On March 21, 2014, I was introduced to you as Saint Louis University’s 33rd president. It was one of the most thrilling and humbling days of my life. On the 10th anniversary of that joyful day, I shared with the SLU community that I will step down from the presidency at the end of June 2025.

As I reflect upon the past decade, I am amazed at all we have endured and achieved together in St. Louis and in Madrid. We faced moments that tested us and revealed what defines this Jesuit university community.

There were many times in the last 10 years when the challenges we faced felt insurmountable. But together — grounded firmly in our values and trusting in the wisdom of the Jesuit tradition of rigorous education and care for the whole person, advancing innovation in academic programs and investing in University-wide efforts to support student well-being.

There is so much I will miss about this magnificent job. But just as I knew 10 years ago that SLU would be my home, I know that it is time for a new leader to take the first step into a new era.

Between now and June 2025, there will be a robust national search for my successor and some period of transition. At the conclusion of my tenure as president, I plan to take a sabbatical. Then I hope to continue teaching, writing, and doing what I am asked to contribute to the success of the next leader of this remarkable university.

We have become a more diverse and more international community. Our research profile has grown beyond what we could have imagined. We have broken every institutional fundraising and enrollment record. We built state-of-the-art campus facilities, and we are leading the dramatic transformation of the Jesuit tradition when I did not thank God for the joy and tendency when I did not thank God for the joy and honor of working for and with the entire SLU community.

From the bottom of my heart and on behalf of Fran and my family, I thank you for the strong support and generous goodwill you have consistently shown us since March of 2014. May God bless you and Saint Louis University.
On campus

Legacy of Visionary Leadership

SLU PRESIDENT DR. FRED P. PESTELLO TO STEP DOWN IN 2025

By Clayton Berry

Afer a decade of transformative leadership, on March 21, Saint Louis University President Dr. Fred P. Pestello announced that he has decided to step down at the end of June 2025. The announcement came on the 10th anniversary of his intro-
duction as SLU’s 33rd president in 2014. “There is so much I will miss about this magnificent job,” Pestello wrote in an announcement to the SLU com-
munity. “But just as I knew 10 years ago that SLU would be my home, I know that it is time for a new leader to take the first step into a new era.”

Pestello’s era at SLU coincided with a particularly turbulent time for higher education in the United States, with colleges and universities across the country grappling with declining enrollments, increasing financial pressures, social upheaval and a global pandemic.

Under Pestello’s leadership, SLU has successfully navigated these and other challenges, breaking institutional records for enrollment, fundraising and research funding along the way. Other noteworthy University accomplishments during Pestello’s tenure include:

THE CONSTRUCTION OF NEW STATE-OF-THE-ART FACILITIES, including the $41 million Spring Residence Hall, $71 mil-

lion Grand Residence Hall, $50 million Interdisciplinary Science and Engineering Building, $16 million Jesuit Center, and the recently completed donor-funded $20 million O’Loughlin Family Champions Center.

A TRANSFORMATIVE NEW PARTNERSHIP WITH SSM HEALTH that led to the opening of the $550 million SSM Health Saint Louis University Hospital and Center for Specialized Medicine in 2020, followed by a signifi-
cant investment in SLU’s School of Medicine to expand research, training, and education as part of the 2022 inte-
gration of the SLUCare physician practice with SSM.

THE LAUNCH OF THE SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY RESEARCH INSTITUTE, which was established following a historic $500 million gift from Dr. Jeanne and Rex Sinquefield (CSB ’67) to accelerate research growth at the University and place SLU on the path to becoming a pre-
eminent research university.

THE FORMATION OF THE TAYLOR GEOSPATIAL INSTITUTE, a con-
sortium of eight research and academic institutions led by Saint Louis University, which was made possible by a legacy investment from Andrew C. Taylor, executive chairman of Enterprise Holdings.

THE CREATION OF THE MIDTOWN ST. LOUIS REDEVELOPMENT CORP., which has elevated SLU’s role as a catalyst for major develop-
ment projects in Midtown St. Louis and advanced the University’s significant eco-
nomic impact on the city and region.

THE CONTINUED GROWTH OF SLU MADRID — the University’s campus in Spain — with record enrollments, ongoing expansion of classroom and lab spaces, addi-
tional academic offerings, and new partnerships with education and cultural associations.

Pestello began his tenure as the University’s first per-
mament lay president on July 1, 2014. Just three months into his presidency, protesters peacefully occupied the SLU campus following officer-involved shootings of two Black young men in the St. Louis region. Pestello’s handling of the weeklong encampment was praised by then-U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder. “The remarkable progress we’ve achieved is a testament to his inspiring vision, and on behalf of the Board, I want to thank him for his leadership and his steadfast commitment to SLU’s Jesuit mission and values.”

Collaboration, communication and transparency have been hallmarks of Pestello’s leadership as well. Of note, the University’s first strategic, academic and campus master plans in many years — as well as a new core cur-
riculum — were developed through open and inclusive processes involving hundreds of faculty, staff, students and other key stakeholders.

During his presidency, Pestello articulated a vision for SLU to become a global Jesuit university that is mission-focused, student and patient-centered, and research-driven w one that is working with the people of St. Louis to reimagine, transform and unify the city. “President Pestello is a transformational leader who has propelled our University forward in extraordinary ways,” said Joseph Conrad (A&S ’67, Law ’70), chairman of SLU’s board of trustees. “The remarkable progress we’ve achieved is a testament to his inspiring vision, and on behalf of the Board, I want to thank him for his leadership and his steadfast commitment to SLU’s Jesuit mission and values.”

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“From President Pestello’s first days, he made a com-
mittance to listen to and elevate the voices of the faculty,” said Christine E. Rollins (Law ’96), president of SLU’s Faculty Senate and a member of the School of Law faculty since 2002. “SLU will conduct a national search to identify Pestello’s successor. Following a sabbatical after he steps down, Pestello said he plans to continue teaching, writ-

ing and supporting the University and its new president as needed. “There has not been a single day in my presidency when I did not thank God for the joy and honor of working for and with all of you — smart, compassionate, and ded-
icated Jesuits, faculty, staff, students, trustees, alumni, donors, and partners,” Pestello wrote in his message to the SLU community on March 21. “As I reflect upon the past decade, I am amazed at all we have endured and achieved together in St. Louis and in Madrid.”

Look for more on Pestello’s legacy in future issues of Universitas.

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Look for more on Pestello’s legacy in future issues of Universitas.
Women’s Soccer Makes History

For the first time, the Billikens made it to the NCAA Women’s Soccer championship’s “Sweet 16.” Sixth-seeded SLU beat Indiana in the first round and then held off a late Georgetown rally to defeat the third-seeded Hoyas 2-1 in an NCAA Championship second-round game. The team then fell to Penn State in a heartbreaker in the third round of the championship. Second-seeded Penn State scored the equalizer in the 87th minute, then tallied the eventual game-winning goal in the first overtime session, defeating SLU 4-3. The Billikens’ historic season ended with a 19-3-2 record.

PHOTO BY JOE ROKITA

A-10 CHAMPS YET AGAIN

Women’s soccer earned its league’s automatic bid to the NCAA Championship by capturing its eighth A-10 Championship title in SLU history and sixth in succession. Tournament Most Outstanding Player Caroline Kelly tallied two goals and an assist to lead top-seeded SLU to a 3-0 victory over La Salle in the final. Goalkeeper Emily Puricelli recorded her 39th career shutout to claim the Billikens’ record outright. The women also set school single-season records for goals (74), assists (70) and points (218).

PHOTO BY JOE ROKITA

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PHOTO BY JOE ROKITA

ALL-CONFERENCE HONORS

Nine women’s soccer players merited 2023 Atlantic 10 All-Conference honors. Senior defender Lyndsey Heckel was tabbed Defensive Player of the Year, senior Puricelli was named Goalkeeper of the Year, and junior forward Emily Gaebe claimed Offensive Player of the Year accolades. Kelly and fifth-year midfielder Abbie Miller also joined the top unit. Senior defenders Sophia Stram and Katie Houck and redshirt-junior midfielder/forward Hannah Larson were selected to the All-Conference second team. Freshman midfielder Alyssa Bockius earned a spot on the All-Rookie team.

Houck and Larson were voted to the A-10’s 11-member All-Academic team by the league’s women’s soccer sports information representatives. SLU has produced 55 All-Conference selections over the past eight seasons, including 37 first-team choices.
Fore! Topgolf Opens Near SLU

The newest Topgolf location, situated between Saint Louis University’s north and south campuses, opened in October.

Topgolf St. Louis-Midtown, which is the second to serve Greater St. Louis, has 102 outdoor climate-controlled hitting bays spanning three levels. Each bay has lounge-type furniture or tables for groups.

