

UNIVERSITAS

THE ALUMNI MAGAZINE OF SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY

—
SPRING
2022

The Heat of the Moment

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We greeted 2022 with hope — energized by our University’s incredible accomplishments, even as we were saddened by the loss of two cherished community members.

By the time you read this issue, you will have received the 2021 Saint Louis University President’s Report. This report highlights SLU’s exceptional work in academics, research and patient care. In 2021, we set records in giving, strengthened our enrollment, enhanced inclusion and equity efforts, contributed meaningfully to the revitalization of Midtown St. Louis, and continued to live our Jesuit mission through all that we do.

We owe our accomplishments to the Saint Louis University community members who came before us. Sadly, at the end of 2021, we said goodbye to two of our greats. Mary Bruemmer and Father John Padberg, S.J., showed us what it means to live our mission fully and with grace.

Mary Bruemmer was small in stature but nothing short of a living legend. She came to Saint Louis University as a student before World War II. She was the first female editor of *The University News* — the first of many “firsts” in her long SLU career. Mary ultimately worked with seven SLU presidents and “retired” only to continue coming to the University daily as a volunteer for more than two decades. (Read more about Mary in a special remembrance on page 35.)

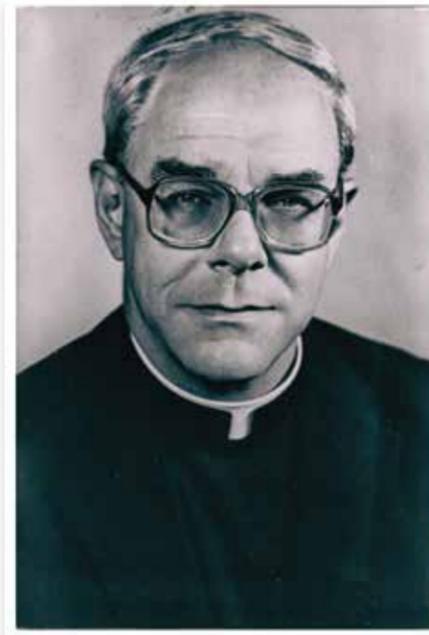
Father John Padberg was a renowned scholar of Jesuit history, a former academic vice president at SLU, a SLU trustee, and a devoted Jesuit and friend. The impact of his career as an academic leader and member of the Society of Jesus is extraordinary. (You can read more on page 36.) Notably, in his work as director of the Institute of Jesuit Sources in St. Louis, he served a critical role in the preservation and promotion of the history of the Jesuits.

These remarkable figures passed away within two days of each other — Father Padberg at 95 years old, and Mary Bruemmer at 101. Their decades of devotion to SLU leave a legacy we continue and celebrate. We see their passion for history as SLU faculty and students delve into the archive of newspapers donated by alumnus Timothy Drone (page 18). We witness their commitment to Jesuit values in the innovative projects funded by the 1818 Community Engagement Grant Program (page 21).



Bruemmer (LEFT), 1985

Padberg (BELOW), 1986



“Mary Bruemmer and Father John Padberg, S.J., showed us what it means to live our mission fully and with grace.”

I draw inspiration from these beloved Billikens in our continually challenging time. As the spring semester started, we faced yet another COVID-19 surge. It wasn’t the situation we had hoped for. But as we’ve proven over the last two years, Saint Louis University can thrive even in hard times. Our community’s expertise, care and wise action made it possible for us to learn and work together in person. Our resilience and grace, and our ability to act with the collective good in mind, made it possible to continue to advance our noble mission.

May God bless you and continue to bless Saint Louis University.

Dr. Fred P. Pestello, President

UNIERSITAS

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SLU’s 2020 graduates finally gathered for an in-person commencement ceremony on Aug. 7, 2021, at Chaifetz Arena.

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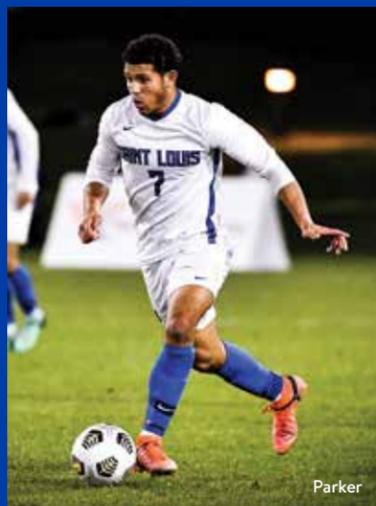
Mary Bruemmer, 1920-2021
John Padberg, S.J., 1926-2021

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THE LAST LOOK



Halvorsen



Parker

PHOTO BY BILL BARRETT

FALL SOCCER SUCCESS

WOMEN CAPTURE FOURTH STRAIGHT A-10 TITLE

SLU defeated Massachusetts in the A-10 Championship title game in November to become the first women's soccer team in league history to capture four consecutive conference tournament crowns. The Billikens placed third in the A-10 regular-season standings.

The Billikens made their sixth overall appearance — and fourth in as many years — in the NCAA Women's Soccer Championship. After beating Ole Miss in the first round, SLU lost to Rutgers.

The team finished the season with a 13-9-1 record, playing 23 games, which ties a school record.

Defender Brionna Halvorsen was selected to the 2021 NCAA Division I All-East Region third team by the United Soccer Coaches. Halvorsen collected All-Region honors for a second time, becoming the 10th Billiken women's soccer player to earn All-Region recognition more than once.

Hannah Friedrich concluded the season with 29 career goals, tying for second place on the SLU list. Friedrich added to her school-record game-winning goals total, which now stands at 15, and reached second place on the Billikens' career assists list with 35. Her 93 career points also rank second in program history.

MEN WIN A-10, MAKE NCAA QUARTERFINALS

The Billikens men's soccer team finished the season with a 16-1-4 record, advanced to the NCAA quarterfinals and captured Atlantic 10 Conference regular-season and tournament titles. SLU went through the regular season without a loss for the first time in 50 years.

The team's NCAA Men's Soccer Championship quarterfinal appearance was their first in 18 years, but the team fell to the No. 2 seed Washington Huskies. SLU finished the season ranked No. 7 in the United Soccer Coaches final poll. The Billikens' 52 goals ranked third in the NCAA this season.

John Klein led the nation in total assists (15) and assists per game (0.75). Simon Becher, the 2021 Atlantic 10 Conference Offensive Player of the Year, finished the season second in the NCAA in points (38) and sixth in goals (14).

In January, SLU became only the third team in Major League Soccer history to have four or more players selected in the first round of the MLS SuperDraft. Freshman Isaiah Parker was the third pick overall by FC Dallas. Austin FC selected Kipp Keller fifth, the Columbus Crew took Patrick Schulte 12th, and the Vancouver Whitecaps chose Becher 16th. Two more SLU players, Chandler Vaughn and Chase Niece, were selected in the third round.

In addition, United Soccer Coaches named the SLU men's soccer coaching staff NCAA Division I Southeast Region Staff of the Year. Fourth-year head coach Kevin Kalish (CSB '00) was the Atlantic 10 Conference Men's Soccer Coach of the Year.



A rendering of the new soccer facility

Billikens Soccer to Get New Locker Room Facility

Robert R. Hermann Stadium, home of the Saint Louis University men's and women's soccer programs, is receiving an upgrade with the construction of a new locker room and athletic training center building.

The 5,000-square-foot facility will be south of the scoreboard, between the field and the Laclede Avenue sidewalk. It will house two 2,000-square-foot locker rooms for the men's program and women's program; a state-of-the-art sports medicine facility; and a conference room overlooking the pitch.

Construction should be finished in time for the 2022 spring season.

"This project is made possible through the generosity of the SLU soccer community, who share our vision of providing a transformational experience for our student-athletes," Chris May, director of athletics, said. "Pairing the new facility with the recently renovated playing surface, we are continuing to make Hermann Stadium one of the finest venues in collegiate soccer."



A rendering of the O'Loughlin Family Champions Center

Billikens Introduce O'Loughlin Family Champions Center

A new campus facility that will serve all Billiken student-athletes is anticipated to open in May 2023.

The O'Loughlin Family Champions Center will deliver programming related to academic advising, spiritual development, sports performance, nutrition, wellness and sports psychology. The building will feature leading-edge technology to help deliver on the department's strategic objectives, which are to educate, compete and build community.

Bob O'Loughlin, chairman and CEO of Lodging Hospitality Management and a SLU trustee, is one of the primary benefactors of the project. Funding for the \$20 million facility will be 100% privately raised.

The 25,000-square-foot facility will be connected to Chaifetz Arena, on the northwest corner of the Arena footprint. Construction will begin this spring and is expected to be finished in time for the May 2023 commencement.



Students at midyear commencement on Dec. 18 at Chaifetz Arena

PHOTO BY STEVE DOLAN

SLU Holds Commencements in August, December

Saint Louis University's May 2020 graduates finally got to celebrate their commencement.

In August 2021, more than 600 graduates returned to St. Louis for a unique chance to take part in a ceremony that was supposed to happen 15 months earlier but had to be postponed because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

University President Dr. Fred P. Pestello praised the graduates for their ability to handle the challenges of completing their SLU education during a pandemic. He also thanked them for coming back long after they had formally left.

Dr. Tiffany Anderson (Ed '94, Grad Ed '01), the first African American female superintendent of Topeka Public Schools, delivered the commencement address. She earned national acclaim for leading a turnaround of the Jennings School District, a predominantly African American school system in suburban St. Louis that was on the verge of becoming unaccredited when she became superintendent in 2012.

Anderson and several others received honorary doctoral degrees from SLU.

St. Louis Archbishop Emeritus Robert J. Carlson received an honorary doctorate of divinity for his contributions to the growth and vitality of all the dioceses he has served, his support of Catholic education, and his commitment to St. Louis and its citizens.

The St. Louis Jesuits music group — Bob Dufford, S.J. (A&S '67, Grad '72, '75), John Foley, S.J. (A&S '68, Grad '68, '74), Tim Manion (A&S '76), Robert "Roc" O'Connor, S.J. (A&S '73) and Dan Schutte (A&S '72) — received honorary doctorates of music for offering hope, inspiring worship and raising voices. Their music is heard in most of the nation's 19,000 Catholic parishes and numerous Protestant churches.

MIDYEAR COMMENCEMENT RETURNS

Following a pandemic-caused cancellation in 2020, SLU's in-person midyear commencement ceremony returned on Dec. 18.

More than 200 graduates walked across the stage inside Chaifetz Arena. Pestello congratulated them on their achievement. "Today you join over two centuries of Billiken graduates," he said. "I am proud of you and all that you have achieved despite the hardships of the pandemic since March 2020. You have persevered. ... Be proud of all the hard work and sacrifice you have endured to get to this place."

NEW DEANS AND ADMINISTRATORS

Danielle Uy VICE PRESIDENT AND GENERAL COUNSEL



Uy joined SLU as an associate general counsel in 2008 and was promoted to senior associate general counsel in 2013. She has served on several SLU committees and task forces, including the Operational Excellence Steering Committee, and she was chosen as a SLU Woman of the Year in 2019. Uy assumed her new responsibilities on Oct. 1. She succeeds Bill Kauffman, SLU's longest-serving senior leader, who continues to work part time as senior legal counsel and secretary of the University for this fiscal year.



Donna Bess Myers (Grad Ed '99) DEAN OF STUDENTS

Myers oversees the Office of Student Responsibility and Community Standards, Academic Support, as well as the Center for Accessibility and Disability Resources (formerly known as the Office of Disability Services). Myers has supported SLU students for more than 20 years in a variety of roles, including as assistant dean of students and interim director of the Cross Cultural Center for Global Citizenship. The SLU Women's Commission named her a Woman of the Year in 2008, and she later served as the group's president.

PHOTO BY STEVE DOLAN



Garcia

University Welcomes Second-Largest Freshman Class

The 2021-22 freshman class of 1,794 students is the second-largest in Saint Louis University history — trailing 2019's record class.

Here are some more facts and figures about this year's first-year students:

- The class of 2025 has an average GPA of 3.92.
- Members of the class come from 46 American states and provinces. The top five states outside of Missouri represented are Illinois, Wisconsin, California, Ohio and Nebraska.
- Members of SLU's freshman class hail from 27 countries.
- The most popular majors are biology, nursing, exercise science, health sciences, psychology, biochemistry and "still deciding."

Overall, SLU's total enrollment of 12,883 is the largest student body since 2016.

School of Science and Engineering and Reimagined College of Arts and Sciences to Debut in July

Saint Louis University is reorganizing its College of Arts and Sciences and forming a new School of Science and Engineering to better meet the future needs of SLU students and faculty.

Four departments in Arts and Sciences — Chemistry, Computer Science, Earth and Atmospheric Sciences, and Physics — will move to the new school, which also will become home to all disciplines housed in SLU's Parks College of Engineering, Aviation and Technology.

Key goals of the reorganizations include:

- To better address student success and educational outcomes, as well as focus efforts on key diversity, equity and inclusion goals.
- To better align SLU's arts, humanities, social sciences and science programs to foster enhanced collaboration.

SLU began implementing changes during the spring semester, with the new structures going into effect on July 1, 2022.

"I am excited for the future and what these changes mean for our current and future students, for our research endeavors, and for the impressive faculty and staff working in each college now and in the future," said University Provost Dr. Michael Lewis.

The University will continue to support students in Arts and Sciences and Parks toward the completion of their chosen program of study. These changes will not impact their graduation timeline.

The changes are the culmination of a two-year process that included extensive input from stakeholders in the two colleges and across SLU's campuses, including more than 40 listening sessions and open forums with faculty, staff, students and administrators to receive feedback.

The University will continue to honor the legacy of Oliver "Lafe" Parks, who donated his aviation school to SLU in 1946 with the Parks Department of Aviation Science in the newly established School of Science and Engineering.

CAMPAIGN NEWS

SLU ANNOUNCES THIRD-LARGEST FUNDRAISING YEAR EVER

Saint Louis University continued its record-breaking fundraising success by raising more than \$71 million in fiscal year 2021, making it the third-largest fundraising year in SLU history.

"That we received this level of support during such a challenging time speaks to the commitment of our alumni and other partners who want to ensure that the University continues to grow and thrive in the years ahead," University President Dr. Fred P. Pestello said. "I thank each of them for their ongoing support."

SLU's fiscal year runs from July 1 through June 30. The \$71 million raised in fiscal year 2021 came from nearly 15,000 individuals, foundations and companies.

The record-breaking fundraising has helped Accelerating Excellence: The Campaign for Saint Louis University, the University's ongoing fundraising campaign, get ever closer to its \$500 million goal. Currently in the third year of its public phase, Accelerating Excellence has raised more than \$490 million. Since Jan. 1, 2021, the University has received 14 campaign gifts and pledges of \$1 million or more, with three of them for \$5 million or more.

As a comprehensive campaign, all contributions to the University support one of its five strategic priorities: academic excellence, health sciences, business education, athletics and scholarships. Notably, the money raised in fiscal year 2021 includes more than \$8 million for student scholarships.

The Accelerating Excellence campaign is on course to meet or exceed the \$500 million goal by June 30, 2022. Learn more at slu.edu/campaignforslu.

NEW JESUIT CENTER RECEIVES \$2 MILLION CHALLENGE GRANT

In June 2021, the University received a \$2 million grant from the J.E. and L.E. Mabee Foundation toward the construction of the Jesuit Center, a residential facility on SLU's north campus. To date, the University has raised \$9 million of the center's estimated \$16.1 million cost. The Mabee Foundation grant is contingent upon SLU raising the remaining \$5.1 million needed to complete the project and serves as a challenge to others to meet this goal. Gifts may be pledged over a period of five years but must be committed by April 12.

A collaboration between the University, its Jesuit community, and the leadership of the Jesuit Central and Southern Province, the Jesuit Center will be located on the north side of Laclede Avenue, just west of Spring Avenue. The center, which will include bedrooms for Jesuits, a chapel, dining space and meeting rooms, also will create a space for enhanced interaction between SLU's Jesuits and the wider community. As University President Dr. Fred P. Pestello said at the groundbreaking, the building will "be a place where our students, our faculty, our staff, members of the community and others can gather to talk about how to fulfill our mission and celebrate this sacred faith at the center of who we are."

To make a gift to the Jesuit Center, contact Sheila Manion, vice president for development, at Sheila.Manion@slu.edu or 314-977-2849.



Dr. Kira Banks, associate professor of psychology, addresses the crowd during the Dr. Jonathan C. Smith Amphitheater dedication ceremony Oct. 25.

SLU Dedicates Clock Tower Amphitheater in Smith's Memory

A crowd gathered on Oct. 25 as Saint Louis University formally dedicated the amphitheater near its iconic clock tower to honor the legacy of Dr. Jonathan Smith, SLU's inaugural vice president for diversity and community engagement, who passed away suddenly on June 19. The area around the amphitheater recently was enhanced with additional spaces for students to study, talk and collaborate.



The plaque honoring Smith

CHES TEAM WINS 2022 PAN-AMERICAN INTERCOLLEGIATE TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP

THE SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY CHESS TEAM WON THE 68TH ANNUAL PAN-AMERICAN INTERCOLLEGIATE TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP

IN JANUARY. SLU fielded two teams in the tournament. The A Team was a perfect 6-0 — the only unbeaten team at the tournament — and finished first overall. The B Team finished with a 4-2 record and a tie for 10th out of 57 teams.

