Building Character
By Lawrence Biondi, SJ
Saint Louis University President

A recent article by David Brooks in Atlantic Monthly called into question the character of college students today. Brooks blames go-getter parents and educational institutions for leaving today’s college-age generation on their own when it comes to character and virtue.

“We fly our children around the world so that they can experience different cultures,” Brooks writes. “We spend huge amounts of money on safety equipment and sports coaching. We sermonize about the evils of drunk driving. We expend enormous energy guiding and regulating their lives. But when it comes to character and virtue, the most mysterious area of all, suddenly the laissez-faire ethic rules: You’re on your own, Jack and Jill; go figure out what is true and just for yourselves.”

I couldn’t disagree more. That’s certainly not our approach at Saint Louis University or at any of our sister Jesuit colleges and universities.

At SLU we take great pride in the education that we provide our students. We take equal pride in helping them become responsible, caring members of society. Our mission — to educate the whole person — clearly states that intellectual and character development go hand-in-hand. Our students, faculty and staff connect with the St. Louis community and the world community, exploring and enriching these “classrooms without walls.” Each day, through outreach programs and research efforts, the SLU family demonstrates how knowledge touches lives.

Brooks says that we assume that if adults try to offer moral instruction, it will backfire because our children will reject our sermonizing (though they don’t seem to reject any other part of our guidance and instruction). “We assume that such questions have no correct answer that can be taught,” he writes. “Or maybe the simple truth is that adult institutions no longer try to talk about character and virtue because they simply wouldn’t know what to say.”

At Saint Louis University we haven’t forgotten what to say about character and virtue because we have never stopped saying it. Yes, we educate more than 11,000 students in a wide variety of disciplines. But no matter what the major or degree, there is one common thread to our learning environment. All of our students are instilled with a call to act for justice and a conviction to value the dignity of every human person.

In every issue of UNIVERSITAS, we share with you stories about Saint Louis University’s academic progress, research activities and community outreach. In this issue, however, we’re focusing on our strides to foster character both inside and outside of the classroom — to introduce our students to a life of service. We’re proud to be recognized as a character-building college by The Templeton Guide: Colleges That Encourage Character Development, but we’re even more pleased that Saint Louis University students, faculty and staff volunteered more than 430,000 service hours to area organizations this past year. In all, more than 6,000 members of the University community participate in service outreach programs.

At Saint Louis University, we do not separate intellectual and character development. Combining these makes the educated person sensitive to greater possibilities. Intellect and character, joined together, empower our students to achieve change on behalf of a more just society.

On the following pages you’ll find several articles looking at the topic of character development from various angles. One story explains the many facets and benefits of our Center for Leadership and Community Service. Another describes an innovative theology course that combines classroom study and community service. Still another story examines the impact a unique ethics program has had on our faculty development. And the last feature article profiles three student-athletes who are building character by balancing academics, athletics and service.

We take seriously the Ignatian ideal of “forming women and men for others.” I hope you’ll enjoy reading how much.
SUMMER 2001

Outreach
SLU’s Center for Leadership and Community Service helps students help others.

Reflection
A unique theology class teaches lessons in and out of the classroom.

Ethics
An innovative program places ethics at the academic forefront.

Balance
Three of SLU’s student-athletes prove why they’re winners.
SLU welcomes new vice president

Edward O’Brien, S.J. (Grad ’54, ’57, ’62), is the new vice president for mission and ministry for the 2001-2002 academic year. He succeeds A. James Blumeyer, S.J. (A&S ’57, Pub Ser ’65, Grad ’58, ’68), who has retired and will now work in an admissions spirituality program at Rockhurst College in Kansas City, Mo. O’Brien is minister of the SLU Jesuit community at Jesuit Hall, a position he’s held since 1995. He will continue to serve in this capacity. As vice president, O’Brien will supervise the campus ministry and pastoral care departments and facilitate programs that focus on the mission of the University. O’Brien also will provide counsel to the SLU administration to ensure the Jesuit mission in education is being realized. Before becoming the minister of the Jesuit community at SLU, O’Brien served as the pastor of St. Matthew the Apostle Parish in St. Louis.

Arts and Sciences dean appointed

Dr. Joe Weixlmann has been named dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. Most recently, Weixlmann was the dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at Indiana State University. He succeeds Dr. Shirley Dowdy, who has retired. SLU’s College of Arts and Sciences boasts 15 departments and 12 centers and programs. The college is home to nearly 2,500 undergraduate students, more than one-third of the University’s total undergraduate population. More than 250 full-time faculty teach in the college. Weixlmann had been dean at ISU since 1994.

School renamed to honor Doisys

The School of Allied Health Professions was renamed the Edward and Margaret Doisy School of Allied Health Professions in a blessing and dedication ceremony on April 17. The late Dr. Edward A. Doisy, former chairman of the biochemistry department, received the 1943 Nobel Prize in Medicine for isolating Vitamin K and determining its constitution and synthesis. Doisy’s practice of donating the majority of the income derived from commercial application of his research findings to Saint Louis University makes him the School of Medicine’s largest private donor. His wife, Margaret Doisy (A&S ’60), was honored and assisted in cutting the ribbon at the ceremony.

Good Move: The Childgarden building, 3840 Lindell Blvd., is being renovated to create a centralized academic services center for students. The move will allow academic advising, career services, the student educational services center and pre-professional health studies to relocate into one building, which will be ready this August. SLU purchased the building from the St. Louis Association for Retarded Citizens, which ran a day care center there.

Trustees approve new directions

The board of trustees OK’d the University’s strategic directions at a May 5 meeting. Officials sought feedback from the University community on the directions, which will help determine the identity of the University. The four foundations of the strategic directions include:

• Expanding research integrated with teaching, learning and service.
• Advancing community with diversity.
• Fostering technology dedicated to student formation and the generation of knowledge.
• Promoting continuous institutional learning and innovation.

Those cutting the ribbon for the Doisy School of Allied Health Professions included (from left) SLU trustee Robin Smith; Dr. Joan Hrubetz, interim dean of the school; Margaret Doisy; and University President Lawrence Biondi, S.J.
Log On for SLU News

To learn about the most up-to-date news and happenings at Saint Louis University, you now can visit the SLU Newslink site on the World Wide Web (www.slu.edu/newspage.html). You also can subscribe to a daily e-mail message that highlights the top SLU news of the day, previews upcoming events and notifies the University community of announcements and services.

Program ranked 2nd in the nation

The School of Law once again has been recognized for one of the top health law programs in the nation. The U.S. News & World Report 2002 edition of “America's Best Graduate Schools” ranked SLU's health law program No. 2 in the United States. Established in 1982, the Center for Health Law Studies is the source of several law publications, including the leading health law case-book and treatise and the Journal of Health Law, published jointly with the American Health Lawyers Association. In addition, the physician assistant program at the Edward and Margaret Doisy School of Allied Health Professions was ranked No. 10 in the country. The physician assistant education program consistently has had a 100 percent passage rate on the national certification exam taken by all PA graduates from around the nation.

Updates planned for Busch Center

The Saint Louis University board of trustees has approved a proposal for the renovation and expansion of the 118,000-square-foot Busch Memorial Center into a modern student and alumni center. SLU students indicated their support for the student center project by passing a Student Government Association resolution in April to assess a student fee to help fund the project. (next page)
Group honors its Women of Year

The women’s commission has honored five members of the University community as the 2001 Women of the Year. The commission honors an administrator, faculty member, professional staff member, support staff member and student. Given since 1978, the award recognizes the outstanding contributions of women to the University. The award-winners for 2001 are: Dr. Susan C. Tebb, dean of the School of Social Service; Dr. Mary E. Case (Med ’69), co-director of forensic pathology and professor of pathology; Teri R. McCarthy (A&S ’71), director of the employee assistance and employee health programs; Mary Beth Erickson, administrative assistant to the vice president for mission and ministry; and Erin Nealon, a senior in the College of Arts and Sciences.

Event celebrates internationalism

Experts from around the globe offered some unique perspectives on Jesuit education both worldwide and at Saint Louis University during a recent panel held in conjunction with Atlas Week, a celebration of the many international aspects of the University. The symposium “Education and Service in the Jesuit Tradition: Responses to Culture and Context,” featured panelists Gonzalo Arroyo, SJ, vice president and professor of economic ethics for Universidad Alberto Hurtado in Santiago, Chile; Mauricio Gaborit, SJ (A&S ’71, Grad ’73), academic vice president for Universidad Centroamericana, in San Salvador, El Salvador; David Wessels, SJ (A&S ’68), professor of political science for Sophia University in Tokyo, Japan; and Dr. Paul Shore, associate professor of educational studies at SLU. John Padberg, SJ (A&S ’49, Grad ’51, ’54, ’59), director of the Institute for Jesuit Sources and rector of the SLU Jesuit community, moderated the event. Symposium panelists agreed that Jesuit institutions around the world must continue to immerse themselves in the politics, concerns and culture of the particular region in which they serve.

Public Health to have new address

Renovations are under way at the former Compton Heights/Incarnate Word Hospital, purchased earlier this year from Tenet Healthcare Corp. Scheduled for completion this August, the renovated building, now called Salus Center, will house the SLU School of Public Health, administrative offices and the print shop. Plans for the building also include a satellite site for the Simon Recreation Center. Some of administrative offices are relocating from Fitzgerald Hall, 3500 Lindell Blvd., freeing up Fitzgerald Hall for additional technology-equipped classrooms.

Two garner SLU teaching award

Two professors have joined a distinguished list of teachers at Saint Louis University. Dr. Dan Finucane (Grad ’83, ’93), assistant professor of theological studies, and Joel K. Goldstein, professor of law, have been named as recipients of the 2001...
BURNING BRIGHT: Organ donor families remember their loved ones at the 17th annual Candlelight March held April 19 at Saint Louis University. The event featured a march to the University's clock tower, where families lit candles in honor of the donors and received a "Gift of Life" rose as a tribute.

Soccer coach joins dental center

He's won two world championships as coach of the Brazilian national indoor soccer team. In fact, through a career spanning 150 games, he's only seen two losses. But in dental circles, Dr. Eustaquio Araujo is better known as a world-class orthodontist. It's this reputation that led him to SLU as director of the graduate program in orthodontics at the Center for Advanced Dental Education.

The Summer 1991 issue of Universitas announced the establishment of the School of Public Health, which was (and still is) Missouri's only school of public health. The issue also included information about plans to create the Museum of Contemporary Religious Art in Fusz Hall. MOCRA, which fosters dialogue among different religious traditions, opened the next year.

In other Universitas news:

The 1991 commencement speaker was ABC News' Nightline anchor Ted Koppel, and author Fr. Andrew Greeley also received an honorary degree. The Souers Stroke Institute was established at the Health Sciences Center.