JASON HALL, chief executive officer with Greater St. Louis Inc., said the new venue is estimated to draw 600,000 participants and generate $2 million in annual sales tax. Topgolf said the venue will bring approximately 500 new jobs.

Surge in International Students Leads to Historic SLU Enrollment

In his academic year, Saint Louis University enrolled more students than ever before, thanks to an unprecedented surge in international enrollment.

According to the University’s official fall census, SLU’s total enrollment eclipsed 15,000 students for the first time in history. The number of international students also reached record heights, more than doubling in a single year.

“This is an impressive milestone in the history of our University,” SLU President Dr. Fred P. Pestello said. “This achievement comes amid an incredibly challenging climate for higher education. I want to thank the students and families who have chosen SLU and recognize everyone at the University who made this accomplishment possible.”

Contributing significantly to this record enrollment is SLU’s Global Graduate initiative, which launched in 2020 to attract international students to select graduate programs in technology, business and engineering. In the fall, SLU enrolled 1,427 new international graduate students, a 325% increase over last year. More than 75% of international students at SLU are from India, where the initiative debuted three years ago.

“Our Global Graduate initiative has far exceeded our initial hopes and projections,” Pestello said. “The tremendous success of this initiative is a testament to SLU’s growing reputation for exceptional academics on the global stage.”

To support the increasing number of Global Billikens at SLU, the University hired 30 new faculty and staff. SLU also invested millions of dollars in student scholarships as well as academic, language and career-readiness resources and programs.

New Center Focuses on Global Catholicism

Saint Louis University’s new Center for Research on Global Catholicism (CRGC) supports scholarship about Catholicism as a global religion. World-class researchers and area archivists will study the nexus of Catholicism and culture.

“Our ambition is to make SLU a destination for research on global Catholicism,” said Dr. Mary Dunn, director of the CRGC and professor of theological studies at SLU.

An interdisciplinary collective of researchers and scholars, the Center for Research on Global Catholicism will:
- Capitalize on scholarly expertise at SLU and in St. Louis to advance knowledge and understanding of global Catholicism.
- Facilitate connections between local archives and scholars.
- Support scholars by providing resources, community and opportunities for collaboration.

In August, SLU was profiled in Princeton Review’s Best 389 Colleges, which includes only 15% of America’s four-year colleges, SLU ranked No. 9 on the Top 20 Best Private Schools for Making an Impact list and No. 25 in the Students Most Engaged in Community Service category.

SLU Ranks as a Best Value, Top Catholic University

According to the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business, SLU’s Richard A. Chaifetz School of Business had three undergraduate programs in the top 20 nationally international business (No. 15), entrepreneurship (No. 16) and finance (No. 17).

The Trudy Busch Vaillant School of Nursing ranked No. 67 out of 616 nursing schools with master’s or doctoral programs accredited by either the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing or the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education.

SLU also ranked No. 22 among the best service-learning programs in the country.

How Do You Say ‘Missouri’?

Politicians have crisscrossed the state for years, sharing their vision for Missour-ee or Missour-uh, depending on where they spoke. Now, Missourians have spoken about how they say their state’s name.

In 2023, the SLU/YouGov Poll interviewed 900 likely Missouri voters, asking how they pronounced the name of the state in which they reside. The poll found that only 9.5% of Missourians say Missour-uh. More than 90% of those polled say Missour-ee.

"After growing up in Missouri, I was surprised to find few Missouri voters used the Missour-eh pronunciation," said Dr. Steven Rogers, SLU/YouGov Poll director and associate professor of political science at SLU. "Using Missour-uh appears to be partly gendered. Sixteen percent of voters who are 65 years old or older said Missour-uh, but only 3% of voters below the age of 29 said Missour-uh."
University Announces New Leadership

TRUSTEES
Andrew Hoog (A&S ’98)  
Founder of NovSecure
Ardidam Kar (A&S ’98)  
Shareholder at the Polsinelli Law Firm
Jessie J. Knight Jr. (A&S ’77)  
Managing director of Knight Angels LLC
James B. Lally (CSB ’90)  
President and CEO of Enterprise Financial Services Corporation
Joseph McShane, S.J.  
University Announces New Leadership

McShane was associate dean for faculty affairs at the Dornsife School of Public Health at Drexel University.

Managing director of Knight Angels LLC
President and CEO of Enterprise Financial Services Corporation

Dr. Leslie McClure  
Editor-in-chief of the Science family of journals, former provost and executive vice chancellor for academic affairs at Washington University in St. Louis

Dr. Helen Thorp  
Founder and owner of SKAPS Industries

President and CEO of Post Holdings

Robert V. Vitale (CSB ’88)  
President and CEO of Post Holdings

Paresh Vyas  
Founder and owner of SKAPS Industries

DEAN
Dr. Leslie McClure  
DEAN, COLLEGE FOR PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL JUSTICE
McClure was associate dean for faculty affairs at the Dornsife School of Public Health at Drexel University.

DEAN, ACADEMIC TECHNOLOGY COMMONS
Rob Reddy  
Vice President, Assistant Vice President of Enrollment Management

Rob Reddy  
Assistant Vice President of Enrollment Management

RING AWARD WINNER ADDRESSES MIDYEAR GRADUATES

Associate Professor of Aviation Science Dr. Stephen Belt (Grad Ed ’13), the 2023 Nancy McNeir Ring Award recipient, delivered the commencement address at the 2023 Midyear Commencement Ceremony on Dec. 16 at Chaifetz Arena.

Belt has been at Saint Louis University since 1998, when he joined the Department of Aviation Science at what was then called Parks College. He has served as department chair, flight training director, Parks College chief diversity officer, senior check airman, pilot and instructor.

The Ring Award is SLU’s highest honor for teaching. It was initially established in 1966 by SLU’s chapter of Alpha Sigma Nu, the national Jesuit honor society, to acknowledge faculty members who display special dedication to students.

Belt advised the graduates to see the world how it is — faults and all — and to cultivate joy in what you do and in who you are. Do not be afraid of difficult things, for joy encompasses the difficult things. Savor success and forgive failings — yours and others.”

Geospatial Gets New Director, Faculty

The Taylor Geospatial Institute (TGI), a consortium of eight research institutions led by Saint Louis University, selected Dr. Nadine Alameh as its inaugural executive director. The world-renowned geospatial expert, Alameh previously was the CEO and president of the Open Geospatial Consortium. She is also an appointed member of the U.S. Department of the Interior’s National Geospatial Advisory Committee and a board member of the United Nations Geospatial Global Information Management Private Sector Network.

In addition, SLU will hire 20 new faculty members in core geospatial science and related fields. The new positions, to be filled over a three-year span, will be hired in collaboration with TGI.

The effort will bring new faculty to SLU who apply geospatial tools, technologies and research methodologies to specialties across a diverse range of fields from climate science and agriculture to health care and national security.

“Saint Louis University and the Taylor Geospatial Institute are committed to making the St. Louis region the nation’s academic leader in geospatial science research,” said Provost Dr. Michael Lewis.

The new faculty will be part of TGI, the geospatial consortium formed in 2022. SLU, TGI includes the Donald Danforth Plant Science Center, Harris-Stowe State University, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, Missouri University of Science and Technology, University of Missouri, University of Missouri-St. Louis and Washington University in St. Louis.

Remodeled Monsanto Hall Reopens

In November, Monsanto Hall, the home of the chemistry department, reopened after an $11 million renovation. The project was the final phase of the Interdisciplinary Science and Engineering (ISE) project. When the ISE Building opened in 2020, space in Monsanto Hall was vacated. That area has now been converted into new research spaces and a new teaching lab. The outside of Monsanto Hall, which opened in 1965, was left untouched.

On campus

SLU Wins Collegiate Chess League Fall Title

The Saint Louis University chess team once again earned a championship. The Billikens squad finished the 2023 Collegiate Chess League (CCL) fall season with a dominant win over the University of Texas at Dallas. The victory means the Billikens claimed both the spring and fall CCL titles.

The SLU squad was made up of Benjamin Bok, Batsuren Dambasrooy, Bobby Kevlishvili and Nikolaos Thodorinou. Bok picked up 3.5 out of 4 points in the final, and Chess.com named him the tournament’s MVP.

Academic Tech Commons Opens New Space

In September, the third and final phase of Saint Louis University’s Academic Technology Commons in Frios XII Memorial Library opened.

The lower level of the library, once a repository for collections, now includes an active-learning classroom and four tech-enabled spaces with digital whiteboard functionality. A Zoom room allows for a more integrated experience for those attending hybrid meetings. A recording studio is also in the works.

Martha Allen, special assistant to the dean of libraries and museums and director of academic integrity, said the new space will house some of the 300-plus classes taught in the library. It will also be available for supplemental learning labs, study groups and professional development.

