Also inside:

+ Student Callers
+ Health Care Mission Trips
+ The Renovated Rec Center
+ A Professor’s Irish Discoveries

INTRODUCING:

+ Chaifetz Arena
+ Edward A. Doisy Research Center

Fold out for a view of the Edward A. Doisy Research Center and the President’s Message...
Welcome to a special issue of Universitas. And welcome to outstanding views of our two newest campus landmarks. Although Saint Louis University is ever changing, rarely does so much happen here during a six-month period. In December we dedicated our new Edward A. Doisy Research Center, and in April we opened Chaifetz Arena — the two largest building projects in our 190 years. (Read in-depth stories on both buildings in this issue.)

When you add in our Simon Recreation Center renovations, our first on-campus commencement in 60 years and the record service hours accrued by members of the SLU community, it’s hard not to feel a sense of history in the making on Grand Boulevard these days.

Indeed, in a few years when we look back on the openings of these unprecedented buildings, I’m certain that we will see them as clear turning points — moments when Saint Louis University’s place in the city, nation and world changed forever.

And although it’s easy to get caught up in what these facilities will mean to our history, I think it’s most important to keep our focus on the future.

In other words: We’ve built the structures; now we’ve got to make sure they fulfill their promise. That means new scientific discoveries, lifesaving treatments and cures for disease at the Doisy Research Center. It also means re-energized student life, tournament-winning basketball and an even stronger presence in SLU’s Midtown neighborhood at Chaifetz Arena.

In some ways, this next step is more challenging than constructing both buildings at the same time. That’s because ensuring the promise of these stunning facilities is the responsibility of everyone in the SLU community — students, faculty, staff and alumni.

Sure, some will play bigger roles. I cannot, for example, treat liver disease. Nor am I much of a free-throw shooter. But I can be a supporter of the work, efforts and energy that make these buildings so special.

I’m sure you can be, too.

You may not know how to operate a microscope, but that doesn’t mean you can’t participate in the clinical trials or help fund the innovative discoveries at the Doisy Research Center. And, even if you’ve never dunked a basketball in your life, you can come down to Chaifetz Arena to catch a Billiken game or enjoy a concert.

Your days on campus may be over, but please know that these are still your buildings. So I hope you’ll make a point of coming down to visit them to see how they have changed the landscape here at SLU.

Besides, the photos in this issue of Universitas are great, but they can’t beat the real thing.

Hope to see you on campus soon.

Lawrence Biondi, S.J., President

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UNIVERSITAS | SUMMER 2008
N ow in its 60th year, SLU’s commencement outgrew on-campus venues in 1949, when the event moved from West Pine Gym to Kiel Auditorium, where it remained for 30 years. Commencements then were held in the Checkerdome and more recently at Scottrade Center.

University President Lawrence Biondi, S.J., said he hoped that the graduates would return to the new arena to attend basketball games, homecoming events and even the graduations of their children.

“Regardless of when and why you return, class of 2008, I hope you come back to Chaifetz Arena and remember it fondly as the place where you ended one great journey and began another,” Biondi said.

FOX television network play-by-play announcer Joe Buck delivered this year’s commencement address.

“What a thrill this is for me, a lifelong St. Louisan, to participate in the first graduation ceremony in this beautiful new jewel, Chaifetz Arena,” Buck said.

Before he delivered the commencement address, Buck dedicated his commencement address to Ryan Geten, a physics major, who was sporting a large mohawk. (Buck had spotted him before taking to the stage.) The quip drew big laughs and applause from the capacity crowd.

Buck then got serious, sharing his own success story. Family connections, he said, gave him access to the broadcasting booth — his late father Jack Buck was a Hall-of-Fame broadcaster and former voice of the Cardinals. His father also delivered SLU’s commencement address back in 1995. “I admit that I got in the door because of my last name, but after I got rolling, either I was going to be good enough or I wasn’t,” Buck told the graduates. “Either I could handle the pressure or it would handle me.”

Ultimately Buck handled the pressure and went on to become one of the most respected names in sports broadcasting. During his career, he has called some of the most memorable moments in recent sports history. Hard work and relentless preparation propelled him to the pinnacle of his profession, he said.

Buck also reminded the graduates that the real world is very different from college life. “Successful people don’t earn Bs. They don’t get extensions for work assignments. And they can’t just turn off the alarm because they don’t feel like going in.”

“Do your best,” Buck said. “Have a plan and find out how great you can be. I’m counting on you. This world needs you. Believe me.”

After the speech, Biondi conferred honorary degrees upon Buck, Charles and Shirley Drury of Drury Inns Inc., and Build-A-Bear Workshop founder Maxine Clark.

As the ceremony closed, Timothy McMahon, S.J., provincial of the Missouri Province of the Society of Jesus, offered an invocation, calling upon God to bless the graduates.

“Fill their minds with your love of knowledge, so that they will be wise and prudent,” he prayed. “Touch their hearts, so that they will recognize those who are lost and lonely. And keep them close to you, so that one day they might share in your eternal life.”

— Clardon Berry

by the numbers
At the expanded and renovated Simon Recreation Center

35 Average miles per day registered on each of the center’s treadmills
42 Stationary bicycles in the center
1,500 Average number of patrons each day
534 Lockers in the center

U.S. News gives high marks to SLU’s graduate programs

SLU community gives back in big way

Student service accounted for about 90 percent of last year’s hours. Nearly 10,000 students contributed service through programs run by the office of community outreach, Alpha Phi Omega service fraternity and other Greek organizations. Students also complete service projects through their classes and internships as well as through spring break mission trips in the United States and abroad. Faculty and staff completed nearly 100,000 hours, and more than 1,100 organizations were helped last year.

And this service work has not gone unnoticed. In February, SLU received national recognition for its outreach efforts when it was named to the President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll for exemplary service efforts and service to disadvantaged youth. The award is the highest federal recognition a school can achieve for its commitment to service-learning and civic engagement.

Honorees for the award were chosen based on several factors, including innovativeness of service projects and the percentage of student participation in service. At SLU, 96 percent of students engage in some form of service during their time at the University.

ON APRIL 20, THE SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY community came together to welcome students embracing the Catholic faith. University President Lawrence Biondi, S.J., led the celebration, known as the Sacraments of Initiation, during SLU’s 10 p.m. Sunday Mass.

The University usually initiates students once a year during the Easter season. This year, 11 SLU students were initiated. Students had studied the Catholic faith in a program known as the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults since last fall. During their study, students learned about the fundamentals of the Catholic faith and then made the decision to join the Church.

“This is one of the most rewarding spiritual exercises I am happy to do as a Jesuit priest,” Biondi said.

“As president of SLU, it’s gratifying to celebrate our students making a commitment to embrace the Catholic faith by seeking voluntarily the sacraments of baptism, confirmation and first Eucharist.”

In 2007, more than 19,000 members of the Saint Louis University community completed 836,550 service and volunteer hours. It’s the first time service hours have surpassed the 800,000-hour mark.

SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY’S HEALTH LAW PROGRAM was ranked No. 1 for the fifth consecutive year in U.S. News & World Report’s “Best Graduate Schools 2009” issue, which hit stands in March.

The geriatrics program ranked No. 14, part-time MBA program No. 16, occupational therapy No. 33, physical therapy No. 41, social work No. 42, medicine No. 54, speech-language pathology No. 60 and clinical psychology No. 92.

Students initiated into the Catholic faith

EARTHQUAKE CENTER DRAWS CONGRESSIONAL ATTENTION

With members of the local media in tow, U.S. Rep. Russ Carnahan toured the Saint Louis University Earthquake Center in May. He met with SLU researchers to discuss recent seismic activity in the Midwest. A member of the U.S. House of Representatives Science Committee, Carnahan also was interested in learning what Congress can do to advance earthquake research and reporting.

The center’s director, Dr. Robert Herrmann discussed SLU’s cutting-edge research, which is furthering the understanding of the seismic hazards facing the region. He also explained SLU’s network of earthquake monitoring devices and showed the congressman several new machines that will be deployed into the field after testing. The center keeps an eye on the New Madrid Fault and seismic hot spots in the central United States.

During his tour, Carnahan also saw the University’s very first earthquake monitoring device, originally installed in Dubourg Hall in 1909. SLU’s Earthquake Center was one of the nation’s first and remains a leader in the field.
Student leaders from Saint Louis University and Harris-Stowe State University organized a fair honoring the memory of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in April. The Dream Keepers’ Fair was held along Compton Avenue between the two universities and commemorated the 40th anniversary of King’s assassination.

The student government of Harris-Stowe and SLU formed the Dream Keepers Partnership last April to raise $10,000 for the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Fund to help local people to campus.

