

# U R A

THE ALUMNI

SUMMER  
2020



EDITOR

ASSOCIATE EDITOR

ART DIRECTOR

CONTRIBUTORS

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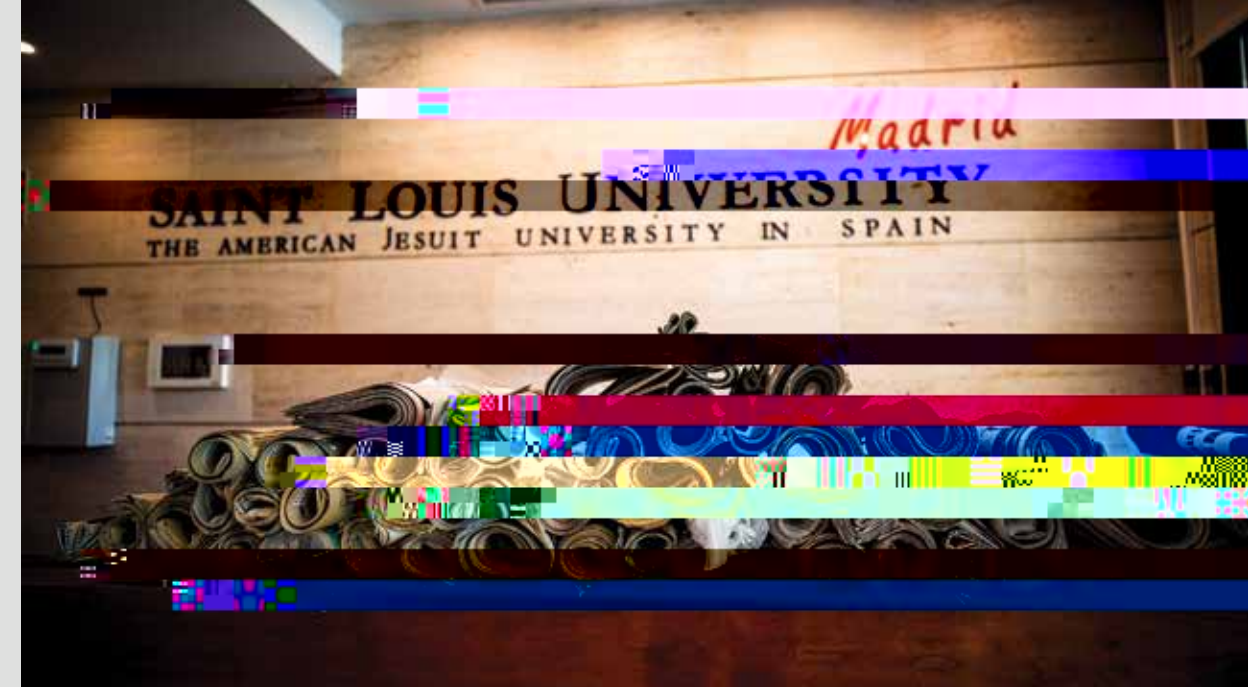
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Most of the content in this issue of *Universitas* was written and designed in May and early June 2020. It went to press on June 29. All attempts were made to ensure the content was accurate and as up-to-date as possible at the time of publication. However, in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, the status of certain projects and initiatives may have changed by the time the magazine arrives in readers' homes. For the latest Saint Louis University news, please visit [slu.edu](http://slu.edu).





As work continues in Prospect Yards near Saint Louis University, a few locations have new completion dates as well as updates about what to expect when construction is finished.

**A. THE ELEMENT BY WESTIN HOTEL**

The Element by Westin is set to open in September. This extended-stay facility, just a short walk from campus on Forest Park Avenue, will cater to travelers and families. It will feature a Motion Fitness Center, an all-natural saline pool, a bike borrowing program and a rooftop bar.

Developed by Midas Hospitality, the six-story hotel will not only include some traditional hotel features, but also allow groups to spend time together in a private setting. The Element by Westin's 153 suites offer spa-inspired bathrooms and the Westin's signature Heavenly Beds. Each suite includes four guest rooms that share a fully equipped kitchen and a living room area.

