Dear Billiken families,

Welcome to the beginning of a new academic year.

When the young person in your life becomes a SLU student, you become more than the family member of a Billiken. You too become part of the Billiken family.

Every academic year includes reliable routines and treasured traditions — move-in day, the first day of classes, Homecoming and Family Weekend, Christmas on the Quad. The second semester brings spring break, study days and final exams. And then in May, we celebrate our graduates with a series of joyful commencement events.

Each year is special, filled with distinctive experiences and accomplishments. The Billiken family shares a commitment to SLU’s mission, and we pursue that mission in thousands of ways. Students build community and nurture friendships. They show care for themselves and for each other. They serve the region, pursue a rigorous course of study, and thrive as whole persons. As the days become months, each Billiken finds their own path and makes their unique contributions to the greater good.

This calendar offers you a look at the academic year ahead — a year that will bring new adventures to every Billiken. As our students encounter new challenges and achievements, they will gain strength from your guidance and support. Your love and care are the foundation on which our students will build their adult lives. You inspire your Billikens to envision their futures and to work toward their goals. With us, you also celebrate their remarkable accomplishments.

I look forward to welcoming you to campus for this year’s gatherings and events. I am proud and grateful to join you in accompanying our students through each of their transformative years at SLU.

I pray that the 2023-2024 academic year brings many blessings to you and our entire Billiken family.

Fred P. Pestello, Ph.D.
President

WELCOME TO THE SLU family!
MISSION statement

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.

OATH OF inclusion

We, as students, form a diverse and vibrant university community.

We do not enter into this community by proximity, but by virtue of a shared Jesuit vision – to pursue higher truths, obtain greater knowledge and strive for a better world. In this endeavor, we do not succeed by our individual ambitions but by our discovery of each other.

We find higher truths when we seek to understand the complexity of our neighbors’ identities, we obtain greater knowledge when we consider the perspectives of our fellow students and we begin to strive for a better world when we build a stronger community.

As a student and a member of the SLU community, I will live by this oath.

I will embrace people for the diversity of their identities, creating a community inclusive of race, ethnicity, sex, age, ability, faith, orientation, gender, class and ideology.

I will challenge my worldview through education inside and outside the classroom.

I will show that I am proud to be a Billiken by enriching the culture of our University.

I will foster a community that welcomes all by recognizing the inherent dignity of each person.

I will work for social justice in the Saint Louis community and beyond.

This is the SLU I believe in.

This is the community I am building.

This is our SLU.

WHAT’S A Billiken?

The Billiken is a good-luck figure who represents “things as they ought to be.” Designed and manufactured in the early 1900s, the Billiken was the national rage for about six months. By 1912, the Billiken and its value as a good-luck charm were just memories for all except the loyal fans of Saint Louis University.

No one is sure exactly when the Billiken first became linked to SLU, but it seems to have happened sometime between 1910 and 1911 at the height of Billiken-mania. A St. Louis sports writer noted that SLU Football Coach John Bender resembled the Billiken. Later, a cartoonist drew a caricature of the coach in the form of a Billiken and posted it in the window of a drugstore. The football team soon became known as “Bender’s Billikens.” One last point on Billiken luck: To buy a Billiken gives the purchaser luck, but to be given one is better luck.

SAVE THE date

HOMECOMING AND FAMILY WEEKEND

Celebrate all things SLU at Homecoming and Family Weekend! There will be activities, events and games for the SLU community to enjoy. The schedule and registration will be available later this summer, but be sure to mark your calendars now for Sept. 22-24.

FOLLOW THE Billikens

Billiken athletics schedules, scores and more can all be found online at slubillikens.com.

GREETINGS

Billiken Families!

My name is Kesha Williams, and I serve as the new director of the Office of Parent and Family Engagement at Saint Louis University. I have the distinct pleasure of meeting and partnering with parents and families at SLU.

The office provides families with information, programs, services and resources to help you support your student from near or far, all year-round. I encourage you to visit the parent and family website, which features critical resources for families and a list of parent and family events. In addition, it explains how you can stay involved by joining the Billiken Parent and Family Association.

There is so much that I appreciate and respect about this University, but what sticks out in my mind is the passion, commitment and respect for this institution to live out its mission of “pursuit of truth for the greater glory of God and for the service of humanity.”

If I can ever be of assistance to you or your family, please don’t hesitate to contact the Office of Parent and Family Engagement at parents@slu.edu or 314-977-9378.

With Billiken pride,

Kesha Williams
Director for Parent and Family Engagement

RESOURCES FOR YOUR Billiken

The Division of Student Development is here to help with any of your student’s needs. The graphic below highlights the range of places your Billiken can look for help.