New School of Medicine dean named

ON APRIL 1, DR. PHILIP O. ALDERSON took the reins as dean of Saint Louis University School of Medicine. Alderson most recently was the chairman of the department of radiology at Columbia University and director of radiology service at New York Presbyterian Hospital/Columbia. He also was the James Picker Professor of Radiology at the College of Physicians and Surgeons at Columbia University.

“When I came for my interviews at Saint Louis University, I was particularly attracted by the school’s authentic tradition of education and service,” Alderson said. “In addition, the new Doisy Research Center is tangible evidence of Saint Louis University’s commitment to high-level research.”

A nuclear medicine physician and general diagnostic radiologist, Alderson is the 12th dean of the School of Medicine. He succeeds Dr. Patricia Martone (Med ’81, Pub HLTh ’81), who retired after serving as dean for 14 years.

Medical professors named to endowed positions

TWO professors at the Saint Louis University School of Medicine recently have added new titles to their credentials. Dr. Mark Varvares (Med ’86), chairman of the department of otolaryngology – head and neck surgery, is the inaugural holder of the Donald and Marlene Jerome Endowed Chair in Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery. The chair is named for Dr. Donald Lee Jerome, (Med ’61) of Swansea, Ill., and his wife, Marlene. Jerome, a strong supporter of the School of Medicine, was in private practice as an otolaryngologist in Belleville for 33 years before retiring. Varvares also is director of the Saint Louis University Cancer Center and is conducting research on head and neck surgical oncology.

Dr. Arthur Labovitz, director of the division of cardiology, is the inaugural Jack Ford Shelby Endowed Professor in Cardiology. The professorship is named for Jack Ford Shelby, chairman emeritus of Camic-Campbell Inc., former chairman of the board of the St. Louis Heart Association and a longtime benefactor of the School of Medicine. Labovitz is director of SLU’s cardiac imaging laboratory and participates in many research studies that are supported by the National Institutes of Health and private industry. Over the years, he has made significant contributions to the diagnosis and management of cardiac disease.

DOCTOROW TO RECEIVE LITERARY AWARD

The Saint Louis University Library Associates have selected author E.L. Doctorow as the recipient of the 2008 Saint Louis Literary Award. A recognized novelist, playwright, lecturer and essayist, Doctorow’s works include Welcome to Hard Times, The Book of Daniel, Ragtime, Billy Bathgate, The Waterworks and City of God.

In a career that spans more than three decades, Doctorow’s honors include a National Book Award, three National Book Critics Circle Awards, two PEN/Faulkner Awards and the presidentially conferred National Humanities Medal.

Now in its 41st year, the Saint Louis Literary Award has been presented to a distinguished list of literary figures, including Joyce Carol Oates, Saul Bellow, Arthur Miller and John Updike.

The event drew more than 2,300 people to campus.

NURSING: A stand-alone school again

In January after review and discussion with faculty, staff and leadership at the Doisy College of Health Sciences, Saint Louis University administration recommended restoring the School of Nursing to its status as a freestanding school. However, the decision comes with the understanding that the interdisciplinary gains made when the schools were united will continue and will be enhanced.

This move, approved by the board of trustees in May, is designed to further enhance the national reputation of SLU’s School of Nursing and allow the school to focus more attention on recruiting top-notch nursing faculty and students.

Dr. Tom Murray (Nurs ’79, Grad Nurs ’83, ’97), who was director of the school, is now the dean. Murray joined the School of Nursing in 2005 and is president of the Missouri State Board of Nursing.

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO OUR READERS

In May, Dr. Neil Selz, professor of finance in the John Cook School of Business, received the 43rd annual Nancy McKinnon Ring Award for Outstanding Faculty. The award, given annually by Alpha Sigma Na, the Jesuit honor society, is the oldest student-initiated teaching award at the University. Selz joined the SLU faculty in 1975, and from 1993 to 2002 he was dean of the school of business, overseeing the $15 million addition of the John and Lucy Cook Hall. In the fall of 2002 he returned to the classroom. The award is named for the University’s first dean of women.

Dr. Rick Chaney, Madrid Campus vice president and dean, has completed his service there and will be returning to the faculty of the John Cook School of Business, after taking a sabbatical in the fall semester. During his 16-year term, Chaney helped increase enrollment, build a strong academic foundation and create a complete campus environment for students. Currently, SLU Madrid enrolls approximately 650 students each semester — the maximum capacity for the campus. Frank Reade, S.J., vice president for mission and ministry, is serving as interim vice provost while a search is initiated for Chaney’s replacement.

More than 20 members of the SLU community will travel to Sydney this summer to participate in World Youth Days, a week for the world’s Catholic youth to come together to form friendships and gain a better understanding of other countries, cultures and the Catholic faith. The group will visit Australia July 26-29, and members will be posting their experiences online as “virtual pilgrims” at wyyd2008.nd.edu.

Dr. James Dubro, director of SLU’s Center for Health Care Ethics, has been elected as a representative on the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops’ National Advisory Council. Dubro, who is the Mäder Professor of Health Care Ethics, will serve a four-year term representing Eastern Catholic Churches from Region 15.

Michael Lauer is SLU’s new director of public safety. Prior to arriving at SLU, Lauer spent 20 years with the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department. Lauer reports to Sam Simeon, the former director of public safety for the City of St. Louis and a 22-year veteran of the St. Louis police department. This fall, Simon filled a new role at the University: director of emergency preparedness. Combined, the pair boasts nearly 50 years of experience in the field. They once worked together in the police department and are both graduates of the FBI National Academy.

Dr. John Watzke, chairman of the department of educational studies, is the new interim dean of the College of Education and Public Service. Watzke came to SLU last year from the Institute for Educational Initiatives at the University of Notre Dame.

Marking a trend in nursing education that responds to the need for nurses to know more, Saint Louis University School of Nursing is launching a new online doctoral program for advanced practice nurses. Nurse practitioners who have their master’s degree may apply for the online doctor of nursing practice, which begins fall 2009. SLU’s program is the only one in the St. Louis area and one of two in Missouri.

NEWS BRIEFS

HOP TO IT: The Easter Bunny paid a visit to Saint Louis University’s eighth annual Easter Egg Hunt on March 22 and left more than 9,000 eggs for children and grandchildren of staff to find. The event drew more than 2,300 people to campus.

IN DECEMBER, SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY unveiled a new marketing campaign highlighting what makes the University unique and exceptional — teaching, service and commitment to community. Designed to enhance SLU’s local and regional image, the campaign informs people about what Saint Louis University means to St. Louis. Through billboards, newspaper print ads, theater program placements and radio spots, the ad reiterates the idea that “Saint Louis University is a place where...”

- Millions of lives changed. One Jesus mission.
- $1 billion invested in St. Louis. One lasting commitment.
- One great place to achieve your dreams.

For more about SLU’s “One Campaign,” visit www.slu.edu/one.

BILKENEN AT BUSCH: Before a capacity crowd at Busch Stadium, the Saint Louis University Billikens threw out the first pitch at the St. Louis Cardinals game May 4. A salted crowd of 44,969 was on hand to watch the Cardinals beat the Chicago Cubs 5-3. The Billiken was there to begin the festivities for its 100th birthday, which is officially Oct. 8, 1908, the day he was patented. Look for an article on the Billikens’ 100 years in the next issue of Universitas.
SLU TO HOST CONFERENCE ON IGNATIAN SPIRITUALITY

A national conference to educate and encourage those who practice Ignatian spirituality as well as those involved in works rooted in Ignatian spirituality will be held July 24-27 at Saint Louis University. It is sponsored by SLU, the Missouri Province of the Society of Jesus and the St. Louis Center for Ignatian Spirituality.

The conference, “Ignatian Passion: The Challenge of the Cross in the 21st Century,” will feature major presentations and small group workshops. Keynote presentations will explore the role of Christ’s passion in the Spiritual Exercises, as conceived by Ignatius’ group workshops. Keynote presentations will feature major presentations and small workshops.

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In January, one week after saying for the United States in a match against Sweden, former Billiken Brad Davis was recalled to U.S. Soccer’s National Training Center at the Home Depot Center in Carson, Calif., to officially join the national team. An All-American in 2001 and 2003, Davis completed his sixth season in Major League Soccer by helping the Houston Dynamo capture its second straight MLS Cup.

Saint Louis University soccer director Chris May was selected by the Colorado Rapids in the fourth round (47th overall) of Major League Soccer SuperDraft in January. Graizer joined the Billikens in 2003 after competing for the U.S. Under-17 National Team. He made an immediate impact his freshman season, picking up All-Conference USA All-Freshman Team accolades. This season, Graizer played in 11 games and helped the Billikens to a 12-2-5 record.