The now-regular feature "By the Numbers" debuted.

The magazine also included a photo essay of the newly refurbished St. Francis Xavier College Church, which had been rededicated on May 12, 1991, following a year-long renovation. In addition to the many architectural updates, the renovation included many less apparent improvements, such as central heating and air conditioning and new lighting and sound systems.

Quotable UTAS: "If we are to make important decisions, we must know what is going on — good and bad. ... Let American media be a thorn in the side and a pain in the butt to our most revered leaders and institutions. It is, when we consider the alternatives, by far the safest course." — Ted Koppel, in his commencement address.

Sign of the times: It was reported that SLU groundskeepers planted 11,995 flowers in 1991. They planted 29,800 flowers this year — not counting 36,000 spring bulbs.

Nancy McNair Ring Award. Presented annually since 1966, the award recognizes the outstanding faculty member of the year as chosen by members of Alpha Sigma Nu, the Jesuit honor society. The award is the only student-sponsored teaching award that encompasses all campuses and schools of the University. The award was established to honor Nancy McNair Ring, the University's first dean of women who was known for her devotion to the welfare of students. Finucane has served as a teacher, campus minister and retreat coordinator and as a teacher, campus minister and campus minister.

Saint Louis University recently was featured in an article on the front section of the Wall Street Journal. SLU was chosen from hundreds of schools to be included on a list of 50 universities emerging as the top schools in the nation under the Ivy League. The story focuses on schools that were once considered "safety" choices for students but have risen from those ranks in recent years because of higher academic standards.

SLU was picked because of its growing national reputation and was mentioned frequently as a "hot school" by guidance counselors across the nation. A panel of admissions counselors commented that SLU has invested significantly in scholarships and infrastructure. A Saint Louis University freshman also was interviewed and said he was accepted to 47 out of 50 schools but chose to attend SLU.

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Araujo found it difficult to leave his native Brazil, but it was his dream to direct an orthodontic program in the United States. "The Saint Louis University Center for Advanced Dental Education is considered the No. 1 facility in the world for graduate dental education," he said. "It is a distinct privilege to be here." He initiated the graduate orthodontic training program at Catholic University of Minas Gerais in Belo Horizonte, Brazil, where he most recently served as dean of the School of Dentistry.
Last fall, Bernie Schaefer (Grad '97) received a desperate phone call. The director of a shelter for homeless women and children in north St. Louis city told him that unless he sent some volunteers and sent them quickly, the shelter’s after-school bible study program for neighborhood children would be eliminated. Within a couple of days, Schaefer and other staff of the University’s Center for Leadership and Community Service came through with a dozen student volunteers who not only kept the program alive but also invigorated it.

"The children are getting the kind of one-on-one attention we couldn’t offer on our own," said Sr. M. Annaleah of the Missionaries of Charities order that operates the shelter. "The patience and care shown by the students is teaching the children they are loved and worthy. We are truly blessed to have them with us.”

But Schaefer, director of the CLCS, insists it is the SLU students who feel blessed. “I’ve had several students tell me they feel privileged because they are the ones being enriched by the experience," he said.

This is precisely the idea behind the CLCS. The center reflects the Jesuit mission of “forming women and men for others” by providing students with a variety of service and philanthropic opportunities. The CLCS’s motto is “experience, reflection, action.” Students can volunteer as individuals or as groups — residence hall floors, sororities or fraternities, for example. The largest group the CLCS advises is the service fraternity Alpha Phi Omega. With 250 members, SLU’s chapter is one of the largest in the United States, second only to Texas A&M. Each year, the CLCS places as many as 900 students in more than 50 non-profit agencies or at service events.

"We don’t do this to look good,” Schaefer said. "We do it to make the student’s educational experience as well-rounded as possible. It’s part of their holistic development. Service opens their eyes to things that they’ve never seen or felt before.”

Coordinating Commitment
The need for an office like the CLCS surfaced during the Vietnam War era. Social activism was high, and SLU students, already recognized for dedication to the community, began organizing in greater numbers for several causes: racism, illiteracy, women’s rights, child abuse, homelessness. In 1982, then-Chancellor Paul C. Reinert, SJ, felt both the community and students would be better served if efforts were coordinated. He helped create the office of student volunteer programs — which evolved into the CLCS — and he chose Beverly Riola (Soc Ser ’74, B&A ’88) to direct it.

“Our student volunteer groups had a lot of compassion, but not a lot of continuity from year to year. And the office was designed to help provide that continuity,” Riola said. “At the time, it was pretty innovative to have an office dedicated solely to student volunteer efforts, and the fact that it’s thriving confirms
the University is still supporting the cause. Giving back to the community should be a way of life.”

It is also significant that when the University created the CLCS, it put the center under the division of student development. Student development oversees co-curricular student activity, such as student government, residence life, student organizations and student health and counseling services. By putting the CLCS within that division, Schaefer said the University made the statement that serving the community is an integral part of student life. He estimates approximately 70 percent of SLU undergraduates perform community service at some point during their time on campus. On average, a volunteer performs 72 hours of service a year.

The Perfect Fit
Students interested in volunteering who come to Schaefer must go through an
intake interview. During this process, Schaefer helps students identify their skills and interests and matches them with agencies.

"If volunteers are connected with their site, if they have an affinity for what they do, then there's a better chance of retaining them and making the experience more rewarding," he said.

Jenny Benton, a physical therapy student, wanted to combine her equestrian skills with her interest in service. She discovered Jamestown New Horizons, a recreational program for mentally and/or physically disabled children and adults who want to learn to ride horses. For the past three years, Benton has been helping clients interact with the animals and experience the freedom of riding.

"Volunteering gives me a lot of perspective," said Benton, who initiated a connection between New Horizons and the CLCS so that other SLU students could volunteer there. "It's easy to get stressed out at school and think only about myself, but when I go to New Horizons, I let go of all that. For someone confined to a wheelchair, riding a horse is the closest thing to walking they may experience. It's not about me at this point. It's about them."

Agencies that regularly receive SLU volunteers include: the Little Sisters of the Poor, Sts. Peter and Paul Shelter, Salvation Army, Faith House, International Institute, Employment Connection and Shrine's Hospital. Students play bingo with nursing home residents, read books to critically ill children, paint walls at low-income housing projects and plant gardens in neglected neighborhoods. The CLCS provides transportation and any other support a student might need.

**Taking The Initiative**

In addition to doing site surveys and matching students with agencies, the CLCS has initiated several of its own programs. The Bigs & Littles mentoring program pairs SLU student volunteers with elementary school children at the Blumeyer Community Center in north city. Last year, 50 students spent more than 1,000 hours at the center. The Midtown Tutorial program sends 60 student volunteers to six elementary schools for afternoon tutoring sessions. The program is so highly respected that the CLCS has been chosen as one of only seven sites nationally to coordinate student volunteers for Jump Start, a federally funded tutoring program for preschoolers.

Each summer, the CLCS manages Midwest Dress for Success, a clothing drive supported by students, faculty and staff. Last year, volunteers collected more than $7,000 worth of dress clothing for people who needed decent clothes for jobs and interviews. Each spring, the CLCS sponsors Open Doors, during which homeless individuals are invited to campus for a meal, haircuts, clothing, health screenings and referrals. More than 100 volunteers assisted 500 homeless women and men at this year's event. Also in the spring, the CLCS and campus ministry co-sponsor one of the 15 spring break service trips organized by campus ministry. A group of 15 or so student volunteers travels to another city to perform service. This year, the group went to Atlanta where they repaired buildings, painted over graffiti and cleaned vacant lots. On SLU Make A Difference Day this past fall, 800 students, faculty, staff and alumni spread out across St. Louis to work on a variety of neighborhood improvement projects.

Brian Hess (A&S ’00) became aware of the CLCS on SLU Make A Difference Day three years ago. Hess came to the University with a sense of service already ingrained from his days at Saint Louis University High School, where he worked on service projects every Thursday. When he became a resident assistant at Marguerite and later Fus Hall, he decided his entire floor should get more involved.

"As an RA, it was my job to build community on the floor, which usually meant organizing trips to the museum or a restaurant," he said. "But I thought it would be great if I could build community while serving the community."

So Hess turned to Schaefer who scheduled Hess’ floor for a service project every few months. Hess and the residents on his floor installed siding with Habitat for Humanity. They weeded a garden and visited with residents at the Life Care Center retirement home. They painted a mural on the wall of a YMCA childcare center.

"I learned that I don't have to wait until I get out of school before I can make a difference," said Hess, who is now in his first year of medical school at SLU and is a volunteer at a free health clinic run by students. "I can make a difference right now. And I found that the people who benefit the most from service are the ones who give the most."

Another Jesuit ideal the CLCS supports is that of the servant leader — anyone in authority should have service or care as his or her primary focus. So beginning this year, the center began fusing professional development and leadership assessment skills into regular projects.
volunteer training. For example, students who volunteer as tutors in elementary schools not only learn what behaviors they can expect from the youngsters, but also learn how to use their experiences as tutors to identify their own strengths and potential. Shawn Swinigan is the CLCS’s leadership coordinator.

“The CLCS creates process-centered experiences that result in transformational outcomes,” he said. “We want our students to transition upon graduation with intellectual depth, enhanced abilities and a global perspective. We want to develop women and men of character whose lives are transformed through service and leadership, and thus prepare them to serve the world as men and women for others.” Evidence exists that the impact of service stays with graduates. Schaefer said the center receives an increasing number of calls from alumni who want to get involved in service projects again or serve as mentors to student volunteers. The CLCS is working with the alumni relations office to include alumni in center events. On this year’s spring break service trip to Atlanta, student volunteers and alumni living in Atlanta worked together on several service projects.

“I know I’m just the agent who puts supply in touch with demand, but I get a great deal out of it,” said Schaefer, who met his wife, Nikki Loynd (Soc Ser ’97), when he was volunteering and she was interning at a homeless outreach center. “I’m inspired by the energy and optimism of the students and alumni and the kindness of the people they serve. It’s really a gift and a grace getting to know all of them.”

For more information about the CLCS and volunteer opportunities, send an e-mail message to Bernie Schaefer at bhaelbo@slu.edu.

Reflection is a core component of the Center for Leadership and Community Service.

“We don’t want to say ‘Here’s an event — go;’ said Bernie Schaefer, CLCS director “We want our students to walk away knowing more about themselves.”

CLCS staff members are available to help students process their feelings about service experiences and to discuss the role service plays in their lives. Ignatian and Xavier scholarship recipients are required to perform service and to submit reflection papers to the CLCS at the end of each semester. Here are excerpts from a few.

