



SAINT LOUIS
UNIVERSITY

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Office of the President

August 28, 2012

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

Welcome back for the start of the 2012-2013 academic year. Below are news updates from around the University.

MEGAN BOKEN: Like all of you, I am profoundly saddened by the devastating loss of Megan Boken, a 2011 SLU graduate and standout on our volleyball team. Megan tragically lost her life August 18 during an off-campus incident in the Central West End. This was a senseless crime, and we are thankful to the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department for its tireless efforts to apprehend suspects in this case.

Megan was a vibrant young woman who lived our mission as a gifted student-athlete. A caring and committed friend to everyone who knew her, Megan truly exemplified Saint Louis University at its best. As we focus on providing our students with as much support as possible, I would ask that all of you continue to keep Megan's family — as well as her many friends, devoted teammates and former classmates in the John Cook School of Business — in your thoughts and prayers during this very difficult time. Written condolences may be sent to: Paul and Lisa Boken, 1584 Whitman Lane, Wheaton, Illinois, 60189.

RICK MAJERUS: Head men's basketball coach Rick Majerus is dealing with a significant health issue that will prevent him from coaching the men's basketball team for the 2012-2013 season. Rick's health is the most important thing to us at this time. We are all hoping and praying for a full and complete recovery.

Assistant men's basketball coach Jim Crews will serve as interim head coach. A 24-year head-coaching veteran with a winning record, Jim joined SLU just before the start of practice last season. We are confident that he will lead our team to another outstanding season this year and that our loyal Billiken fans will continue to support our team in a major way.

LEADERSHIP CHANGES AT THE SCHOOL OF LAW: As many of you have heard or read, there is a change in leadership at the School of Law. Thomas Q. Keefe, a 1978 graduate of our Law School, is serving as Dean for the 2012-2013 academic year. Later this fall, Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Manoj Patankar will appoint a search committee to find a permanent dean for the school.

There has never been a more critical time for hands-on, practical leadership in our Law School, especially in light of the challenges faced by law schools around the country. It is no secret that law school enrollments have been declining nationally and at SLU specifically. Our School of Law has also struggled with a drop in national rankings, falling out of the top-100 for the first time three years ago. We – the faculty and the administration – must examine and invigorate the legal education we provide to ensure that it prepares our students for success in their careers. That is what our students expect. This is what we must deliver.

As you probably know by now, the former dean resigned from her deanship in a very public – and some have told me outrageous – manner. In a resignation letter sent to Dr. Manoj Patankar and me on August 8 – which was leaked to the media that same day – she made four assertions. I would like to address them point-by-point. I should also note that Professor Clark has left her teaching position at Saint Louis University to return to a tenured position she continued to hold at her former institution while she was a tenured faculty member and dean at SLU.

1. ***That \$800,000 was “transferred” out of the Law School building fund.***

It is true that a total of \$815,490 from the School of Law’s budget was used to pay for compensation expenses within the Law School, including deans’ salaries. But what is not true is the suggestion that funds donated for the Law School for specific purposes were used for anything other than those specific purposes. The fact is that SLU honors the intent of donors for all gifts and bequests, including those gifts made specifically for the Law School building project. Moreover, the University has enhanced the Law School’s budget with a total of \$8.3 million in additional funding since 2004: \$6.3 million for new faculty and staff positions as well as increased salaries and benefits for existing positions; \$1.8 million for student financial aid and scholarships; and \$200,000 for faculty travel, new computers and other administrative expenses.

2. ***That the acquisition of the downtown building was made without “consultation” of Law School leadership.***

When we announced that we planned to renovate and expand our current Law School facilities along Lindell Boulevard in 2007, former Dean Jeff Lewis and I were committed to the agreement with our Board of Trustees that construction would not commence until the necessary funds had been raised. While the project was never on hold, our fundraising efforts were lagging, and the likelihood of the project moving forward was diminishing. Then we received the unexpected donation of a building at 100 N. Tucker Boulevard, which would allow us to finally provide the amenities that the Law School faculty and administration have wanted for so many years. Professor Clark toured the facility prior to the gift being finalized and announced, and she expressed her enthusiasm and excitement for the project. She was right to be so positive. When completed, our Scott Law Center will be among the finest law school buildings around, thanks largely to the ongoing design input from the Law faculty. We are also confident that locating our Law School in downtown St. Louis will give our students tremendous opportunities in the heart of where law is practiced in the city, creating new synergies with the local legal community.

