



SAINT LOUIS  
UNIVERSITY

# Office of the Provost



## Provost's Perspective



Joe Weixlmann, Ph.D.  
Provost

Dear Faculty and Staff at Saint Louis University:

I am pleased to share the Fall 2007 issue of the *Provost's Perspective* with you. This issue focuses on recent administrative and organizational changes designed to enhance student experiences.

Among the most important changes this year is development of an administrative team to concentrate on student recruitment and retention. Dr. Boyd Bradshaw, Vice Provost for Enrollment Services, will focus on increasing the number of incoming freshmen and transfer

students, as well as work on retention strategies. Dr. Donald Stump, Associate Provost of Undergraduate Affairs, will focus on learning communities, faculty mentoring, and other academic retention programs. And Dr. Julie Weissman, Associate Provost for Assessment, is focusing her attention on student outcomes and the indicators of student success.

In concert with development of a student recruitment and retention team, we have refocused our attention on programs that facilitate student success. These programs, which include learning communities, study abroad, undergraduate research, and internships, are fundamental components of a well-rounded educational experience. I encourage you to read more about these developments in the article entitled "Integrated Learning: Helping Students Make Connections."

In tandem with both of these initiatives, we implemented the Integrated Advising System for undergraduate students early this fall. Sparked by the Sophomore-Junior Task Force, comprised of faculty, staff, and students, this System more clearly articulates advising and mentoring services, allowing professional advisors to provide registration and articulation support and the faculty to provide counseling in the

areas of academic study and vocation. With the exception of non-declared majors, the System eschews centralized advising, opting instead to provide more accessible services in our Colleges and Schools. Don Stump, Associate Provost for Undergraduate Programs, provides background for these changes in his article "University Launches New Advising and Mentoring System." Don points out that the advising staff and the faculty are well on their way to fully incorporating their advising and mentoring responsibilities into their daily activities.

Other efforts to improve student experiences have included co-locating the College of Arts and Sciences and the Graduate School in Verhaegen Hall, and reconfiguring the College of Public Service to improve collaboration among similar units. Educational Studies, Educational Leadership and Higher Education, Social Work, Counseling and Family Therapy, and Public Policy Studies now form the new College of Education and Public Service. Communication Sciences and Disorders, Research Methodology, and Professional Studies have been reassigned to Arts and Sciences, the Graduate School, and the Provost's Office, respectively, to foster similar stakeholder collaboration.

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*Provost's letter, continued from page 1*

I look forward to talking to many of you about other programs that we can initiate to recruit and retain students and to ensure their success while they are here. Any ideas that you may have in this regard are welcome.

### *Writing and University Testing Centers Open*

The Writing and University Testing Centers officially opened on Thursday, September 20<sup>th</sup> in the Pius XII Library. Located on the 3rd floor of the Anheuser-Busch wing of Pius Library, the Writing Center is open to students needing assistance in improving their writing skills. The Testing Center is available to students who are in need of special accommodations to take exams as well as for faculty to schedule exams for students who miss a class. An additional testing facility to serve the Medical Center should be available by the end of term on the 1<sup>st</sup> Floor of the Nursing Building.

### *University Launches New Undergraduate Advising and Mentoring System*

*by Donald Stump, Ph.D.*

Fall semester of 2007 saw the launch of the University's Integrated Advising System, which creates a new role for Faculty Mentors and assigns professional Academic Advisors to work in each of the five undergraduate colleges and schools. The goal of the new system is to expand opportunities for students to receive timely, skilled, and personalized counseling.

Once the system is fully implemented, students will have both an Academic Advisor and at least one Faculty Mentor. Barring leaves or changes in staffing, there will thus be at least two people who know each student well and who can offer advice at every stage from the freshman through the senior year.

"It's going to be a major improvement to have more than one person assigned to counsel each student," says Donald Stump, Associate Provost for Undergraduate Affairs. "Not only will there be more time to talk with students, but if one advisor departs or goes on leave or if a student decides to change majors, there will always be at least one familiar person around to talk with about plans, problems, and ways to get a first-rate education."

