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 characterbuilding 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.



EST. 1818 —

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.

2023

16,

DECEMBER

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.

MIDYEAR COMMENCEMENT

SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY



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

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

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

COLLEGE OF PHILOSOPHY AND LETTERS (1889) Randall S. Rosenberg, Ph.D., Dean RICHARD A. CHAIFETZ SCHOOL OF BUSINESS (1910) Barnali Gupta, Ph.D., Dean

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

BENEDICTION

Timothy McMahon, 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, Iesuit university, this pursuit is motivated by the inspiration and values of the Iudeo-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 ave 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.

ACADEMIC ATTIRE

The colorful attire worn by graduates, faculty, trustees and officers of the University has historic roots in the distant medieval past. Dressed in cap and gown, the graduates and their professors are part of a long tradition that dates back to Paris and Bologna, Italy, to Oxford and Cambridge, England, in the days of their Catholic glory.

The exact origins of several parts of the academic garb are a bit of a mystery. Because medieval students enjoyed the status of cleric during their university years, one might guess that their attire found its inspiration in the clerical dress of medieval times. The gown seems to be an adaptation of the robe of friar or priest; the hood, of the monk's or friar's cowl; and the mortarboard cap of today recalls the skullcap of days when tonsured heads needed protection against the drafts of medieval classrooms.

Academic attire began to appear on U.S. campuses in the late 1890s. Since that time, its use has become universal for solemn university functions, and its pattern is highly uniform.

THE GOWNS

The gowns are three in number and styling. That of the bachelor is a voked, closed-front garment with long pointed sleeves; that of the master has sleeves long and closed but slit just above the elbow to allow the forearms to protrude; the gown of the doctor has full, bell-shaped sleeves. Only the doctor's gown is trimmed — with velvet panels down the front and three velvet bars on each sleeve.

THE HOOD

The hood at first seems to have been worn over the head and attached to the gown. When the skullcap was introduced, the hood was retained but detached and worn much as it is today. Each degree (bachelor's, master's, doctoral) has its special hood, which varies in length and, for the doctor, also in pattern. The color or colors lining the hood are those of the college or university that granted the wearer's degree. For example, Saint Louis University is known by blue chevron on a field of white. The colored velvet binding or edging of the hood, in different widths for bachelor, master and doctor, is determined by the field of study.

THE CAP

The cap, or mortarboard, has become the universally accepted style for colleges and universities in the United States. Many European institutions still retain distinctive forms of academic headdress.

THE TASSEL

The tassel is perhaps the most iconic souvenir of academic attire. The doctor, following graduation, has the right to wear a gold tassel on the mortarboard; black, however, is perfectly proper and perhaps more common. A practice of varying the color of the tassel on the others has gained acceptance: arts, white; science, gold-yellow; philosophy, dark blue; education, light blue; business, drab; nursing, apricot; technology and engineering, orange; hospital administration, salmon; public administration, peacock blue; social work, citron; law, purple; medicine, green; theology, scarlet; and allied health professions, mint green.

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 Nacy

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