Saint Louis University had five programs honored in the NCAA 2008 Academic Progress Rate public recognition awards. The Billiken sports recognized are men’s basketball, men’s cross-country, men’s outdoor track and field, women’s outdoor track and field and women’s volleyball. The recognized teams posted multiyear APR scores in the top 10 percent of all squads in their respective sports.

MAY IS SLU’S NEW ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

O n March 1, Chris May started work as Saint Louis University’s director of athletics. May came to SLU after spending the previous 22 years at the University of Colorado.

“As we make our decisions, our more than 500 student-athletes will be first and foremost on our minds,” May said during his introductory January press conference. “We will deliver them great academics, great athletics, give them the leadership skills it takes to be successful and also give them the career skills it takes to be successful people.”

May had been with the University of Colorado athletic department since 1985, taking on increasing responsibilities, including marketing, major event management, corporate sponsorships, hiring of coaches, executive management of sports teams, fundraising and building relationships on and off the Colorado campus.

From 2002-2005, May had daily administrative oversight of men’s basketball, men’s and women’s cross country, women’s soccer and men’s and women’s track and field. He took a leadership role in the “Your Team” campaign for the Colorado athletic department, which focused on ticket sales, fundraising and image-building. The fundraising plan generated more than $1 million annually in new revenues. He was also co-chair of the development and implementation of a 10-year strategic plan for the department.

“Chris is very determined that athletics will become more fully integrated into the University and with the St. Louis community,” said University President Lawrence Biondi, S.J. “Chris will tell you that he sees his role as AD as being part of the larger SLU team, with everyone working together toward our common goal, to build a more successful and nationally prominent sports program at Saint Louis University. I believe we have selected the right person in Chris May to lead that effort. Chris is committed to making Billiken athletics the best it can be.”

May has served on NCAA and Big 12 committees and has coordinated major events, including men’s basketball NIT appearances and the annual Colorado-Colorado State football game in Denver. He is a former chairman of the Big 12 Ad-hoc marketing committee and member of the Metro Denver Sports Commission.

May received a bachelor of business administration degree from Iowa State University in 1985 and an MBA from the University of Colorado in 1988. He was a track and field athlete at Iowa State.

The Billiken women’s basketball team played the last-ever game in the Baumwoll Center at The Family Arena at Edwardsville, Ill. On Feb. 27, the Billikens took on the University of Miami (Ohio) in quite a different setting.

Right: Coach Sheryl Gray-Miller waves goodbye to the crowd.

Last Hurrah: On Feb. 27, the Billiken women’s basketball team played the last-ever game in the Baumwoll Center at The Family Arena, formerly known as the Pizzuti Center. The Billikens taking on the Temple Owls in that final game.
"Grown" from the start, 70 percent of all construction waste generated while building the Doisy Research Center was recycled.

Photos by Steve Dolan, unless otherwise noted

Building for the Future
- BY NANCY SOLOMON

Take an up-close look at SLU’s high-tech facility, the Edward A. Doisy Research Center.

Dhanam Ambukumar, a graduate student in Dr. David Ford’s laboratory, Ford is the director of SLU’s Center for Cardiovascular Disease Research.
Saint Louis University launched a new era in biomedical research on Dec. 7 with the dedication of its new Edward A. Doisy Research Center.

At $82 million, the building is the most expensive construction project in the history of Saint Louis University. It is named for the late Dr. Edward Doisy, a Nobel Laureate and professor at Saint Louis University who was internationally recognized for his pioneering work in the field of biochemistry and his discovery of the chemical property of vitamin K. (See sidebar on this page.)

“The Edward A. Doisy Research Center is the most significant building project in the modern SLU era,” said University President Lawrence Biondi, S.J.

“After years of planning, our dream of a state-of-the-art research facility is a reality. I know that the work being done here will touch many lives far beyond the walls of this structure and will keep Saint Louis University on the forefront of cutting-edge medical research.”

A Legacy of Learning

A tangible display of Saint Louis University’s commitment to the Midtown area, the 10-story glass and steel facility is the new research home of Saint Louis University scientists working in five key areas: cancer, liver disease, heart/lung disease, aging and brain disease, and vaccine development.

“During his five decades as a professor at Saint Louis University, Dr. Doisy inspired greatness in his students and colleagues,” said Dr. Patricia Monteleone (med ’61, grad ’86), former dean of the school of medicine, at the building’s dedication. “What a fitting legacy that a building named in Dr. Doisy’s honor will be a new research home to Saint Louis University scientists engaged in medical discoveries to fight disease and human suffering.”

Dr. Edward A. Doisy

Saint Louis University’s new biomedical research building is named for Dr. Edward A. Doisy, a Nobel Laureate and SLU professor of biochemistry for five decades.

Doisy founded SLU’s department of biochemistry and molecular biology in 1923. He received the Nobel Prize in Physiology of Medicine in 1943 for his work in determining the chemical nature of vitamin K, which is an essential component in blood coagulation. His discovery set the stage for a lifesaving treatment for patients who were bleeding profusely — giving injections of vitamin K to clot blood.

In 1929, Doisy reported what he considered an even greater accomplishment, the isolation and chemical characterization of estradiol, a female sex hormone that is critical for reproduction and normal bone structure. He also improved methods used to study insulin and contributed to understanding more about antibiotics, the system that regulates blood pH levels and how the body processes food.

Doisy retired from SLU in 1965. He reassigned much of the income derived from commercializing his discoveries to the medical school. The income annually provides millions of dollars to research and teaching infrastructure. He died in 1986 at age 92.

The Doisy family donated $30 million for construction of the research center.

Twenty percent of research lab modules were intentionally left open in the Doisy Research Center, allowing Saint Louis University to hire new faculty in the future.

The 19.5-ton fleur-de-lis lantern weighs roughly the same amount as four grown Asian elephants and is visible from both Interstates 64 and 44.

Photo by Allison Babka

The 80 research labs on eight floors are highly secured and have a flexible design. Many are open so scientists from different scientific fields can share knowledge as they work on experiments.
In addition to the Doisy family’s gift of $30 million, other lead donors who made the Doisy Research Center possible include the family of Fern and Russell de Groot, whose gift provided extensive foliage and landscaping for the 9-acre site; SLU trustee Frank O’Donnell and his wife, Kathleen, for whom the ninth-floor penthouse terrace is named; Joe Lipic (Cook ‘57) and his wife, Joan (Burtelow) Lipic (Cook ‘59), for whom the covered cloister walk from the Doisy Research Center to the Medical Center mall is named; and former SLU trustee Charles Drury and his wife, Shirley, for whom the third floor is named.

“Many, many generous benefactors have helped us realize Father Biondi’s inspired vision to create a climate that sparks exploration, research and the sharing of information and ideas with the next generation of medical leaders,” said Thomas W. Keefe, vice president for advancement. “The generosity of our supporters will bear fruit for generations to come.”

Innovation Inside and Out

The Doisy Research Center forms the eastern anchor of CORTEX (the Center of Research Technology and Entrepreneurial Exchange), an initiative to develop a nationally recognized life-sciences industry in the corridor between Washington University in St. Louis and SLU.

At Grand Boulevard and Chouteau Avenue, the 206,000-square-foot building is a strikingly modern, triangular structure designed by Cannon Design and constructed by Clayco Construction Co., both based in St. Louis. Construction began in 2005. The structure was built with an eye on environmentalism. During every stage of construction, recycling was a priority. Steel, brick and other materials removed during the demolition of previous buildings on the site were used for other purposes.

An energy-efficient heating and cooling system; recycled steel, concrete, floor finishes and carpeting; and materials from rapidly renewable sources such as bamboo and cord were used in the sleek new building. A “green roof” — low-growing vegetation that requires little care or water — has been planted on a two-story roof extension to help keep temperatures inside the building even.

Mass transit is easily accessible from the building so employees can take buses and Metrolink light rail to work. Priority parking is available for those who drive alternative-fuel cars.
While the Doisy Research Center is designed to inspire creativity and collaboration, the magic of discovery is what drives the Saint Louis University researchers who work within its walls.

For instance, just weeks after researchers began moving into the building, Saint Louis University announced it had received a $32.7 million, seven-year contract from the National Institutes of Health to expand its research into promising vaccines and therapies for infectious diseases. The award is among the largest given to SLU.

Saint Louis University also has received a $3.2 million grant from NASA to study the development of vaccines for astronauts whose immune systems are compromised by the effect of zero gravity.