A FEW WEEKS INTO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC,  
STAIN LOUISIANA, I IDENTIFIED THE  
PEOPLE WHO COINED THE TERM "FLAT" - It was his way  
of describing the way members of the SLU6 (S)-6o0 TdO()0.8m6 (I)-20m7o1.91/u9 (i)eeImy s oLrS8sHI43.7(g -1 (v)0.77.9e6 -20.4-21.1211 -1.2 Td[(S.11 -1.)0.6 (d)-to o)(U)-2n-6.4 (L)an-6.4 (o)-1.1 (e)0.62(S)-6. (s)0.7 (o)2.93.7 0 2A





When Dr. Daniel Hoft, professor of internal medicine and director of the Division of Infectious Diseases, Allergy and

**GEORGE:**





The center also added sections of its “Introduction to Online Teaching” course, a digital seminar that formally prepares faculty in online pedagogy. The center will offer more of those going forward — both the typical four-week course as well as a new, intensive two-week option that includes all the same content.

Merys acknowledged that even with the Reinert Center’s help, moving a course from in-person to online is a big challenge.

“We have faculty who are top experts in their field, most of whom are already outstanding, award-winning



#### CARING FOR STUDENTS AND THE COMMUNITY

In one month, everything had changed. People were craving information. In no time, SLU-Madrid's online updates were reaching a worldwide audience, with more than 255,000 visits to the campus' news webpage during March alone.

For the tight-knit community, where hundreds of students each semester are an ocean away from family, campus staff focused on making sure students got home safely.

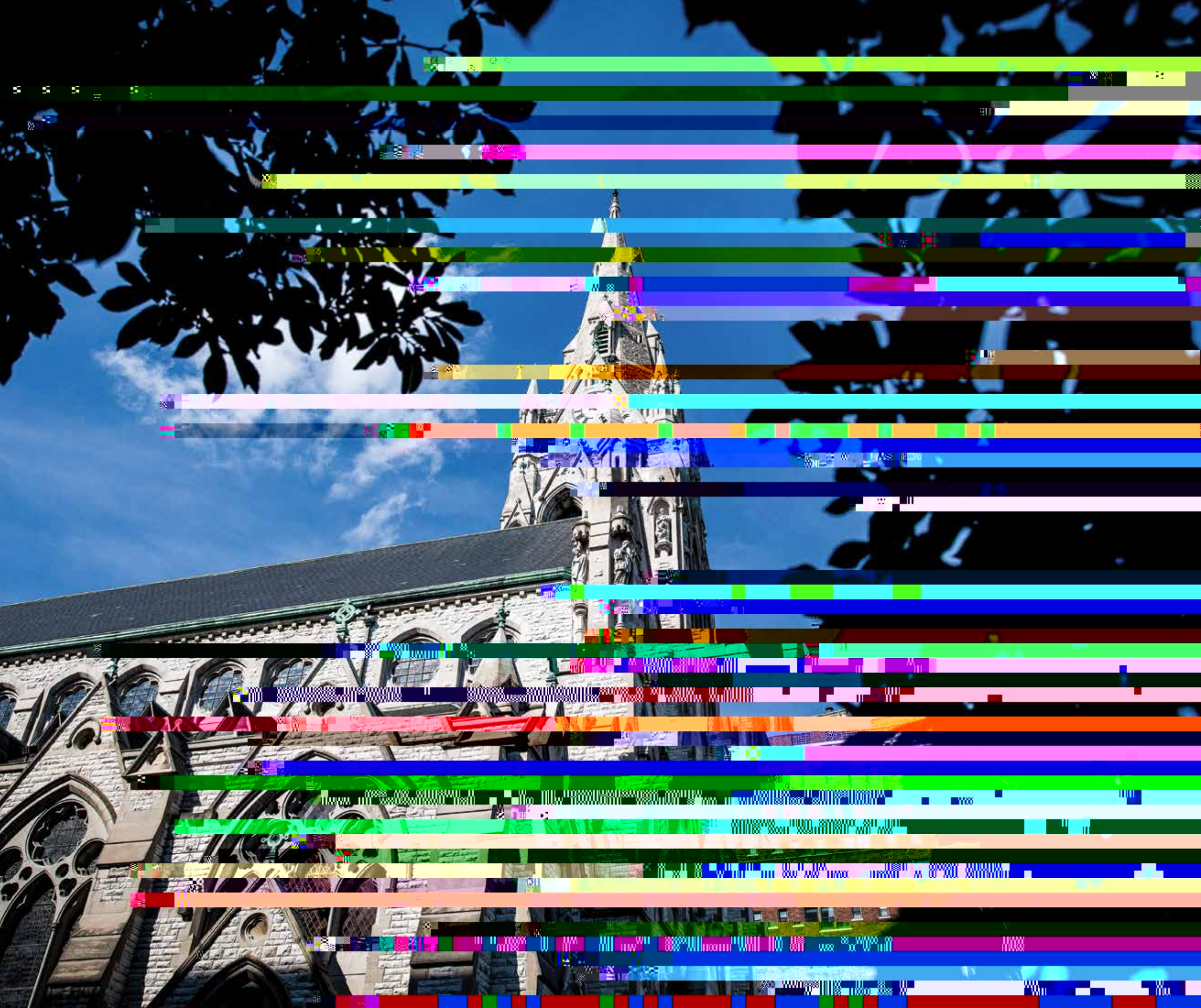
"We were in close contact with the U.S. Embassy and with the students," Vita said. While many of the flights back to the United States were delayed or re-routed, every student returned safely. On their return, the students were required to go into self-isolation for 14 days because clearly — both by the time some of them left Spain and en route back to the United States — they were at a high risk of being exposed to COVID-19.