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There’s so much more to a successful NCAA Division I athletic program than what happens on the court or the field.

At Saint Louis University, a brand-new, $20 million facility is providing a plethora of support services for Billiken student-athletes. The O’Loughlin Family Champions Center officially opened in October.

“This state-of-the-art facility, shared among our more than 400 Billiken student-athletes across all sports, will be a game-changer for the University and our department,” said Chris May, SLU athletic director. “Our student-athletes put so much effort into our objectives, which are to educate, compete and build community. The O’Loughlin Family Champions Center is here to help them achieve their best in the classroom, in competition and in the community.”

Construction of the 25,000-square-foot center, which is adjacent to Chaifetz Arena, began in May 2022. The goal was to provide a best-in-class facility to deliver programming related to academic advising, spiritual development, sports performance, nutrition, wellness, sports psychology and more.

### Athlete Amenities

**Student Success Suite**

The cornerstone of the O’Loughlin Family Champions Center facility and services, the suite features space for spiritual development, sports psychology, and academic, career, and student-athlete development programming. The combination is unparalleled in the NCAA. The Student-Athlete Development Program offers a comprehensive curriculum to enhance support services and provide development opportunities for student-athletes. Programming includes personal and leadership development and mentoring/networking opportunities.

**Performance Nutrition Center**

Offering student-athletes healthy meal options on campus, the nutrition area focuses on personal performance targets, wellness and recovery. This space can be used for public events such as athletic alumni events and pre-game receptions.

**Team Dining Suite**

Within the Performance Nutrition Center, there is space for team meals and other community-building opportunities. The space is equipped with leading-edge technology, so teams can break down game film during meals and meetings.

**Basketball Operations Suites**

This hub for the men’s and women’s basketball programs ensures the efforts in competition are being matched by necessary facilities outside of competition.

**Technology Suites**

These suites equip coaches and programs with state-of-the-art technology to serve their student-athletes during film breakdowns and other team meetings.
“The O’Loughlin Family Champions Center is a community investment in our University,” SLU President Dr. Fred P. Pestello said. “Our student-athletes have extraordinary demands put on their time. Having these services available to them in a single location ensures we deliver on our promise to support our student-athletes as whole persons, preparing them to thrive in the classroom, in competition and after graduation.”

The general contractor of the facility was St. Louis-based McCarthy Building Cos. Hastings+Chivetta served as the architect, and Perkins&Will completed interior design.

The $20 million center was privately funded with a lead gift by the O’Loughlin Family Foundation. Additional donors included John Johnson (A&S ’90), the Centene Charitable Foundation, Michael and Noemi Neidorff, Dr. Richard A. Chaifetz (A&S ’75), Jim Kavanaugh (CSB ’86)-World Wide Technology, the Koman Family, Keith Phoenix (Law ’74), Mark and Joy Scoggins (VIN ’85), Floyd and Judith Crowder, and Linda and Alan Vogt (CSB ’69).

“While I can’t claim Saint Louis University as my alma mater, I appreciate the central role the University plays in the ongoing success of the city and our region as a whole,” said Bob O’Loughlin, chairman and CEO of LHM and director of the O’Loughlin Family Foundation. “Our foundation’s gift to create the O’Loughlin Family Champions Center is our opportunity to give back to this great city. A robust and successful NCAA Division I athletic program in the heart of the city isn’t just great for Saint Louis University, it’s great for our entire community.”
Think back to when you were graduating from Saint Louis University. Did you have your first real job lined up, or an internship to get you there? Maybe you’d planned to travel abroad. Maybe you anticipated a typical summer, before heading to graduate, medical or law school.

What if, instead, you’d decided to spend the next year serving? That’s what Jesuit Volunteers do. And what many SLU alumni choose.

Saint Louis University is one of the top five producers of volunteers who work with two Jesuit Volunteer organizations: the Jesuit Volunteer Corps (JVC) and JVC Northwest.

For these Billikens, service is a full-time job. They spend 40 hours a week doing direct service at more than 200 partner agencies that address a multitude of issues—from hunger relief to environmental stewardship to legal services. They receive a modest monthly stipend, as well as health insurance and housing. In their free time, they live with other Jesuit Volunteers (JVs) in reflective, cooperative communities. They keep house together and meet weekly for spiritual and bonding activities. They focus on four core values: community, simple living, spirituality, and social and ecological justice.

It’s service but also solidarity.

“We don’t view ourselves as a ‘service program.’ We’re a service and formation program,” said Shivany Trujillo (A&S ’08), director of admissions for JVC. “You’re living with each other. You’re spending a lot of time on JVC values. And you’re tied to the communities you serve because you’re right there. Your clients might be your neighbors. You’re taking the bus; your clients are taking the bus. That’s a big part of the success of our program.”

That kind of immersion obviously changes a person. To borrow a phrase from the founder of the Jesuit Volunteers, Jack Morris, S.J., a year as a JV will leave you “ruined for life.”

“You’re going to be doing wonderful things, getting to know underserved communities and learning about justice in the world. But it’s also a way of discerning and figuring out what you really want to do with your life,” Dr. Bobby Wassel said.

Wassel (Grad Ed ’09, ’17) is the director of SLU’s Center for Social Action. He’s worked on community engagement, service and justice issues at the University for nearly 20 years. Having done service after college with an organization that modeled itself on JVC, he knew first-hand the value of the experience and has promoted it to SLU students from his earliest days on campus. Every November, he helps coordinate SLU’s Year of Service Fair, bringing dozens of organizations to campus.

“Participation in post-graduate service has dropped nationwide for many reasons, but Billikens continue to consistently choose this option,” he said. “I think it speaks directly to our mission.”

Both JVC and JVC Northwest accept applications during four different rounds a year, with the earliest deadline in December. This academic year, the sibling organizations are offering a common application to streamline the process.

Seven members of the Class of 2023 began their placements in August and will serve through July 2024. Then, they’ll join the network of more than 12,000 Former Jesuit Volunteers (FJVs).

On the next few pages, meet four SLU alumni FJVs, and learn how they were “ruined for life.”
Kevin Finn
Psychology, A&S ’93
FOUNDING PRESIDENT AND CEO, STRATEGIES TO END HOMELESSNESS INC. CINCINNATI

Why I Volunteered:

JV Placement:

Community Services in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, 1993-94

I did emergency assistance work with people needing help with rent, utilities, etc. I also helped in a family homeless shelter and did prison ministry.

Why I Volunteered:

I didn’t know what I wanted to do, didn’t declare a major until I was a junior, and psychology was the only major I could still finish in four years. But what do you do with an undergrad degree in psychology? It doesn’t rule you out for any job, but it doesn’t get you many jobs either.

I went to a Jesuit high school, and I knew it was a bad idea to have just one risky option. However, the more I learned about JVC, the more taken with it I became. When else would I have the opportunity to serve people whose utilities had been shut off, you got evicted. I had been in Baton Rouge for three days — and it was my job to figure out how to help her with that serious situation.

One Year:

JVC’s impact on people or if those were the people that go into JVC — are the people that we are.

What Was It Like?

Very hard. We got paid $200 a month, which had to cover everything but rent: our utilities, food, transportation, all entertainment.

I met my now-wife, Julie (Lynn) Finn (DDCS ’93), at SLU. Occasionally, we would meet halfway on weekends while I was in JVC. To do this, I had to sell my blood plasma for gas money. Again, a perspective on poverty I never would have had otherwise.

The other JVs I served with, all three are in education and one is also an Episcopal deacon. Each of us went into a profession in which we are more concerned about helping others than making a bunch of money. It’s hard to know if that’s JVC’s impact on people or if those are the people that go into JVC — but no doubt JVC helped make us who we are.

One Year:

JVC is an incredible holistic opportunity to do something you’ll never be able to do so easily later — a chance to broaden your perspective on what you will do with the rest of your life. Whatever else you’re going to do, it can wait a year.

Real-World Problems:

My very first client was a woman with 10 children, and her utilities were about to be shut off. If you lived in public housing, if utilities got shut off, you got evicted. I had been in Baton Rouge for three days — and it was my job to figure out how to help her with that serious situation.

A Gift to Be Simple:

I was lucky to live in a house of JVs who took the principles of JVC seriously, particularly living a simple lifestyle. Every one of us came from a reasonably wealthy family; we had credit cards in our pockets we could have dipped into, but we chose not to. We had “blackout night” once a week when we wouldn’t use electricity. This was partially to lower our bill, but since I was working with people whose utilities had been shut off, it was such a valuable experience. It gave me perspective on the experiences of the people I was trying to serve.

What Was It Like?

