

## ABOUT SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY

Founded in 1818, Saint Louis University is one of the oldest and most prestigious Catholic universities in the United States. The University is recognized nationally for world-class academics, life-changing research and a strong commitment to faith and service.

Guided by its enduring Jesuit mission, Saint Louis University offers students a highly rigorous and deeply transformative education that empowers them to become bold, confident leaders. Inside the classroom, ethics, spirituality and compassion take center stage, while outside of the classroom, SLU students are active volunteers.

This dedication to values-based education and social justice has earned the University widespread acclaim and bolstered its status as a character-building college. Today, there are more than 137,000 SLU alumni leading lives of meaning and purpose across the globe.

With an endowment that exceeds \$1.5 billion, Saint Louis University also is a major catalyst for urban renewal in the heart of a vibrant city. More than \$1.2 billion in housing, retail and business development is underway in Midtown St. Louis, with SLU in the center of the neighborhood's growth.

Inspired by its pioneering history while firmly focused on its promising future, Saint Louis University continues to move forward with an unwavering commitment to serve a higher purpose while always seeking the greater good.

### LOCATIONS

St. Louis, Missouri, and Madrid, Spain

### ENROLLMENT

15,204 students, from all 50 states and 96 countries

- 8,502 undergraduates
- 6,702 post-baccalaureate students

### MAJORS AND PROGRAMS

94 bachelor's degree programs  
88 master's degree programs  
49 doctoral degree programs  
58 certificates

### ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

Identified as one of the country's top colleges by *The Princeton Review*, *Fiske Guide to Colleges* and *Forbes* magazine – and as one of the country's top-10 Catholic colleges by Niche

### RESEARCH

One of only 16 Catholic universities with a Carnegie Classification of "high" or "very high" research activity

### SERVICE

Eighty percent of SLU students volunteer each year, nearly triple the national average among college students.

*The Princeton Review* ranks SLU as the No. 25 university in the U.S. for community service engagement.

No. 22 in Service-Learning Programs  
*U.S. News & World Report*

### GLOBAL EXPERIENCE

The Institute of International Education lists SLU among the top-30 U.S. universities for study abroad participation.

### ALUMNI

137,364 alumni living in 50 states and 154 countries

24 alumni clubs across the United States and in four countries

## MARSHALS

THE MARSHALS OF SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY HAVE A CENTRAL ROLE IN THE UNIVERSITY'S MOST SIGNIFICANT ACADEMIC OCCASIONS. THE POST OF MARSHAL IS ONE OF HONOR, WITH MARSHALS APPOINTED BY THEIR COLLEGE OR SCHOOL TO SERVE AS CEREMONIAL LEADERS. MARSHALS WEAR DISTINCTIVE MEDALLIONS INDICATIVE OF THEIR ROLE.

### UNIVERSITY CO-MARSHALS

**John P. Buerck, Ph.D.**  
*School for Professional Studies*

**Joanne L. Thanavaro, D.N.P.**  
*Valentine School of Nursing*

### COLLEGE/SCHOOL MARSHALS

#### ACADEMIC SUPPORT

Alex A. Ocasio, Ph.D.

#### COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Elena Bray Speth, Ph.D.

Thomas J. Finan, Ph.D.

Aaron Johnson, D.M.A.

Lisa M. Willoughby, Ph.D.

#### COLLEGE FOR PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

Michael Elliott, Ph.D.

Kathy N. Gillespie, Ph.D.

Travis M. Loux, Ph.D.

#### EDWARD AND MARGARET DOISY COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES

Carol L. Beckel, Ph.D.

Uthayashanker R. Ezekiel, Ph.D.

Rita M. Heuertz, Ph.D.

Julie Howe, M.B.A.

Tim G. Howell, Ph.D.

Lori Jones, Ph.D.

Kitty Newsham, Ph.D.

Elaina F. Osterbur, Ph.D.

Tim R. Randolph, Ph.D.

Amanda M. Reed, M.A.

Christine M. Werner, Ph.D.

#### RICHARD A. CHAIFETZ SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

Patricia Bagsby, Ph.D.

Ben Benmamoun, Ph.D.

Rob A. Boyle, Ph.D.

Denise M. Guithues-Amrhein, Ph.D.

Debra N. Pike, M.B.A.

Christopher H. Thomas, Ph.D.

#### SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

Martha H. Allen, M.L.S.

Miriam E. Joseph, Ph.D.

Katy Smith, Ph.D.

#### SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

Christa Jackson, Ph.D.

Jessica A. Leonard, Ph.D.

Kathryn M. Pierce, Ph.D.

Mark M. Pousson, Ph.D.

Jon Turk, Ph.D.

#### SCHOOL OF LAW

Kerrin M. Kowach, J.D.

Yvette J. Liebesman, J.D.

#### SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Tyler De Shon, Ph.D.

Adam Merando, M.D.

