

March to the Board of Trustees Meeting!

Tell the Board, "Don't spin the situation, FIX IT."

Be sure to bring *respectful* signs about your concerns.
MAKE OUR VOICES HEARD!

Take Back OUR University
Saturday, December 15 8:30am

January 4, 2013

OK, so it's January. But we thought it would be fun to make this letter really newsy, and it didn't seem quite right to talk about the mess at SLU while we were wishing you Merry Christmas.

So here's the deal: there's been a revolt at Saint Louis University. Last fall the Faculty Council of the College of Arts and Sciences, the Faculty Senate, which represents the entire faculty, and the Student Government Association cast overwhelming votes of no confidence in the Vice President for Academic Affairs and the President. These actions followed a period of turmoil that perhaps began with the closing of the graduate school, which Kathleen opposed, three years ago, but were triggered by promulgation last fall of a new faculty evaluation scheme that would have rendered faculty powerless. SLU Trustees have now forced the VPAA's resignation, begun negotiations with the Faculty Senate, and appeared to back away from unequivocal support for President Lawrence Biondi. If you'd like to know more you might take a look at a public Facebook page, *SLU Students for No Confidence*, which is serving as a clearing house for information and helping to maintain solidarity.

In other news, our Goddaughter, Emma Baxter, is graduating from high school this spring. Here she is in a recent photo. We might also mention that she swam her personal best time in the butterfly at the Iowa state swim meet in November and that her school newspaper, *The Little Hawk*, won the award for best high school paper in the nation in its cohort at the recent convention of The National Scholastic Press Association in San Antonio. Emma currently serves as features editor of *The Little Hawk*. We are very proud. Next year we will be able to tell you where she has decided to attend college. We've just returned from a week in Iowa City with Emma and her mother, Leslie Baxter, who is a distinguished professor of communication at the University of Iowa. As many of you know, Kathleen was a faculty member at Iowa for thirteen years before coming to SLU.



Kathleen's sister, Trisha Ray, her husband, Timothy, and her son, Mark, spent a week with us last July. We introduced them to some good local restaurants, took a ride on the Mississippi, and attended a naturalization ceremony at the old court house on Independence Day. We look forward to more visits as time goes by. Earlier in the year we spent spring break in Texas with Julian's brother, Marvin, and his wife Gloria. It was good to be in Texas and catch up with family there. Julian, III lives in Dallas, works for Half Price Books, and maintains a large Facebook presence. Marvin and Gloria continue to enjoy their spacious home in west Fort Worth, where Marvin has recently rebuilt his HAM radio station. Marvin, Jr., his sister, Beverley Coulter, and her children, Mason, Dalton, and Amanda also came to see us. Mason is now a freshman at North Texas.

In October we spent a long weekend in Abilene, Texas, at the 57th reunion of Julian's high-school class, where we had a good visit with Patrick and Shay Bennett as well as a fine time with old school chums. Then in November Julian's son, Ed, and his significant other, Liz Churchman, were here with us for the Thanksgiving holiday. We may have some more news about Ed and Liz next year as some significant changes seem to be in the offing for them.



Kathleen continues her work as President of the St. Louis League of Women Voters and with the board of the St. Louis Urban Debate League. On election day last November the League (including both of us) staffed an information hotline at one of the local television stations as capstone to an election season filled with candidate forums and production of a supersize voters' guide. Julian finished a six-year term as Senior Warden of St. John's Episcopal Church last January but continues to write his blog, *Out the Backroom Window*, and to teach in the SLU honors program, which last spring recognized his work with a teaching award. Max and Murphy continue to anchor our lives in the city. Here they are (Maxie appears in the small cutout) to wish you a healthy and prosperous new year!

Love to all,