The Heat of the Moment
SLU FACULTY OFFER HOPE AMID CLIMATE CHANGE
Page 6
W e 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 mentor has been felt for decades. (Read more about Father Padberg on page 35.) Notably, in his work as director of the Institute of Jesuit Sources in St. Louis, he accompanied by a stamped, self-addressed envelope. Letters to the editor must be signed, and letters not intended for publication should indicate that fact. The editor reserves the right to edit all items.

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Dr. Fred J. Pestello
President
FALL SOCCER SUCCESS

The Billikens men’s soccer team finished the season with a 16–4–1 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 in the first five games. 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.

The Billikens men’s soccer team finished the season with a 13–1–2 record, playing 22 games, which ties a school record. Defender Brionna Halverson was selected to the 2021 NCAA Division I All-East Region staff of the year, fourth-year head coach Kevin Niece, were selected in the third round. Kipp Keller fifth, the Columbus Crew took Patrick Schulte 12th, and the Vancouver Whitecaps chose Badr El-Kaddouri 15th, 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.

Billikens Introduce O’Loughlin Family Champions Center

A new campus facility that will serve all Billikens student-athletes is anticipated to open in May 2023. The O’Loughlin Family Champions Center will deliver programming related to academic advising, athletic performance, academic support, as well as the Center for Responsibility and Community Standards, university-wide teaching award. Bob O’Loughlin, chairman and CEO of Lodging Hospitality Management and a SLU trustee, directly with a local immigrant-serving organization.

Billikens Soccer to Get New Locker Room Facility

About 1.5 years ago, the decision was made to change the locker room facility to a state-of-the-art facility to accommodate the expansion of the conference tournament. The Billikens placed third in the A-10 regular-season standings.

The Billikens made their sixth overall appearances — 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.

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.

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MIDYEAR COMMENCEMENT RETURNS

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

More than 260 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.”

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 the ceremony had formally left.

Midyear commencement returned in December as the university had four or more students selected in the first round of the MLS SuperDraft.

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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 3.9.
- 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, 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 reimagining 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 will also become home to all disciplines housed in SLU’s Parks College of Engineering, Aviation and Technology.

Key goals of the reorganizations include:

- To better align student success and educational outcomes, as well as focus efforts on key diversity, equity and inclusion goals.
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SLU begins 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 into 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, and administrators.

The University will continue to honor the legacy of Olive “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.

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 2022, 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 2022 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, 2022, the University has received 14 campaign gifts and pledges of $1 million or more, and 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 2022 includes more than $8 million for student scholarships.

The Accelerating Excellence campaign is on course to meet or exceed the $100 million goal by June 30, 2022. Learn more at slu.edu/campaignforSLU.

NEW JESUIT CENTER RECEIVES MILLION CHALLENGE GRANT

In June 2022, 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 $18.1 million cost. The Mabee Foundation grant is contingent upon SLU raising the remaining $11.1 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 2027.

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 to celebrate this sacred faith at the center of who we are.”

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

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 a Bachelor of Science in Nursing ranking. 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’s 2022 Education Engagement Rankings, and ninth among most western 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 greens 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.

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 eying ways to adjust its COVID-suppression efforts.

Diversity Division Renamed

Saint Louis University’s diversity efforts now are housed in a division with a name that reflects the expanded focus and a renewed commitment to transformation. The newly named Division of Diversity, Equity, 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 CHESS TEAM WINS INTERCOLLEGIATE AMERICAN INTERCOLLEGIATE TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP

The Saint Louis University Chess Team won the 68th annual Pan-American Intercollegiate Chess 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 League. SLU will face UT Dallas, Texas Tech and Webster University. The Final Four will tentatively be held in the first weekend of April.

INTERCOLLEGIATE EDUCATION 2022 college rankings, SLU ranked No. 6 among Midwestern universities located in cities. Overall, SLU ranked 113 out of more than 600 universities nationwide.

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The Heat of the Moment

By Amy Garland
Illustrations by Robert Neubecker
Photos by Steve Dolan

"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 crisis every day. Hopefully, the students become inspired to do something about it.

