A SLU professor and his students examine the secret lives of bees
There are a lot of myopic narratives about higher education floating around, from out-of-control costs to graduates who are ill-prepared for their future. As you, our alumni, well know, here at Saint Louis University, our reality looks drastically different from some of the sensational stories you might be reading or viewing in mainstream and social media.

Our faculty, clinicians, staff and students are in fierce pursuit of our vision to be a global Jesuit university that is mission-focused, student- and patient-centered, and research-driven. A university that is working with the people of St. Louis to reimagine, transform and unify our city.

Pursuing that vision requires us to be nimble, not a frequent descriptor for a 200-year-old institution. But nimble we must be as the interests and needs of our current and future students shift, and the world around us accelerates the rate of change. This adaptive process is inherently Ignatian. As you, our alumni, know, at the crossroads of our talents and the world’s greatest needs is our vocation, and we have a responsibility to thoughtfully discern that interaction.

In addition to examining and improving our offerings, we are investing. Our investment priorities include scholarship support, career services and experiential education; STEM, health sciences, nursing and medicine, where student demand and employer needs continue to grow exponentially; the creation of Saint Louis University’s first University-wide, Ignatian inspired, core curriculum; faculty and student research; and mental health and well-being services for our students and community partners.

In this edition of Universitas, we spend some time on our partnerships — partnerships with businesses and government agencies that enhance our educational experience; partnerships within our community that strengthen families, provide opportunity and sustain the revitalization of our region; and partnerships with alumni who generously support our efforts.

For example, as you’ll read on page 6, State and local universities are becoming one of the nation’s centers for location-based data collection, mapping, analysis and services, called geospatial information technologies. We have recently partnered with the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency on a collaborative agreement that will allow our two organizations to work together on research, training and innovation efforts. Because of SLU’s diverse and expanding geospatial research and training portfolio, we are well positioned to support the NGA’s work as they plan to invest $1.75 billion in a new western headquarters, less than two miles from our campus. In April, we co-sponsored a sold-out conference with the NGA that introduced some of the geospatial industry’s leaders to our students and faculty.

Our local economic partnerships are thriving, too. As you’ll see on page 7, renderings have been released for the new from Hill development at the northwest corner of Grand Boulevard and Chouteau Avenue. This exciting project will further accelerate the dynamism taking place in the city’s central corridor. As you know, SLU has long served as a catalyst for social and economic prosperity in the city we proudly call home. And this investment will transform an empty lot into a unique and lasting development that will serve the SLU community and our neighbors for many years to come. You will be pleased to know that there is more development taking place on and adjacent to our campus than at any time in our 200-year history. Look for more information on these projects in future issues.

Finally, our partnership with you, our loyal supporters, is stronger than ever. Last fall, we launched Accelerating Excellence: The Campaign for Saint Louis University, and we are pleased to report that so far more than 17,200 alumni have made campaign gifts to SLU. This year, thanks to your continued support, we have surpassed last year’s all-time record for fundraising. Along with other outstanding records we’ve broken, you’ll hear more about Accelerating Excellence and our extraordinary year in the next issue. Until then, may God bless you, and Saint Louis University.

Dr. Fred P. Pestello
President
Saint Louis University captured the Atlantic 10 Conference title with a 55-53 win over St. Bonaventure March 17 at Barclays Center in Brooklyn, New York. The Billikens completed a thrilling A-10 Tournament by winning four games in four days to punch their ticket to the 2019 NCAA Tournament – SLU’s first NCAA appearance since 2014. Tramaine Isabell Jr. was named the A-10 Tournament Most Outstanding Player. Javon Bess (A&S ’18) was named to the All-Championship team as well.

“We go out every game, every day, every practice, and we’re playing for this university, and we’re playing for the city of St. Louis, and that means a lot to us,” said Head Coach Travis Ford.

The 13th-seeded Billikens finished their season with a 23-13 record after losing to Virginia Tech, a No. 4 seed, in the first round of the NCAA Championship.

Adding to the March Madness frenzy was the Billiken mascot’s appearance on The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon. The Billiken captured the slam dunk and three-point titles, beating 13 of the A-10’s college basketball mascots in The Tonight Show’s first NCAA mascot skills competition.
SLU Celebrates Its 2019 Graduates

As he stood at the commencement podium, Matthew Prew (Park '19), Saint Louis University’s student speaker, told the crowd to be mindful of a proverb from his native New Zealand: “What is the most important thing in the world? It is the people, it is the people.”

For Prew and the University’s 2,546 newest alumni, the call to change the world for the better defined their SLU experience and the paths they will take following May 18 commencement at Chaifetz Arena.

“The legacy of SLU and of yourselves is in your hands,” Prew said. “What brings a Billiken means is up to you, but I challenge you to make it matter.”

University President Dr. Fred P. Stellato echoed Prew’s emphasis on the uniqueness of a Jesuit education and on Billikens as change-makers, as did the ceremony’s keynote speaker, Randall L. Stephenson, chairman and CEO of AT&T.

Stephenson explained an honorary doctor of commerce degree during the ceremony. Others given honorary degrees were Robert Cardillo, former director of the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency; Marie Kenyon (Law ’86), a lawyer and director of the Peace and Justice Commission of the Archdiocese of St. Louis; and Donald Ross, vice chairman of Enterprise Holdings.

Cancer Center Receives $45 Million Gift

The School of Medicine received a $45 million gift from the estate of Dr. LeRoy Fink (Med ’56) to support the Saint Louis University Cancer Center. Fink’s gift is one of the largest in the history of the medical school.

A lifelong supporter of the University, Fink named the School of Medicine as a beneficiary of his estate, providing funds that will be used to support the Cancer Center specifically with research and clinical care, as well as the Cancer Center’s active focus on clinical trials and its outpatient bone marrow transplant program. A native of Edwardsville, Illinois, Fink died in January 2018 at age 87.

As an active alumnus, he financing numerous club events as a volunteer and providing many gifts to support student scholarships and programs in the School of Medicine.

Danticat Named 2019 Literary Award Winner

Haitian-American writer Edwidge Danticat, author of acclaimed books that include Breath, Eyes, Memory, Krik! Krik! and The Tree Booker, will receive the 2019 St. Louis Literary Award from the Saint Louis University Library Associates.

Danticat is a graduate of Brown University whose master’s thesis became her debut novel Breath, Eyes, Memory, which was selected in 1998 as an official book club pick by Oprah Winfrey. She has also been recognized for her 2010 essay collection, Creating Congeries: The Immigrant Artist at Work. She has received an American Book Award (1999), a National Book Critics Circle Award (2007) and a MacArthur “Genius” Fellowship (2009).

Danticat will be in St. Louis on Thursday, Oct. 24, for the award ceremony. The event is complimentary, but registration is required. To register, visit alumni.slu.edu/literaryaward19.

MLK III Visit: Martin Luther King III spoke at the 2019 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Tribute at Busch Student Center in January.

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SLU Recognized for Sustainability Efforts

SLU recently received several honors for its ongoing commitment to sustainability.

**EPAs GREEN LIST**
The Environmental Protection Agency recognized SLU for its use of green power thanks to an initiative launched by students. SLU residence halls now are part of the EPA Green Power Partnership, among more than 1,600 entities that collectively use more than 50 billion kilowatts of green power annually, equivalent to the electricity use of more than 4.6 million average American homes.

Dr. Jeffrey Scherrr (Grad ’71, ’04), a professor in family and community medicine, received a grant from the National Institute on Drug Abuse of the National Institutes of Health to study the pathways from chronic prescription opioid use to new-onset depression.

As educational materials increasingly become digitized, the inability to read graphs and simulations that illustrate STEM concepts is a barrier for the visually impaired. With the help of a National Science Foundation CAREER award, Dr. Jenna Gorlewicz, assistant professor of mechanical engineering, and her team will create graphics and simulations that can be felt and heard using low-cost systems such as TouchDesigner.