The heart of the system is a division of responsibilities. Professional Academic Advisors will

- Help with the transition from high school to college and explain connections among the Core, the Jesuit mission, and the Five Dimensions of the SLU Experience
- Help students unsure about their direction explore possible majors and careers
- Oversee planning for courses in the coming term, pre-registration, and the fulfillment of Core requirements

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Donald Stump, continued from page 2

- Monitor progress toward graduation
- Introduce students to the Career Center and other resources on campus.

Because Academic Advisors will handle substantial portions of the work formerly done by the faculty, Mentors will be free to focus their time and creativity on preparing students for particular degree programs and vocations. They will

- Introduce students to areas of study and potential career tracks
- Help them sort out their plans for the future, including selecting appropriate courses in their majors, minors, and certificates and helping them deal with academic issues that might impede their progress
- Discuss the relation between particular degree programs, the Jesuit Mission, and the Five Dimensions of the SLU Experience
- Offer counsel on such things as internships, study abroad, and applications for post-graduate study and employment.

To give faculty a quiet time during the term to talk with students before the hectic pace of Pre-Registration period

begins, the College of Arts and Sciences and the Doisy College of Health Sciences have developed a special **Mentoring Period**. It will take place each semester from the fourth through the sixth week of classes.

During that period, students will sit down with their Mentors to sort out courses in their majors and talk about long-term goals and ways to go about attaining them. The recommendations of Mentors will then be communicated to Academic Advisors, who will then handle the details of Pre-Registration in separate meetings with students later in the term.

“Under the old system,” Stump points out, “students were often advised in a number of offices—Honors, Pre-Professional Health, academic departments and programs, and so on. Students could get the code required to register from any one of them. It was easy just to pick a favorite advisor and skip the others. Even faculty who were supposed to oversee a major program of study often didn’t see their advisees from one term to the next. Now, Mentors and Advisors will work together as a team, with all the necessary discussions taking place before the code is given out. We think that a lot of good things will happen in those discussions.”

The Provost’s Office is also involved in strengthening advising and mentoring

in other ways. For example, an early warning system is being tested that will allow instructors to notify Advisors and Mentors of serious academic problems as early as a student’s first major paper or exam. If assistance is offered sufficiently early, the hope is that the student will be able to recover before failing the course becomes inevitable.

Special attention is also being given to expanding, coordinating, and publicizing opportunities for internships; to involving more students in aptitude testing and career counseling; and to working more intensively with upperclassmen as they apply for graduate and professional schools or for major fellowships and prizes.

## On Tap: Enterprise Software Solutions for Academic Programs

The Provost’s Office staff is investigating several enterprise software solutions that address a variety of academic programs including e-portfolio, faculty activity, accreditation administration, assessment, and space management. We are hoping to purchase tools that are flexible enough for a variety of applications, and welcome your input as we investigate the choices. If you are interested in participating in any or all of the discussions now taking place, please contact Marie Dockter at 7-6756.





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## *Integrated Learning: Helping Students Make Connections*

*by Marie Dockter and Leanna Fenneberg*

Learning is “a comprehensive, holistic, transformative activity that integrates academic learning and student development, processes that have often been considered separate, and even independent of each other” (*Learning Reconsidered*, 2004, p. 2). Education in this sense requires us to provide our undergraduate students with opportunities to make intentional connections between their in- and out-of-classroom experiences.

The National Survey of Student Engagement, as reported by the *Chronicle of Higher Education* (Lipka, 2007), identifies four areas that promote integrated, deep learning experiences including: 1) learning communities; 2) study abroad; 3) undergraduate research; and 4) field placements. At SLU, Academic Affairs and Student Development have collaborated to develop programs in each of these areas.

