

*Saint Louis*

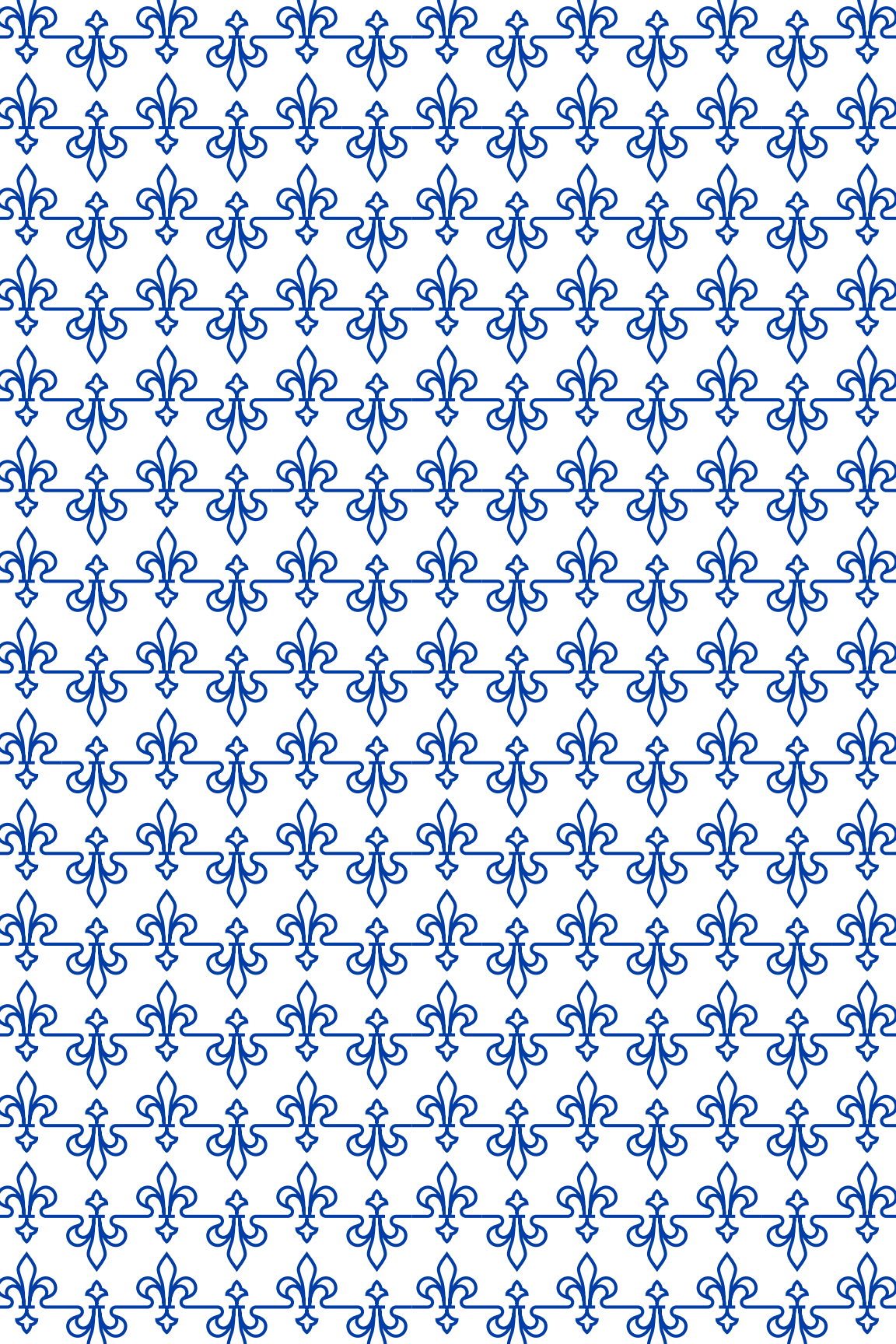
2026 PRECOMMENCEMENT

*University*



SCHOOL *of* SOCIAL WORK

SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY | FRIDAY, MAY 15 | ST. FRANCIS XAVIER COLLEGE CHURCH



# ORDER OF EVENTS

## ACADEMIC PROCESSIONAL

### NATIONAL ANTHEM

#### MASTER OF CEREMONIES

**Wendy DuCassé, D.S.W., LCSW**

*Director, Field Education*

*Assistant Clinical Professor, Social Work*

#### INVOCATION

**Benjamin Smyth, Ph.D., M.S.W.**

*Director, Co-Curricular and Service-Learning Programs*

*Richard A. Chaifetz School of Business*

#### WELCOME

**Noelle E. Fearn, Ph.D.**

*Dean, School of Social Work*

*Professor, Criminology and Criminal Justice*

#### GUEST SPEAKER

**Richard Heinecke, M.S.W., LCSW, ACSW**

#### STUDENT AWARDS AND LEADERSHIP

**Brandy R. Maynard, Ph.D., M.S.W.**

*Associate Dean for Academic Affairs*

*Professor, Social Work*

## Presentation of the Graduates

**Danni Young, M.B.A.**

*Director, Graduate Recruitment and Admissions*

#### CANDIDATES FOR DOCTORAL DEGREE

#### CANDIDATES FOR MASTER'S DEGREES AND CERTIFICATES

#### CANDIDATES FOR BACCALAUREATE DEGREES

#### DEAN'S FINAL PRESENTATION

**Noelle E. Fearn, Ph.D.**

*Dean, School of Social Work*

*Professor, Criminology and Criminal Justice*

#### BENEDICTION

**Benjamin Smyth, Ph.D., M.S.W.**

*Director, Co-Curricular and Service-Learning Programs*

*Richard A. Chaifetz School of Business*

## ACADEMIC RECESSIONAL

## MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

Dear Graduates,

On behalf of the Saint Louis University School of Social Work faculty and staff, I would like to congratulate you on your great accomplishment! We are proud of all that you have accomplished during your time here and we wish you the best of luck in this next phase of your life.

Your commitment to understanding and addressing complex societal issues, advocating for social justice, and enhancing the well-being of individuals, families, and communities is truly commendable. The skills, knowledge, and experiences you have gained during your time at Saint Louis University will serve as a strong foundation for your future endeavors.

May your career be filled with meaningful experiences, personal growth, and success. Know that you are part of a supportive and thriving community of alumni who are making a difference in diverse fields and settings across the globe.