A new SLU research center dedicated to conducting applied research and disseminating results to education stakeholders across Missouri opened this spring, following a grant from the Walton Family Foundation. The Policy Research in Missouri Education (PRIME) Center at the School of Education serves as a resource for state lawmakers, educators, administrators and education leaders who make critical policy decisions for K-12 education.

**GOLD FROM RECYCLEMANIA**
In the National Wildlife Federation’s campus competition RecycleMania, SLU earned gold for the total amount of electronics recycled, collecting 66,483 pounds during the eight-week event. RecycleMania also promotes reduction of renewable energy. SLU students voted to tax themselves $20 a semester to reduce their carbon footprint and help defray the cost of purchasing renewable energy certificates.

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The Saint Louis University Research Institute awarded its first round of funding in January: $1.8 million in grants to accelerate research growth at the University.

The Research Institute launched in September 2018 as part of a $50 million gift from Dr. Joanne and Ken Linkefield (CSB ’77), the largest donation in SLU history. The institute will further SLU’s goal of becoming the world’s leading Jesuit research university.

This year will enable engineers to accurately estimate volume and sedimentation rates that will, in turn, help water resources managers optimally prepare for water supply and storage needs. In addition, researchers will find solutions to the challenge of reservoir sedimentation. One approach is to use a channel to bypass water and sediment around the reservoir. This research will use computational fluid dynamics to develop guidelines for bypass channel design.

Reservoir safety and sustainability are crucial issues that are being exacerbated by aging American infrastructure, population growth and increased extreme precipitation. Current methods for analyzing reservoir capacities predate computers. Ciss will use advanced geospatial techniques to develop a new method to compute capacities. This will enable engineers to accurately estimate volume and sedimentation rates that will, in turn, help water resources managers optimally prepare for water supply and storage needs. In addition, researchers will find solutions to the challenge of reservoir sedimentation. One approach is to use a channel to bypass water and sediment around the reservoir. This research will use computational fluid dynamics to develop guidelines for bypass channel design.

THE OTHER 10 PROJECTS ARE:

**Dr. Christopher Arnatt, Assistant Professor of Chemistry**
- Equipment will be purchased for synthetic chemistry labs to automate chemical synthesis and purification.

**Dr. Debra Cashin, Digital Humanities Librarian at Fox Library**
- This grant will help create a digital research environment for the study of Vatican manuscripts, including the 37,000 being digitized from microfilm by SLU in the 1950s.

**Dr. Erin Chambers, Professor of Computer Science**
- This project aims to design more sophisticated measures that consider objects’ underlying structure, or topology, when computing similarity, quantifying or comparing shapes.

**Dr. Thomas Finnin, Associate Professor of History and Director of the Ong Center for Digital Humanities**
- This grant will launch SLU Annotation, a project that will collect, digitize and annotate information from sources such as SLU yearbooks and catalogs, Jesuit archival documents and other historical sources.

**Dr. Duane Grandgenett, Professor of Molecular Microbiology and Immunology**
- In 1978 Grandgenett discovered integrase, a piece of virus that has since become the basis for an entire class of HIV drugs. This project will continue to study integrase, aiming to reduce drug-resistant strains of HIV.

**Dr. David Letcher, Associate Professor of Computer Science**
- This grant will expand SLU’s existing base computing infrastructure to support future grant applications in computer science, social sciences, mathematics, statistics and bioinformatics.

**Dr. Marvin Meyers, Associate Professor of Chemistry**
- This grant funds a postdoctoral fellow to advance two projects: one with a parasite that causes malnutrition and diarrhea, and the second with antiviral compounds for herpes simplex and hepatitis B viruses.

**Dr. Bruce O’Neill, Associate Professor of Sociology and Anthropology**
- O’Neill will complete fieldwork below the sidewalks of post-socialist Bucharest, Romania, to track the reimagining of underground urbanism in support of an emergent middle class.

**Dr. Jeffery Scherrer, (Grad PH ’04), Professor of Family and Community Medicine**
- Scherrer will tackle questions about the effectiveness of various medications. His team also will research predictors for seeking treatment for specific conditions and studies on the outcomes of disease management.

**Dr. Fran Sverdrup, Associate Professor of Biochemistry and Microbiology**
- This grant will help fund the purchase of an Odyssey C3x, a near-infrared laserpoint scanner that will be an asset to many labs for enhancing quality and productivity.

**Dr. Nancy Weaver, Professor of Behavioral Science and Health Education**
- Weaver’s work centers on developing, implementing and evaluating injury prevention programs for caregivers of young children. Weaver is the founding director of the REACH Center (Research and Equity in Action for Child Health), a multidisciplinary collaborative led by faculty in the College for Public Health and Social Justice. Weaver also co-leads the Community Engagement Core of a recently funded NIH grant in collaboration with the Brown School at Washington University in St. Louis. This grant will help expand upon this work to understand if innovative technologies, including communication systems developed by Weaver and her team, can be widely disseminated to promote positive parenting and prevent child maltreatment. The team will explore how to best integrate these innovations into public health interventions and clinical systems.

**Dr. Christopher Prather, Assistant Professor of Sociology and Anthropology**
- “Redlining” is a discriminatory real estate practice in which mortgage lenders would draw a red line around an area on a map and then refuse to lend in those areas. This project will investigate the relationships between the 1930s era redlined zones, racial segregation and contemporary health outcomes. St. Louis provides an ideal venue to explore this relationship, given the city’s historical segregation, as well as its current deeply segregated demography. This project will test the idea that historical redlining in St. Louis simultaneously predicts contemporary segregation and the location of health care infrastructure, both of which are in turn related to health outcomes. Cardiovascular and asthma outcomes will be used to measure poor health since there is already evidence of a relationship between these illnesses and neighborhoods where patients live.

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Bees are finding refuge in urban areas — including St. Louis — and it’s good news for us all. SLU’s Dr. Gerardo Camilo and his students head into the field to collect bees and study their relationship with humans.

In the collection room in the basement of the newly renovated Macelwane Hall, Dr. Gerardo Camilo has access to drawers upon drawers of bee specimens, about 18,000 in all. But that doesn’t stop him from searching for more.

The first time he went to collect at Saint Louis University’s community garden years ago, he came across a couple of bees that weren’t on the city’s official species list, so he added them. The next week, he added a few more.

“By the middle of the summer, the city’s list had gone from 37 species to 54. From one community garden. I thought, this is ridiculous,” Camilo said.

He didn’t stop there. Bolstered by research grants, his team expanded sampling to other community gardens across the city over several years. The bee species count for St. Louis is now close to 200. And his work, confirming that native bees are thriving in urban areas, might be key to ending the pollinator crisis.

A professor of biology in the College of Arts and Sciences, Camilo has somewhat reluctantly become a pollinator crusader.

His work in the community gardens of St. Louis took off right around the time the world was learning of a bee catastrophe, colony collapse disorder, in which honeybee populations were mysteriously vanishing.

It made big news, especially because the species pollinates food that people everywhere rely on. But while media coverage focused attention largely on honeybees, Camilo knew that they aren’t the only ones that count; there are around 20,000 species of bees, and they pollinate about a third of the crops humans use for food, beverages and more. And unfortunately, colony collapse disorder wasn’t the only peril bees faced. Pesticide use, industrial agriculture, even climate change — all of these threaten bees and other pollinators. Communicating this information has become a major focus of Camilo’s work, right up there with collecting bees.

“I didn’t get into ecology or conservation to save anything,” he said. “I do what I do because I like nature and I like insects, and it kills me that we’re in the pickle we’re in. It breaks my heart.”
Camilo has always been big into bugs.