With the win, SLU qualified for the 2022 Final Four College Chess Championship. SLU will face UT Dallas, Texas Tech and Webster University. The Final Four tentatively will be held in the first weekend of April.

Diversity Division Renamed

Saint Louis University's diversity efforts are now at home in a division with a name that reflects the expanded focus and a renewed commitment to transformation. The newly named Division of Diversity and Innovative Community Engagement launched in October. Dr. Amber Johnson (A&S '01, Grad A&S '02) is the division's interim vice president.

The division now includes the executive directors, faculty and staff of the Cross Cultural Center for Global Citizenship (formerly the Cross Cultural Center) and the Center for Social Action (formerly the Center for Service and Community Engagement).

SLU Meets Pandemic Challenges So Students Can Learn in Person

Guided by consensus science, staying true to SLU values and using a range of public health strategies, SLU successfully returned to campus for the 2021-2022 academic year.

Campus was bustling, and transformative learning happened in person — with no documented cases of COVID-19 transmission in classrooms, lab spaces or work environments. SLU issued a vaccine requirement before the fall semester, and more than 96% of students, faculty and staff were fully vaccinated as classes began.

The omicron variant brought new challenges to the beginning of the spring semester, but the University effectively managed the surge of COVID cases with updated testing, isolation and vaccine booster requirements. With a high number of booster doses administered and infection rates dropping midway through the spring term, the University is eyeing ways to adjust its COVID-suppression efforts.

RANKINGS

SLU Named Best Value for Sixth Consecutive Year

SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY HAS BEEN RECOGNIZED AGAIN AS ONE OF THE NATION'S BEST VALUES IN HIGHER EDUCATION BY U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT IN ITS 2022 BEST COLLEGES UNDERGRADUATE RANKINGS, RELEASED IN SEPTEMBER.

In the overall rankings, SLU remained No. 103 among nearly 400 national universities.

SLU also was recognized for excellence in teaching, ranking No. 58 among national universities for Best Undergraduate Teaching.

For the first time, U.S. News published Bachelor of Science in Nursing rankings. SLU's undergraduate nursing program was ranked No. 43 out of 694 programs in the United States — in the top 7% nationally.

More Recent Rankings

■ SLU ranked No. 6 among Catholic colleges in the *Wall Street Journal/Times Higher Education 2022* college rankings, and ninth among Midwestern universities located in cities. Overall, SLU ranked 113 out of more than 600 universities nationwide.

■ Saint Louis University has been named one of the nation's top green schools in *The Princeton Review's 12th annual Guide to Green Colleges*.

■ Academic Placement Data and Analysis ranked SLU's graduate program in philosophy in the top-10 English-speaking graduate programs in philosophy internationally.

■ Best Value Schools recently ranked Parks College of Engineering, Aviation and Technology as the No. 10 best college in the country for pilots and aviation.

Dr. Jack Fishman teaches an undergraduate course about climate change every semester at Saint Louis University — and each time, he said it feels more urgent than ever.

“Last fall, in the first week of classes we were hearing about the unprecedented flooding in New Jersey from the remnants of Hurricane Ida that devastated Louisiana, the record wildfires in California, the hottest temperatures ever measured in both Oregon and Washington, and the prolonged drought throughout the western United States. All at once. Tens of millions affected,” he said. “So, yes, we talk about the climate as the crisis it is. Hopefully, the students become inspired to do something about it.”

There is no denying that the climate is in crisis. As a Jesuit university, SLU is in a unique position to illustrate that we have a moral obligation to do something about it.

Fishman (Grad A&S '74, '77), a professor of earth and atmospheric sciences, knew this as he coordinated the Saint Louis Climate Summit hosted by the University in 2018, a response to Pope Francis' 2015 encyclical on climate change, *Laudato Si'*.

“At our Jesuit university, we recognize that what St. Ignatius called ‘the gifts of God’ are intended for all in our world,” said David J. Suwalsky, S.J. (Grad A&S '89, '10), SLU's vice president for mission and identity. “It is a matter of justice above all, that all peoples have available to them these gifts — the most basic including clean air and water, and climate that nurtures possibility rather than disaster.”

Nurturing possibility rather than disaster — the five professors featured here do just that. By looking to the air and water, the food we eat, and the animals we share this planet with, these researchers are doing their part to make sure the gifts of God are not lost.

Saint Louis University researchers find reasons to hope despite the climate crisis.

The Heat of the Moment

— By Amy Garland
Illustrations by Robert Neubecker
Photos by Steve Dolan



A Breath of Fresh Air

DR. BENJAMIN DE FOY WAS ALWAYS INTO SCIENCE. In primary school in England, he designed an energy-efficient house for a school project, spurring his interest in the environment. And then there was his interest in computer programming.

“We had a Commodore 64 at home. I think a fair number of us in my generation started programming that way,” de Foy said.

Programming eventually led him to engineering, to Cambridge for a doctorate, and to Massachusetts for a job at an environmental consulting firm that wasn't exactly the right fit.

“It was mostly working for industry,” he said. “But I wanted to be working more for the environment.”

De Foy moved on to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where he worked with Dr. Mario Molina, the Nobel Prize recipient who predicted the ozone hole, on the Mexico City Project. De Foy joined the project as a computer modeler, analyzing satellite data to illustrate the patterns of pollution that stemmed from urban areas and industrial complexes as well as an active volcano.

“With air pollution, everybody's always trying to blame somebody else: Oh, it's the volcano's fault,” de Foy said. “But we clearly showed that the volcano was emitting very high up into the free atmosphere, where pollution just blows away, while this big petrochemical industrial complex emitted pollution straight into the city. Both are having an impact, but one is a bigger impact.”

Since joining the faculty in SLU's Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences in 2006, de Foy has used data mining and computer modeling to study air pollution everywhere from St. Louis to Southeast Asia.

His most recent project is in collaboration with Duke University, analyzing data from Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bhutan and the Maldives to eventually improve air quality and human health. The research team will monitor concentrations of particulate matter in the air, determine specific sources — such as traffic, fossil fuel combustion and industrial sources — and formulate a strategy to reduce pollution to healthier levels.

Because his work is performed essentially in front of a computer, de Foy doesn't typically travel for projects — which meant he didn't have to slow down much during the pandemic. In fact, he found himself analyzing the effects of everyone else slowing down.

“I have a project in Korea, and we looked at that when COVID shut everything down,” he said. “All of a sudden, everything changed; we could ask, what difference did that make? The circumstances set up a natural experiment to see before and after.”

The obvious reduction in pollution “reminded us that it's nice to have good air,” de Foy said.

“But I don't want people to think that atmospheric scientists would just like to close the economy down,” he continued. “Long-term actions have been shown to work and to be consistent with economic growth. Just look at the recovery of bald eagles in the wild following environmental controls going back to the 1970s.”

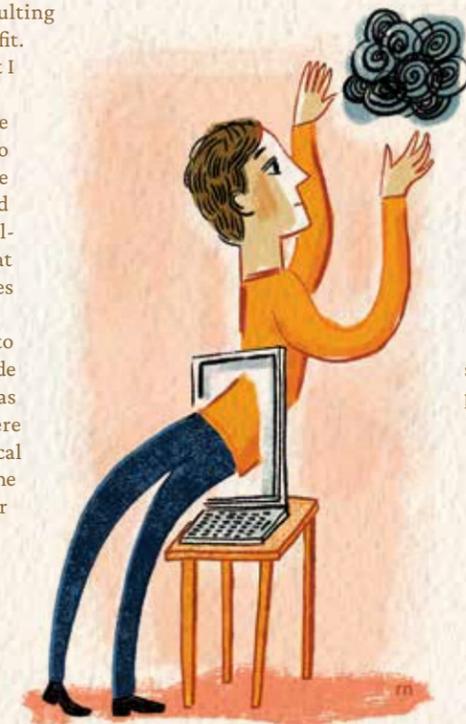
Overall, de Foy is hopeful about the environment.

“Air pollution science can reassure us that if we want to, we can work on climate change,” he said. “We've been dealing with air pollution for decades, and we have much, much cleaner air now. A better future is possible — we need to imagine that so we can work toward it.”

De Foy frequently gives public talks across the St. Louis region about his research and climate change, emphasizing the need for vision, personal action and societal change.

He also broaches the subject with his students. Last fall he taught a course about climate change to first-year students in the pilot program of the Ignite Seminar, which is part of the University's new core curriculum. And although the subject can be polarizing, de Foy almost always finds his students very open to the science. He also reminds them exactly what's at stake.

“I ask my students, ‘How often do you wake up in the morning and just say thank you for your first breath of fresh air?’” he said.





Testing the Waters

THE FACT IS, HUMAN BEINGS CANNOT SURVIVE WITHOUT WATER. And increasingly, worldwide, water is a problem.

According to the United Nations, about 4 billion people — nearly two-thirds of the global population — experience severe water scarcity at least one month a year. An estimated 700 million people worldwide could be displaced by water scarcity by 2030.

“It’s fundamentally important to society,” Dr. Jason Knouft said. “Everything on the planet — economic and social systems, natural resources, bio-

diversity — is dependent on water. These systems evolved with the expectation of a certain amount of water being available. Understanding how they’ll change in the future is critical to adapting to a changing climate.”

Knouft is a professor in SLU’s Department of Biology, and his research in the St. Louis region and across North America could have a serious ripple effect.

In a recent project funded by The Nature Conservancy, his team’s goal was to understand how climate change will affect the Meramec River watershed.

The Meramec, a tributary to the Mississippi River, is a popular spot for floating, fishing and swimming. But beyond recreation, the Meramec is an irreplaceable resource, providing drinking water for more than 200,000 people in the region. It is also, as Knouft put it, “a biodiversity hotspot,” with a greater number of freshwater species compared to almost any similarly sized river system in North America.

“We wanted to understand how climate change is going to influence how much water will be in the watershed, its temperature and how much sediment will be pushed into the river,” Knouft said.

As the climate changes, he explained, the region will experience more intense rainfall and flooding. That in turn will increase the amount of sediment — including nitrogen and phosphorus — that flows into the river, changing its chemical makeup.

The Nature Conservancy wanted to know if they could remediate that problem in a way that will have long-lasting benefits.

The simple answer: Plant trees.

Called “riparian buffers,” trees planted along the edge of the river will capture some of the sediment and contaminants running off the landscape. They’ll also shade the river and cool the water, an added benefit when it’s predicted that climate change could increase water temperature in the Meramec by about three degrees Celsius.



Knouft said the model developed by his team can be adapted for other projects.

“Several agencies, nongovernmental organizations and the state are interested in the model,” he said. “We’ve used it in Illinois to ask questions about agriculture and climate change.”

Knouft’s other recent undertaking has an even bigger scope. Funded by the National Science Foundation, it’s a biodiversity informatics project involving nearly every section of stream in almost every river system throughout the United States and Canada. The team, which included labs at Indiana and Tulane universities, examined and projected water volume and temperature from 1950 to 2099.

“You can see what the water quantity and temperature look like now in a given stream, and then how it will look in June 2050, for example,” Knouft said. “The idea is that ecologists, biodiversity scientists, natural resource managers, state and federal planners — whoever cares about water — should be able to use these data.”

Knouft used it to investigate the impact of dams on fish movement as climate changes, mostly on the East Coast of the United States, as well as biodiversity responses in Alabama. And although other applications are myriad, further research must wait.

On sabbatical this academic year, Knouft is working as an analyst for the U.S. State Department. Thanks to a Jefferson Science Fellowship, he’s advising the Office of the Geographer and Global Issues in the Bureau of Intelligence and Research about issues related to water and climate change.

This work harkens back to his belief that everything in society is tied to water. He said his students seem to understand this implicitly.

“Their concerns are all woven together: water scarcity, climate change, social equality, economics,” Knouft said. “Which is actually incredibly appropriate because you can’t tease apart climate change from social systems. We’re not going to be able to deal with it in a vacuum.”



The Root of the Matter

AS THE SAYING GOES, YOU ARE WHAT YOU EAT. Dr.

Allison Miller wants what we eat to be sustaining not just for us, but also for the planet.

“Plants are the answer. My work is exploring plant diversity, understanding it and thinking about how it might be applied in agriculture,” she said. “My

students hear me carry on about plants all the time.”

A professor of biology, Miller is on campus each week to teach. But her lab is off campus at the Donald Danforth Center for Plant Science in St. Louis County, where it’s been for the past four years (and where SLU undergraduate and graduate students take part in her research). Miller is in a joint faculty partnership, serving as a member and principal investigator at the Danforth Center in addition to her role at SLU. She does fieldwork across the region.

Her research is a direct response to the climate crisis.

“In the broadest sense, we’re thinking about agricultural systems that will be sustainable in our changing climate,” Miller said. “We recognize that we’re basically using all of the arable land we have, and that we have a rapidly growing population. We’re trying to think about what our food will look like, given these changing conditions.”

Miller’s research falls into two categories: One, improving existing crops for changing climates; and two, developing new crops for the agricultural systems of the future.

In the first category is the Vitis Underground project. In 2016, Miller was awarded a \$4.6 million grant by the National Science Foundation to lead a multi-institution team of researchers in understanding how root systems of grapevines affect the rest of the plant.

Nearly all grapes grow on vines that are grafted, which means that the roots are genetically different from the top part of the plant.

Miller explained: “We collect data from the above-ground portion — from the leaves, the flowers, the fruits — and study how those traits change as a function of their root system.”



The goal is to develop perennial crops with superior robustness and plasticity, enabling them to thrive in a range of climates. In 2021, the team was awarded a one-year, no-cost extension to continue the work.

“We’re never going to feed the world with grapevines, true,” she said. “But this is a model. What we learn with grapes is relevant for apples and oranges and walnuts and nectarines — anything that’s grafted and grows on a sort of woody vine.”

Miller describes the second category of her research as “reimagining major agricultural systems.”

A bit of background: Agriculture is the world’s largest and most rapidly expanding ecosystem in the world, and a major contributor to climate change. It’s estimated that half of the world’s topsoil has been lost in the last 150 years.

Miller wants to change that.

“Through their root systems, plants connect the atmosphere to the soil. If we can learn about specific attributes of the root system, their effects on the soil and their capacity to store greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide, then we might be able to construct an agricultural system of species that make products that people can eat, that they can harvest mechanically, that work within our agricultural economy, but that provide regenerative ecosystem services as well,” she said.

So, what’s on the menu instead? One item might be Kernza, a perennial member of the wheatgrass family that’s been developed over the last couple of decades. Last fall, *The Washington Post* wrote about Kernza’s capacity to address climate change, and Whole Foods named it one of their top 10 food trends for 2022. Miller uses it in her research. Her family uses it in pancakes.

“We buy Kernza flour and substitute it in our recipes. It’s delicious,” she said. Some people make beer with it. But Miller is realistic about how hard change can be, especially with something as personal as food.

“It doesn’t have to be that every last wheat and corn plant is gone,” she said. “It just needs to be enough to start tipping the balance in favor of longer-term

sustainability.”

Miller has partnered for years with a Kansas nonprofit called The Land Institute to work toward developing an agricultural system that mimics natural ecosystems, with perennial plants that grow side-by-side instead of in single-crop fields.

Similar research is being conducted as part of the Danforth Center’s New Roots for Restoration Biology Integration Institute, a collaboration between eight organizations. Miller developed the proposal to support this institute, and is now serving as the director of this five-year, \$12.5 million initiative funded by the National Science Foundation.

She’s optimistic about what her team, her students and in fact any of us can do in facing the climate crisis.

“The climate is certainly changing, but there’s a lot that we can do to adapt our agricultural systems,” she said. “It’s exciting to be a part of this positive change.”



All Creatures, Large ...

AS HE TELLS HIS STORY, DR. STEPHEN BLAKE'S ROLE AS A RESEARCHER OF MEGA-VERTEBRATES WAS SERENDIPITOUS.

"I didn't want a normal job, and I like being outdoors," he said. "After university, I wrote to a zoo and asked for a job, any job. 'A window cleaner and path sweep — you want that?' Fair enough. That morphed into becoming a gorilla keeper in England.

Then they set up a gorilla protection project in Congo and asked me if I wanted to work there. One thing leads to another."

In Blake's case, gorillas led to elephants led to tortoises, with other species along the way. He describes his work as "muddy boots conservation and research" — studying movement ecology, how animals travel from one place to another and why.

Blake, an assistant professor of biology, refers to himself as "the oldest junior faculty at SLU," having come to the University a few years ago after decades of work in the field.

He started in the Congo Basin working for the Wildlife Conservation Society, and ended up spending 17 years in central Africa doing conservation and applied research with elephants, which faced extinction due to poaching for the ivory trade. While there, he collected data on forest structure and species composition in the Nouabalé-Ndoki Forest.

He revisited that data set a few years ago, when a group of colleagues developed a computer model to investigate what happens to the forest over time as elephants forage (that is, browse on tree foliage). The findings revealed how elephants provide a crucial function to the health of the planet.