You will always be a Billiken, and we are grateful for the legacy you are leaving behind. We encourage you to stay connected to Saint Louis University by joining the Alumni Association and give back by supporting our programs and scholarships for future generations.

Once again, congratulations on this remarkable achievement, and best wishes for a bright and fulfilling future! The entire School of Social Work community is proud of you, and we cannot wait to see all that you will accomplish after graduation.

Congratulations!



**Noelle E. Fearn, Ph.D.**

*Dean, School of Social Work  
Professor, Criminology and Criminal Justice*

## ABOUT THE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK



Saint Louis University's School of Social Work provides students with an academic journey rooted in cutting-edge research, lived experiences, and servant leadership fortified by our holistic focus on humanity. Built upon an unwavering commitment to human, social, and environmental justice, the school is a leader in integrating preparation, education, and practice with faculty members who make substantial contributions to our respective professions. The school – a dynamic community of learning with excellence in teaching, research, and servant leadership – remains passionately dedicated to our mission: preparing students for professional practice with a commitment to social justice and the empowerment of vulnerable and oppressed populations. We currently rank in the top 13% of all Schools of Social Work in the nation.

Established in 1930, SLU's School of Social Work has evolved tremendously over the past nine plus decades and now offers academic and professional degrees at the bachelor's, master's, and doctoral levels in three distinct yet critically interrelated disciplines: applied behavior analysis (ABA), criminology and criminal justice (CCJ), and social work (SWRK). We also offer graduate certificates in both applied behavior analysis (post-master's and post-bachelor's) and gerontology (post-bachelor's). Our academic offerings have advanced to respond to expanded societal need and demand for well-trained, highly skilled, and justice-focused professionals and practitioners in our fields. Our online graduate programs in social work and applied behavior analysis illustrate our collective commitment to remove geographic and other barriers to higher education and training for tomorrow's social workers, behavior analysts, and criminal justice professionals.