“As a little kid growing up in Puerto Rico, I chased every bug, every little critter, lizards, frogs,” he said. “My mom hoped I’d outgrow the bug phase. I never did.”

From the start, he found a way to turn his love into his livelihood.

“An American lady lived down the street from us. One day she came screaming out of her house: There was a lizard inside! Now, it’s a tropical environment — we have lizards everywhere. I went in with a friend and caught the lizard. She gave us $5. Mind you, this is 1973 or ’74. We proceeded to collect lizards everywhere and toss them in her yard,” he said, grinning.

He went to college thinking he’d study marine sciences and happened to take an entomology course only because it fit into his schedule.

“After a couple of weeks… marine sciences, what’s that?” he said.

He started chasing bugs again.

His first paycheck as an entomologist was for taking care of honeybees. After that, he widened his scope to social insects: ants, termites and more. He even discovered a species of walking stick insects while working in Puerto Rico.

After getting his Ph.D. from Texas Tech University, Camilo looked for an academic position in the United States. A friend from graduate school was on faculty at Washington University, which meant that St. Louis was on his radar.

“From the moment I arrived here, it’s been a great place to be,” Camilo said. “Right away, I started collaborating with the Saint Louis Zoo, and I’m now a conservation fellow there. I also have good working relationships with the Missouri Department of Conservation, the Missouri Botanical Garden and the other universities in town. My time at Saint Louis University has been extremely productive.”

Camilo believes his success might have had something to do with SLU’s Jesuit tradition.

“I don’t think the kind of research I do would have been as successful if I weren’t at a Jesuit institution,” he said. “Jesuits are awesome because they’re true believers of taking your scholarly research down the path that it dictates, not the other way around.”

Camilo’s research path has taken him into the field again and again. But in his experience, the “field” can be in a community garden, an urban park or even a cemetery.

“The worst place to learn science is in a classroom. You learn science by seeing and doing,” Camilo said.

“When I take students to the field, I’m taking them so they can see and understand the social, economic and even ethnic dynamics of this food-producing system. Not just the bee part but an entire history.”

His team of researchers — which includes graduate and undergraduate students — learns quickly that they are subject to the impulses of the insects. Of course, bees are out in warmer months, so most collecting happens over the summer.

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**Backyard Bees**

How can you help save the bees?

“*The motto in my lab is ‘help people help bees,’”* Dr. Gerardo Camilo said. Here’s his advice for creating a bee-positive environment in your space, whether that’s a small plot in a community garden or a vast suburban yard.

**Plant natives, period.**

- Don’t mulch, or mulch a lot less, because bees need exposed, open soil.

**Mow less. Take a break every other weekend. Let it get a little bit wild. Let those native violets and dandelions come out a little bit.**

**Be extremely aware of your use of pesticides. Camilo won’t tell you not to use them because there are reasons to, he said. But be careful. Follow the specific directions for usage. Don’t just spray haphazardly.**

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Camilo specializes in bionomy, the application of statistical analysis to biological data.

“In astonishment at how quickly he can take something we observed in nature and make it mathematical,” Riehn said. Specifically, Camilo is interested in spatial ecology: He studies species in relation to the spaces they occupy. As he collected bees across St. Louis and crunched the data; I interpreted it. And I learned how to communicate the value of what I was doing, why I was killing something in order to protect it.”

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“In other parts of the city, that kind of space is harder to find. Community gardens tend to sprout up in places where the land isn’t being developed for other things, whether that’s farmland or commercial or residential real estate. Camilo, who lives near campus in one of the oldest neighborhoods in St. Louis, is critical of the way land tends to be used in this country, including the typical American yard. “The problem with the way we grow lawns in the United States is that you end up with this very thick mat of essentially rotting vegetation,” he said. “It’s pointless.”

And then, he said, we start to worry about what the neighbors will think. “We have this aesthetic sensitivity about how the nature around our homes should look, and we’ve codified these sensitivities into neighborhood associations. How high can you keep your lawn? How many trees can you put in your yard, and what kind? The collective set of decisions leads to standardization across the spatial regime,” he said. “We call it homogeneity.” On a larger scale, Americans also have homogenized the way we farm.

“We were农业 in the last 50 years than in the pre

After more than two decades educating and researching at Saint Louis University, Camilo’s lab has partnered with the St. Louis Audubon Society’s Bring Conservation Home program, which helps area property owners restore native plant and animal habitat on their land. The program gave the researchers access to two large data sets: one of homeowners across the area, and another of geographic information about vegetation.

“It’s a symbiotic relationship,” said Trey Hull (Grad PH ’18), a graduate student in Camilo’s lab. “We have the scientific expertise, but not the ability to gather people. The Audubon Society gives us the approachability, and we’ll produce the research.”

Camilo’s research team is only a couple months into this project, which he predicts could last as long as a decade. “Our big focus is on pollinators, obviously, but it’s an ecosystem; everything supports everything else,” Hull explained. “One of the things I enjoy about being in this lab is we’re looking at from both sides. If you increase biodiversity, is that helping pollinators? Or conversely, how does the lack of biodiversity affect them?”

Camilo said, “It always comes back to spatial patterning, how it affects issues of diversity. And then how people layer on top of that.”

In addition to the broad reach of the Audubon Society project, Camilo also operates at the individual level. He participates in citizen-science projects, teaching lay people to help collect bees. “Many people are aware of the pollinator crisis and may have a rudimentary idea of the overall impact, but recent research has shown that most people can’t identify most bees, or how this crisis affects them personally,” Camilo said. He has a bigger goal in mind. “We need to develop a national pollinator conservation policy,” he said. “Effective policy changes come about as a consequence of knowledge and understanding, and that starts with education.”

Riehn is a newer to the topic in St. Louis. For two summers, she collected close to 900 bees, about 25 unique species — and her experience was invaluable. “I’ve actually done something in undergrad beyond just going to class,” she said. “I put on my hiking boots and grabbed my butterfly net, and made it happen. I collected data; I interpreted it. And I learned how to communicate the value of what I was doing, why I was killing something in order to protect it.”

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Camilo has no plans to stop anytime soon. There are more fields to visit, more bees to collect. The next step is mapping pollinators in the area on a greater scale.

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In addition to the broad reach of the Audubon Society project, Camilo also operates at the individual level. He participates in citizen-science projects, teaching lay people to help collect bees. “Many people are aware of the pollinator crisis and may have a rudimentary idea of the overall impact, but recent research has shown that most people can’t identify most bees, or how this crisis affects them personally,” Camilo said. He has a bigger goal in mind. “We need to develop a national pollinator conservation policy,” he said. “Effective policy changes come about as a consequence of knowledge and understanding, and that starts with education.”

After more than two decades educating and researching at Saint Louis University, Camilo has no plans to stop anytime soon. There are more fields to visit, more bees to collect. 
Long before “Obamacare” became a buzzword, when nurses were plentiful and vaccines were notable for their creation and not up for debate, four colleagues from Saint Louis University School of Law met for drinks at a bar near campus. It was 1981, 15 years after the Social Security Act Amendments created Medicare and Medicaid, the latter of which was just being implemented across all 50 states. Law professors Jesse Goldner, Sandra Johnson, Nia Terry and Mike Wolff did not set out to stake a claim in an entirely new legal field — but in fact, that was just what they did.

With a few scribbles on a now legendary cocktail napkin, the professors created the Saint Louis University School of Law Center for Health Law Studies and set out to define the field of health law.

Now in its fourth decade, the Center for Health Law Studies has been ranked a top program nationally since U.S. News & World Report started ranking the specialty, taking the top spot for 15 of the last 16 years and outranking programs at Harvard Law, Boston University and Yale. Nearly two-thirds of SLU’s incoming law students choose the school because of the center’s national reputation. “With the steadfast support of our dean, Rudy Hasl, we got in just as that field was building, and we were on the earlier side of entry,” said Sandra Johnson (A&S ’73), professor emerita of the School of Law. “We had some foresight and vision. We had some building blocks in place.”

