



SAINT LOUIS  
UNIVERSITY

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Office of the President

August 30, 2013

TO: SLU Trustees, Faculty, Staff, Students, Parents and Benefactors  
FROM: Lawrence Biondi, S.J., President

As I begin my 27th year and end it shortly, I write my Monthly President's Message for the last time. By now, most of you have heard that I have decided to step away from the day-to-day operations of the presidency. I will be taking a sabbatical. During that time, I will continue to work to build support among our benefactors and alumni. I will also spend time reflecting on my future and discerning what God is calling me to do next.

In selecting an interim president, the Board of Trustees has appointed **Bill Kauffman**, Vice President and General Counsel. I have worked with Bill for many, many years. He is a strong leader who thoroughly understands the inner workings of this institution. He is also deeply committed to our Catholic, Jesuit mission. I know all of you will give him your support in the year ahead.

I also leave the SLU presidency comfortable in the knowledge that the state of the University remains very strong. Therefore, I would like to use my last official Monthly Message to you as your President to share some of the latest news from around our University.

### Academics

On July 1, the **College for Public Health and Social Justice** officially became our newest academic unit. Following months of planning and collaboration, the formation of this unique and fully integrated academic unit will better position SLU to take on the global health and social challenges facing our world today. I would like to thank Dean **Edwin Trevathan, Ph.D.**, and Social Work Director **Donald Linhorst, Ph.D.**, as well as the faculty, staff and students of both units for their efforts in the planning

and implementation of this reorganization. Additionally, the college's facilities in Salus Center have recently undergone significant renovations, including the addition of a new auditorium, four new high-tech classrooms, and offices for faculty and staff.

The **School for Professional Studies**, long a leader in education for working adults, has established new partnerships with SSM Healthcare and Mercy Healthcare for the school's innovative R.N. to Bachelor of Science degree program. These new partnerships build on an already successful collaboration with BJC HealthCare. Thanks to former Dean **Jennifer Giancola, Ph.D.**, (A&S '93, Grad A&S '97, '99) who has returned to the faculty, for her efforts on these collaborations.

For the **Doisy College of Health Sciences**, the kitchen in Salus Center has been remodeled to support Doisy's Food Innovation and Entrepreneurship (FIE) concentration in the Department of Nutrition and Dietetics. The FIE program prepares students for innovative opportunities in the food industry. In addition, the Department of Clinical Laboratory Sciences has collaborated with the School of Medicine in support of research initiatives and lab space.

The **John Cook School of Business** hosted three major summer academies this year: the International Business Summer Academy, the Sports Business Summer Academy and the Allsup Summer Entrepreneurship Academy. Altogether, these academies attracted more than 140 high school students from the St. Louis area and from around the country to our Midtown St. Louis campus. In addition, the World Forum of Jesuit Business Education met on campus in early July. This was a joint meeting of Colleagues in Jesuit Business Education (CJBE) and the International Association of Jesuit Business Schools (IAJBS). More than 120 faculty, deans and presidents from 35 Jesuit business schools located around the world attended the forum, which was focused on the theme of sustainability.

### Enrollment

The University's national and global reputation has allowed us to once again enroll one of the largest, most diverse and definitely most academically gifted freshman classes in SLU history. Among the Class of 2017's impressive credentials are a mean high school GPA of 3.81 and an average ACT score of 27.6.

I am also happy to report that our student success efforts continue to be working. As of the first day of undergraduate classes, our first-to-second-year retention rate has remained at our historic high of 88%. It also appears that the six-year graduation rate will make another slight increase this year as well.

These achievements do not happen by accident. In particular, I would like to thank Vice President for Enrollment and Retention Management **Jay Goff** and his entire

staff for their efforts this past year. Moreover, our entire University community has played a part in embracing our strategic enrollment plans, and that shared commitment is paying off.

To bolster our recruitment efforts, the Office of Admission partners with the Office of Alumni Relations on a series of events throughout the year. Among them are the "Summer Send-Offs." For the past 15 years, alumni and current parents from across the country have hosted receptions for incoming students and their parents. This year, there were events in a record 18 cities, including for the first time Boston, New Orleans and Palo Alto, California. These events drew a total of 350 incoming freshmen and their parents. Thanks to everyone in Admission and Alumni Relations, especially Associate Vice President for Alumni Relations **Meg Connolly** (A&S '90, Grad A&S '92) and Dean of Admission **Jean Gilman**.