**Noelle E. Fearn, Ph.D.**

*Dean, School of Social Work  
Professor, Criminology and Criminal Justice*

**Brandy R. Maynard, Ph.D., M.S.W.**

*Associate Dean for Academic Affairs  
Professor, Social Work*

**Michael G. Vaughn, Ph.D.**

*Associate Dean of Research  
Director, Social Work Ph.D. Program*

**Dyan McGuire, J.D., Ph.D.**

*Director, Criminology & Criminal Justice Programs  
Associate Professor*

**Michael Passage, Ph.D.**

*Director, Applied Behavior Analysis Programs  
Assistant Clinical Professor,  
Applied Behavior Analysis*

**Kristi S. Richter, M.S.W., LCSW**

*Director, Master of Social Work Program  
Assistant Clinical Professor, Social Work*

**Vithya Murugan, Ph.D., M.S.W.**

*Director, Bachelor of Science in  
Social Work Program  
Associate Professor, Social Work*

**Wendy DuCassé, D.S.W., LCSW**

*Director, Field Education  
Assistant Clinical Professor, Social Work*

## STUDENT AWARDS

### APPLIED BEHAVIOR ANALYSIS AWARD

*Outstanding Master of Science in Applied Behavior Analysis Student of the Year Award*

**Meara Elizabeth Schaefer**

### CRIMINOLOGY AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE AWARDS

*Outstanding Master of Arts in Criminology and Criminal Justice Graduating Student Award*

**Grace K. Clark**

*Outstanding Bachelor of Arts in Criminology and Criminal Justice Graduating Senior Award*

**Jesse Rowan Driese**

### DR. NORMAN WHITE SERVICE IN JUSTICE AWARD

*This award honors Dr. Norman A. White, an associate professor of criminology and criminal justice, who died in 2017. This award has been given with Norm's name to an undergraduate criminology and criminal justice student who, in the judgment of faculty, embodies a similar commitment to service and justice as Norm did.*

**Jesse Rowan Driese**

### SOCIAL WORK AWARDS

*Outstanding Bachelor of Science in Social Work Practicum Student of the Year Award*

**Madeleine Jane Newman**

*Outstanding Bachelor of Science in Social Work Student Award*

**Lauren Kathryn Reger**

*Outstanding Master of Social Work Practicum Student of the Year Award*

**Natalie L. Wild**

*Outstanding Master of Social Work Student Award*

**Rashida Dinehart**

*Second Act Award*

**Katherine Jamieson Lawless**

## THE GRADUATES

### CANDIDATES FOR DOCTORAL DEGREE

#### DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN SOCIAL WORK

**Yohita Shraddha Bandaru**

*Dissertation title: Protective Pathways Through Moral Reasoning: How Parent Engagement Promotes Positive Outcomes Among Justice-Involved Youth*

**Sarah Brown-Foiles**

*Dissertation title: Social Capital and Community Reentry: An Empirical Analysis of Adult Men Reentering the Community After a Sex Offense Conviction*

**Kenya Brumfield-Young**

*Dissertation title: Joyride: Toward a Thrill-Based Model of Chronic Compulsive Juvenile Delinquency*

**Victoria Elizabeth Carter**

*Dissertation title: Surviving the System: Racism, Isolation, and Persistence Among Black Social Work Doctoral Students at PWIs*

**Kathryn Warkentin Coccia**

*Dissertation title: TokTogether: A Parasocial Approach to Addressing Ageism and Advancing Geriatric Workforce Development among University Health Students*

**Aaron Matthew Laxton**

*Dissertation title: Executive-Related Cognitive Processes and Anxiety Severity in Outpatient Addiction Treatment: The Roles of Perceived Spatial Orientation, Rumination, and Impulsivity*