Forest elephants prefer fast-growing tree species. As they browse, they knock off tree limbs and break shrubs. The computer model simulated feeding and breakage rates along with elephant mortality rates to see their effect on certain woody plants.

The team found that as elephants eat on fast-growing tree species, they damage and kill young plants — which changes the composition of the forest toward slow-growing species. These trees have denser wood and, therefore, store more carbon

per unit volume than fast-growing trees. Thus, the elephants enable the forest to sequester and store more carbon, keeping it out of the atmosphere. If forest elephants disappear, over time the forest will become dominated by fast-growing tree species, and its carbon-storage potential will drop.

"Forest elephants are forest gardeners that help maintain the extraordinary biodiversity of central African forests, but they are rapidly facing extinction," Blake said. "From a climate perspective, all of their positive effect on carbon and their myriad other ecological roles will be lost."

From the Congo, Blake moved to the Galapagos Islands and studied its famous tortoises.

"These are charismatic, globally known animals, but despite their fame, we don't know much about their ecology," Blake said.

This curiosity led to the founding of the Galapagos Tortoise Movement Ecology Program in 2009.

Initially, Blake and a group of migration biologists wanted to see if the giant tortoises migrate over long distances (they do) and then, why (the availability of food for foraging). Next, they wanted to find out if the tortoises would adjust migration in response to varying environmental conditions.

To date, more than 120 GPS devices have been fitted to track Galapagos tortoises. Before the pandemic, Blake returned to the islands every year. The research is ongoing.

Like forest elephants, the tortoises disperse the seeds of plants, both native to Galapagos and introduced species. Unfortunately, due to their long-distance seed-dispersal when migrating, tortoises may inadvertently be increasing the distribution of invasive species, particularly as climate change is increasing habitats suitable for these species. A warmer, wetter Galapagos in the future, coupled with tortoise gardening, may threaten native habitats.

"Seasonal climate stability drives many long-distance migrations. For various reasons, this is in global peril as we over-harvest migratory species, destroy habitat and change the climate," Blake said. "That impacts the species' evolutionary fitness: the reproductive potential, their body condition, their risk to disease. I initially wasn't working with these species for climate change reasons, but inevitably they're closely tied."

Blake is involved with other research projects — one involving bison on the Dunn Ranch Prairie in northern Missouri; another a collaboration with the Forest Park Living Lab — but since joining SLU's faculty, he's spent most of his time teaching. He said he can be "a bit of a doom-and-gloom specialist."

"To me, you can't possibly teach introductory biology without bringing home the fact that biodiversity is in absolute tatters and is getting worse by the day," he said.

"I try to convince all these pre-medical students to give up their med school goals and become planetary doctors instead," he continued. "Because if we don't get a handle on climate change and biodiversity loss, there won't be anyone left to treat."



... and Small

THE AVERAGE PERSON PROBABLY THINKS OF INSECTS AS PESTS, SWATTING THEM AWAY OR TRYING TO ELIMINATE THEM ALTOGETHER. Not Dr. Kasey Fowler-Finn.

An associate professor of biology, Fowler-Finn finds insects to be an endless source of information about how organisms might adapt to climate change.

Insects provide the foundation for ecosystems: They pollinate crops, cycle nutrients through the soil, help control the populations of other organisms, and more.

If rising temperatures affect a certain species, the entire ecosystem could suffer. We need to pay attention to them.

"Plus, they're adorable!" Fowler-Finn said. She was speaking specifically about the treehopper, a half-centimeter-long insect and a subject of her research.

A few years ago, the National Science Foundation granted Fowler-Finn just over \$640,000 to study how changing temperatures affect treehoppers' mating behavior.

During mating season, male treehoppers serenade potential mates with "songs" sent as vibrations through plant stems. If a female treehopper likes what she hears, she hums back in reply, which starts a duet and leads to mating. But temperature changes can alter the ambience. At some temperatures, male treehoppers can sound like different species, which could confuse females.

"Their song is tied into muscle vibrations, and the hotter it is, the faster their muscles vibrate," Fowler-Finn explained.

Her team wanted to know if female treehoppers, in turn, might change what songs they like best. The good news is that they do, according to the research.

"The conclusion is that with increasing temperatures, you're not going to get a disruption of mating," she said. "Females will still be able to identify the proper species and select males based off their song."

But that's not all.

"They're actually pretty robust in terms of temperature change," she said. "Both males and females seem to be active at hotter temperatures, which is good. And we found that when they develop at a hotter temperature, it increases their tolerance to the heat, which is important in terms of climate change and survival."

In addition to finding the treehoppers adorable and adaptable, Fowler-Finn appreciates hearing their music herself.

While working at a field station at the University of Virginia, she met sound artist Steven Vitiello who was there as an artist-in-residence. The two collaborated in 2015 on an exhibit that made plant-borne sound audible to humans. When Fowler-Finn



applied for the grant that supports her lab's current research, she wrote into the application that she wanted to collaborate with Vitiello again.

The result — an exhibit called "Too Hot To Sing" — demonstrated how global warming may influence communication in vibrational insects. It opened at the Saint Louis University Museum of Art in March 2020 and eventually went online due to the pandemic. (Listen at www.toohottosing.com.)

"It's mind-blowing how beautiful their songs are," she said. "It's a nice way to get people interested in insects — and to show how insect song and communication are affected by climate change."

Fowler-Finn isn't just interested in the way insects sound, though; she also has studied the way they look.

In research published last summer, she had the opportunity to work on dragonflies. This project, led by Dr. Michael P. Moore of the Living Earth Collaborative, examined wing ornamentation in male dragonflies to see if it changed as the temperature rose.

"We found that the pigmentation of the males' wings evolves really consistently in response to climate," Fowler-Finn said. "It's among the most predictable evolutionary response ever observed for a mating-related trait."

As the climate warmed, the male dragonflies adapted by changing their melanin ornamentation, which absorbs solar radiation and can heat them above ambient temperatures. The new pigmentation made them appear less male than usual.

"However, females responded in a totally different way," she said. "This shows that mating-related traits can be as important as survival-related traits to how organisms adapt to climate, but we also need to account for the fact that the sexes may have different solutions to the same problem."

When she's not in the lab, Fowler-Finn teaches evolutionary biology at both the undergraduate and graduate level. She has led more than 50 SLU undergraduates in hands-on research, through which many have co-authored scientific articles. She's been at SLU since 2014, her first faculty position. It's been a great fit for her.

"The Jesuit tradition is deeply rooted in the scientific process and discovery," she said. "And SLU students are taught to think critically. They tend to be evidence-based thinkers, in my experience. And this makes working with them in the classroom and laboratory fun and productive." **UTAS**

A portrait of Provost Mike Lewis, a middle-aged man with grey hair, wearing a grey suit, a blue and white checkered shirt, and a purple and blue striped tie. He is smiling and standing in front of a large window with a view of a green landscape. The photo is taken from the waist up, with his hands in his pockets.

Academic-in-Chief

Provost Mike Lewis
puts listening at the
heart of leadership
in a time of change.

— By Laura Geiser

Lewis

F

FOR THOSE WHO DON'T WORK in academia — or who graduated from Saint Louis University before the 1990s — the title of provost might be unfamiliar. Even researching the word might not help, since *Webster's New World Dictionary* offers several definitions, including “the chief magistrate of a Scottish burgh” and “a jailer.”

Though a university provost leads and maintains order, those definitions don't quite hit the mark. However, the definition listed last in *Webster's* does: “in certain American universities, an administrative official dealing chiefly with faculty, curriculum, etc.” At SLU, the provost is integral to the University's operations, serving as the chief academic officer and overseeing the entire educational enterprise.

SLU named its first provost in 1989; its current provost, Dr. Mike Lewis, was appointed in February 2021. And though Lewis may be relatively new to the job, he is not new to the University. He joined the SLU faculty in 2004 as an assistant professor of chemistry. Along the way, he found his calling in administration by serving in several executive positions, including as associate provost, interim dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, and interim provost.

Lewis, who hails from Halifax, Nova Scotia, didn't start his studies dreaming of being a provost one day. He wanted to teach chemistry. He got his doctorate in chemistry at the University of Missouri-Columbia, which led to postdoctoral research in Harvard University's Department of Chemistry and Chemical Biology. Next came SLU, where he has spent nearly 18 years.

In this interview with *Universitas*, Lewis shares what drew him to SLU, what he's learned along the way and his plans for the future.

UTAS: What attracted you to SLU? And what has kept you here?

LEWIS: As associate provost and now as provost, I've been involved in new faculty orientation for close to 10 years. And one of the things I say to the new faculty during orientation is that I came to SLU in large part for the same reasons they came here: I needed a job, and this was a very attractive one. I wanted to work at a place that offered a balance between research and teaching. That was important to me, and this was a place where it clearly seemed like I could pursue both of those.

When I got here, I very quickly took to the mission, but that's something I grew to understand and experience after I arrived. And so, though I came for the research and teaching, I'm here nearly 18 years later because of how much the mission has resonated with me. I truly believe in the mission and appreciate how much it impacts so many people.

As a chemist and professor, what motivated you to make that leap from the classroom to the administration?

There was never any one thing. It was a progression. I had a history with teaching centers going back to Mizzou. These are places where I always felt at home. So, during my first week on this campus, I sought out SLU's Reinert Center for Transformative Teaching and Learning. I began working with the center around faculty-focused topics such as progression toward tenure and innovative teaching. I became a faculty fellow at the Reinert Center, and I enjoyed it.

Then when Dr. Ellen Harshman became the interim provost, she noted that we did not have an associate provost overseeing faculty affairs and faculty development. So, she started looking for someone. Somebody put my name forward. That was back in 2013, and the rest is history.

You've held many administrative positions — associate provost, acting provost, interim dean. What did you learn in those roles that prepared you for today? And what made you want the provost job permanently?

All of those roles, to varying degrees, prepare you for this work. They offered different responsibilities for managing people, hearing their concerns and learning to listen really well — learning to help people find their own desires in the positions that they hold.

As associate provost for all those years, I got a University-wide perspective on the impact of all that we do in teaching, research and service. But even as associate provost, there isn't always a lot of agency to affect change. Yet, I had seen potential, so being provost is the job I wanted.

I'd always had my own opinions. I thought there were things we could do that would have an impact. And I wanted the opportunity to have that level of impact.

In previous roles you dealt mostly with faculty, but as provost you're a leader for students and staff as well. Can you discuss your approach to serving the entire academic enterprise?

I enjoy it. That broader perspective was the biggest learning curve in going from associate provost to these other roles. When I became interim dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, suddenly I was advocating for the students, faculty and staff, recognizing that, oftentimes, they all want different things. So, I needed to help find solutions that are the best for the institution and the best for all parties involved. The provost job is the same.

In the end, we're here to serve our students. And I think it best to err on the side of what's best for student education, what's best for student learning outcomes.

How are your nearly 18 years at SLU an advantage?

I have relationships with almost everyone here at Saint Louis University. There's a benefit to that. I know the backstories. I know why people are behaving the way they are. I know the anxieties that people have, the concerns. I know a lot of the unspoken.

... it's rewarding to have the agency to impact change and move the University in a direction that I think the community wants to go to put us in a stronger place.

As provost, much of my job is listening to people, really hearing what they say and listening to them to the extent that they might change my mind. Ultimately, changing your mind or modifying a decision is not a point of weakness, but a point of strength. And the more you know, the better you're able to do that.

What's the best part about being provost?

I get to interact with all the different people at SLU and see all the great things that are being done. We have so many great people here. Then, highly related to that, it's rewarding to have the agency to impact change and move the University in a direction that I think the community wants to go to put us in a stronger place.

What is the most challenging part of the job?

In an institution this size — and we're not alone, all of higher ed is like this — there's institutional inertia. Nobody ever wants to say, "We're doing this because that's how we've always done it." Everybody understands that's a really bad reason to continue doing something. But there are a lot of things that we do for that reason. We've been around for 204 years now, and our efforts have served us well. There are people who view stability as a way of living our mission. The difficult part is to show people that we can still be authentic to who we are, still live our mission, but we can do it in a different way that serves an evolving society.

Can you discuss your efforts to develop an academic strategic plan?

I am collaborating with the deans and the Faculty Senate and the faculty leadership, the staff, the students, the entire University and community on an academic strategic planning process. I envision it taking us the remainder of the current academic year, and I envision it being a strategic plan that lasts for approximately three years.

The academic strategic plan will be different from the University's strategic plan, which operates at a broader level for the entire institution. For example, the University's strategic plan has priorities around fundraising, overall community engagement and the physical plant. I see an academic strategic plan as focusing on needs, strengths and necessary investments of the academy for instruction, research, learning outcomes, student success and so forth. Any goals we establish would align with the University's strategic plan.

What can you share about academic reinvention, SLU's recent effort to examine its programs and degree offerings?

Let me preface by saying that SLU is no different than the rest of the academy in that we don't do a very good job of closing programs. We do a really good job of opening them, and that has caught up to us.

What many people don't understand is the administrative effort that goes into overseeing programs. Whether a program enrolls one student or a thousand, we need to regularly review it for student learning outcomes, assess it and provide curricular oversight. To many, the effort that goes into this is invisible. But

we don't have the time, bandwidth or energy to oversee the programs that are really impacting students if we're putting that same effort into programs that are highly under-enrolled.

Our program review process is about doing the very best job possible with the great resources we have. We're a resource-rich environment, but we still have our limits. So, we're going to end up closing probably between 10 and 15% of our programs, affecting less than 2% of our students. In spring of 2020, we proposed 40 programs for closure. Since that time, 33 programs for closure have already been announced as finalized. I've changed my mind about four programs. That leaves three.

Is this review of programs common in universities?

Yes, and we're fortunate that we're able to do this in a manner that is more thoughtful. Some universities are struggling to the extent that they're not going through the same community input process that we're going through; they're just closing departments and firing faculty. We're in a very fortunate position. I know it doesn't feel that way for those whose programs are closing, but we're not laying off any faculty because of this. And we are not closing any departments. Most of our departments house multiple programs, and they can direct students from closing programs to one of their other programs. This is not affecting enrollment. This is really about how we do our work.

What can you share about the College of Arts and Sciences reorganization?

I announced my final decision on the A&S reorg in mid-December. (See the story on page 4.) Essentially, we merged some science departments (Chemistry, Computer Science, Earth and Atmospheric Sciences and Physics) with the Engineering and Aviation Science departments from Parks College to form a new School of Science and Engineering. I gave the opportunity for extensive community feedback and alternative proposals during the fall semester, and I appreciate everyone's input in the process. Ultimately, this aligns with our Catholic, Jesuit educational mission, and the reorganization will help to improve student success, grow student enrollment and support faculty work in an equitable manner.

You also oversee the Divisions of Enrollment and Retention Management, Research, Student Development, and Diversity and Innovative Community Engagement. How do you balance those units with the demands on the academic side of the fence?

I consider them part of the academic side of the fence. I can't imagine how we would figure out how to do something like transitioning to test-optional admission without the faculty working with the enrollment management staff. A lot of our outreach to first-generation students, to Pell-eligible students, is through enrollment management, and that is something that is deeply academic.

THE LEWIS FILE

FAMILY:

I met my wife, Heather, at the University of Missouri-Columbia. She is a faculty member in our School of Social Work, and she is an amazing support.

We've got two kids, Jack and Grace, who are 15 and 12. And they understand that my job is one that the entire family needs to be in for. The family is great about that.

FIRST JOB:

Working at a pizza joint

BOOK TO RECOMMEND:

What I'm reading right now is *Just Mercy* by Bryan Stevenson. My favorite book that I've read multiple times is *On the Road* by Jack Kerouac.

FAVORITE MOVIES:

The Star Wars movies, especially the originals

TV SHOW YOU'D RECOMMEND:

Ted Lasso. It makes me laugh.

SPORTS TEAM:

The St. Louis Blues

FAVORITE BAND:

It's a Canadian band, The Tragically Hip.

FOOD:

Pizza

FAVORITE PLACE ON CAMPUS:

The new Interdisciplinary Science and Engineering Building

FAVORITE PLACE IN ST. LOUIS:

I like the Loop. We live in University City.

FAVORITE VACATION SPOT:

My wife's uncle lives in Hawaii. We've been there four times with the kids.

GUILTY PLEASURE:

Chocolate or candy

And student development is similar. The student experience doesn't end when they leave the classroom. The co-curricular experience is incredibly important. Student learning happens in the residence halls. It happens in the clubs with faculty liaisons, where the collaboration and overlap are deep. I think the provost should be overseeing that part of the student experience.

Additionally, our faculty's research defines us as a university. Our wonderful faculty impact the world not just through the classroom where they're teaching, but also through their scholarship.

And then, how we interface with and how we serve an increasingly diverse society is central to our mission. And so having diversity and innovative community engagement report to the provost, I think, is natural. We all need to think about diversity in terms of the student body and student experience — and also in terms of the faculty body and everything we can do to make sure we continue to be an increasingly inclusive place. We should be a welcoming place for everybody, regardless of their background or experiences. And so, we need to lead with diversity, ensuring it is inherently part of who we are. It's the right thing to do.

Why was it time to have a common core curriculum for all undergraduates?