“Throughout my time there I came into contact with several men who were able to show me how important the gift of life is and how one’s faith is eternal.”
— Student volunteer at Fusz Pavilion (the Jesuit infirmary) in Jesuit Hall

“Each year of coaching has helped me grow into a more mature, responsible and understanding young adult. Now granted, my service was not earth-shattering. I did not cure the sick or feed the poor, but I think I did help some kids realize their potential. As small as that is, it still made me feel good, and I think it did the same for them. I love doing service, and I plan on continuing my service for the rest of my life.”
— Student volunteer coach for a fifth/sixth-grade boy’s basketball team at St. Francis DeSales parish

“My relationship with those at the service site challenges the very foundation of our culture; the inescapable, impassable borders of social class. Everyday, in my immersion into a culture of poverty and social need, I am forced to confront and relinquish my prior prejudices and misconceptions about the economically poor.”
— Student volunteer at Crossroads, a therapeutic horsemanship program

“This experience also put me in contact with some disturbing issues — poverty, poor hygiene, sickness and mental illness. Being surrounded by such sadness can be very overwhelming. It was difficult for me not to react with pity. However, I knew that pity was not a good approach. These people needed encouragement and respect from me.”
— Student volunteer at the Empowerment Center, a community center for people with mental illnesses

“While working with Habitat for Humanity, I saw some of the conditions that families were forced to live in because of financial burdens. That was very hard for me to deal with emotionally. Seeing all the great things that I have in life and then seeing the things a family has to do without is hard. I was forced to go through a mental and spiritual evaluation of my life every time I did service. I came to realize that the greatest change I can make is changing who I am.”
— Student volunteer who helped build a home in north St. Louis city

“Too many times we go about our day dreading what we have to do next. We don’t appreciate the lives we have and how much we can do. Yet these people who have the least in life are so thankful for what they have. I think we can learn so much from them.”
— Student volunteer with the Special Olympics
I was a college freshman, and I was scared. Freshman year of college can be one of the scariest times in a person’s young life. You have just finished four years of “the greatest times in your life,” and then you have to start over again in a new place, and in my case, a new city and state. Scary! You have to make new friends again, and, frankly, that can be nerve-wracking. And the thought of the challenging course work in college is a little intimidating. Needless to say, I was a little nervous when I arrived at Saint Louis University in the fall of 1998, but one class I had that semester calmed all my fears.

The first class of my college career was a theology class — not theology 101 — but theology 393, a course called “Theology and Social Responsibility” that counted for the 100- and 300-level course requirements for the College of Arts and Sciences. A very selective course, it is capped at 17 students. It meets Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9 to 11 a.m. Plus it requires an additional five hours per week of supervised community involvement. Because I did service work in high school, needed 100-, 200-, and 300-level theology classes for my requirements in the College of Arts and Sciences, and received SLU’s Leadership Scholarship (which required service work every semester), I thought this was an ideal class for me. I wasn’t the only one.

“I decided to take this class because I wanted to incorporate service work into my college life,” said Anne Marie Deye, who was in my class in the fall of 1998. “So many times we read about concepts and ideas in our classes, but actually living those ideas and concepts in every day life meant so much more to me.”

When I registered for the class in the summer, it seemed like a great opportunity. But getting ready for class on that first day in August, I began to get a little worried about the demands of the course and how I would be able to handle it in my first college semester. My fears were relieved when our professor walked into the room and told us that theology “is about life and people, and that is what we are going to study.” This professor, who was much different than other priests I had known, is J.J. Mueller, SJ, the chairman of the theology department and a very smart guy.

Fr. Mueller initiated this class seven years ago not just to teach concepts or make students memorize facts about theology but to embody the Jesuit mission of education: developing women and men for others. Many of his past and present students recognized that aspect of his teaching in his class. On the student evaluations for the class, one student wrote, “He is truly the definition of what a teacher is. He challenges you to think and wants us to be our best.”

Fr. Mueller has modeled his philosophy of teaching around the Latin etymology (not the definition) of
education — “exducere: to lead out.” For him, teaching is the act of assisting another person in becoming the best person that he or she wants to be. “For me that is to find the relationship of God and humanity integral to human life,” he said. However, Mueller also thinks a Chinese proverb states his purpose well: “Give a man a fish, and he will eat for a day; teach a man to fish, and he will eat for a lifetime. I want to be in the lifetime business,” he said.

As time passed, I became more willing to wake up for theology on Monday, Wednesday and Friday than for my other classes on Tuesday and Thursday. I didn’t realize why until later. Eventually, it dawned on me that I wasn’t sitting in a classroom being lectured at; I was participating in a class with my peers and a teacher, all of whom were interested in how I developed as a person.

I went to a Catholic grade school and high school, but my theology classes were nothing like this one. In this class, we applied theology to everything we
did in life and all the other classes we had taken. In addition to studying the Gospel of Mark, we also studied religious art, poetry and musical selections. I loved applying other aspects of life to the foundations of Catholicism and how people express faith in so many different ways.

"I was amazed at how much this class applied to the rest of my life," wrote one student on the faculty evaluation form. "The parallels I saw in history and other classes were wonderful. It also applied to my personal life."

Although I and many others loved this class, I won’t lie — the course work was challenging. The exams covered everything we learned, and Fr. Mueller expected and required a lot of his students. It was not easy to get an “A.” You had to work for it. "The material we covered during the course changed my opinions as they challenged me quite often," said Greg Pratt, another student who was in my class. "Several of the articles we read in class easily could have been discussed on the graduate level."

We also read three different books (selected from a list that included fictional, biographical and nonfiction works). All of these books focused on religious experience and its relationship to people on the margins of life. We had to analyze each work, write a paper on it and give a presentation in class on it. These books — among them, Night by Elie Wiesel, Toni Morrison’s Beloved, Jacob R. I. I. S‘ How the Other Half Lives and W.E.B. Du Bois’ Souls of Black Folk — were incredible. Through these works and the others on the list, we were exposed to many other worlds and situations that we may have never known. All of these requirements were not just about doing homework and getting good grades; we were learning about life.

"The attraction of this course is that it brings the intellectual understanding of theology together with the hands-on work with people in difficult situations."

I liked the multimedia aspects of the class, too. Away from the classroom, Fr. Mueller took us on a field trip to the St. Louis Art Museum, which was fascinating. Because we had studied art all semester in his class, we already had some understanding of the paintings and artwork on display, but Fr. Mueller opened our eyes even more. We stood in front of some pieces for 10 or 15 minutes because Fr. Mueller wanted us to know all the background and symbolism in the artwork so that we fully understood it. In doing so, I gained a much greater appreciation for artwork and for Fr. Mueller.

"Going to the museum was awesome," said Dave Wenzel, another student in my class. "I was so impressed by the knowledge that Fr. Mueller displayed. Plus, going to a museum is not part of a typical class, so that made it even better."

The group discussions and field trips were great, but the most integral part of the course was the service requirement. "The attraction of this course is that it brings the intellectual understanding of theology together with the hands-on work with people in difficult situations," Fr. Mueller said. "The challenge is to allow each part to mutually and actively inform the other — so that head and
hand and heart become engaged, and the whole becomes greater than the parts."

Because of my previous involvement in service, I knew this would be a good experience, but I did not realize how rewarding it would be. There were many places we could select for our service work. All were opportunities to reach out to society's marginalized. I volunteered at Family Haven, which is near the University. I helped tutor young kids who were staying with their families there. Sponsored by The Salvation Army, Family Haven provides housing for lower-income families and women in abusive relationships. Other people in my class volunteered at, among other places, Our Little Haven, a home for young children who are either HIV-positive or have been exposed to drugs in utero or at home; the Karen House, a Catholic Worker site; and the Big Brothers/Big Sisters program, which matches volunteers with kids as mentors.

On every Friday of the semester, we turned in a reflection paper about our service experiences during that week and gathered in a circle to discuss the past week and what we learned. Fr. Mueller thinks the individual reflection papers prepare the class to reflect together on their service, on themselves and on the relation to the class content.

"It becomes a shared experience where trust grows, emotional support and intellectual understanding takes place, with the result that students truly help form one another," he said. For him, the most critical element of the reflection process is that a constant "habit of attention" becomes a way of life. Throughout the semester this habit grows, and the students become the teachers. As the students learn how to become educated, they experience the circular process of action-reflection-action, which is called the Praxis Model.

"When the head, hand and heart mutually inform one another, a person grows in who they are and want to be, what and who they want to give themselves to, and how they want to do so," Fr. Mueller said. "The result is that students are allowed to examine these great questions of life in a developing theological context."

His philosophy of education is making an impact on his students. "This assignment wasn’t just about community service but an attempt to stand in solidarity with real people and to directly witness the situations that lead people to such marginalized experiences," Airaghi said. "It is my understanding that the Jesuit philosophy of education is the betterment of self as to improve the lives of others. And my academic experience, thanks to Fr. Mueller, has enriched my own life so that I can better help to enrich others’ lives."

I agree. Since the class ended, I have continued volunteering for many reasons but mostly because of a solid foundation made even stronger after my experiences in this course.

Fr. Mueller’s class and his teaching ability are not only praised by his previous and current students, but also are recognized University-wide. Fr. Mueller was one of 25 professors awarded the first annual Student Government Association Faculty Excellence Award for his work with students in and out of the classroom. He also was a finalist for the College of Arts and Sciences’ “Outstanding Teacher Award” this year. There is no doubt in my mind why he received the SGA Faculty Excellence Award," Wenzel said. "He really cares about the students and is one of the instructors who still remembers my name and always says hi to me when he sees me."

Many of Fr. Mueller’s colleagues also commend his abilities. In a nominating letter for another teaching award, Dr. Patrick Welch, professor of economics, said, "Many people can impart information to students. Few, however, are able to connect with their students in a way that the students feel both motivated and safe; and of those I have to think that very few do it as well as Fr. Mueller."

It has been three years since I was in "Theology and Social Responsibility." But I still remember all of the ideas and values that Fr. Mueller taught, and I try to live them every day. I have remained good friends with most of the people who were in my class; I have even roomed with one of them. When I look back, I realize that I may never have met these people or made these long-lasting friendships without his class.

And our group is not a fluke. All of Fr. Mueller’s "Theology and Social Responsibility" classes have the same end result because he designs the class to enrich students’ minds and help them make new friends. "This has been a wonderful experience for me because I have met some of my best friends through this class," said Abbey Moland, one of the most recent graduates of the class. "It has opened my mind and eyes to a lot of things that I don’t think I would have encountered or thought of otherwise."

"To say this course was significant for me is an understatement — it changed my life," said Airaghi, who has decided to teach high school on an Indian reservation because she believes this is a chance to live theology like Fr. Mueller taught.