Among those building blocks was Wolff’s nascent health law course, taught out of a binder he had put together, and Goldner’s joint appointment with Saint Louis University School of Medicine, where he offered a course on law and psychiatry. Prior to the center’s creation, health law was commonly thought of in terms of medical malpractice. It is now known as the wide body of law that regulates the provision of health care services and governs the relationship between those who provide health care and those who receive it. School of Law faculty soon realized that health law touched upon many areas of practice, and created the curriculum with that in mind. “We had a bunch of people on the faculty who all had different interests related to what is now thought of as health law,” said Goldner, the John D. Valentine Professor of Law Emeritus. “Sandy with elder law, Mike with an interest in pediatrics and myself with psychiatry. Together we had the beginnings of a center. We had just never thought about it as a program.”

After nearly four decades, SLU’s premier health law program continues to attract students and draw accolades.

— BY JESSICA CICCONE
ILLUSTRATION BY RICHARD MIA
The napkin that started it all

"I thought, now I know what I am doing, now I know what we did. That was born. A pinnacle of the health law world now is a place where thoughtful approach to partnerships in academia, the legal community and community health organizations are energized. The foundation for progress was created a health law alumni network. It is now more than 1,000 strong and spans across the country with alumni in high-profile positions, influencing policy and making changes.

"Our graduates are all over the place — policy-making positions, public interest positions, law firms,” Johnson said. “They always have been in the best places, and they have great stories and they think the long-term impact has been on the students.”

The workshop quickly became a hallmark of the program that prides itself on mentorship and collegiality across the entire health law field.

“SLU set the tone,” said Malcolm Harkins (Law ’76), former president at Proskauer Rose in Washington, D.C., and adjunct professor at SLU law school. “It has always amazed me how willing someone like Sandy Johnson was to help other schools while they were developing that. The whole curriculum.”

"When I see our alumni, I know that they have been trained well,” said Christine (Kcotti) McCoy (Law ’74), executive vice president and general counsel at Ascension health system. “They have that foundation and that understanding.”

SEMESTER IN D.C.

The faculty

High praise of the center’s faculty is a common theme among practicing lawyers and alumni alike. And the praise is not unwarranted. The center’s faculty literally wrote the book on health law. Johnson was part of the first team to co-author Health Law Cases, Materials & Problems, the casebook that helped define health law as a specialty. The book has been cited by the U.S. Supreme Court and a host of other courts, and is now in its eighth edition. Thomas “Tim” Greaney, the Chester A. Myers Professor of Law Emeritus and former co-director of the center, was a longtime co-author of the book, which is now additionally authored by Gatter and Elizabeth Pendo, along with six others in the field.

"The faculty are great,” said Lauren Pair (Law ’19). “The open-door policy has been a huge help to me. To be able to talk to professors about career advice or personal advice makes a big difference.”

Taking a fresh approach to the University’s mission of educating the whole person, the center’s faculty members incorporate students in their scholarship and work to move the needle on important health issues.

Sidney D. Watson, the Jane and Bruce Robert Professor of Law, teaches a popular course on grassroots advocacy where students research and advocate proposed state legislation involving access to healthcare.

STUDENT-DRIVEN MISSION

From the beginning, the founding professors created a student-centric mission that permeated the center and continues to influence the programming. Just a year after center began, the Health Law Student Association was inaugurated. It is now one of the School of Law’s largest student organizations and boasts a plethora of programming designed to give members a chance to participate in discussions with esteemed professionals and gain insight into potential career fields.

In addition, current students have the opportunity to participate in the Saint Louis University Journal of Health Law & Policy, which started in 2007. The journal is published twice a year by the center and a student editorial board. The journal provides in-depth analysis of topical and developing issues in health law and policy. One issue each year is devoted to the publication of the proceedings of the center’s annual symposium, which is now in its 31st year.

STRONG ALUMNI NETWORK

Envisioning that a high degree of engagement with health law practice and the health care policy system would lead to better teaching, better scholarship and more opportunities for students, the center formed a health law alumni network. It is now more than 1,000 strong and spans across the country with alumni in high-profile positions, influencing policy and making changes.

"Our graduates are all over the place — policy-making positions, public interest positions, law firms,” Johnson said. “They always have been in the best places, and they have great stories and they think the long-term impact has been on the students.”

"We had an entire class on the Stark Law and the Anti-Kickback Statute, where we just picked apart those two statutes and implementing regulations for a full semester and learned why it makes health care business just so much more high risk,” Natarajan said. “It was unbelievable to have that working knowledge going into practice.”

That kind of preparation is noted by employers and alumni in high-profile positions across the country.

"When I see our alumni, I know that they have been trained well,” said Christine (Kcotti) McCoy (Law ’74), executive vice president and general counsel at Ascension health system. “They have that foundation and that understanding.”

"Our students are so well trained by our faculty,” Harkins said. “Even though they don’t know it, when they first get there they are heads-and-shoulders above the other interns.”

"Faculty use their scholarship to bring light to regional issues,” said Amy Sanders (Law ’03), associate director of the center. “They have the ability to toggle between the big and small picture, and that makes them very successful in the field.”

"When I am not the director, I will be so proud that, though many of the originals won’t be around, without a hitch we have been able to offer the same rigor, the same level of excellence,” Watson said.

This sentiment is reflected in the work of the center and especially evident at this year’s Health Law Symposium. Presenter Dayna Brown Mathews, the William L. Matheson and Robert M. Morgenthau Distinguished Professor of Law at the University of Virginia, summarized it well: “This is in truth the best health law program in the country with the best health law people doing the best health law.”

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"Our students are so well trained by our faculty,” Harkins said. “Even though they don’t know it, when they first get there they are heads-and-shoulders above the other interns.”
The music is catchy, the moves are sharp, and the costumes — from multicolor sequins to tartan plaid — are fabulous. One afternoon in February, six of SLU’s student dance groups took to the stage in Xavier Theatre to show off their skills and celebrate all things dance at SLU.

These six groups exemplify today’s Saint Louis University dance community: diverse, enthusiastic and growing. In recent years, the number of dance teams on campus has climbed, and today, nearly a dozen groups bring an impressive range of dance styles and world rhythms to SLU.

The dancers themselves have a lot to say, both on stage through their choreography and musical selections, and off stage, as they talked about why they dance, some of the biggest misconceptions about the dance styles they’re so passionate about, and what they love about SLU’s dance community writ large.
Sazón // Acrobatic Salsa

Alex Ocasio (A&S ’09, Grad A&S ’12) was a SLU graduate student teaching an intro to salsa dancing class at Simon Recreation Center when he was asked to put together a Latin dance team virtually overnight for a multicultural event on campus. Embracing the challenge, Ocasio recruited some willing students, and Sazón (pronounced say-zahn), SLU’s acrobatic salsa team, was formed. Today, the team has nearly 40 members.

What exactly is acrobatic salsa? For Sazón, it means borrowing lifts, dips and tricks from many genres of dance and infusing them with Latin rhythms. Ocasio, who still leads the team, prides himself on teaching beginners how to become acrobatic performers, emphasizing proper technique and safety.

The team has attracted a diverse group of Billikens. “I have students from literally around the world — from Mexico to Chile to Peru to Iraq to the Philippines to Puerto Rico and beyond,” Ocasio said. “While a handful of the team’s members have some sort of dance background, most of the members came to the team with just an interest in Latin dance and a willingness to learn,” Ocasio said.

The team has performed on campus and off, partnering with a dance team from Washington University in St. Louis, as well as performing for a national gathering of the Girl Scouts and participating in a citywide international student event, which brought together students from five colleges.