First and foremost, it's important to recognize we didn't have a University-wide core curriculum. We've had a robust core in the College of Arts and Sciences and in other colleges and schools, but nothing that was SLU-wide. And I do think having a University-wide, Jesuit, mission-based core that speaks to a common Saint Louis University experience, regardless of which college or school you're in, is very important.

Beyond the primary mission-based reasons for a common core curriculum, there are practical reasons, too. For example, it's hard for students to switch to different majors in other colleges or schools because they all have different cores. Some colleges and schools had cores that were very, very credit-hour heavy, and students couldn't get a second major or a minor. That's all going to change. So, there's a lot of good for students on a practical level.

In the end, we hope that students educated with this new core curriculum experience the Jesuit mission in a variety of different settings and courses that are deeply tied into their major. Then, ultimately, they will all graduate with a common experience related to our mission.

What do you hope to accomplish in the next five years?

I'd like to see us have stable enrollment at a level that supports everything that we want to do. I would like to see us increasingly be a more diverse and more inclusive place such that we look more like the city in the region we inhabit. I would like to see us support students who come here to the greatest extent we can. I also would like to see our scholarship and research continue to grow and make an impact. **UTAS**

SLU RESEARCH INSTITUTES
LEVERAGE DATA TO COMBAT LOCAL
AND GLOBAL CHALLENGES.

DATA-DRIVEN INNOVATION

— By Marie Dilg

Researchers at Saint Louis University continually generate new ideas, paradigms and discoveries. And while news articles on these advances convey outcomes, they rarely shed light on the processes researchers used to identify problems or devise solutions.

Often, the painstaking practice involves sifting through mounds of data, looking for trends, finding patterns and leveraging that information for innovation. Two research institutions established by SLU are accelerating this data-mining process by developing new tools to gather information and novel methods to crunch the scientific data, which researchers are using to predict climate change, track infections and combat the opioid addiction crisis.

The SLU Advanced Health Data (AHEAD) Research Institute and the SLU Geospatial Institute (GeoSLU) were created in 2018 with seed money from the Big Ideas competition designed to foster collaborative projects and cement SLU's reputation as a destination for training, research and discovery. The institutes also provide undergraduate and graduate students with opportunities to work with researchers and experience the impact of SLU's research worldwide.

AHEAD / With the shift to electronic medical records (EMR), the amount of digital patient health care data has increased exponentially, and Dr. Jeffrey Scherrer (Grad PH '04) believes that buried within this data is information that can transform medical care and improve patient care.

Scherrer is senior director of research with SLU's AHEAD Institute, a comprehensive center for data-driven innovation and research aimed at improving individual and population health. The institute's multi-disciplinary faculty, doctoral students, and experts in statistics and research methodology help investigators formulate research questions and analyze the massive amounts of data captured in electronic medical records. Data points are de-identified before researchers access them.

AHEAD researchers work with a variety of disciplines and use advanced analytic methods, predictive modeling and machine learning to explore such areas as pediatric otolaryngology, neurological cancers, infection control and hospital readmissions.

Scherrer and his colleagues used analysis of existing data from national data banks to study the prescribing behaviors of physicians before and after the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention issued opioid prescribing guidelines in 2016. By analyzing tens of thousands of electronic health data records across the United States, researchers learned what types of opioids patients were prescribed, why, how long they were prescribed and what types of specialists patients saw.

"Because we had access to existing historical data, we quickly were able to publish three papers in high-profile journals that documented what was happening," said Scherrer, professor of family and community medicine. "Many studies about provider-prescribing behaviors have relied on surveys and are limited by social desirability and recall. The information often was biased and not truly representative. Now, we have real-world information."



Hinyard and Scherrer

MINING FOR RESEARCH GOLD ←

Scherrer also said access to existing data is a tremendous help for researchers and students who want to explore questions with minimal funding before pursuing larger grants. A SLUCare endocrinologist, for example, suspected patients with lower socioeconomic status did not appear to have the same access to insulin pumps and continuous glucose monitoring as patients with higher insurance status.

The clinician turned to AHEAD experts and learned her observations were more than anecdotal. Nationwide, patients with lower socioeconomic status were not using the diabetes technology as often as other patients. This led to ongoing studies exploring whether the patients with greater access to the tools have better outcomes, and whether physicians are offering the tools, but patients are not using them.

"We've collected data for years, but until the last few decades we lacked the capacity to use that data for anything actionable," said Dr. Leslie Hinyard (Grad PH '08), associate professor and chairperson of the Department of Health and Clinical Outcomes Research, and director of AHEAD. "We now have the computing power and methods to take health information and use it to understand who is getting access to what care and where, and whether what we're doing is working, all without collecting new data. It's more efficient and less expensive."

Hinyard said no other institute in the St. Louis region offers the comprehensive research infrastructure provided by AHEAD, which is committed to addressing health care issues that disproportionately affect poor and underserved communities. She said AHEAD is primed to be a leader in data analytics because SLU has all the right people in all the right places.

"We have medical school faculty posing the clinical questions, public health faculty with public health expertise, and computer science faculty and students helping us develop the software we need to do what we do," Hinyard said. "I love that we can work together and analyze existing information to use as a jumping-off point for change."

The AHEAD Institute was recognized for its scientific excellence when it was invited to join the Health Care Systems Research Network, the nation's preeminent source of population-based research. This put SLU in the company of approximately 20 other leading health care systems throughout the country, including Kaiser Permanente, Harvard Pilgrim Health Care and the Henry Ford Health Systems. AHEAD also is distinguished by its partnership with the SSM Health system and the SLUCare Physician Group, giving researchers comprehensive, de-identified data about patient care in the Midwest.

GeoSLU / Before COVID-19, it took Dr. Enbal Shacham, professor of public health, a couple of minutes to explain to a layperson her research with geospatial science technology. Now, most people need no explanation. The outbreak demonstrated clearly why location matters when tracking and mitigating an infectious disease.

Shacham is associate director of GeoSLU, which has been in high gear for the past two years using geographic information systems, remote sensing and GPS to create maps and models of the coronavirus outbreak. Information gleaned from geospatial technology fuels the brightly colored dashboards found on websites and television programs with real-time confirmed cases of COVID-19, death rates, hot spots and vaccination rates.

"Geospatial science is invaluable during a pandemic like this," Shacham said. "We're able to see human behaviors and patterns like never before. And the data we collect will inform more effective public health directives and keep more people safe."

GeoSLU researchers have been tracking COVID infection rates in nursing homes and airports, as well as factors related to people's mobility following the implementation and lifting of stay-at-home orders. They studied mask mandates in five counties in the St. Louis region – two with mask mandates, three without. SLU researchers found that infection rates dropped approximately 40% in a six-month period in the counties with the mask mandates compared to the counties without.

Using anonymized cellphone data, SLU researchers also found that when one county closed bars and indoor dining, some people in that county traveled to neighboring countries with no restrictions and spiked infection rates there.

"Previous research was limited to home and work addresses, so public health officials did a lot of guessing and estimating about movement," Shacham said. "What's amazing about geospatial science is we can supplement public health knowledge with this non-traditional public health data to better understand the social and physical environments people encounter daily. This leads to better interventions with infectious diseases as well as chronic diseases."

GeoSLU researchers, for example, are collaborating with an insurance provider in southern California to track air quality in two large counties. Researchers created an algorithm that sends text messages to parents of children with asthma when the air quality is poor and reminds them to have their children carry inhalers or other medications.

Their reach is global. GeoSLU researchers are working with the St. Louis Zoo and organizations in Kenya to follow the movements of dromedary camels. Dromedary camels are important reservoir hosts of various coronaviruses that cause human infections, including Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV).

FIELD OF DREAMS ←

Public health is only one focus under the GeoSLU umbrella.

Collaborating with faculty and national specialists in virology, engineering, computer science, sociology and medicine, institute researchers have dozens of projects underway in such areas as climate change; crime pattern analysis; disaster preparedness and response; sex trafficking; and economic development and social instability.

GeoSLU has partnerships with major players in the geospatial community including the National Geospatial Intelligence Agency (NGA) headquartered in St. Louis, Boeing, Ameren and Enterprise.

Dr. Vasit Sagan, associate professor of geospatial science and director of GeoSLU, said the University has invested significant capital and talent to develop SLU and the city as a national hub for geospatial research. The Geo-Resolution 2021 conference sponsored by SLU and the NGA represents one such investment and highlights SLU's contribution to the growth of the regional geospatial ecosystem.

Sagan's work focuses on improving crop productivity and food security. He uses drones, sensors and satellite imagery to monitor the impact of climate change, water supply, fertilization and other influences on sorghum and soybean crops.

"What's exciting is that I can use the geospatial data we collect and create something as simple as a color-coded map to help a farmer improve yield, not just in my community but across the globe," said Sagan, whose research could lead to a doubling of crop yields over the next 30 years.

In addition to fostering collaboration with researchers and partnering with stakeholders, GeoSLU is developing new degree programs in the multi-billion-dollar field of geospatial science and creating opportunities for SLU students to engage in geospatial research. Students formed a GeoSLU student organization this year.

Dr. Ness Sandoval, professor of sociology, and associate director of GeoSLU, specializes in geospatial statistics, which he uses to help students visualize neighborhoods.

"A lot of students want to understand their own neighborhoods. What do we know about immigration or what do we know about racial segregation? How do these patterns start?" Sandoval said. "It's an eye-opener because they're like, 'Finally, I have objective evidence of my personal story.'"

Researchers believe SLU is uniquely suited to be a leader in the geospatial research community because the University places the utmost importance on the ethical dimensions of geospatial technologies.

While geospatial mapping technologies have tremendous potential for good, without ethical reflection the same technologies can cause harm. Fears exist that the massive amount of data collected by satellites, street cameras and people who use cell-phones or fitness devices may be used to invade the privacy of individuals and groups.

GeoSLU assembled the Geospatial Ethics Research and Practice Group to scrutinize geospatial technologies and practices and make certain they are consistent with SLU's commitment to justice and the common good. The group is led by Shacham and Michael Rozier, S.J. (A&S '03), assistant professor of health management and policy and EthicalGEO Fellow of the American Geographical Society. Robert Cardillo, former director of the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency and distinguished geospatial fellow at SLU, also is a group member. **UTAS**



Sandoval, Sagan and Shacham



DRONE (FOREGROUND) WITH KATHLEEN GODAR, A HISTORY MAJOR (LEFT), AND FINAN

ALUMNUS TIMOTHY DRONE'S GIFT OF HISTORIC NEWSPAPERS GIVES STUDENTS A FRONT-ROW SEAT TO HISTORY.

Above the Fold

— By Marie Dilg

DR. THOMAS FINAN, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR and chair of the Department of History, said his faculty members are “absolutely thrilled” about a recent gift to University — a collection of 850 newspapers dating from 1683 to 2020.

“I have faculty so fired up about this collection that they’re planning to have students work with the newspapers this semester,” Finan said. “We emphasize the use of primary source research (firsthand accounts) with our students, and when you can put original documents into their hands, whether it’s a manuscript, a newspaper, a letter or a photograph, it’s a game changer. They’re engaging with history on a whole new level because they’re handling the actual sources, not transcriptions.”

POWER OF THE PRESS

Newspapers in the collection chronicle major milestones throughout history — from the ratification of the U.S. Constitution, Neil Armstrong’s walk on the moon and the election of President Barack Obama — to the darkest moments, including the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, the Space Shuttle Challenger explosion, the death of Princess Diana and the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

The newspapers printed before the 1870s on rag paper made of cotton and linen fibers look nearly as pristine as the day they were issued. Newspapers printed later using wood pulp and chemicals would crumble to the touch if not handled properly.

Finan said the comprehensive collection allows students to develop knowledge, skills and analytical abilities by exploring the nuances of media coverage of past and present events. Researchers can read, side-by-side, newspapers printed in Britain and America during the Revolutionary War to see how writers used the press to boost morale, increase support or fan the flames of insurgency.

“The 21st century college student is overloaded with media and video, and they put a primacy on it without understanding how it can be doctored or manipulated,” Finan said. “When we introduce these newspapers, it gives us a vehicle to talk about the different types of coverage and analyze it. We can ask why, for example, the Gulf War coverage was more sanitized than the Vietnam War coverage. This is a historian’s job, and that’s what makes this collection awesome.”

THE PAPER CHASE

The newspapers were donated to the University by Timothy Drone (A&S '72, Grad A&S '74, Grad CSB '77) and his wife, Jeanne. Drone said he spent more than 30 years and thousands of hours amassing the collection.

He is especially fond of the earliest papers, before photography appeared on the pages. He points to an 1861 edition of *The New York Herald* reporting troop positions during the First Battle of Bull Run. Minus an illustration of the Civil War battlefield, the front page is filled with columns of dense, descriptive text.

"Reading a book about the Civil War might be fascinating but leaves you at a loss," Drone said. "This article offers first-person, detailed discussion, not second-hand information. If you pick up and read this newspaper, you are on the battlefield. You can hear the gunfire. You can smell the dead."

These historic newspapers stand in contrast to newspapers printed during World War I, where lengthy text gave way to large pictorial features with gory battlefield images that left nothing to the imagination.

"With earlier newspapers you had to be literate to get the news, but once photography hit the pages, the news became accessible to all; everyone could be knowledgeable," Drone said.

The newspaper collection also boasts an impressive number of political cartoons that praise, attack and lampoon leaders and issues over the last two centuries.

"If you think the discourse and name-calling today is distasteful, it's a cakewalk compared to what editorialists had to say about President Lincoln and President Grant," said Drone, a retired Commerce Bank executive. "Writers spewed evil, terrible things and called leaders murderers and child-eaters. It was brutal."



FREEDOM TO THE PRESS

The newspaper collection will be housed and available for use in the University's Pius XII Memorial Library Archives, which serves the SLU community, as well as external patrons. University Archivist Caitlin V. Stamm said that includes academic researchers, genealogists, local historians and other libraries/archives throughout the county.

Stamm said prior to the Drones' gift of the historic newspapers, SLU's collection of newspapers and clippings focused primarily on newspapers from the St. Louis area, including the *St. Louis American*, and SLU's student newspaper dating back to 1919 when it was called *The Billiken*. The Drones' collection builds on the St. Louis material by adding more than 100 German-language newspapers printed between 1920 and 1930 in south St. Louis, then home to a vibrant German community.

"The Drones' collection addresses pivotal moments throughout our region, nation and world, and it allows us to put SLU's 200-year history into context," Stamm said. "It expands our ability to address any number of topics in history and can be used by researchers in a myriad of disciplines, including art, design, politics, athletics and the sciences. We are excited to show our patrons how every piece of a newspaper is an important tool for discovery, whether it's the design, images, advertisements, condition and more."

THE BOSTON DAILY GLOBE APRIL 16, 1912
TITANIC SINKS,
1500 DIE

THE DETROIT FREE PRESS
MAY 2, 1945
HITLER IS KILLED

NEW YORK JOURNAL-AMERICAN
NOV. 3, 1948
TRUMAN WINS
IN BIG UPSET

ST. LOUIS GLOBE-DEMOCRAT
JULY 21, 1969
MEN WALK ON MOON

COLLECTIVE GOOD

In addition to the newspapers, Timothy and Jeanne Drone, and his brother, James Drone (A&S '70, Law '73) and sister-in-law, Carolyn (Winchester) Drone (A&S '70), donated to the University more than 65 acclaimed works by Midwestern artists, works by female artists of the early 20th century and a collection of Civil War memorabilia.

Timothy Drone said he believes growing SLU's collection of art, artifacts and documents reflects the core missions of the University — teaching and research — and he encourages fellow alumni to buy into this mission in both large and small ways.

"The Drones' newspaper collection enhances research opportunities for Saint Louis University students and faculty," said Sheila Manion, vice president of development. "Tim and Jeanne recently included the University in their estate plans as well, and we are extremely grateful for their generosity and support."

Drone said he plans to continue providing students and faculty with access to primary sources. The self-described "compulsive collector" is rounding out a few more collections to donate to the University, including a coin and currency collection, and a number of black-and-white photos from the 1840s to the early 20th century. **UTAS**

SMALL CHANGE, BIG DIFFERENCE

1818 Community Engagement Grants enable servant leaders to find innovative ways to make a difference.

By
Bridges
O'Neil

Photos
by Steve
Dolan

The 1818 Community Engagement Grant Program has only been around since 2018, but it is already making a big impact. The program, which was launched during Saint Louis University's bicentennial celebration, annually awards 18 grants of up to \$1,000 each to groups of SLU students and faculty, in partnership with a local nonprofit, to make long-term, sustainable impacts in the St. Louis community. To date, more than 1,000 students and faculty have partnered with nearly 100 nonprofit organizations to assist nearly 5,150 people.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2019-20 grant cycle saw an almost 50% increase in the number of SLU participants in the program. Several projects focused on partnerships to expand relief efforts. While scaled back slightly, the projects had no less of an impact during the 2020-21 grant cycle, said Dr. Bobby Wassel (Grad Ed '09, '17), assistant director of SLU's Center for Social Action.

"From setting up virtual visits with residents of a local residential care facility to developing an informational booklet as part of the First Period Project, this year's grants impacted over 3,000 people — more than the previous two years' worth of grants combined," Wassel said.