3. *That I “refused” to meet with a reaccreditation team from the American Bar Association during a site visit in April.*

This is blatantly untrue. We have a number of professionally accredited programs at SLU, and it is customary for either the President or the Vice President for Academic Affairs to meet with the accreditation team. Members of the ABA site team were made aware that I would be out of the country on a long-planned fundraising and student recruitment trip during their primary visit, so they agreed to meet with Dr. Patankar in my absence, knowing I was available to speak with them via Skype. I had every intention to join the exit briefing via Skype, but the Internet connection was not stable during my travel, which prevented me from joining that meeting.

As I noted in my May 2012 message, I visited Asia in late March and early April. In China, I met with prospective students and their parents. I also visited South Korea and Thailand, where I met with loyal and generous alumni, including University Trustee C.S. Huh, who has committed \$1 million toward our Center for Global Citizenship, as well as Chanin Vongkusolkrit and Metee Auapinyakul, whose Thailand-based energy company has given us \$2 million to establish the Banpu Chair in Sustainability.

4. *That I “forbade” the Law School to pay for faculty summer stipends out of its general operating budget.*

The reality is that we did review the Law School’s summer stipend program because we are committed to operating in a fiscally responsible manner. After this review and a meeting with the faculty, it was agreed that we would proceed with awarding more than \$260,000 in summer stipends to the Law faculty. The stipends were awarded, and the source of this funding came from the School of Law’s budgets.

And again, it is important to reiterate that all monies that have been donated for the School of Law have been used to pay for Law School operations only.

In addition to these specific points, the former dean has generally asserted that there has been a lack of support for the Law School by the University. Nothing could be further from the truth. The fact is that no other college or school at SLU has received more attention or support, especially in recent years, than our School of Law. In addition to infusing the Law School with millions of dollars, we have also assembled a top-notch group of fundraisers for the Law School building project: Terri Andrews, Development Director for the School of Law; Jeff Fowler, Vice President for Advancement; Sheila Manion, Associate Vice President for Advancement; and John Soucy, Executive Director of Development for Special Projects. They have — and will continue — to devote countless hours to raising funds for the renovation of the Scott Law Center. I am committed to this project because I believe it will make our Law School even better. Tom Keefe shares my commitment as Dean and will be a key partner in our fundraising efforts.

Tom and his family have a long and impressive history with our School of Law. He, his father, four brothers and two of his children attended our Law School. Tom has also supported our Law School with two endowed professorships and a scholarship. I know that he brings

knowledge and great enthusiasm to this position. ([Click here to read a letter](#) he sent to the Law students and faculty on August 13.)

Finally, it is also important for us to remember that each of SLU's colleges, schools and units are part of our larger University, not islands unto themselves. Every day, decisions are made with the best interests of SLU in mind. It is easy to look only at our own area and not at the bigger picture to see all that needs to be done. I am confident that Dean Keefe sees that bigger picture and that he will collaborate with his colleagues across the University in the next academic year. That philosophy will benefit the Law School and all of SLU.

SCOTT LAW CENTER: Demolition work is under way at the future home of our School of Law at 100 N. Tucker Boulevard in downtown St. Louis next door to the Civil Courts Building. Major construction is expected to begin this October, and our anticipated move-in date is August 2013.

We recently received two major gifts to support the renovations we are planning. The late John K. Pruellage Sr., the former chairman of our SLU Board of Trustees, left a \$1.1 million gift in his estate for the project. Passionate about bringing our SLU law education into the heart of the city's legal community, Jack hoped his leadership gift would inspire others to give. And it has. We recently announced that Lewis, Rice & Fingersh, L.C., has committed \$250,000 toward the project. Lewis Rice made the gift in memory of Jack, who spent his entire 42-year legal career with the practice, including serving as the firm's chairman for 22 years. I would like to thank the entire Pruellage family and everyone at Lewis Rice for their generous support of our downtown Law School building effort.