### **Learning Communities**

SLU’s Department of Housing & Residence Life has administered themed housing options for many years. In the Fall of 2007, the number of residential learning communities was expanded to include: the Micah House (social justice) program, CLASSIC leadership, Honors, First Class, Health Sciences, Biology, Careers and Majors exploration, Cross Cultural, Business Service Leadership, Engineering, and Modern Language Houses. Most of the learning communities also offer a co-enrollment option to participate in Freshmen Interest Groups (FIGs), allowing as many as twenty students to live and take courses together.

Learning Communities and FIGs are also available to the University’s commuter students. These students are associated with the FIG or Learning Community in the residence halls, and are placed in the associated FIGs. The Provost’s Office and Student Development, in partnership with many of the Colleges and Schools, are planning to offer additional learning communities and FIGs in the new academic year. For more information about these programs, please visit our web site at <http://www.slu.edu/services/residence/academic/FIG-definitions.html>.

### **Study Abroad**

SLU’s study abroad programs offer opportunities for students to travel and study in sixteen countries, and offers expanded opportunities at its campus in Madrid, Spain. Generally facilitated during the sophomore or junior year, study abroad exposes students to diverse people, and viewpoints, and cultures. Today’s competitive job market requires a global perspective and the ability to function as a citizen of the world. There is no better way to prepare students in today’s marketplace than to provide them with

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Marie Dockter and Leanna Fenneberg,  
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opportunities to travel and live abroad. For more information about the University's Study Abroad Program, please visit our web site at <http://studyabroad.slu.edu/index.html>.

### Undergraduate Research

SLU's faculty have, for some time, actively engaged undergraduate students in research programs that augment their in-classroom experiences. Recent findings of the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) indicate that our students regard these experiences very highly indeed. Recognizing the importance of these programs, the Provost has asked the Vice Provost of Research to coordinate an integrated program and has authorized funding for an undergraduate research coordinator. By the beginning of the calendar year, the coordinator will be exploring additional opportunities for students, and will be developing plans to better connect students with faculty. Stay tuned as this program develops.

### "On the Job" Training

Exposure to one's field of study in the workplace or the community can help solidify commitment to an area of study, provide opportunities to connect theory to practice, and provide meaningful experience relevant to their future career

path. SLU offers many "on-the-job" training opportunities including job shadowing, service learning, internships, and field placements. Meaningful collaborations between Career Services and the academic departments are ongoing, allowing additional opportunities in these important areas. For more information concerning service learning programs, please visit our web site at <http://servicelearning.slu.edu/>.

## DIGITIZATION CENTER LAUNCHED NOVEMBER 14

With University, Foundation, and grant support, the University Libraries launched a Digitization Center to make electronic copies of manuscripts, rare books, treatises, photographs, audio/cassette tapes, video tapes (VHS, Beta, etc.), films (8mm, 16mm), and slides. Located in the Lewis Annex, faculty librarians and special collections staff have already begun digitizing original materials contained in the Ong and the Parks College collections. To date, the Library staff has been able to make taped conversations with Father Ong available on the University Libraries web site and has created digital images from photographs, posters, and other memorabilia for Parks College's 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary view book.



### New Vatican Film Library Web Site

The new Vatican Film Library (VFL) web site is now available at <http://www.slu.edu/libraries/vfl>. This site includes a search engine for the microfilmed manuscripts collection, expanded guides to locating information, and enhanced details about the VFL and its programs. The project, led by Jennifer MacDonald, also included the work of Susan L'Engle, Drew Kupsky, Josh Farmer, Barbara Channell, Mikael Kriz, Haroon Iqbal, and Dr. Gregory Pass. This was a truly cross team, cross departmental, faculty and staff effort.



All correspondence regarding this newsletter should be directed to:  
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## *Welcome to Saint Louis University*

*Boyd A. Bradshaw, Ed.D.  
Vice Provost  
Enrollment Management*



The Office of the Provost is pleased to welcome Boyd Bradshaw, Ed.D., as vice provost of enrollment management. Boyd began his new role at SLU on November 1, after serving as assistant provost for enrollment management at the University of Louisville. In addition, Boyd is returning to SLU after earning his doctorate in higher education from our College of Education and Public Service in 2005. He also previously served as program coordinator and assistant

director of admissions in SLU's office of undergraduate admissions. As vice provost for enrollment management, he will oversee undergraduate admission, student financial services, the registrar's office, student academic services, and the international center. Boyd may be reached at 977-3415.

