ORDER OF THE PROCESSION

- Alumni Merit Awardee Recipients
- Colors and Parks Color Guard
- Bearer of the Mace
- University Trustees
- University Executive Staff and Constituency Leaders
- Academic Deans
- Candidates for Honorary Degrees
- President
- Endowed Chairholders and Professors
- Members of the Faculty
- College, School and Center Banners
- Candidates for Degrees

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

PROGRAM

BEARER OF THE MACE
Sharon Frey, M.D.
School of Medicine

MASTER OF CEREMONIES
Michael Lewis, Ph.D., Provost

THE NATIONAL ANTHEM
SLU Mastersingers

INVOCATION
David Suwalsky, S.J.
Vice President, Mission and Identity

VARSITY SONG
SLU Mastersingers

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

STUDENT ADDRESS
Zahva Naeem
College of Arts and Sciences

COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS
John O’Leary
Author and Motivational Speaker

CONFERRAL OF HONORARY DEGREES
Marlene Davis
Marianne Muellerleile
John O’Leary

CONFERRAL OF DEGREES

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

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

SCHOOL OF LAW (1843)
Dana Malkus, J.D., Associate 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)
Scott Sell, Ph.D., Associate 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)
Ellen Barnidge, Ph.D., Dean

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

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

RECESSIONAL

BENEDICTION

Rev. Herman Toles
Senior Pastor, Blessed Hope Bible Church
John O’Leary was nine years old in 1987 when he watched a group of older children in his neighborhood drop a match onto a puddle of gasoline. He was mesmerized as the flames danced. O’Leary wanted to replicate the experiment in his family’s garage but unintentionally held the container of gasoline too close to the flames, and it exploded — throwing him across the room. The fire left burns over 98 percent of his body. O’Leary had a one percent chance of survival. He spent five months in the hospital and endured dozens of surgeries and years of physical therapy. He has scars and pain that will never fade.

Initially, O’Leary’s parents kept his healing journey private, and O’Leary worked to get on with this life. He enrolled at Saint Louis University where he met his wife, Beth (Hittler) O’Leary (Doisy ’01). After graduating, he started a real estate development business with a fellow SLU alumnus. O’Leary later completed a chaplaincy program through SLU and worked as a hospital chaplain for three years.

Though O’Leary never talked much about the fire, his parents decided in 2004 to print 200 copies of a book titled Overwhelming Odds for family and friends who supported him and his family during his grueling but miraculous recovery. Word of the book spread, and the family printed another 60,000 copies. O’Leary said the book helped him realize that the fire and its aftermath brought out the best in everyone around him.

Three months after the book was published, O’Leary, a self-described introvert, received an invitation from a group of third-grade Girl Scouts to tell his story. More invitations followed — many more.

Over the next several years, O’Leary conquered his fear of public speaking to become an internationally recognized motivational speaker. He gives more than 100 talks a year throughout the country and world, describing his recovery and the lessons he learned along the way — lessons he believes can be applied to the difficult situations in everyone’s lives. He speaks before a wide range of organizations including health care systems, faith communities, prison systems, educational institutions, and sales and business groups.

In 2016, he published On Fire: The 7 Choices to Ignite a Radically Inspired Life, which became a bestseller translated into 12 languages. His second book, In Awe: Rediscover Your Childlike Wonder to Unleash Inspiration, Meaning and Joy, also became a best seller when it was published in 2020.

O’Leary hosts an award-winning podcast, Live Inspired, and publishes a weekly Monday Motivation email.

O’Leary said he attributes his professional success to his education at Saint Louis University. He said his greatest personal success is his marriage, four children and the relationships he has with family and friends.

For his indomitable spirit in overcoming adversity and for his work inspiring others to find hope no matter how bleak the situation, the degree of Doctor of Letters, honoris causa, will be conferred upon John O’Leary.
For more than 45 years, Marlene Davis has worked to elevate St. Louis City communities by elevating their public schools. She volunteered heavily at her sons’ elementary school and served as a mentor to students at other schools. Davis used her skills in bringing people together to transform Clay Elementary — one of the worst schools in the district at the time — into a Missouri Gold Star School, which recognizes high achieving and improving schools.

