

SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY™

MIDYEAR COMMENCEMENT



20
25

DECEMBER 13
CHAIFETZ ARENA
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY VARSITY SONG

VERSE 1

Heirs of a royal name,
Dear Varsity,
For aye our faith and love
We pledge to thee.

Guardian of truth and light
We always knew,
Thou, whom the years have
crowned, Saint Louis U?

REFRAIN

All hail, Saint Louis U!
Valiant and strong
Noble old Varsity
Hark to our song;

Proudly our colors fly
Brave White and Blue,
Loud let the chorus swell,
Saint Louis U!

Composed by Alfred G. Robyn (1860-1935)
Arranged for choir by Aaron Johnson, D.M.A.
Original lyrics by Paul L. Blakely, S.J. (1880-1943)
Lyrics adapted by Aaron Johnson, D.M.A.

VERSE 2

Great is thy noble heart,
Tender and true,
Show us thy loyalty
Saint Louis U!

Bear we with pride and love
Thy White and Blue,
Sweet are thy memories,
Saint Louis U!

[REFRAIN]

VERSE 3

Truth and nobility
Thy halls enshrine,
Guarding the hallowed name
Forever thine.

May we with heart and hand
Through life renew
Thy noble victories,
Saint Louis U!

[REFRAIN]

ORDER OF EVENTS

Academic Procession

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY COLOR GUARD ♦ BEARER OF THE MACE
ENDOWED CHAIR HOLDERS AND PROFESSORS ♦ MEMBERS OF THE FACULTY
CANDIDATES FOR DEGREES ♦ UNIVERSITY ADMINISTRATION

PRELUDE

Commencement Ensemble | University Singers

ANNOUNCER

Troy Hargrove, Ph.D., Assistant Vice President, Division of Enrollment Management

Program

BEARER OF THE MACE AND
MASTER OF CEREMONIES

Michael Lewis, Ph.D., Provost

NATIONAL ANTHEM
University Singers

INVOCATION
Pastor Leonard C. White
First Baptist Church of Ballwin

VARSITY SONG
University Singers

SALUTATION

Edward Feser, Ph.D., President

COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS

Marcea Walter, M.H.S.A.
Assistant Professor,
College for Public Health and Social Justice,
and the 2025 Recipient
of the Nancy McNeir Ring Award

Introduced by
Caroline Harrington
President of Alpha Sigma Nu

Recognition of Candidates

READERS: ELAINA OSTERBUR, PH.D., PROFESSOR, DOISY COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES
AND DEBRA PIKE, M.B.A., ASSOCIATE DEAN, CHAIFETZ SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

COLLEGE OF ARTS
AND SCIENCES (1818)
Donna LaVoie, Ph.D., Dean

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE (1836)
Christine Jacobs, M.D., Dean

SCHOOL OF LAW (1843)
Twinette Johnson, J.D., Ph.D.,
Dean

COLLEGE OF PHILOSOPHY
AND LETTERS (1889)
Randall S. Rosenberg, Ph.D.,
Dean

RICHARD A. CHAIFETZ
SCHOOL OF BUSINESS (1910)
Jackson Nickerson, Ph.D.,
Dean

SCHOOL OF SCIENCE
AND ENGINEERING (1927)
Gregory Triplett, Ph.D., Dean

TRUDY BUSCH VALENTINE
SCHOOL OF NURSING (1928)
Kristine L'Ecuyer, Ph.D., Dean

SCHOOL OF
SOCIAL WORK (1930)
Noelle Fearn, Ph.D., Dean

EDWARD AND MARGARET
DOISY COLLEGE OF
HEALTH SCIENCES (1979)
Tricia Austin, Ph.D., Dean

COLLEGE FOR PUBLIC HEALTH
AND SOCIAL JUSTICE (1991)
Leslie McClure, Ph.D., Dean

SCHOOL FOR PROFESSIONAL
STUDIES (1996)
Scott Duellman, Ph.D., Dean

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION (1998)
Gary Ritter, Ph.D., Dean

BENEDICTION

Marie Kenyon, J.D.
Director, Peace and Justice Commission for the Archdiocese of St. Louis

RECESSIONAL

NANCY MCNEIR RING AWARD RECIPIENT

SPEAKER

MARCEA WALTER, M.H.S.A.



Marcea Walter, assistant professor and director of the Master of Health Administration Program, is the 2025 recipient of the Nancy McNeir Ring Award for Excellence in Teaching.

Walter joined the SLU community in 2018. Prior to becoming a Billiken, she worked at her *alma mater*, Southern Illinois University Carbondale.

She earned her undergraduate degree in health care management in 2008 and her master's degree in health services administration from Xavier University in 2011. Along the way, she gathered real-world experience taking on roles that helped her understand both the operational and leadership sides of health care organizations.

Nominators praised Walter as a dedicated educator, mentor and leader. A student said Walter exemplified *cura personalis* and embodied SLU's Jesuit mission.