The following projects represent just a handful of initiatives that received grants and demonstrate how servant leaders at SLU met significant needs in the community during an unprecedented time.

DELTA GAMMA CONNECTIONS

THE PANDEMIC EXACERBATED feelings of social isolation and mental illness, particularly among older adults in residential care and skilled nursing facilities. With a goal to bring joy and companionship to those in need, sorority members of the Eta-Theta chapter of Delta Gamma at SLU reconnected with a community partner. Since 2019, sorority members have volunteered at the Mary Ryder Home, a St. Louis residential care facility that serves low-income women age 55 and over. Many of these women have a disability or mental illness and were especially affected when mandatory lockdowns canceled or limited in-person gatherings.

“Over half of the residents didn’t have any contact with their families,” said Abigail Simon (DCHS ’21), a first-year grad student at Doisy College of Health Sciences who led the Delta Gamma Connections project. “These are the people who were hit the hardest during the pandemic because they would see others getting calls and they weren’t.”

With grant funds, sorority members purchased nine Facebook Portals, devices similar to iPads, that allow video chats via Facebook Messenger and WhatsApp. They met with 20 residents for weekly virtual visits and measured their mental well-being over a few months. Sorority members found that the visits increased happiness and connectedness among residents and decreased depression and hospitalization.

“Getting to spend time with my partner on the video chats meant connection during a year of isolation,” Natalie Malloy, a member of Delta Gamma, said. “It’s been full of belly laughs and stories.”



Davis

PHYSICS AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

MISSOURI SAW AN INCREDIBLE INCREASE in the number of Black families who chose to home-school their children when the pandemic began, according to the U.S. Census Bureau’s Household Pulse Survey. Dr. Dannielle Davis, professor of higher education at SLU’s School of Education and national consultant on home schooling, said that’s unlikely to change soon.

Davis is the founder and executive director of Circle of Excellence Network, an initiative that provides supplemental instruction for underrepresented youth in grades six to 12 with a focus on home-schooled students. The network offers parent-educator workshops and exposure to a rigorous curriculum in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM).

“Black and brown youth aren’t always encouraged to pursue STEM, and I see this initiative as a way to populate the pipeline,” Davis said. “Representation also matters, and it’s important that students see others who look like them.”

Davis leveraged technology to provide safe instruction for students in her Circle of Excellence Network during the pandemic. She launched the “Physics and Community Engagement: Promoting Social Justice with Science” project. The goal was to expose students from diverse backgrounds to physics, as well as to professionals of color in STEM and their historical contributions to the field.

Grant funds were used to hire physicist and international educational consultant Evelyn Washington, founder of the Kibolebole Educational Institute, to conduct weekly online classes designed specifically for middle school students.

The course topic “Physics of the Pharaohs” taught students fundamental concepts in physics. They also explored the discoveries made by Africans in the Nile Valley and discussed contemporary findings. Class highlights included an opportunity to virtually attend the National Society of Black Physicists annual conference.

The students received packages that included the book *The Star of Deep Beginnings: The Genesis of African Science and Technology* by Charles Finch III, as well as a PhysicsQuest 2020 science kit, which were donated by the American Physical Society. Students learned about the incredible life and work of NASA’s Katherine Johnson through four activities based on force and motion. Lessons and experiments included: How mass affects falling objects (both on Earth and the moon), changing variables to affect pendulum motion, projectile motion with desk-mounted slingshots, and circular motion and centripetal force by swinging and launching whiffle balls and string.

Davis said the students are now applying their knowledge of physics to address climate change.

FROM LEFT: Megan Davis, Madeline Gloriod, Hannah Rose and Simon

FIRST PERIOD KIT PROJECT

A 2019 SLU STUDY FOUND THAT 21% of low-income women and girls surveyed in St. Louis lack menstrual hygiene supplies, a situation called period poverty. In one of the first needs assessments of its kind, Dr. Anne Sebert Kuhlmann, associate professor of behavioral science and health education at SLU’s College for Public Health and Social Justice, and her team documented the challenges that low-income people with periods face in accessing basic sanitary supplies.

The pandemic intensified period poverty. People who previously received menstrual hygiene products in schools or public facilities found themselves without access to the products as those places closed due to mandatory shutdowns.

When a group of public health graduate students heard about period poverty and the demand in the area, they launched the Interactive First Period Kit Project. They teamed up with graphic designer Emma Johnson and co-authored a period booklet for first-time menstruators and their caregivers. The *Go With the Flow* booklets provide details about menstruation, peer advocacy, ways to reduce stigma and resources. The St. Louis Area Diaper Bank and its St. Louis Alliance for Period Supplies (SLAPS) program give the booklets to their partners, who distribute them to service providers and caregivers in first period supply kits.

Students who created the guide included Onyekachukwu Anikamadu, Gabriella Schmidt-Griminger, Allie Pinson, Adrienne Beckett-Ansa and Jilliam Root. Together with SLAPS, they held local focus groups with menstruators ages 9 to 13 to gather data for the booklet. Respondents were asked a series of questions about the format of the booklet as well as questions about menstruation. The booklet incorporates an inclusive design and content that appeals to a broader audience.

“Even if you do not have a uterus, it is important to understand how a period affects others,” Anikamadu said. “Being an ally can help reduce stereotypes, boost support and provide peers a more comfortable environment during this confusing time.”



FROM LEFT: Beckett-Ansa, Anikamadu and Pinson



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Lewandowski, Lindsey Ferguson, Karly Kauk, Nicola Keller, Caroline Christ and Denise Gomez

ROAD TO A GREENER SLU

ELYSE LEWANDOWSKI, A SENIOR in the Chaifetz School of Business, came up with the idea to create an urban farm on SLU’s campus.

Lewandowski was past president of Campus Kitchen, a student-led volunteer organization with a sustainability focus dedicated to fighting food insecurity for low-income residents in Midtown St. Louis.

The organization, which prepares and delivers healthy meals, wanted to expand upon its mission by partnering with about 40 students from SLU’s Health Sciences Learning Community to create three raised garden beds behind Reinert Hall.

For expertise on the growing and preparation process, Campus Kitchen staffers and volunteers consulted Fresh Gatherings, a student-run cafe at SLU that offers local farm-fresh food; and Good Life Growing, a social enterprise urban farming company focused on combating urban decay and food insecurity in north St. Louis.

The urban farm yields organic vegetables including peppers, squash, spinach, lettuce and tomatoes, as well as herbs.

“It adds a fresh component to the foods we serve to our community partners,” Lewandowski said. “It’s nice to spice it up and make it a bit more appealing.”

Campus Kitchen uses the veggies and herbs in dishes they prepare, cook and deliver to Billiken Bounty, an on-campus food pantry for SLU students, and community partners. Lewandowski said about 400 meals per week are served through community partners, including Council Tower Senior Living Apartments Community, Midtown 300, Father Dempsey’s Charity and Our Lady’s Inn.

Campus Kitchen is more than food nourishment; it’s about relationship-building in the community, which was needed more than ever during the pandemic.

“As SLU students, we’re guests in the Midtown St. Louis community,” Lewandowski said. “It’s important that we respect the people who are already here and remain cognizant of the issues that impact their lives.” **UTAS**

A BEAUTIFUL DAY IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

— BY AMY GARLAND

DEVELOPMENTS IN PROSPECT YARDS ENHANCE THE CAMPUS AREA.

The area around Saint Louis University is transforming. Where vacant industrial plots and boarded-up buildings used to be, recreation spots, restaurants and other amenities now welcome the community. All four of these projects are located within the 400-acre redevelopment area guided by the St. Louis Midtown Redevelopment Corp. (SLMRC), a joint effort of SLU and SSM Health.



PHOTO BY KELLY PALADIN

A



B



C



PHOTO BY CHRIS BRAULT

D

FOOD HALL AT CITY FOUNDRY STL

JUST STEPS FROM Saint Louis University's north campus, on the former site of the Century Electric Co. and Federal Mogul foundry, City Foundry STL continues to transform the Midtown landscape. A 300,000-square-foot, multi-use development overseen by the St. Louis-based New + Found, the Foundry features dining, shops, entertainment options and office space.

The long-awaited Food Hall at City Foundry STL opened in August and offers something for every meal and virtually every palate. The developers wanted to make a space for chefs around the region to try out their newest and biggest ideas. The result is an eclectic food court concept, with flavors from Argentina to the Ivory Coast. There are kitchens for 20 food vendors; 17 are up and running. At the center of the space is The Kitchen Bar. The formerly industrial space offers lots of indoor seating, plus tables outdoors along Foundry Way.

Adjoining the food hall will be 18 Rails, an event space that will accommodate up to 700 guests. It's located near where 18 rail lines once converged. Construction started on this part of the project in the fall.

A 10-screen Alamo Drafthouse movie theater is also under construction as part of the Foundry complex. Other plans include Puttshack, which will offer upscale mini golf, plus food and drink. Phase two of the project, which got underway in early 2022, will include apartments and additional office and commercial space.

FRESH THYME MARKET

ON THE NORTHEAST CORNER of the City Foundry STL site is the new Fresh Thyme Market, which opened in November.

The 27,000-square-foot grocery store sits at the corner of Forest Park and Spring avenues. Fresh Thyme offers conventional and organically grown fruits and vegetables. The market also sells fresh fish and seafood, meats and poultry, as well as alcoholic beverages, cheese and baked goods.

Some of the 100 St. Louis-area companies whose products are sold at the new Fresh Thyme are: Eddie's Donuts, Bridge Bread Bakery, Patty's Cheesecakes, Priority Pastries and Field to Fire.

"Bringing a popular fresh foods grocer that prides itself in showcasing local produce and local food and other goods has been a priority of the University's St. Louis Midtown Redevelopment Corporation," University President Dr. Fred P. Pestello said. "This very intentional development effort is another way we are working with the people of St. Louis to reimagine, transform and unify our city."

While City Foundry STL is just a short walk from campus, it's easy to drive and park there, too. The SLU Shuttle added Fresh Thyme to its routes, and a three-level parking garage offers free parking for the grocery store and the rest of the Foundry complex. There's also round-the-clock security patrolling and video monitoring, plus emergency call boxes.

TARGET

ST. LOUIS REAL ESTATE company Pier Property Group (PPG) signed a lease with Minneapolis-based Target Corp. for a 70,000-square-foot store that will sit along Grand Boulevard between SLU's north and south campuses.

The new Target will anchor a \$60 million mixed-use development called The Edwin, which will include 199 luxury apartments.

"When we decided to become the area's master redeveloper, this project is exactly the type of transformational effort that we envisioned," said David Heimbürger, SLU's chief financial officer and president of the St. Louis Midtown Redevelopment Corp. board of directors. "Attracting a stellar brand like Target to Midtown has long been a dream of ours and is further proof that this is a place where people want to be. We're eager to continue working with our neighbors and community partners to keep this momentum going and to plan for the next big leap forward in the revitalization of the area."

This new Target will fill a void of anchor retail along the Grand corridor — and put a "Target run" within walking distance for SLU students and area residents. The new store is also projected to bring 200-plus jobs to the neighborhood.

"We are excited for our 19th Ward community and the City of St. Louis to have additional retail, jobs and services," said 19th Ward Alderwoman Marlene Davis.

The Edwin development is the latest phase of PPG's Steelcote Square District, a more than \$100 million investment in the area that also includes the Steelcote Lofts, Steelcote Crossing and Steelcote Flats. St. Louis-based design firm Arcturis and general contractor Holland Construction have been tapped for the project. The Target store is slated to open in summer 2023.

HUMPHREY'S

FOR ALMOST FOUR decades, the restaurant and tavern at the corner of Spring and Laclede was the close-to-campus destination. Meeting friends for drinks? Humphrey's. Grabbing a greasy-good bite to eat? Humphrey's. Continuing the fun after a fraternity formal? Humphrey's.

The establishment — named after owner Robert "Humphrey" Mangelsdorf and operated for years by his widow, Jan — opened in June 1976. It closed Jan. 1, 2017, and has been vacant since then. There was talk a few years ago of the building being demolished, but nothing of consequence happened. Until now.

"There's no sure thing in the bar and restaurant business, but Humphrey's is as close as it gets," Sarah Sanders said.

Sanders and her business partner, John Harris, started leasing the building in June 2021. They plan to reopen for business this spring.

A self-described "Humphrey's frequenter" in her 20s, Sanders knows how fondly people still think of the place.

"Everyone has their Humphrey's story," she said. "We want to honor everything it had to offer."

That includes keeping the layout intact — with a few crucial updates, such as new bathrooms and the addition of a lift. She's working with Jan Mangelsdorf to recreate some of the restaurant's favorite recipes. And the plastic Humphrey's cups every SLU student had in their college apartments? They'll be back.

Sanders did hedge on whether every single Hump's tradition would return.

"I can't promise penny pitchers will be exactly the same," she said. "Inflation, you know?" **UTAS**

A Students at the City Foundry STL Food Hall

B The produce section at Fresh Thyme Market

C A rendering of the Target store at The Edwin along Grand Boulevard

D The refreshed exterior of Humphrey's

1952

Clifford P. Hackett (A&S) published *The Northfield Story*, a book describing the expansion of a Catholic “Great Books” school in California to a second campus in New England. He is in touch with two other members of his SLU graduating class, **Bob Erlinger** (A&S) and **Marion Reis** (A&S). Hackett lives in the Washington, D.C., area.

1954

Gene Kranz (PC), an icon in the field of space and aeronautics, was honored by his hometown in May 2021 with the naming of the Eugene F. Kranz Toledo Express Airport. Kranz was NASA flight director for the first lunar landing in 1969. He also played a pivotal role in returning the Apollo 13 rocket and three astronauts safely in 1970. After a long career at NASA, Kranz retired in 1994.

1960

Dr. Thomas Stumpf (A&S), professor emeritus of English at the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill, wrote *South St. Louis Boy: Volume I*, a memoir published in 2020. In March 2021, *Volume II* came out, detailing his time at Saint Louis University in the late 1950s.

1964

Dr. Kevin Corrigan Kearns (GRAD A&S '64, '66) received the Lord Mayor of Dublin Scroll from the Dublin, Ireland, City Council in 2021. A professor for more than 30 years at the University of Northern Colorado, Kearns focused his scholarly life on Ireland. He's written more than 15 books about the social history of Dublin, eight of which made the *Irish Times* bestseller list. He lives in Camden, Maine.

1965

Dennis Drabelle (A&S) wrote *The Power of Scenery: Frederick Law Olmsted and the Origin of National Parks*. The book came out in fall 2021, in time to celebrate the 150th anniversary of Yellowstone, the first national park, and the 200th anniversary of Olmsted's birth. Drabelle lives in Asheville, North Carolina.

1968

Gene Thiroff (A&S '68, LAW '71) was profiled in the *St. Louis Business Journal* for his dedication to public service, particularly his work as an attorney with the U.S. Department of Justice in the 1970s and 1980s, tracking down and deporting Nazis and Nazi collaborators living in the United States. Today Thiroff lives in Rockville, Maryland.

1970

William P. Levins (A&S '70, LAW '74) retired as district counsel for the St. Louis District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Levins served this agency for 45 years. At his retirement ceremony, he received the Order of the De Fleury Medal and the Department of the Army Superior Civilian Service Award.

Dr. Michael D. Murray (A&S '70, GRAD A&S '71) was a professor for 50 years at universities in Virginia, Kentucky, Nevada and St. Louis. In May 2021 he was honored in St. Louis with three fellow SLU alumni, graduates of the Gateway Battalion Army ROTC. The event, organized by Gateway ROTC cadet **Ryan Vogt** (VSN '21), celebrated 50 years since they were commissioned as part of the U.S. Army Reserve in May 1971.

1971



↑ A group of SLU alumni from 1971 gathered in St. Louis to celebrate their 50-year reunion with a tour of campus. Pictured from left are: (first row) **Dan Kortum** (A&S '71, LAW '74), **Mary-Kate “Vickie” Victor** (A&S), **Elaine (Woeber) Rogero** (A&S '71, GRAD A&S '72) and **Hal Rogero**; (second row) **Chris Cirone** (A&S '71, LAW '74), **Mary-Lou (Hagan) Montagna** (A&S), **Adrienne “Adie” (Lukaszewski) Akers** (DCHS) and **Jim Akers**; (third row) **Peggy (Radke) Johnson** (DCHS) and **Barbara (Boggeman) Feiner** (A&S); and (fourth row) **Marjorie “Marnie” (Holt) Howell** (A&S), **Mary Kortum**, **Anne (Talty) Mourtaja** (A&S) and **Bob Lembo** (A&S '71, LAW '75).

1973

Thomas Hischak (A&S) was named one of six national winners of the NewPlayFest, sponsored by the American Association of Community Theatres. His play *Escaping the Labyrinth* was produced by the Des Moines Community Playhouse in October and then published by the Dramatic Publishing Co.