UNIVERSITY PRESIDENTS SEMINAR: This summer, I was invited to participate in the University Presidents Seminar, held July 1 through July 9 in Israel and sponsored by Project Interchange, an educational institute of the American Jewish Committee.

Nine university presidents and chancellors from a wide array of U.S. institutions traveled to Israel to explore potential academic and research partnerships. Our delegation connected with our counterparts from Tel Aviv University, Hebrew University and other institutions of higher education. We met with senior officials within the Israeli government and traveled to the West Bank to meet with Palestinian leaders. We also visited several holy sites in Jerusalem and Bethlehem, which were highlights of the trip for me.

In addition to gaining a deeper understanding of the extremely complex issues that face the region, I returned home even more convinced that the calls for academic boycotts against Israeli universities are not consistent with the academic freedom that we all believe in and cherish.

A few have criticized the University Presidents Seminar as propaganda for Israel. I have personally received a few negative calls and emails regarding my participation. While I disagree with this criticism, to me, it highlights the fact that it has become increasingly difficult to discuss issues of the Middle East — even on college campuses — because of the sensitivities of the issues involved. But that doesn't mean that discussion, dialogue and debate shouldn't take place. It should; and we should encourage it.

Institutions of higher education must be places where the intellectual exchange of different ideas, opinions and voices happens. Here at SLU, we embrace academic freedom, and we encourage collaboration and communication among and between scholars and researchers from around the world.

Additionally, there are speakers from varying ideological and political spectrums on our campuses, and that includes discussions of the issues in the Middle East. That also means that there are going to be external groups or individuals who occasionally come to SLU venues and present views that some of us do not agree with personally. Just because they are on one of our campuses does not mean their positions are necessarily endorsed or supported by the University. Moreover, it is important to note that Saint Louis University does not support expressions of hatred in any form.

SLU is a community of scholars, educators and learners. We must always seek the truth and learn to discern facts from biases, even in cases where we have strong personal feelings about issues

ENROLLMENT: This fall, we have welcomed one of the most gifted new student classes in the history of Saint Louis University. We officially greeted the Class of 2016 during the New Student Convocation and Family Welcome on Friday at Chaifetz Arena. The annual event drew more than 3,100 people, including many faculty, staff, administrators and returning students. If you were unable to attend, I would encourage you to watch an [online video of the ceremony](#).

As you are probably aware, the first few weeks of a new student's college experience are critical to his or her overall success at the University. I know our entire SLU community is excited to meet, support and celebrate all of our new Billikens. Last year, when we began planning for Fiscal Year 2013, we recognized that student recruitment would be one of our most significant challenges. With the number of high school graduates declining – especially in the Midwest – and families still dealing with economic concerns, it was clear that student enrollments would be an issue for many colleges and universities across the country.

Recognizing these and other challenges, we developed a conservative FY13 budget that sought to hold the line on tuition increases and University expenses. We also prudently planned for decreases in identified graduate programs and a slightly smaller freshman class.

I can report that we are on track to reach most of our enrollment goals in terms of headcount, retention, budget and student profile (diversity, geographic reach, academic standing). Overall, our total enrollment is projected to be around 14,000 students again. A key to our plan was an increased focus on improving student retention and success rates. It takes the commitment and work of our entire Saint Louis University community to recruit, enroll, retain and graduate students. Everyone's contributions are important – from the grounds crew making our campus so beautiful and attractive to visitors; to our faculty making contacts with students interested in their professional disciplines; to the Admissions and Financial Aid counselors making connections with students and their families as they

navigate the college decision process. The words “thank you” cannot convey the depth of our appreciation!

MASS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT: Our SLU community will continue the tradition of beginning the new academic year with the Mass of the Holy Spirit. This liturgy is a centuries-old Jesuit tradition dating back to the founding of the first Jesuit school in 1548. Students, faculty and staff of all faiths are invited to celebrate the Mass of the Holy Spirit, beginning at 11 a.m. this Thursday, August 30, in Chaifetz Arena. I encourage all of you to join us as we call upon the Holy Spirit to bless our teaching, learning and service in the coming year.

