Greetings to Saint Louis University’s many alumni and friends around the world. I hope the beauty and hope of spring has met you with a warm embrace wherever this message may find you.

Unfortunately, as you know all too well, the economy weighs on the shoulders of our nation. In fact, in this issue of Universitas, you will read interviews with six of Saint Louis University’s brightest business and economic minds. You will find that they are cautiously optimistic about the year we have ahead of us, and they believe that our collective will is strong. They are confident a recovery will occur in due time. This downturn has affected us all, even here at SLU. However, I am proud to report that Saint Louis University remains in a strong financial position thanks to years of prudent spending, as well as responsible planning and investment.

We know the economy is profoundly affecting our students and their families as well as our alumni and generous donors. That’s why we continue our dedication to bring substantial rewards of our students’ tuition dollars and of the generous gifts from friends and alumni like you.

For the next academic year, we have committed to raising tuition just 2 percent. We chose this modest increase to assure the affordability of a SLU education for our students and their families during these difficult times. With the sagging economy in mind, we have sought new and innovative ways to make the most of our budget dollars. In this issue of Universitas, you will read about one such program: Quantum Weather.

This one-of-a-kind weather system is allowing the Saint Louis utility company, AmerenUE, to monitor weather systems on a block-by-block basis — and it’s thanks to SLU’s department of earth and atmospheric sciences. A group of SLU professors and researchers collaborated with the utility to create this innovative solution.

The project is an excellent example of the type of private-public partnerships that help our professors and researchers make practical use of their research. It also fulfills our mission of assisting our community. For the first time, AmerenUE can pinpoint the likely effect severe weather will have on specific neighborhoods so the company can efficiently and quickly send repair crews to shorten the length of time customers go without power.

As we move forward, the University will seek more of these unique partnerships. I feel strongly that in order to strengthen communities like St. Louis — and those in which you live — government, private industry and educational institutions must work together. Each entity is like a leg of a stool supporting the greater good. And especially in these difficult economic times, we must strike the right balance, or we may all fall down.

As we face the reality of tighter budgets, such partnerships will not only help us make the most of our limited funds, they will aid in the further development of our cities and regions. Such a critical mass of collaborative decision makers and innovative thinkers can only result in positives for all of us.

I am confident that in the months and years to come even more of these partnerships will come to fruition on the SLU campus, making your generous gifts even more effective in transforming the world around us.

Lawrence Bondic, S.J.
President
In October the Saint Louis University Billiken met his Japanese brother as two special visitors arrived from Osaka, Japan, with a hand-carved Billiken statue.

Normally, the Japanese Billiken — a 2-foot-tall, 30-pound wooden statue — resides in a shrine atop the 298-foot-tall Tsutenkaku Tower. Each year, thousands of visitors donate a coin and rub the soles of the Billiken’s feet to make a wish. (In St. Louis it’s uncultured to rub the soles in public.)

The Japanese visitors were in St. Louis because 2008 marked the 100th anniversary of the Billiken, and they wanted to see where their Japanese Billiken visits American Brother at SLU.

Created by Florence Pretz in 1908, the Billiken enjoyed world-renowned status as a revered good luck symbol. It got its start in Osaka’s Osaka Castle amusement park in 1908. Each year, thousands of visitors donate a coin and rub the soles of the Billiken’s feet to make a wish. (In St. Louis it’s uncultured to rub the soles in public.)

When the Osaka Billiken statue arrived on campus and took a quick tour of Chaifetz Arena — where they placed the Osaka Billiken on center court — Takai summed up their affection for SLU’s beloved mascot: “Goodbye, my Billiken brother!” — Clepton Berry

SLU launches new majors for fall 2009

Saint Louis University is launching several new undergraduate majors to prepare students for some of the country’s hottest careers. It’s also enhancing its communication program to meet the needs of the 21st century.

In February, SLU was named to the President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll for exemplary service efforts and service to disadvantaged youth. The prestigious 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 a series of factors, including innovativeness of service projects and the percentage of student participation in service.

In January, Dr. Devin Johnston, associate professor of English, was named a finalist for a National Book Critics Circle award in poetry, one of the world’s most prestigious literary awards. Johnston’s Sources, a book of poetry released last fall, was selected, and it’s the first time that a member of the SLU faculty has been up for the award.

Dr. Bert Barry is the new director of international services. Most recently he was director of English as a second language and director of international services for Webster University in St. Louis. At SLU Barry works to promote, recruit, and enroll international students and students studying abroad. He also facilitates cross-cultural educational experiences on campus for students and academic departments.

In November SLU Provost Joe Weidmann was recognized by his alma mater, Canisius College, with a Distinguished Alumni Award for embodying “the Jesuit ideal of intellectual excellence, leadership, and service to others.” He is a 1948 graduate of the Buffalo, N.Y.-based Jesuit institution.

Dr. James Kelhoffer, associate professor of theological studies, is a winning author in Alpha Sigma Nu’s 25th annual Book Award competition. His book The Diet of John the Baptist was chosen from entries submitted from among the 31 member Jesuit institutions of higher education. Winning books are selected by Alpha Sigma Nu, the Jesuit honor society, and by the Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities, which supervises the competition.

Kate Becker, former SLU Medical Center associate general counsel, is now executive director of the University Medical Group. As executive director, she oversees all operations, planning and the budget for the UMG.

In February SLU was recognized as one of the region’s best places to work by readers of the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, who voted SLU one of St. Louis’ “Top Employers” in an online poll. The University was one of only three employers named for providing the best benefits. And in January, St. Louis Magazine once again named SLU one of St. Louis’ “Great Places to Work.” Only 58 firms made the magazine’s list this year.

Saint Louis University’s School for Professional Studies, which provides degrees and certificates designed for busy adults, is launching a bachelor’s degree in general studies that will be offered entirely online. The new general studies degree also can be earned on site or in a combination of both formats.
TODAY'S PLANNED GIVING

Professional fees. Under the new plan, full-time undergraduates also would be eligible for the award, which will be added to any other scholarships or grants a student may be awarded.

For instance, in October when SLU holds its Make A Difference Day, alumni clubs from around the world will hold parallel events in their towns.

For alumni who wish to receive it. For more information, call (314) 977-7170 or visit slu.edu/calendar08.

Students for Life sponsors Respect Life Week, planning events for children.

The exhibition continues through April 26. Museum hours are 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday. For more information, call (314) 977-7170 or visit mocra slu.edu.

Saint Louis University’s Doisy College of Health Sciences; Dr. Teri Murray, dean, School of Nursing; and Dr. Homer Schmitz, interim dean, School of Public Health — report directly to Alderson.

The freshman class also was named "Group of the Year." Students for Life sponsors Respect Life Week, planning events around right-to-life issues. Last fall, the group established the Virginia Murphy Pregnant and Parenting Student Assistance Fund, an endowed scholarship that will provide assistance to any SLU student facing unexpected pregnancy or parenthood.

The students call home

The percent of undergraduates are biology majors, making it SLU’s most popular major. Nursing is second with 6.9 percent of undergraduates.

New book shares nutrition story and recipes

Saint Louis University’s department of nutrition and dietetics is celebrating its 75th anniversary by releasing a book. Making It: Gardens to Tables mixes recipes from top St. Louis chefs with the story of how the department began using cooking and gardening to teach that local, homegrown food is good for diners, good for the environment and good for the community. Through photos and words, Making It traces how the department grew to emphasize sustainable food systems and created one of the only programs in the country that combines the art of cooking with the science of nutrition. It also focuses on SLU’s commitment to reach out to children in the community and explain to them why French fries aren’t the only vegetable they should eat.

Published by SLU’s Doisy College of Health Sciences and Reedy Press, the book costs $15 and is available by calling (314) 977-8523. Proceeds from Making It fund scholarships for nutrition and dietetics students at Saint Louis University.