Susan Croce Kelly (GRAD A&S), a journalist and Route 66 historian, was inducted into the Missouri Writers Hall of Fame. Kelly wrote *Route 66: The Highway and Its People* and *Father of Route 66: The Story of Cy Avery*. She also is managing editor of *OzarksWatch Magazine*, published by the Ozarks Studies Institute of the Missouri State University Libraries.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

ANDRÉS J. GALLEGOS

When Joe Biden was elected president in November 2020, Andrés J. Gallegos (Law '93) knew the National Council on Disability (NCD) was going to undergo some changes. The NCD is an agency that advises the president, Congress and the government on the variety of issues faced by people with disabilities. Gallegos, a member of the council since 2018, knew there was likely going to be a new chairman with a change in leadership in the White House.

The change happened quickly. On Jan. 20, shortly after being sworn in as the 46th president of the United States, Biden appointed Gallegos chairman of the NCD.

Between the election and inauguration, Gallegos had met with the Biden transition team, but then things went silent until inauguration day, when he was at his Chicago home and got a note to check his email.

“An email came from President Biden’s administration, from the White House, informing me that I had been appointed chairman,” he said. “Attached to it was the declaration where the president signed the appointment. It was pretty cool.”

Gallegos said being appointed as one of the president’s first acts in office meant a lot to him personally but also showed the importance of the council’s work.

“It’s significant that I was appointed on the very afternoon of his inauguration,” Gallegos said. “It gave the National Council on Disabilities recognition that we are a trusted federal adviser.”

Gallegos immediately contacted his wife, Donna, and two children, Alicia and Andrés, and celebrated. Gallegos said his family warned him that the new role would mean he would be busy. So far, they’ve been correct.

“Before, I really picked and chose my involvement in certain projects,” he said. “Now I have to be involved in all projects and be kept abreast of what’s taking place.”

When not working with the NCD, Gallegos is a shareholder at Robbins DiMonte, Ltd., in Chicago. He founded a practice there focusing on both disability rights and health care law.

“We represent people with disabilities throughout the country, foremost in improving access to health care and discrimination in health care settings,” he said.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Before he became a lawyer, Gallegos spent 14 years with the U.S. Air Force. While still on active duty, he made the decision to go to law school. Saint Louis University, with its proximity to Scott Air Force Base in Illinois, was a perfect fit, he said.

“I loved every aspect of my time there,” he said.

After graduating from law school, Gallegos’ initial specialty wasn’t disability law. He set out for Chicago intent on being an international trade attorney. That changed following a car accident in 1996 that damaged his spine and resulted in quadriplegia.

“In a fraction of a second in November 1996, I joined the disability community,” he said. “The good thing for me was, I didn’t have to reinvent who I was. I could go back and practice law.”

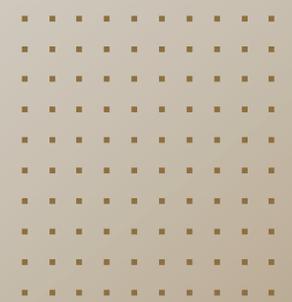
Despite initially not knowing much about disability rights and disability law, Gallegos refocused his career to help others like him. He said that being in a wheelchair, he experienced discrimination firsthand and figured if things were happening to him, they had to be happening to others.

Gallegos’ advocacy moved beyond the law. He began working with local groups supporting people with disabilities in Chicago. That work got him noticed by U.S. Sen. Tammy Duckworth of Illinois, who recommended Gallegos for the NCD.

Now Gallegos is an advocate who has the ear of the White House. — *By Joe Barker*

↑ Gallegos (CENTER) at a 2019 meeting of the National Council on Disability in Chicago

“It’s significant that I was appointed on the very afternoon of his inauguration. It gave the National Council on Disabilities recognition that we are a trusted federal adviser.”



Six New Jesuits Are SLU Alumni

LAST SUMMER, THE SOCIETY OF JESUS announced the ordination of 25 new priests in Canada, the United States and Haiti. Several of them have a connection to Saint Louis University. James Page, S.J., one of the new priests, is serving at St. Francis Xavier College Church and assisting in SLU’s campus ministry. Six others earned degrees at SLU. They are:

JEFFREY R. DORR, S.J. (GRAD A&S '15) serves as vicar/associate pastor of Gesu Parish in Detroit, Michigan.

LOUIS HOTOP, S.J. (P&L '15) is part of the Diocese of Brownsville, Texas, where he ministers to migrant communities on the U.S.-Mexico border and helps with sacramental supply in diocesan parishes. Last summer his hometown of Florissant, Missouri, proclaimed June 23 “Fr. Louis Hotop, S.J., Day.”

BRAD MILLS, S.J. (GRAD SW '15) is an associate pastor at Most Holy Trinity Church in San Jose, California.

ZACHARIAH F. PRESUTTI, S.J. (GRAD SW '15) is missioned to a pastoral year, offering sacramental ministry at the Church of St. Francis Xavier in New York City and in prisons throughout the New York metropolitan area.

TREVOR J.B. RAINWATER, S.J. (GRAD A&S '15) is working on a master’s degree in liturgical history at Catholic University of America.

BRIAN STRASSBURGER, S.J. (A&S '06) responds to pastoral needs in the Diocese of Brownsville, Texas, with a particular focus on the migrant community.

HOW I GOT HERE



Marianne Muellerleile

(A&S '71)

Actor



▲ Muellerleile (RIGHT) with her father

'48 Muellerleile is born in St. Louis, the fourth of five children. A Saint Louis University legacy, her parents met at a SLU basketball game and lived at the Melbourne Hotel (now Jesuit Hall) when her father was the University's athletic director in the 1930s.

Her childhood is filled with St. Louis highlights: sporting events with her dad, movies in The Loop and shows at The Muny (where, coincidentally, she learns to drive in the parking lot).

"My mom took us to the Muny all the time, to sit in the free seats and be dazzled."

'67 Having just finished high school at Visitation Academy, she attends Merry-Go-Round, a summer theater program at SLU.

▲ Muellerleile (CENTER) in the SLU Theatre production of *Cactus Flower*

'71 She graduates from Saint Louis University. She studied theater with a minor in education, thinking she'd become a teacher.

"I never skipped class, even during the protesting years. Once during a sit-in, I got furious with a friend who tried to block my entrance into Des Peres Hall; I had to get to class. My friend would have been able to afford a fifth year of college by skipping class, but I knew I had to finish in four years."

'73 She earns a Master of Fine Arts from the University of Minnesota. While there, she's in Tennessee Williams' *A Streetcar Named Desire*. The playwright, a friend of the director, later calls her (and two co-stars) "the future of the American Theatre." She gets an Actor's Equity contract.

"I thought, no one's offering me a teaching contract, so I might as well be an actor. Once decided, I knew it was God's plan, and I never considered I would not make a living doing it."

She spends six seasons at the Meadow Brook Theater near Detroit, where she performs Shakespeare, Moliere, Agatha Christie and more.

'75 Muellerleile moves to New York. She rents a furnished apartment in Greenwich Village for \$35 a month and, to save money, roller-skates around the city instead of taking the subway.

She gets stage gigs but takes other work to make ends meet, including modeling for Big Beauties, the first agency to feature plus-size models.

"New York City remains my favorite city in the world. But after five years, I thought, if I don't book more stage work, I'm never going to own a car let alone a house."

'81 She moves to Los Angeles and gives herself six months to find lucrative acting work. She lands the first audition she goes to, a costarring role on *Magnum P.I.* Her second audition leads to a guest-starring role on *The Greatest American Hero*, during which she wears a cross necklace onscreen, a goal of hers as a devout Catholic.

▲ Muellerleile (RIGHT) on *The Greatest American Hero*

Muellerleile goes on to appear in over 180 television series, including recent appearances on *Curb Your Enthusiasm*, *911*, *NCIS* and *The Kominsky Method*.

▲ Muellerleile (LEFT) and Arnold Schwarzenegger during the filming of *The Terminator*

'84 She has a scene in the film *The Terminator* as the Wrong Sarah Connor, a role that will get her recognized for years to come.

Her movie credits include *Return to Me*, *Passion Fish*, *Memento* and most recently, *Queen Bees*.



▲ Muellerleile (RIGHT) and husband Tom

'87 She meets her future husband, Tom Norris. The next year, they marry and buy a Foursquare American Craftsman house, the restoration of which will become a 30-year labor of love.

'02 She performs in two of her favorite TV roles, as a series regular on the soap opera *Passions* and a role that was written for her on *Life with Bonnie*.

▲ Muellerleile on *Passions*

"Creatively it was very fulfilling. I also had an actual work schedule of three weeks on, one week off. I could plan travel, take other parts, make social commitments for that week off. I didn't have to audition for anything."

▲ Muellerleile (FAR RIGHT) with the cast of *Life with Bonnie*

'03 She donates to Heifer International, a nonprofit that works to end poverty and hunger through holistic community development, and becomes a dedicated donor and volunteer. She will later travel to see Heifer International's projects firsthand and raise more than \$450,000 for the organization.

'12 She receives SLU's Alumni Merit Award and gives a master class to the University's theater students.

"I'll come back to St. Louis for a cocktail party, literally. I've returned for every grade school, high school and SLU theater reunion. I love seeing how magnificently the campus has developed."



▲ Muellerleile in studio performing voice-over recordings

'20 Muellerleile's talent for accents and dialects leads to success in the voice-over field — from radio dramas to video games. Recently, she was Lucille on the Disney Jr. cartoon series *The Rocketeer*.

'21 She stars in the Geico "Aunts" commercials and later in a BMW ad that airs during the 2022 Super Bowl. A veteran of more than 100 national commercials, she gets resourceful during the pandemic: She shoots one for Sling TV at home on her iPhone.

"At this point in my career, almost 50 years in, what I'm most excited about is that I don't have to work. I can accept a job simply because I want to. It's the best feeling." — By Amy Garland

KEY

Following each alumni name in *Universitas* is an abbreviation of the college or school from which that alum graduated. Here's a key to the abbreviations.

A&S COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

CSB RICHARD A. CHAIFETZ SCHOOL OF BUSINESS includes alumni who graduated under the school's previous names, the John Cook School of Business, the School of Commerce and Finance, and the School of Business and Administration

DENT SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY

DCHS DOISY COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES includes alumni who graduated from the School of Allied Health Professions

ED SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

GRAD Used in front of other abbreviations to indicate a graduate degree

IT INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

LAW SCHOOL OF LAW

MED SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

P&L COLLEGE OF PHILOSOPHY AND LETTERS

PC PARKS COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING, AVIATION AND TECHNOLOGY

PH COLLEGE FOR PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

PS SCHOOL FOR PROFESSIONAL STUDIES

SW SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK includes alumni who graduated under the school's previous name, the School of Social Service

VSN TRUDY BUSCH VALENTINE SCHOOL OF NURSING includes alumni who graduated from the School of Nursing

1976

Dr. Donna Miles Curry (VSN '76, GRAD VSN '79), a professor emeritus at Wright State University in Dayton, Ohio, was appointed a trustee of the Florence Nightingale Museum in London in spring 2021.

John Pachak (SW '76, GRAD SW '78) and his wife, **Joyce (Brichacek) Pachak** (SW '76, GRAD SW '78), retired to Southern Colorado after more than 40 years serving families and children in St. Louis. John published two books in his series *Building a Peaceful Community: At the Roots, Reaching for the Sky and Where is the Love?* The books chronicle their experiences in St. Louis city neighborhoods dealing with poverty, racism and community building.

1984

Sister Elise Kriss (GRAD ED) is president emerita at the University of Saint Francis in Fort Wayne, Indiana. She retired in 2020 after serving as president for 27 years. After a sabbatical year, she became director of community relations for the university last fall.



↑ Colonel Karl Pond of the Oregon National Guard presents the medal to Thoennes.

Terése "Tracy" (Schrout) Thoennes (A&S) received the Oregon Distinguished Service Medal for exceptional service to the state. Her museum career spanned almost 40 years, with the past 18 years spent as director and curator of the Oregon Military Museum for the Oregon National Guard. She retired and lives in Portland.

1985

Robert Blanco (A&S) has been a sales and marketing professional for the past 20 years. He lived in Mexico City for years and later conducted business throughout Latin America and Europe. He is married and has two daughters and a son. He lives in the Dallas-Fort Worth area.

1988

Dennis Feldt (CSB) is a member of the Senior Executive Service at the U.S. Department of Justice in Washington, D.C. He has worked for the federal government for 31 years and lives with his wife in Northern Virginia.

1989

Tom Petersen (GRAD CSB) was honored by the *Kansas City Business Journal* as the 2021 CFO of the Year. Since 2005, he has been CFO for PB&J Restaurants, a regional restaurant and management company headquartered in Kansas City, Missouri. Petersen is married and has six children, four of whom attended Saint Louis University.

1992

Glenn Gladfelder (GRAD A&S) writes long-form pieces for his website glenngladfelder.com. He lives in Helena, Montana.

1994

Steven Dawson (CSB '94, LAW '97) is a partner at the law firm Harrison and Held. He works in the St. Louis office.

Miguel Paniagua (A&S) is associate vice president for health professions education at the National Board of Medical Examiners. He remains clinically active as an adjunct professor of medicine in palliative care at the Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania.

We hope to see you soon!

Check out upcoming virtual and in-person events and opportunities at alumni.slu.edu.

1997

Dr. Tracy Pascua Dea (A&S '97, GRAD ED '09) is the executive director of student services and chief diversity officer at the University of California Berkeley School of Journalism.

Michael P. McMillan (A&S), president and CEO of the Urban League of Metropolitan St. Louis, was named the 2020 Person of the Year by The St. Louis American newspaper for his relief efforts during the COVID-19 pandemic.

1999

Tim Edwards (CSB '99, GRAD CSB '00) is president and CEO of the A.J. Weller Corp. He lives in Louisiana with his wife and three daughters.

Matthew Porter (PC) is chief innovation officer for Clayco, overseeing all aspects of technology. With more than 20 years of experience in the industry, he most recently served as Clayco's interim chief information officer.

2001

Dr. Susan (Junge) Peters (GRAD CSB) is dean of the School of Business at the University of North Carolina at Pembroke.

Neely Tamminga (CSB) is CEO and co-founder of DISTILL, an advisory service for executives and board directors on matters of the consumer economy. In 2020, she joined the College of Business and Technology at North Central University in Minneapolis as a visiting assistant professor. Her TEDx talk "Let's Shape an Economy Valuing Connection Over Consumption" can be found on YouTube.

2002

Jim Schroeder (GRAD A&S '02, '05) is vice president of the Department of Psychology and Wellness at Easterseals Rehabilitation Center. His book *Confessions of a Carless Commuter: What 40,000+ Motorless Miles Taught Me About Life* was published last summer. He lives with his wife, Amy, and their eight children in Evansville, Indiana.



Brenda Maloney Shafer (LAW), a partner in Quarles and Brady's health and life sciences practice group, was appointed to the American Bar Association's standing committee on legal assistance for military personnel. She is a former U.S. Army Nurse Corps officer. She lives in Washington, D.C.

2006

Kate Biagi-Rickert (CSB '06, SW '06) received the designation of "chartered advisor in philanthropy" from the American College of Financial Services. She is the director of stewardship at the Community Foundation of Louisville in Kentucky.

2007

Brandon Rotz (ED) and his wife, Liz (Brisk) Rotz, celebrated the birth of their third son, Luke, in March 2021. They live in O'Fallon, Illinois, with their other sons, Jude and Ezra.

Dr. Patricia Vanderpool (GRAD VSN '07) owns a private health care practice in Indiana. She also is an adjunct professor at Indiana Wesleyan University School of Nursing and writes exam items for the American Nurses Credentialing Center. Her book *A Love Affair With God* came out in 2021.

2008

Cady (Scott) Seabaugh (GRAD) is senior vice president and director of new markets tax credits and strategic initiatives at McCormack Baron Salazar, a real estate development firm. She continues to consult on special initiatives, including sustainability and federal funding efforts. Seabaugh lives in Kansas City, Missouri.

2009

Dr. Benjamin Brenkert (GRAD SW) earned a doctorate from Columbia University Teachers College last year. His book, *A Catechism of the Heart: A Jesuit Missioned to the Laity*, was published in 2020. He married William A. Brenkert in March 2021.

Submit Your Class Notes

Want to share news with your fellow alumni? We would love to hear from you!

HERE ARE OUR CLASS NOTES GUIDELINES:

Class Notes is one of the first sections we finish for each issue because its length determines the space for our feature stories. That means we often stop compiling notes for an issue almost two months before you receive it. So if you've sent us news and don't see it in the issue, don't worry; your update will run next time.

We welcome photos, but we cannot run every photo we receive due to space limitations.

We do not run information about upcoming marriages, births or other occasions. We prefer to share your happy news after the event has occurred.

Due to space limitations, we no longer include Class Notes about alumni being named to lists, such as best lawyers, doctors, etc.