Another major collaborative effort is our SLU 101 summer orientation program. This year's sessions drew 3,551 new students, parents and guests to our St. Louis campus, and once again, we heard positive feedback from participants. The program's ongoing success speaks to the effective teamwork that takes place between multiple units, including the Student Involvement Center, the Office of Admission and all of the undergraduate advising offices. Thanks to staff in all of these areas, in particular Student Involvement Center Director **Susan Fanale** and Student Involvement Center Coordinator **Ana Sontag**, for making our newest Billikens feel at home and ready for college life.

Even with all of these successful collaborative efforts, we will continue to be challenged by regional and national enrollment trends, including the decreasing number of traditional high school graduates, community college transfer students and students interested in pursuing law degrees. In light of these challenges, it has never been more important for our SLU community to remain focused on student recruitment and student success. We must also look for new opportunities to build on our strengths and our reputation as one of the finest Catholic, Jesuit universities in the country.

### **Facilities**

**Scott Hall**, the new home of our School of Law at Tucker Boulevard and Chestnut Street in downtown St. Louis, is now open. This historic move into the heart of the City's legal and civic communities will benefit our SLU Law students for generations. The official dedication and blessing of Joe and Loretta Scott Hall will be held at 1 p.m. Saturday, September 28, 2013. I encourage you to attend this public ceremony, so that you can see this truly impressive and inspiring space for yourselves.

As you may also know, the courtroom in the building is named for longtime Trustee and former Chairman of the Board Jack Pruellage, who left a generous \$1.1 million gift in his estate for the project. We will honor his legacy during a special dedication ceremony October 3, 2013.

With the move of the School of Law downtown, you may be wondering what will happen with the spaces the law school previously occupied: Morrissey Hall and Queen's Daughters Hall. At this point, no decisions have been made, though the University is currently considering a number of suggestions that have been presented by the administration of deans and vice presidents. However, we will not rush to the fill the buildings. Instead, we will need to ensure that whatever moves take place are strategic, and in keeping with SLU's academic needs and priorities.

Our **Center for Global Citizenship** project – the total renovation of the former West Pine Gym – has been completed, offering students a new, inviting gathering space as well as solidifying our standing as an international university. The dedication for the Center for Global Citizenship will take place at 6:30 p.m. Friday, September 27, 2013, during Homecoming Weekend, and all members of the SLU community are invited.

For both the Law School building and the Center for Global Citizenship, I would like to thank Manager of Design and Construction **David Florek** and Project Manager **Dustin Montgomery** for overseeing the work of the various architects and contractors on both projects simultaneously with such efficiency and effectiveness.

In Madrid, **San Ignacio Hall** has opened following a major renovation that includes a new library, classrooms, art and dance studios, and a restaurant. On a trip to Spain this summer, I had the opportunity to see the new building in person, and it is an amazing educational space. Many thanks to Director and Dean **Paul Vita, Ph.D.**, and Director of Finance and Operations **Victoria Villarreal** (A&S '86, Grad Cook '88) for bringing this important project to completion. It should be noted that, for the first time, our Spain campus is operating out of three buildings that are University owned. A dedication ceremony will be held at 8 p.m. on Tuesday, September 10, 2013.

### Finances

Financially, SLU remains in an excellent position. Our University endowment, which provides critical resources for academic programs and student support initiatives, is at \$985 million, making it the third-largest endowment among the nation's 28 Jesuit colleges and universities. I would like to acknowledge Vice President and Chief Financial Officer **David Heimburger** (Cook '85), Associate Vice President and Chief Investment Officer **Gary Whitworth**, and the entire team in the Division of Business and Finance for ensuring that our University remains on solid financial footing.

## Human Resources

Our Division of Human Resources and our Center for Workforce and Organizational Development in our School for Professional Studies have partnered to launch the new Exceptional Leadership Program this fall. This will be a professional development opportunity for our own SLU managers and directors, as well as members of the local business community who have leadership potential. Driven by research on best practices, the content of the program was jointly developed by SLU faculty and staff. The courses will be taught by Ph.D. faculty who are experts on leadership. This collaboration between an academic unit and administrative division is noteworthy, and more of it should be encouraged in the future. To learn more about the Exceptional Leadership Program, email [training@slu.edu](mailto:training@slu.edu).