Omkara // Classical Indian Dance

Three years ago, four students with a shared passion for classical Indian dance decided to bring the dance form — among the oldest in the world — to SLU. They started Omkara (pronounced ohm-kar-a), a dance team that is part of SLU’s Hindu Student Community. The group has since grown to 15 members.

For biology major Nisha Rao, being part of Omkara offers an opportunity to reshape people’s perceptions.

“A lot of people view traditional Indian dance as something outdated, but we’re bringing new life and new light to an old art form,” Rao said.

To that end, Omkara’s performances retell stories from traditional Indian mythology and literature through a 21st-century lens.

Aiswarya Ramaswamy, a health management and biology major, explained: “We’re working on a piece that’s telling stories from Hinduism and connecting them to modern day themes, such as women’s empowerment. We’re intertwining the stories from Hinduism to how we can connect with them in our world today.”

The team’s members have been blown away by the reaction from the SLU community.

“Media sometimes portrays Indian classical dancing in a way that doesn’t reflect what it really is. It’s often portrayed as sillier than it really is. It’s actually such a rich and beautiful art,” said Juhi Nayak, a health management major. “Now that we’ve brought it to SLU, people have realized how cool classical Indian dance is rather than just associating it with what they see in movies.”

Elevation // Irish Dance

Although the Elevation Irish dance team has been on campus for about a decade, it wasn’t until a few years ago that the team decided to start entering intercollegiate competitions, taking their team to the next level. Over time, their performances have become more creative, and the team has been seeking out more ways to connect with teams from other universities. Last year, Elevation helped launch the first collegiate competition at one regional Irish dancing competition.

“That was a really big deal for us and a real landmark for Elevation” said Bridget Corcoran, Elevation president and investigative medical science major. For Corcoran, who began dancing when she was 4 and danced competitively into high school, finding others at SLU who shared her passion was a rewarding surprise.

“The best part of being in Elevation is meeting people who are just as into this weird world of Irish dancing as I am,” she said. “For those who competed in grade school or high school, it’s your whole life, and few people you’ll meet can relate to that. To come to college and meet people your age who share that is super fun. There’s a pretty big Irish dance community at SLU.”
XQuizit // Urban Dance

XQuizit (pronounced exquisite) is often called a hip-hop dance team, but health sciences student and XQuizit dancer Lauren Maalouf set the record straight.

“We’re technically an urban dance team,” she said. “Hip-hop is more specific than most people realize. It has its own culture and style of moving. Urban dance is a more general term for what people often think of as hip-hop. It represents a bunch of substyles, which are changing all the time.”

The team’s 25-plus members range from those with zero dance experience to those with experience in another style of dance and even belly dancing. That diversity comes in handy when it’s time to choreograph, and all members are encouraged to collaborate on the group’s routines.

Maalouf sees this dance diversity as a strength not only for XQuizit, but for the larger SLU dance community.

“It’s awesome that there are so many different types of dance teams,” she said. “I wish all of the teams put on more workshops. It’s really cool blending all those styles together, and everyone has a unique thing they bring to the dance team,” Maalouf said.

Before coming to SLU and auditioning for Phases, health sciences student Haley Grimes assumed she’d leave dancing behind after high school. The opportunity to continue to dance has been an unexpected highlight of her years at SLU.

While most of the Dance Team members come to the team with some classical dance training, Natalie Seidl, a communication sciences and disorders major, said the path to that training was different for each member.

“Phases has always been a safe place to dance. It’s a judgment-free zone, and all the girls are really supportive. It’s a smaller family, a tight community, and it’s really nice to get to know all these other girls I wouldn’t have met otherwise,” Seidl said.

Phases of Motion // Studio Dance

Like XQuizit, Phases of Motion’s dance style is a bit hard to define. Watching Phases perform, you might recognize elements of jazz, ballet, modern, lyrical, contemporary and tap dance — a combination that reflects the diverse dance backgrounds of the group’s 13 members.

Most of Phases’ members don’t have formal dance training; they are just people who enjoy dancing and appreciate K-pop.

“The common perception of K-pop is that it’s only fluffy, bubblegum kind of pop, like the stereotype people have when they think of boy bands or girl bands. But K-pop is unique in that the hard work and training years required to be a K-pop star are actually very intense. There are people who have been with their K-pop agency just as trainees for 10 years before they debut as a K-pop idol,” graduate student Luella Loseille (A&S ’17, Grad Ed ’19) said.

K:ODE is always looking for opportunities to collaborate with other teams, inviting members of other dance groups — and from SLU’s many a cappella groups — to perform alongside them. For Loseille, those connections with other performers are key.

“The SLU dance community has been a big part of my time here, both as an undergrad and now as a grad student,” Loseille said. “I’ve always been involved, dancing first with XQuizit and now with K:ODE. SLU is unique in that we have such diverse styles of dance available on campus, but at the same time, it’s no issue for these different styles to collaborate.

“Dance is such a creative outlet. With everything going on — with studying and classes — it’s a great way to take things off of your mind. In addition to being a great creative space, it’s a chance to get some exercise and hang out and have fun with friends,” she said.

For Seidl, that connection with teammates is everything.

“Phases has always been a safe place to dance. It’s a judgment-free zone, and all the girls are really supportive. It’s a smaller family, a tight community, and it’s really nice to get to know all these other girls I wouldn’t have met otherwise,” Seidl said.
THINKING AHEAD

Thomas Auffenberg (Law ‘80) had little trepidation about retirement but wasn’t sure what came next. During his career, he taught high school philosophy and English, practiced law for more than a decade and ran a marketing and printing business for 25 years.

Several years before retiring, he participated in a program offered by the Halftime Institute, a faith-based program out of Texas that helps retirees and soon-to-be retirees find significance in the next stage of life. Through this program, Auffenberg found his encore.

He developed the curriculum for a six-month guided journey to help people tap into their spiritual strength and find God’s voice in their retirement planning. Auffenberg grounded the program in Ignatian Spirituality with emphasis on the Examen, a form of daily prayer that helps one detect God’s presence and movements in his or her life, and by introducing Ignatian discernment, a process that assists one in hearing God’s voice in life decisions.

Auffenberg brought his idea to Christopher Collins, S.J. (Grad A&S ’01), assistant to the president for mission and identity, who, as it turned out, was contemplating outreach to mature alumni. Collins had been noticing in casual conversations an increasing number of alumni expressing uneasiness as they approached retirement. A few years ago, he offered two overnight retreats for those nearing retirement, both of which were well attended.

“Rather than operating solely out of intellect and weighing the pros and cons, the curriculum helps participants approach their retirement decision in a thorough, prayerful way,” he said. “The better you know yourself, the more aware you are of your strengths and spiritual gifts, the better you are able to hear God’s voice, the more easily you’ll find the best fit for you in your next stage of life.”

Auffenberg, who worked with SLU to establish the Contemplative Leaders in Action program for young adults, thought SLU would be a good fit for this retirement program as well. He titled the program the Next Chapter.

“The University does a wonderful job of preparing students for their careers,” Auffenberg said. “It makes perfect sense that the University would reinsert itself in our souls and gets us excited.”

The program allowed me the luxury of being contemplative during important dimensions of my life,” Digman said. “It provided an opportunity for me to reflect on my experiences and consider future options.”

The program out of Texas that helped retirees and soon-to-be retirees find significance in the next stage of life.

Auffenberg and Collins worked together to launch the Next Chapter at SLU in 2017. Digman was one of the 33 inaugural participants, all of whom were pre- and post-retirement professionals in their late 50s through late 70s. Participants met monthly for large and small group discussions guided by Auffenberg, Collins, and SLU faculty and other experts. Participants shared readings and reflections; attended six monthly meetings, including a panel presentation on volunteer opportunities and ways of researching other service possibilities; a daylong retreat; and two follow-up sessions.