There is no denying that the climate crisis is here. 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., 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.

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 needed 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 also 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 visionary, personal action and societal change.

He also brunches 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

Knouft said the model developed by his team can be adapted for other projects. "Several agencies, nongovernmental organizations and the states 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 2055.

"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 a 120-meter by 240-meter plot of ground, Miller and her research group are investigating the impact of climate change on grapevines. As the climate changes, what components of the plant will change?

"Their concerns are all tied together: water scarcity, climate change, social equality, economics," Knouft said. "Which is actually incredibly appropriate because they are all interrelated, and in range from social systems. We're not going to be able to deal with it in a vacuum."

The Root of the Matter

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," 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 can harvest mechanistically, 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 Kerria, a perennial num-

ber of the wheatgrass family that's been developed over the last couple of decades. Last fall, The Washington Post wrote about Kerria's capacity to address climate change, and Whole Foods named it one of their top 10 food trends for 2022.

"We buy Kerria 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."
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 says. “So, I applied for the job.” In 1994, he 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, 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 tree foliage. The computer model simulated feeding and dental breakage rates along with elephant mortality rates to see their effect on certain woody plants. The findings revealed how elephants provide a crucial function to the health of the planet. “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. “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.

“You, they’re adorable!” Fowler-Finn said. She was speaking specifically about the treehoppers, 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 secrete scents, which may attract females. “These are charismatic, globally known animals, but despite their fame, we don’t understand 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 hypothesized 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 tortoise reasons, thinner global peril as we overharvest migratory species, destroy habitat and change the climate,” Blake said. “That impacts the species’ evolutionary fitness; the reproductive potential, their body condition, their reproduction.”

As the climate warmed, the male dragonflies adopted 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. “How do females respond in a totally different way?” she asked. “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 levels, including the Saint Louis University Museum of Art in March 2020 and eventually went online due to the pandemic. (Listen at www.toohottosing.com.)

“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 found that when they develop at a hotter temperature, it increases their tolerance to 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, or “songs” sent as vibrations through plant veins. 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.

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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.
As provost, much of my job is listening to people, really hearing what they say and listening to them for what they might be thinking. Ultimately, changing your mind has the same reasons they have—there's 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 people at SLU and see all the great things that are being done. We have so many great people here. Then, related to that, it’s just having the opportunity to make an impact 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 your 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 of inertia.” So, 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 currently in discussion 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 University. For example, the University’s strategic plan has priorities around fundraising, overall community engagement and other important matters. The academic strategic plan as focusing on needs, strengths and necessary investments of the academy for instruction, research, learning outcomes, strength and so forth. Any goals we establish would align with the University’s strategic plan.

What can you share about academic reinvigoration, SLU’s recent changes in 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. Where we are taking out is the administrative effort that goes into opening programs. Whether a program enrolls one student or a thousand, we have to go through the academic review. We do an exhaustive review and 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 popular and others that are not.

Our program review process is about doing the very best job we can with the great resources we have. We’re working on the problem that we do have, but still have our limits. So, we’re going to end up closing probably between 10 and 15% of our programs, affecting maybe 300 to 400 students—a small percentage of 2020, we proposed 40 programs for closure. Since that time, 33 programs for closure have already been announced as well. It’s just something I’m really proud of and I’m proud the provost job is the same.

There was never any one thing. It was a progression. I had a history with teaching, I was an associate provost, then interim dean, 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, as well. Can you discuss your approach to serving the community?

As associate provost and now as provost, I’ve been involved in new faculty recruitment, 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.

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SLU RESEARCH INSTITUTES LEVERAGE DATA TO COMBAT LOCAL AND GLOBAL CHALLENGES

DATA-DRIVEN INNOVATION

By Marie DíOg

R

esearchers at Saint Louis University contin-

ued to explore and develop the vast potential of

data-driven innovation this year. And while news articles on these

advances convey outcomes, they rarely shed light on the processes and tools used to identify patterns or

discoveries. Often, the painstaking practice involves sifting through mounds of data, looking for trends, find-
ing 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

networks, and facilitating interactions between researchers to predict and control the spread of

infection and combat the opioid addiction crisis.