It says a lot that JVC was my first ministry. While I was in JVC, I had this even deeper interest in understanding the real social justice issues in our country — the real dynamics and realities on the ground. I was offered a scholarship at MIT but deferred it because I felt like JVC was something I needed to do.

A Different Trajectory:

I’m in a very different place in my life today than I ever imagined I would be, in significant part because of my JVC experience.

I did go on to MIT to do a dual-degree master’s in aerospace engineering and public policy. But I had this even deeper interest in the importance of public policy to address social justice challenges. Long story short, while I was at MIT, new career opportunities came into my field of vision, including this work of strategy and management consulting for social impact organizations.

Abe Grindle
Aerospace Engineering, PC ’06
DIRECTOR OF PROGRAMS, CO-IMPACT, A GLOBAL PHILANTHROPIC COLLABORATIVE CHICAGO

JV Placement:

St. Labre Indian School in Ashland, Montana, 2006-07

St. Labre is a Catholic school that serves two Native American communities. I worked with one other JV in the high school dormitory, where about 60 students stayed. From 2 to 10 p.m., we tutored and mentored the kids.

Why I Volunteered:

Originally, I applied as a backup. The only graduate program I was interested in was at MIT, and I knew it was a bad idea to have just one risky option. However, the more I learned about JVC, the more taken with it I became. When else would I have the opportunity and the flexibility to take a year and learn so much about the social justice issues in our country — the real dynamics and realities on the ground?

What Was It Like?

Challenging but in a way that was, generally speaking, very healthy. Living with others and learning how to navigate compromise is hard. It’s actually great training for marriage — or any relationship! Personal growth is hard. It means learning things about yourself that you might not like or expect. Learning how policy and government affect people is also hard. It can be depressing, sad, difficult. But closing one’s eyes and staying away? I would argue that’s much worse.

If I could do one thing to improve the U.S., it would be to have a mandatory year of service for everybody, where people are put in a place and with people who are different from them and where they come from. That lived experience — it’s phenomenal.

There is no better holistic opportunity to form yourself as a citizen of this country and this world as JVC offers.

A Gift to Be Simple:

A Aerospace Engineering, PC ’06
Why I Volunteered:

UNIVERSITAS / THE ALUMNI MAGAZINE OF SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY

Dr. Katy Domnick
Biology, A&S ’12
OR-GYN, HEARTLAND WOMEN’S HEALTHCARE OF ADVENTA
SHELBY, ILLINOIS

JVC Placement: Christian Senior Services in San Antonio, Texas, 2012-13
I assessed homebound patients for Meals on Wheels and other services they could receive from the nonprofit.

Why I Volunteered: I knew medicine was where I’d end up — but I wanted more than the direct route to being a physician. School can be very black and white, but life is in the gray. I felt fortunate to have a really caring for people.

More than a Job: My JVC job helped me become the physician I am; but how I feel about the world — I learned that through the community at the church where we lived in the convent.

Spiritual Awakening: I was raised Catholic. And it’s hard not to go to church when you can see it from your kitchen door. Every Sunday, a family cooked breakfast you could buy at church. If we helped, we got a free plate: homemade Mexican food!

JVC awoke a spirituality in me. I believe in God, and I also believe in social equity and doing good for other people.

How Do I Help? I was naive. I found people living in squalor; they live with people who are supposed to be taking care of them, but they’re not. I learned what people do to survive and why they do the things they do under certain circumstances.

I left JVC with a lot of questions, especially trying to understand why there is inequality in the world. How do I help?

Now I work in St. Clair County [in Illinois]. I feel like I make a better connection with patients because I can understand and empathize with why they’re doing what they’re doing. Why aren’t you taking this medicine? We’ve talked about this. What I witnessed in JVC helped me understand the why. And then I say, “Let’s eat in the middle.”

Maria Garcia
Health Management, PH ’19,
SOCIOLOGY, A&S ’19
OPERATIONS MANAGER,
UCHICAGO MEDICINE
CHICAGO

JV Placement: Catholic Migration Services in Harlem, New York, 2019-20
I was essentially a legal assistant for the removal defense project team. I gathered research and translated documents, helping clients apply for asylum.

Spiritual Awakening: I was naive. I found people living in squalor; they live with people who are supposed to be taking care of them, but they’re not. I learned what people do to survive and why they do the things they do under certain circumstances.

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What Was It Like? Eye-opening. I’m first generation American, half Filipino, half Guatemalan. My parents were immigrants. It was interesting to see people who have the same ethnic background as mine come to the United States. I went into JVC bright-eyed and bushy-tailed, and then got into some tough stuff. Specifically, the women, the domestic abuse they endured ... I was not prepared for that. I would translate documents and read horrific stuff that people had gone through, gaining really intimate knowledge of people I didn’t know. It was challenging.

Close Community: My community lived on the third and fourth floors of an old convent. We each got a room of our own, and we had a rooftop we could see Yankee Stadium from. It followed the JVC value of simple living, but it was still such a cool opportunity. I won’t ever be able to live in New York rent-free again!

Living in community — those are the most intimate moments you have with people. Eight people is a lot for an intentional community, but every night, we made the effort to have a meal together. We had different schedules and were coming from different parts of New York, so we’d all have dinner at 5 p.m. It was nice to come home to people who knew what you were going through because no one else could; most of our friends were working or in school. But we had each other to lean on through tough days.

Because we were in New York during the beginning of the pandemic, only five of us ended up staying the whole year. We stayed in the house most of the time — but luckily, we had the roof to go up to for fresh air. We built a lot of trust to support one another through that year.

Making an Impact: One of the attorneys I worked for texted me not long ago: “Remember that application you prepped right before COVID-19?” I remember it vividly. It was announced that COVID was happening and that we may have to be gone for like two weeks. But the attorney wanted to get this application in, just in case. I stayed late to help, and I delivered it to the immigration office. And it finally got approved! The person received asylum, which is amazing. And the fact that the attorney circled back with me — it meant a lot.

Dominick (left) with some of her fellow JVs in the spring of 2013

Garcia (top right) and fellow volunteers in 2019

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Health Management, PH ’19,
SOCIOLOGY, A&S ’19
OPERATIONS MANAGER,
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Welcoming new students to campus is more than move-in.

**By Amy Garland**

Each year, Saint Louis University welcomes more than 1,700 new undergraduates to campus. Coming from scores of countries and every U.S. state, they are mostly just out of high school, but not all of them. Many have relatives who attended SLU, but many also will be the first in their family to complete a college degree.

They have their own achievements and challenges, preferences and pet peeves, and unique identities. The University wants each and every one to feel at home. To become part of the SLU community and to enrich its culture. To become, in a word, Billikens.

On the next few pages, see some of the many ways the University helps students start their new life at SLU.

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**June 5**

**SLU 101 SUMMER ORIENTATION:**

These two-day overnight campus orientation visits, held in May, June and July, offer incoming undergraduates everything they need to prepare for their first semester. During a SLU 101 session last summer, Emily Tran (center) leads her peer group outside of Ritter Hall.

Photo by Sarah Conroy

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**Aug. 5**

**NEW STUDENT CONVOCATION AND FAMILY WELCOME:**

At convocation, held in Chaifetz Arena, SLU administration, faculty, staff and students officially welcome new Billikens and their families to the campus community.

Photo by Sarah Conroy

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**Aug. 17**

**INTERNATIONAL ICE CREAM SOCIAL:**

International students dance during an ice cream social sponsored by the International Student Federation. The Office of International Services holds a special orientation before the start of the fall, spring and summer semesters. Last fall, with more than 1,500 international students new to campus, this orientation and other events for international students were bigger than ever.

Photo by Cristina Fletes

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**Aug. 19**

**SPIRIT COMPETITION:**

Students go all out for the spirit competition during the soccer game. Here, a student holds a flag to display Billiken pride.

Photo by Sarah Conroy

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**Aug. 18**

**MOVE-IN:**

Orange-shirted helpers from the Oriflamme group play a key role in welcoming new students to campus the week before classes begin. These leaders bring enthusiasm and enough energy to get everyone — and all of their stuff — moved into the residence halls. Here, an Oriflamme member leads the way across Laclede Avenue near Grand Hall (left).

Photo by Sarah Conroy

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Orange-shirted helpers from the Oriflamme group play a key role in welcoming new students to campus the week before classes begin.

These leaders bring enthusiasm and enough energy to get everyone — and all of their stuff — moved into the residence halls. Here, an Oriflamme member leads the way across Laclede Avenue near Grand Hall (left).