“Sharing the experience with others made the journey richer because we searched together for what ignites our souls and gets us excited.”

For Digman, her journey of discernment may lead to working with a faith-based international nongovernmental organization or with orphans in developing countries.

THINKING ABOUT RETIREMENT MAKES JO-ANN (KLEBUSCH) DIGMAN’S (SW ’78, ’79) PALMS SWEAT.

The 63-year-old executive director of the St. Louis Community College Foundation said it will be hard to detach from the rewarding professional career she’s had. She served as assistant to the chancellor at Saint Louis University, district director for Sen. Christopher “Kit” Bond, caseworker for Sen. John Danforth and director of external relations for Monsanto.

“I imagine retirement is like standing at the edge of a cliff,” she said. “But when you look around the conference table and see fewer and fewer people your age, you’re forced to think about it. Some of my family and friends have retired gracefully. Others have jumped in and a year later ask, ‘What now?’ If you don’t have productive and purposeful engagement, what do you do all day?”

Thinking about retirement makes Jo-Ann (Klebusch) Digman’s (SW ’78, ’79) palms sweat.

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t the time he was contemplating retirement, Schilling had a son in a Jesuit novitiate in New York. Schilling was looking online for a retreat to learn more about the Jesuits and Ignatian spiritual exercises when he saw information about the Next Chapter and clicked on it.

“I was blessed to have found it,” said Schilling, who went through the program with his wife, Julie. They drove four hours from Burlington, Iowa, to St. Louis to attend sessions.

“I was challenged to identify not only who I am but who I want to be,” he said. “The program helped me identify my strengths and weaknesses and to shine some light on my blind spots. I learned it’s OK to do things that bring me joy and to take more quiet time to listen to the Lord.”

Auffenberg said people often are so caught up in work that they forget what truly makes them happy and fulfilled. “Reconnecting with our faith and developing greater self-awareness through thoughtful reflection is a great way to get back there,” he said. “We encourage participants to develop a habit of daily prayer to allow for this growth.”

Schilling said while he isn’t quite ready to retire, the program did in six months what he couldn’t do in five years — converse with his wife, a public health nurse administrator, to retire. Schilling said he is close behind her. When he retires, he hopes to serve as a mentor to young adults.

**TIME OUT**

Michael Schilling’s parents instilled in him a strong work ethic. Now a district court judge in the Eighth Judicial District of Iowa, he worked as a criminal lawyer, a lawyer with Inter-Tribal Legal Services and a drug court judge. The idea of free falling into retirement with no plan provoked anxiety.

When Tony DiLeo (Law ’79) contemplated retirement, he thought about his father, an OB-GYN who retired at 65. “Although he planned well financially for his retirement, I’m not sure he devoted enough time to plan how he was going to spend his time during retirement,” said DiLeo, a retired senior tax counsel for Ameren. “I wanted to put a lot of thought into it. I wanted a structured process to help me determine what retirement would look like.”

DiLeo, a devout Catholic, chose the Next Chapter due in large part to the program’s spiritual core. He also liked taking a structured approach to retirement. (See sidebar.)

Collins said in addition to nourishing participants, he hopes the Next Chapter brings alumni closer to the University’s mission of serving others.

“T’ll think it would be neat to see our alumni and other participants continue making contributions to the region, to feel somewhat empowered by the University to do this,” Collins said. “The ripple effects would be tremendous.”

Auffenberg said he would like to see the Next Chapter offered by other Jesuit and Catholic universities across the country. For more information about the program, contact Auffenberg at tauffenberg@contemplativeleaders.org.

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**TURNING OFF THE LIGHTS**

Rene Lusser (Cook ’60, Law ’62), age 81, thought he’d die with his boots on, but after practicing law for 57 years — the last 10 as an advocate for abused children in the St. Louis County Juvenile Court system — he began to reconsider. He was worn out by the daily stresses but didn’t know how to stop.

“S o much of my self-worth has come from my identity as a lawyer,” he said. “When people ask me what I do for a living, I say trial lawyer, and they say, ‘Oh, that’s wonderful.’ When my contemporaries say they’re retired, it’s almost with a down tone. That’s what concerned me. If I’m not a lawyer, what am I? What am I going to do? I like working with flowers, but you can’t do that all year.”

Lusser read an invitational article about the Next Chapter in the St. Louis Review, the St. Louis Archdiocese’s weekly newspaper.

“During the course of the program, I discerned that there was more that God wanted me to do,” he said. “When I finally turn off the lights in my law office, there are other ‘rooms’ I can walk into. I can still have a life with purpose.”

After participating in the Next Chapter, Lusser planned to retire in December 2018. He missed the target but not by much. He has slowed down considerably. He wants to have a better sense of what their retirement might look like at the end of the program. He wants them to have a written plan and a process for updating it as the circumstances of their lives change. Participants start with a personal mission statement, and he works them through the discernment process with targeted completion dates. He challenges participants to identify:

Who am I now?

What do I do now?

What decisions do I need to pray/dream/discuss about in order to hear God’s voice?

Who do God and I want me to be in my next chapter?

What traits do God and I want me to retain, lose behind or develop in my next chapter?

What activities do God and I want me to retain, lose behind or develop in my next chapter?

What obstacles will I face in accomplishing my plan?

Who or what will assist me in accomplishing my plan?

What are the things I need to do between now and the start of my next chapter to accomplish my plan?

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**TOGETHER WE GO**

**INSPIRED RETIREMENT**

When Tony DiLeo (Law ’79) contemplated retirement, he thought about his father, an OB-GYN who retired at 65. “Although he planned well financially for his retirement, I’m not sure he devoted enough time to plan how he was going to spend his time during retirement,” said DiLeo, a retired senior tax counsel for Ameren, “I wanted to put a lot of thought into it. I wanted a structured process to help me determine what retirement would look like.”
1952
Clifford Hackett (A&S) published a biography of Jean Monnet, founder of the European Union. He also wrote several earlier volumes on Monnet and the origins of the EU. After 10 years in the Foreign Service and three in the U.S. Army, Hackett spent 15 years on Capitol Hill, working for both House and Senate members on foreign affairs. He keeps in touch with other members of SLU's class of 1952, including Bob Bringer (A&S) and Marshall Nickl (A&S), both now active on the University News.

1961

1965
Dr. Edward Chow (A&S) was appointed to his eighth term on the San Francisco Health Commission in January 2018 and serves as its president as well as chairman of the Zuckerman San Francisco General Hospital Joint Conference Committee.

1964
Kathleen (Brady) Andri (A&S '64) has 15 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren, and a math tutor other half-time. She lives in Akron, Ohio.

1965
Theodore Biondo (A&S) worked with the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement in St. Louis, where he currently lives with his wife, Patricia Biondo. James Michel (A&S) wrote the 2018 report “Trasitional Integrity: An Essential Building Block of Sustainable Reform.” He lives in Falls Church, Virginia.

1972
Nadine (visitor) with Barth Fraker and Sharon Braches of the Missouri Arts Council. Cecilia Halal (A&S) founded and executive director of Galata Productions, is the first African American in St. Louis to receive the Missouri Arts Award for Arts Leadership.

1974
Jim Henschel (A&S) was interviewed on a Higher Education program called Frames about his documentary, Blood Brothers, a five-part program on gun violence in St. Louis. The project is currently funded by a grant to Saint Louis University from the Institute of Medical Education and Research.

1975
Dr. Robert G. Alloo (A&S) wrote in the Warrant of the Lineage: The Untold Story of the Unkent Partnership of Sir Walter Scott and His Lawyer, John Gibson, W.S. Alloo lives in Los Altos, California.

1976
Karen Schmidt-Foeller (A&S) was honored the 2018 Emerson Excellence in Teaching Awards. She teaches math and Latin at Althoff Catholic College Preparatory High School in Belleville, Illinois.