NEW FACULTY: In this calendar year, more than 120 new faculty members have joined the University. Some replace faculty who have moved on or who have retired. Others are filling new positions, reflecting our ongoing commitment to investing in our academic and clinical enterprises.

Below is a list of new faculty members – separated by college or school – along with their departmental affiliations. Faculty members who came to SLU in Spring 2012 are noted with an asterisk. Please join me in welcoming all of our new faculty to our University community.

Center for Advanced Dental Education

- Ki Beom Kim, Orthodontics

College of Arts and Sciences

- Claudio Casola, Biology
- Christopher Collins, S.J., Theological Studies
- Lindzy Dodson, Biology
- James Edwards, Chemistry
- Daniel Freeman, Mathematics and Computer Science
- James Gill, Mathematics and Computer Science
- Haijun Gong, Mathematics and Computer Science
- Steven Hawkes-Teeple, S.J., Theological Studies
- Challis Kinnucan, Psychology
- Emily Lutenski, American Studies
- Deborah Macey, Communication
- Prashant Rajan, Communication
- Lucas Sabalka, Mathematics and Computer Science
- Brian Sholl, Theological Studies
- Daniel Smith, Theological Studies
- Matthew Thiessen, Theological Studies
- Jeffrey Wickes, Theological Studies
- Jason Windett, Political Science
- Luke Yarbrough, History

John Cook School of Business

- Palash Bera, Decision Sciences and Information Technology Management

- Thomas Doellman, Finance

College of Education and Public Service

- Linda Henke, Leadership and Higher Education
- Monica Matthieu, School of Social Work
- Takako Nomi, Educational Studies
- Duane Smith, Education Leadership and Higher Education
- Alyssa Wilson, School of Social Work

Parks College of Engineering, Aviation and Technology

- Theodosios Alexander, Aerospace and Mechanical Engineering
- Jennifer Ashley, Aviation Science
- Aaron Dyke, ROTC
- Scott Sell, Biomedical Engineering
- Yao-Jan Wu, Civil Engineering*

Doisy College of Health Sciences

- Daniel Brewer, Nutrition and Dietetics
- Amie Chang, Physician Assistant Education*
- Lenin Grajo, Occupational Science and Therapy
- Martha Kennedy, Medical Imaging and Radiation Therapeutics*
- Lauren Landfried, Nutrition and Dietetics
- Sara Scholtes, Physical Therapy
- Deborah Seale, Health Informatics and Information Management*
- James Turner, Medical Imaging and Radiology Therapeutics*
- Chezna Warner, Physician Assistant Education

School of Law

- Erika Cohn, Law Library
- William Johnson
- Kelly Mulholland

School of Medicine

- Getahun Abate, Internal Medicine
- Robert Armbruster, Internal Medicine
- Hemina Bailey, Pediatrics*
- Christopher Beuer, Anesthesiology
- Rachael Bradshaw, Pediatrics
- Matthew Broom, Pediatrics*
- Jeffrey Brown, Radiology*
- Nandini Calamur, Pediatrics
- Sofia Chaudhry, Dermatology
- Yoonsang Cho, Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
- Susan Crawford, Pathology
- Tatyana Demidovich, Anesthesiology