"Marcea embodies the highest standards of professional excellence, student-centered teaching and collegial service," one nominator wrote. "Her leadership, innovation and mentorship have strengthened every dimension of the Health Management and Policy Department and the college."

Walter also helps students secure competitive internships, administrative fellowships and leadership roles across major health systems nationwide.

She teaches "Health Care Organizations," "Health Administration Professional Development," "Solution-Oriented Business Plans in Health Care" and the health administration internship course.

At SLU, she has earned a reputation as a mentor for her students. In a nomination for the McNeir Ring Award, a student praised Walter for providing a welcoming space for students. The student said Walter's office was a "watering hole" for students — a place where they could get help and also enjoy each other's company.

Established in 1966, the Nancy McNeir Ring Award was named after the University's first dean of women, who was known for her devotion to students. It is presented annually to a member of the faculty who displays a special dedication to students both inside and outside the classroom. It is the only student-initiated and -sponsored teaching award at SLU that encompasses all college and schools of the University.

MUSICIANS AND SINGERS

COMMENCEMENT ENSEMBLE

Conductor:
Robert Hughes, Ph.D.
Professor of Music

VIOLIN
Jack Ingebretson
Lucy Kaymakanova
Amy Pennington
Megan Sloup
Colin Somers
Essence Williams

VIOLA
Victor Humphrey
Nathan Staicoff

CELLO
Katrina Churchill
Chris Lau

**UNIVERSITY
SINGERS**
Director:
Jon Garrett
Instructor of Music

Samara Cardozo
Alex Champa
Mary Daily
Abby Geldmacher
Analiesa Hollowood
Sarah Hymes
Andrea Karlovics
Isaac Layugan
Maxwell Look
Maichi Nguyen
Amoolya Pandurangi
Ankita Pandurangi
Iovane Sakhelashvili
Callie Schubert
Father Thomas Sserwadda
Olivia Szaj
Ittmum Zahir

UNIVERSITY MARSHALS

THE MARSHALS OF SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY HAVE A CENTRAL ROLE IN THE UNIVERSITY'S MOST SIGNIFICANT ACADEMIC OCCASIONS. THE POST OF MARSHAL IS ONE OF HONOR, WITH MARSHALS APPOINTED BY THEIR COLLEGE OR SCHOOL TO SERVE AS CEREMONIAL LEADERS. MARSHALS WEAR DISTINCTIVE MEDALLIONS INDICATIVE OF THEIR ROLE.

UNIVERSITY MARSHALS

**Joanne C.
Langan, Ph.D.**
*Trudy Busch Valentine
School of Nursing*

Alex A. Ocasio, Ph.D.
*University Writing
Services*

COLLEGE/SCHOOL MARSHALS

**COLLEGE OF ARTS
AND SCIENCES**
Elena Bray-Speth, Ph.D.
Aaron Johnson, D.M.A.

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
William Bowey, Ph.D.

SCHOOL OF LAW
Kerrin M. Kowach, J.D.
Yvette J. Liebesman, J.D.

**RICHARD A. CHAIFETZ
SCHOOL OF BUSINESS**
Mamoun Benmamoun, Ph.D.
Debra N. Pike, M.B.A.

**SCHOOL OF SCIENCE
AND ENGINEERING**
Stephen Belt, Ph.D.
Gajapriya Tamilselvan, Ph.D.
Michael Swartwout, Ph.D.
Brent Znosko, Ph.D.

**TRUDY BUSCH VALENTINE
SCHOOL OF NURSING**
Karen Cuvar, Ph.D.
Alison Kuhn, D.N.P.
Samantha Marquard, D.N.P.
Karen S. Moore, D.N.P., Ph.D.

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK
Shannon Cooper-Sadlo, Ph.D.
Brandy R. Maynard, Ph.D.

**EDWARD AND MARGARET
DOISY COLLEGE OF
HEALTH SCIENCES**
Uthayashanker Ezekiel, Ph.D.
Julie Howe, M.B.A.
Rita Heuertz, Ph.D.
Timothy Howell, Ed.D.
Elaina F. Osterbur, Ph.D.
Tim R. Randolph, Ph.D.
Amanda Reed, M.A.E.
Christine M. Werner, Ph.D.

**COLLEGE FOR PUBLIC HEALTH
AND SOCIAL JUSTICE**
Michael Elliott, Ph.D.
Kathleen Gillespie, Ph.D.
Travis Loux, Ph.D.

**SCHOOL FOR
PROFESSIONAL STUDIES**
Matthew J. Grawitch, Ph.D.
Meegan McKeethen, M.P.M.
Srikanth P. Mudigonda, Ph.D.
Steven Winton, Ph.D.

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION
Jeannine Butler, Ed.D.
Karen Hall, Ed.D.
Christa Jackson, Ph.D.
Donna Jahnke, Ph.D.
Jessica Leonard, Ph.D.

UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES
Martha H. Allen, M.L.S.
Miriam E. Joseph, Ph.D.