Among many other areas of research, University scientists in the new building are:

- Developing new antivirals to use against poxviruses in the fight against bioterrorism.
- Identifying a novel family of lipids that may be key factors in causing atherosclerosis, or thickening of the walls of the arteries of the heart.
- Learning about the biochemical and cellular relationships that cause interstitial cystitis, a painful bladder disease.
- Finding an effective treatment for fungal infections, which have become increasingly serious health threats with the growing number of patients who have AIDS, organ transplants and chemotherapy.
- Understanding more about how amyloid beta protein, the substance most scientists think causes Alzheimer’s disease, stays trapped in the brain to cause damage.
- Learning about how the aging process affects cells.
- Activating a certain protein that removes dead cells and debris that accumulate in the tissues of patients who have rheumatoid arthritis.
- Using adenoviruses, one of the viruses that causes the common cold, to fight cancer tumors.
- Gaining insight into genetic diseases, including Sly Syndrome, which is named for SLU researcher Dr. William Sly (Med ’57), who discovered it.
- Establishing a reliable cell culture system to track the progression of the hepatitis C virus, which could lead to more efficient medications and a vaccine for this liver disease.
- Understanding the molecular progression of genetic defects that affect the kidney and urinary tract in hopes of developing treatments.
- “Saint Louis University has world-class researchers,” Biondi told University supporters and members of the SLU community who gathered at the dedication ceremony. “Now they have a world-class facility.”

CALLERS I.D.’d

SLU STUDENT FUNDRAISERS ARE RINGING UP SUCCESS.

by Laura Geiser

It was a simple idea. Maybe alumni would like to put a face with a name, to see a photo of the student fundraiser who called to ask for a gift to Saint Louis University.

So last fall, the staff in SLU’s annual giving office made a small change. Yes, donors still receive a routine reminder letter and reply envelope after a phone pledge. But what’s different is when the donor also receives a photo and bio of the student caller, along with an opportunity to rate the caller.

“It wasn’t a big change,” said David Nolda (A&S ‘95), director of annual giving programs. “But we already know it’s making a big difference.

“No donors have responded with negative feedback, which is unheard of in this business.”

It also speaks to the quality of SLU’s alumni, Keefe said. “Our alumni donors want a connection back to their alma mater, and these students give them that,” he said. “Yes, we’re pleased when the alumni make a gift, but it’s also just as important to us that they sustain a relationship with the University.”

To get a glimpse of who might be on the other end of that phone call, turn the page and meet 11 of SLU’s student callers.
JENNIFER JOLIFFE
MAJORS: Secondary education and English
YEAR: Senior
HOMETOWN: Centralia, IL

Most interesting thing you’ve learned as a student caller: By taking the time to talk to someone and listening to their memories and experiences about a certain time in their life—it can move your soul in a way that is hard to explain. When I call an alumnus, it is so special because they were once in my shoes. Some alumni have had such positive experiences with SLU that can motivate and inspire you to make the best of every day that you have. I have learned that taking the time to listen can go a long way.

WHAT THE DONORS SAY: “I had a delightful conversation with Krevel.” Her personality bubbled right through the telephone line. She will be an outstanding alumna.” — Joe Succop (Inc ’85)

MIKE PEFFER
MAJORS: Finance
YEAR: Freshman
HOMETOWN: Delavan, IL

Most memorable call: Calling a woman whose email address was “bustedbrat” on a day that we were eating toasted ravioli. When I told her what we were eating, she got excited and we spent the most of the call talking about how she misses SLU. Laos and whether they had toasted ravioli on the east coast where she lives now.

WHAT THE DONORS SAY: “Talked for 45 minutes... Allison is a great Saint Louis University student and will bring credit to SLU and herself as she continues her journey in the SLU environment...” — Lynette J. Barnes (’57)

ANSHUL CHHABRA
MAJORS: International business and management information systems
YEAR: Sophomore
HOMETOWN: St. Louis

Most memorable call: I once talked to an alum who was so impressed by my sales skills that he gave me his email address and phone number to contact him for an internship opportunity. I contacted him and was set up with an interview with the IT department.

WHAT’S THE BEST THING ABOUT WORKING AT THE CALL CENTER? The experience I have gained. I have developed skills crucial to moving forward in the business world.

WHAT THE DONORS SAY: “He is engaging without being pushy and seems genuinely interested in a supernatural alma-mater of SLU. He is by far the best student representative I’ve had the pleasure of talking with.” — John (Kevin) Davis (Oz ’67)

EMILY BUATTE
MAJORS: Communication
YEAR: Sophomore
HOMETOWN: Red Bud, IL

Most memorable call: Once spoke to a man and ended up having a lot in common with her. By the end of the call, she told me she was interested in giving $20 and said, “You are just delightful. Could I give the gift in your name?” Since she couldn’t designate her gift to me, she gave it to the art department because we had talked about her being an artist and photographing being my passion. I thought it was the sweetest thing.

WHAT’S THE BEST THING ABOUT WORKING AT THE CALL CENTER? I love talking to people and the finding common interests between us. It has really improved my communication skills.

WHAT THE DONORS SAY: “Pleasant and engaging. She made me feel quite good and proud of SLU School of Nursing. Thanks.” — Susan Kyle (College M ’78)

CHRIS McCGEERAN
MAJORS: Finance and political science
YEAR: Freshman
HOMETOWN: Houston

Most memorable call: My first night of calling donors, I ended up talking to a guy for about 15 minutes. I don’t remember how we started talking about it, but he told me all about his experiences in World War II. It was one of my first calls, so I was pretty pumped that it went so well.

WHAT THE DONORS SAY: “He is engaging without being pushy and seems genuinely interested in a supernatural alma-mater of SLU. He is by far the best student representative I’ve had the pleasure of talking with.” — John (Kevin) Davis (Oz ’67)

Allison Lanni
MAJORS: Biomedical engineering
YEAR: Sophomore
HOMETOWN: Maplewood, MN

Most interesting thing you’ve learned as a student caller: The number of graduates that continue to educate themselves about their alma mater. When I ask if they have heard about the new Edward A. Ditty Research Center or about Chaifetz Arena, they respond, “Yes, I’ve heard about them.” I’m excited to hear the positive response to the news.

WHAT THE DONORS SAY: “Interesting and engaging. The feeling that you get when someone makes a big pledge.”

WHAT THE DONORS SAY: “He is engaging without being pushy and seems genuinely interested in a supernatural alma-mater of SLU. He is by far the best student representative I’ve had the pleasure of talking with.” — John (Kevin) Davis (Oz ’67)

Mary Bond
MAJORS: Accounting and studio art
YEAR: Freshman
HOMETOWN: Maplewood, MN

Most interesting thing you’ve learned as a student caller: Being a freshman, learning more about what it really means to be a student at SLU was important to me, and this job helped me learn about the history of the University.

WHAT THE DONORS SAY: “Enjoyed talking with Polet. Best of luck to Polet and SLU!” — Jim Cripe (JHU ’77)

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At Last

CHAIFETZ ARENA OPENED IN APRIL TO CROWDS AND CHEERS.

It was February 2003 when the first announcement came forth: Saint Louis University’s board of trustees had approved a SLU arena project. It was time, they said, to begin exploring the construction of this long-awaited dream.

Back then, University officials had no idea where they would build an arena or how they would fund it. But five years and $81 million later, they’ve got more than answers — they’ve got a state-of-the-art facility that is likely to bring 400,000 people to campus each year.

The Chaifetz Arena complex consists of a 10,600-seat arena, a basketball/volleyball practice-play facility and a three-story athletic office complex.

The arena, which is named for alumnus and donor Dr. Richard Chaifetz (A&S ’75), officially debuted on April 10 with a grand opening that drew nearly 6,000 people.

Amid the ceremony of the day, SLU students, alumni, faculty, staff and supporters got the first look at some of the arena’s key features:

- Centene Court, which was constructed by the Illinois-based Connor Hardwood Courts, which also constructed this year’s Final Four floor.
- The 16,350-square-foot Charter Practice Court, which also serves as the home court for Billiken volleyball.
- The arena dining club, Lorenzini’s, which seats 175 people.
- The four 45-foot-by-14-foot scoreboards that hang in each corner of the arena bowl.
- The 360-degree LED ribbon board that circles the top of the bowl.
- The spacious men’s and women’s basketball locker rooms.
- SLU Shop, the official Billiken fan store.
- The 14 suites and two party rooms.
- The U.S. Bank Billiken Hall of Fame.
- Drury Rally Plaza and the hundreds of personalized bricks bought by SLU supporters.
- State-of-the-art training and sports medicine facilities.
- A blue “victory light” light on the roof that will be activated after each Billiken home victory and will be seen for miles.

Radio broadcaster and “Voice of the Billikens” Bob Ramsey, who served as master of ceremonies for the grand opening, described the arena as a bridge to tomorrow. “History, tradition and the future. It all comes together, right here in this building,” he said.