- Amy Flick, Ob/Gyn-General
- Daniel Gillen, Anesthesiology
- Jennifer Goldkamp, Ob/Gyn-General
- Susana Gonzalo-Hervas, Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
- Sagun Goyal, Internal Medicine
- Yosef Greenspon, Surgery
- Deepashree Gupta, Internal Medicine
- Layla Hajjafar, Internal Medicine-Gastroenterology
- Denise Hooks-Anderson, Family and Community Medicine
- Sarah Hopkins, Ob/Gyn-Research Faculty*
- Charles Huddleston, Surgery-Cardiothoracic*
- Zafar Jamkhana, Internal Medicine
- Rotimi Johnson, Radiology
- Omer Junaidi, Internal Medicine-Gastroenterology
- Attila Kerner, Anesthesiology
- Ashok Kirumaki, Internal Medicine-Pulmonary*
- Abhay Kumar, Neurology
- Gene LaBarge, Pediatrics
- Jack Lionberger, Internal Medicine
- Nisha Mangalat, Pediatrics
- Nanda Methuku, Internal Medicine
- Peter Mikolajczak, Internal Medicine
- Rashmi Narayan, Pediatrics*
- Soophia Naydenov, Internal Medicine
- Thinh Nguyen, Ob/Gyn-General
- Weiling Niu, Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
- Leslie Oleksowicz, Internal Medicine
- Victoria Osborne, Family and Community Medicine
- Joao Bosco Panattoni Filho, Orthopaedic Surgery
- Nadeem Parkar, Radiology
- Shilpi Pradhan, Ophthalmology*
- Mahmood Qalbani, Anesthesiology
- Erin Quattromani, Surgery
- Darbey Raible, Pediatrics
- Martin Reis, Radiology
- Katherine Robbins, Pathology
- Vilaas Shetty, Radiology
- Eric Staros, Pathology*
- Jason Stoneback, Orthopaedic Surgery
- Marya Strand, Pediatrics
- Emily Tilzer, Surgery
- Rupal Trivedi, Family and Community Medicine*
- Vijayalakshmi Vallurupalli, Anesthesiology
- Jula Veerapong, Surgery-General

- Mee-Ngan (Frances) Yap, Biochemistry and Molecular Biology*
- Jian Ye, Internal Medicine-Infectious Diseases
- Baoling Ying, Molecular Microbiology/Immunology*
- Hekmat Zarzour, Neurosurgery
- Yihua Zhou, Radiology

School of Nursing

- Kathleen Armstrong
- Deborah Artman
- Kathleen Carril
- Kelli Fuller
- Emily Gunn
- Verna Hendricks-Ferguson
- Cathy Koetting
- Ashley Schmuke

School of Public Health

- Lauren Arnold, Epidemiology
- Carole Baskin, Environmental and Occupational Health
- Steven Rigdon, Biostatistics
- Hong Xian, Biostatistics
- Suzanne Wood, Health Management and Policy

University Libraries

- Debra Cashion, Pius XII Memorial Library*
- Rebecca Hyde, Pius XII Memorial Library*

CAMPUS MINISTRY: This academic year, Campus Ministry will be led by Don Highberger, S.J., Special Assistant to the Vice President for Mission and Ministry. Father Highberger will continue to direct mission programs and work with international students as he pursues this new leadership opportunity with Campus Ministry.

JESUITS NEW TO SLU: Thanks to SLU's Jesuit Affirmative Action initiative, we are welcoming four Jesuits this academic year: Don Lee, S.J., will join the staff of Campus Ministry; Francis Ryan, S.J., has joined the staff of Pastoral Care at SLU Hospital; and Christopher Collins, S.J., and Steven Hawkes-Teeples, S.J., have joined the faculty the Department of Theological Studies.

AUDIT AND RISK MANAGEMENT: Effective August 1, University Audit Services and University Risk Management became part of the Division of Business and Finance. Elizabeth Winchester recently celebrated her 13th anniversary with the University and is the Director of Internal Audit. The department also includes Senior Auditors Lisa Winterer and Jack McGowan, along with two open positions that will be filled by the end of the month. Elizabeth and her team are located, and will remain, on the second floor of DuBourg Hall. Elizabeth reports directly to Interim CFO David Heimberger. Michael Lucido has served as the University's Risk Manager

for the past 14 months. Michael continues this role while assuming some additional responsibilities, reporting directly to Gary Whitworth, Assistant Vice President, Treasurer and Chief Investment Officer. Michael will move to the Wool Center.