1978
Terry Blake (A&S) retired as president of UMR Accounting Services and lives in St. Louis.

A BLIKEN’S TABLE
ALUMNI SHARING KNOWLEDGE
SLU alumni are invited to host a dinner for current SLU students in your area of study and share your knowledge and advice. The next round of meal dates will be held in October. To learn more, please visit alumni.slu.edu/ablakensetable.
Dr. Chris Callahan \( \text{(SCL '90)} \) was a finalist for the Indianapolis Business Journal's 2019 Health Care Heroes award. Callahan was the founding director of the Indiana University Center for Aging Research, and he serves as the chief research and development officer at Elon Health, where he also directs the Health Brain Patient Safety Learning Laboratory.

In 1987, Patricia E. Freas \( \text{(LAW '92)} \) retired in July 2018 after a career in nursing. She lives in Arnold, Missouri.

In 1988, Lindsay Hugi \( \text{(MED '88)} \) served as a publisher for newspapers in New Mexico and Nebraska and as an editor at publications in Las Vegas, North Carolina, New York and Delaware. The Langhels live four children and three labradors.

In 1989, Erin O’Loughlin \( \text{(GRAD-ED '91, '93)} \) chaired the 2019 Leukemia and Lymphoma Gateway Society’s Hunt for a Cure, the largest egg hunt in Missouri.

In 1990, Rob Langrell \( \text{(GRAD-ED '94)} \) served as a publisher for newspapers in New Mexico and Nebraska and as an editor at publications in Las Vegas, North Carolina, New York and Delaware. The Langhels live four children and three labradors.

In 1991, Dr. Kristo Kindler \( \text{(GRAD-ED '95, '99)} \), an assistant professor of educational leadership at Maryville University, was honored at the 2018 Emerson Excellence in Teaching Awards in November. He lives in Elsberry, Missouri.

In 1992, Steven Pory \( \text{(GRAD-ED '94)} \) was installed as canon residual and associate dean at the Cathedral Church of All Saints in Milwaukee in October. He also was “head n” as a fellow of the Burgoon Society, an international society for the study of academic dress, based on a paper he wrote, “Appropriate Hoods: The Development of Academic Dress at Nazareth House Theological Seminary.”

George Brill \( \text{(GRAD '90)} \) Brill, a member of SLU’s board of trustees, is founder and CEO of SantaTech Innovations Inc., a leader in the transmission of secure information over the Internet. He began his career with McDonnell Douglas, where he developed a secure, electronic collaboration platform. Brill also has experience with a start-up, where for a new market now known as the Internet. In addition to technology, he is a partner in Sonus Resources, a double god win model at the 2019 San Francisco World Sports Competition.

Dr. Pamela Z. Cacchione \( \text{(GRAD-NURS '91, '93)} \) Callahan is a lifelong nursing professor at Penn Presbyterian Medical Center. She is editor of the international journal, Clinical/Nursing Research.

Dr. William Ka-Lun Choi \( \text{(GRAD-ED '94)} \) Choi has operated a clinic in Taipei for more than 20 years. He is also a founding member and past president of the Chinese Christian Dental Services, an organization that provides dental care to orphans and underserved patients. Choi was one of more than 100 dental mission trip to countries including China, India, Nigeria, Kenya and Myanmar. He collects and refurbishes pre-owned dental equipment to send to countries establishing dental clinics.

Dr. Don W. Cook \( \text{(GRAD-ED '95, '99)} \) Cook is CEO of Capital International Communications, a telecommunications distributor and manufacturer of consumer products. He has been recognized as one of the Top 25 African-American Companies in St. Louis, Missouri and the St. Louis “100 Fastest Growing” family-owned and operated business.

Dr. William M. Klepper \( \text{(GRAD-ED '96, GRAD-ADS '17)} \) Klepper has custom designed education programs for A&J, Pfiar, Sony and many other corporations. He is the faculty director of the partnerships with the Financial Times Outward Bound Exchange on corporate governance. Klepper has been vice president of the College of New Jersey, president of his county legislature and mayor of his township.
W. Raymond Barrett (CSR ’60)
INVENTOR AND ENTREPRENEUR
By Marie Dilg

1934 Barrett is born in north St. Louis City. His family owns above their father’s tavern. His mom asks him to watch over dice and card games to spot cheaters.

“I could pick out a crooked dice and a stacked deck in a minute.”

1940-47 A budding entrepreneur in elementary school at St. Matthew’s, he polishes shoes and tries to sell old lamps for twice what he paid.

“Most often, I didn’t get my money back.”

1953 Barrett is drafted and sent to Korea. He volunteers to be a boxer because Army athletes are excused from patrol. After receiving one good punch to the head by a soldier nearly twice his size, Barrett opts for a job running a Post Exchange (PX).

1960 Barrett uses his G.I. benefits and graduates from SLU with a scholastic probation nearly every semester. He launches his first business, Landshire (a pork meat processing plant in Killeen, Texas). He sells drug stores, bowling alleys and schools.

2007 Barrett sells Landshire to Southland Corporation, 7-Eleven’s parent company. A year later, he establishes Biomedical Systems Corp. and builds it into a global technology firm that accelerates clinical trials.

1963-68 He serves on the Florissant, Missouri, City Council.

2017 Barrett strikes a deal with Callaway to distribute the golf ball. He sells Biomedical Systems and retires to spend more time with his family and race horses.

“I enjoyed my jobs, but they were just that, jobs. I kept a clean line between work and home. My family always comes first.”

2019 Phil Mickelson secures his fifth title at the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am with the help of Barrett’s Triple Track golf ball.

1977 Barrett sells Landshire to Southland Corporation, 7-Eleven’s parent company. A year later, he establishes Biomedical Systems Corp. and builds it into a global technology firm that accelerates clinical trials.

He is among a select group of U.S. business people who built from scratch two successful, unrelated international companies.

“If you don’t innovate, you die.”

2008 His practice focuses on intellectual property litigation in the areas of patents, trademark, copyrights and copyrights. He lives in St. Louis.

2007 He meets Jeannine Embree, whom he later marries, and has four children. Two will graduate from SLU School of Law. Jeannine dies in 2004.

1992 LeeAnn J. Funk, (BA ’96, GRAD ’98) received the 2018 “Maccubin Person of the Year” award from the Maccubin Chamber of Commerce in Illinois. This award is given to individuals who have above and beyond volunteering for the community.

1995 Barry Julian (LAW), a founding partner of Goor, Julian and Associates, was appointed an associate justice on Madison County, Illinois. Julian retired from the law firm in 2015.

1997 This award is given to one of the “Best Entrepreneurs in Companies in America” by entrepreneur magazine. Burns lives in Manchester, Missouri.

2000 Laura Thomas (LAW), a math teacher at Lindbergh High School in St. Louis, was honored at the 2018 Emerson Excellence in Teaching Awards in November.

2004 Dr. Sally Beth Lyon (BAS ’93, LAW) was honored at the 2018 Emerson Excellence in Teaching Awards in November.

2007 Kiyoko Enomoto, (LAW), was named to the influential Nelson’s Guide to Buying and Running Your Dental Practice.

2007 Brian Quinn (CSR ’96, LAW) is currently a partner at Husch Blackwell. He is also president of the Missouri chapter of the American Health Lawyers Association. Quinn practices out of the firm’s St. Louis office.

2007 Kiyoko Enomoto (CSB 03, LAW) is a partner at Husch Blackwell. She is chief legal officer at Clayco. He is currently a partner at Husch Blackwell. She lives in Kansas City, Missouri.

Grant Hable (LAW) was elected mayor of Crestwood, Missouri, in November.