When the University broke ground on Chaifetz Arena in August 2006, SLU already was working on the $82 million Edward A. Doisy Research Center, which was dedicated in December. (For more, see the story on page 10 of this issue.) The University successfully completed its two largest building projects at the same time.

“This facility reaffirms Saint Louis University’s longstanding commitment to the city,” said St. Louis Mayor Francis G. Slay (Law ’80). “After nearly two centuries, Saint Louis University continues to stand as a symbol of stability and leadership in St. Louis as well as a catalyst and anchor for the evolving progress and renaissance around it.”

University President Lawrence Biendorf, S.J., echoed that sentiment. “In our commitment to give our students an arena they can call their own, we also made a commitment to our greater metropolitan St. Louis area,” he said.

Fundraising played a key role in the construction of Chaifetz Arena, and the facility was built without the use of tuition dollars or endowment funds.

Thomas W. Keefe, SLU vice president for advancement, thanked the project’s many financial supporters. “Standing here today, it’s easy to imagine Chaifetz Arena packed to the roof with thousands of excited fans,” Keefe said. “But when I look around, I see more than a great facility. I see an investment in Saint Louis University’s future and in St. Louis’ future. Behind every meticulously crafted corner of Chaifetz Arena there are hundreds of generous benefactors.”

Among those benefactors on hand to celebrate the arena’s opening was its namesake, Dr. Richard Chaifetz, chairman and CEO of ComPsych Corp. “To have this arena named after me and to be able to contribute to bring this great new home to Saint Louis University basketball is an honor I will remember forever,” he said.

Construction on Chaifetz Arena began in September 2006, with St. Louis-based Clayco serving as the general contractor. Mackey Mitchell Associates was the architect, and Sink Combs Dethlefs was the sports architectural consultant. SLU has hired Global Spectrum to manage the facility.

On the following pages, you’ll hear from some arena project insiders.
Q: What challenges did you face in opening Chaifetz Arena?
A: There were two primary challenges. First, we had to coordinate to meet the needs of everyone involved within the given deadlines. The arena is so different from all the other facilities we have on campus: it is an athletic, administrative and public building. So the scope was wide and included a close examination of the building’s offerings from many viewpoints — especially those of our athletic administration, athletes, building management staff, possible performers and, of course, fans and patrons of the building. This level of detail is included in the state-of-the-art workout areas, comfortable seating, great views, awesome acoustics and appealing food service areas. The second challenge, and no doubt the top challenge, was prioritizing all of the above needs while remaining within budget. Financially, we were heavily challenged to produce a top-notch multipurpose arena. We had to remain focused on meeting the needs of all the stakeholders while prioritizing where we could afford to spend the funds.

Q: What sort of amenities will most impress arena visitors?
A: From a visitor’s perspective, I think the first thing that one would have to notice is the openness and the natural light reflected throughout the building; it is just amazing. Once you step into the bowl, though, that perspective changes, and the “wow” factor of the four corner scoreboards and the 360-degree LED ribbon are extremely impressive.
q: Explain how the design of Chaifetz Arena sets it apart from other facilities.

a: The arena features a single concourse surrounded by glass, giving spectators a strong sense of orientation with views in all directions — to the arch, campus athletic fields, Interstate 64 and indoor practice courts. Solid brick corners, or buttresses, handle the mechanical and structural elements and frame long expanses of glass in the concourse, which provide natural light and a heightened sense of energy. At night, the concourse lighting is like a lantern, highlighting the activities and movement within. Even on the outside, visitors are engaged before entering the building.

By integrating the arena with the surrounding land form, fans enter the arena at the main concourse level, while the event level is 25 feet below the entry level. Setting the building into the ground allowed it to fit more comfortably within the scale of the university setting and surrounding context.

q: What special design aspects should arena visitors look for?

a: From inside-out, it is extremely user-friendly. The single concourse avoids a maze-like experience and provides easy way finding. It also creates a sense of energy by giving visitors an immediate view into the bowl, experiencing all the sights and sounds upon arrival. Spectators have said there's not a bad seat in the house. That's because all seating is equidistant from the court, creating a sense of intimacy and great sight lines. Even high up, visitors have a great view.

DENISE TAYLOR
SLU ASSOCIATE VICE PRESIDENT FOR FACILITIES PLANNING

Q: You have overseen many construction projects here at SLU. What made the arena different?

A: From the outset, the team that we assembled was different from many of our previous projects; people — both within the university and consultants, contractors and subcontractors — were more personally invested in a successful outcome than a typical large-dollar project. For many on the project team, this is a “career project” — something that they can bring their families to, something that is highly visible from I-64, something that clearly marks the eastern edge of campus. There is an enormous amount of pride in the finished product.

Q: Are there aspects of the construction that would surprise our alumni?

A: The scale of the building can be deceptive from both an interior and exterior perspective. The roof area is more 1.67 acres in area; this is equivalent to 13 typical lots. The letters on the north side of the roof are actually 8-feet tall, although they appear much smaller. The entry doors are 8-feet tall, more than 12 inches taller than a standard storefront. Mackey Mitchell did a terrific job making sure the exterior of the arena complements other buildings on campus rather than overshadowing them.
CHRIS MAY
SLU ATHLETICS DIRECTOR
Q: How will Chaifetz Arena elevate SLU athletics?
A: Chaifetz Arena gives all of Saint Louis University’s athletic programs the ability to compete on a national level. Not only does it help the men’s and women’s basketball teams with a great competition facility, but the practice gym, sports medicine facility and the strength and conditioning center allow all of our teams to compete at a higher level in the Atlantic 10 Conference and nationally. In addition, Chaifetz Arena allows all of our sports teams to have offices, locker room facilities and an academic center, all of which support and enhance the mission of the University to deliver a great academic experience and a first-class athletic opportunity for all of our student-athletes.

Q: Where does the arena and new athletics facility rate on a national scale?
A: We believe that there is not a better on-campus arena in the country. From an athletics facility standpoint, it puts us on par with many programs across the country.

SHIMMY GRAY-MILLER
SLU HEAD WOMEN’S BASKETBALL COACH
Q: What changes do you anticipate for women’s basketball thanks to the new arena?
A: The arena opens us up to a whole new level of recruiting. We’ve lost out on some kids who have said things like, “Love you coach, and love the school, but something’s just not right.” I even had one kid tell me, “If you were any other place there’s no question, but coach, you guys don’t even have a concession stand at your games!” Now those excuses no longer exist. The arena shows a commitment to athletics and definitely a commitment to women’s basketball. Previously, we were able to attract top-level recruits because of our dynamic coaching staff and players and the rich tradition of Saint Louis University. We will be able to sign these players because of Chaifetz Arena.

Q: What is your favorite feature of the arena?
A: So far my favorite feature has been the players’ locker room. I knew that eventually the novelty would wear off, but it has been awesome to see the pride in our student-athletes’ faces every time they show the locker room to visitors or recruits. Our players have been without one for so long, and they deserve to have a space all their own. I’m very happy for them.
Delaina Vogel was touched by the heartfelt thank yous from patients she met in El Salvador during her two-week mission trip in January, but the one that moved her most came from a teenager who couldn’t speak. Carlos was being treated for a brain tumor at Hospital Rosales, the public hospital in San Salvador. The tumor robbed him of his ability to talk and to move on his own. He had been in bed for at least two months when Vogel and a team of fellow students and faculty from SLU’s Medical Center came into his room. A hospital physical therapist was working on Carlos’ arms, but Vogel said it appeared the therapist wasn’t quite sure what more to do. One of the SLU faculty members offered to help and asked Carlos if he would like to sit up. “As soon as he sat up, tears came to his eyes,” said Vogel, a fifth-year student in SLU’s occupational therapy program. “You could tell he was just so overwhelmed that someone had taken an interest in him. A simple thing made such a big difference. I think we all had tears in our eyes.”

The SLU therapists eventually moved Carlos to a chair. They also taught hospital staff how to get him in and out of bed safely and showed staff some exercises that might help with Carlos’ muscle contraction.

Dual Purpose

This example of serving and teaching are at the core of the El Salvador Professional Immersion Mission created by Robert Murphy, S.J., a Jesuit scholastic who earned his doctor of physical therapy degree in May and will complete his philosophy studies this year. The idea came to Murphy in 2006 after the Jesuits sent him to El Salvador to study Spanish and the culture as well as to use his physical therapy skills with refugees.

It was a very powerful experience for me,” he said. “God had given me this great gift to go to El Salvador and to share my skills with people who completely loved and accepted me. I wanted others to know what that felt like.”