When community leaders approached Davis to run for a seat on the Board of Education of the City of St. Louis, she was reluctant, preferring to work behind the scenes. Eventually, she acquiesced. Davis did not canvass and spent less than $1,000 on the city-wide race, which she won handily. She became president the following year.

Davis served on the school board from 1997 to 2003 while working full-time and continuing to volunteer in public schools. She helped steer the district through the aftermath of desegregation lawsuits, secured funding to bring technology into classrooms and helped facilitate the $40 million construction of Vashon High School and the Clyde C. Miller Career Academy High School.

Davis stepped down from the board to establish a company that taught communities how to organize and raise grant money. She also was appointed to the St. Louis Housing Authority, where she worked to find affordable housing for those in need and pushed to create greater access to affordable health care in underserved communities.

Once again, Davis’ skills caught the attention of community leaders who approached Davis to run for alderwoman of the 19th Ward, the ward in which Saint Louis University sits and where Davis resided for more than 30 years. Davis won that first election and four more after that with at least 70 percent of the vote.

Davis said one of her greatest accomplishments as an alderwoman was helping facilitate the transformation of JeffVanderLou, Midtown and the Grand Center Arts District. Once-vacant buildings have become home to new housing developments, entertainment and shopping venues, and dozens of new restaurants and breweries.

Davis has volunteered for or served on the boards of many organizations, including the Missouri State School Boards of Education, the Council of Urban Boards of Education, the National League of American Business Women, the board of directors for Missouri Botanical Garden and the Metropolitan Police Citizens Advisory Board.

After 16 years of service, Davis retired as alderwoman in April 2023. She said she will slow down but not stop. Davis will continue volunteering with St. Louis Public Schools and the Urban League.

Davis also will find time to visit her sons, Kristopher and Vincent, her two sisters, one brother and other family members who serve as her inspiration.

For her commitment to the education of St. Louis’ young people and for her efforts to transform SLU’s neighborhood, the degree of Doctor of Public Service, honoris causa, will be conferred upon Marlene Davis.
Over the past 51 years, Marianne Muellerleile has distinguished herself as an actress in a vast range of comedic and dramatic performances on stage, television and the big screen.

Muellerleile is perhaps best known for her roles as Gloria on the television show Life with Bonnie, the axe-wielding Norma on Passions and the wrong Sarah Connor in The Terminator. She has appeared in more than 180 television series, including Curb Your Enthusiasm, 9-1-1, NCIS and The Kominsky Method.

Muellerleile’s movie credits include Return to Me, Passion Fish, Memento and Queen Bees. Her gift for accents and dialects led to her success as a voice-over artist, from radio dramas to video games. She is the voice of Lucille on the Disney Jr. cartoon series The Rocketeer. A veteran of more than 100 national television commercials, she stars in the Geico “Aunts Infestation” commercial and the BMW ad with Arnold Schwarzenegger and Salma Hayek that aired during the 2022 Super Bowl.

Born in St. Louis, Muellerleile attended Catholic schools from pre-school through college. After graduating from Saint Louis University with an undergraduate degree and a teaching certificate, Muellerleile planned to teach high school drama. She pursued her master’s in fine arts with an emphasis on acting at the University of Minnesota, where she was cast as Eunice in Tennessee Williams’, A Streetcar Named Desire. Williams attended a performance and called Muellerleile and her co-stars “the future of the American theater.” Soon after that performance, Muellerleile was offered an Actors’ Equity Association contract. She then worked in regional theater for six years, performing everything from Shakespeare to Agatha Christie.

Muellerleile moved to New York, performed with off-Broadway theater companies and earned extra cash by modeling for the first agency to feature plus-size models. To expand her horizons, Muellerleile moved to Los Angeles and began booking roles on hit series, including Magnum P.I., The Greatest American Hero and Third Rock from the Sun.