The SLU Advanced Health Equity Development (AHEAD) Institute and the SLU Geospatial Institute (GeoSLU)

were created in 2018 with seed money from the Big Ideas competition designed to foster collaborative

and population health. The institute’s multi-disciplinary faculty, doctoral students, and pediatric otolaryngology,

neurological cancers, infection control and hospital projects and cement SLU’s reputation as a destination

through mounds of data, looking for trends, find-

banks to study the prescribing behaviors of physicians before and after the Centers

medical records. Data points are de-identified before researchers access them.

research questions and analyze the massive amounts of data captured in electronic

by developing new tools to gather information and

for training, research and discovery. The institutes

novel methods to crunch the scientific data, which

infections and combat the opioid addiction crisis.

AHEAD researchers work with a variety of disciplines and use advanced ana-

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

. A SLUCare and Sagan, 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 out-

comes, 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 infra-

structure provided by AHEAD, which is committed to addressing health-related issues that disproportionately affect poor and underserved communities. She said AHEAD is poised to be a leader in data analytics because SLU has all the right people in all the right places.

“We have medical school faculty using the clinical questions, public health faculty with public health expertise, and computer science faculty and stu-

ents 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 scien-
tial research. The Geo-Resolution 2021 conference

with this non-traditional public health data to better understand the social and

physical environments people encounter daily. This leads to better interventions

with infections 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 analyzes data on which children with asthma who use

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 pre-

paredness and response; sex trafficking; and economic development and social

inability.

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

Dr. Vaish 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 geospa-
tial 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, who leads GeoSLU, researches how satellite imagery and geospatial data can be used to improve crop produc-
tivity and food security. He uses drones, sensors and satellite imagery to monitor the impact of climate change, water supply, fertilization and other influ-

ences on sorghum and soybean crops.

“What’s exciting is that we 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 through traditional means, but in a more scientific way,” 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 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 stu-
dent organization this year.

Dr. Ness Sandoval, professor of sociology, and asso-
ciate director of GeoSLU, specializes in geostatistical data, which he uses to help students visualize

neighborhoods. “A lot of students want to understand their own neighborhoods. What do we know about immigra-
tion or what do we know about racial segregation? How do these patterns start?” Sandoval said. “It’s an eye-opener. Finally, I have objective evidence of my personal story.”

Researchers believe SLU is uniquely suited to be a leader in geospatial science, and the University places the utmost importance on the

ethical dimensions of geospatial technologies.

While geographic mapping technologies have tremendous potential for good, without ethical considerations they can do great harm. Fears exist that the massive amount of data collected by satellites, street cameras and people who use cell-

phones, for example, might be used to invade the privacy of individuals and groups.

GeoSLU assembled the GeoSpatial Ethics Research and Practice Taskforce to examine the potential benefits and

ethical dimensions of geospatial technologies and practice and make certain they are consistent with SLU’s commitment to justice and the common good. The taskforce is led by Shacham and Michael Rosier, S.J. (A&S ’03), assistant professor of health management and policy and EthicalGEO fellow at SLU. Members include Brian Cardillo, former director of the National Geospatial-

Intelligence Agency and distinguished geospatial fellow at SLU, also a group member.

Sandoval, Sagan and Shacham
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.”
You can hear the gunfire. You pointed to an 1866 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 texts gave way to large pictorial features with gory battlefield images that left nothing to the imagination.

“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 distressful, it’s a cakewalk compared to what editorialists had to say about President Lincoln and his advisors,” Drone said. He retired as a Commerce Bank executive. “Writers spawned vicious and nasty things, and they called leaders murderers and child-eaters. It was brutal.”

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 1930 and 1935 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 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.”

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. “I’m and Jeanne recently included the University in their estate plans as well, and we are extremley grateful for their generosity and support.”

Dron 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.

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

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.
CONNECTIONS
DELTA GAMMA
with their families,” said Abigail Simon (DCHS ’21), 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 student at Doisy College of Health Sciences who leads 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 Portal 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 virtual friends and see each other 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.”