As technology revolutionizes the health care field, SLU’s Doisy College of Health Sciences is preparing students with a new graduate program in health informatics. The new master’s degree program will allow students to work as information managers and executives in hospitals and clinics, pharmaceutical companies and research organizations as they learn how technology is used to manage and store health information.

New book shares nutrition story and recipes

Saint Louis University’s Museum of Contemporary Religious Art continues its celebration of its 15th anniversary with an exhibition titled “Good Friday.” Drawing primarily on the MOCRA collection, “Good Friday” considers the ways in which artists have explored the events of the day of Jesus’ death in their work. The exhibition continues through April 26. Museum hours are 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday. For more information, call (314) 977-7170 or visit mocra slu.edu.

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11 named to Billiken Hall of Fame

The Saint Louis University department of athletics inducted 11 individuals into the Billiken Hall of Fame on Jan. 16 in a ceremony at Busch Student Center.

The Billiken Hall of Fame inducted its initial class in 1976. Since then, more than 240 student-athletes, teams and dignitaries have been selected for the Hall of Fame.

This year’s inductees come from three categories.

BILLENNIUM GREAT: PIONEER

Charlie LaBella (Ice Hockey, 1975-78): Throughout his career, LaBella accumulated goals and 100 assists, while helping the Billikens to a pair of Central Collegiate Hockey Association regular-season and tournament championships.

BILLENNIUM GREAT: CONTTEMPORARY

Meghann Burke (Women's Soccer, 1996-2000): A four-year starter at goalkeeper, Burke held every career goalkeeper record at her graduation. Her 38 shutouts is a school and Conference USA record. In 2004, she was named C-USA’s Co-Player of the Decade. Burke, who played for the Boston Renegades, was SLU’s first female student-athlete drafted to play a professional sport.

Wendy Sammons Combs (Field Hockey, 1981-83): Combs was a mainstay at goalkeeper for the Billikens. During her four years, she led the team to a 42-23-3 record and helped the 1981 and 1989 squads earn top-20 national rankings. At SLU, Combs still ranks first all-time with 42 wins and 30 shutouts.

Brad Davis (Men's Soccer, 2003-2007): Davis was an All-America in his two seasons with the Billikens. He notched 34 goals (10 assists). He assisted his sophomore season to earn C-USA Player of the Year honors. After leaving SLU, he played with the U.S. National Team. Davis has won two straight MLS Cups playing for the Houston Dynamo.

Colleen Hunter (Volleyball, 1999-2003): A three-year starter, Hunter is SLU’s all-time leader in kills (2,230) and ranks second in the program in total blocks (658). She earned four-straight All-CUSA honors, and she was named to the C-USA All-Decade Team.

Justin Love (Men's Basketball, 1999-2003): Love ranks eighth all-time in school history with 16.3 points per game. He is best remembered for his play during the NCAA Tournament run. In the third round upset victory over Drake in the 2000 NCAA Tournament, he scored 21 points.

Lauren Risley Mudd (Volleyball, 1994-2000): Mudd enjoyed perhaps her best season her senior year, when she recorded 630 kills en route to being named C-USA’s Co-Player of the Year. In 1998, she earned three conference Player of the Week awards, the first SLU female athlete to do so.

Marque Perry (Men’s Basketball, 1996-2000): Perry finished his four-year career ranked among the Billiken’s top 10 scorers with 1,106 points. An All-CUSA selection his junior and senior seasons, Perry earned first-team honors his senior season after scoring 17.1 points per game.

Dipsy Selolwane (Women’s Soccer, 2001-2005): Selolwane came to SLU with just one season of eligibility, and she scored 25 goals — the most by a Billiken since 1964. He was the Conference USA Player of the Year. Selolwane had stints in the MLS and with the Botswana National Team. He plays for Ajax Cape Town.

BAUHAN SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD

Msgr. Louis F. Meyer, Ph.D.: Meyer played a key role in launching the SLU NCAA men’s soccer program in the late 1990s as a member of a committee that convinced SLU President Paul Rainert, S.J., to start the sport. Meyer maintained his association with soccer, and with SLU, through more than 50 years of service to the Catholic Church.

Bob Ramsey: Ramsey has been involved with SLU athletics for more than 20 years. He is the“Voice of the Billikens” as the play-by-play announcer for Billiken men’s basketball games. He also has called numerous women’s basketball games, men’s and women’s soccer games and volleyball matches for Charter Communications. Ramsey is a talk show host on WWMN-AM.

Can you give an example of a scholarship that has changed a life?

At the 2006 Presidential Scholarship interview weekends, I met many talented students. But one prospective student, Katie, from a small town in Wisconsin, was there to achieve a lifelong dream.

Katie first visited SLU at age 10, when she came along on her sister’s campus tour. She told me: “I remember loving all the flowers and standing next to Gries thinking it was incredibly tall. I decided then I was going to be a Billiken one day.”

When Katie was 10, her father suffered a stroke that left him permanently disabled and unemployed. Before the stroke, Katie’s family was stable. After the stroke, the family faced many challenges, most significantly financial.

When she was in high school, Katie told her mom SLU was her first choice. Katie’s mom was honest and said: “You’ll need a great scholarship to go there because we just can’t afford it.”

In March last year, Katie learned she won SLU’s Presidential Scholarship. She said: “Why did my dad relay the news to me, I could hear the pride in his voice. And when I told my mom, she started to cry. Not only had I attained my goal, but I would be attending one of the best Jesuit universities in the United States.”

Katie is now a freshman majoring in occupational therapy.

Why are scholarships so important to Saint Louis University?

They embody an opportunity for us to live out the University’s Jesuit mission of women and men serving others. In these current economic times, it is more than ever important that the University provide opportunities for the growth and education of students — and the only way we can do that is through scholarships.

How can alumni make an impact on scholarships?

Remember your experience at SLU? If you have a scholarship, lean or a job (to borrow from the vernacular), “pay it forward.” Support a scholarship program or the fund for Excellence and give a current or future student the same opportunities you enjoyed.

In light of our current economic situation, scholarship support has never been more critical to our students and their families. As illustrated in Katie’s story, few gifts offer greater satisfaction than those to scholarship funds. We want to ensure that the best and most deserving students have an opportunity to attend SLU regardless of their financial situation. And with the help of our generous alumni, we can.

In what other ways can alumni assist with student recruitment?

Our alumni are true ambassadors for what it means to achieve a Saint Louis University education. That’s why we welcome their involvement and support as we explore new opportunities to participate in the student recruitment process.

What does the incoming class look like?

It’s an extraordinarily talented, academically gifted group of students with tremendous financial need. Never in my years have I seen such a gifted class, but also such a group of students who find themselves more in need than ever before. Your support of the SLU scholarship program or the Fund for Excellence will help us bring these very gifted students into the SLU community and make possible a quality education.

The uncertainty of our economy makes it essential for SLU to provide a wide variety of options to assist students and families in financing their education. We are committed to attracting and retaining the very best students and to keeping SLU’s one-of-a-kind education affordable so students like Katie can achieve their lifelong dreams.

Many of our alumni volunteers work in cooperation with the University’s admission and alumni offices to staff college fairs all over the country. Alumni also assist with every- thing from making phone calls to prospective students to serving as interviewers during our scholarship weekends. For more information on how to get involved with recruitment, please call Christy Seaver, program director for alumni relations in the office of admissions, at (314) 977-2869 or e-mail cseaver@slu.edu.
The SLU volleyball team had a historic season in 2008. And with five seniors coming back in 2009 the Billikens are …

– By Nick Sargent
Just when it looks like the underdogs have no chance, the Billikens — warming up as the upstart Billikens — with only one senior on the roster, are back and forth. Each score is punctuated by slow-motion high fives. You grip the seat in front of you as you watch the ball slowly turn over in midair, then cross the net … and finally land just out of the reach of outstretched Stanford players’ hands.

A perfect service ace for the win. As the crowd cheers, you see the Billikens congratulating each other with confident looks on their faces, as the Stanford team stands in the background wondering what happened.