No matter where her performances take her, Muellerleile returns to St. Louis for every high school reunion and SLU theater reunion as possible. In 2012, she received a SLU Alumni Merit Award and gave a master class to the University’s theater students.

Muellerleile’s Catholic faith and philanthropy have been constants in her life. Last year, she shared her experiences of being Catholic in Hollywood with the hosts of Jesuitical, a podcast geared toward young Catholics. She volunteers for and donates to dozens of causes, including raising more than half a million dollars for Heifer International, an organization that works to end hunger by investing in local farmers and their communities.

The other constant in Muellerleile’s life is her husband of 35 years, Tom Norris (retired Lt. Col. Joseph T. Norris Jr., U.S. Air Force). They restored a 118-year-old home in Los Angeles that is a registered historic landmark. It also is where they play gin rummy nearly every night after dinner.

For her dedication to the Jesuit mission of Saint Louis University and for sharing her faith and her talent to engage audiences worldwide, the degree of Doctor of Fine Arts, honoris causa, will be conferred upon Marianne Muellerleile.
THE MACE
SHARON FREY, M.D.

The Saint Louis University mace represents the Catholic, Jesuit and urban influences that distinguish the University. Commissioned in 1987, the SLU mace is an outward sign of the president's authority and is seen at all University formal academic occasions.

Handcrafted in bronze by St. Louis artisans at Architectural Bronze Studio Inc., the mace is 30 inches long, topped by a Christian cross that is supported by the University seal. Beneath these elements are two wolves at a cauldron, a symbol taken from the coat of arms of the House of Loyola, from which descended St. Ignatius Loyola, founder of the Society of Jesus.

The entire crown of the mace rests upon three fleurs-de-lis taken from the royal standard of King Louis IX of France, after whom both the University and the City of St. Louis are named. The names of every University president, from Verhaegen to Pestello, are inscribed on the handle.

The origins of the mace as a symbol trace back to medieval times, when churchmen would carry clublike staffs into battle because the use of swords was forbidden under biblical injunction. Today, maces are seen most often at university ceremonies and as part of the pageantry of European governmental functions.

It is with great honor that Saint Louis University names Sharon Frey, M.D., as mace bearer for the 2023 commencement exercises.

Dr. Sharon Frey, the Ralph Kinsella Endowed Chair in the Department of Internal Medicine in the Division of Infectious Diseases, Allergy and Immunology at Saint Louis University, serves as clinical director of the SLU Center for Vaccine Development and co-principal investigator for SLU’s National Institutes of Health (NIH)-sponsored Vaccine and Treatment Evaluation Unit (VTEU).

Frey joined the University in 1989 and devoted her career to conducting vaccine research, caring for patients and educating medical students. She is a clinical trials expert, and her most recent research has evaluated vaccines for mpox, SARS-CoV-2, pandemic influenza strains, and vaccines to counter biothreats and emerging infections.

During her tenure, she led smallpox vaccine trials, including the first smallpox vaccine trial in civilians in 2000 and early preventative hepatitis C trials. Frey served as principal investigator for multiple influenza trials, including two large NIH-sponsored 2009 pandemic H1N1 influenza vaccine studies in adults and children, and presented data from these studies to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the World Health Organization.

Frey is the current chair of the HIV Vaccine Trials Network Safety Monitoring Board and is a past member of the CDC Advisory Committee for Immunization Practices and the Office of AIDS Research Advisory Council.

Frey sits on multiple committees and chairs the Expert Working Group Enteric Committee for the NIH-sponsored VTEU’s Infectious Diseases Clinical Research Consortium. Frey has over 140 publications. She also served as the director of the Health Resources Center, SLU’s medical student-run free clinic caring for an underserved population.
UNIVERSITY 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.
Trudy Busch Valentine School of Nursing

COLLEGE/SCHOOL MARSHALS

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
Elena Bray-Speth, Ph.D.
Richard A. Colignon, Ph.D.
Thomas J. Finan, Ph.D.
Lisa M. Willoughby, Ph.D.
Aaron Johnson, D.M.A

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
Sara H. Barnett, Ph.D.
Tyler De Shon, Ph.D.
Lauren R. Schwarz, Ph.D.