Jonathan Todd (LAW ’06, GRAD ’18) is a partner with Brooks, Friedlander, Coplan and Arrocco. He practices out of the firm’s Cleveland office in its transportation and logistics group.

2009 Andrew Bell (LAW), an attorney with the firm Hindawi and Culbertson, received the Jure Verdicti Reporter’s 2018 Trail Lawyer Excellence Award. He lives in Pekin, Illinois.

2009 Brad Burns (CSR) owns Wayne Contracting, a commercial general-contracting firm based in the St. Louis area. In 2018 Wayne Contracting worked on 50 states, Puerto Rico and 6 provinces in Russia. He was recently recognized as one of the “Best Entrepreneurs in Companies in America” by entrepreneur magazine. Burns lives in Manchester, Missouri.

Amanda Cohen (LAW) is a partner at the law firm Bryan Cave Leighton Paull. He specializes in labor and employment law and class action defense. She lives in Belton, Missouri.

2010 Emily West (CSB) is a partner at Lathrop Gage practicing business litigation, labor and employment law. She lives in St. Louis.

2010 Brittany (Elmo) Falborski (LAW) is a partner at Husch Blackwell. She practices labor and employment law from the firm’s St. Louis office.

Michael P. Sever (CSB ’13, LAW) is a partner at Husch Blackwell. He specializes in labor and employment law. Sever practices labor and employment law from the firm’s St. Louis office.

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How to submit:
EMAIL: universitas@slu.edu
MAIL: Saint Louis University
One N. Grand Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63103

BILIKEN GREAT: CONTEMPORARY
Honors student-athletes from 1989 to present

Calum Angus (A&S ’09), a native of England, is one of the leading defenders in SLU women’s soccer history. A two-time United Soccer Coaches All-American, Angus helped guide the Billikens to NCAA Tournament appearances in 2006, 2007 and 2008. He was voted the 2007 Atlantic 10 Conference Defender of the Year. Following his graduation, Angus played professionally in the United States, Sweden, and India.

Hailie Elmore (A&S ’10, Grad A&S ’14) is one of the top student-athletes in SLU women’s tennis history. Her program’s all-time leader in singles (193) and doubles (74) victories, she was a four-time All-Conference selection and was voted the A-10's Most Outstanding Performer twice. Elmore also was the A-10 women’s tennis Student-Athlete of the Year and an A-10 Postgraduate Scholarship recipient.

Bridge Fonke Forshaw (CSB ’10) was a key member of the volleyball team during its most successful era. Her teams advanced to the NCAA Tournament in 2006, 2008 and 2009 and won two A-10 Championships. Forshaw earned American Volleyball Coaches Association All-America honorable mention accolades and was named Most Outstanding Player of the 2008 A-10 Championship.

Kristin Nicodetti Shehata (CSB ’10) was SLU’s softball’s first All-Region player, garnering second-team honors as a senior. She still holds school marks for career hits, stolen bases, at-bats and games started while ranking second in runs and fourth in total bases. Shehata was selected to the CoSIDA Academic All-District first team and the Atlantic 10 All-Academic team during her junior and senior years.

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Mr. Sebastian Lo Presti {SW '59}
Mr. Leo Esswein {IT '58}
Mr. Theodore Laitala Jr. {PC '57}
Mr. W. Christopher Jr. {PH '57}
Mr. John "Jack" Auer Jr. {IT '65}
Mrs. Carolyn (Orange) Stohr {A&S '61}
Ms. Karen Haig Thebeau {CSB '62}
Mr. Lester Milligan {CSB '62}
Mr. Glen Murphy {LAW '62}
Dr. John Scharf {MED '62}
Dr. Robert Steinman {PC '62}
Mr. Victor Thomas {ED '62}
Dr. Charles Reaume {DENT '59}
Mr. Stanley Iwanski {PH '67}
Mr. Henry Schaufus {PC '66}
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Mr. Theodore Klingen Jr. {A&S '64}
Mr. Joseph Feld {A&S '64}
Mr. John "Jack" Auer Jr. {IT '65}
Mr. Victor Thomas {ED '62}
Dr. Melvin Ricks {DENT '67}
Mr. Joseph Cefalu {CSB '67}
Mr. Paul Stinebring {PC '63}
Mr. John Beulick {LAW '88}
Mr. Bogdan Wozniak {PC '87}
Dr. Larry Higgins {ED '84}
Dr. Peggy Winscott {MED '84}
Mr. John "Jack" Galmiche III {CSB '70}
Mr. John "Jack" Auer Jr. {IT '65}
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*

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Accelerating Excellence
Campaign Update

In November 2018, SLU publicly launched Accelerating Excellence: The Campaign for Saint Louis University, a historic $500 million fundraising effort designed to propel SLU to national prominence by enhancing its position as a world-class research university.

The campaign has seen broad support from alumni. To date, more than 17,200 alumni have made financial gifts to the University, garnering $331.5 million toward the $500 million goal — $29 million of which has come from gifts under $10,000. This enthusiastic response helped SLU achieve the highest fundraising year in its history in 2018, and has put the University on course for another record-breaking year.

“We are extremely grateful for the exciting alumni have shown and their willingness to invest in SLU’s next century,” said Sheila Manion, vice president for development. “Whether large commitments, bequests or more nominal monthly sustaining gifts, every gift counts. SLU cannot achieve such an ambitious goal without our alumni. And the impact of this support on our students, campus and community in the future will be immeasurable.”

While gifts may be designated to any SLU project or program, campaign priorities focus on providing greater scholarships; strengthening the academic profile of all schools and colleges, especially the Richard A. Chaifetz School of Business; improving the resources and facilities available to student-athletes to elevate the reputation and visibility of Billiken athletics; and enhancing the scope and impact of health sciences research and education.

To learn more about campaign priorities, their impact or how to support the campaign, visit: slu.edu/campaignforSLU.

GOOD ADVICE
In 1988, then new SLU President Emeritus Michael A. Biondi, S.J., delivered the commencement address and among the honorary degree recipients was legendary Broadway producer David Merrick (Law ’37). Since that time, commencement speakers have included First Lady Barbara Bush (1990), Nightline anchor Ted Koppel (1991); Meet the Press moderator Tim Russert (1999); CNN anchor Wolf Blitzer (2004), baseball legend Yogi Berra (2007); author Jamal Martin, S.J. (2010) and chess grandmaster Garry Kasparov (2015).

LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION
Saint Louis University’s 1988 commencement ceremony (pictured above) was held at the St. Louis Arena, previously known as the Checkerdome. In 1995, SLU commencements moved to the new Kiel Center downtown, now known as the Enterprise Center. When Chaifetz Arena opened in 2008, the main, all-school ceremony finally returned to campus where it has remained ever since.

A MATTER OF DEGREES
On May 21, 1988, SLU conferred more than 1,350 degrees at the commencement ceremony. On May 18, 2019, SLU conferred 2,516 degrees — 1,460 bachelor’s degrees, 572 master’s degrees, 222 doctoral degrees; 178 medical degrees and 144 law degrees. The 2019 graduates represented 50 states and 47 foreign countries.

POMP AND CEREMONY
The University’s mace, which had been commissioned in 1987, made its spring commencement debut at the 1988 ceremony. The mace, which represents the Catholic, Jesuit and urban influences that distinguish SLU, is a sign of the president’s authority and is open at all University formal academic occasions. Handcrafted in France by St. Louis artisans at Architectural Bronze Studios Inc., the names of every University president, from Verhaegen to Pestello, are inscribed on the handle.

The colorful attire worn by graduates, faculty, trustees and officers of the University has historic roots in medieval times. Each degree (master’s, doctoral) has its special hood, which varies in length and 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 a blue chevron on a field of white.

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Pioneering a remarkable future for all.

ACCELERATING EXCELLENCE

The Campaign for SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY

www.slu.edu/campaignforslu