## Fundraising

I am pleased to report that overall fundraising was up by 2% in FY13. This marks the third consecutive year that fundraising levels increased. In addition, the giving participation rate among SLU alumni increased. Especially noteworthy is the increase in participation from undergraduate alumni, which jumped from 14.2% to 15.7%, a substantial increase in one year. This number is a key factor in the scores that *U.S. News & World Report* assigns to colleges and universities for their annual Best Colleges rankings. Fundraising is also critical for support of the University, and that is especially true for scholarships. In 2012, SLU provided a record \$339 million in financial aid to students. Going forward, there will be increased pressure to provide even more financial aid to attract and retain the brightest students. Because of this, fundraising for scholarships will be an area of emphasis for our Division of University Advancement in the months ahead.

## Personnel

**David Hakanson** is our new Vice President and Chief Information Officer. He brings more than 15 years of information technology experience – including executive leadership, project management and staff development – to his new leadership role at SLU. Also in ITS, **Keith Hacke** has been promoted to Associate Vice President and Chief Technology Officer.

**Patty Haberberger** has been named Interim Vice President for Human Resources. Ms. Haberberger has worked at SLU for two decades and has many years of experience in the field of human resources.

**Bridget Fletcher** has been named Vice President for Administration and Chief of Staff. Her new title reflects the responsibilities she was given and the role she has played for the past several years.

**Matthew Grawitch, Ph.D.**, (A&S '99, Grad A&S '01, '04) is serving as the Interim Dean of our School for Professional Studies. Dr. Grawitch has been a member of the SLU faculty since 2005 and has served in a number of leadership roles in SPS, including chair of the organizational studies program and associate dean of academic development.

**Scott Safranski, Ph.D.**, has been appointed Interim Dean of our John Cook School of Business. A professor of management, Dr. Safranski has been a member of our faculty for more than three decades and has held a number of leadership positions in our Business School, including serving as the chairman of the Department of Management for 11 years.

**Troy Turnipseed** (PS '03, Grad Cook '08) has been promoted to Dean and Director of Summer Academics. His previous positions at SLU have included: Director of the Career Resources Center (2011-2012) and Associate Director of Graduate Business Programs (2005-2011) in the John Cook School of Business, as well as Academic Advisor and St. Louis Site Coordinator in the School for Professional Studies (2003-2004). For the 2012-13 academic year, Mr. Turnipseed was Director of Summer School and Events, where he directed and executed summer enrollment very successfully, including an increase of more than 60% in summer camps and academies.

In July, **David Cassens** was promoted to Dean for University Libraries. Boasting more than 20 years of experience in the field, Mr. Cassens had served as Interim University Librarian since June 2012. On staff at SLU for nearly 15 years, he also has served as Assistant University Librarian for Administration and the Director of Pius XII Memorial Library. He also played a key leadership role in the recent renovation of Pius Library.

**Gary Seibert, S.J.**, (A&S '66, Grad A&S '73) has joined the Division of Mission and Ministry as the Chaplain of the SLU Medical Center. A member of the College of Arts and Sciences faculty for a decade, Father Seibert has said the 10:30 a.m. Sunday Mass in the Chapel at Saint Louis University Hospital for seven years. He brings extensive experience working as a chaplain in hospitals and other health care settings to his new role at SLU.

**Susanne Chawszczewski, Ph.D.**, (Grad E&PS '98) is our new Director of Campus Ministry. She most recently served as certification and education coordinator for the National Association of Catholic Chaplains. Dr. Chawszczewski previously worked at SLU as an Assistant Director for Student Life.

**James Moran** is the new Assistant Vice President for Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness. Mr. Moran was a member of the St. Louis Metropolitan Police

Department for more than 30 years and most recently served as the captain of our Ninth District, which includes the north end of the St. Louis campus.

**Melinda Pullen Carlson** is the new Director of Housing and Residence Life. Most recently the associate dean of students and chief judicial officer at the University of Mississippi, Ms. Carlson has extensive student affairs professional experience, especially in area of student housing and residence life.

### **Congratulations**

Two-time alumnus **Judge Jimmie Edwards** (A&S '78, Law '81) has earned the 2013 William H. Rehnquist Award for Judicial Excellence from the National Center for State Courts. One of the nation's highest judicial honors, the Award is presented annually to a state court judge who exemplifies the highest level of judicial excellence, integrity, fairness and professional ethics. Judge Edwards is also a member of our Prison Program Advisory Board.