CFO SEARCH: The search for a permanent Vice President and Chief Financial Officer has started. The search committee, chaired by Dr. Teri Murray, Dean of the School of Nursing, has met, and advertising for candidates is under way. According to the timeline, the committee hopes to invite candidates to campus by mid-September. In addition to Dr. Murray, the search committee members are:

- Michael Barber, S.J., Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences
- Patty Haberberger, Assistant Vice President for Human Resources
- Stacy Harrington, Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs
- Troy Turnipseed, Director of Career Resources for the Cook School of Business
- Kathy Merlo, Director of Compliance, Office of the General Counsel
- Evelyn Shields-Benford, Director of Business and Auxiliary Services, Division of Student Development
- Dr. Ali Nasseh, Associate Professor of Finance, Cook School of Business, representing the Faculty Senate
- Rita Stites, Manager of Pediatrics, School of Medicine
- Marsha Bennett, Director of Radiology, School of Medicine, representing the Staff Advisory Committee
- Sean Worley, a senior in the College of Arts and Sciences, representing the Student Government Association

Please watch SLU Newslink for information about open forums with the finalists for this key position.

CENTER FOR GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP: As you know, we successfully renovated Des Peres Hall as part of the Center for Global Citizenship to house our internationally related academic programs and support services, as well as our Center for Sustainability. It is also home to some of our most technologically advanced classrooms.

Now, we are expanding the Center initiative to include the Bauman Eberhardt Building (formerly known as the West Pine Gym). The building is being renovated to include a Global Student Commons and a 1,000-plus-seat, high-tech auditorium. It will also house our Center for Leadership and Community Engagement and our Cross Cultural Center. Renovations to Bauman Eberhardt are expected to be completed by May 2013.

As part of our enhanced efforts to educate our students as global leaders, we are planning to launch several new academic, research and service programs that will be housed in our Center for Global Citizenship as well.

PIUS XII MEMORIAL LIBRARY: With only a few final touches remaining, this important renovation project has been completed. The first thing visitors will notice is the inviting new entrance along West Pine Mall. Inside, patrons will find improved wireless capabilities,

additional electrical outlets, additional individual study carrels and new group study rooms, as well as updated ceilings, lighting, flooring and furnishings. This project was a priority for our students, and the improvements reflect their input. I would also like to thank our Design and Construction team – especially the Billiken Construction Crew – and Information Technology Services staff for their work on this renovation effort.

PARKS GRADUATE AND MARS PROJECT: The maiden voyage of the Mars rover, Curiosity, marked more than another giant step for humankind. It also marked a great accomplishment for one of our graduates, Fernando Abilleira (Parks '99, Grad Parks '01). For the past six years, Fernando has been working on this historic mission as a trajectory analyst for mission design at the NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, Calif. Curiosity traveled roughly 350 million miles to land inside Gale Crater on Mars earlier this month. A Parks College alumnus has been involved in every NASA space launch. Given this illustrious history, it's no surprise that one of our own helped successfully launch Curiosity, one of the most complex and challenging planetary missions in history.

GRAND BOULEVARD BRIDGE: After 18 months of waiting, the Grand Bridge and Grand MetroLink stop have finally reopened. I would like to congratulate both the City of St. Louis and Metro Transit on the successful completion of these important projects.

The design of the new bridge complements the streetscape improvements we have completed along South Grand, including new lighting, signage, bike lanes, tree-lined sidewalks and landscaped medians featuring sculptures by Brother Mel Meyer, S.M.

And below the bridge, the new Scott Avenue Transit Plaza at the Grand MetroLink Station features additional seating options, much improved lighting, a new ticket vending area and a 58-space Park-Ride lot. A nationally known artist helped design the plaza, which includes path lighting and an illuminated sculpture.

Although the closure was inconvenient for many, the new Grand Bridge and MetroLink Station will have tremendous benefits, not only for our University, but also for our city and our region.

PHILLIPS 66 GAS STATION: Located near the Pevely site, we recently had the opportunity to purchase the former Phillips 66 gas station at 1121 S. Grand Boulevard. Demolition of the site began August 13 and is expected to be completed by this October. This site will be integrated into space planning for the new Ambulatory Care Center at our Medical Center.