If you can’t find the right place on this resource wheel, please encourage your student to contact the Dean of Students Office. This one-stop-shop is the backbone of Student Development, always available to point your student in the right direction.
LEARN MORE & volunteer

Did you know you are automatically a member of the Billiken Parent and Family Association (BPFA) once your student has accepted their admission to Saint Louis University? BPFA supports both the University mission and SLU students by collaborating with campus partners. The Volunteer Group is designed for parents and families who want a closer connection to the University and have time to volunteer throughout the year. Volunteers don’t have to live in St. Louis to be a part of this group — you can still be an ambassador in your home state! The volunteers help to shape parent and family programs at SLU that provide opportunities to engage with Billiken students, faculty, and administration. It’s also a great way to establish fellowship and connect with other Billiken families. The BPFA Volunteer Board serves in an advisory capacity by assisting the University administration in identifying areas of concern or interest. For those families interested in volunteering, please scan the two QR codes to complete the Volunteer Interest Form, and find out more about volunteer opportunities.

Things to do in St. Louis, ACCORDING TO THE BILLIKEN PARENT AND FAMILY ASSOCIATION:

MUST-TRY FOODS:

Goopy Butter Cake This coffeecake-style treat, topped with powdered sugar and famous for its chewy crust and gooey center, was originally made by “accident” but soon became a Saint Louis favorite. This can be found at most bakeries and grocery stores.

Frozen Custard A cup of creamy frozen custard is perfect on a hot and steamy Saint Louis summer day (or anytime)! Ted Drewes has two locations and is well known for its vanilla custard, but there are many options throughout the St. Louis area.

St. Louis Style Pizza St. Louis is famous for thin-crust pizza, frequently made with provol cheese, and you can find it at just about any hometown pizza place. It’s a must-try.

Toasted Ravioli Topped with parmesan cheese with a side of marinara, this breaded, deep-fried (or baked) pasta is a favorite St. Louis appetizer.

MUST-VISIT PLACES:

Forest Park Named the No. 1 city park in the United States by USA Today, this park is home to the Saint Louis Zoo, the Science Center, the Muny outdoor theater, the Saint Louis Art Museum, and the Missouri History Museum. There are countless activities from paddle boats and trails to ice skating at Steinberg outdoor rink.

Gateway Arch National Park The “Gateway to the West” stands 630 feet tall overlooking the Mississippi River. You can take a tram ride to the top or explore the museums inside.

Union Station Housed in a former train terminal, this downtown attraction includes an aquarium, a 200-foot ferris wheel, a ropes course and more.

The City Museum Housed in a 10-story, 100-year-old warehouse, City Museum is an ever-changing adventure for kids of all ages.

CONTACT US
Parent and Family Programs
web: www.slu.edu/parents
email: parents@slu.edu
phone: 314-977-9378
address: Busch Student Center, Suite 313
20 N. Grand Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63103

SLU Billiken Parent Association
August

SUNDAY  MONDAY  TUESDAY  WEDNESDAY  THURSDAY  FRIDAY  SATURDAY  OTHER EVENTS

30
Vaccine Compliance due for Fall Semester

31

1  2  3  4  5
Back to School Days Open: Early Move-In Dates (With Prior Approval)

6  7  8  9  10  11  12

13
Financial Aid Disbursement Begins

14
The Assumption

15  16

17
New Student Move-In

18
Convocation

19
Fall Welcome Week

20
Financial Aid

21  22
Student Involvement

23
Student Involvement

24
Holiday Services

25  26
Campus Ministry

27  28  29  30  31

30
AAMC Meet & Greet

31
Panhellenic Meet & Greet

SLU EDU
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**SEPTEMBER 1**
- Policy Pod Application Deadline
- IFC Recruitment Orientation / Meet & Greet 1-3:30 P.M. DeMattias Hall Multipurpose Room

**SEPTEMBER 3**
- IFC Recruitment
- Panhellenic Recruitment

**SEPTEMBER 5**
- Official Fall Census

**SEPTEMBER 6 – 10**
- Panhellenic Recruitment
- Latinx & Hispanic Heritage Month Kick-Off Ceremony 11 A.M. Center for Global Citizenship

**SEPTEMBER 15**
- Policy Pod Kick-Off Event

**SEPTEMBER 15**
- Latino & Hispanic Heritage Month Kick-Off Ceremony 9 A.M. for Global Citizenship

**SEPTEMBER 17**
- National Voter Registration Day
- No Classes (Labor Day)
- IFC Recruitment
- Fall Career Expo 12 P.M., Wool Ballrooms, Busch Student Center
- First Day of Fall