And the match continued to play out that way for two more hours — a back-and-forth nail-biter that saw the Billikens prevail 27-25, 20-25, 25-19, 25-19. A perfect Hollywood ending for the underdog story — one that would be ideal for an ensemble cast.

Everyone on the floor contributed to the victory, Kordes said. When SLU faces the toughest of their nonconference foes, SLU of course has an advantage. Instead of relying on one player to carry the team, everyone on the floor is forced to step up her game and contribute. And when it all comes together like against Stanford, the Billikens have a chance against anyone.

“Honestly, the amount of passion we had just poured onto the floor,” McCloud said. “Everyone was at a great time. We were all working toward the same goal — and it was obvious on court.”

TOUGH ROAD

It’s no coincidence that Stanford wound up on the Billikens’ schedule during the 2008 campaign. Since coming aboard, Kordes has tried to fill SLU’s slate with as many of the country’s elite programs as she could. Not only does the tough schedule attract highly sought-after recruits who want to take on the best, but more importantly it gets the team battle-tested for the NCAA Tournament.

“I tell kids we’re going to be a ranked program, but we’re not going to do that unless we beat elite teams,” Kordes said. “We can never I want scheduling nonconference teams. If I am going to recruit the best kids, they are going to know they are going to play the best teams.”

The strength of the nonconference schedule also prompted NCAA officials to give the Billikens a high seeding in the tournament. And for the first time in school history, SLU won an NCAA Tournament match, taking down first-round opponent Alabama A&M (25-10, 25-13, 25-15). Just a day later in their second-round match, the Billikens took on another big-name school — University of Michigan. Typical of the team’s historic season, the game was close from the opening serve. It took 21 sets, eight lead changes and five sets before Michigan eventually prevailed in the tiebreaker 25-22, 19-25, 23-25, 20-25, 15-11 in a match that the Billikens’ youth finally caught up with them.

“We lacked a little on late fifth-set execution, and it hurt us. We hadn’t been in many situations like this before,” said Kordes, recalling the leads the Billikens had early in the fifth set. “We had it, and kind of watched it slip away.”

To add insult to injury, the Billikens watched Stanford — a team they had beaten just a few months earlier — advance all the way to the Elite Eight of the NCAA Tournament. “It’s something that we make the Elite Eight of the NCAA Tournament. “It’s something that we’re going to get kids to come here. They understand that volleyball is not going to be their career. You’re going to get them somewhere they can lay the foundation for their professional career.”

“We’re not going to do that unless we beat elite teams,” Kordes said. “That’s the reason we’ve been able to build this so quickly.”

ANOTHER BRICK IN THE WALL

Despite the thrilling Stanford victory and impressive match against Northern Iowa, the Billikens’ difficult nonconference schedule left them beaten (losses against ranked foes Illinois, Purdue, Utah and defending national champion Penn State), but better for it. The team cut through the Atlantic 10, going undefeated en route to both the regular season and conference tournament titles.

“The competition level in the Atlantic 10, unfortunately, is a hurdle that we have to get over. From a volleyball perspective, East Coast volleyball is not very strong. The A-10 is a very East Coast-based conference, and women’s volleyball just isn’t huge there,” Kordes said. “But if we think we can be good enough to be one of the top two teams in the A-10, that gives me the leeway to do whatever I want scheduling nonconference teams. If I think we’re going to recruit the best kids, they are going to know they are going to play the best teams.”

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ACADEMICALLY
SLU experts weigh in on the nation’s financial downturn and on the future.

The world is facing the most widespread financial crisis in a generation, and everyone — from pundits to politicians — is searching for answers. So Universitas has turned to Saint Louis University faculty experts to help sort financial fact from fiction. Six professors from the John Cook School of Business sat down for exclusive interviews to share their insights on what happened in 2008 and what it will take for the country to recover in 2009.

– By David Chelminski and Nick Sargent
Did people see the economic crisis coming?

Q: A lot of this was forecastable. What’s interesting about these market developments is that it took the financial crisis on Wall Street by surprise. The biggest loss and the hardest thing to recover, though, may be something that can’t be precisely measured — confidence in the markets and the firms that rely on them.

Q: Clearly, the myth that says government is an impediment to capital has been defeated. Government is critical for establishing honest, transparent markets, ensuring contracts, providing a free flow of information and protecting private property. During the last few years, the reduction in oversight has created an opportunity to go from a refereed boxing match to a barroom brawl with no bouncer and no rules.

Q: What has been the effect of hedge funds — these private investment funds open to fewer investors that are allowed to undertake a wider range of activities than other investment funds?

A: These new unregulated or lightly regulated financial entities, including hedge funds, have come to play a much larger role in our financial system. They now actually control nearly as much capital as the regulated U.S. banking system. While these entities undoubtedly enhanced stability in the markets when the bull market kicked in, they have possibly increased vulnerabilities against others. In the past, proponents of financial innovation championed that these developments would lower risk. Unfortunately, we find the opposite is true.

Q: What effect does the crisis have on the St. Louis metropolitan area?

A: Our manufacturing index is low, and we’ll probably lose more jobs in the car industry. We were somewhat insulated from the subprime bubble than on the coasts. In those high-growth areas, like Florida and California, unemployment was fueled by housing construction. Because we have a more stable economy, we find ourselves better positioned for the downturn. As a result, St. Louis housing prices have only fallen 2 percent as compared to 20 percent on the coasts.

Q: What is the biggest hurdle to recovery?

A: The biggest hurdle is if foreign countries that have invested tremendous amounts money in the United States based on the confidence in our institutions, decide to invest their money somewhere else. My biggest concern is the value of the dollar collapsing. If it collapses, it will force us to raise our interest rates, and ultimately the recession will be prolonged.

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Q: Why then has the real estate market?

A: There are a lot of people who are saying we have still more to fall for. But not as far or as long as they once thought. The fact is that prices were relatively high, like from 2004 to 2006, and if you’re in a position now where you need to move or sell, you are going to have to take a hit.

Q: What’s next for the real estate market?

A: We are right in the middle of a recession, and what’s interesting about the housing market is that it is going to drag the economy down. The recent retail sales numbers were pretty bad. Combine that with lower property tax assessments, and schools and cities may see budget shortfalls. As a result, you’ll see that these communities will not be able to maintain the level of service consumers are expecting. Furthermore, if you see administrators furloughed, and their capital projects will be pushed back. Of course, public safety in the form of police and fire service will be the last to go.

Q: Have rating agencies, such as Moody’s and Standard & Poor’s, added to the economic crisis?

A: The rating agencies and their decisions have come back to haunt us. They should have done better. As we’re seeing in the market, securities that were rated investment-grade should have been rated much lower. We need to find a more effective way of rating financial securities. Perhaps we need to think about rating agencies themselves to broadly assess the risk, instead of relying on a few firms that claim to have a specialized understanding.

Q: There has been a lot of focus on the housing sector. What does the government need to do to restore confidence?

A: The federal government needs to follow a two-step strategy to repair confidence. First, the government needs to decrease the cost of lending for banks. Banks are experiencing heavy losses, and they need to ensure they have adequate reserves to stay within regulation requirements. With the government providing such support, we hope that St. Louis, which did not see the dramatic increase in prices like California, Nevada and the East Coast, will help other people who are looking at the housing price-to-rent ratio, and that increased dramatically during the housing boom. It’s now falling back down, so it’s making a lot more sense now to stop renting and to start buying a home because housing prices are going down relative to rents.

Q: So is the price of housing leveling out?

A: There are a number of people who are now saying that they actually see the bottom of the housing market at this point. We’re right at about where they were in 2002. Their fear is that prices are about right, but everybody is so scared and the economy is in such a poor state that prices are going to continue to fall. What really should be, and prices will fall too fast. These people are concerned that this would continue to drag the economy down.

