caught my eye. I turned to the next page and there was the picture of a Portia from *The Tempest*. I was curious about the person in the picture and I turned the page again to find a description of the photo. The photo was captioned “Clowning around?”

I was pleased to see this photo of a jester from Shakespeare’s play *The Tempest*. I turned to the next page to see if there was any information about the photo. I found a description of the photo captioned “Clowning around?”

Dr. Kilian F. (Joe) Fritsch (A&S ’71) | Philadelphia

QUOTABLE

"The most basic source of hope is a real and genuine love for others, as if the final word in this terrible world of ours is love." — Fr. Jon Sobrino, SJ, in the story “Tell the Truth” about his work in El Salvador

FROM THE FRONT

Not long ago, we heard from Chris Frank, SJ. (P&L ’89) — now also known as CDR Christopher Frank, USN, the 2D Marine Division Chalvin (P&L ’89) He’s the senior Catholic priest in the Helmand Province of Afghanistan.

He wrote to request some recent issues of *Universitas* and to tell us he’d encountered another Billiken in Afghanistan: 1st Lt. Megan (Long) Greathouse, USMC (A&S ’08). She is a public affairs officer in charge of the Regional Command Southwest Media Embed Program.

We sent the issues — and some SLU swag, too. And they sent proof that a picture of a jester from Shakespeare’s play *The Tempest* had been printed in *Universitas*.

Dr. Kilian F. (Joe) Fritsch (A&S ’71) | Philadelphia
We give because...

“As life-long St. Louisans we have witnessed the tremendously positive changes to Saint Louis University in the more than 30 years since we graduated. In addition, SLU has been a leading force in revitalizing the surrounding community. Including the University in our wills helps ensure that both SLU and Midtown St. Louis will continue to thrive.”

CAROL (CIBULKA) WEBER
DOISY ’78
AND MARK WEBER
PARKS ’75

Giving really does change lives.

Though the amounts and the reasons may vary, there’s one thing all gifts have in common: Together they make a world of difference to Saint Louis University.

To request information about providing for SLU in your estate plans or to make a gift, please use the envelope enclosed in this issue of Universitas or visit giving.slu.edu.

If you’ve already made a gift or estate commitment to SLU, thank you.

Please visit giving.slu.edu/igive and tell us your reason for giving.