Lauren R. Schwarz, Ph.D.

#### SCHOOL FOR PROFESSIONAL STUDIES

Stacy Godlewski, M.S.

Matthew J. Grawitch, Ph.D.

Troy P. Hargrove, M.B.A.

Joe D. Lyons, Ph.D.

Srikanth P. Mudigonda, Ph.D.

Shawn W. Steadman, M.Arch.

Maria Weber, M.S.

Steven L. Winton, Ph.D.

#### SCHOOL OF SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING

Stephen M. Belt, Ph.D.

Jenna L. Gorlewicz, Ph.D.

Sanjay Jayaram, Ph.D.

Chi Hou Lei, Ph.D.

Michael Swartwout, Ph.D.

#### SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

Gabriel Carrillo, Ph.D.

Shannon Coopersadlo, Ph.D.

Brandy Maynard, Ph.D.

#### TRUDY BUSCH VALENTINE SCHOOL OF NURSING

Karen Cuvar, Ph.D.

Christopher R. Hemmer, D.N.P.

Joanne C. Langan, Ph.D.

Karen Moore, D.N.P.

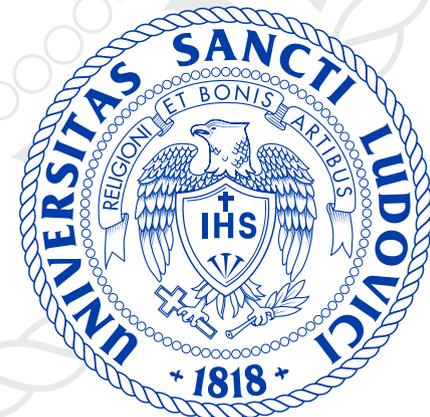
DECEMBER 16, 2023

# MIDYEAR COMMENCEMENT — SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY



SAINT LOUIS  
UNIVERSITY™

— EST. 1818 —



## ORDER OF PROCESSION

- ◆ BEARER OF THE MACE
- ◆ UNIVERSITY ADMINISTRATION
- ◆ ENDOWED CHAIR HOLDERS AND PROFESSORS
- ◆ MEMBERS OF THE FACULTY
- ◆ CANDIDATES FOR DEGREES

**PRELUDE**  
**Commencement Ensemble**  
**SLU Mastersingers**

**ANNOUNCER**  
**Troy Hargrove, M.B.A.**  
*Associate Dean,*  
*School for Professional Studies*

## PROGRAM

**BEARER OF THE MACE and MASTER OF CEREMONIES**  
**Michael Lewis, Ph.D.**  
*Provost*

**NATIONAL ANTHEM**  
**SLU Mastersingers**

**INVOCATION**  
**Rev. Jennifer Strayhorn, M.Div.**  
*Minister of Christian Education,*  
*West Side Missionary Baptist Church*

**VARSITY SONG**  
**SLU Mastersingers**

**SALUTATION**  
**Fred P. Pestello, Ph.D.**  
*President*

**COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS**  
**Stephen Belt, Ph.D.**  
*Associate Professor, Aviation Science,*  
*and the 2023 Recipient of the Nancy McNeir Ring Award*  
  
*Introduced by Cecille Nemeth,*  
*President of Alpha Sigma Nu*

## RECOGNITION OF CANDIDATES

**READERS: ELAINA OSTERBUR, PH.D., ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, DOISY COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES AND DEBRA PIKE, M.B.A., ASSOCIATE DEAN, CHAIFETZ SCHOOL OF BUSINESS**

**COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES** (1818)  
**Donna LaVoie, Ph.D., Dean**

**RICHARD A. CHAIFETZ SCHOOL OF BUSINESS** (1910)  
**Barnali Gupta, Ph.D., Dean**

**EDWARD AND MARGARET DOISY COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES** (1979)  
**Bernard Rousseau, Ph.D., Dean**

**SCHOOL OF MEDICINE** (1836)  
**Christine Jacobs, M.D., Dean**

**SCHOOL OF SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING** (1927)  
**Gregory Triplett, Ph.D., Dean**

**COLLEGE FOR PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL JUSTICE** (1991)  
**Leslie McClure, Ph.D., Dean**

**SCHOOL OF LAW** (1843)  
**William P. Johnson, J.D., Dean**

**TRUDY BUSCH VALENTINE SCHOOL OF NURSING** (1928)  
**Danny Willis, D.N.S., Dean**

**SCHOOL FOR PROFESSIONAL STUDIES** (1996)  
**John P. Buerck, Ph.D., Dean**

**COLLEGE OF PHILOSOPHY AND LETTERS** (1889)  
**Randall S. Rosenberg, Ph.D., Dean**

**SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK** (1930)  
**Noelle Fearn, Ph.D., Dean**

**SCHOOL OF EDUCATION** (1998)  
**Gary Ritter, Ph.D., Dean**

## BENEDICTION

**Timothy McMahan, S.J.**

*Rector of the Jesuit Center, SLU Trustee and Pastor of St. Francis Xavier College Church*