THE AMBULATORY CARE CENTER: On the site of the former Pevely Dairy industrial complex, crews have completed demolition of the milk plant, the smokestack and a garage. The crews also removed some of the key features of the corner office building – including the milk bottles that framed the main entrance – to protect them from potential damage or possible vandalism. We continue to work with architects (the Lawrence Group) and health care partners (Saint Louis University Hospital and SSM Cardinal Glennon Children's Medical Center) to finalize plans for our new Ambulatory Care Center. As previously stated, developing a state-of-the-art outpatient and surgical facility at our Medical Center is essential for SLU's future.

IMPROVED RESEARCH AND LEARNING SPACES: SLU received a \$792,000 matching grant from the National Science Foundation to make improvements to our chemistry labs in Monsanto Hall. The University contributed another \$107,000 for the project, which includes replacement of the laboratory fume hoods and exhaust fans. Improvements to the research labs are scheduled to be completed early next month. Additionally, all of the windows in Monsanto Hall were replaced earlier this summer.

We also committed \$334,000 to renovate the simulation lab in our School of Nursing, not only in response to the school's growing enrollment, but also to provide our students with a more modern and interactive training experience. The project includes new simulation equipment, computer stations and a bed lift.

These improvements are just the latest in our ongoing commitment to enhancing our research facilities and learning spaces here at Saint Louis University.

PRESIDENT'S RESEARCH FUND: We recently concluded the sixth round of the President's Research Fund (PRF) to underwrite promising research across the University. Since the program was launched three years ago, 442 applications have been submitted, and 116 have received awards totaling nearly \$3 million.

An interim evaluation of the effectiveness of the program was conducted this summer. It found that 34 projects — with total PRF funding of \$825,000 — had been completed for at least six months. These projects, in turn, had seeded grant applications that brought \$7.7 million in research funding into the University, a return on investment of 833 percent. This is a credit not only to our talented investigators but also to the dedicated faculty members who provided timely and effective reviews of those applications. To all involved, I say well done!

Below is a list of the most recent President's Research Fund awardees and the names of their research studies.

Research studies with multiple principal investigators:

- Darcy Scharff, Stuart Slavin and Norman White: "Sharing responsibility, improving community health"
- Randy Sprague and Sergey Dergunov: "Targeted delivery of phosphodiesterase inhibitors to erythrocytes: implication for the treatment of vascular disease in Type 2 diabetes"
- Jason Windett and Michael Wolff: "Evaluating institutions, behavior and outcomes in American state supreme courts"

Research studies with single principal investigators:

- Jennifer Buehler: "Exploring the challenges faced by dropout and disconnected youth returning to high school"
- Joel Eissenberg: "Defining targets of RNA Polymerase II elongation complexes in development"
- Jin Huang: "Food insufficiency, income volatility, and asset holding in low-to-middle-income households: a comparison before and after economic recession, 2005-2010"
- Jung Huang: "Mechanism by which CRSBP-1 ligands unbutton lymphatic intercellular junctions"
- Istvan Kiss: "Engineering dynamical complexity of chemical reaction networks"
- Sergey Korolev: "Structure-functional studies of recombination mediator proteins"
- Jianguo Liu: "IFN-lambda3 promoter polymorphisms and hepatitis C virus clearance"
- Nikki Murdick: "Research on the effectiveness of parent-focused group training: a cooperative effort by professionals and families of individuals with autism"
- Ranjit Ray: "Induction of epithelial-mesenchymal cell transition program into primary human hepatocytes by Hepatitis C virus"
- Willis Samson: "Novel hormonal control of reproduction"
- Michael Swartwout: "Space mission failures: re-examining history through guided statistical analysis"
- Mee-Ngan (Frances) Yap: "Mechanistic basis for antibiotic-induced resistance"

Congratulations to these SLU researchers, and thanks to Dr. Ray Tait, Vice President for Research, for his oversight of these important awards.

CONCLUSION: As some of you may know, I am marking my 25th year as SLU's president this fall. For me, this anniversary is not about personal milestones. It is an opportunity to celebrate the University's progress, which would not have been possible without the hard work and dedication of countless individuals. I may receive a lot of the credit for SLU's rise during the past 25 years, but our outstanding students, faculty, staff, administrators, trustees, alumni and benefactors truly make Saint Louis University shine.

I wish all of you the best for the 2012-2013 academic year, and may God bless you.