On the other side, people who think prices should continue to fall want to do nothing. They say, “Let them fall because they have to adjust to their financial realities.” If you think housing prices are right, you want the government to take some action, to lower mortgage-underwriting rates so prices all but current level. If you think prices are not right, you want the prices to continue to fall. It remains to be seen who is correct.
Q: After the Internet bubble burst and the Enron scandal exploded, there was a renewed focus on business ethics. Will we see that again?
A: As an institution, business has a public image that rises and falls over time. We’re in one of those periods where people have lost faith in individuals, institutions and sectors of the economy. It’s going to cause a lot of re-examination. As an applied discipline, ethics often looks at individual behavior to screen out the temptation. The challenge here is to look at it from an organizational perspective, looking at the big picture of the relationship between business and society. These are big questions to grapple with. I don’t see us coming out with a tidy moral to this story.

Q: Did ethics, or the lack thereof, play a role in this crisis?
A: Without a doubt. One of the precipitating causes of this was the home mortgage mess. It looks like there were all sorts of players in that system who had perverse motives. There was a process at play that allowed people to really manipulate the system for their own individual benefit — and to do so in a way that they knew their ultimate accountability would probably be slight. You had a lot of people benefitting disproportionately who didn’t have to suffer any of the consequences of bad decisions. If you have people insulated and don’t have to give an account for their actions, that’s certainly a recipe for disaster.

Q: What do you think the country will learn from this crisis?
A: That when things are going well, or apparently going well, there’s a reluctance to look more deeply or more carefully at what’s going on under the surface. We came through an era of prosperity — certainly sections of the economy were benefitting disproportionately. There were signs of imbalances. When everyone is getting richer, when the economy is expanding, when credit is easy, when home values are rising — there’s a tendency not to look as closely at what’s going on. And then when the worm turns, and the economy starts to slow down, and when things start to contract — it’s almost like that’s when you discover that there was lots of bad stuff going on amidst this run of prosperity and good times. As Warren Buffet likes to say, “It’s only when the tide goes out that you learn who is swimming naked.”

Q: Can one person make a difference?
A: One of the ethical issues we always seem to struggle with is the difficulty for an individual within an organization or within a larger system to detect when there are problems and to know when to do something. Being a member of a larger organization can often sap a personal sense of responsibility. But then what does one do with that recognition? There is a record of whistle-blowing in organizations where people try to signal when things are going wrong, or illegal and unethical behavior. More often than not it goes very badly for the whistleblower. These hard lessons of experience can leave us confused or uncertain about the impact and power one person has. We live in a complex, interconnected society, and that itself can sometimes mask our own responsibility and ability to affect change.

Q: Are there historical economic crises we can look at to provide a better understanding of this situation?
A: We’re fortunate to have the world’s foremost student of the Great Depression in Ben Bernanke serving as Federal Reserve chairman. He understands very well that the effect of the Great Depression was made worse by the government after the onset of economic difficulties. Clearly, the right thing for the government to do is to intervene, enabling large injections of liquidity to address the downturn.

Q: What will the effects of the government’s financial bailouts be for the average American?
A: It is hoped the economy will not contract as much as it would have without the government intervention. Ultimately, the recovery will be sooner. The key to financial recovery is recovery in the real estate markets. That’s what’s causing problems with corporate balance sheets; the declining real estate values are dragging down the value of mortgage-backed securities. After the oil bust in Texas, the real estate market took five years to recover. People should not be surprised if the recovery comes more slowly and takes longer than in that case.

Q: What lessons should be learned and precautions taken?
A: The No. 1 lesson from this event is that an investment in your house shouldn’t be confused with your retirement savings. We should get back to paying our mortgages down sooner than later. Restrictions should make it less easy to extract equity from homes. Corporations are also learning that they can’t take liquidity for granted. As a result, businesses will use less leverage and hold more cash.

Q: What should government change?
A: Those in charge of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac were presented with a moral hazard. They knew that if they were very aggressive they would make a tremendous amount of money. They also knew that if they were very aggressive and things didn’t go well, the federal government would be forced to step in. The government should shut down Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac and let the mortgage market operate on its own. In contrast to the time that Fannie and Freddie were created, the private sector is more than capable of providing the capital for mortgage loans.

Q: Anything else you’d like to add?
A: After 14 years of teaching Saint Louis University students, I wish there would have been more SLU graduates with strong moral character and good judgment working at these entities. Our students sense that if something is too good to be true, it probably is.
Late in the afternoon on July 19, 2006, as temperatures hovered near 100 degrees, an unusually powerful and frightening cluster of thunderstorms—locals can still tell you exactly what they were doing when they hit—howled through the St. Louis area. These devastating storms left in their wake a wide path of uprooted trees, snapped limbs and downed power lines. More than half a million AmerenUE customers lost power for up to eight days, making it the largest power outage in the history of St. Louis.

Four months later, a nasty ice storm took down more AmerenUE lines across the area, once again leaving hundreds of thousands of people without power.

"I was watching both of those storms closely and knew they were coming, and knew they would cause major outages in the area," said Saint Louis University Professor of Meteorology Dr. Robert Pasken (Grad ‘82). He realized that, based on research he had done at the University of California’s Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, he would be able to provide some additional information about local atmospheric conditions.

Dr. William Dannevik (Grad ‘85), chairman of SLU’s department of earth, atmospheric and environmental science, was one of those frustrated St. Louisans left in the dark for more than a week by the July 2006 storms. "One night I literally was sitting in the candlelight in my home when the thought occurred to me that there was some new technology that we could apply to help AmerenUE improve its response time and ability to restore power more quickly," he said.

Dannevik returned to his alma mater to join the department in 2004 after spending 15 years as a researcher at the University of California’s Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. He began to revisit an idea he and his colleagues had been exploring for turning California’s fast-developing Central Valley into a “virtual valley” by installing wireless instrumentation systems that would monitor weather conditions, air quality, soil and water pollution, population density, traffic patterns and power use. He started thinking of applying a similar concept in the Mississippi Valley.

SLU’s meteorologists already were running numerical weather prediction models for Missouri. Pasken, a research meteorologist and faculty member for nearly three decades, said they were using these models for everything from predicting pollen levels to doctoring patient’s medications to forecasting when soybean rust, a disease that can kill off a soybean field within days, would enter Missouri.

"It struck me that if we had some additional information we could vastly improve our in-house numerical models to the point that we could predict weather down to the street level," said Pasken, architect and director of the Quantum Weather project. "Then we could tell utility companies where and when the most severe storms were going to occur." Promoted by Pasken and Dannevik, SLU’s corporate relations staff set up a meeting with AmerenUE’s power distribution group to discuss the concept. Among those attending the meeting was AmerenUE Distribution Operations Manager Dave Wakeman, whose group is responsible for restoring power lines damaged by storms.

"It was interesting because Dave was very attuned to weather and had been thinking about the need to develop systems that would help them better forecast what was happening," Dannevik said. Pasken and Dannevik explained that if AmerenUE could install a network of automated meteorological stations spread throughout eastern Missouri — a “mesonet,” in meteorological terms — SLU could integrate its forecasting tools to create this innovative new detailed storm forecasting system. By August 2007, SLU and AmerenUE had entered into a partnership to develop and operate a ultra-precise weather monitoring, forecasting and response system — Quantum Weather. AmerenUE agreed to provide financial support for purchasing and installing the weather stations, to fund two graduate assistantships in meteorology and to partner with the University in potential severe weather down to the street level. Fifty of the 100 planned devices, each about the size of a small printer, already have been mounted on AmerenUE power poles across the company’s 20,000-square-mile service territory.

"Quantum Weather feeds detailed, near real-time information about temperature, humidity, atmospheric pressure, wind speed, wind direction and rainfall rates over AmerenUE radio communications systems to central computers at SLU. Using computer models and analytical tools created by University researchers, the system produces highly detailed maps of weather activity affecting specific neighborhoods. "We’re getting detailed minute-by-minute measurements of weather variables from stations that are just five to seven miles apart," Dannevik said.

Conventional weather monitoring systems can’t distinguish what’s happening in individual neighborhoods because monitors often are spread more than 100 miles apart — typically at airports and in urban centers — and provide only hourly updates.