Photo by Sarah Conroy
Becoming Billikens

Aug. 19 / PARTY ON GRAND: A student makes an illuminated putt at the post-soccer-game party along the West Pine Mall. The event includes SLU’s version of Carpool Karaoke, coloring and crafting, and more.  Photo by Sarah Conroy

Aug. 22 / COMMUNITY SERVICE FAIR: The Division of Diversity and Innovative Community Engagement holds a fair for students to learn about becoming involved in diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives on and off campus. Photo by Sarah Conroy

Aug. 22 / LIVE THE OATH: SLU’s Oath of Inclusion is a student-led initiative that sets the expectation for all Billikens to promote inclusion on campus. New students are required to attend the Live the Oath event at the beginning of the academic year. Here, Luella Loseille (A&S ’17, Grad Ed ’19), assistant director of the Cross Cultural Center for Global Citizenship, speaks during the event at Chaifetz Arena. Photo by Sarah Conroy

Aug. 22 / FIRST DAY OF CLASSES: Students stream through the Interdisciplinary Science and Engineering building on the first day of fall classes. Photo by Sarah Conroy

Aug. 23 / MASS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT: The Mass in St. Francis Xavier College Church helps mark the beginning of SLU’s new academic year. This Jesuit tradition dates to 1548 and is celebrated today by Jesuit schools around the world. Photo by Sarah Conroy

Aug. 24 / FIRST DAY OF CLASSES: Students stream through the Interdisciplinary Science and Engineering building on the first day of fall classes. Photo by Sarah Conroy
Sept. 9 / STUDENT INVOLVEMENT FAIR:
One of the surest ways to become a Billiken is to get involved. The Student Involvement Fair helps match students with more than 200 cocurricular opportunities, such as the Wilderness Adventure Club.

Photo by Michelle Peltier

Aug. 25 / CU UP THE REC:
Dancers from Phases of Motion perform during the Fall Welcome event that showcases SLU’s cultural dance teams.

Photo by Michelle Peltier

Aug. 24 / WELCOME BACK PAJAMA JAM:
Students dance during the Pajama Jam, which is held in Busch Student Center and hosted by the Student Government Association.

Photo by Mariah Slaughter

Aug. 26 / PAINT SLU:
During the Fall Welcome favorite, a member of the paint staff pours neon yellow paint on the crowd. Don’t worry — it’s biodegradable and water-soluble! Students gather at the Olive Compton Garage, get painted and dance to a live DJ.

Photo by Michelle Peltier

Aug. 26 / CU AT THE REC:
Dancers from Phases of Motion perform during this Fall Welcome event that showcases SLU’s cultural dance teams.

Photo by Michelle Peltier

Sept. 6 / FRESH CHECK DAY:
Students sign and color a banner during Fresh Check Day. The event introduces students to the mental health resources available on campus, in the local community and nationally.

Photo by Sarah Conroy

Sept. 13 / CURA PERSONALIS CLASS:
D’Ashia Miller, Gian de Guzman and Tess Riley (from left) learn about SLU’s Center for Global Citizenship during a Cura Personalis 1 class. A requirement of the University core curriculum, the class offers students guidance and support as they join the SLU community, explore vocations and plan for a purpose-filled life in solidarity with others.

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Photo by Sarah Conroy
It’s Homecoming and Family Weekend at Saint Louis University. The September air is warm and welcoming, dusk is descending, and the University’s School for Professional Studies is celebrating its 60th anniversary.

On the Grand Hall patio, faculty and staff mingle with students. Graduates reunite. Kids weave between tables, checking in with their parents before getting a second snow cone. The crowd is beautifully inconsistent: a variety of ages, a mix of different backgrounds. It’s a snapshot of real life.

And, as anyone familiar with the school will tell you, that’s what the School for Professional Studies, or SPS, is all about.

SPS was founded in 1963 by then University President Paul Reinert, S.J., as Metropolitan College — an arm of the University that offered non-degree programs for working adults and one of the first schools for adult learners in the country. For SLU, it was a natural extension of the University’s offerings and a new opportunity to embrace the Jesuit philosophy of educating the whole person: seeing the needs of a nontraditional learner and understanding that their educational fulfillment matters.

“The model of the Jesuits is to take education to the people,” said Dr. John Buerck, who recently served as the interim dean of the School for Professional Studies. “Throughout our history, we’ve done that in different ways, but we’ve always been committed to making a SLU education accessible.”

In 1972, Metropolitan College began offering undergraduate degrees, and in the coming years, the school grew, adding graduate programs and eventually changing its name to the School for Professional Studies in 1996. Through SPS, students from all walks of life have found a way to weave the pursuit of a degree or certificate into their already busy lives, taking classes at night after a long day caring for children or on Saturdays at the end of a busy work week.

“Our average student is between 30 and 36 years old,” Buerck said. “Most have a job. They have a family. They have community activities they’re involved in. They can’t just quit what they’re doing to come back to school.”

Buerck (Grad Ed ’93) joined the School for Professional Studies in 1998 as the director of the Department of Computer Information Systems. He’s seen the school’s programs evolve to meet the unique needs of nontraditional students in today’s workforce — men and women of all ages who finally have the support they need to fulfill a dream they’ve held onto for years.
By offering all its degree programs online, SPS has also opened doors for a new generation of students for whom busy schedules and distance make in-person learning a challenge.

“Getting my bachelor’s degree was something I dreamed about for a long time but never thought was possible,” said Tina Curtis (PS ’22). “I tried to get back to school numerous times, but with young children, going back into a classroom wasn’t going to work for me.”

Then, in 2020, an online search led her to the SPS website.

“I started doing the research, saw that they had 100% online learning, and I was like, ‘Yeah, this is for me,’” she said. “I took a leap of faith. I applied that very same night and heard back from somebody early the next week.”

Curtis took on a full-time course load as she worked toward her bachelor’s degree in general studies. Some nights, she’d sit down at the computer right after work. Other nights, she’d wait until after dinner, when everyone was settled for the evening.

“It was a challenge, but with the help of my advisors, I had a path forward, and it was an enjoyable path because I was doing something to better myself,” she said.

For both Curtis and Willis, a bachelor’s degree obtained through SPS opened professional doors. Curtis’ degree enhanced her skills and marketability as an accounts payable supervisor. In August 2023, she made the decision to return to SPS to earn a master’s degree in leadership and organizational development.

Willis’ degree in nonprofit management gave him the credentials and confidence to apply for new jobs. But for both graduates, some of the greatest satisfaction was exemplified in the smiling faces of their families on graduation day.

“I can remember looking up in the seats at my children and my wife and saying, ‘I did it. I did that for them,’” Willis said.

For Buerck, seeing the pride that the students feel, in their accomplishments and in their alma mater, never gets old.

“They’re proud to be obtaining a Saint Louis University education. They’re humbled. They’re excited. So are their families,” he said. As interim dean, Buerck has had a front-row seat to the school’s 60th anniversary and the future of SPS, watching with his own sense of pride as the school continues to grow and expand its reach.

One major source of growth is SLU’s Global Graduate Initiative, launched in 2020 to recruit international students for key business, technology and engineering programs. There are currently more than 1,700 Global Graduate students enrolled in SPS.

Many of the newer SPS programs, including the Brewing Science and Operations Certificate and the new Cannabis Science and Operations Certificate, have been added to meet the unique needs of today’s workforce.

“We’re a very workforce-driven school,” Buerck said. “Oftentimes, these industries come to SLU. They can’t find the professionals they need, and they ask us if we’ll consider starting a new program.”

These direct connections with local and national corporations and the growing global student population have led to steady growth for SPS, which has, in turn, led to the need for more faculty. That’s next on Buerck’s list, and he’s happy to tackle such a good problem.

“Sometimes people ask me what I do, what’s my job. I tell them that I have the best job in the world,” he said. “I get to work with faculty and staff who create curriculums that change people’s lives.”
DAVID LUCHE FELD (A&S) has been a member of the Civil Service Commission since 2012. He is a former state senator, teacher, and coach in Southern Illinois.

DR. JAMES STEDMAN (Grad A&S ’62, ’56) published two articles: “Five Wagner lives in St. Louis.” The Journal of Mind and Behavior (A&S) and “Antonio.”

Zucherman and Magic Junction Village Eighth Circuit Judicial Conference in 2012. He is a former state senator, teacher and coach in Southern Illinois.

UNIVERSITAS / THE ALUMNI MAGAZINE OF SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY SPRING 2024

MICHAELO SHAY (Law) wrote The Whites of Their Eyes: The Life of Revolutionary War Hero Isaac Pownall from Rogers’ Rangers to Bunker Hill, which was released in October. It is Shay’s eighth published work of nonfiction. He is a judge of the Connecticut Superior Court three days a week.

ANTOINETTE CAVANAGH (Grad A&S ’62, ’63) was honored for service to the community. The award is presented annually in recognition of consistent excellence in their career.

VINCENT V. VORLIE (Grad CSB ’78, ’82) was an associate professor of management at the Chaifetz School of Business, was elected president of the St. Louis Public Library board of directors.