Working with campus ministry and the Doisy College of Health Sciences to develop the international interprofessional program, Murphy took four faculty members and eight students — three from nutrition and dietetics, three from physical therapy, one from occupational therapy and one from the School of Nursing — to El Salvador over Christmas break in 2007. Murphy said the faculty/student ratio is intentionally small to enhance the educational experience for students. The team saw patients at Hospital Rosales, as well as at an urban medical clinic in nearby La Chacra and three clinics in the Salvadoran countryside.

Students not only learned about the health care system in El Salvador, but they also shared some of what they learned during their studies at SLU. They gave presentations, mostly in Spanish, to patients and professionals on topics such as maintaining a diabetic diet, preventing bed sores and exercising to relieve back and knee pain. They also talked about interprofessional patient care to hospital and clinic staff and to the medical team with El Salvador’s National Soccer Federation.

“There are many wonderful mission programs where students work in clinics and provide care to those in need,” said Michele Langowski, an assistant professor in the department of health care ethics who traveled to El Salvador with the group. “The distinctive feature of this program is that students not only provided care, they also consulted with health care teams and provided numerous professional continuing medical education programs to physicians, physical therapists and nurses. The trip helps students develop professional skills, as well as inspires them to use those skills with a population they hadn’t thought of before.”

Those who choose a career in health care know they’re destined to serve others. But some Saint Louis University students don’t wait until graduation to begin sharing their skills or their knowledge. Before their formal education ends, they seek out opportunities to be men and women for others — to provide health care to those most in need. Plenty of opportunities for medical missions exist, but in the case of the two groups profiled in this article, students saw a need and created their own opportunities. They traveled out of the country as students eager to be immersed in a new culture and became teachers to people who were eager to learn.
That was true for John Olshefski, a fifth-year physical therapy student.

“I went to Honduras on a mission trip a couple of years ago where I worked in an orphanage and played with the children,” Olshefski said. “I loved it, but I wasn’t using what I had learned. So the idea of putting that into practice was really interesting.”

That was true for John Olshefski, a fifth-year physical therapy student.

Although they had two other towns to visit that weekend and were scheduled to give health care presentations to local residents. Before they knew it, 60 people formed a line in front of them.

“When you see the overwhelming needs of the people, you question whether you can make a difference,” Sherman said. “But seeing how much you can impact so many people, you realize how much good can be done.”

“People are so grateful for even the smallest of things. The little things can make such a big difference,” Sherman said.

Each night after dinner, students and faculty would process the day’s events.

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Saint Louis University’s Simon Recreation Center is finally living up to its middle name. With more than 120,000 square feet of opportunities, today’s center is more than just a gym. That’s because this enhanced recreation center not only boasts a multipurpose floor for dodge ball, volleyball and basketball; an indoor track; squash court; racquetball courts; and an indoor pool with a diving well and whirlpool; it also features a new juice bar; a bouldering wall; ping pong; shuffleboard; foosball; a wellness suite and more.

Eric Anderson, director of the Simon Recreation Center, said that he has used many facilities over the years, but this one is among the top tier both locally and nationally. “Rec facilities are becoming a huge part of campus life, impacting students, faculty, staff and alumni,” he said. “People can sit in the new juice bar, and we have Xbox tournaments. We are more of a destination.”

Funded in large part by students who voted to assess themselves a fee to support the project, renovations on the Simon Rec Center started in October 2006. The lower level, which was formerly a parking garage under the gym area, was completely opened into a 40,000-square-foot workout space. “It was really a quick and efficient project. It was inside, so the contractors could work through the winter weather,” Anderson said. “It was literally a three-month project, which is unheard of.”

Recent graduate Tim Letizia checks in at Simon Recreation Center’s renovated main entrance, which features a centralized membership desk.

Tim Letizia, a May 2008 graduate who majored in psychology and political science, was a student employee at Simon Rec. Letizia had worked out there throughout his four years at Saint Louis University. He exercised both upstairs and on the new lower level, and said that the upstairs weight room is the biggest improvement.

“I have been fortunate to experience the transition of the Rec Center,” he said. “The weight room was a tiny little room upstairs; people had to wait for a machine, and it was cramped.” Now, he said that there is no longer an inconvenient wait or a sign-up list for machines, and weights are state-of-the-art and high quality.

“Considering the number of people we have here at SLU, the expansion really boosts the number of people who can be working out,” Letizia said.

Anderson said that the 5,000-square-foot upper-level weight area also is his favorite upgrade, even beyond the lower-level space improvement that features more than 200 pieces of fitness equipment and the juice bar.

“It is a quieter, softer weight area now,” he said. “We typically don’t pipe music in there. You get to look at the two-story water feature, and there are windows where you can look down and see the Medical Center and the Doisy Research Center. I just like being up there. It’s a very open feeling, and it’s a great place to work out.”

Rebecca Frese, a senior majoring in mathematics and secondary education, not only works out at the Rec Center, she works there, too. Frese, who spends more than an hour per day, four to five days a week, working out at the Rec Center, loves the aerobics class. “It has more benefits in a shorter amount of time. It is a bit faster pace, so you don’t relax — you are consistently moving for an hour,” she said. Frese agreed that opening up the lower level was a huge improvement, and even though she got used to signing up for machines, she now notices how inconvenient it was to wait.
Letizia climbs the Rec Center’s new bouldering wall, located on the lower level.

For those alumni, staff or faculty members who may be intimidated by working out on campus, Anderson stresses that the Rec Center gives people the chance to interact in a social, nonthreatening environment. “When I think of our department and what we really do — we build community,” he said. “It’s good for alumni to come back and connect and remember when they were students — and at the same time enhance their wellness.”

To become a member of the Simon Recreation Center, download an application online at www.slu.edu/organizations/recsic or fill out an application at the center with the member services coordinator, James Page, who can be reached at jpage3@slu.edu.

Letizia also occasionally used the other renovated areas, such as the new gym floor and bouldering wall, which he called “fantastic.” He said that even after going over the wall just once his arms burned.

“You are actually going side to side — I think they call it a traversing wall instead of a climbing wall because you aren’t exactly going vertical,” he said.

Letizia participated in intramural sports and noticed that the resurfaced gym floor gets much better traction, a better situation for sports such as indoor soccer.

In the fall, he plans to attend law school in his hometown of Chicago, leaving behind the Rec Center.

“I hope to find somewhere as good as the Rec, but that might be a challenge,” he said.
Before Finan and his team got their first shovel in the soil, they thought they knew exactly where they would find the church and its gateway to countless stories about medieval Ireland. In fact, it took little more than a Google Earth image to discover some lines that obviously were where the church described in their documents had stood — at least that's what Finan thought.

“We saw this,” said Finan pointing to the same image now displayed on the computer screen of his Humanities Building office, “and it popped out like a sore thumb. That’s an earthquake fortification.”

In 2005, with a crew of about 25 people, Finan started to make cuttings — precise, carefully dug trenches to unearth archeological material — in the area where they believed they located the church. “We literally lifted the sod, and this is what we found,” said Finan, now pointing to a picture of a 12th century Romanesque arch key-stone — a detailed piece of rock that was the top center piece of a building’s doorway. “You couldn’t have made a better situation to convince students to work harder than this stone.”

Nearly four years later, Finan still can’t stop smiling about the find — even though he was wrong about it. Because just under that stone they were sure was from their church, Finan and his students soon discovered...

Well, before you can really understand the significance of their find, you’ve got to dig a little deeper.

A HELPING HAND
Long before anyone ever called him “Doctor” or “Professor,” Finan received a number of helping hands to reach his place in academia from the teachers and researchers who mentored him. So as soon as his research project started to become a reality, he wanted to pass forward the opportunity he received as a young man. That is why the trip are wide-ranging. For Finan, it's a great opportunity to share his passion: Digging up little — and sometimes big — pieces of history and trying to figure out what they are for and what life was like at the time. His method to help engage the students in the progress was one he developed at the beginning of his career when he was a high school teacher.

“I saw students who could excel at various types of learning, then you start to engage students in nontraditional methods. And that’s exactly what this project does. “I don’t know if we have had many students come to the project who have swung a pickaxe before,” he said. “It’s not just that they get to put dirt out and dig holes. We give them time to process what they’ve done, and that informs what they’re doing the next day. We talk about the progress or the lack of progress that we’re making and help them fit what they are doing into the wider scheme of the research for a particular summer. Students love it. It’s hard not to.”

Quick-witted with the ability to talk about archeology in a down-to-earth, easily understandable manner, Finan is the type of professor students quickly and easily connect with. As McMahon puts it, “Dr. Finan is pretty cool.” Professor “Pretty Cool” easily translates his passion for medieval Ireland and shares his desire to shed better light on a period and time in Ireland that most people know as the “island of Saints and Scholars.”