## RECESSIONAL

## THE MISSION OF SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY

The Mission of Saint Louis University is the pursuit of truth for the greater glory of God and for the service of humanity. The University seeks excellence in the fulfillment of its corporate purposes of teaching, research, health care and service to the community. It is dedicated to leadership in the continuing quest for understanding of God's creation and for the discovery, dissemination and integration of the values, knowledge and skills required to transform society in the spirit of the Gospels. As a Catholic, Jesuit university, this pursuit is motivated by the inspiration and values of the Judeo-Christian tradition and is guided by the spiritual and intellectual ideals of the Society of Jesus.

## SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY VARSITY SONG

**VERSE 1**  
Heirs of a royal name,  
Dear 'Varsity,  
For aye our faith and love  
We pledge to thee.

Guardian of truth and light  
We always knew,  
Thou, whom the years have crowned,  
Saint Louis U?

**REFRAIN**  
All hail, Saint Louis U!  
Valiant and strong  
Noble old 'Varsity  
Hark to our song;

Proudly our colors fly  
Brave White and Blue,  
Loud let the chorus swell,  
Saint Louis U!

**VERSE 2**  
Great is thy noble heart,  
Tender and true,  
Show us thy loyalty  
Saint Louis U!

Bear we with pride and love  
Thy White and Blue,  
Sweet are thy memories,  
Saint Louis U!

**[REFRAIN]**

**VERSE 3**  
Truth and nobility  
Thy halls enshrine,  
Guarding the hallow'd name  
Forever thine.

May we with heart and hand  
Through life renew  
Thy noble victories,  
Saint Louis U!

**[REFRAIN]**

Composed by Alfred G. Robyn (1860-1935)  
Original lyrics by Paul L. Blakely, S.J. (1880-1943)  
Lyrics adapted by Aaron Johnson, D.M.A.

## NANCY MCNEIR RING AWARD RECIPIENT

### SPEAKER

## STEPHEN BELT, PH.D.



**Stephen Belt, Ph.D.**, associate professor of aviation science, is the 2023 recipient of the Nancy McNeir Ring Award for Excellence in Teaching.

Belt has been at Saint Louis University since 1998, when he joined the Department of Aviation Science at what was then called Parks College. He has served as department chair, flight training director, Parks' chief diversity officer, senior check airman, pilot and instructor.

Belt is also a SLU alumnus, having earned his doctorate in higher education administration from the University in 2012.

He also holds a bachelor's degree in aviation technology from Central Missouri State University, a master's in counseling psychology from the University of Colorado Denver and a master's degree in systematic theology from the Aquinas Institute of Theology.

After 25 years at SLU, Belt said he still enjoys teaching and being in the classroom.

"I think it is about sharing your passion for something," he said. "It is so gratifying to help and watch people learn something new. It is not always instant gratification, but it is always inspiring to watch my students grow."

The Ring Award nominations for Belt highlighted his dedication and care for his students. Belt was described as someone who checked in and mentored students long after they were in his class.

The nominations also all highlighted Belt's work to increase the diversity of the aviation field. Belt has brought aviation experiences to The Ville, a historically African-American neighborhood, throughout his career. Belt has invited his students to schools in The Ville neighborhood in St. Louis to teach young students about aviation.

"Through Dr. Belt's mentorship, teachings, explanations, logical reasoning and philosophical insights, I underwent profound intellectual and ethical growth that has significantly shaped my development, both mentally and spiritually," one nominator said.

*Established in 1966, the Nancy McNeir Ring Award was named after the University's first dean of women, who was known for her devotion to students. It is presented annually to a member of the faculty who displays a special dedication to students both inside and outside the classroom. It is the only student-initiated and sponsored teaching award at SLU that encompasses all colleges and schools of the University.*

## MUSICIANS AND SINGERS

### COMMENCEMENT ENSEMBLE

Director:  
**Robert Hughes, Ph.D.**  
*Professor of Music*

### VIOLINS

Valerie Galiano-Rouge  
Lucy Kaymakanova  
Riley Lubbers  
Athulya Nair  
Sunny Palakollu  
Colin Somers  
Morgan Voissem  
Essence Williams

**VIOLAS**  
Victor Humphrey  
Amy Pennington  
Jacob Wilfong

**CELLOS**  
San Kwon  
James Nancy

### MASTERSINGERS

Director:  
**David Kowalczyk**  
*Instructor of Music*

Matthew Blade  
Pearle Bramlett  
Kristine Hervey  
David Joseph  
Katherine Kaiser  
Jodi Katti  
Lily Kinnison  
Isaac Layugan  
Gavin Martin  
Evelyn Maruszak  
Taylor Mollett  
Gerard Pena  
Sophia Siminow  
Sophie Smith  
Vishal Vaheesan