**SEPTEMBER 24**
- Yom Kippur Begins
- Immersion Trip

**SEPTEMBER 25**
- Yom Kippur Ends

**OCTOBER 2**
- Student of Color Leadership Retreat

**SEPTEMBER 30 – OCTOBER 2**
- Student of Color Leadership Retreat

**SEPTEMBER 6**
- Policy Pod Application Deadline
- IFC Recruitment Orientation / Meet & Greet 1-3:30 P.M. DeMattias Hall Multipurpose Room

**SEPTEMBER 3**
- IFC Recruitment
- Panhellenic Recruitment

**SEPTEMBER 5**
- Official Fall Census

**SEPTEMBER 6 – 10**
- Panhellenic Recruitment
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### October

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<td>Columbus Day</td>
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### Did You Know?

The original location of SLU’s campus was a small, private residence on the banks of the Mississippi River. That location is now part of the grounds of the Gateway Arch.
November

SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY | OTHER EVENTS
---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---
1 | 2 | 3 | November Payment Due | First Generation Friday | | |
4 | | | | | Connectors Retreat | Last Day to Withdraw
5 | | | Daylight Saving Time Ends | | | Winter Class
6 | International Education Week | | Year of Service Fair | | | | Did You Know?
7 | | | All Souls’ Day | | Thanksgiving
8 | | | Black History Month
9 | | | Keynote Kick-Off | |
10 | | | | |
11 | | | Veterans Day | |
12-14 | | | | | | | SLU students love to give back. With over 500 local partnering organizations and more than 30 service-focused student organizations, the SLU community completes an average of 1.6 million community service hours each year.
15 | | | No Classes (Thanksgiving Break) | | | | Did You Know?
16 | | | Residence Halls Closed | | | | SLU students love to give back. With over 500 local partnering organizations and more than 30 service-focused student organizations, the SLU community completes an average of 1.6 million community service hours each year.
17 | | | Thanksgiving | | | |
18 | | | | | | | Did You Know?
19 | | | Residence Halls Open at 10 A.M. | | | |
20 | | | | | | | Did You Know?
21 | | | | | | | SLU students love to give back. With over 500 local partnering organizations and more than 30 service-focused student organizations, the SLU community completes an average of 1.6 million community service hours each year.
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January

SUNDAY  MONDAY  TUESDAY  WEDNESDAY  THURSDAY  FRIDAY  SATURDAY

Winter Break

January Payment Due
New Year’s Day
Kwanza Ends

1  2  3  4  5  6

Winter Break

January 12
Winter Session Classes End

7  8  9  10  11  12  13

Ignatian Silent Retreat

14  15  16  17  18  19  20

Martin Luther King Jr. Day
Spring Semester Begins

21  22  23  24  25  26  27

Frataternity-Sorority Life Retreat

28  29  30  31  1  2  3

Did You Know?

Martin Luther King Jr. visited SLU in 1964 and gave a speech on campus, just two days before winning the Nobel Peace Prize.
February

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday Other Events

28 29 30 31 1 2 3

February Payment Due

February 14
Deadline to Waive/Enroll in SLU Student Health Insurance for Spring Semester

LGBTQ+ Retreat

4 5 6 7 8 9 10

No Classes (Wellness Day)

LGBTQ+ Retreat

11 12 13 14 15 16 17

Black History Month Gala & Awards Ceremony

Valentine’s Day
Ash Wednesday

Spring Career Expo @ FAL, WCIC,
AND EACH STUDENT CENTER

18 19 20 21 22 23 24

Presidents’ Day

Spring Career Expo @ FAL, WCIC,
AND EACH STUDENT CENTER

LGBTQ+ Retreat

LGBTQ+ Retreat

25 26 27 28 29 1 2

Lenten al Bara’s Ends

SLU EDU

SLU Madrid was founded in 1967. Although it is 4,407 miles away from the St. Louis campus, you can find many reminders of home there, such as SLU gateways and a Billiken statue. There are even celebrations for American holidays, like Thanksgiving and the Fourth of July.
March

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**Did You Know?**

The Billiken was adopted as Saint Louis University’s mascot in 1910. It was created by a Missouri art teacher and illustrator named Florence Pretz. It is said to resemble SLU’s then football coach!
# Academic Calendar

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**Did You Know?**

Architectural plans for DuBourg Hall had to be sent to Rome for final approval (as was required in the 1880s). The Vatican caught a major design flaw: there were no bathrooms!
### May

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sunday</th>
<th>Monday</th>
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<td>Mother’s Day</td>
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<td>22</td>
<td>SLU is home to a lot of firsts west of the Mississippi River: the first university, the first university to offer graduate programs, the first medical school, the first law school and the first business school.</td>
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