JOHN PETZ (PC) retired from the U.S. Navy in February 2023 after more than 40 years at Paxtang River Naval Air Station in Maryland. Petz was a senior test and evaluation engineer for Navy and Marine Corps rotary wing aircraft. Upon retirement, he received the Meritorious Civilian Service Award from the vice chief of naval operations.

MATT WESLEY (Law) received the 2023 Michael R. Roser Excellence in Bankruptcy Award from the commercial law committee of the Missouri Bar. Becker has represented individual and entities, including bankruptcy trustees, in every aspect of Chapter 7, 11 and 13 as counsel for numerous state court proceedings. He also mentors law students, including spearheading a bankruptcy law clinic at SLU.

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MATHIEU "Fritz" MIRELICH (Law) is the national commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States (VFW), an organization of 1.5 million eligible veterans and military service members from all six branches of the armed forces. Mirelitch served in the U.S. Air Force Air National Guard from 1989-99 with the 131st Tactical Fighter Wing. He earned his VFW eligibility when he was activated for federal service in Desert Storm and Desert Shield as a security policeman. He joined the VFW at Post 269 in Springfield, Ill. in 1990.


DAVID SHAPIRO (Grad CSB ’78, ’82) received a Tony Award as a producer of the Broadway musical Parade, which won the Tony for Best Revival of a Musical in June 2023.

DR. DONALD ANTHONY BENNETTO (Med) was honored by the Medical Society of Schenectady, New York, at a celebration of his 50th anniversary as a physician. He said his changed, Dr. DAVID ROCKWELL (Med ’73), also honored for service to the community. Bentovito retired from active practice but remains a clinical professor in the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Southern Illinois.

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Alumni Merit Awards

These annual awards recognize the achievements of Saint Louis University alumni. Honorees were selected in early 2023 and celebrated at a dinner in May.

ERIC M. BAILEY (GRAD '74, GRAD '84)
as president and CEO of Bailey Strategic Innovation Group, Bailey helps leaders overcome communication barriers and increase employee engagement. He created the “Principles of Human Understanding,” a leadership and communication methodology based on brain science and psychology. He is a best-selling author and an award-winning speaker. His clients include Google, the U.S. Air Force, the Federal Reserve and the City of St. Louis.

NICHOLAS COLLINS (GRAD '99, GRAD P&L '14)
Collins is the director of communication engagement strategies for UnitedHealthcare (UHC) for employers in Missouri and Illinois. He also leads a team working with UHC employees nationwide to achieve healthier lifestyles. Previously, he was the company’s onsite wellness coordinator for St. Louis Public Schools, offering resources and counseling to the district’s nearly 5,000 employees. He continues to support SLU by mentoring public health students.

SALLY RAYLON JOHNSON (GC '94, GRAD '16)
Johnson focuses on the communication of weather forecasting. After working with the National Weather Service (NWS), she became the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration liaison to the Federal Emergency Management Administration headquarters. One of just a few female meteorologists to lead an NWS office in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, and then St. Louis — she is now deputy regional director for the NWS Central Region.

JUDITH H. CARLSON (GRAD TSN '74)
Carlson taught more than 6,000 nurses, including at least half the SLU School of Nursing faculty, which she joined in 1973. In 1982, she wrote Nursing of Nursing faculty, a book that was a best seller and a gift to the nursing program helping people displaced by violence. The program became TCP Global (TCP-Global) in 2015.

HELENE BALLMANN DODGEY (A&S '69)
After college, Dudley was in the Peace Corps in Colombia and, 50 years later, in Slovakia. In between, she worked for the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services, raised five children and built a career in Miami-Dade (Florida) County government. In 2000, she co-founded The Colombia Project, a micro-loan program helping people displaced by violence. The program became TCP Global (TCP-Global) in 2015.

MARK R. LEWIS, S.J. (GRAD P&L '94, GRAD A&S '84)
Lewis is only the second American-born rector of the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome. He joined the Society of Jesus in 1980. From 1996 to 2004, he directed the Historical Institute of the Society of Jesus in Rome, coordinated a research team of Jesuit historians and taught at the Gregorian. He also spent nine years as provincial of the New Orleans Province.

DR. RAYMOND G. SLAVIN (GRAD P&L '94)
Slavin has been treating allergy patients for nearly 50 years, mostly while serving as a professor and researcher with the SLU School of Medicine, where he educates more than 7,000 medical students. He remains a professor emeritus in the school’s division of allergy and immunology. In 2000, he sponsored a one-week program helping people displaced by violence. The program became TCP Global (TCP-Global) in 2015.

WILLIAM GIESE (A&S '74, DOCS '71)
In 1969, as a medic in Vietnam, Giese read about the emerging field of physician assistants (PAs). After being discharged, he returned to SLU and graduated with the inaugural class of PAs in 1972. Giese spent most of his career in student health at Washington University in St. Louis but volunteered at SLU to proctor PA practical skills testing and interview prospective students.

DEAN PLOCHER (LAW '97)
Plocher represents the 89th District (west St. Louis County) in the Missouri House of Representatives. He was elected in 2015, and his term began on Jan. 6, 2016. He serves as chair of the general laws committee and as minority floor leader before being chosen speaker of the House in 2023. He previously served as a municipal judge and a prosecuting attorney. In addition to his legislative duties, he practises law in Clayton, Missouri.

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DEAN L. ODOM (GRAD A&S '97, GRAD P&L '98, GRAD '99)
Giese is the director of the SLU School of Medicine’s Department of Physician Assistant Studies, which oversees the PA program. Giese joined the school’s division of allergy and immunology in 2000 and has been a professor emeritus in the school’s division of allergy and immunology. In 2000, he sponsored a one-week program helping people displaced by violence. The program became TCP Global (TCP-Global) in 2015.

MARK A. LEWIS, S.J. (GRAD A&S '84, GRAD ED '14)
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With a gift of $100 or more toward any SLU fund, you can honor a loved one, commemorate a favorite faculty member or coach, or spotlight your family member. Or, with a customizable engraved brick placed in Chaifetz Arena’s Recognition Plaza. Mini replica bricks are available for an additional charge.

MAKE A MARK ON SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY

W
York City Department of Education. He also wrote the memoir Jesuit Missioned to the Laity and a tenured school social worker at the New St. Louis County Department of Public Health. In September, Kolenchery became chief revenue officer at Fourth and Thirve Labs, a consulting firm based in Grayslake, Illinois.

HEBU KOLENCHERY (PH) was recognized by the de Beaumont Foundation in its 40 Under 40 in Public Health Class of 2013 for his work at the St. Louis County Department of Public Health. In September, Kolenchery became chief revenue officer at Fourth and Thirve Labs, a consulting firm based in Grayslake, Illinois.

2019

JAIME CURRY (Law) is an associate attorney at Danna McKitrick. Curry focuses her practice on assisting individuals, families and business owners with navigating their estate and tax planning.

2021

DR. MARC MARTINEZ (Grad Ed) has been serving Catholic schools for over 25 years. In 2022, he became the founding principal for St. Peter Catholic, the first Catholic career and technical high school in the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston (and in all of Texas). St. Peter’s inaugural year started in August 2023; the school plans to add another class of students each year, building to 12th grade.

2022

PETER LUCIER (Law) is the lead for strategic partnerships and allied organizations for Team America Relief. Since August 2021, the nonprofit has assisted thousands of Afghans, as well as American citizens, in connecting to resources to aid in relocation and safe passage from Afghanistan. A veteran U.S. Marine, Lucier has written on veteran issues, foreign policy and national security for The New York Times, Washington Post, American magazine and others.

2015

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HOW I GOT HERE

Lauren (Lobosky) Sullivan (PC’10)
TEAM PENSKE ENGINEER
— by Jacob Born

1988 Sullivan is born in Walnut, California.

1999 Sullivan’s engineering journey begins: She builds a wind tunnel for a science fair project in fifth grade, winning a blue ribbon.

2004 After her family started a NASCAR super late model racing team in 1999 at Irwindale Speedway, Sullivan joins the pit crew.

2006 She enrolls at Saint Louis University, majoring in meteorology and then physics before deciding on aerospace engineering.

2008 For a project in her differential equations class, Sullivan and her classmates build a “frocket,” a combination of a rocket and Frisbee. She earns an A in the process. “That was probably my favorite math class ever. When it came time to make the frocket, I was the only one with shop experience. That was a pretty cool moment, seeing what you’re learning come to life.”

2009 One of Sullivan’s favorite areas at SLU is the wind tunnel lab. She spends countless hours in the tunnel, both conducting tests and performing maintenance. “Because I had access to the wind tunnel, I learned stuff faster and was able to hone my skills sooner. It put me in front of people at Boeing who saw what I was doing, and they were impressed.”