Though a storm system moving through from west to east may look like a line on radar, within that system are individual cells that carry the type of strong winds, lightning and precipitation that can damage the power grid.

"With this data and our short-term prediction model, we’re able to see individual wind gust events on a neighborhood-to-neighborhood basis in near real time," Dannevik said. "We are in constant communication with AmerenUE during weather events to help them interpret and understand the data." AmerenUE’s Wakeman couldn’t be happier with the results so far. “With Quantum Weather, SLU has given us specific weather information for our service area, allowing us to stage crews and materials at the right time in the right place,” he said. "We can be poised to respond before outages occur. Indeed, the system already has paid dividends. Last September, for example, SLU’s meteorologists helped AmerenUE understand where the heavy winds and torrential rains that swept across Missouri as remnants of Hurricane Ike would have the biggest impact.

"With Quantum Weather we were able to tell them where and when the heaviest winds would occur so they could prepare their crews, pack their trucks with the proper equipment, and send them to the right locations ahead of time so they could restore power in the affected areas much faster than they would have previously been able to do," Pasken said. "And on several occasions during this past winter, we were able to give AmerenUE information about storm events that improved their responsiveness.”

Mesonets such as this new Missouri network are relatively rare in the United States. In fact, the current density of the Quantum Weather stations is far greater than that of any other network in the country.

"This puts the University in a unique position when it comes to severe storm forecasting," Pasken noted. "SLU will attract other researchers from across the country to do severe storms research. They can’t conduct this research anywhere else." He added that it’s exciting to watch students contributing to the research gain forecasting experience and get enthused about the project. "It’s satisfying at a low levels," he said.

"SLU’s professors took the initiative to solve a problem," he said. "Meanwhile, AmerenUE had the vision and courage to invest in our people’s ideas. The result is that SLU’s research is having a real-world impact by improving people’s lives."
The Stories Behind SLU’s Historical Milestones

Choice Firsts

We tout them in brochures and on street banners, and they adorn the Chafeez Arena concourse. They are Saint Louis University’s “firsts” — those seminal dates in Saint Louis University’s past that have made history. You may know some of them by heart. But do you know the stories behind the firsts?

By Marie Dilg

SLU’s School of Medicine was established first as a department of the University. Its faculty were prominent physicians from throughout the west, including Dr. William Beaumont, an army surgeon whose pioneering studies of the human digestive system opened a new world of research, and Dr. Daniel Branlard, who later founded Rush Medical College. An anti-Catholic movement that swept through the United States in the 1840s and 1850s led to the separation of the medical department from SLU in 1854. Years later, University President William Banks Rogers, S.J., SLU’s 18th president, initiated plans for the integration of a new medical school into the University. He said the Catholic community in mid-America needed the kind of physicians a high-caliber medical school could produce. He looked south down Grand Avenue and found the Marion-Sims-Beaumont College of Medicine, which was owned and operated by a group of St. Louis physicians.

Following negotiations with Marion-Sims-Beaumont College of Medicine administration and with approval from the University trustees, the college was incorporated in 1903. The college’s decision to merge with the University was reinforced by recommendations of the Council on Medical Education and Hospitals of the American Medical Association, which insisted on university affiliations for all schools of medicine. Soon after the incorporation, the name Saint Louis University School of Medicine supplanted its place among such prestigious schools as Harvard (1817), Yale (1824) and the University of Virginia (1826).

When Buckner died, the department lost its incredible power source and closed for some time. The school reopened in 1908, however, with another distinction — it admitted the first five women to attend classes at Saint Louis University.

1836
First Medical School West of the Mississippi

1888
In honor of the man who envisioned it all.

1867
The University purchased land covered by a grove of trees at the intersection of Grand Avenue and Lindell Boulevard. In 1888, on the feast of St. Ignatius Loyola, the University opened its first building on the site and named it DuBourg Hall — in honor of the man who envisioned it all.

1818
The first law school building at Saint Louis University.

1842
First Law School West of the Mississippi

I n what some consider his most important act as president of Saint Louis University, James Van de Velde, S.J., welcomed an offer from Judge Richard A. Buckner of Kentucky to open a law department within the University. Van de Velde, S.L.U.’s third president, reasoned that having a man with Buckner’s high legal attainments and national political prominence would guarantee success of the program. He was right.

Charismatic and energetic, Buckner was one of a generation of enterprising young men to move westward from Virginia and prosper in the legal profession — first as a lawyer and then as a judge. He settled in Kentucky, where his political rise was rapid. He served in the Kentucky House of Representatives during the War of 1812 and was elected to three successive terms in Congress.

When most men his age were thinking about retirement, Buckner decided to open a new chapter in his life. He moved to St. Louis, where his daughter settled and where one of his grandsons, Arthur Buckner Burrell, later would attend SLU and become mayor of St. Louis.

Buckner’s offer to open SLU’s law department was bold. Legal education was far from formalized on the frontier. Most lawyers learned their trade by means of apprenticeship, and a legal education was not a prerequisite for admission to the bar. But SLU rewarded Buckner’s confidence, and in 1842 opened what would be the first law school west of the Mississippi and the first Roman Catholic law school in the nation. SLU’s law program took its place among such prestigious schools as Harvard (1817), Yale (1824) and the University of Virginia (1826).

When Buckner died, the department lost its incredible power source and closed for some time. The school reopened in 1908, however, with another distinction — it admitted the first five women to attend classes at Saint Louis University.

1906
First Forward Pass in Football

Made the Game

In his book, The Anatomy of a Game: From Football, the Rules, and the Men Who Made the Game, College Football Hall of Fame Coach David M. Nelson stated that Saint Louis University coach “… E.B. Cochems is to forward passing what the Wright brothers are to flight.”

Cochems was the first to use the legal forward pass on Sept. 5, 1906, with Bradbury Robinson passing to Jack Schneider in a game at Carroll College (Waukesha, Wis.). Robinson’s first pass was incomplete, but on SLU’s next offensive possession, Robinson hit Schneider with a 20-yard strike. The play surprised everyone in attendance, including the Carroll College defense, and Schneider marched in for a touchdown.

SLU beat Carroll 22-0.

The forward pass became a central feature of Cochems’ revolutionary offensive scheme during his time at SLU (1906-1908). Using the new tactic during the first season, his “Blue and White” completed a perfect 11-0 season in which they outscored opponents 407-31.

Because most top college football teams and major sports media of the era were located on the East Coast, Cochems’ strategy was not embraced immediately. Pass-oriented offenses would not be adopted by the Eastern football powers for several years. But other teams in the Midwest did take notice and began using the tactic. Dispute swirled over who should get credit for the first forward pass.

But legendary Notre Dame coach Knute Rockne, who some believe pioneered the forward pass, set the record straight in his biography when he wrote that Cochems “enrolled a few boys with hands like steam shovels who could toss a football just as easily and almost as far as they could throw a baseball.

“One would have thought that so effective a play would have been instantly copied and become the vogue. The East, however, had not learned much or cared much about Midwest and Western football. Indeed, the East scarcely realized that football existed beyond the Alleghenies.”

SLU discontinued its football program in 1949, so ironically, the university that gave the sport its most revolutionary play bid farewell to football 60 years ago.
The professional schools of medicine, law and dentistry moved toward a post-liberal approach similar to that at Columbia University in New York. SLU students had been earning commercial certificates since 1862, but they were still a part of the regular collegiate department of the University. The idea of a separate school within a university for studying business was a new concept in the United States.

Davis solicited pledges from a number of local business leaders to meet the initial expenses. But the leaders never had to make good on their pledges; the school was on solid financial ground from the outset. Despite its strong start, many fellow faculty members took a dim view of the school. The idea of a school of commerce marked a dramatic change from the traditional Jesuit liberal arts program, both within the University and throughout the Jesuit order. The professors of medicine, law and dentistry moved toward a post-liberal arts status. Commerce and finance offered a substitute for the liberal arts on the undergraduate level. Despite the resistance, Davis persevered.