I have decided to minor in theology because I, too, wanted to keep that aspect of my life present as I prepare to go out into a world that is much more intimidating than taking a 300-level theology class as a freshman. No matter how scary my next step is, I am certain of one thing — thanks to this class, I’ve been given the best chance to succeed. +

Allison Williams, a native of Nashville, Tenn., was an intern in the publications office last semester. She is a communication major and will be a senior this fall.
When you ask John Kavanaugh, SJ, about ethics, his eyes light up, a smile crosses his face, he leans back in his chair, and you know you’re in for a long, engaging conversation. A professor of philosophy at Saint Louis University, Kavanaugh is the director of Ethics Across the Curriculum, an interdisciplinary program seeking to improve the moral education of students by making ethics an integral part of the teaching, research and service of faculty.

Author of the new book Who Counts as Persons: Human Identity and the Ethics of Killing, Kavanaugh (A&S ’65, Grad ’66, ’71) will tell you that ethics not only belongs in a Saint Louis University classroom, it is integral in fulfilling SLU’s mission as a Catholic, Jesuit institution.

“Ethics should be a component of how we identify Saint Louis University as one of the major institutions of higher learning,” Kavanaugh said. “This is a place where, at the very heart of its mission, lies an ethical commitment, and it’s not just any ethics. It’s an ethics rooted in the dignity of the human person, the dignity of an individual, the importance of human relationship and the conviction that we are made for others in service. That’s what this program is about in terms of embodying our mission.”

Introduced less than five years ago, EAC has blossomed into a well-received program. “We hear how there is so little opportunity in the University for people from different disciplines to get together and talk about things in common,” said Donna Werner, coordinator for EAC.

“That’s one of the things people like about our program, which is important and relevant to all of our faculty.”

“Ethics Across the Curriculum is one of the ways we keep alive what almost all of our alumni value most about Saint Louis University,” Kavanaugh said. “It was their teachers, it was a sense of community, it was philosophy and theology and the lessons that went beyond the merely academic aspects of a particular subject.”

Grassroots push

In 1997, a small group of faculty members discussed the need for a formalized program to encourage and assist teachers in addressing ethics in their specific disciplines. An ad hoc committee of approximately 17 volunteers, the group initiated a research study to gauge perceptions about ethics on campus activities that could facilitate the promotion of ethics and how open people would be to a program.

“That’s one of the strengths of the program and one that distinguishes us from similar programs across the country,” Werner said. “We started through the grassroots effort of faculty.”

Dr. Roy Ruckdeschel, a professor in the School of Social Service, led the research study, which indicated a high interest in a multidisciplinary program without an unwieldy hierarchy. “The biggest interest was in faculty development,” Werner said. “There are many aspects to the program, but that was the main focus. The thought was if we want ethics in the classroom, we had to start with our teachers.”

Armed with concrete data, the original committee secured a three-year grant from the Marchetti Jesuit Endowment Fund. To remain true to the findings of the study, the program launched with minimal bureaucracy. EAC includes Werner, Kavanaugh and an advisory com-

BY CHRIS WALDVogel
mittee composed of volunteers. "We try not to formalize it too much," Werner said. "As long as people have an interest in the program, we want them to participate."

What started out as the original small group now has blossomed into 30 advisors who meet once a semester. "Fr. Kavanaugh and I look at these people as our bosses," Werner said. "They tell us what they want us to do, what they think is the best way to do it and how we can serve them and the faculty in their departments."

Kavanaugh and Werner officially report to the dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, but the classification exists purely for administrative reasons. Werner said Ethics Across the Curriculum is a University-wide program that touches and involves members from all arms of the University.

Those involved with EAC tend to spread the credit around and gush about the people it attracts. "The most amazing thing about the program is the people who drive it," Werner said. "Most serve on a voluntary basis, but they have an intense commitment to the program and contribute wonderful ideas. And working with Fr. Kavanaugh is a joy because he has a way of inspiring people."

Despite their deep involvement with the program for the past three years, both Kavanaugh and Werner credit Ted Vitali, CP (Grad '74, '76), chairman of the department of philosophy, with getting the program off the ground. Vitali, who served as chairman of the original EAC committee, is impressed at how the program has evolved.

"It has progressed as well, if not better, than I anticipated," Vitali said. "There seems to be genuine enthusiasm in the University for the program. It shows signs of growing in both quantity and quality."

**EAC in action**

EAC has made the most of limited resources in a relatively short amount of time. Beginning official operations during the 1998-99 academic year, EAC held its inaugural conference in May 1999. Attended by more than 120 faculty members, "What's Ethics Got to do With It?" featured a keynote address by Provost Sandra Johnson, as well as presentations from others at SLU that covered ethics in graduate, undergraduate and professional education.

Urged by numerous requests, Werner and Kavanaugh collected a written version of each person's remarks at the conference for a book that shares the same title. Published by Saint Louis University Press, the publication was distributed to all faculty. "The book was not created for the purpose of making money," Werner said. "It was an outlet to expose those in the University community to ideas on how to incorporate ethics into their work."

For the past two years, EAC has replaced the conference with a more interactive workshop. A full two-day comprehensive seminar, the workshop features sessions on main theories in philosophical traditions, religious traditions and contemporary philosophical approaches. "It's always remarked that there is, among our faculty, a real care for the students, a real engagement and sense of commitment to the growth of all facets of our students to form them as men and women of faith, character and conscience. This program contributes to that tradition in our faculty."

"There's such a hunger for this," Werner said. "Many schools have ethics programs, but I've never seen other schools address the theological approaches to ethics. But these approaches are appropriate for a Catholic, Jesuit university. I think that's one thing that makes Ethics Across the Curriculum unique."

**A just reward**

The effects of EAC have been far-reaching, extending beyond inspirational conferences and events. Through its summer stipend awards, EAC encourages concrete applications of ethics in the classroom. The first year, the program received few proposals for its four awards. In 2000, the competition was fierce for the $2,500 stipends.
ethics at SLU present to the faculty philosophy and theology who teach Kavanaugh said. “We have people from ples gives them a valuable perspective.”

experts in Kant. But knowing the prin-
terested in faculty members becoming

wants,” Werner said. “We're not inter-
rating an ethical vision,” said Kavanaugh, who encourages the application of ethics in life situations as well. “For those teaching mathematics, for example, there are many issues — not necessarily about math — but about relating to students, cheating, plagiarism, honesty, keeping hours, fulfilling contracts. Ethics touches all of our lives, but the applica-
tion often can escape us.”

Is EAC needed?
Saint Louis University identifies itself as a Catholic, Jesuit institution. So why, naysayers may ask, is a program needed? Shouldn't ethics already be part of the curriculum? EAC officials acknowledge that ethics, indeed, is part of an education at Saint Louis University. However, they counter, EAC provides a valuable resource to ensure that tradition continues.

“I think exposure to ethical theory helps faculty because it frames the ques-
tions,” Werner said. “We're not inter-
ested in faculty members becoming experts in Kant. But knowing the prin-
ciples gives them a valuable perspective.

“There institutes do a couple things,” Kavanaugh said. “We have people from philosophy and theology who teach ethics at SLU present to the faculty what’s being taught to our undergradu-

What? Ethics are difficult to teach, experts say, because one must be comfortable with ambiguity. “That doesn't mean ethics is relativistic,” Werner said. “There is a fine line between thinking that every answer is equally acceptable, which is not true, and being comfortable with more than one answer to a question.

“Or our teachers do great work, but I think they run into things like relativism in the classroom. The program helps them deal with these questions without dictating an answer to the question.

Werner would like newer faculty members with an interest in ethics to attend EAC activities. But officials agree that making a session mandatory is not a viable approach, especially for an institu-
tion that promotes academic freedom and religious liberty.

“You can teach principles, you can teach values, but that does not necessarily mean that they are going to be accepted,” Kavanaugh said. “But at least you expose people to them. You can’t propagandize people and control all of their information and force them to behave in a certain way. But it’s important to give people the ultimate vision, to give them the possibility of seeing life and their choices in an ethical way.”

EAC officials believe they work from a solid foundation at SLU. “There is a real a commitment to searching out the truth and to justice and service among our faculty,” Kavanaugh said. “When you've got that with people at any institu-
tion, that's a great unity of hearts to begin with.”

Branching out
When funding was secured for the EAC program, the Marchetti Jesuit Endowment Fund offered support for three years. Encouraged by the success of the program, the fund has extended its commitment for an additional year. EAC also plans to cooperate with Sigma Xi, the scientific research society, in funding an ethics in science workshop in the fall.

EAC officials hope to develop other partnerships to ensure the program becomes part of the permanent academic landscape at the University. “We're exploring several options for long-term funding,” Werner said.

Now officials just want to spread the word about the program's efforts in helping faculty nurture the character and intellect of SLU students.

“Ethics Across the Curriculum plays a defining role in the character and mis-
sion of the University,” Vitali said “It’s important people are aware of it.”

“We know this isn’t the only, or even most important, program at the University,” Kavanaugh said. “But it is central to our mission. It’s central to our vision of becoming the finest Catholic university in the nation.”

For more information about EAC, send an e-mail message to Werner @slu.edu.
Saint Louis University boasts some notable athletic achievements: 16 NCAA Final Four appearances and 10 national championships for the men’s soccer team; and four NCAA Tournament appearances in the past eight years for the men’s basketball squad. Certainly, the numbers are there.

But at SLU, student-athletes find themselves striving harder for success after their uniforms come off. The numbers to which they truly aspire are not tabulated at games. Being a student-athlete at SLU requires character — and a commitment to endeavors in which a good shot or personal-best time does not count. For many Billikens, achievements in the classroom and the community carry equal weight to numbers posted on the playing field. And in these statistics, SLU is always hard to beat.

Last summer, SLU earned the Conference USA Institutional Excellence Award for the fifth consecutive year. This honor goes to the school with the highest grade point average among student-athletes. SLU had a 3.09 GPA in 1999-2000 with 112 student-athletes named to the C-USA Commissioner’s Honor Roll for posting a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher.

In addition, SLU student-athletes are dedicated to community service. Each team makes a commitment to reach out to others through personal appearances, visits to hospitals, work at area shelters, participation in youth sport clinics and fund-raising activities. For example, each fall the men’s and women’s cross country teams organize a “fun run” to support the SLU food drive. The women’s soccer team assists with special needs soccer programs and the Special Olympics. And the men’s and women’s basketball teams distribute school supplies to at-risk children.

For some, this dedication to athletics, academics and service goes well beyond the team approach. As field hockey player Sue Albers, baseball player John McLaughlin and cross country runner Aimee Walther make their mark in the University’s lower-profile sports, they’re also building character.

Sue Albers

Sue Albers has plans for late June, but they do not include sports or academics. Instead, you will find her at Babler State Park wearing a T-shirt that reads “counselor.” For the next week, she will be helping children with muscular dystrophy. Counselors watch as the kids go swimming, work on arts and crafts, play wheelchair hockey and even organize a talent show. “As a counselor, you just try to make sure that they are having fun,” said Albers, a junior.