“The early medieval period in Ireland was a golden age when all the big Irish manuscripts were created, and when all the big monasteries were built in Ireland,” Finan said. “When you look at history books — that’s the era they typically look at. But the later medieval ages are rarely addressed or considered, particularly by Americans.”

In the later medieval Ireland, most books are about the medieval English in Ireland. In the late medieval, the English came and ‘basically tried to set up a new England,” Finan said. “They built towns, castles, cathedrals — cities like Dublin, Waterford and Cork. They were medieval urban areas. And the English were very much like the rest of Western Europe — they kept documentary records.”

But at the same time, the native Irish people of the later middle ages were building structures such as timber houses, earthen fortifications and church settlements. With small villages that lacked historical documentation and the grandeur of their English-settled counterparts, these traditional communities were almost completely overlooked until recently.
ing to be able to fill in all of the details about the (medieval Irish) new information. In that sense, we're sort of coming full circle. At the same time though, we don't have a church. We lost our church.

"Because of the high cost of exhuming the bodies and the strict Irish antiquity laws, there is only so much digging that Finan and future student groups will be able to do at the area around the cemetery in Killeenasheen. And even after the digging is over, there is still plenty of archiving, cataloging and article publishing before the rest of academia learns of all the promising discoveries at Killeenasheen. Still, there's hope to find the church. And despite all the expansive equipment and smart techniques Finan and his crew have used at the site, they got their most promising lead during a lunch break.

Each day last summer, the 50 or so crewmembers took lunch in the same place. Over time they had matted down a spot in the grass and began to notice boulders that could be the church. Some different techniques could shed some light on the mystery, or new funding could lead to the opportunity to open more excavations at the site. But still he wasn't sure what he was looking for, Finan is happily assigned to the fact that Killeenasheen will likely become his second home for many years to come.

I suppose in one sense when I first started the project I was somewhat naive, thinking it would last maybe one or two seasons. We'd see what we'd find, publish it and move on from there," said Finan, who shurgs, smiles and adds: "I'm probably going to spend a career in these fields. That was a very strange awakening I suppose. But it's obvious it's such a great site. You never know what you're going to find."

STL is planning a summer 2009 alumni trip to the Killeenasheen site — dubbed the "Excavation." Alumni and other supporters will get a first-of-a-kind opportunity to work alongside students and researchers. For more information, contact: Jean Jackson, (314) 977-2205, jackej@slu.edu

10% of proceeds will be donated to "Cheapskate Benny or Generous Jack?," a book that forms the basis for a retreat in 32 meditations. For more information, visit: www.slu.edu

110% Heartland Regional Medical Center. In June, she celebrated her 50th wedding anniversary in Australia with her husband, Larry. Mary’s book, “Cheapskate Benny or Generous Jack?” published in 2006. She lives in Dayton, Ohio, and received SAE International’s Clarence L. “Kelly” Johnson Aerospace Vehicle Design and Development Award for his significant contributions to the conception and development of advanced aircraft and/or spacecraft.

Dorothy Guderian (A&S’52), assistant district attorney from the Arizona Court of Appeals. He continues to practice law and teach at Arizona State University. He has written two books: "Death Penalty Myths and a Political Status," Westlaw and Club.

Sally R. Vahey (A&S’42) is in the midst of a 40-year physical therapy career, including two years in Singapore. She lived a foreign service career with her husband, Darul, and two daughters. She lives in Tucson, Ariz., is a docent at the University of Arizona Art Museum and enjoys looking.

"We're trying to enter the competition in 2009," said Stephon Waieich (Doisy) is retired after 31 years with the Milwaukee office of Quarles & Brady and was recognized among the top 25 women lawyers in Wisconsin by Law & Political magazine. She is the former president of the State Bar of Wisconsin and Milwaukee Bar Association. She lives in Shorewood, Wis.

David Dalton (Law) was a prosecuting attorney for St. Charles County and from 1975-1995 was a circuit judge for the 25th Judicial Circuit. He lives in St. Charles, Mo.

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Joe Wiley developed as a high school All-American and Billiken Hall of Famer. He spent the majority of his pro-SLU career at Monsanto Corp., one of the St. Louis area’s largest employers, and found living in a city you once scored 22 points a game had its advantages. “People will still come up to me and say, ‘Hey man, thanks for the memories. I remember watching you play.’” Wiley notes. “That ability to have stayed in the area and build a reputation around my athletics and then as a person, has been just… It’s very rewarding.”

Wiley remains close to the University and its basketball program—as both an occasional guest coach and recruiting mentor and presence to the team. He embodies the type of player SLU men’s basketball coach Rick Majerus wants to graduate as a player who would be successful in the pro courts and get an education to even greater success in the real world. When Majerus was considering taking the position last year, Wiley encouraged Majerus to seriously consider SLU after his mutual friend, former NBA coach and Billikens alumnus Norm Van Lier, called him. “Joe Foster (SLU ’72) is a former head coach at Nebraska, Ohio State and Arizona. He’s a fantastic guy.”

“Joe has a very strong sense of duty and is extremely loyal to SLU,” Majerus said. “He was a fantastic player and is still a great person.”

In addition to his coaching work, Wiley also splits his time between private practice and his primary business partner, Michael Zpevak, with Fox Galvin in St. Louis. Wiley is a partner at Fox Galvin, Johnson & Neumann in St. Louis, specializing in regulatory and administrative law. Wiley resides in Oxnard, Calif., where he lives with his wife, Karen, and children, Justin and Karin, in California.

Joe Wiley is the chief financial officer at the University of Michigan Medical School and received a 2007 Local Hero Award from the Ann Arbor, Mich., downtown development association for his community service.

“Colorado is the land of opportunity,” Wiley said. “If you have a good education, then you can do anything.”

Joe Wiley is the chief financial officer at the University of Michigan Medical School and received a 2007 Local Hero Award from the Ann Arbor, Mich., downtown development association for his community service.
Donna Wurzel-Wyss (Cook) is an adjunct faculty member in SLU’s School of Professional Studies. She was selected for Who’s Who Among Black Americans. She is a member of the American Association for University Women and the St. Louis Air Force Auxiliary. She received the Southwestern Illinois College’s Board of Trustees Award.

Gary Credner (Grad ’81) lives in Shanghai, China. He became an English lecturer at Shanghai University of Science and Technology in the humanities and the interdisciplines and energy focal point for glaciologists at Dr. Dow’s policy makers at Harvard.

Jeffrey Byrne & Associates is among the top 5 percent of law firms in the St. Louis plaintiff law firm Gray, Galvin, working in admiralty, commercial and zoning law. He lives in Kirkwood, Mo.

Sarah Campbell (Phil Hils, ’09) is the director of the Center for Policy Research at Missouri State University. She has received the Southwestern Illinois College’s Board of Trustees Award.

Dr. Terry Brennan (Cook) is a full professor and coordinator of the Reagan research center at the University of Wisconsin-Stout.

Dr. Gary Flom (Doisy) is a Missouri state representative, received a Special Recognition Award from Legal Advocates for Abused Women for her service as an attorney and legal advocate on behalf of those in the legal system in St. Louis.

Sharon (Piercey) Johnson (Cook) earned her BA and MEd. in education from Argosy University in Florida. She is a professor of psychology and sociology at Central Missouri.

Tamra (Miller) Jordan ( naw ’90) was appointed to the National Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement. She recently returned as principal of Hogan Motor Leasing, and Angie has joined the firm of Sandberg, Phoenix & von Gontier in St. Louis.

Dr. Kevin Goffe (Grad ’01) married Pico Van Houtryve (Cook ’99, ’09) in October. They live in Milwaukee, WI. They are a part-time physical therapist at University Hospital, and Michael is a cost accounting manager for American Railcar Industries.

Heidi Groth (Cook) is a business development director at Central Properties Corp. in St. Louis. Jared Glenn (Cook) is a Missouri State Representative and has joined the law firm of Hulshof & Renfrew as an associate attorney. He lives in Kansas City.

Dr. Samir Cabbabe (A&S, Grad ’98) married his wife, Stephanie Cabbabe, on October 15. Samir is board certified in general surgery. Samir is a fellow in the American College of Surgeons and is the University of Alabama at Birmingham on a plastic surgery fellowship.

Dr. Kari (Sommer) Michel (A&S, Grad ’99) is a registered nurse and lives in Ashtabula, Ohio. She is married to Jim Michel, a market analyst for the National Weather Service.

Aaren Ziger (Law), an attorney with Kenosha & St. Louis In the American Association for University Women.

Bob Petters (Grad ’80) is a professor at Utah State University. He lives in Leavenworth, KS.