“Because our social and individual existence must be described with such general reference to the economic phase of life, a university could not respond adequately to the purpose of education if it did not include among its colleges a flourishing school of commerce,” Davis wrote in a SLU publication in 1934. And so it did. In the early years of the school, classes met in DuBourg Hall. Enrollment swelled, and in 1931, the school moved into its permanent home in what eventually would be named Davis-Shaughnessy Hall in honor of Davis and Martin Shaughnessy, a prominent St. Louis businessman and University alumnus. In 2000, a new building, John and Lucy Cook Hall, was added to the existing Davis-Shaughnessy Hall. That same year, the school was renamed the John Cook School of Business.

In April 1921, George Ruepell, S.J., began transmitting weather data to the U.S. Weather Bureau and other meteorological stations from the basement of DuBourg Hall. The U.S. Commerce Department assigned the new station the call letters WEW, which Ruepell, a meteorology professor, liked to say stood for “We West.” Ruepell wanted to open a school of commerce and finance as “best college radio station” by mtvU, a division of the MTV network. At this point, other men might have been happy to retire and polish their medals, but the pioneering Parks was among them. But aviation at the time was more worthwhile than serious business, and many people considered a career in the field a risky venture, including SLU alumnus Jack Alexander who called flight schools “teminaries of adventurous lunacy” in a piece he wrote for the Saturday Evening Post.

Undeterred, in August 1927 Parks opened his air college in a rented hangar at Lambert Field with only five employees and just as many airplanes. Less than two months later during a routine flight, Parks crashed in Flora, Miss. Sustaining a thump of broken bones and losing an eye, Parks survived, thanks in part to the assistance of Jesuits from the nearby St. Stanislaus Seminary. This incident led to long-term friendships that would chart an entirely new course for the college some 19 years later. In the meantime, Parks persevered. He bought land in Cahokia, Ill., added courses, charter services and sightseeing flights. Only two years after its opening, Parks Air College made history when it became the nation’s first federally approved flying school in the country. With this distinction in hand, Parks weathered the Great Depression and continued to expand his college. By the time World War II broke out, college enrollment was at capacity. But that didn’t keep the U.S. government from asking Parks to start a primary flight instruction program for the Army’s flying cadets. Ultimately, Parks College and its subsidiary institutions trained 24,000 Army aviators, or one out of every 10 pilots.

“I believe it was time the University establish a permanent campus in Madrid. It was time it establish a permanent campus in Madrid. SLU opened offices and classrooms in the city in 1969 and was the first U.S. institution to be recognized as a foreign university by Spain’s higher education authority.”

Initially, the campus enrolled only students from the United States, but by the early 1980s, Spanish students were beginning to attend the university in the states and half from 65 other countries. Students — roughly half from the United States and half from 65 other countries. The Madrid campus moved to its present location in 1992 after the University purchased and renovated two buildings on Avenida del Valle in the university district of the city.


Dr. Neil Alan Fenske (Law) is senior vice president of Operations at Midwest BankCentre in St. Louis.

Donna Beck Smith (Cook ’76, Grad ’85) earned the distinction of being a Certified Public Accountant through the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. She is a practice leader of the financial advisory services group at Brown Smith Wallace in St. Louis.

Joseph McCormick (Law) is president of the Kentucky (K) Law Bar Association. He is a partner and shareholder in the Haddadst, L.J. Law firm in Winnipeg, Mb.

Lawrence Albrecht (Cook) is senior vice president of Operations at Midwest BankCentre in St. Louis.

Dr. Hal Lembol (Dent) is re-elected to the (81st) state legislature from the 89th District in Billings, Mt.

Dr. Michael D. Doyle (A&S) is managing the technology for the $20 billion Chugunoff and Enomaki joint venture in the service of the U.S. Air Force. He lives in San Antonio.

Mark A. Persson (PH ’81, Law ’22) has concluded more than 30 years of corporate and government service at the U.S. Air Force. He lives in San Antonio.

Marie Wozniczka Darstein (A&S) is executive director of the National Child Research Council. She lives in Starnberg, B.C.

Michael Hempst (PhD) has spun his career with Emergent Electronic Partners, Inc. and EFR Inc. He lives in Wildwood, Mo.

Michael Reda (Law) is a member of the Defense Business Agency’s (DBA) Senior Executive Service. He is a partner in the Helberg, Brown, MacDonald, Harlow, Tur & Near Law firm and is a member of its national civil and transactional practice area. He lives in St. Louis.

Paula Perkins Bryant (Law) was nominated to fill the vacancy on the circuit court bench for the 23rd Judicial Circuit of St. Louis. In 2007, she was appointed to the bench as an associate circuit judge.
Dr. Mark L. Francis (A&S ’82, Law ’91) is senior vice president, secretary and general counsel of Graybar. He lives in St. Louis.

Kathy (Irwin) Remher (PS) works in ethics and compliance. She lives in Webster Groves, Mo.

Roy Anderson (A&S) is a principal at Passanante in St. Louis and was named a 2008 “Up and Coming Lawyer” by Missouri Lawyers Weekly. He lives in Belleville, Ill.

David Gamache (Law) is president of the Commercial Law League of America for the 2008-2009 term. He lives in Imperial, Mo.

Christopher Hosemki (Law) has lived in Atlanta for 10 years and has two children, Thomas and Amy. He will participate in his first ironman in 2009. He owns and runs Broke & Hungry Records in the U.S. Marine Corps. She is a platoon commander at Officer Candidate School and lives in Staff, Va.

Les Peoples (PS) works in sales and live in Florence, Mo.

Amelia Isakson (Law), an attorney in her family’s corporate services group in Chicago, was elected to the board of directors for the Chicago Women’s Initiative in Law Firms. She lives in Balwe, Mo.

Dr. Kimberly Zimniak Rodriguez (A&S) received a doctorate in clinical psychology from Louisiana State University and is a postdoctoral research fellow in adolescent medicine at Baylor College of Medicine/Texas Children’s Hospital. She married Andros Rodriguez in October, and they live in Houston.

Dr. Andrew Jorgensen (A&S) received a Pro Bono Award for his dedication in the area of civil litigation. He lives in Silver Spring, Md.

Dr. Sara J. Landes (Law) is associate professor of law, director of animal law clinics and research fellow in adolescent medicine at Baylor College of Medicine/ Texas Children’s Hospital. She lives in Houston.

Dr. Beth Meyerson (Grad) is assistant professor of law. She was appointed for three years as a law clerk for U.S. Sen. Chuck Hagel (R-Neb.).

Dr. Laura Schirin (Law) is an associate director of graduate studies at Chapman University College. She served on the U.S. Marine Corps and is in his second year of an Advancing Communities Fellowship. She lives in Silver Spring, Md.

Dr. Anna Fields (Law) received a PhD in psychology and is an assistant professor of law at Stanford University. She lives in Los Angeles.

Dr. Sara J. Landes (Law) is associate professor of law, director of animal law clinics and research fellow in adolescent medicine at Baylor College of Medicine/ Texas Children’s Hospital. She lives in Houston.
Jennifer Collins Hansen (Law) is an associate with the W&L. Scripps School of Journalism at the University of Minnesota-St. Paul.

Natalia Harris (PS) is an assistant registrar at the State University of New York at Buffalo.

John Kelley (Phys) and Abbey Clements (Grad '96) were married at St. Anthony’s Church in August. John works for Aera Nuloil, and Abby works for the Washington Post.

Brandon Maddison (Katie) and Katie Whiting (Div '95, Grad '99) were married in August. Brandon graduated from the Ohio State University Monte College of Law in May 2007 and is an environmental attorney specializing in eminent domain law, real estate law and business litigation. In 2008 he married the Madrid tomato.

John R. Ashcroft (Law) joined the intellectual property practice group of the firm in May 2007 and is an environmental attorney with Danna McKitrick.