She might be carrying that funny stick, too, the one about 36 inches high, flat on one side, curved on the other. That stick can sure get some laughs. “It’s a field hockey stick,” Albers said. “I say it’s for hockey, and they say, ‘You’re a girl. What are you thinking?’”

Field hockey is a game sort of like...
ice hockey, sort of like soccer and often confused with lacrosse. Two teams of 11 players each compete on a turf field, trying to get a hard, plastic ball into the goal. Only shots taken while a player is inside the scoring circle count. Players can strike the ball just on the flat side of the stick.

Popular on the west coast and even more popular on the east coast, field hockey is booming in the heartland. SLU’s program debuted in 1975. The Billikens finished 2000 with a 6-14 (2-7 in Northern Pacific Conference) record. Albers, a midfielder, started 19 of 20 games. She scored four goals and added one assist.

As a sophomore, Albers started all 17 games, scored twice and assisted on three other goals. She played 13 games her freshman season. Crowds at the SLU home games are small but getting bigger. Mostly, just family and friends watch. Albers jokes about the education in field hockey that her parents, Marilyn and Harry Albers, are getting. “They don’t know all the rules, but they can tell the good things from the bad things,” said Albers, whose field hockey career began at Cor Jesu High School in St. Louis, where she collected two varsity letters plus four more in soccer. After thinking it over, Albers decided she wanted to play field hockey in college. “I wasn’t sure at first, but I wanted to see if I could make it,” she said.

The demand on a players’ time is significant. Practices are six days a week during the season. Coach Shannon West cuts back a little in the spring — to five days a week. No problem for Albers, who manages her time well enough to carry a whopping 3.95 grade point average while double majoring in marketing and management information systems. The Field Hockey Coaches Association selected her to the 2000 Division I National Academic squad.

Field hockey gets at least a little credit from Albers for that nearly-perfect 4.0 GPA. Practicing and playing sports help her stay organized and keep to her schedule. The fact that field hockey players do not get instant recognition on campus or any airtime on ESPN is beside the point. “You play for your teammates and for your personal satisfaction,” Albers said. “Some people don’t know much about field hockey. I tell them they should come out and watch.”

Albers does draw plenty of attention from the youngsters at camp. This is the fifth summer she has volunteered as a counselor. “I know all the kids, and it’s just a chance to help them out a little.”

**John McLaughlin**

A hitter needs faith.

This is baseball, remember, a game about failure. Players hitting .300 still return to the dugout unhappy seven out of every 10 at-bats. So John McLaughlin, an outfielder on the SLU baseball team, has faith that he can turn around a pitcher’s best stuff even after going 0-3. He carries a deeper faith, too.

This faith goes beyond the baseball field, where McLaughlin is active in the SLU chapter of Fellowship of Christian Athletes. “God has plans for my life,” he said. McLaughlin remembers that not many students made up the SLU chapter of FCA during his freshman year. Now, about 35-40 athletes attend meetings.

McLaughlin also takes part in another Bible study group that includes student-athletes from several St. Louis-area colleges. That group meets once a week. “It’s a blessing to get together for 90 minutes and to be there for one another,” McLaughlin said.

Last summer, as part of an Athletes in Action baseball team, McLaughlin visited Venezuela and Peru. This summer, the team is headed to Venezuela again and to Panama. Athletes in Action competes against colleges and junior national teams and then players meet afterward to talk about God. Ministry work and playing baseball go great together, McLaughlin said. “I never realized how effective it could be,” he said. “You have this game everyone plays, though, and that opens up people to talk about Jesus Christ.”

A coach at Eureka High School, McLaughlin’s alma mater, introduced
him to FCA. As a Wildcat, he played baseball, football and wrestled. He batted .440 his senior campaign. The chance to play Division I baseball at SLU thrilled McLaughlin. In college, though, the pitchers throw harder and mix speeds better than the high school hurlers. McLaughlin batted .222 in 17 games his freshman season. As a sophomore, he hit .263 in 30 games.

"The pitchers are so good," McLaughlin said. "Until you're in the batter's box seeing these guys throw 85-90 mph, you don't really appreciate what they do. It's been challenging."

The 2000 season started great. Through the first 10 games, McLaughlin hit .447 with three three-RBI games. He was even chosen Conference USA Hitter of the Week. For the season, McLaughlin batted .287 in 45 games. He hit one home run, drove in 26 and stole 13 bases in 14 attempts. From March 10 to 26, he put together a nine-game hitting streak.

McLaughlin planned on a big 2001 senior campaign. But then he injured his knee, forcing him to sit out two weeks after April 12 surgery. Late in the season, he was struggling to keep his batting average at about .200.

"I've tried to help out any way I can," McLaughlin said. "You encourage your teammates. It hasn't always gone like I wanted, but you try and you move on."

McLaughlin keeps the faith and counts his blessings. He is a college athlete, he gets to travel and even plays some early-season games down south as Midwesterners still battle the late-season chill. He carries a 3.4 grade point average while majoring in marketing and pursuing a minor in Spanish.

This fall, he will travel to Madrid to study at SLU's Spain campus. He graduates in spring 2002 and is mulling over careers in business, coaching or even youth ministry. "I'm just going to be patient and see what opportunities open up," McLaughlin said. "And I'm going to pray a lot."

**Aimee Walther**

At about the 18-minute mark, what doesn't hurt? But the finish line is in sight, so Aimee Walther forgets that her lungs are on fire and that her legs feel like Jell-O. "A lot of it is just mental discipline," she said. "Your body is saying, 'Oh, I'm tired,' but you have to keep going. You pump your arms and hope your legs follow."

Walther's personal best time as a SLU cross country runner is 18:08. She did that last fall, taking first at the Saluki Invitational in Carbondale. No SLU runner ever finished a 5K faster. Sports Illustrated didn't make it that day, though. And the local sports anchors opted for college basketball highlights. Walther just shrugs.

"The satisfaction comes from within," said Walther, a junior majoring in physical therapy with a 3.8 grade point average.

That personal satisfaction keeps Walther going — sometimes 40 miles a week in practice; sometimes on chilly, rainy, fall mornings; and sometimes during summer workouts on stiff, muggy jaunts at 8 a.m. when the temperature already has reached 80 degrees.

But for Walther, satisfaction comes from more than sports. It comes from her volunteer work at St. Louis Children's Hospital and with the Senior Olympics. It comes from her involvement in Oriflamme, SLU's orientation group. It comes from her belief that giving back to the community is important. "You get so much more satisfaction when you do something as a volunteer," she said.

And though juggling academics, athletics and service might seem stressful, Walther takes it in stride. "I sometimes find that the more I have to do, the better I budget my time," she said. "Having all these activities helps give me balance — and helps maintain my sanity!"

Obviously Walther's balancing act is working for her — and her sport. She has run the four fastest 5K times ever at SLU. Last fall, Conference USA selected her Athlete of the Week and All-Conference, the first SLU runner so honored. Walther took first among Billikens runners at every meet as a junior, finishing in the overall top 10 five times. She broke 19 minutes at every 5K race.

"It feels good, because if you do well then that encourages your team to do well, too," Walther said, noting that senior teammate Colleen Ray also broke 19 minutes at one race.

In high school at Visitation Academy in St. Louis, Walther made All-State twice. But she calls it a fluke that she even started running. She encouraged a friend to go out for cross country. The friend agreed to start running as long as Walther did, too.

Now the Billikens sometimes go running with Walther setting the pace. She is one of the leaders of the team. "That's something that I remember to keep in the back of my mind," she said. "If people are looking up to me, I need to set a good example."

Walther offers a reminder that cross country is not a picture-perfect sport for the lone athlete. Running races also is a team game. Teammates encourage one another. Runners sometimes take turns leading the pack. Before each nerve-wracking start, teammates pat one another on the back. It takes a person with character to motivate, lead and encourage a team.

Not surprisingly, several Billikens, not just Walther and Ray, set personal bests in 2000. "I think the team stepped up," Walther said. "Against the big dogs, we did better than expected. I think it's contagious. If one person is successful, it helps other people develop goals."
W. Roland Volkenga (A&S) celebrated his 26th year of retirement from Southwestern Bell in December. He lives in St. Louis County.

Joseph Katona (Parks) is retired and living in Verona, with his wife, Mary. …

David C. Chopin (A&S) is retired and lives in St. Louis.

Mary Catherine Neugent (Soc Sc) is the Archdiocese of Cincinnati’s Distinguished Service Award, and the Papal Benemerenti Medal, given for 60 years.

Robert E. Emory (Parks) is retired and living in Overland Park, Kan., where he enjoys fishing and flying radio-controlled model planes.

David C. Chopin (A&S) is still involved part-time in the advertising/public relations business. He and his wife live in St. Louis.

Mary Kate McQuade (Grad '58) lives in Coraopolis, Pa. He rebuilt a controlled model planes.

Fred C. Parks (Parks) is retired and living in O’Fallon, Mo., with his wife, Mary. …

Dr. Robert V. Snyder (Med) is a retired Rector who lives with his wife, Helen, in New Athens, Ill.

Ronald O. Byram (Parks) is retired and lives in San Diego. …

Dr. William E. Kirk (Med) has moved his practice to Gauthers Health System in Sayre, Pa. …

Donald E. Molloy (Law) is retired and lives in Florida, where he and his wife, Mary Lou, …

Martin Neets (Grad) is the general manager of KPLU FM in Tacoma, Seattle. The station is ranked in the top 10-to-15 percent of National Public Radio stations in the country.

Col. Vondell Carter (Parks) is working with the Department of Defense Special Programs in Arlington, Va. …

Dr. Joseph S. Spoto (Dent) is retired in Rochester, N.Y.

Louis M. Burwell (Nurs) is retired and enjoys traveling, spending time with her grandchildren. She lives in R. Am, Ala., with her husband, Phillips. …

Dr. Robert V. Toole (Med) retired from the Air Force in 1976 and from a professorship at the Ohio State University with a language in Medicine in 1997. He lives in Washington, Ohio. …

Donald Phillips (B&G ’57, Grad B&G ’65) is the vice president of communications for the Serra Club of St. Louis. He lives in St. Louis with his wife, Marlene.

Mary Basso Rose (A&S) is a retired junior high math teacher who lives in Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla. She has seven grandchildren and loves to spoil them.

Dr. Blaise E. Favara (Med) is semi-retired, still practices pediatrics part time and lives in Hamilton, Mont. …

Francis G. Hasebauer (Parks) is retired and enjoys woodworking and visiting his children and grandchildren. He lives in East Aurora, N.Y. …

William B. Huber (Parks) is a retired aircraft maintenance crew chief who lives in O'Fallon, Mo., with his wife, Marilyn. …

Mary Basso Rose (A&S) is a retired junior high math teacher who lives in Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla. She has seven grandchildren and loves to spoil them.