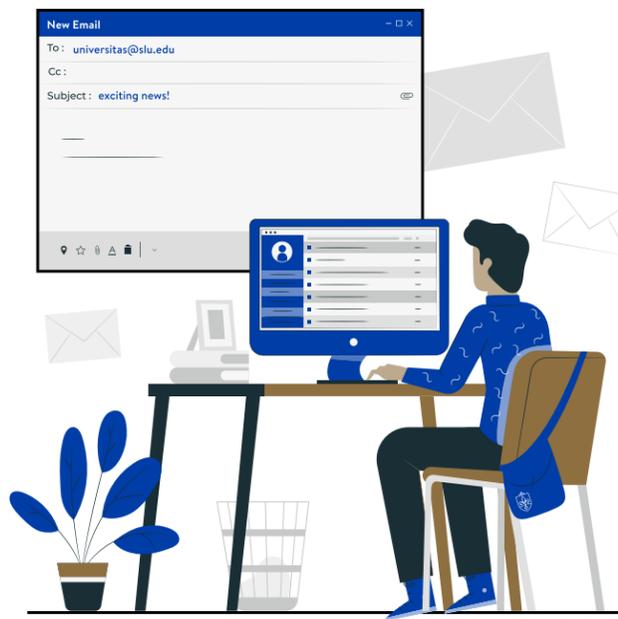
In general, we run only one Class Note per alum per year.

How to submit:

EMAIL:
universitas@slu.edu

MAIL:
Universitas
Saint Louis University
1 N. Grand Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63103

ONLINE:
slu.edu/universitas



2010

Drew Alan Hillier (A&S) joined the law firm Morrison and Foerster LLP in its San Diego office, where he practices intellectual property litigation. He also volunteers as a leader of SLU's San Diego alumni club. He lives with his wife, **Sarah Therese (Watson) Hillier** (A&S '11), and their twin sons.

2011

Claire (Bira) Forrest (A&S) owns Claire Forrest Films, which works with clients all over the United States and abroad. She has been featured by *People* magazine, *vogue.com* and *abcnews.com*. In 2020, Forrest also founded Coralee Swimwear, a zero-waste swimwear line featuring pieces made from recycled ocean plastics. For each swimsuit sold, the company pledges to plant new coral in the ocean.

2012

Katie Castree (PH) published the case study "Stemming the Tide: One health care system drew from lean Six Sigma to reduce lab waste and save patients' blood" in May 2021. It was the cover story for the health care edition of *Lean & Six Sigma Review*, a peer-reviewed magazine published by the American Society for Quality. Castree lives in St. Louis.

Dr. Stephen Kissel (A&S '12, GRAD A&S '17), an assistant professor of history at Oakland City University in Indiana, wrote *America's Religious Crossroads: Faith and Community in the Emerging Midwest*.

Chris Ackels (A&S) is the public address announcer for all Fighting Irish home football games at the University of Notre Dame. He lives in Chicago and is also the in-stadium host and emcee for the Chicago White Sox. He has worked with the Chicago Bulls and Chicago Blackhawks, as well as announcing at events for several universities including SLU, and in conference championships and tournaments from the Big East to the Big Ten and Atlantic 10.

2014

Betty (Gibson) Bayer (GRAD ED) opened Betty's Books, a specialty bookstore that sells graphic novels, comics, children's literature and Japanese manga, in Webster Groves, Missouri.

2016

Cicely Hunter (GRAD A&S) was named public historian for the African American History Initiative for the Missouri Historical Society. Previously, Hunter was assistant director of equity and inclusion for Carthage College. As a graduate research assistant at Saint Louis University, Hunter worked on the Slavery, History, Memory and Reconciliation Project, a joint initiative between SLU and the Jesuit Conference of Canada and the United States.

Dr. Frances Ue (MED) is an internal medicine hospitalist for Cambridge Health Alliance and an instructor at Harvard Medical School in Cambridge, Massachusetts. She recently was featured in a *New York Times Magazine* column for making a rare and life-changing diagnosis of a patient with severe flu-like symptoms.

Join SLU's Career Consultation Platform

SLU Connections, Saint Louis University's career consultation platform, creates a space where alumni can provide career advice and knowledge to current students and fellow alumni through virtual consultations. Alumni can connect, access job resources, answer student questions and more.

Join the community at sluconnections.slu.edu.

SLU | CONNECTIONS

Dr. Glenn Pfister Jr. (MED '45)
Miss Rose Schmidt (DCHS '45)
Rev. William Kelly S.J. (A&S '47)
Mrs. Monica (Medill) Russell (VSN '47)
Mr. Joseph Kennedy (CSB '48)
Mr. Maynard Wege (PC '48)
Mr. Trifon Abatgis (CSB '49)

Dr. Gladys (Walleman) Gruenberg
(GRAD A&S '49, '52), professor emeritus of economics and industrial relations, died Oct. 8, 2021, at age 101. Dr. Gruenberg joined the faculty in 1969 and became the first tenured female faculty member in the business school. She taught economics, industrial relations and international business, and researched collective bargaining and labor arbitration. In 1975 she became director of a new program in graduate business administration for women. She retired with emeritus status in 1983.



Ms. Dorothy (Bromberg) Kass (VSN '49)
Mr. Joseph Mattler (CSB '49)
Mrs. Rosemary (Masterson) Mosher (A&S '49)
Dr. James O'Donnell (A&S '49)

Dr. Matthias H. Backer Jr. (MED '50), emeritus professor in the Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Women's Health at the School of Medicine, died Sept. 11, 2021. He was 94 years old. Dr. Backer joined the SLU faculty in 1954 and served as chair of the department from 1985-91. A retired rear admiral in the U.S. Navy, Dr. Backer taught and recruited more than 400 men and women to become navy doctors.



Mrs. Fay (McDonnell) Farrell (VSN '50)
Mr. Kenneth Kerr (CSB '50)
Mr. Leonard Knobbe (CSB '50)
Mr. John McDonnell (IT '50)

Mrs. Joan (Mathews) Yeager (A&S '50)
Mr. Denis Zavadil (IT '50)
Mr. William Zielinski (CSB '50)
Mr. Ralph Zitzmann Sr. (A&S '50)
Mr. James Bennett Jr. (PC '51)
Dr. Salvatore Riggio (MED '51)
Mr. Randall Walchli (PC '51)
Dr. William Wright (DENT '51)

Dr. Richard J. Blackwell Sr.
(GRAD A&S '52, '54), professor emeritus of philosophy, died Oct. 10, 2021, at age 92. He joined the faculty in 1961 and was named the first Danforth Chair in the Humanities in 1986. A recipient of SLU's Nancy McNeir Ring Award for Excellence in Teaching, Dr. Blackwell specialized in the intersection between science and religion. He published numerous articles and books, including translations of works by St. Thomas Aquinas and Christian Wolff. He retired in 2001.



Mr. Patrick Forkin (CSB '52)
Dr. Ernest Gentile (DENT '52)
Mr. William Pannell (LAW '52)
Mr. Robert Rothschild (CSB '52)
Mr. James Truesdale (PC '52)
Mr. Hugh Bergman (A&S '53)
Mr. Robert Schoor (A&S '53)
Dr. Robert Weiss (MED '53)
Dr. Edward Ginouves (MED '54)
Dr. Delbert Harris (MED '54)
Mr. Francis Josse (A&S '54)
Mr. Charles Kempster (A&S '54)
Dr. Thomas McManamon (MED '54)
Mr. Fred Vogler (A&S '54)
Prof. George Brown (A&S '55)



Dr. Teresa (Herrera) Johnson (A&S '55, GRAD A&S '63, '77), retired professor of modern languages, died Aug. 14, 2021. She was 86 years old. She began as a Spanish instructor at SLU while completing her graduate studies in the early 1960s. During the next five decades, she was a constant on campus. She also served on the advisory board for the Reinert Center for Teaching Excellence. When Dr. Johnson retired in 2014, she was the most senior member of the Department of Modern and Classical Languages.

Mrs. Virginia (Benisch) Drozd (A&S '55)
Mrs. Mary (Carney) Kemme (VSN '55)
Dr. Charles Kullmann (LAW '55)
Mr. Charles McEnery Jr. (LAW '55)
Mr. Donald McWilliams (CSB '55)
Dr. C. Stechschulte (MED '55)
Mr. Thomas Stewart (CSB '55)
Mr. John Sullivan (CSB '55)
Dr. Jess Young (MED '55)
Mrs. Margaret DeWulf-Evans (VSN '56)
Dr. Richard Galbraith (MED '56)
Mr. Stephen Hirschmugl (CSB '56)
Dr. Michael Kachmer (MED '56)
Dr. George Magaletta (MED '56)
Mr. Francis Sandweg (CSB '56)
Mr. James Solomon (CSB '56)
Mr. Andrew Bonetti (PC '57)
Mrs. Elizabeth (Soule) Calley (VSN '57)
Mr. William Cissell Sr. (CSB '57)
Mr. William Gazzerro (PC '57)
Mrs. Helen (Savage) Gerhardstein (VSN '57)
Mr. Dominic Licavoli (CSB '57)
Dr. Joseph Nista (MED '57)
Mr. Harley Schwering (CSB '57)
Mr. David Streb (CSB '57)
Mr. Donald Hanneke (PC '58)
Mr. John Hermann (IT '58)
Mrs. Phyllis (Northcott) Jacoby (DCHS '58)
Mrs. Margaret Joyce (VSN '58)
Dr. Joseph Shaieb (DENT '58)
Mrs. Julienne (Bocklage) Walker (A&S '58)
Sr. Marie Wiederholt (A&S '58)
Dr. James Young (MED '58)

Mr. Albert Bouckaert (IT '59)
Mr. Walter Cizak (PC '59)
Ms. Ann (Handley) Deichmann (A&S '59)
Ms. Rosemary (Power) Downes (A&S '59)
Mr. Joseph Mueller (LAW '59)
Mr. Thomas Musson (PC '59)
Hon. Thad Niemira (LAW '59)
Dr. Charles Waldo (CSB '59)
Mr. John Baudendistel (IT '60)
Mrs. Judith (Yotter) Janis (A&S '60)
Dr. Richard Krumholz (MED '60)
Mr. Donald Manahan (PC '60)
Dr. Thomas Markham (MED '60)
Mr. Kenneth Moellering (IT '60)
Mrs. Mary (Shipley) Moellering (A&S '60)
Hon. Paul Simon (LAW '60)
Rev. Joseph Damhorst, S.J. (A&S '61)
Mr. Joseph DiGiovanna Sr. (A&S '61)
Mr. Robert Duraski (CSB '61)
Dr. Gerald Geisler (MED '61)



Dr. Diana (Siedhoff) Natalicio (A&S '61), president emerita of the University of Texas at El Paso, died Sept. 24, 2021, at age 82. UTEP's first female president and a first-generation college student herself, Dr. Natalicio was an advocate for underprivileged students. During her 31-year presidency, she helped shape UTEP into the only U.S. doctoral/research university that serves a predominantly Mexican-American student population. She was one of *Time Magazine's* "Most Influential People" in 2016 and profiled by *Fortune* as one of the "World's Greatest Leaders" in 2017, the same year she received an honorary doctorate from SLU.

Ms. Helen Riechmann (SW '61)
Miss Catherine Smith (VSN '61)
Mr. James Voss (A&S '61)
Mrs. Ida (Perkins) West (DCHS '61)

Mr. Enrique Bolaños (IT '62), the former president of Nicaragua, died June 14, 2021, at age 93. In the 1950s, he led a cotton consortium that became one of Nicaragua's largest. He later headed several companies and held leadership roles in Nicaragua's most important business associations during the 1980s. As president from 2002-07, Mr. Bolaños promoted job creation in free-trade zones, as well as investment in tourism and agriculture. He pushed for the Central America Free Trade Agreement with the United States, which Nicaragua's congress ratified in 2005.



Miss Imelda Eisenbeis (SW '62)
Ms. Mary (Carr) Kanard (VSN '62)
Mr. James Klauck (CSB '62)
Dr. G. Robben (MED '62)
Rev. Paul Schott, S.J. (A&S '62)
Mr. Claude Short (PC '62)
Mr. Peter Von Minden (PC '62)
Rev. John Zupetz, S.J. (A&S '62)
Mrs. Michele Helein (VSN '63)
Dr. John Kelly (MED '63)
Mrs. Leticia (Cuizon) Relatos (ED '63)
Sr. Mary Lou Roussin, C.P.P.S. (A&S '63)
Dr. Ann (Lauf) Schwartz (A&S '63)
Mr. Leonard Waymeyer (CSB '63)
Dr. James Bacon Jr. (MED '64)
Mr. Jeffrey Banks (A&S '64)
Mrs. Dorothy (Prendergast) Bini (A&S '64)
Mr. Richard Dunn (IT '64)
Sr. Catherine Durr, C.S.J. (PH '64)
Mr. Nicholas Eissen (A&S '64)
Mr. Harold Held (CSB '64)
Mr. Gilbert Johnston (CSB '64)
Hon. Charles Kitchin (LAW '64)
Dr. Robert Maloney (MED '64)
Dr. Roy McJilton (MED '64)
Mr. Robert Nolan Sr. (CSB '64)

Mr. John Sandell Sr. (PC '64)
Mr. William Schmidt Jr. (A&S '64)
Rev. John Arnold, S.J. (A&S '65)
Mr. James Aubrey (CSB '65)
Mr. John Flynn Jr. (A&S '65)
Mr. John Grimes (A&S '65)
Dr. George Korkos (MED '65)
Mr. Ronald Schapp (CSB '65)
Rev. Karl Voelker, S.J. (A&S '65)
Rev. Robert Voss, S.J. (A&S '65)
Mr. Robert Voss (PC '65)
Mr. Larry Broderick (A&S '66)
Mrs. Nancy Fox-De Sena (A&S '66)
Capt. Kevin Kilty (SW '66)
Dr. Irene Meyer (A&S '66)
Dr. Victor Nettle Jr. (IT '66)
Sr. Mary Schmitz, S.M.P. (ED '66)
Ms. Diane (Ellis) Vella (A&S '66)
Mr. Edward Ahlheim (LAW '67)
Sr. Leo Bub, C.S.J. (ED '67)
Mr. Harry Fabick (CSB '67)
Mr. R. Hitzemann Jr. (CSB '67)
Lt. Col. James Jeske (PC '67)
Dr. Donald Masui (DENT '67)
Dr. Paul Petruska (MED '67)
Mr. James Treadwell (IT '67)
Mr. Franz Zinsser (CSB '67)
Ms. Patricia Keller (VSN '68)
Mr. Jack Lashley (IT '68)
Ms. Patricia Murphy (A&S '68)
Mr. Jon Van Paemel (PC '68)
Dr. Martin Carrow (DENT '69)
Bro. Joseph Comber, C.F.X. (ED '69)
Mr. Ralph Czarnecki (CSB '69)
Mr. John Fitzgerald Jr. (A&S '69)
Mr. Roy Fullerton (ED '69)
Mr. Harry Luecke (A&S '69)
Dr. John McCloskey (MED '69)
Mr. James Stevens (PC '69)
Dr. Edward Tate (DENT '69)
Ms. Martina Duperret (VSN '70)
Mr. John Hanneke Sr. (CSB '70)

Sr. Rosemary Hufker (ED '70)
Mr. Dennis Kruse (PC '70)
Rev. Robert Liss (ED '71)
Mr. Thomas Winfrey (CSB '71)
Dr. Henry Givens Jr. (A&S '72)
Mr. Thomas Jozwik (A&S '72)
Mr. Paul Justus (A&S '72)
Mr. Henry Kent (ED '72)
Sr. Nilda Peralta, R.S.M. (ED '72)
Mr. Kevin Shaner (CSB '72)
Sen. William Haine (LAW '73)
Rev. Ralph Siefert (ED '73)
Mr. Terry Tellefson (SW '73)
Mr. Fred Boeckmann (LAW '74)
Mr. Joseph Dougherty (A&S '74)
Ms. Jane O'Shaughnessy (SW '74)
Mr. Francis Wohlrab Jr. (CSB '74)
Dr. James Chevalier (LAW '75)
Mr. Leon Johnson (CSB '75)
Dr. Thomas Nickolai (A&S '75)
Mrs. Nancy (Beauman) Pasco (SW '75)
Mrs. Patricia (Sinclair) Willer (A&S '75)
Mr. Arthur Spellmeyer III (CSB '76)
Mr. Kenneth Sample (PH '77)
Ms. Barbara (Vandivort) Williamson (CSB '78)
Dr. Joseph Beck (ED '79)
Mrs. Clara (Herrmann) Fulvio (A&S '79)
Mr. Richard Watkins (A&S '79)



Dr. Dorothy Stroh Becvar (GRAD SW '80, GRAD '83), professor emerita in SLU's School of Social Work, died on Aug. 31, 2021, at age 80. Dr. Becvar taught at several universities and served as an adjunct professor at SLU from 1979-84 before joining the University full time in 1985. She co-authored two texts in the field of marital and family therapy with her husband, Dr. Ray Becvar, who also taught at SLU. The two also founded the St. Louis Family Institute and the Haelan Centers. She retired from SLU in 2013.