*Donald Stump, Ph.D.  
Associate Provost for  
Undergraduate Affairs*



The Office of the Provost is pleased to welcome Donald Stump, Ph.D., as associate provost for undergraduate affairs. Don has been director of the Micah Program since 1996, leading it to

national prominence as a faith-based, non-denominational program of students sharing a residence and studying social justice issues and completing service projects together. Don is also a professor of English, having joined the University in 1992. As the new associate provost for undergraduate affairs, his initial focus will be on advising, retention, learning communities, early intervention for students having academic problems, and connections between faculty and students outside the classroom. Don may be reached at 977-3078.

*Steven Sanchez, Ph.D.  
Assistant Provost*

The Office of the Provost is pleased to welcome Steven Sanchez, Ph.D. as the new assistant provost. Steve has most recently served as associate academic dean at Central College in Pella, Iowa, and had previously been the registrar at Central College. He holds a B.A. in English from Creighton University, M.A. in English from Iowa State, and Ph.D. in Higher Education from Loyola Chicago, and has worked as a speech and publications writer at Moraine Valley Community College of Chicago. Steve has taught English and interdisciplinary studies throughout his career. As assistant provost, Steve will provide his expertise on a variety of special projects and committees within the Provost's Office. Steve may be reached at 977-3078.



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## **Upcoming Events Sponsored by the Office of the Provost**

<u>DATE/TIME</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
Tues, February 5 12-1:30 p.m.	Chair/Director Lunch: Course Evaluations: Best Practices in the Assessment Environment	BSC 352/353
Wed., March 19 12-1:30 p.m.	Chair/Director Lunch: Developing New Academic Programs	BSC 352/353
Wed., May 14 8:30 a.m. - Noon	Faculty Development Workshop	College Church Ballroom
Wed., August 20	New Faculty Orientation	

## **Reinert Center for Teaching Excellence**

Wed., February 6 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.	Honors Faculty Coffeebreak and Teaching Tips	BSC 253A
Tues., February 19 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.	Service Learning Coffeebreak: Logistics in Learning Through Serving	Allied Health Multipurpose Room
Thurs., February 21 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.	Serving Learning Coffeebreak: Logistics in Learning Through Serving	Knight's Room Pius Library
Tues., February 26 1:30 - 3:30 p.m.	Panel Discussion: Connecting Clinical Experiences with Academic Content	Allied Health Multipurpose Room
Tues., March 4 3:30 - 5 p.m.	Mentoring Committee: Becoming a Total University Citizen	Verhaegen 219
Tues., March 4 1:30 - 2:30 p.m.	Service Learning Coffeebreak: Reflection in Action	Knight's Room Pius Library
Thurs., March 6 2:30 - 3:30 p.m.	Service Learning Coffeebreak: Reflection in Action	Allied Health Multipurpose Room
Fri.-Sat., April 11-12	Annual Academic Portfolio Retreat	Manresa House

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### **Blackboard CE Training Sessions**

In the spring 2008 semester, the Reinert Center for Teaching Excellence is offering a combination of open training sessions and customized courses. To arrange customized training for yourself, your department or group, please contact Kim Scharringhausen at 977-3522 or [scharringhausen@slu.edu](mailto:scharringhausen@slu.edu).

The following schedule of training sessions is open to the SLU community at large. Advanced registration is required through the form at [http://blackboard.slu.edu/training\\_form.html](http://blackboard.slu.edu/training_form.html). These courses will be in Des Peres 111 from 9-11 a.m.

February 12:	Blackboard CE Fundamentals
February 19:	Presenting Content
February 26:	The Grade Book
March 4:	Communication Tools
March 11:	Assignments
March 25:	Assessments

For more information on any of these events, please visit us at <http://cte.slu.edu> or call our office at 977-3944.