Classes weren't the only thing to shift to a remote format. Counseling and advising support shifted, too. Students were dealing with anxiety and the stress of travel. Plus, the sudden change from the freedom of mobility — strolling through the streets of Europe — to quarantine in one's bedroom back at home showed that students needed support.

"Throughout this situation, SLU's students impressed me," Vita said. "They were responsible and mature and faced tough, real-life decisions. My sense is that the students studying abroad in spring 2020 learned more about themselves and their connection to global issues than any other group could."

As staff worked to assist students and faculty adapted to online teaching, SLU-Madrid's commitment to service shined through. After the campus began virtual instruction, Dr. Tania de la Fuente, program director for health sciences, spearheaded an effort to donate the gloves, goggles,





But while the global pandemic has necessitated increased physical separation, these unprecedented circumstances have drawn many in the SLU community closer than ever to the University's mission.

In a typical year, SLU students, faculty and staff spend more than a million hours serving others — just one of the reasons the University is consistently recognized as one of the nation's top universities for making an impact. Although this year has proven far from typical, members of the SLU community continue to embrace the Jesuit call to be men and women for and with others, relying on the versatility, commitment and compassion that are hallmarks of what it means to be a Billiken.

For example, in early April, SLU made some unoccupied residence hall space available to SLUCare and SSM Health providers — as well as essential University employees. This gave those who had contracted COVID-19 or who were exposed to a patient an alternative to isolating at home with, potentially, at-risk family members.

"I am proud that we are able to serve those who serve our community, selflessly, every day," Dr. Fred P. Pestello, SLU president, said. "This pandemic reminds us how critical it is to serve however we can."

The stories on the following pages highlight just a few of the ways the SLU community recently has stepped up to help.





he Campus Kitchen at Saint Louis University (CKSLU) is still open and operating, serving some of the University's most vulnerable neighbors who do not have regular access to nutritious meals and who are even more food insecure during the public health crisis stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The kitchen is also available for any student or SLU community member who is experiencing food insecurity. CKSLU offers a variety of fresh, frozen and shelf-stable items to share.