Mrs. Susan (Carr) Hinton (SW '80)
Rev. Joseph Koterski, S.J. (A&S '80)
Dr. Randall Kristofferson (ED '80)
Mrs. Darlene Lee-Simms (PS '80)
Mr. Stephen Aylward (A&S '81)
Dr. Michael Tjoelker (MED '81)
Mr. August Von Oehsen (CSB '81)
Ms. Diane Weyermann (LAW '81)
Dr. Janice Dunwell (ED '82)
Ms. Ruth (Swinger) Forrest (PS '82)
Mr. John Kopff (PS '82)
Mrs. Louise (McKeon) Belt (LAW '83)
Dr. John Gooch (A&S '83)
Dr. Richard Bois (MED '84)
Dr. Kathleen Dempsey (A&S '84)
Dr. Raymond Henry (A&S '85)
Dr. Anthony Polito (A&S '85)
Mrs. Patricia (McAuliffe) Sharp (VSN '85)
Mrs. Jennifer (Borron) Furla (LAW '86)
Mr. Richard Nix Sr. (PS '86)
Mrs. Susan (Hollocher) Hiemenz (CSB '87)
Dr. Christopher Jernigan (DENT '87)
Ms. Arlyn Pittler (VSN '87)
Mr. B. Dowling (LAW '88)
Dr. Mary (Kozzarek) Wuller (A&S '89)
Mr. Jeremy Killmer (CSB '94)
Mrs. Marjorie (Kalb) Moore (DCHS '95)
Dr. Susan Minchin (MED '97)
Miss Trisha Wyant (VSN '99)
Dr. Layla Ziaee (MED '00)
Ms. Christine Dawson (SW '01)
Mr. Ian Archer-Watters (A&S '03)
Ms. Laura McRee (VSN '07)
Mr. Bradley Hook (LAW '11)
Ms. Angela Pappas (DCHS '14)

This list of deceased alumni was compiled by SLU's Office of Research and Development Services. If you have a question or would like more information about an "In Memoriam" listing, please send an email message to devupdates@slu.edu.

Dr. Harold Bush, professor of English, died Aug. 18, 2021, at age 64. He joined the faculty in 1998. An expert in 19th-century American literature, particularly Mark Twain, Dr. Bush also shared his love of American music in his popular course on America in the 1960s. In 2016, he received the College of Arts and Sciences' highest honor for undergraduate teaching in the humanities, the Helen I. Mandeville Award.



Dr. Janice Ann Noack, a former faculty member in the Trudy Busch Valentine School of Nursing, died Sept. 14, 2021. She was 87 years old. Dr. Noack had a long career in education, serving many roles in SLU's nursing program from 1977 to 1998.



Mr. Ron Coleman, former head men's basketball coach, died Dec. 24. He was 76. Mr. Coleman was one of Mizzou basketball's top all-time scorers, a former NBA player and coach at Vashon High School in St. Louis when he came to SLU. After several years as an assistant coach, Mr. Coleman served as the Billikens' men's basketball head coach in 1977-78. He was the program's first African American head coach. Later, he was head coach and athletic director at Lincoln University.



Dr. Krishnaswamy "Ravi" Ravindra, professor of aerospace and mechanical engineering at Parks College of Engineering, Aviation and Technology, died Dec. 2, 2021, at age 71. Dr. Ravindra joined Saint Louis University in 1987. He was department chair of aerospace and mechanical engineering from 1996-2009 and later served as associate dean and interim dean of Parks College. In 2003, he received the Outstanding Faculty of the Year Award



from the Association of Parks College Students, and in 2006 he was honored with the Student Government Faculty Excellence Award.

Dr. Elizabeth Winfrey Shindel, retired professor of education, died Aug. 31, 2021. She was 70 years old. She was on the faculty at Southern Illinois University Carbondale for many years, directing their baccalaureate degree programs on many U.S. military bases. She served on SLU's faculty for the last decade of her career, retiring in 2021.



Father Paul Stark, S.J., former SLU vice president for mission and ministry, died Nov. 16, 2021, at age 74. A Jesuit for 44 years, Father Stark converted to Roman Catholicism in 1970. He taught at several Jesuit institutions before coming to SLU in the mid-1990s. At SLU he served as campus minister, assistant to the president, and vice president for student development. After a stint at Wheeling Jesuit University in West Virginia, he returned to SLU to work in advancement and alumni relations and later as vice president for mission and ministry until 2015.



Dr. William Wold, professor at the School of Medicine, died June 14, 2021, at age 77. Dr. Wold came to SLU in 1973 as a post-doctoral fellow. He worked his way up to chairman of what became, under his leadership, the Department of Molecular Microbiology and Immunology. Building on a tradition of adenovirus molecular virology at SLU, his research focused on treatments and potential cures for cancer. He planned to retire in August 2021.



End of an Era

Remembering two luminaries of the SLU community

Saint Louis University lost two beloved longtime members of the community over the Christmas holidays. Mary Bruemmer and John Padberg, S.J., were SLU luminaries, mainstays of campus who made significant contributions and lasting impressions on the University.

They will be missed and remembered.



PHOTO BY STEVE DOLAN

Mary Bruemmer

Miss Mary A. Bruemmer (A&S '42, Grad '60), who served SLU for 65 years as an administrator and full-time volunteer, died Dec. 23, 2021. She was 101.

"My heart is heavy with this loss," University President Dr. Fred P. Pestello said. "My soul is rich with the gifts she bestowed on our University. And on Fran and me. Gifts of incredible intellect and perspective, values and mission. And delightful humor. Mary personified the best and finest of Saint Louis University."

Miss Bruemmer was born on Feb. 26, 1920, in Madison, Illinois. She enrolled at SLU in 1938, a time when fewer than 5% of the University's students were female. She later became the first female editor of SLU's student newspaper and yearbook.

After earning her bachelor's degree, Miss Bruemmer was offered a job as SLU's first dean of women, but she turned it down.

She spent the next 13 years in a variety of mission-oriented roles with the Red Cross, the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois and the United Way.

She returned to SLU in 1956 and became director of the University's first official residence hall for women, Marguerite Hall. In 1960, she became director of women's housing at SLU. Seven years later, she finally said yes when she was asked, for the third time, to become dean of women.

In 1972, the University streamlined the leadership of the student affairs division, with Miss Bruemmer at the helm as SLU's first dean of students. That same year, she led efforts to open Oriflamme to women, and she would go on to advise the student orientation organization for nearly 20 years.

Miss Bruemmer moved to the development division in 1985 to support alumni engagement and fundraising. She officially retired from the University in 1990, but she continued to come to SLU daily for the next 26 years as a full-time volunteer for the Women's Commission, a group she founded, as well as the Women's Council and the Jesuit honor society Alpha Sigma Nu. She retired for a second time in 2016.

Miss Bruemmer earned numerous honors and awards, including the Victor R. Yanitelli, S.J., Award from the Jesuit Association of Student Personnel Administrators. In 1977, she was named SLU's first Woman of the Year. Three years later, the Student Government Association created the Mary A. Bruemmer Award to recognize a member of the SLU community who made a lasting impact and exemplified dedication to advancing the student experience. In 1990, Miss Bruemmer received the inaugural Fleur de Lis Award from SLU, and 10 years later, the University celebrated her many contributions with an honorary doctorate of humanities.

A devout Catholic, Miss Bruemmer was awarded a papal knighthood in 2016, becoming Dame Commander of the Order of Saint Sylvester, Pope and Martyr.

Despite her many SLU responsibilities, she was active off campus, too. Miss Bruemmer donated her time and talents to the Truman Restorative Center, Hope House, St. Martha's Hall, Woman's Place and the Salvation Army Tree of Lights. She also was a volunteer organist at St. Mary's Church in Madison, Illinois.

In 1990, she commented on her time at SLU in a story that ran in University's on-campus newsletter, saying: "If there's one thing I've tried to do, it's been to improve the quality of student life. And the other is to improve and enhance the role of women at the University. I think I've had some success at both."

Gifts in memory of Miss Bruemmer can be directed to the Women's Council Mary Bruemmer Endowed Scholarship, which was established in 1985 by the members of SLU's Women's Council. The scholarship benefits undergraduate students across the University and is awarded to eight Billikens each year. giving.slu.edu/Bruemmer

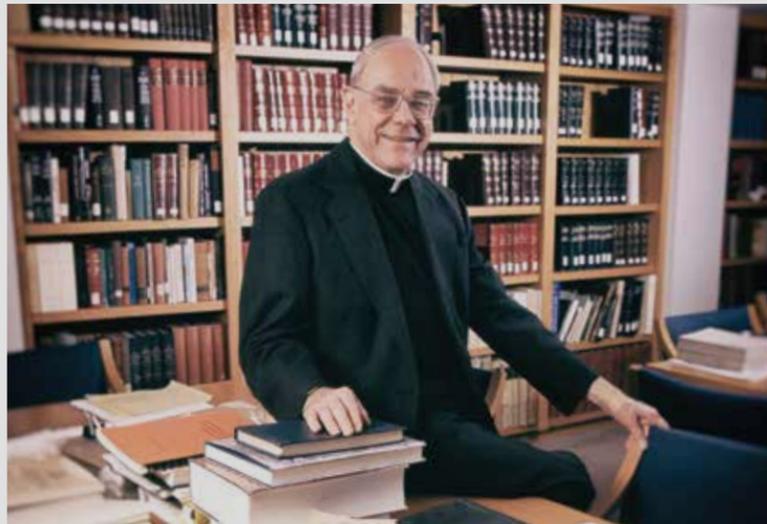


PHOTO BY JAMES VISSER

John Padberg, S.J.

Father John W. Padberg, S.J. (A&S '49, Grad A&S '54), a former history professor and academic vice president at Saint Louis University, died Dec. 25, 2021. He was 95. An internationally recognized scholar and author, he served for 28 years as director and editor of the Institute of Jesuit Sources and was considered an authority on the history of the Society of Jesus and Jesuit education.

"I don't know anyone who didn't love, like or admire John Padberg (usually all three). In many ways, he was a model Jesuit and a model scholar: kind, patient, thoughtful, generous and hardworking," said James Martin, S.J., *New York Times* bestselling author.

Father Padberg was born May 22, 1926, in St. Louis. He entered the Missouri Province of the Society of Jesus in 1944 after graduating from St. Louis University High School. He served as a Jesuit for 77 years and a priest for 64.

In addition to his studies at Saint Louis University, he studied at St. Mary's College and earned a doctorate in intellectual history and the history of ideas from Harvard University.

Father Padberg returned to SLU to teach history from 1964 to 1973, during which time he was honored with the national Harbison Prize for excellence in teaching from the Danforth Foundation. As an administrator, he served as acting director of the department of historical theology in the divinity school, and later as academic vice president of the University.

In 1973, Father Padberg moved to the East Coast and joined the staff of the Jesuit Conference at the national headquarters of the Society of Jesus in Washington, D.C. Two years later, he became president of the Weston Jesuit School of Theology, a national theological center in Cambridge, Massachusetts. While at Weston, Father Padberg founded the International Conference of Catholic Theological Institutions, where he served as president and fostered a community of Catholics striving to look intellectually at faith.

He also served as a delegate to two general congregations of the Society of Jesus in Rome, where he joined fellow Jesuits in paving the way for the future of the order.

But even as he looked to the future, Father Padberg realized the value in the past. In 1986 he returned to St. Louis to serve as the director of the Institute of Jesuit Sources, a position he held until 2014. In that role, he oversaw the publication and translation of important Jesuit works meant to foster scholarship and preserve spiritual history.

In addition to his publications, he lectured extensively about the Society of Jesus and Jesuit education. Over the years, he gave presentations at each of the U.S. Jesuit colleges and universities and in the D'Arcy Lectures at Campion Hall at the University of Oxford.

He also was the rector of Jesuit Hall and a trustee of Saint Louis University. He was awarded an honorary doctorate from SLU in 2017. And he served on SLU's Bicentennial Steering Committee from 2016-18.

"To remember John's many accomplishments is appropriate, of course," said David Suwalsky, S.J., vice president of mission and identity at SLU. "He was a notable author and a gifted administrator. But he will also be remembered for his preaching at the College Church, his urbane conversation and his deep and abiding affection for his Jesuit brothers and his many, many friends."

Gifts in memory of Father Padberg can be directed to the Jesuit Center Project Fund. This fund was established to support the construction of the new Jesuit residence on SLU's north campus. In addition to serving as the primary residence for Jesuits missioned at the University, the Jesuit Center will create a space for enhanced interaction between SLU's Jesuits and the wider community. giving.stlu.edu/Padberg

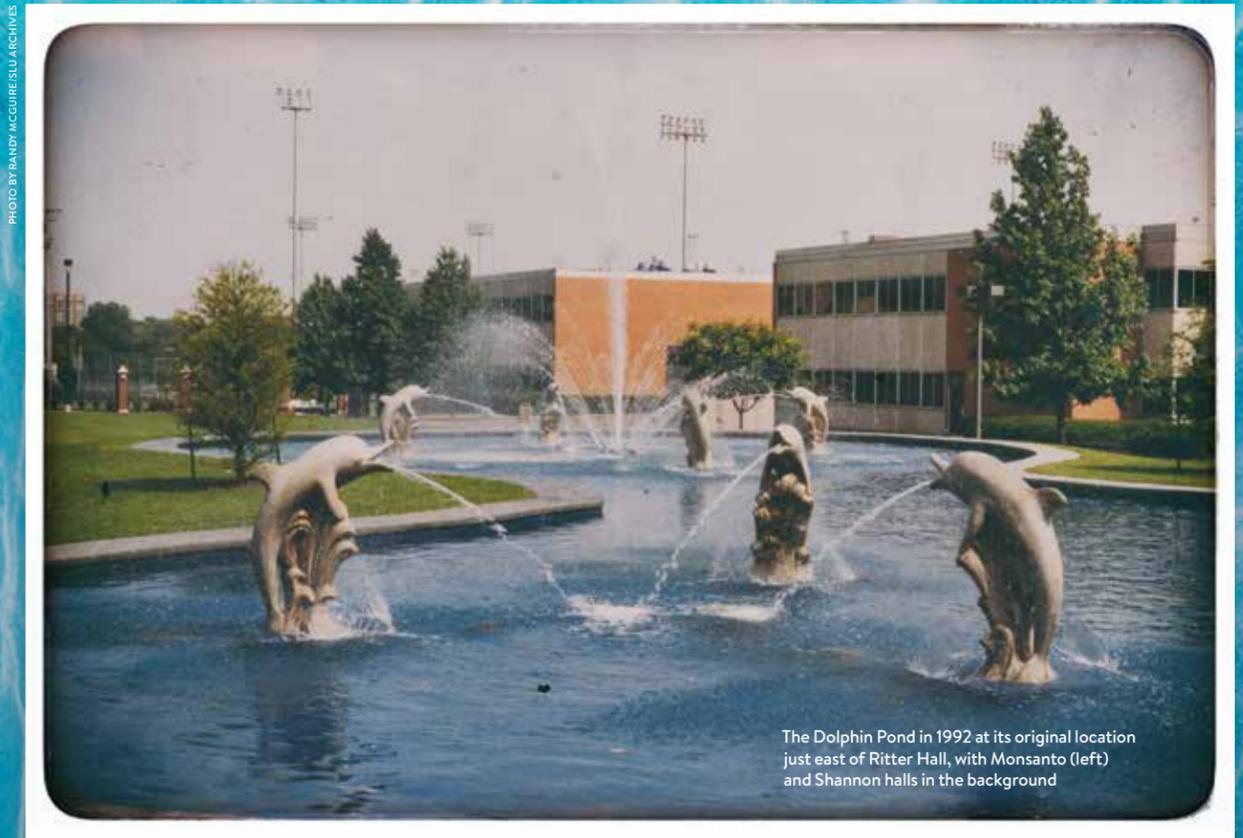


PHOTO BY BANDY MCCUIRE/SLU ARCHIVES

The Dolphin Pond in 1992 at its original location just east of Ritter Hall, with Monsanto (left) and Shannon Halls in the background

THREE DECADES OF DOLPHINS

The Dolphin Pond was installed in spring 1992 near Ritter Hall. When its construction was announced, it was referred to as a "reflection pond," only later taking on the Dolphin Pond name thanks to its seven concrete dolphins. In 1992, the *Archive* yearbook said the pond "created a stir but quickly became part of the scenery."

A CAMPUS LANDMARK

The irregularly shaped water feature was approximately 120 feet long and 50 feet wide and included a 20-foot fountain. In its 26 years near Ritter Hall, the Dolphin Pond became a landmark, a place to meet and relax. In the mid 2010s, hammocks were installed nearby, increasing the area's popularity.

SURVEY SAYS

In the fall of 2018, it was announced that the Dolphin Pond would need to be removed due to the construction of the Interdisciplinary Science and Engineering Building. Soon after, members of the SLU community were invited to help determine where the pond should be relocated. More than 2,700 people voted in an online poll, and the "Grand Lawn" — the grassy area adjacent to Grand Hall, just west of Grand Boulevard — was the clear winner with nearly 1,700 votes.

STATUES IN STORAGE

As the pond area was taken over with ISE Building construction work, the seven dolphin statues were carefully removed from the site and safely stored in a campus warehouse, where they have lived for more than three years. The dolphins will debut at their new home in mid-May, when the new water feature will be completed in time for commencement.

UNDER CONSTRUCTION

Construction of the new Dolphin Pond near Grand Hall started Dec. 27. The irregularly shaped pond will feature the original seven dolphins in groups of three and four at each end of the water with a large fountain in the middle. The pond will be approximately 96 feet long.



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