2010 Sullivan graduates from SLU and accepts a job with Boeing, testing fighter aircraft and weapons in wind tunnels.

2015 She decides to pursue a career in motor sports, joining Team Penske’s NASCAR team as an engineer. Also this year, after meeting at SLU years ago, she marries Sean Sullivan (PC ’09) in St. Louis. “In aerospace, I was just always looking forward to the point in my life where I wasn’t going to have to work anymore. Working in motor sports, I ironically don’t see a finish line I’m trying to get to. I’m just having fun and taking every opportunity as it comes my way.”

2018 Supporting NASCAR driver Joey Logano, Sullivan wins her first NASCAR Cup Series Championship. She goes on to win two more championships, one in NASCAR and one in INDYCAR.

2021 Sullivan is a part of the Paretta Autosport team, in a technical alliance with Team Penske, at the Indianapolis 500, which makes history as the crew with the most female members. “For any females interested in getting into engineering, motor sports, any STEM-related career: Society is changing, and you don’t need to fight for a seat. Just take it. You are wanted here.”

2023 Sullivan (right) with driver Josef Newgarden and the winning Indy 500 car in May 2023.

Class notes

1998 Her mom and dad both have ties to racing. One notable moment during childhood is meeting racing legend John Force at a National Hot Rod Association race in California. “Growing up, my family had a NASCAR race on TV every Sunday.”

1999 Sullivan and Force

2004 Sullivan and her first wind tunnel

2005 Sullivan and her first wind tunnel in the wind tunnel lab in Oliver Hall

2009 One of Sullivan’s favorite areas at SLU is the wind tunnel lab. She spends countless hours in the tunnel, both conducting tests and performing maintenance.

2010 Sullivan and her first WIND TUNNEL

2015 Sullivan (right) with Joey Logano and the Daytona 500 trophy

2021 Sullivan and her husband on SLU’s campus on their wedding day

2023 Sullivan (right) with driver Josef Newgarden and the winning Indy 500 car in May 2023.
In memoriam

**UNIVERSITAS / THE ALUMNI MAGAZINE OF SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY**

Northrup 45, a former president for the medical staff at Saint Louis University Hospital and former faculty in the Department of Otolaryngology, died Nov. 18, 1991. He was 98 years old. A respected surgeon, he joined the SLU faculty in 1965.

**1951**
- Paul Clark (PC)
- Lawrence Reuter (A&S)
- Robert Sweyne (Law)

**1952**
- Daniel Mullhausen, S.J.
- John Gosselin (A&S)
- Charles Schaffer (CSB)
- Stanford Towerman (CSB)
- Zachary Davison TV (A&S)
- Richard Meile (A&S)
- Lawrence Cronin (A&S)
- Francis Heyer (IT)
- James Kreis (A&S)
- Charles Nied (A&S)
- Donald Sha (A&S)

**1953**
- James M. Short, S.J.
- Nicholas Calaredi Jr. (A&S)
- Theodore Ewain Jr. (IT)
- George Shaffrey Jr. (A&S)
- Stanley Augustyniewicz (PC)
- William Bak Sr. (IT)
- John Carter (MED)
- Thomas French (IT)
- Dolores (O’Grady) Greaves
- Ernesto (O’Mara) Loneway (A&S)
- Rosemary (Faus) Sweeney (CSB)
- Aiden Victor (IT)

**1955**
- Eugene Francklet (A&S)
- Murray Germany (CSB)
- Richard Haffner (PC)
- William Keller (IT)
- Thomas Maffie (A&S)
- James Yeomch (A&S)
- Frank Apicella (A&S)

**1956**
- Dr. Roland Patillo (IT), a gynecologic oncologist, died May 3, 1956, at age 59. He was a lecturer, researcher and practitioner, but was perhaps best known for bringing attention to Henrietta Lacks who died of cervical cancer in 1951 while “Hetia lived” on and led to significant medical advances. Patillo connected her family with Rebecca Skloot, who wrote the best-seller “The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks.”

**1957**
- Joseph Page (A&S)
- Glennen Prenty (IT)
- Louis Kitshman (PC)
- Joseph schwignrein (PC)
- George Soucek (IT)
- Raymond Worweck (A&S)

**1960**
- Donna Haanen (SW)
- David Hurenbach, S.J. (A&S)
- Glenn Herdistclein (CSB)
- William Kennedy (MED)
- Lawrence Lofranski (CSB)
- Mary (DeBaker) Mahler ( lays)
- Luis Medina (SW)
- Frank Spinlar (SW)
- Louis Meade (A&S)

**1961**
- Daniel Brady (CSB)
- Stanley Hack (MED)
- John Klein Sr. (IT)
- Pierre Lapage (IT)
- Robert MacDonald Jr. (MED)
- Gabriel Mason, S.L. (A&S)
- James McCormick (PC)
- Ed Miller (A&S)
- Thomas Monett (A&S)
- Peter Naafi (MED)
- John Noll (A&S)
- Ernest Pfister (PC)
- Lee Story (PC)
- Joseph Pavesich Jr. (PC)
- Leonard Barnonn Jr. (MED)
- Norbert Burszynski (PC)

**1962**
- Mary (Dadson) Grumcaner (A&S)
- William Gieb (A&S)
- Robert Hart (A&S)
- William Kristian (A&S)
- Michael Madden (A&S)
- Richard Meyer (A&S)
- Marilyn Panepinto (A&S)

**1964**
- Virginia Behn (CSB)
- Carol Ivenson-McIntyre (CSB)
- Joseph Napper (SW)
- Mary (Sullivan) Gurney (A&S)
- Glenn Miller (CSB)
- Joseph Zinsmeyer Jr. (IT)
- Jean Zink (Schonberger) Getz (CSB)
- Barbara Jaffe (CSB)
- Gilbert Daniel (A&S)
- Stuart Dun (MED)
- Elizabeth (Blechman) Lehman (A&S)
- Richard Munch (A&S)
- Ronald Shelby (CSB)
- Jakarta Jaffe (MED)
- Robert C. Ross (A&S)

**1965**
- Howard (Eckle) Leks (A&S)
- George (Bressler) Hinn (A&S)

**1967**
- John Mancun (A&S)
- Richard Munch (A&S)
- Mark S. Pavecker (A&S)

**1969**
- John Becher (IT)
- Daniel Corrigan (PC)
- Patricia (Naray) Dorgan (ITT)
- Vincent Jansen (PC)
- Raymond Ken (SW)
- Howard Laskin (IT)
- Charles (Minter) Haag (CSB)
- Charles Mullen Jr. (IT)
- Richard Schuh (IT)
- Edmund Tenk (A&S)

**1971**
- William Brandt Jr. (IT)
- John Dyres, O.S.B. (CSB)
- Patricia Hurrman, F.M. (CSB)
- Edward Hingle (CSB)
- Carol Jerek, C.C.V. (MED)
- Paul K. Law (MED)
- Martha (Schmod) Kohe (A&S)
- Stephen McCormick Jr. (MED)
- Gerald (Peters) Sore (A&S)
- Dennis Sawyer (A&S)
- Walter Soder (A&S)

**1973**
- William Cooper (IT)
- John O’Neill Jr. (A&S)
- Richard Minal (MED)
- Mary (Reiners) (A&S)
- Stephen Scheuerman (A&S)

**1975**
- Merle Noile, O.S.B. (A&S)
- John Stricker (IT)
- Lawrence Reuter (A&S)
- Joseph Vandeloo, S.J. (A&S)

**1977**
- John Bohrer (PC)
- William Broyd (A&S)
- Thomas Bennett (A&S)

**1979**
- Dr. Virginia Herrmann (A&S)
- John McManus, F.M. (CSB)
- Roger Kramm (PS)
- Elizabeth (Hendrick) Lin (PC)
- John Cauley (A&S)
- Thomas Everding (IT)
- Stephen Scheuerman (A&S)
- Ronald Rubelbe (A&S)

**1981**
- John Seibel (A&S)
- George (Brandt) Stal (A&S)
- Murali Sundaram (A&S)
- Bernard Wolfe (A&S)

**1983**
- William Lawton (CSB)
- James Livingston III (A&S)
- Richard Detrill (A&S)

**1985**
- Evelyn (Patanavo) Armstrong (MED)
- Jan DeWitt (A&S)
- Janine Pflaum (IT)

**1987**
- Diane Schaffer (Adrian CA, AGR) (IT)
- Jane Anderson (A&S)
- Kristine (Heisz) Singleton (IT)

**1989**
- Thomas Gower (A&S)
- William Lauman (CSB)
- Kirk Pack (PC)
- Robert Shulley (A&S)

**1991**
- Gene Overall (A&S)
- Alan Thiel (CSB)

**1993**
- Gary Schmitt (A&S)
- Terrence Mehern (A&S)
- Gerald (Linder) (A&S)

**1995**
- Harold Deuser Jr. (A&S)
- John Bohrer (PC)
- Richard Hill (A&S)
- James McAlain (PC)
- John Mancun (A&S)

**1997**
- Raymond (Esposito) Schrader (PC)
- Charles J. (Meister) Jr. (A&S)
- Charles Eagan (IT)
- Joseph O’Malley (A&S)
- Richard Meyers (A&S)