SCHOOL OF LAW
Kerrin M. Kowach, J.D.
Yvette J. Liebesman, J.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.

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.

TRUDY BUSCH VALENTINE SCHOOL OF NURSING
Karen Cuvar, Ph.D.
Christopher R. Hemmer, D.N.P.
Joanne C. Langan, Ph.D.
Karen S. Moore, D.N.P.

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK
Gabriel Carrillo, Ph.D.
Shannon Coopersadlo, 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.
Christine M. Werner, Ph.D.

COLLEGE FOR PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL JUSTICE
Michael Elliott, Ph.D.
Kathy N. Gillespie, Ph.D.
Travis M. Loux, 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 EDUCATION
Jessica A. Leonard, Ph.D.
Kathryn M. Pierce, Ph.D.
Mark M. Pousson, Ph.D.
Maureen A. Wikete-Lee, Ph.D.
Christa Jackson, Ph.D.
Jon Turk, Ph.D.

UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES
Martha H. Allen, M.L.S.
Miriam E. Joseph, Ph.D.
Katy Smith, Ph.D.
Donghua Tao, Ph.D.

ACADEMIC SUPPORT
Alex A. Ocasio, Ph.D.
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. SLU is ranked among the nation’s top research universities, and Wall Street Journal/Times Higher Education ranks SLU No. 6 among Catholic colleges in the United States.

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 billion, Saint Louis University also is a major catalyst for urban renewal in the heart of a vibrant city. More than a $1.3 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.
ON MAY 19, SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY RECOGNIZED ALUMNI MERIT RECIPIENTS AT A DINNER. MANY OF THOSE HONOREES ARE SPECIAL GUESTS AT TODAY’S COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY, SETTING A STRONG EXAMPLE OF SERVICE AND SUCCESS FOR THE 2023 SLU GRADUATES.

Eric M. Bailey (Professional Studies ’16)
Chief executive officer, Bailey Strategic Innovation Group

Judith H. Carlson (Nursing ’72, ’96)
Retired faculty member, SLU’s Valentine School of Nursing

President, Loyola Academy of St. Louis

Nicholas A. Collins, M.P.H. (Nursing, ’11, Public Health ’14)
Director, Health Engagement Strategies, UnitedHealthcare

Helene Ballmann Dudley (Arts and Sciences ’68)
Co-founder, The Colombia Project, a micro-loan program for people displaced by violence

William Giese (Arts and Sciences ’69, Doisy ’73)
Retired physician assistant, Washington University in St. Louis

Sally Pavlow Johnson (Parks ’96)
Deputy regional director, National Weather Service Central Region Headquarters

Mark A. Lewis, S.J. (Philosophy and Letters ’84, Grad A&S ’84)
Rector, Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome

Dean Plocher (Law ’97)
Speaker of the House, Missouri 102nd General Assembly

Terrance A. Rust, D.D.S. (Dentistry ’67)
Diplomate, American and International Board of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons

Raymond G. Slavin, M.D. (Medicine ’56)
Professor emeritus and researcher, SLU School of Medicine

President, Harris-Stowe State University

Alan Vogt (Business ’69)
Vice president and managing director of fixed income, JAG Capital Management

PIONEER AWARD
William L. “Bill” Clay Sr. (Arts and Sciences ’53)
Retired congressman who represented the St. Louis area in the U.S. House of Representatives for 32 years
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 yoked, 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.