## THE GRADUATES

### CANDIDATES FOR MASTER'S DEGREES & CERTIFICATES

#### MASTER OF SCIENCE IN APPLIED BEHAVIOR ANALYSIS

Audeva Owoahene Agyeman

Peyton Runiewicz

Meara Elizabeth Schaefer

Olivia Ann Wansing

#### MASTER OF ARTS IN CRIMINOLOGY & CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Emily Mae Brazier

Grace K. Clark

Marissa Victoria Klingeman

Lilly Katherine Lewis

Julia Runions

Emily Servin

Mary Clare Simon

Sree Sai Teja Sunkari

Paityn Marie Upton

#### MASTER OF SOCIAL WORK

Audeva Owoahene Agyeman

Ohood Alshamrani

Marquelle Liana Anderson

Mary Elizabeth Anderson

Karen Andrea Askew

Esteban Antonio Bakx  
Bermúdez

Mary Katherine Baltimore

Marigrace Janette Bishop

Madison Debra-Lynn Boukas

Alexis Marie Bratton

Matthew Joseph Brody

Aalyia McKayla Sue Brown

Brandy Rubylee Brown

Lillian Rose Carstens

Ciara Jovahn Carter

Grace K. Clark

Tessa Daley Cook

Keena Shioniece Cross

Katherine A. Deyo

Amy N. Diesen

Rashida Dinehart

Jaden Duncan

Byron Edmond

Juanita Nicole Grace  
Fiddmont

Michael Patrick Fine

Tierra Iman Flascher

Rachael Mae Gardner

Lenya Goda

Mahlik Quavon Good

Riley Cain Green

Elizabeth Ann Greer

Reagan Mae Griessel

Elizabeth Ann Griffin

Grace Katherina Gunn

Samuel Louis Guthrie

Samarya Hall Griffin

Courtney Noelle Haid

Karemah Darae' Hazziez  
Leggs

Rickeah Leigh Henderson

Lacie House

Shakhira Marie Ibanez

Grace Carolyn Jelinek

Myesha Jenae Jenkins

Claire Elyse King

Jayanti Klingensmith

Calista Rashelle Kuberski

Jacob Lashley

Katherine Jamieson Lawless

Katelyn Jean Luyendyk

Kassidy Lynn Maring

Killian Ann McClellan

Shannon McCormac

Mitchel James Mohesky

Jamese Moore

Caroline Frances Moscardelli

Olivia Danielle-Monroe  
Nance

Clare Marie Newcomb

Angel Newman-Clay†

Margaret Ann Niego

Megan Leigh Porter

Emma Louise Price

Charles Ray

Brandon Michael Reid

Alexandra Grace Rendleman

Mia Lauren Rich

Benjamin Mark Richardson

Angela Christine Ryffel

Shakeitta Santana

Mary Johanna Schwartz

Brian Sholl

Melody Ann Sievers

Ray'Neisha Antoinette Smith

Catherine Solinsky

Alexandra Claire Sorby

Katelyn Elizabeth Steiner

Arial Faith Trautmann

# THE GRADUATES

**Megan Ann Tweedie**  
**Paschaline Victory Uti**  
**Austen Mellissa Vickery**  
**Ariel Marvise Walker**  
**Katelyn Nicole Weber**  
**Natalie L. Wild**  
**Killara Williamson**  
**Amy Jonell Wilson**  
**Latoya Wilson**  
**Jubilee Wise**

† We remember and honor Angel Newman-Clay, whose degree is awarded posthumously. We recognize her contributions to our community and celebrate her lasting impact.

## **POST-BACCALAUREATE CERTIFICATE IN INTERPROFESSIONAL GERONTOLOGY**

**Mary Elizabeth Anderson**  
**Amy N. Diesen**  
**Elizabeth Ann Greer**  
**Rickeah Leigh Henderson**  
**Katherine Jamieson Lawless**  
**Kassidy Lynn Maring**  
**Katelyn Nicole Weber**  
**Amy Jonell Wilson**

## **CANDIDATES FOR BACCALAUREATE DEGREES**

### **BACHELOR OF ARTS IN CRIMINOLOGY & CRIMINAL JUSTICE**

**Daniela Belibov**  
**Stephen Morgan Berry\*\***  
**Pablo Cortes**  
**Evelin Escobedo**  
**Jesse Rowan Driese\*\*\***  
**Ciara Farrell**  
**Tracy Lynn Harbert**  
**Katharine B. Husen\*\***  
**Alyssa Marie Kaiser\***  
**Gursimar Kaur\*\***  
**Abigail Marie Kleekamp\*\*\***  
**Niav Katherine Maloney\*\*\***  
**Kenya Memis-Crawford**  
**Yazmin M. Miller**  
**Daimian Eliana Nonami\*\***  
**Kamila Emma Nowak\***  
**Alissa Nicole Schmidt**  
**Ajla Tahirovic\*\*\***  
**Joshua Michael Thomas\*\***  
**Jennifer Xa-Que**