**1999**
- John Lally (IT)
- Thomas Bennett (A&S)
- Anthony (Reed) (A&S)
- John Legere (A&S)
- Tom LeBlanc (IT)

**2001**
- John Lally (PC)
- John Lally (A&S)
- John Lally (IT)
- John Lally (A&S)
- John Lally (IT)

**2003**
- John Lally (PC)
- John Lally (A&S)
- John Lally (IT)
- John Lally (A&S)
- John Lally (IT)

**2005**
- John Lally (PC)
- John Lally (A&S)
- John Lally (IT)
- John Lally (A&S)
- John Lally (IT)

**2007**
- John Lally (PC)
- John Lally (A&S)
- John Lally (IT)
- John Lally (A&S)
- John Lally (IT)

**2009**
- John Lally (PC)
- John Lally (A&S)
- John Lally (IT)
- John Lally (A&S)
- John Lally (IT)

**2011**
- John Lally (PC)
- John Lally (A&S)
- John Lally (IT)
- John Lally (A&S)
- John Lally (IT)

**2013**
- John Lally (PC)
- John Lally (A&S)
- John Lally (IT)
- John Lally (A&S)
- John Lally (IT)

**2015**
- John Lally (PC)
- John Lally (A&S)
- John Lally (IT)
- John Lally (A&S)
- John Lally (IT)

**2017**
- John Lally (PC)
- John Lally (A&S)
- John Lally (IT)
- John Lally (A&S)
- John Lally (IT)

**2019**
- John Lally (PC)
- John Lally (A&S)
- John Lally (IT)
- John Lally (A&S)
- John Lally (IT)

**2021**
- John Lally (PC)
- John Lally (A&S)
- John Lally (IT)
- John Lally (A&S)
- John Lally (IT)

**2023**
- John Lally (PC)
- John Lally (A&S)
- John Lally (IT)
- John Lally (A&S)
- John Lally (IT)
In memoriam

Duane Benson (A&S)
Mary Chandler (VSN)
Ebhi (Shute) Wetman (LAW)
1982
Lawrence De Moor (LAW)
Jane Hoehl (G)
1983
Mary Ann (Leaf) Medler (LAW)
Frederick Nix (A&S)
Anna (Jones) Ziegmeier (VSN)
1984
Dr. Colerene Briggs Johnson (A&S), former associate vice president, died Oct. 23, 2023, at age 99. Johnson worked for SLU for nearly 30 years, starting as director of the Student Educational Services Center. The first Black female associate vice president for enrollment and academic services, she founded SLU’s Black Alumni Network and created the Dr. Colerene Johnson Book Fund. She retired in 2008.

Mary Meloney (A&S)
1985
Martin Luerser (CSB)
Doris Pats (LAW)
1986
Peter Gregory Anastas (A&S)
Diane (Loessmer) Gutierrez (A&S)
Edward Moores (PSY)
Patrick McEwan (CSB)
Brian Walkop (MED)
1987
Eugenia “Jenina” (Geiser) Wushman (CSB)
1988
Ramon Trice (A&S)
Leah (Shihemkamp) Vandergriff (A&S)
Karen (Grill) Weaver (DGCH)
1989
Mary Hart (VSN)
1990
Charles Jollineau (A&S)
1991
Curtis Davis (LAW)
Kellie (Moore) Donfield (LAW)
1992
David Amador (DGCH)
Daniel Brown (A&S)
Eric Evans (SM)
1993
André Gallegos, chairman of the National Council on Disability and SLU’s 2023 spring commencement speaker, died Dec. 1. He was 62. When not working with the NCD, Gallegos was a partner of Hughes Socol Ponzi Reznick & Dym, Ltd. focusing on disability, business, and health care law. Gallegos also spent 14 years with the U.S. Air Force.

Arthur Shiever (LAW)
1994
Elizabeth Hoyt (LAW)
1995
Mary Albrecht (CSB)
Joyce Bayliss (SW)
Riley Maynard (A&S)
Stephen Swisher (MG)
1996
Kristine Ockuly (SW)
1997
George Graham (LAW)
Rhonnie Hemphill (LAW)
Robert Young (LAW)
1998
Suzanne (Toppe) Mendillo (CSB)
1999
Peter Howard (LAW)
2000
Victoria Minato (LAW)
2001
Maureen Landgraf (MG)
2002
Mark Bansbach (CSB)
Tia Kingsbury (CSB)
2003
Diana (Leosmusr) Gutierrez (A&S)
2004
Joseph Nannenkamp (CSB)
2005
Barbara (Diamond) Benstrup (LAW)
2006
Mima Overtott (ED)
2007
Maureen Polasko (ED)
2008
James Heitman (LAW)

FACULTY AND STAFF

Dr. Alberto Galofré, professor of internal medicine and former associate dean with the School of Medicine, died May 10, 2022. He was 85. A native of Chile, Galofré came to SLU in 1978. He also served as a consultant for the Pan American Health Organization in Washington, D.C., and for the World Health Organization. He retired from SLU in 2003.

Roger Goldman, law school professor and administrator and police reform advocate, died July 29, 2023. He was 82. The Callis Family Professor of Law Emeritus, he worked for decades on the issues of police decertification and accountability. His scholarship had wide-spread impact and was referenced in President Obama’s Task Force on 21st Century Policing. In 2015, Goldman was inducted into the School of Law’s Order of the Fluer de Lis.

Dr. Alice (Bourke) Hayes, SLU’s first female provost, died Sept. 24, 2023, at age 83. Hayes came to SLU in 1989 to be vice president of academic affairs and provost — the first woman to do so at a U.S. Jesuit university. In 1999, she left to become president of the University of San Diego where she served until 2003.

Dr. Thomas C. Westfall, chair emeritus of the Department of Pharmacology and Physiology, died Oct. 13, 2023. He was 83. Westfall was department chair from 1979-2003. In 1990 he became the first William Beaumont Professor and Chair. He was inducted into the Academy of Educators at SLU in 2015. In 2018, he published, “History of Pharmacology and Physiology at Saint Louis University School of Medicine.”

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 devservice@slu.edu.

The last look

PONTIF’S VISIT

When Pope John Paul II visited St. Louis in January 1999, he took part in a youth rally, led an ecumenical service at the New Cathedral and celebrated Mass with 104,000 people at the Trans World Dome (now the Dome at America’s Center) — the largest indoor Mass in the United States.

SLU ON STAGE

Saint Louis University featured prominently in the papal visit. The campus became a staging area for the clergy and many other who participated in the Mass. Nearly 400 members of the national media worked from Busch Student Center and reported live in front of St. Francis Xavier College Church. Tickets were canceled so students and faculty could attend papal events.

CRUISING BY CAMPUS

The pope stayed at the home of Archbishop Justin Rigali near the Cathedral Basilica of St. Louis. To get to and from downtown events during his 30-hour visit, the Holy Father rode in the papemobile east and west on Lindell Boulevard — right past campus. Thirty miles of orange lining lined the papal route.

PRE-POPE PREP

The papal visit got under way in April 2005 when Pope Benedict XVI arrived. More than 100,000 people attended the pre-papal Mass and evening ecumenical service. The event was live on national television and featured prominently in the papal visit.

IN HARMONY

Seventy students from SLU’s 10 p.m. Sunday Mass choir joined with students from Washington University in St. Louis and Kenrick Seminary to form a 103-member ensemble. They were one of seven groups that performed during the “Light of the World” Papal Youth Gathering. SLU distributed 800 tickets for the event; 21,000 attended.

LIFELONG EFFECT

Digital Age in Town to see the pope included President Bill Clinton and First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, Stan Musial and Rosa Parks. Missouri Governor Mal Carnahan later canceled the death sentence of a convicted murderer to be held without parole, citing a personal plea from Pope John Paul II.
first-generation students can focus on their studies instead of working to cover tuition and living expenses.

Almost 20% of SLU’s 2023-24 freshman class will be the first in their family to complete a college degree. These students disrupt generational barriers to higher education and are an inspiration to others who dream of attending college. Your financial support makes it possible.

Make a gift to Saint Louis University to create opportunities for future SLU students.

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