







## Homecoming 2015

The University rolled out the "blue carpet" for more than 2,500 alumni and families for the 2015 Homecoming and Family Weekend last September. The festivities included annual favorites such as the Golden Billiken Dinner, trolley tours of campus and the golf cart parade, which was led again this year by University President Dr. Fred P. Pestello. Saturday's activities ended with the Billiken men's soccer match against the Central Arkansas Bears and a halftime Zreworks show. The 2016 Homecoming and Family

## SLU Unveils New University and Billiken Athletics Logos

Two of the most enduring symbols of Saint Louis University — the fleur-de-lis and the Billiken — have a new look for the digital age. SLU shared the updated logos during a special event at Chaifetz Arena in November.

The new logos were developed by the award-winning brand strategy and design agency Olson, in collaboration with the University's division of marketing and communications and SLU's department of athletics. The process involved more than 150 students, faculty and staff, and the logos received final approval from the University's board of trustees in September.

Marks for the SLUCare Physician Group and the University's campus in Madrid, Spain, have been updated as well.

*C* *ca*  
*SLU W* *c* *ca*  
2019: University President Dr.  
Fred P. Pestello smiles in front of

*Make A Difference Day* : In October, Saint Louis University celebrated Make A Difference Day, a SLU tradition for 18 years. This year focused on service commitments students make after graduation,

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**Community Ties**



# Mary

Mary Bruemmer came to Saint Louis University to be a teacher. Instead, she fell in love. Her life — and the University — would never be the same.

*B. A. G. a. d.*

When Mary Bruemmer first arrived at Saint Louis University, no one could have predicted the impression she would make.

But looking back, the signs were there from the start. This was a girl with moxie. One who presumed, in 1938, that she deserved a chance at a higher education. A young woman from Madison, Illinois, who would take a streetcar over the McKinley Bridge to get to St. Louis every day for the next four years.

“It was a bold step to enter the world of higher education,” Bruemmer said. “If even one girl in a Madison High School graduating class went to college, it was news for the local paper.”

Like many women of her generation, she thought she’d become a teacher. When she came to SLU, women made up just 5 percent of the student body and were not yet admitted into the College of Arts and Sciences. Bruemmer entered the School of Education and Social Sciences.

“I discovered that, in competing for acceptance, grades or honors, the secret was to act as if prejudice and discrimination did not exist, to presume that I would exceed and excel,” she said.

Excel she did. She studied history and made straight-A’s, and gained a reputation as a leader.

When she realized staff didn’t include women, she led a group of classmates to the newspaper’s office and informed the editor that they wanted in. After Pearl Harbor and throughout the World War II years, the involvement of female students became essential all over campus. Bruemmer earned top positions at both the and the literary magazine.

Her experience and connections would serve her well as she neared the end of her undergraduate days. After the typical course of study and student-teaching her senior year, she realized teaching wasn’t for her. By that time, Bruemmer had grown close to SLU’s Jesuits, and they recognized her potential. When she decided not to become a teacher, the Jesuits offered her a newly created dean of women position.

She turned it down. Twice.

“I was in no way qualified to be a dean of women,” Bruemmer said. “I needed more life experience and to get away from SLU.”

That was the first and last time that thought crossed her mind.

Bruemmer took a job with the Red Cross, training veterans to find jobs. Then she moved to Springfield, Illinois, where the bishop was establishing a Catholic Youth Organization. She ended up setting up CYOs in 10 parishes.

After six years, she switched gears and began a series of positions in media and communications, first as continuity director of a radio station, then in publicity for the Springfield Public Library, the Springfield Symphony Orchestra and others. She also created an adult education program at a local junior college.

A few more years passed, and Bruemmer started thinking in another direction: Her father was about to retire, and she wanted to move closer to home.

Coincidentally, Saint Louis University leaders were thinking about Bruemmer moving home, too. They asked her again to be the dean of women.

Again, she said no.

However, she agreed to a new position — director of Marguerite Hall, SLU's first official residence hall for women — provided the administration would give her \$100 to travel to other schools and learn how to do the job. After an impromptu bus tour to Purdue, Marquette, Northwestern and the University of Wisconsin at Madison, Bruemmer felt ready.

That was 1956. With few exceptions — a well-deserved vacation here and there — she's come to SLU every day since.

After Marguerite, she moved to Rogers Hall, another residence hall for women. (The building is now Jesuit Hall.)

In 1967, Bruemmer finally said yes to the role the University had offered her many times, dean of women. She succeeded Nancy McNeir Ring, the first person to have the job, and quickly comprehended what exactly she had taken on.

"The number of women students kept increasing, and the Jesuits realized they didn't know enough about advising them," Bruemmer said. "So Nancy did that. But as a woman, she also represented something more. Because we had no female Jesuits, no wives of Jesuits, she helped with the hospitality. She made the University what it was, hospitable."

Bruemmer lived up to the standard set by her predecessor, and became the person who welcomed new people of all ranks to Saint Louis University.

"Mary was the first Saint Louis University person I met. In fact, she took me to lunch right before my interview in 1972," said Dr. Ellen Harshman (Grad '78, Law '92), who worked with Bruemmer in Student Development and on SLU's Women's Commission. Harshman retired in 2015 after 43 years in the administration and now leads the planning for SLU's bicentennial.



“In cases of congenital defects, we are talking about small hearts and a high level of complexity,” King said. “You want to make a perfect repair while limiting the amount of time the patient is under anesthesia and on bypass. It is a challenging atmosphere for even the best surgeons.”

One of the first organs the group printed was for a 14-year-old boy who had been through several previous procedures over the course of his life.

Paul M. Maloney was  
appointed by Missouri Governor Jay

Reuben Shelton , Missouri Bar







Mr. Lawrence Harlin  
Miss Sandra Heaton  
Dr. Lucille Kaslauskas  
Mr. William Osterloh

Dr. Homer Schmitz

faculty emeritus  
in health care  
management, died  
Sept. 8 at age 76.  
He had extensive  
experience managing health  
care organizations, including  
the University Medical Group,

## GLOBAL SLU

I was very pleased to read "Billikens Without Borders" (summer 2015). As one who studied at the Madrid campus in '80-'81 — an experience that changed my life and led me to seek a career in international education — I am gratified to see how the global side of SLU has developed. An international experience is so important today for any student, not only for future careers but for engagement with the world as global citizens. Developing intercultural skills and mindsets in order to be able to empathize and interact with the rest of the world is important for all graduates who most likely will be in multicultural, international teams no matter what their career. It's also needed for us as citizens of the world so that we may be able to make informed, educated decisions regarding the U.S. role internationally.

Thanks again for a great article!

Joe Hoff



## RITE OF SPRING

SLU's Spring Fever event, which occurred annually from 1974 to 2011, gave students a reason to revel in the nice weather and blow off steam before Znals. The afternoon of outdoor fun evolved over time but usually included games, food and drink, and live music. Some years were more rambunctious than others. (Think dunking booths, circus performers, Jell-O.)

## JELL-O SHOT

On April 10, 1987, Spring Fever wiggled and jiggled with a Jell-O wrestling match in the quad. "The traditional Dionysian revelry" — as described it then — was preceded by ... a Mass.

## GOODBYE, FATHER FITZ

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