Dr. Robert D. Callahan (Dent ’55, Grad ’59) is president of the New York Society of Orthodontists. …

Robert Van Vranken (Med) is retired after 37 years with Shady Acres. He lives in Sturbridge, Fla., with his wife, Sharon. …

Louis K. Arrow, Okla. …

Penningroth (A&S) is a retired Realtor who lives with his wife, Helen, in New Athens, Ill.

Donald M. Arndt Jr. (Parks) has 11 grandchildren and is the president of PEI Midwest Inc. He is expanding his representative firm to include Birmingham, Ala., Naperville, Ill., and Covington, La. He lives in Geneva, Ill. …

Patricia Ballew (Soc Sc) is a youth minister at Research Triangle Park, N.C. He and his wife, Marilyn, live in Cary, N.C.

Mary Ann D. Moscoso (Nurs) works for Exempla Healthcare and lives in Arvada, Colo., with her husband, America, and three sons. They like to travel and visit relatives in Peru.

Carol D. Burkholder (A&S) is a medical secretary to a cardiac surgeon at Washington University in St. Louis. She married Mark Burkholder in April 2000. …

Bart F. Connors (B&A) has retired and is semi-retired, still practices pediatrics part time and lives in Hamilton, Mont. …

Barbara Molloy (A&S) is the president of communications at the Cleveland Clinic in Ohio and is coordinating a $150 million capital campaign for its Heart Center in Ohio. …

Roy E. Van Orman (Parks ’62, Grad B&G ’69) is a senior research engineer with Compressor Controls Corp. He lives in Marshalltown, Iowa. …

Dr. Harry Owens (A&S ’62, Med ’66) is a medical consultant in Bend, Ore. …

Everett Pittman (Parks) retired after 36 years with the FAA Aircraft Certification Service. After July 2001, he will live in Burke, Va. …

Frank Schiermeier (A&S ’62, Grad B&G ’67) retired after 18 years as the director of the Ohio State University in Washington, D.C., and the author of nine other books. …

Sue E. Burwell (B&A) is a youth minister at Holy Trinity Church in Louisville, Ky. …

Betty J. Price (A&S) is retired from teaching and spends time visiting family and friends and reading in Southfield, Mich. …

William J. Wolak Sr. (Grad B&G) is a retired director at the University of Pacific and is the chairman of new plays for American College Theatre Festival Region VIII. He and his wife, Camilla, live in Stockton, Calif.

Dr. Rose Arthur (A&S) is the director of the River College for Higher Education, which she founded four years ago in Natchitoches, N. H. …

Peter J. Kenny (A&S) is a youth minister at the Goddard Space Center in Maryland. He, his wife, Lynn, three children, two grandchildren and live in Glen Dale, Md. …

Dr. Jack A. Licate (A&S) is vice chairman for institutional advancement at the Cleveland Clinic in Ohio and is coordinating a $150 million capital campaign for its Heart Center in Ohio. …

Barbara M. Madaras (A&S) operates a small business development center providing business counseling in Sacramento, Calif. …

Marilyn Monroe and a first-generation teacher who lives in Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla. She has seven grandchildren and loves to spoil them. …

Dr. Robert E. Emory (A&S) is retired and has written two books. …

Dr. John F. Schweiss (Med) is retired and lives in St. Louis with his wife, Mary. …

Cmdr. Elmer C. Tallman (Parks) is retired from naval aviation and living in Verona, N.Y. …

Ann Triska (Nurs) and Dr. Roland Triska (A&S ’50, Med ’54) have been married 54 years and live in St. Louis. Roland is a clinical professor emeritus in pediatrics. …

Dr. Joseph S. Spoto (Dent) is retired and enjoys traveling, spending time with his family and playing bridge. …

Catherine G. Spann (AH&P) is retired from Loyola University Medical Center in Maywood, Ill. …

Dr. Robert D. Callahan (Dent ’55, Grad ’59) is president of the New York Society of Orthodontists. …

Victoria A. Fair (Nurs) is retired and lives with her wife, Dolores, in Broken Arrow, Okla. …

Penningroth (A&S) is a retired Realtor who lives with his wife, Helen, in New Athens, Ill.

Ronald O. Byram (Parks) is retired and lives in San Diego. …

Dr. William E. Kirk (Med) has moved his practice to Gauthers Health System in Sayre, Pa. …

Donald E. Molloy (Law) is retired and lives in Florida, where he and his wife, Mary Lou, …

Martin Neets (Grad) is the general manager of KPLU FM in Tacoma, Seattle. The station is ranked in the top 10-to-15 percent of National Public Radio stations in the country.

Col. Vondell Carter (Parks) is working with the Department of Defense Special Programs in Arlington, Va. …

Dr. Joseph S. Spoto (Dent) is retired in Rochester, N.Y. …

Louis M. Burwell (Nurs) is retired and enjoys traveling, gardening and babysitting her granddaughter. She lives in R. Am, Ala., with her husband, Phillips. …

Dr. Robert V. Toole (Med) retired from the Air Force in 1976 and from a professorship at the Ohio State University with a language in Medicine in 1997. He lives in Washington, Ohio. …

Donald Phillips (B&G ’57, Grad B&G ’65) is the vice president of communications for the Serra Club of St. Louis. He lives in St. Louis with his wife, Marlene.

Mary Basso Rose (A&S) is a retired junior high math teacher who lives in Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla. She has seven grandchildren and loves to spoil them.

Dr. Blaise E. Favara (Med) is semi-retired, still practices pediatrics part time and lives in Hamilton, Mont. …

Francis G. Hasebauer (Parks) is retired and enjoys woodworking and visiting his children and grandchildren. He lives in East Aurora, N.Y. …

William B. Huber (Parks) is a retired aircraft maintenance crew chief who lives in O’Fallon, Mo., with his wife, Marilyn. …

Mary Basso Rose (A&S) is a retired junior high math teacher who lives in Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla. She has seven grandchildren and loves to spoil them.

Dr. Robert D. Callahan (Dent ’55, Grad ’59) is president of the New York Society of Orthodontists. …

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Martin Neets (Grad) is the general manager of KPLU FM in Tacoma, Seattle. The station is ranked in the top 10-to-15 percent of National Public Radio stations in the country.
Dr. Paul J. Donoghue (Grad '65, Grad '70) has written his second book and had it published, The Jesus Advantage: A New Approach to a Fuller Life. ... Pat Enslay-Kuykendall (Grad) is retired and general counsel for Ralston Purina Co. She lives in St. Louis.

Dr. Robert T. Ernst (A&S '66, Grad '69) is the director of land-use planning on a floor. "They also spend time dancing. "We can "still clear a dance floor." They also spend time traveling. ... Nancy Fawcett-Jackson (A&S) owns and operates a real estate brokerage in St. Louis.

Robert F. Borchert (A&S '67, Grad '80) has joined Midwest BankCentre as vice chairman of the board of directors. ... Dr. Sally Salata Brenner (Nurs) is from Ohlone College in Fremont, Calif., where she served as a professor of allied health and medical sciences. ... Stanley M. Rea Jr. (B&A '64, Law '74) is the vice president and general counsel for Ralston Purina Co. He lives in Chesterfield, Mo. ... Dr. Donald P. Halpin (A&S) works at St. Bonaventure College in the Franciscan Formation Centre lecturing part-time, forming African M. ... Lois Ann (Noce) Treat (Grad) was named the 2000 Outstanding Teacher of Humanities at the middle school/junior high level by the Idaho Humanities Council. She has taught in Kuna, Idaho, for 25 of her 40 years in education.

On a Mission

Some young college graduates dream of big jobs, high-powered careers and executive suites. Jason Winfrey (Nurs '96) has always had very different goals.

"I have always dreamed of going to Africa to do long-term volunteering," Winfrey said. And he just got his wish.

In April, Winfrey left for two years and three months of service in Liberia with the Society of African Missions. It may be a generous sacrifice of his time, but reaching out to those in need is nothing new to Winfrey.

With encouragement from his parents, Winfrey began volunteering at Cardinal Glennon Children's Hospital as an eighth-grader and stayed on for several summers. "Volunteering really gave me a sense of responsibility at a young age, plus it was something I really enjoyed doing," he said.

While a student at Vianney High School, Winfrey met a group from St. Joseph's Home for Boys in Haiti. The encounter inspired him to extend his service commitment beyond St. Louis (and U.S.) borders. This time, it was more than an effort to assist others; it was a mission. "God was calling me to Haiti," he said.

Since that first trip, Winfrey has returned to Haiti five times. "I love Haiti, it's in my heart," he said. "People always have smiles on their faces, even though they are dirt poor, there is such a love for God."

At SLU, Winfrey received an Ignatian scholarship, was involved in campus ministry, went on Saint Louis University Community Action Program (SLU CAP) mission trips during spring break and participated in Habitat for Humanity projects. He also helped with SLU’s pro-life activities and sang in the 10 p.m. Mass choir.

After graduating, he spent several years as a registered nurse in Texas and New York before returning to St. Louis. All the while, he continued visiting Haiti to help nurses there by giving vaccinations.

Thanks to these experiences, Winfrey knew he found his purpose in life. "I think I was put here to help the oppressed, the mentally ill, people with AIDS and to fight for the underdog," he said.

But he still had not realized his dream of long-term service work in Africa, so he began looking for organizations to sponsor him. He found the Society of African Missions and, in September, began their preparation program in Washington, D.C. The training included classes on topics such as spirituality, environmental care, liturgy and African culture. In his free time, he volunteered with Hospice Care of Washington, D.C. He enjoyed his work there so much that he continued to extend his service commitment beyond St. Louis (and U.S.) borders.

"Through that experience, I have discovered my gifts of compassion, love, listening and openness for people in those situations," he said.

In November, Winfrey is serving in a clinic, hospital or leprosy center. Although he is realizing his dream, he knows that many challenges await him in Africa. "Sometimes you must choose between what you want to do and what God wants you to do, and usually what God wants is a more difficult," he said. "But I have kept my heart open to what God wants; I have been very lucky." — A W
Author! Author!
Three former students at Saint Louis University have written books that have been published recently. Here's a summary and general information about each book.

By Thomas S. Hischak (A&S '73)
Oxford University Press
The fourth volume of a series, the latest installment examines the Broadway, Off Broadway and Off-Off Broadway productions that shaped theater in New York during the last three decades.

The last 31 years produced a span of unprecedented change, a period in which theater blossomed into many forms while conventional productions dropped. From the rise of unknown playwrights, actors, directors and designers thriving in Off-Broadway shows to the productions staged in warehouses, church basements and other locales that catered to special interests and audiences, theater welcomed a broad influx of new faces and fresh approaches.