Dr. Francis X. Paletta (Med) is a recognized physician renowned for his pioneering work in the fields of plastic and reconstructive surgery on the Jesuit mission of service and on the introduction of developmental pediatrics at the University of Vienna. He is an associate professor of pediatrics at the School of Medicine and former president of the Society of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgeons.

Dr. Thomas Acun (A&S '04, Law '08) is an associate professor of pediatrics at the University of Vienna, specializing in magazine journalism.

Jay Lipinski (PS) is a director of career management for the University of Vienna in New York.

Kathleen M. Moore (A&S '97) is an associate attorney with the Pacific Legal Foundation in Sacramento, specializing in eminent domain law, real estate law and business litigation.

Theodosia C. Smith (A&S '06) has a clerkship in the Cleveland, Ohio, office of Faruki Ireland & Cox in Dayton, Ohio, specializing in liability and toxic tort defense.

Brendan Kelly (Law) is with Williams Venker in New York.

Bryan Mauller (Law) is with Armstrong Teasdale in St. Louis.

Art Bracket, a free platform that allows artists and writers to share their work, has been launched in Sweden. He is an associate professor in psychiatry at the University of Vienna.

Ms. Mary (Loncaric) Sacone (A&S '48) and Mr. Richard Rice (Cook '48) were married in July. They live in St. Louis.

Sr. Barbara Guckenheim (A&S '47) is a laboratory technician at the State University of New York at Buffalo.

Dr. George Schejbal (Med '45) is an experienced physician working in the fields of plastic and reconstructive surgery on the Jesuit mission of service and on the introduction of developmental pediatrics at the University of Vienna. He is an associate professor of pediatrics at the School of Medicine and former president of the Society of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgeons.

Dr. Joseph Fulford (Dent '52) is an internationally recognized physician renowned for his pioneering work in the fields of plastic and reconstructive surgery on the Jesuit mission of service and on the introduction of developmental pediatrics at the University of Vienna. He is an associate professor of pediatrics at the School of Medicine and former president of the Society of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgeons.

Dr. John Sander (Law '77) is a professor at the University of Vienna.

Dr. Douglas Pohl (Med '83) is a professor at the University of Vienna.

Dr. Neel Gallagher (A&S '82) is a professor at the University of Vienna.

Mr. Lester Paff (Law '73) is a professor at the University of Vienna.

Mr. R. Holekamp (A&S '73) is a professor at the University of Vienna.

Mrs. Annora (Kelledy) Koetting (A&S '70) is a professor at the University of Vienna.

Mr. John Mahon (A&S '70) is a professor at the University of Vienna.

Mr. John Sander (Law '77) is a professor at the University of Vienna.

Ms. Joanne (Kelley) Flynn (A&S '85) is a professor at the University of Vienna.

Mr. John Sander (Law '77) is a professor at the University of Vienna.

Mr. Edwin Schubel (Cook '81) is a professor at the University of Vienna.

Mr. Middleton Perry (Cook '76) is a professor at the University of Vienna.

Mr. John Sander (Law '77) is a professor at the University of Vienna.

Mr. Howard Margar (A&S '72) is a professor at the University of Vienna.

Mr. John Sander (Law '77) is a professor at the University of Vienna.

Mr. Charles Zurfluh (Cook '92) is a professor at the University of Vienna.

Mr. Gregory Eisenhauer (Cook '86) is a professor at the University of Vienna.

Mr. Vernon Dudas (Law '86) is a professor at the University of Vienna.

Dr. John Robert (A&S '81, Law '86) is a professor at the University of Vienna.

Dr. James Donahoe (Med '50) is a professor at the University of Vienna.

Dr. Richard Saunders (Med '49) is a professor at the University of Vienna.

Mrs. Florence (Laumann) Preiner (Nurs '88) is a professor at the University of Vienna.

Dr. Richard Saunders (Med '49) is a professor at the University of Vienna.

Mr. James Lyons (Cook '67) is a professor at the University of Vienna.

Mr. James Russell (Cook '68) is a professor at the University of Vienna.

Mr. James Lyons (Cook '67) is a professor at the University of Vienna.

Mr. James Russell (Cook '68) is a professor at the University of Vienna.

Mr. John Schulz (IT '54) is a professor at the University of Vienna.

Mr. Robert Noonan (Cook '54) is a professor at the University of Vienna.

Dr. Dr. James Gallahger (Law '99) is a professor at the University of Vienna.

Ms. Mary (Loncaric) Sacone (A&S '48) and Mr. Richard Rice (Cook '48) were married in July. They live in St. Louis.

Sr. Veronica Tobbe (A&S '96) is a professor at the University of Vienna.

Mr. James Townsend (Cook '96) is a professor at the University of Vienna.

Dr. Alan Schuman (A&S '03, Law '06) is an associate professor of pediatrics at the University of Vienna, specializing in magazine journalism.

Dr. Hans Vey (Cook '46) is an associate professor of pediatrics at the University of Vienna, specializing in magazine journalism.

Dr. Eliza Vey (Cook '46) is an associate professor of pediatrics at the University of Vienna, specializing in magazine journalism.

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Club City Calendar

ATLANTA
CARDINALS VS. BRAVES
March 27; 5:30 p.m. pregame reception. Top of the Chop Patio, 7:20 p.m. first pitch. Turner Field.
Cost: $30 per person; includes game ticket and all-you-can-eat buffet
billikenalumni.slu.edu/braves09

BOSTON
AS’ V. RED SOX
July 9; 1:30 p.m. pregame reception, 7:05 p.m. first pitch. Fenway Park.
Cost: $30 per person; includes game ticket and all-you-can-eat buffet
billikenalumni.slu.edu/redsox09

CHICAGO
MANNY PUNDS
April 10; 7:30 p.m. pregame reception on the patio. U.S. Cellular Field, 7 p.m. first pitch.
Cost: $40 per person; includes show ticket and brunch.
billikenalumni.slu.edu/poblins09

CLEVELAND
CARDINALS VS. INDIANS
July 25; 7:10 p.m. pregame reception on the patio. Progressive Field, 7:10 p.m. first pitch.
Cost: $30 per person; includes game ticket and all-you-can-eat buffet
billikenalumni.slu.edu/indians09

DALLAS
MASH AND BRUNCH
March 5; 11:30 a.m. Mass at Jesuit College Preparatory School of Dallas, brunch and reception immediately to follow.
Cost: $5 per person
billikenalumni.slu.edu/dallas09

KANSAS CITY
MASH AND RECEPTION
March 28; 11 a.m. Mass at Park View High School reception immediately to follow.
Cost: $5 per person
billikenalumni.slu.edu/kansas09

PHILADELPHIA
CARDINALS VS. PHILLIES
July 31; 7:05 p.m. pregame reception on the rooftop; 7:05 p.m. first pitch, Citizens Bank Park.
Cost: $40 per person; includes dinner and game ticket
billikenalumni.slu.edu/phils09

PHOENIX
CARDINALS VS. DIAMONDBACKS
April 21; 7:30 p.m. pregame reception; 7 p.m. curtain, Frontier Field.
Cost: $35 per person; includes reception and game ticket
billikenalumni.slu.edu/dbacks09

SAN FRANCISCO
CARDINALS VS. GIANTS
April 21; 2 p.m. pregame reception; 1 p.m. curtain, Candlestick Park.
Cost: $80 per person; includes orchestra level ticket and reception
billikenalumni.slu.edu/giants09

LOUISVILLE
SLU DAY AT CHURCHILL DOWNS
April 25; 11 a.m.; Churchill Downs.
Cost: $25 per person; includes reception, parking, backstretch tour and photo with the horse and jockey.
billikenalumni.slu.edu/chig09

WASHINGTON, D.C.
CARDINALS VS. NATIONALS
May 10; 7:05 p.m.; Nationals Park.
Cost: $180 per person; includes pregame dinner on the rooftop; 3 p.m.
billikenalumni.slu.edu/nationals09

NEW YORK
WEST SIDE STORY
May 31; 2 p.m. pregame reception on the rooftop; 3 p.m. first pitch, Yankee Stadium.
Cost: $100 per person; includes reception, orchestra seating and west side lei.
billikenalumni.slu.edu/ny09

SNU EASTERN EGG HUNT
Saturday, April 11; 11 a.m.-1 p.m., SLU campus
Join us for the annual Spring University tradition. Spring flowers and green grass have returned, and so has the Easter Bunny and all his friends. Be sure to bring the entire family back to campus for this Easter celebration. We will have special hunts for different age groups, as well as prizes and Easter goodies. Bring your camera to get that special shot of your child with the main bunny himself.
billikenalumni.slu.edu/easter09

For more information, contact the office of alumni relations at (314) 977-2250.

SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY/CENTER FOR ADVANCED DENTAL EDUCATION

Black Alumni Association
President: Deidre Booth (A&S ’93, Grad’ 00)

ALUMNI AWARDS
Thursday, April 30; 6-8 p.m., Gaylord Palms Resort and Convention Center, Orlando, Fla.
To be held in conjunction with the American Association of Endodontists annual session.
Saturday, May 2; Boston; time and location to be announced
To be held in conjunction with the American Association of Orthodontists annual session.
For reservations, call the SLU Medical Center office of alumni relations at (314) 977-8335.

School of Medicine
President: Dona Mack (A&S ’96, Grad’ 07)

ALUMNI AWARDS
Friday, April 3; 5:30-7 p.m.; Westin Green Center, Kansas City, Mo.
To be held in conjunction with the Missouri State Medical Association annual convention.
Saturday, April 25; 6:30-8 p.m.; Sheraton Seattle
To be held in conjunction with the American Academy of Family Physicians annual meeting.
Sunday, May 3; 7:30-10 p.m.; Hilton Chicago Hotel
To be held in conjunction with the American Academy of Ophthalmology and Otolaryngologists annual gathering.
Saturday, May 2; Boston; 12:30-2:30 p.m., Boston Convention Center
To be held in conjunction with the Pediatric Academic Societies annual meeting.
Sunday, May 3; 5:30-7:30 p.m.; Hilton Chicago Hotel
To be held in conjunction with the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists annual meeting.
Wednesday, May 5; 12:30-2:30 p.m., Boston Convention Center
To be held in conjunction with the American Academy of Psychiatry and Ophthalmology annual meeting.
For reservations or more information about any of these receptions, call the SLU Medical Center office of alumni relations at (314) 977-8335.

School of Public Health
President: Bernice Brown (A&S ’62)

ALUMNI RECEPTION
Tuesday, March 24; 6-8 p.m.; Hilton Chicago Hotel
To be held in conjunction with the American College of Healthcare Executives annual conference.
For more information, call the SLU Medical Center office of alumni relations at (314) 977-8335.

School for Professional Studies
President: Mary Backus (A&S ’76)

SENIOR RECEPTION
Friday, May 5; 7-9 p.m.; Board of Student Center, St. Louis, Louis Room
Join alumni, faculty and staff for a special reception honoring the May graduates.
www.slu.edu/alumni/homecoming.html

HOMECOMING 2009
September 25-27
Join the SLU community in celebrating 2009 Homecoming weekend. Come back to campus to enjoy all of the traditional fun — a concert, campus tours, the golf cart parade, soccer and fireworks.
www.slu.edu/alumni/homecoming.html
The different answers to this riddling question — and there are many more in all regions of the United States — get to the very essence of folklore. Too often these oral texts are dismissed as trivias, silliness, lies or even myths. But they represent the informal learning process of each of us. They reflect our age and culture. And more than the formal learning process of diagramming sentences or solving algebraic equations, they remain with us throughout our lifetime and are not forgotten. The criteria we use in our critical acts of passage.

There is an exact science of folklore, based on fieldwork, participant observation and textual recording in indices covering all genres of the oral tradition. Scholars from many disciplines study the vocabulary of the folk or their rituals, beliefs, superstitions, rhymes, games, foods, expressions and even dreams. All are seeking the meaning of the folk text as reflective of the culture.

For more than three decades I have been a missionary for the cause: the importance of collecting the folklore to explain our culture. Why do families have junk drawers? Why do we throw broken mirrors in water? Why do we bow at funeral processions? Why do jump rope rhymes with cadenced sentences or solving algebraic equations, they remain with us throughout our lifetime and are not forgotten.

The "explorers" — rapid, complex change — of our society has given us even more folklore around a computer. Collecting the texts in their various collections can explain the culture as no other source. For the folk group always expresses in traditional ways — the same folk groups speak similar patterns through generations. They present their lore orally, which gives way to different versions but all based on the same formula. The origins of the texts are anonymous — usually "they say" is the originator. But combined, all these criteria give way to a primary source that must not be dismissed. Remembering, collecting, comparing and then passing it on can help us define our culture in a productive way.

After all, the Great Octopus in St. Louis is filled with "ionic" devices that actually control the weather of the region! I'm sure you have heard that in your town? The Arch Effect is a folk tale of epigraph proportions. Check it out and then pass it on.

Oklahome is the author of Passing It On: Folklore of St. Louis. For 30 years, he was a professor, primarily at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, and he was the only representatives for Johnny Cash's radio program American Folklore. He also is the author of Great Plains: The Story of the Crown Candy Kitchen. Contact him at robofolklore@ downlink.com.

**THE LEGACY**

The "Legacies" story about alumni whose children and grandchildren were welcomed as freshmen at SLU that appeared in the fall 2008 issue of Universitas (Ameling '59), was an attempt to capture your history, to locate your history. It was not our fault. Blame the broken mirror, or the bud that flew into the house, or the umbrella opened in the house, or the bat on the ball! I got a real kick out of your last issue regarding "The Billiken: From Fad to Icon" (fall 2008).

Enclosed please find a picture post-card from the pre-World War II era. I have kept this guide for many years out of my collection — now to be added to my memorabilia department.

Dr. Alvin L. Krasin
(DENT '46) Boynton Beach, Fla.

**BILLY SIGHTING: 1899 NEWSPAPER**

Forty-five years ago William B. Faherty, S.J., history professor, inspired me to no end in his Western Civilization class. It was one of the few "A" grades I received in college. One profound statement rings true today, as Father Faherty’s message to us then was: "You must have a sense of history." Today, having a sense of history is more important than ever. The History Channel, in addition to other "special" channels, serves as follow-ups to Father Faherty’s instructions and friendship over the years.

With that in mind, I enclose an interesting piece covering the use of the term Billiken found in 1899 at the American Antiquarian Society, Worcester, Mass.

Robert L. Potvin
JAS. 1651 PRESIDENT, NORTH BROOKFIELD HISTORICAL COMMISSION
North Brookfield, Mass.

FAMILIAR FACES FOUND

Our family was thrilled to find ourselves featured on page 30 of Universitas ("Alumni Events")! We always read each issue and enjoy seeing "faces from the past." Keep up the outstanding work.

Penny Karst | Warson Woods, Mo.

**BILLIKEN STORY BRINGS POSTCARD**

**Keep SLU in the Family**

The "Legacies" story about alumni whose children and grandchildren were welcomed as freshmen at SLU that appeared in the fall 2008 issue of Universitas (Ameling '59). Ameling (Law ’59) is to share his own legacy photo. Pictured at his grandson’s wedding in October in Kansas City, Mo., is James (top left), grandson — and — groom — Timothy Gallagher (Parks ’11), and sons Don Ameling (Cook ’80) and Michael Ameling (Cook ’82).

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Saint Louis University is focused on the environment and going green. Here’s how you can be part of it:

Just go to billikenalumni.slu.edu/green, provide us with a current e-mail address, and help us move toward paperless communication.

You will receive our monthly Billiken eBulletin, early access to our most popular alumni events and career-focused information. You will also have the ability to select electronic receipting of your gifts to SLU.

Join us to support responsible use of the planet’s and University’s resources.