THE PANDEMIC EXACERBATED feelings of social isolation and mental illness, particularly among older adults in residential care 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 65 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.

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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 Schacht Kubitschke, 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 St. St. Louis Alliance for Period Supplies (SLAPS) program give the booklets to their partners, who distribute them to those who need them.

Students who created the guide included Oyeyinkaoluwa Anikamadu, Gabriella Schmidt-Grimminger, Allie Pinson, Adrienne Beckert-Anna 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.”

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 Schacht Kubitschke, 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.

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ROAD TO A GREENER SLU
ELYSE LEWANDOWSKI, A SENIOR in the Chaifetz School of Business, came up with the idea to create a 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 these raised garden beds behind Reimert Hall.

For expertise on the growing and preparation process, Campus Kitchen staffers and volunteers contacted Fresh Gardens, 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, cooks and delivers to Billionaire 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 100, 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.”

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, technology, engineering and math (STEM), said that 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 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.
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 development corporation, University President Dr. Fred P. Pestello said. “This is a gift to the students and the people of Saint Louis.”

Starting in early 2022, phase two of the project will include apartments and additional office and commercial space. Other plans include a Target store, which opened in November. The 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.

As 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 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 knew 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.”

This 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?”
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, M.D., of 25 new priests in Canada, the United States and Haiti. Several of them have a connection to Saint Louis University. They are:

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

LOUIS HOTOP, S.J. (FAL ’15) is part of the community of the University 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.

ZACHARIAN F. PRESUTTI, S.J. (GRAD SW ’16) is ministered to a parochial year offering sacramental ministry at the Church of St. Francis Xavier in New York City and its parishes throughout the New York metropolitan area.

TREVOR J.B. RAHMAH, S.J. (GRAD A&S ’16) is working on a master’s degree in liturgical theology at Catholic University of America.

BRIAN STRASSBURGER, S.J. (GRAD A&S ’16) responds to pastoral needs in the Diocese of Brownsville, Texas, with a particular focus on the migrant community.

2060


2066

Dr. Kevin Corroigan Kearn (GRAD A&S ’14, ’16) received the Loyal 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, Naaris 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.

2068

Gene Thirlow (GRAD A&S ’88, LAW ’71) was prolific 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 Thirlow lives in Rockville, Maryland.

2071

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 ’76), Mary-Kate “Vickie” Victor (A&S), Elaine (Wenner) Rogers (A&S ’71, GRAD A&S ’72) and Hal Rogers; (second row) Chris Cirate (LAW ’76, LAW ’77), Mary-Lou Stangan Montagno (A&S), Adrienne “Ade” (Lukasewski) Akers (DCHS) and Jim Akers (Mind/row), Peggy (Batell) Johnson (DCHS) and Barbara (Gomberg) Feiner (A&S), and (fourth row) Marylee “Marrie” (Holt) Howell (A&S), Mary Kortum, Annette (Talpy) Moutaj (A&S) and Bob Lembo (LAW ’71, LAW ’75).

2073

Thomas Hidhak (A&S) was named one of six national winners of the New PlayFest, 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.

Suan Croce Kelly (GRAD A&S ’88), a park and route and roadway historian, was inducted into the Missouri Writers Hall of Fame. Kelly wrote Route 66: The Highway and Its People and Father of America: The History of the U.S. Army Reserve in May 1971.

2074

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 specialization 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 sec -ond in November 1996, I joined the disability com -munity,” 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 re-focused his career to help others like him. He said that being in a wheelchair, he experienced discrimination first-hand 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. “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 advisor. Gallegos immediately contacted his wife, Dona, and two children, Alicia and Andréj, and celebrat ed. Gallegos had warned his family not to expect much because he feared the new role would mean he would be busy. So far, they’ve been correct.

“Before, I really picked and chose my involve ment in certain projects,” he said. “Now I have to be involved in all projects and be kept abreast of things going on.”

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 set -tings,” he said.