**Jerome Katz, Ph.D.**, Professor of Management, received the 2013 Foundational Paper Award from the Entrepreneurship Division of the Academy of Management for his 1988 paper "Properties of Emerging Organizations." The award recognizes the papers deemed most important to the field of entrepreneurship by the discipline's top professional organization.

**Mildred Mattfeldt-Beman, Ph.D.**, (Grad E&PS '92) Chair of our Department of Nutrition and Dietetics, will receive a Medallion Award from the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics in October at the 2013 Food & Nutrition Conference & Expo in Houston. The honor is given to members of the Academy who are service-oriented visionaries and outstanding leaders.

**Miguel Paniagua, M.D.**, (A&S '94) Director of our Internal Medicine Residency Program, has been elected to serve as an at-large member of the Executive Board of the National Board of Medical Examiners. This independent, non-profit organization provides a common evaluation system and standards for all doctors seeking an initial license to practice medicine in the United States.

**Manoj Patankar, Ph.D.**, (Parks '92) Professor of Aviation and Executive Director of our Center for Aviation Safety Research, has been elected a Fellow of the prestigious international Royal Aeronautical Society. Established in 1866, the Society is the world's only professional body dedicated to the entire aerospace community. Dr. Patankar is among a select few members from the United States and the first from SLU to be elected.

Public Health alumna **Lauren Schulte** (Grad PH '13) received the highest score in the United States on the national Certified Health Education Specialist (CHES) exam this summer. The CHES exam is taken by thousands of public health graduates from across the country, and is the "gold standard" test for measuring competence and excellence in the field of education.

Congratulations to all of these individuals on their appointments, accomplishments and honors. Not only does recognition for our faculty and alumni reflect the outstanding scholarship taking place at SLU, but it also raises the University's national and international profile.

### **Billiken Athletics**

Here at SLU, we take the term "student-athlete" very seriously. Under the leadership of Director of Athletics **Chris May**, our Department of Athletics provides significant resources to support all of our student-athletes and to help them succeed in their studies. This ongoing commitment continues to earn SLU honors. Most recently, our volleyball team has earned its sixth American Volleyball Coaches Association Team Academic Award for their 2012 season. In addition, our men's and women's tennis teams have been named All-Academic by the Intercollegiate Tennis Association for the 2012-13 academic year. Of course, our student-athletes are just as capable on the field as they are in the classroom. As evidence of that fact, the *College Soccer News* recently ranked our men's soccer team No. 10 in its preseason national poll. I hope you will join me in cheering on all of our Billiken student-athletes in the year ahead.

### **Summer At SLU**

The first year of [Summer At SLU](#) was a major success. Approximately 2,700 students attended one of the nearly 40 University-sponsored camps or academies this summer. Additionally, more than 3,800 individuals attended a conference or other event, and more than 4,200 students enrolled in an undergraduate or graduate course this summer. Throughout the summer, the initiative was publicized daily through the SLU Newslink email with news stories, photos and videos. I would like to thank **Troy Turnipseed** and Program Director for Pre-College and Access Programs **William Perkins** for their efforts to build community awareness of the many activities that take place on the St. Louis campus between May and August. To learn more about the first year of Summer At SLU, [click here](#). If you or your department have an idea for a new summer program in 2014, please contact Mr. Turnipseed at 314-977-7779 or [turniptp@slu.edu](mailto:turniptp@slu.edu).

### **2013 Homecoming and Family Weekend**

This year's Homecoming and Family Weekend will be September 27-29. I would encourage all SLU alumni and SLU parents within our University community – and I



know there are many – to participate in this wonderful annual tradition. I also encourage all of our students to extend the same invitation to their parents. It is always exciting to see our St. Louis campus come to life with current and future graduates – and their families – joining together to celebrate Saint Louis University. Among the many events not to be missed are the Homecoming men’s soccer game, the Golf Cart Parade, the Taste of Midtown and the Billiken Barbecue. Event schedules and registration information are available on the [Alumni Relations](#) and [Student Development](#) websites.

### This and That

In response to various issues of the past year, I wrote a commentary on the subject of accountability, salaries and appropriate compensation that was published in the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* on August 8, 2013. If you missed this op-ed over the summer break, you can read it now by clicking [here](#).