\*\*\* **summa cum laude**  
(G.P.A. 3.9)  
\*\* **magna cum laude**  
(G.P.A. 3.7)  
\* **cum laude**  
(G.P.A. 3.5)

## **BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN SOCIAL WORK**

**Ghadeer Ali**  
**Madelyn Grace Brown**  
**Melanie Faye Clark**  
**Michelle Lee Everett\***  
**Jazmin Flores\*\***  
**Dalaina Faye Gertz\*\*\***  
**Jessica Marie Haw\*\*\***  
**Lucy Isabelle Hays\*\***  
**Ella Claire Janger**  
**Amal Hameed Khan**  
**Brooks Oliver Klefstad**  
**Grace Moore\*\***  
**Kathleen E. Mosher\*\***  
**Madeleine Jane Newman\***  
**Lauren Kathryn Reger\*\*\***  
**Lacy Grace Wilkison\*\***  
**Lancelot James Hwenye  
Williams, III**

Latin Honors are based on December 2025 cumulative GPA; final honors are recalculated based on final GPA and are indicated on transcript.

*This program does not constitute the official conferring of a degree.*

## STUDENT ORGANIZATION LEADERS

Through their hard work and dedication, these students have served in leadership roles for chartered student organizations and disciplinary honor societies within the School of Social Work. Thank you for living out the mission of the School of Social Work through your service and leadership.

ALPHA PHI SIGMA -  
(CRIMINOLOGY &  
CRIMINAL  
JUSTICE HONOR SOCIETY)

**Emily Servin**  
*President*

**Paityn Marie Upton**  
*Vice President*

**Jesse Rowan Driesse**  
*Treasurer*

**Niav Katherine Maloney**  
*Historian*

CRIMINOLOGY &  
CRIMINAL  
JUSTICE CLUB

**Jesse Rowan Driesse**  
*President*

**Joshua Michael Thomas**  
*Treasurer*

BACHELOR OF SOCIAL  
WORK STUDENT  
ASSOCIATION

**Madeleine Newman**  
*President*

**Michelle Everett**  
*Vice President*

**Amal Khan**  
*Treasurer*

**Lancelot Williams**  
*Outreach/Programming Chair*

*Please be advised that this event is being photographed, videotaped and live-streamed. Attendance at this event grants permission to Saint Louis University to use, release, publish, exhibit or reproduce an attendee's image or likeness.*

# ABOUT SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY



Saint Louis University is one of the oldest and most prestigious Catholic universities in the United States. Founded in 1818, 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.

As a nationally recognized leader in research and innovation, SLU is a Research-1 (R1) university, advancing groundbreaking discoveries in St. Louis and around the world.

Saint Louis University educates 13,307 students from all 50 states and 93 countries. The University's campus in Madrid, Spain, enrolled 1,285 students last fall.

A dedication to values-based education and social justice has earned Saint Louis University widespread acclaim and bolstered its status as a character-building college. SLU is one of only 7% of colleges nationwide to hold the Carnegie Classification for Community Engagement, which honors the service-centered work of the University community.

SLU is also a catalyst for urban renewal in the heart of a vibrant city. More than \$2 billion in housing, retail and business development is underway in Midtown St. Louis, and the University is in the center of the neighborhood's growth.

Inspired by its pioneering spirit, Saint Louis University continues to move forward, committed to serve a higher purpose while seeking the greater good.

## ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

SLU ranks as one of the country's top colleges by *The Princeton Review*, *The Wall Street Journal* and *U.S. News & World Report* – and as the No. 11 “Best Catholic College in America.” (Niche)

## R1 STATUS

With \$65.1 million in externally funded research expenditures, SLU's R1 status places the University in an elite group of U.S. research universities.

## SERVICE

1.5 million hours of service are completed by the SLU community annually. Seventy-two percent of students volunteer each year.