Andréj J. Gallegos

When Joe Biden was elected president in November 2020, Andréj 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 met with the Biden transition team, and 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 administra tion, 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 and also showed the importance of the council’s work.

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I thought, no one offering me a teaching contract, so I might as well be an actress. 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, Molière, Agatha Christie and more.

Marianne Muellerleile

Actor

Marianne Muellerleile is an abbreviation of Marlene Muellerleile, a professor emeritus at Wright State University in Dayton, Ohio, who was appointed a trustee of the Florence Nightingale Museum in London in spring 2021.

Dr. Donna Miles Curry (VSN '75, GRAD VSN '79), a professor emeritus at the Oregon National Guard presents the Oregon Distinguished Service Medal for exceptional service to the state. Her museum career spanned almost 40 years, with the past 12 years as director and curator of the Oregon Military Museum.

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Robert Blanco (ABS) has been a sales and marketing professional for the past 20 years. He loved 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.

Marianne Muellerleile is a partner at the law firm Gallegos & Fries and a member of the legal team at the Kansas City Bar Association.

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Glenn Glaflader (GRAD ABS) writes long-form pieces for his website gregknightphotocom. He lives in Helena, Montana.

Miguel Paraguau (ABS) is an 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 Paris, and as a professor at the Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania.

It was a very busy week. 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.

Having just finished high school at Visitation Academy, she attends Merry-Go-Round, a theater with a minor in education, during the protesting years.

She receives SLU’s Alumni Merit Award and gives a master class to the University’s drama students.

I will later travel to see Heifer International’s projects firsthand and raise more than $450,000 for the organization.

She travels to Saint 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.

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Her second audition leads to a guest-starring role on A Streetcar Named Desire.

The first audition got an Actor’s Equity contract.

The playwright, a native of Minnesota.

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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:
universitas@slu.edu
slu.edu/universitas

We hope to see you soon!
Check out upcoming virtual and in-person events and opportunities at alumni.slu.edu.
IN MEMORIAM

Mr. John McDonnell (IT '50)

Dr. Matthias H.

Ms. Dorothy (Bromberg) Kass

Dr. Gladys

Dr. Glenn Pfister Jr. {MED '45}

women to become navy doctors.

Navy, Dr. Backer taught and

of the department from 1985-91.

Women's Health

Gynecology and

in the Department

in the business school. She taught

of economics and

professor emeritus

I N UNIVERITAS

(SPRING 2022)

Dr. Delbert Harris (MED '54)

Dr. Edward Ginouves (MED '54)

Mr. Hugh Bergman (A&S '53)

Mr. James Truesdale (PC '52)

Mr. William Pannell (LAW '52)

Mr. Randall Walchli (PC '51)

Mrs. Joan (Mathews) Yeager

Mr. Denis Zawadzki (91)

Mr. William Zielinski (A&S '51)

Mr. Ralph Zitzmann (LAW '51)

Dr. Thomas McManamon (MED '54)

Mr. Fred Vogler (PC '50)

Prof. George Brown (A&S '55)

Dr. Thomas McManamon (MED '54)

Mr. William Zielinski (CSB '50)

Mr. Ralph Zitzmann (LAW '51)

Mr. Donald Nolan Sr. (CSB '64)

Mr. Enrique Bolaños (IT '62), the

former president

of Nicaragua, died

June 14, 2021,
at age 93. In the

years, Mr. Bolaños promoted

leadership roles in Nicaragua's most

important business associations
during the 1980s. As president from

2002-07, Mr. Bolaños helped

job creation in free-trade zones, as

well as investment in

tourism and agriculture. He pushed for

the Central America Free Trade

Agreement and the North American

Association of States, which Nicaragua's
congress ratified in 2005.