Presented in a season-by-season format, Hischak's book chronicles all Broadway non-musical productions, most Off-Broadway entries and a selection of Off-Off Broadway material.

Featuring facts about plays, plot summaries, critical reaction and bios of notable artists, this reference work frames the late 20th century as a period of transition in which artists carved a new realm and culture in theater.

The Dictionary of Wordplay
By Dave Morice (A&S '69)
Teachers & Writers Collaborative
What do gypsy, nymph and rhythm have in common? All are abstemious words, that is, they lack vowels. Have you ever heard of the book Cutting It Fine by Moses Lawn? It's an example of "punning an author's name." In The Dictionary of Wordplay, poet Dave Morice has created a new type of reference work, one that delves into the playful conundrums of language.

With 1,234 entries, Morice's book explores the spirited nature of language in literary forms such as the Exquisite Corpse, a poetry game for three or more players; well-known wordplays such as anagrams, palindromes and puns; as well as the numerical science of word squares and letter shifts.

A reference for the expansive range and nuances of communication, The Dictionary of Wordplay covers A to Z with entries on the comic alphabet, backward multiple charade, the editorial kangaroo and several other examples that will delight linguists, students, writers, editors and students.

The Fix
By Jeff Schneider (Billiken basketball, 79-80, 80-81)
Vivisphere Publishing
A former basketball player at Saint Louis University, Schneider takes a shot at writing with his first novel about an NCAA Final Four gone sour.

In The Fix, the owners of the broadcast rights to the Final Four face a major crisis. Cinderella teams keep making improbable charges deep into the postseason, eliminating parity and causing sportswriters to apply the moniker "The Final Bore" to the annual event.

Desperate for ratings, the World Broadcasting Company conspires with the Mafia to ensure college teams with the largest following make the cut — all in the name of profit.

But none of the behind-the-scenes players counted on unknown point guard Mike Kramer, the senior captain of a Louisville-based Catholic university. A poor country boy, Kramer can't be bought when it comes to sportsmanship and ethics.

The Fix courts the notion of a dark underbelly in collegiate sports with a disturbing tale in which the spirit of competition is compromised but not broken.

— CW
G. Galvin (A&S '69) is retired from the U.S. Army and is working as an orthopedic surgeon. He lives in San Francisco. ... Frank S. Hiegel (Soc Ser '71) is vice president of investments for Salomon Smith Barney in Little Rock, Ark. ... JoAnn Kaestner (A&S '71) and John Kaestner (Grad '77) live in Baldwin, Mo. John is the senior group director of consumer awareness and education at Anheuser-Busch, and Joann is the technology coordinator at St. Margaret Mary Alacoque Elementary School. Carol C. Price (Pub Ser '76) is an adjunct professor at Saint Louis University's School of Social Service. ... Lowell T. Summers (Grad) is retired from his job as a human resource executive. He lives in Godfrey, Ill. ... C. candyson Danielson (Pub Ser '76) is retired and lives in San Jose, Calif. ... Harry E. Whitney is the president/CEO of Santa Marta Hospital in East Los Angeles. ... Michael J. Zliatc (Parks) is the chief environmental engineer at the St. Louis County Department of Health.

1974

Patricia A. (Steiner) Auer (Nurs '71, Grad '73) is a family nurse practitioner and manager of Convalescent Care Program for Hudson Health Care Network. She lives in Saratoga Springs, N.Y., with her husband, Thomas. ... Dr. David F. Dinges (Grad) has been named team leader for the new neuroscience and psychology team at the National Space Biomedical Research Institute. ... David C. Lapee (A&S '74, Law '77) has joined the retail development group of Pace Properties Inc. in St. Louis. ... Debra K. Ovton (Soc Ser '76, Grad '78) is the regional director of wellness services with Sunrise Assisted Living. She lives in St. Louis.

1975

Dr. Donna M. Igou (Soc Ser '75, MEd '91) is a radiologist for Western Group Radiological Group in St. Louis. ... John H. Phelps (A&S '74, Med '78) was named to the Alvin Brecken Endowed Professorship in the obstetrics and gynecology department at the University of Texas.

1976

Gloria E. Adametz (Grad) is a home economics teacher in the St. Louis R-7 School District. ... Diane M. Ellenberger (NURS '74, Grad '79) is owner and consultant for The Medical Legal Advantage in San Anselmo, Calif. ... Gail Wilkerson (NURS '76, Grad '86) is the director of mental health services with Sunrise Assisted Living. She lives in St. Louis.

1977

Brian L. Andrew (Law) joined the St. Louis office of Husch & Eppenberger specializing in health law. ... Dr. Ray Mohrman (A&S '74, Law '77) is a home economics teacher with his doctorate in clinical psychology. He is in private practice and has started his own Transitional Counseling Services. He and his wife live in Olympia, Wash. ... Clara Hudak (A&S) is an attorney, and her husband, Edward, was accepted to Saint Louis University. They live in Columbus, Ohio. ... John G. Bleehager (A&S) is the first vice president of CWA Local 2300 in Washington, D.C. ... Eugene M. Throif (Law) is the director for the Office of Consumer Litigation of the United States Department of Justice. He lives in Rockville, Md.

1978

Reunión
A charitable remainder trust benefits you and Saint Louis University.

Here is how it works:

Fixed or variable payments are made to donor or other for life or a period of years.

Cash, securities or real estate is transferred to trust. Asset is sold free of capital gains tax. Donor receives income tax deduction for a percentage of value transferred.

Upon termination of trust, remaining assets support donor's favorite area at Saint Louis University.

EXAMPLE

A husband and wife, both age 70, transfer appreciated stock to a 6 percent charitable remainder unitrust. The stock, which pays a 3 percent dividend, has a market value of $100,000 and a cost basis of $20,000.

Summary of benefits with example:

- Income tax deduction for couple: $36,149
- Income tax savings with deduction: $13,014
- Amount reinvested in trust: $100,000
- Capital gains tax paid by trust upon sale of stock: $0
- First year pre-tax income to couple: $6,000
- Estimated pre-tax income to couple over life of trust: $167,724
- Estimated benefit to University at end of trust: $175,351

For more information on charitable remainder trusts including a free, no-obligation personalized illustration, contact the planned giving office.
Dr. Lynda Ruth Campbell, associate professor and former chairwoman of the department of communication sciences and disorders, died March 15. She was 42. Dr. Campbell was active in the American Speech Language Hearing Association, having served on numerous boards and committees, including the multicultural issues board, which she chaired from 1995-1997. She also was an elected member of the board of directors of the National Black Association for Speech, Language & Hearing. An accomplished scholar, Dr. Campbell made numerous national, regional and local presentations and wrote more than 30 articles and book chapters, primarily in the area of cultural and linguistic diversity.

Despite her appearance in the "In Memoriam" section of the last issue of UniverSitas, we are pleased to report that Mary Ann Craven (Pub Ser ‘67) is alive and well. We apologize for the error and wish her all the best.
Children's Memorial Hospital in Chicago. Dr. Brian Senger (Med) is partner/owner of McGregor Medical Centers in St. Louis. Mr. Brian Rau, a community-based physician award for instruction from the American Academy of Internal Medicine. Mr. Brian Rau, a community-based physician award for instruction from the American Academy of Internal Medicine. He lives in San Antonio, with his wife and two children. ... Andrea Tweedle-Felgus (Nurs) is a nurse for Asthma & Allergy Clinical Research in Madison, Wis. She married Matthew Felgus in March 1999. They have a son, Egan.

REUNION

Stephanie (Geels) Hembrecht (A&S) is an editor at Monday, a St. Louis-based medical publishing company, and lives with her husband, John, in University City, Mo. ... Rhian Kream (A&S) is a chemist for ExxonMobil Research & Engineering Co. and lives in Chicago. ... David Tipton (B&A) was promoted to associate professor at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh. ... Gina L. Ward (B&A) received her master's degree in health services management from Webster University. She works at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and is pursuing a post-baccalaureate premedical degree. She lives in Boston.

Margaret Baum (A&S) is graduating with a medical degree from Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine and beginning her residency in OB/GYN at the University of Texas Southwestern. ... Diana E. Brumleve (Soc Ser) is a psychologist at the Illinois Department of Corrections Women's Prison. She focuses on reunifying incarcerated mothers and children. ... Dr. Karl J. Orschen (A&S) received an M.D. from the University of Missouri in May. Following graduation, he will be a resident physician in the department of internal medicine at the University of Missouri. ... John E. Powers (Law) joined St. Louis office of Husch & Eppenberger specializing in health law.

M. Rosell (A&S) is pursuing a master's degree in clinical psychology and a specialist degree in school psychology at Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville. ... Judy Tyler (Soc Ser) is the director of outreach at the Violence Prevention Center of Southwestern Illinois in Belleville, Ill. ... Sonia M. Zuroweste (Soc Ser) is a deputy juvenile officer for St. Louis County Family Court.

Wylenthia Johnson (A&S) is studying at Washington University School of Medicine in the occupational therapy master's degree program. ... Joe Laramie, NSJ (Pub Ser) joined the Jesuits in August and lives at the Jesuit novitiate in St. Paul, Minn. ... Jeffrey C. Wuorinen (A&S) is a program manager in Egypt for the Institute for Public-Private Partnerships. He is on a USAID-sponsored capacity-building program for a year starting in January 2001.

Taking a bite out of life?

TELL CLASS NOTES

Universitas Class Notes Saint Louis University DuBourg Hall 39 221 North Grand Blvd. St. Louis, MO 63103 fax: (314) 977-2249 e-mail: utas@slu.edu
EGG HUNT: Almost 1,000 Saint Louis University alumni and their families attended the first-ever SLU Alumni Easter Egg Hunt on April 14 on campus. Participants enjoyed hunts, visits with the Easter bunny, refreshments and entertainment.

Dental Alumni
President: Dr. Francis X. Neuner (’68)

Dental Reunion 2001 will be held in conjunction with the Mid Continent Dental Congress, Sept. 14 to 16. The reunion dinner will be Saturday, Sept. 15, with cocktails at the Père Marquette Gallery in Dubourg Hall and dinner in the St. Louis Room of Busch Memorial Center. Call (314) 577-8106 for more information.

Orthodontic Alumni
President: Dr. Robert A. Shapiro (’00)

The annual Center for Advanced Dental Education golf outing will be Wednesday, July 18, at the Spencer T. Olin Golf Club in Alton, Ill. Call Dr. Alex Ritchey or Dr. Rebecca Jeffers at (314) 577-8181 for more information.