## ATHLETICS

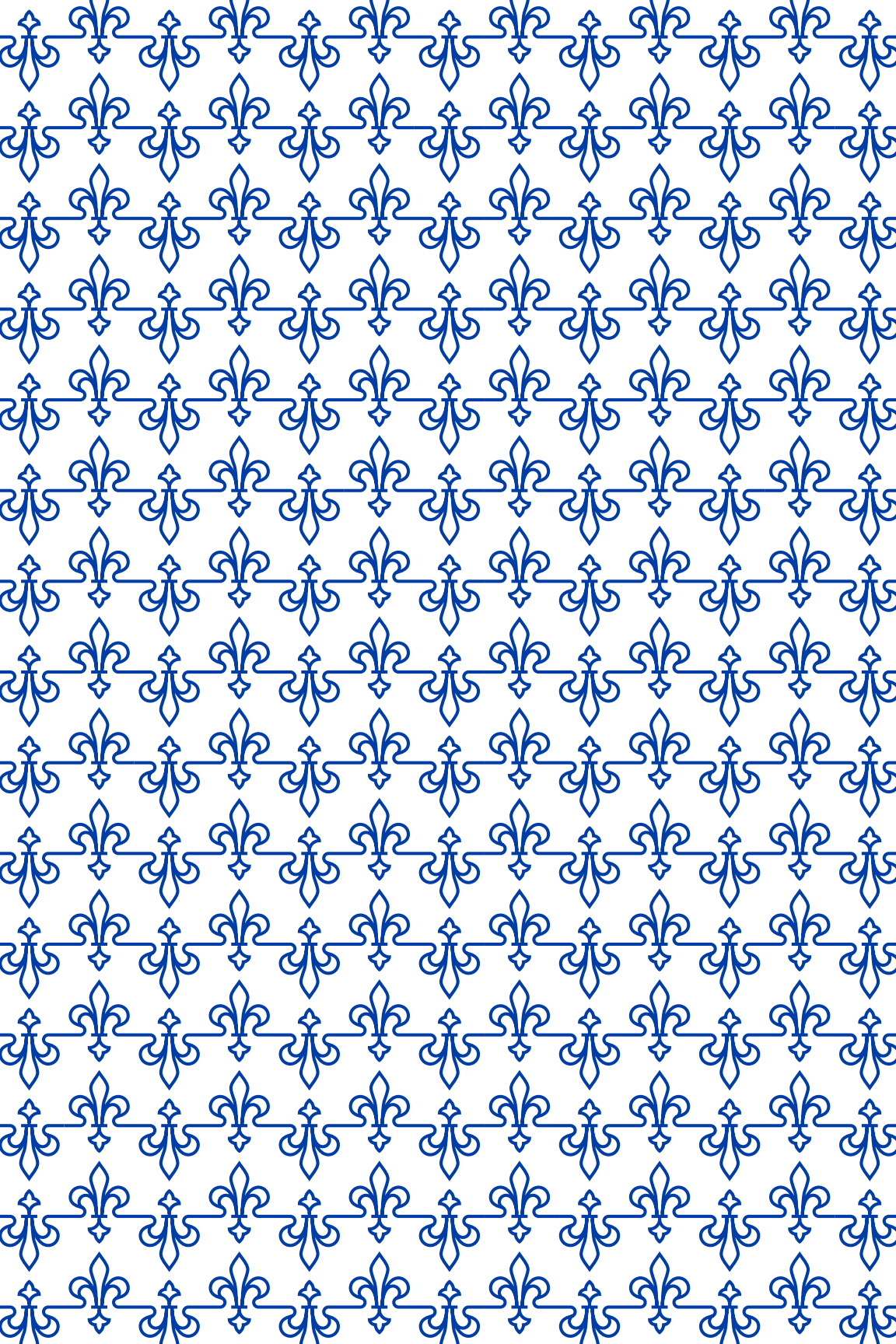
An NCAA Division I institution, SLU is a member of the Atlantic 10 Conference and competes in 18 sports. Recent successes include men's basketball advancing to the second round of the NCAA Championship.

## MASCOT

The University's unique mascot, the Billiken, is a mythical good-luck figure who represents “things as they ought to be.”

## ALUMNI

SLU's new graduates join more than 142,000 alumni who lead lives of meaning and purpose around the world.





**SAINT LOUIS**  
**UNIVERSITY™**

— EST. 1818 —