Miss Imilda Eisenshein (91)

Mr. Mary (Carr) Kendal (92)

Mr. James Klauck (92)

Dr. C. Robben (92)

Rev. Paul Schott, S.J. (92)

Mr. Claude Short (92)

Mr. Peter Von Minden (92)

Rev. John Zoepp (92)

Mrs. Michelle Hellen (92)

Dr. Joseph Beck (ED '79)

Dr. Joseph Nista (92)

Mr. Joseph Shais (B.ENT '92)

Mrs. Patricia Keller (VSN '98)

Mrs. Nancy (Beauman) Pasco

Mrs. Patricia (Sinclair) Willer

Dr. Thomas Nickolai (A&S '72)

Mr. Leon Johnson

Dr. Thomas Nicholai (A&S '72)

Mrs. Nancy (Beauman) Pasco

Mrs. Patricia (Sinclair) Willer

Lt. Col. James Jeske (92)

Dr. Donald Masui (DENT '81)

Dr. Paul Petrauskas

Mr. James Maddox (VSN '98)

Mr. Franz Zinner (92)

Mrs. Patricia Keller

Dr. Joseph Beck (92)

Dr. Jeffrey Banks (A&S '94)

Mrs. Dorothy (Prendergast) Bini

Mr. Richard Watkin (A&S '78)

Dr. Joseph Drouch Bievre (A&S '87)

Mr. Kevin Shaner (CSB '72)

Sr. Nilda Peralta, R.S.M. (ED '72)

Dr. Henry Givens Jr. (A&S '72)

Mr. Kevin Shaner (92)

Mr. Thomas Winfrey (92)

Dr. Michael Tjoelker (A&S '81)

Mr. Donald McWilliams (CSB '55)

Mr. Charles McEnery Jr. (LAW '55)

Mr. Donald Nolan Sr. (CSB '64)

Mr. Charles Kitchin (LAW '64)

Dr. Robert Maloney (MED '64)

Dr. Roy McJilton (MED '64)

Mr. Robert Nolan Sr. (CSB '64)

Mr. Robert Voss (A&S '64)

Sen. William Hams (LAW '63)

Kim (92)

Mr. Richard Bol (92)

Dr. Kathleen Dempsey (A&S '66)

Dr. Raymond Henry (A&S '66)

Dr. Anthony Polito (A&S '65)

Mrs. Patricia (McAuliff) Sharp

Mr. Jennifer (Burns) Faris (A&S '65)

Mr. Rich Na Sr, PH '66

Mrs. Susan (Halvich) Hiemen (A&S '65)

Dr. Christopher Jensen (ED '66)

Mrs. Arlyn Patti (PH '67)

Mr. E. Dowling (LAW '68)

Mr. Mary Kizer (PH '68)

Mr. Jeremy Killmer (A&S '69)

Mrs. Marjorie (Kahl) Moore (A&S '69)

Dr. Michael Minchak (A&S '73)

Miss Trisha Wyant (VSN '99)

Dr. Layla Zase (VSN '81)

Mrs. Christine Dawson (PH '81)

Mr. Ian Archer-Wattier (PH '81)

Mrs. Laura McCreary (A&S '81)

Mr. Bradley Hook (LAW '81)

Mrs. Angela Pagoppa (PH '81)
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.


In 1990, she commented on her time at SLU in a story that ran in University’s on-campus newsletter, saying, “I think I’ve had some success at both.”

“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 NO. SHE RETIRED FOR A SECOND TIME IN 2016.”

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 BILLIANS EACH YEAR. GIVING.SLU.EDU/BRUEMMER
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 Award for his Jesuit brothers and his many, many friends.”

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.

In 2017, he was named a Jesuit Scholar in Residence at SLU, where he continued his writing and research.

Father Padberg’s favorite memory is of the campus in the late 1960s. “It was beautiful then,” he said, “with the fountain of the dolphin pond, the hammocks, the dandelion pond, the hammocks, the dandelion pond.”

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The photographs on these pages capture moments in Father Padberg’s life and career with Saint Louis University. His friends and colleagues have shared memories of him, and we have included some of his own photographs as well. These images tell a story of a life well-lived and of a man who made a difference in the world around him. We are grateful to those who have contributed to this section and to all who knew and loved Father Padberg.

John Padberg, S.J.
Pioneering a remarkable future for all.

ACCELERATING EXCELLENCE
The Campaign for SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY

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