ACADEMIC ATTIRE

The colorful attire worn by graduates, faculty, trustees and officers of the University has historic roots in the distant medieval past. Dressed in cap and gown, the graduates and their professors are part of a long tradition that dates back to Paris and Bologna, Italy, to Oxford and Cambridge, England, in the days of their Catholic glory.

The exact origins of several parts of the academic garb are a bit of a mystery. Because medieval students enjoyed the status of cleric during their university years, one might guess that their attire found its inspiration in the clerical dress of medieval times. The gown seems to be an adaptation of the robe of friar or priest; the hood, of the monk's or friar's cowl; and the mortarboard cap of today recalls the skullcap of days when tonsured heads needed protection against the drafts of medieval classrooms.

Academic attire began to appear on U.S. campuses in the late 1890s. Since that time, its use has become universal for solemn university functions, and its pattern is highly uniform.

THE GOWNS

The gowns are three in number and styling. That of the bachelor is a yoked, closed-front garment with long pointed sleeves; that of the master has sleeves long and closed but slit just above the elbow to allow the forearms to protrude; the gown of the doctor has full, bell-shaped sleeves. Only the doctor's gown is trimmed — with velvet panels down the front and three velvet bars on each sleeve.

THE HOOD

The hood at first seems to have been worn over the head and attached to the gown. When the skullcap was introduced, the hood was retained but detached as a separate piece and worn much as it is today.

Each degree (bachelor's, master's, doctoral) has its special hood, which varies in length and, for the doctor, also in pattern. The color or colors lining the hood are those of the college or university that granted the wearer's degree. For example, Saint Louis University is known by blue chevron on a field of white. The colored velvet binding or edging of the hood, in different widths for bachelor, master and doctor, is determined by the field of study.

THE CAP

The cap, or mortarboard, has become the universally accepted style for U.S. colleges and universities. Many European institutions still retain distinctive forms of academic headdress.

THE TASSEL

The tassel is perhaps the most iconic souvenir of academic attire. The doctoral graduate can wear a gold or black tassel on the mortarboard. However, varying the color of the tassel based on the field of study has gained acceptance throughout academia. Colors include:

Allied health professions: Mint green

Arts: White

Business: Drab

Education: Light blue

Hospital administration: Salmon

Law: Purple

Medicine: Green

Nursing: Apricot

Philosophy: Dark blue

Public administration: Peacock blue

Science: Gold-yellow

Social work: Citron

Technology and engineering: Orange

Theology: Scarlet

ABOUT SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY



Saint Louis University is one of the oldest and most prestigious Catholic universities in the United States. Founded in 1818, the University is recognized nationally for world-class academics, life-changing research and a strong commitment to faith and service.

Guided by its enduring Jesuit mission, Saint Louis University offers students a highly rigorous and deeply transformative education that empowers them to become bold, confident leaders.

In 2025, Saint Louis University enrolled 13,307 students, from all 50 states and 93 countries. SLU's campus in Madrid, Spain, enrolled 1,285 students this fall.

A dedication to values-based education and social justice has earned Saint Louis University widespread acclaim and bolstered its status as a character-building college. Seventy-two percent of SLU students volunteer each year, nearly triple the national average among college students.

SLU is an anchor institution and a catalyst for growth in the heart of a vibrant city. In the last decade, more than \$2 billion of completed Midtown development projects have contributed to the community well-being and economic vitality of the city and region.

Inspired by its pioneering history while focused on its promising future, Saint Louis University continues to move forward with an unwavering commitment to serve a higher purpose while always seeking the greater good.

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

SLU ranks as one of the country's top colleges by *The Princeton Review*, *The Wall Street Journal* and U.S. News & World Report — and as the No. 11 "Best Catholic College in America." (Niche)

RESEARCH

With \$65.1 million in externally funded research expenditures, SLU's R1 status places the University in an elite group of U.S. research universities.

SERVICE

The SLU community completes 1.5 million hours of service annually.

ATHLETICS

An NCAA Division I institution, SLU is a member of the Atlantic 10 Conference and competes in 18 sports. Recent successes include the softball team earning the nation's No. 1 GPA among four-year softball programs.

MASCOT

The Billiken, a mythical good-luck figure who represents "things as they ought to be"

ALUMNI

More than 142,000 alumni lead lives of meaning and purpose around the world.

THE MISSION OF SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY

The Mission of Saint Louis University is the pursuit of truth for the greater glory of God and for the service of humanity. The University seeks excellence in the fulfillment of its corporate purposes of teaching, research, health care and service to the community. It is dedicated to leadership in the continuing quest for understanding of God's creation and for the discovery, dissemination and integration of the values, knowledge and skills required to transform society in the spirit of the Gospels. As a Catholic, Jesuit university, this pursuit is motivated by the inspiration and values of the Judeo-Christian tradition and is guided by the spiritual and intellectual ideals of the Society of Jesus.

SHARE YOUR GRADUATION NEWS



#SLU2025

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**SAINT LOUIS
UNIVERSITY™**

— EST. 1818 —