Driving to school the other day, I was listening to KWMU, the public radio station, when they interrupted the program with a fund-raising pitch. So I switched to the oldies station, but they were airing some sort of paid advertising program. Now what? The traffic was backing up, and I had nothing to listen to. I switched the radio off then on to check the two stations again, but no change, so off again.

In the silence that followed, I had one of those moments of enlightenment. I must have at least 50 or more stations available to me. There is the entire AM spectrum as well as many FM bands that my car radio can tune in. Yet, there was I stuck on a two-point scale, perceiving my driving entertainment options to be only golden oldies or news commentary.

We seem to live in a time when two-point scales predominate. You live in either a red state or a blue state. You are either liberal or conservative. The complex issues of public policy seem to have been reduced to a simple, binary choice. This simplification hardens attitudes and inhibits creative problem solving. Frustration, rather than possibilities, colors our outlook.

This issue of the newsletter highlights people who have found creative ways of giving to the College of Public Service to help carry on its mission. When the college began, people questioned the need for a college for Professional Studies. And again an energy and creativity resulted that continue to move us beyond two-point scales.

Our students, faculty and staff are engaged in an enterprise devoted to moving beyond two-point scales. Our students make tremendous sacrifices to expand their horizons, to learn new skills, to see the possibilities. Faculty and staff work to facilitate this stretching of the horizons and supporting the creation of a worldview that will contribute to a more vibrant civic, business and social climate.

On behalf of myself and all of us in the College of Public Service, a big thank you to our donors who support the important work of moving beyond two point scales.

Majic 104.9, here I come!

James F. Gilsinan, Ph.D.
Dean of the College of Public Service

Keith Willis, SPS Alumnus, Builds a Better Tomorrow

Keith Willis (School for Professional Studies ’02) began his education at Saint Louis University at the age of 35, the same age that St. Ignatius of Loyola, founder of the Jesuits, was when he began his formal college education.

While this may be a coincidence, the parallels of the Jesuits’ founder and this SLU alumnus are easily drawn. Both dedicated their lives to service in the community in hope for a better tomorrow. In his work and through his service, Willis exemplifies what it means to be a part of SLU’s Jesuit tradition.

During the weekdays, Willis is the principal of Tomorrow’s Builders charter high school in East St. Louis. The school enrolls students ages 16-24 who have dropped out or have been kicked out of traditional schools. Many of the students have been on probation or served prison time.

“Our school gives these kids who have made some mistakes at a young age an opportunity to change, and eventually make a transition to college or the workforce,” Willis said.

Willis describes himself as a “change agent,” and his mission is to be a part of making other people’s lives better.

In addition to working, Willis contributes his time to the community. He volunteers with the United Way, Habitat for Humanity and St. Paul’s AME church. He has also served on the board of the Salvation Army’s Hope Center and was on the governor’s task force on African American males.

He is a member of the 100 Black Men and the local NAACP, Focus St. Louis recognized him with the “What’s Right with the Region” Award, and the Mental Health Board gave him an advocacy award for his work with suicide prevention.

Victims’ Rights Week Kicks-Off at SLU

The St. Louis Regional Crime Victims’ Rights Week will kick-off this year at Saint Louis University on Sunday, April 10. During the week, crime victims, service providers, criminal justice professionals, allied professionals and community leaders will join together across America to commemorate the 25th anniversary of National Crime Victims’ Rights Week. This year’s theme is “Justice Isn’t Served Until Crime Victims Are.”

The kick-off event will feature victims of crime and victim advocates coming together to speak about their individual definitions of justice. The event will also honor Edward Stout (M.A. Urban Affairs ’83), an advocate for crime victims and the first national co-chair for National Crime Victims’ Rights Week. Ed, who passed away in February, was the executive director of the Crime Victim Advocacy Center from 1982 to 2005.

“Ed was committed to victim rights and the improvement of the entire community,” said Dr. James Gilsinan, dean of the College of Public Service. “He was also an adjunct faculty member at Saint Louis University, sharing his vast knowledge of victim issues with a wide variety of students.”

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The theme for Saint Louis University’s fifth annual Atlas Week program was “Global Peace, Global Justice.” Atlas Week, which was April 1-8, is a week-long program of events designed to highlight the international dimension of Saint Louis University and to celebrate its role in international education and service in light of our Jesuit tradition. This year, Dr. Oscar Arias Sánchez, former President of Costa Rica and 1987 Nobel Peace Prize Winner, was the keynote speaker for the week’s Signature Symposium. He also received the Sword of Ignatius Loyola, the University’s top honor. The sword is named for the founder of the Jesuits and awarded to those who have given themselves to humankind for the greater glory of God.

The College of Public Service, in conjunction with SLU’s celebration of Atlas Week, planned several events for this year’s program. On April 1, guest speaker Sharon Glennen, Ph.D., presented “Language Development and Disorders in Internationally Adopted Children.” Continuing this theme, several faculty members from the departments of communication sciences and disorders, counseling and family therapy, and research methodology presented information about an international adoption clinic project that they are working on. A faculty and student forum about living and learning with added to the fund, which will allow it to grow and support additional students in the future.