My commentary generated a letter to the editor from Charles L. Klotzer, founder of the *St. Louis Journalism Review*. This letter, published on August 13, 2013, addressed a lawsuit brought by the University against one of our Arts and Sciences faculty in the Department of Communications, Dr. Avis Meyer.

I wish to clarify for the general public and for our own SLU community the comments in Mr. Klotzer’s letter. The following is a summary of the case.

*The University News* is a student newspaper that operates separate and apart from any University editorial oversight. [The University News Charter](#) addresses freedom of the press and states, in relevant part:

The student press at Saint Louis University is a student forum, free of censorship and advanced approval of its content. Student editors are free to develop their own editorial policies, content, programming and news coverage. Freedom of the press -- print, online and broadcast -- is a basic right in a democratic society and is valuable in promoting the development of students as socially responsible persons. Editorial decisions shall be consistent with standard accepted journalistic principles and ethics, including those of accuracy and fairness in all reporting and commentary. The University expects student editors to seek professional advice and legal assistance when confronted with editorial and operational questions.

In June 2007, the University learned that Dr. Meyer incorporated a newspaper company with the Missouri Secretary of State using *The University News* name and masthead, which included the name Saint Louis University. This was a willful infringement of the University’s trademark and misuse of the name Saint Louis University.

The University sought to resolve the matter amicably and, in fact, participated in mediation with Dr. Meyer. Only after these attempts at resolution were unsuccessful did the University file a lawsuit. As the court later noted in a June 2, 2009, Order, "once defendant obtained articles of incorporation for an entity with a name substantially identical to that of plaintiff's campus paper, plaintiff became obligated to take action to protect its reputation and goodwill."

During the course of the lawsuit, it was discovered that Dr. Meyer intentionally destroyed documents relevant to the litigation. This was brought to the court's attention, and the court imposed a fine on Dr. Meyer requiring him to reimburse the University's fees and costs related to his improper destruction of documents. This amount totaled \$6,757.08.

Dr. Meyer indicated that he was unable to pay this amount. The University in no way attempted to "ruin Meyer financially" as asserted in Mr. Klotzer's letter to the *Post-Dispatch*. Instead, the University agreed to allow him to pay this amount over time and even work off part of the payment by teaching a summer course.

Although the University has complied with its obligations under the terms of the settlement agreement, it has been necessary to remind Dr. Meyer of his obligations. As recently as January 2012, Dr. Meyer was notified that he was in violation of a provision in the Agreement which prohibits his "attendance at *The University News* office."

Regarding this, Dr. Meyer was removed as a faculty advisor to the student newspaper in consultation with *The University News* advisory committee. Prior to Dr. Meyer's removal, SLU administrators had identified concerns regarding the business and editorial management of *The University News* during the time Dr. Meyer served as advisor. These concerns included:

- The need for student writers and editors to utilize editorial judgment to ensure that *The University News* was reporting verifiable and objective facts, dates and quotes, etc., in an accurate manner, versus editorial opinion and subjective interpretation of information.
- An over-reliance on already-published articles in other college newspapers.
- Use of exaggerated, large advertisements to fill up white space.
- An arrangement that involved advertisement placement for a local establishment in exchange for food and beverage credits to be used by *University News* student staff members.

Many of these issues were addressed by the additional structure put in place by the revisions to the Charter of *The University News*, as approved by the Board of Trustees in September 2008. I am pleased to note the news articles and editorial

commentaries in *The University News* during the past academic year were greatly improved. Students and the University community should be proud of this student-run publication that was founded in 1921 to represent a point of view around which healthy, legitimate discussion could occur.

### **In Conclusion**

It has been an honor and a privilege to serve as your president for the past 26-plus years. I am proud of what we have been able to accomplish together. Truly, the significant transformation of our University – in terms of enrollment, academics, research, service, facilities, finances and health care – has been a team effort.

Thank you for all that you have done, and will continue to do, for Saint Louis University. I am confident that if you remain committed to our Catholic, Jesuit mission and stay focused on serving our students, our patients and our communities, our University is well-prepared for the next chapter of presidential leadership.

I wish you all the best for this academic year and for the future.

May God continue to bless you and your loved ones. And may God continue to bless Saint Louis University.