MUSICIANS AND SINGERS

COMMENCEMENT ENSEMBLE
Conductor:
Robert Hughes, Ph.D.
Professor of Music

VIOLIN
Zsasha Easely
Maxwell Gao
Lucy Kaymakanova
Riley Lubbers
Athulya Nair
Sunny Palakollu
Colin Somers
Manuela Topalbegovich

VIOLA
Amy Pennington
Jacob Wilfong

CELLO
Katrina Churchill
San Kwon
Chris Lau
Jessie Williams

MASTERSINGERS
Conductor:
David Kowalczyk
Instructor of Music

Matthew Blade
Kathleen Dolan
Hayden Eckstein
Skye Gabbard
Marissa Gibbons
Kristine Hervey
Lily Jiang
Jodi Katti
Lily Kinnison
Isaac Angelo Layugan
Evelyn Maruszak
Gerard Pena
Abigail Rellinger
Clara Reyes
Enrique Riojas
Valentina Rivero
Kaley Schrameyer
Sophia Siminow
Sophie Smith
Benjamin Walsh
Ittmum Zah
EXECUTIVE STAFF

Fred P. Pestello  
President

Michael Lewis  
Provost

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Vice President, Marketing and Communications

Kyle Collins  
Vice President and Chief Information Officer

Sarah Cunningham  
Vice President, Student Development

Kathleen Davis  
Vice President, Enrollment and Retention Management

Jessica Evenson  
Vice President, Compliance and Ethics

Bob Gagne  
Chief of Staff

David Heimburger  
Vice President and Chief Financial Officer

Christine Jacobs  
Vice President, Medical Affairs, and Dean, School of Medicine

Michael Lucido  
Vice President, Facilities Services

Mickey J. Luna  
Vice President, Human Resources

Sheila Manion  
Vice President, Development

Chris May  
Director, Athletics

Kenneth A. Olliff  
Vice President, Research

Rochelle Smith  
Vice President, Diversity and Innovative Community Engagement

David Suwalsky, S.J.  
Vice President, Mission and Identity

Danielle Uy  
Vice President and General Counsel

Paul Vita  
Director and Academic Dean, Saint Louis University Madrid

CONSTITUENCY LEADERSHIP

Aric Hamilton  
President, Student Government Association

Judi Buncher  
Chair, Staff Advisory Committee

Terry Tomazic  
President, Faculty Senate

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Chairman

Marian “Bo” Mehan  
Vice Chairman

Rob Adkisson  
Akberet Boykin-Farr

George Brill  
Thomas M. Buchanan

Richard A. Chaifetz  
W. Winston Chan

Robert J. Ciapciak  
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Jerry Dwyer  
Hon. Jimmie Edwards

Eric Engler

Anne Gagen

Michael Garanzini, S.J.

Chang Soo Huh

Edward B. Ignaczak

John Johnson

Darryl Jones

Paul D. Kalsbeek

James P. Kavanaugh

Ronald J. Kruszewski

Timothy Lannon, S.J.

Patrick Lo

Virginia McDowell

Michael C. McFarland, S.J.

Timothy McMahon, S.J.

Michael McMillan

Robert O’Loughlin

Jacqueline Drury Pollvogt

Michael J. Sheeran, S.J.

Rex A. Sinquefield

Patrick Sly

Philip Steele, S.J.

Trudy Busch Valentine
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]

As part of Saint Louis University’s bicentennial celebration in 2018, SLU reintroduced the “Varsity Song,” which served as the University’s alma mater. Previously it was last performed in the 1960s. Aaron Johnson, D.M.A., assistant professor of music, adapted the lyrics and arranged the music for four-part choral performance.

Alfred G. Robyn (1860-1935), composer, organist and pianist, composed the music for the “Varsity Song” in 1909, the year he received an honorary degree from SLU. He was a prolific composer, credited with having written approximately 300 works, some of which were subsequently used in motion pictures. Robyn’s connection to SLU traces back to his father, a German immigrant, who was also a composer and musician and taught for several years at SLU.

The original lyrics were written by Paul L. Blakely, S.J. (1880-1943). Blakely entered the Society of Jesus in 1897. He completed his studies at SLU and was ordained in 1912. He was a professor of literature at SLU from 1906 to 1909 and later became the associate editor of America magazine.
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.