The first Cormack Fellow, Michael Schmid, who is pursuing a Ph.D. in public policy, is working with the Campus Kitchens project, a national organization that uses excessing resources to meet hunger and nutritional needs of adults, seniors, children and families in need. This is accomplished by partnering with university dining services and businesses and using their surplus food to provide nutritious meals, which are prepared and delivered by college student volunteers. In addition to working with SLU’s Campus Kitchens weekly during the next year, Schmid will oversee a project that will have a lasting impact on the program.

Mary Pat Golden (J.D. ’88) wanted to set up a scholarship in honor of her deceased mentally handicapped sister, Cathy. Golden made the decision with her family to contribute to the College of Public Service through a scholarship that would fund a student who was focused on working with special-needs children. Warren Golden, Mary Pat and Cathy Golden’s father, became very involved in setting up the fund. He unexpectedly passed away, however, soon after the details were completed. Knowing how important this scholarship fund was to him, the family asked for contributions to the fund in his memory. Through the combination of family funds and donations from friends, the “Cathy Golden Special Education Scholarship Endowment” was created. Each year, the fund will be named next fall.

To make a gift to the College of Public Service, please use the enclosed envelope. For additional information, contact Bernie Schauf, director of development, at 314-977-2218 or visit www.slu.edu/colleges/cops/giving.html.

Did You Know?

Faculty from COPS are forming a new clinic project that will aid parents who have adopted children from foreign countries. For more information, contact Deb Hwa-Freelich, Ph.D., at hwaforad@slu.edu or Doug Petriselli, Ph.D., at petrisj@slu.edu.

The College of Public Service is co-sponsoring the 4th International Costello Syndrome Conference in June 2005. The conference will focus on the educational, social and medical perspectives of this rare disease. Families from around the world will travel to SLU to participate. For more information, go to www.slu.edu/college/cops/ges_lea_sclnClinic.html.

Ronald Rebro, Ph.D., will assume a new position in July, associate dean of the Graduate School.

News From Alums

Julie Swanson (M.A. Public Administration ’94) is working for the U.S. Attorney’s office as a Victims Coordinators.

Larry Remnick (Ed.D. Educational Leadership ‘10) is a reading teacher leader for the School District of Clayton. He leads the district’s early intervention program in literacy, provides staff development in the area of literacy and teaches elementary reading classes. The Center for Cognitive Coaching recently provided his doctoral research on this Web site.

James Wilson (M.A. Public Administration and J.D. ’87 and B.A. Urban Affairs ’82) was recently elected as the district attorney of the 22nd Judicial District in Colorado.

The Campagn for Saint Louis University is in full swing; with 28 months remaining, the College of Public Service is 62 percent of the way toward achieving its goal of $10 million. Thanks to our many donors, we are building the capacity to offer more scholarships, support the clinics and their community outreach efforts, expand interdisciplinary research institutes and enhance the graduate curriculum.

In this issue, we begin a new feature highlighting some of the creative ways donors have contributed to the College of Public Service. These gifts allow COPS to continue its mission of “preparing undergraduate and graduate students for professions in which they will serve as leaders in partnership with and for the human community.” The donors endowed areas of scholarship where they have a personal connection or a profound, lifelong commitment, providing a living legacy for future generations.

Fr. James Cormack, C.M., (M.A. Urban Affairs ’78) served the St. Vincent de Paul parish for 19 years. As the parish’s pastor, he worked with many individuals and families whose economic circumstances required them to use the parish’s extensive food bank programs. When he was reassigned to another parish, the St. Vincent’s board wanted to do something special for him in appreciation for his service. Fr. Bill Hartenbach, C.M., noted that a scholarship fund be started in Cormack’s name that would support a COPS graduate student researching and working on the causes of and solutions to poverty. Through the efforts of the parish, the “Fr. James Cormack, C.M., Fund for the Study of Poverty” was created. The scholarship endowment has continued to grow through the leadership of Judge Michael Burton, a St. Vincent’s parishioner, who organizes a 5K run each year. Money raised from this event is added to the fund, which will allow it to grow and support additional students in the future.

SLU celebrates Atlas Week

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Apr. 20 RegionWise Celebrates New Partnership with COPS 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. Samuel Cupples House R.S.V.P. 314-977-2204 or tureks@slu.edu

May 11 Department of Public Policy Studies: First Alumni Dinner and Fund-Raising Event Featured speaker: University President Lawrence Biondi, S.J. For more details, call 314-977-3934 or e-mail balsmanj@slu.edu

Sept. 30 Homecoming Weekend: For details, call 314-977-2250 or visit www.slu.edu/alumni

MESSAGE FROM TIM BAGWELL

By the Numbers

124 clients served in the Center for Counseling and Family Therapy

87 clients served in the Special Learning Clinic

170 clients served in the Speech-Language-Hearing Clinic

28 organizations (faith-based, educational, community and neighborhood based, and government) served by the GES lab in 2004

How to Submit News:
If you have news to share and would like to submit it for publication, please send it to: Julie King Saint Louis University College of Public Service Mail Stop 2510 3750 Lindell Blvd. St. Louis, MO 63108 E-mail: knightmj@slu.edu