"We have amazing students within our organization, and they take directly to heart that we are called to be men and women for others," Melissa Apprill (A&S '91), Campus Kitchen coordinator, said. "At this point in time, perhaps more than any other in CKSLU's 19-year history, we grapple with our deeper Jesuit calling ... keenly mindful of our shared responsibility to keep both the vulnerable among us



aint Louis University clinical psychologists are helping those fighting to save lives endangered by COVID-19 by creating a new hotline for frontline health

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mong many in the SLU community who are putting their expertise to work to tackle the COVID-19 pandemic is director of SLU's Institute for Biosecurity, Dr. Terri Rebmann (Grad VSN '06), who addressed more than 50,000 nurses via a webinar in March to answer questions about the virus. In addition to her doctorate, Rebmann is a registered nurse certified in infection prevention and control, and is a fellow of the Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology.

Mobilized to quickly educate health professionals about best practices and to share evidence-based research about dealing with infectious diseases, Rebmann has been preparing for this work her entire career as a public health expert in biosecurity, emerging diseases and disaster preparedness.

During the American Nurses Association National COVID-19 webinar, Rebmann addressed nurses across the United States after receiving more than 7,100 questions in advance of the session.

Some teachers tell their students, “There’s no such thing as a bad question.” The statement is likely aimed at giving students permission to take risks in engaging the material. I don’t say it, though, because I don’t think it is true. Even those who claim all questions are good will certainly admit that there are better questions and worse ones. And in a strange way, this pandemic presents a chance to ask some very good questions.

The questions early in the pandemic became part of nearly every conversation for months. How does it spread? What are the symptoms? Does wearing a mask protect me from it? These questions place the virus at the center of the story. They are necessary to answer, but it soon became clear that those kinds of questions could only take us so far.

The questions soon became less about the virus itself and more about our reactions to it. Is it worth the risk to go out to a restaurant or travel on an airplane? How should political leaders safeguard our health and our economy? Can we protect those most vulnerable from the insecurities and dangers wrought by the disease? Like the previous set, these types of questions have rightly become part of daily conversations. Still, this particular moment invites us to something more.

The best questions from this moment will relegate the virus to a secondary character. Instead, we will consider ourselves both individually and collectively, and we will ask how we want to live, whether we find ourselves in a pandemic or not. What are my highest priorities in life? How responsible do I feel for my neighbor? How can we best organize society to ensure everyone has a chance to flourish? These are not the



### 1977

**George Lange** became a partner in Seed Funders Tampa Bay, which provides pre-seed and seed funding for startups across Florida. Additionally, he was appointed to the board of directors of Florida Humanities.

### 1978

**Timothy F. Noelker** was

## ALUMNI REFERRAL PROGRAM

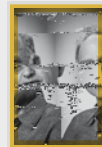
Complete the alumni referral nomination form online at [redacted], and the Office of Admission will contact the prospective students you've referred.



**Fr. Bernard J. Coughlin, S.J.**

[redacted], first dean of SLU's School of Social Work, died Jan. 28 at age 97. In 1961, Father Coughlin became an instructor at SLU's School of Social Service, and in 1964, he became dean. In 1974, he left SLU for Gonzaga University, where he served as president from 1974 to 1996, and then chancellor until 2016.

This list of deceased alumni was compiled by SLU's Office of Research and Development Services. If you have a question or would like more information about an "In Memoriam" listing, please send an email message to [devupdates@slu.edu](mailto:devupdates@slu.edu).



**Mr. Peter Benoist Sr.**, a member of SLU's board of trustees, died Feb. 26 at age 72. He was a longtime executive in the St. Louis banking industry and was the former president and CEO of Enterprise Financial Services Corp. and Enterprise Bank and Trust Co.

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his year is not the first time Saint Louis University lived through a pandemic. Not the first time that students were sent home from campus, and not the first time that the commencement ceremony couldn't take place as planned. In 1849, the world wasn't concerned with COVID-19, but with cholera. In St. Louis, the disease started claiming lives that January. The