Parks College
President: Carrie T. M. F. Holm (’95)

Parks College of Engineering and Aviation is gearing up for Airventure 2001, which will take place July 23 to 31 in Oshkosh, Wis. The annual event attracts parks alumni from all over the globe. All Parks alumni and their families are invited to a barbecue at 6 p.m. Friday, July 27, at Parnell’s Place Restaurant and Bar in Oshkosh. For reservations, call (314) 977-2214. Tickets for this event are $25 per person.

Reunion 2001 is right around the corner. Parks alumni who graduated in a year ending in one or six are invited to attend all the festivities. All Parks alumni who have graduated over the past 10 years also are encouraged to attend the weekend’s events. If you are interested in becoming a part of the special Parks Reunion committee, please call (314) 977-2214 or e-mail oneillc@slu.edu. Show your parks spirit by wearing authentic Parks merchandise. For more information, call (314) 977-2250.
Take us out to the ballgame
Chicago Alumni Club
Cardinals vs. Cubs day at Wrigley Field
Sunday, July 29
Join other Chicago alumni for this great outing to historic Wrigley Field. Event includes a ticket to the game and a pre-game party at HITops, across from Wrigley. Watch for your invitation in the mail, or call 1-800-SLU-FOR-U for reservations. Space is extremely limited.

Southern California Alumni Clubs
Los Angeles Alumni Club
Cardinals vs. Dodgers
Sunday, Sept. 2
San Diego Alumni Club
Cardinals vs. Padres
Monday, Sept. 3
Both these events include a game ticket and pre-game reception. Invitations will be mailed later this summer, but for more information or to make reservations, call 1-800-SLU-FOR-U.

Travel Program: SLU Tours
Cruise the Face of Europe
Aug. 5 to 21
Cruise the Danube
Oct. 7 to 15
Trans-Panama Canal Cruise
Aug. 5 to 21
Cruise the Face of Europe
Oct. 7 to 15
Cruise the Danube
Aug. 5 to 21

Billiken E-Bulletin
The alumni relations office has launched an e-mail newsletter, delivered to alumni who have provided their e-mail addresses to the University. The newsletter offers news stories, previews upcoming events and highlights important SLU happenings. To subscribe, send an e-mail message to alumni@slu.edu.
Saying Goodbye

By Melissa Harms (A&S '01)

It was 3 a.m., and I was in a semidrowsy state, tossing and turning on the waiting room couch, not really sleeping, but certainly not awake. I was unconscious from a month’s exhaustion, but one slight touch caused me to jump, and I was instantly alert. My shoes were on my feet in seconds, and I ran down the hallway after my parents to the ICU. I don’t remember who woke me up, I don’t remember who was with me, and I don’t remember how fast it all happened. Someone said to me, “Melissa, wake up, Michele is going.”

Those words ring in my ears every time I close my eyes. The events that followed are burned in my memory, and I can’t think of one moment without reliving them all in a flood of emotion. I was instantly next to her. I grabbed her hand, and held on tight. My dad was at the foot of her bed, too caught up with emotion to stand, and mom was on Michele’s other side.

I noticed my mom looking at me with the question in her eyes that neither of us wanted to answer. I knew she didn’t want to say it. “Michele, you do what you have to do. We will be OK.” It took me a minute to realize what I was saying, but I noticed my mom had joined in. It became our chant. Despite her sedation, we could tell she was fighting to hold on for us. My mom quickly looked up in mid-sentence, and pointed out the single tear streaming down Michele’s cheek.

“Michele, we will be OK,” and she let go.

She was my little sister. Michele was my life companion. She was my servant, my playmate and my rock. She was only 18, and had lived a fuller life than I could ever begin to imagine. I was proud, jealous and amazed by her — what sister wouldn’t be?

I had just helped her pack for her first year at Saint Louis University. I had just helped her figure out what classes she was going to drop so she would have time to recover from what we thought would be a short hospital stay. I had just joked with her about everything from disgusting hospital food to her fashionable gown. She was supposed to be my friend forever.

Michele died on Sept. 25 from a disease called Lupus. Her immune system essentially attacked her body as if it were a foreign agent. She had been in and out of the hospital all summer but had the proverbial “right way.” She didn’t waste a moment. She never focused on one thing too much as to lose sight of everything else around her. She was easygoing and would not let the little things get to her. She knew how to have a good time, she knew when to be serious, she knew how to be a good friend, and she also knew how to be a troublemaker.

Since her death, I have come to cherish her personality traits more than I could have ever imagined. Everyday I hope to become more like her, and I hope to surround myself with people who possess the same qualities, values and outlook on life. She was a person I was just getting to know, a person I will try to emulate for the rest of my life. The challenge is regaining my strength to begin that process.

Michele was sedated and on the respirator for two weeks. For two days she was slowly brought up from sedation, and we were blessed to have the opportunity to talk with her and have her respond back in any way she could. One day I talked to her for 30 minutes straight, with her looking up at me, smiling, crying, responding to my jokes and holding onto my hand so tight. I felt like I could pick her up and hold on forever. I probably would have if the nurses would let me. I remember that was the last time she was awake. Even then, she shined. Even then, she was brightening the hardest situation any of us would ever face.

I have just begun the grieving process and the re-evaluation of how Michele has affected my world. All I know is that she has changed me forever. She will always be my sister, my friend, my model, my life companion and now my guardian angel. She continues to shine. Everyday. Forever.

Melissa Harms (pictured above left at age 7 with Michele, age 4) graduated from SLU in May with a communication major. She plans to attend graduate school at SLU in the fall. In the spring, this essay received first place in the University’s second annual Phi Beta Kappa undergraduate essay contest.
Plaudits offered for preserving friary

I felt a lump rise up in my throat the minute I saw the cover of the winter/spring UNIVER SITAS. As a student at SLU, I met and befriended many of the friars who lived at St. Bonaventure, and I spent a great deal of time at the friary. I was saddened when I learned that the building was up for sale and then rejoiced when I learned that Saint Louis University had purchased it for a retreat and conference center.

Though much of the rustic Franciscan charm is gone, knowing that others can still visit and realize the presence of the Lord, as I once did, is a wonderful feeling.

I am very grateful to Fr. Biondi and Saint Louis University for recognizing this building’s potential and preserving so beautifully a place filled with character, spirit and memories.

Ann (Phegley) Hanson (Nurs ’93)
Alton, Ill.

Social justice shines

I honor Fr. Biondi’s “President’s Message” (winter/spring 2001) and his participation along with nearly 200 students, faculty, staff and alumni in the protest against the U.S. Army’s notorious School of the Americas. They exemplify a dictum of Pope Paul VI, “If you want peace, work for justice,” and show that even during cynical times the light of social justice burns brightly at Saint Louis University.

Jerome Garger (A&S ’60)
Eugene, Ore.

Story rekindles memories

My heart was warmed by the article about those students, faculty and staff, and best of all our university president, who protested the School of Americas (“Crossing the Line,” winter/spring 2001). It reminded me of my early years and how those Vietnam protests in some mystical way led to my destiny as a social worker and enrollment at SLU. It has been 20 years now since my graduation, and yet the time at Saint Louis University has remained rich in memory.

I am proud to be an alumnus of such a strident and socially conscious institution.

Ken Andert (Soc Ser ’80)
Lake Oswego, Ore.

A dissenting view

I read with interest the article “Crossing the Line” in the winter/spring edition of UNIVER SITAS by Chris Waldvogel regarding last November’s protest of the School of the Americas by the students and faculty from Saint Louis University. I also read President Lawrence Biondi, SJ’s message, which presented his remarks made outside Fort Benning. One of the lawyers who works for me is a SLU graduate.

For the record, I am the Staff Judge Advocate at Fort Benning, which means I am the senior legal adviser to the Fort Benning commander. For the past two years I have been actively involved in helping Fort Benning prepare for the annual School of Americas Watch Week. For your reader’s information, the School of Americas closed in December of last year. In January the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation (the Institute) opened with a new mission, new commander and new curriculum.

During last November’s protest, I spent the majority of my time walking through the crowds of protestors, talking to them and answering questions. I had the pleasure of meeting several groups of SLU students and enjoyed talking to them. I found all of your SLU students to be respectful and mature, although somewhat unsure of what exactly they were doing in the cold and rain in southwest Georgia in November. In fact, the most “intellectually honest” group of protestors I encountered was a group of SLU young women.

I believe these students were somewhat surprised when I explained that I was the product of a Catholic school education and that my children had attended Catholic schools. They were also surprised to learn that I did not work for the Institute and that only a very small number of soldiers assigned to Fort Benning actually worked there. Finally, I think they were shocked when I explained that Fort Benning is, in reality, an open military installation (no gates, no guards or barriers) and that they were free to visit the Institute and most of Fort Benning at any time during the year, provided they were not there to engage in political protest.

The amount of disinformation provided by SOAW supporters in very frustrating for those of us who live and work at Fort Benning. One young SLU undergraduate told me she was there to protest because “Saddam Hussein” had been trained at the Institute. I had to explain that much of the information distributed by protest leaders is to say the least, disingenuous. For example, the SOAW rhetoric has now shifted from falsely accusing Institute leaders of teaching assassination and torture to now falsely accusing the Institute of complicity in the international arms trade.

It is unfortunate that, instead of protesting at Fort Benning last November, Fr. Biondi has instead availed himself of the opportunity to attend the Jubilee Mass for the U.S. Military and Police Forces celebrated by Pope John Paul II on Nov. 19 at St. Peters in Rome. Speaking as “the son of a soldier myself,” the Holy Father emphasized the role of the military as an instrument of peace.

Archbishop Edwin O’Brien of the U.S. Military Archdiocese echoed those sentiments, declaring that the Jubilee Mass was an opportunity “to stand up and take note that our Army is not only the largest in the world, but also the most respected force for the peace in the world.” Except, it seems, by Fr. Biondi, Roy Bourgeois and their SOAW acolytes.

Richard E. Gordon
Fort Benning, Ga.
September 28 to 30

- Special gatherings for the classes of '51, '56, '61, '66, '71, '76, '81, '86, '91 and '96
- Young Alumni Reunion for classes of 1990 to today
- 3K fun run/walk race
- Campus tram tours
- School-based receptions and dinners
- Billiken men’s soccer game
- Outdoor concert
- Fireworks display
- Special children’s activities
- Alumni Mass and brunch

If your graduation date ends in one or a six, this is your year. But, of course, every graduate is welcome back for a weekend full of activities.

Your input as members of a reunion committee is always welcome. For more information on volunteering, events, hotel and airfare discounts, or specific class celebrations, call 1-800-SLU-FOR-U, or visit the University’s Web site at www.slu.edu. A detailed invitation and registration form will be mailed to alumni this summer.

Please note that the following schools will gather for reunion on different weekends:
- School of Dentistry: Sept. 14 to 16
- School of Medicine: Oct. 11 to 13