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Dr. Lee Woods (Grad ’90) is a member of the American College of Surgeons and is at St. Louis University Hospital. She received an AB in 1997. She received a J.D. in 1999 from the Emory University School of Law. She is the founder of the city’s first women’s health and clinical care provider.

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in memoriam

Dr. JoAnn Hrubetz (Nurs '60, Grad '75), retired dean of the Saint Louis University School of Nursing, died June 2, 2007. Dr. Hrubetz joined SLU in 1975 and became dean of the School of Nursing in 1982 with the distinction of being the first lay dean of the school. During her 22-year tenure as dean, Dr. Hrubetz led the school to its prominence in nursing professional. She co-founded with an increasing enrollment of nursing and rotating faculty quality. Her work was recognized when he first emeritus in full retirement was established during her tenure. The JoAnn Hrubetz Chair in Nursing was established for nursing students also was named in recognition of her years in teaching. Among the many awards was an honorary doctorate of science from the University of San Francisco. The University of Pennsylvania, 5 N.D. (P) 0

Joan Hrubetz Honorary Scholarship (Nurs '70, '75), retired dean of Saint Louis University School of Nursing, died June 2, 2007. Dr. Hrubetz joined SLU in 1975 and became dean of the School of Nursing in 1982 with the distinction of being the first lay dean of the school. During her 22-year tenure as dean, Dr. Hrubetz led the school to its prominence in nursing professional.
Alumni Associations

John Cook School of Business
President: James Jabsen (79)

Cincinnati Reds
alumni.slu.kintera.org
and a day of horse racing at Churchill Downs.

Join fellow SLU alumni for brunch Sunday, June 22; 11 a.m.; Churchill Downs
7 p.m. first pitch; Progressive Field
Friday, June 27; 6 p.m. pregame party;
Cincinnati Reds VS.
Cost: $120 per person. Includes game ticket and pregame reception; 7:10 p.m. first pitch; Chase Field
Cost: $40 per person; includes game ticket in the “all you can eat” seats.

Doisy College of Health Sciences
President: Scott Hutton (16)

Campus Arena Open House
Saturday, June 21, 2-4 p.m.; St. Louis
Former SLU student and staff athletes are invited to attend an open house at Chaifetz Arena in conjunction with the NCAA Annual Meeting and Symposium. For more information, call (314) 977-8651 or e-mail Tony Breslin at breslin@slu.edu.

Physical Therapy 75th Anniversary
The department of physical therapy is celebrating its 75th anniversary by hosting a number of events throughout the year, with a celebration finale weekend in March 20, 2009. The weekend will feature two guest speakers, Dr. Shirley Salemman and Dr. Drene Sargeant. Look for more information soon, and you are on our ticket event during Homecoming. If you’d like to volunteer, call Melissa Weaver at (314) 977-7825 or e-mail melsevenw@slu.edu.

School of Medicine
President: Dr. Thomas J. Oste (79)

ALUMNI REUNION WEEKEND
Thursday-Saturday, Oct. 24-25

School of Nursing
President: Scott Huston (05)

100th Anniversary
The school will celebrate its 80th anniversary during slu’s Homecoming this weekend beginning March 20, 2009. The weekend will feature two guest speakers, Dr. Shirley Salemman and Dr. Drene Sargeant. Look for more information soon, and you are on our ticket event during Homecoming. If you’d like to volunteer, call Melissa Weaver at (314) 977-7825 or e-mail mel sevenw@slu.edu.

Parks College of Engineering, Aviation and Technology

ALUMNI BARBEQUE AT THE EAA AVIENUE
Friday, August 28-29; 6-10 a.m.; Parade’s Place, 2932
Field of Dream Road, Dixonville, Ill.
Enjoy a great barbecue with your fellow Parks and SLU alumni at the EAA Avienville. Plus, meet faculty, staff and students.
Tickets are $25 per person (check-in at the event).
alumni.slu.kintera.org/100thAnniv

School for Professional Studies
President: Rena Dashiell (80)

ALUMNI NIGHT AT THE SALVADOR
Saturday, Sept. 6; 6 p.m. pregame reception; J. Buck’s;
4:15 p.m. first pitch; Busch Stadium.
Cost: $30 per person; includes game ticket and pregame reception. R.S.V.P. by Monday, Sept. 1.

Young Alumni Association
President: Sarah Nekol (’04, Grad Cook ’06)

WINE WEDNESDAY
Wednesday, July 15; 5:30 p.m.; Missouri Botanical Garden
Enjoy our annual tradition of music in the garden. This is a family friendly event. No R.S.V.P. necessary.

For more details about how to reserve your space and to get the travel program Web site at www.slu.edu/alumni/travel or call (314) 977-2250 and ask to be placed on the travel mailing list.

Celebrating the Billiken’s 100th birthday during Homecoming weekend.

Come back to campus to enjoy all of the traditional fun — a concert, campus tours, the golf car parade, soccer and fireworks. Mark your calendar now and make plans to come home to SLU this September.

BILKINNER TRAVEL PROGRAM TOURS

Being a Billiken traveler puts the world at your feet. This is your chance to see it all. Here is the schedule of 2008-2009 trips:

**October 2008**
- Oct. 4-12
  - Best of Tuscany and the Italian Riviera

- Oct. 8-16
  - Alumni Campus
  - Abroad: Tuscany

**February 2009**
- Feb. 10-18
  - Legends of the Nile
  - Egypt and the Nile

**April 2008**
- April 28-May 11
  - Ukraine and Romania

**May 2008**
- May 4-12
  - France – Normandy

**July 2008**
- July 1-18
  - Ireland – Ennis

**August 2008**
- Aug. 4-12
  - Cruise the Baltic Sea

- Aug. 15-23
  - Cruise the Rhine River

**September 2008**
- Sept. 26- Oct. 4
  - Italian Riviera

**November 2008**
- Nov. 20-30
  - Israel

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I know I was a SLU cheerleader?"

That was the moment when my “SLU-ebrity” status emerged.

Preliminary discussions of the campaign began in May 2006, and the ads appeared in local and national audiences in conjunction with the University marketing department. Specifically, a tremendous amount of my creative energy is focused on marketing our full-time, one-year MBA program.

When the business school launched the one-year MBA program in November 2005 (classes began in May 2006), a new advertising campaign also was launched. Our theme is “Stand out from the crowd.” The goal was to position our program as something special, unique, new and rigorous. In an effort to highlight those characteristics, the “Stand out from the crowd” campaign was envisioned as a series of ads that showcase a SLU MBA student standing out among other business professionals in a variety of settings.

Preliminary discussions of the first ad focused on the concept of a Saint Louis University MBA student standing on his or her hands. One other business professional was voted on for a bus.

That was the moment when my “SLU-ebrity” status emerged.

As we talked about the idea, someone jokingly asked if I could stand on my hands. My response: “Of course! Didn’t you know I was a SLU MBA cheerleader?”

After the laughter subsided, it was official. I was now the face of the one-year MBA program. (Yes, it happened that quickly.) Well, in truth, my face wasn’t exactly highlighted at first — only my backside appeared in that initial ad. Still, buzz was building, and many people began to ask, “Who is that hardstanding student?”

The ads appeared in local newspapers, airport and highway billboards, The Wall Street Journal, Time, BusinessWeek, Busch Stadium and on the Web. Soon there was much anticipation about what the subsequent ads would be.

Year two showcased me staying dry under a umbrella while other business professionals around me were drenched and unprepared. Year three features me standing out as a three-dimension al figure amid cardboard cutouts of my peers. This is our current advertising campaign and by far the most talked about to date. And since the two most recent ads actually show my face, I am now quite often recognized around campus and even around town.

So, what is it like to be the face of a program? What’s it like to have people stop at the grocery store or walking down the quad to talk about the ad? Flatter ing, scary and great — all at the same time! I have been a part of the SLU community as a student, alumnus and staff member in some shape or form for the last 12 years. To represent not only graduate business programs but Saint Louis University itself is truly an honor.

Saint Louis University has shaped who I am — whether working with students, talking with faculty to create next year’s new advertisement. It reminds me of the values, tools and lessons I have learned and continue to learn. I hope alumni can look at the ads and not see me, but see themselves — the men and women for others that Saint Louis University develops in all of us.

So next time you see me out and about, stop me, say hello and let me know your affiliation to the University. Tell me of your "SLU-ebrity" story. You don’t have to be in an advertisement to be the face of SLU. Everyone who has been touched by Saint Louis University is that face — mine is just a little more public.

By Troy T. Turnipseed

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Do you know me?

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Troy T. Turnipseed is the assistant director of graduate business programs, and received his MBA in January. He is also a SLU blogger; read his entries at www.slu.edu/blogs. You also can reach him at turniptp@slu.edu.

The Wall Street Journal