



SAINT LOUIS
UNIVERSITY™

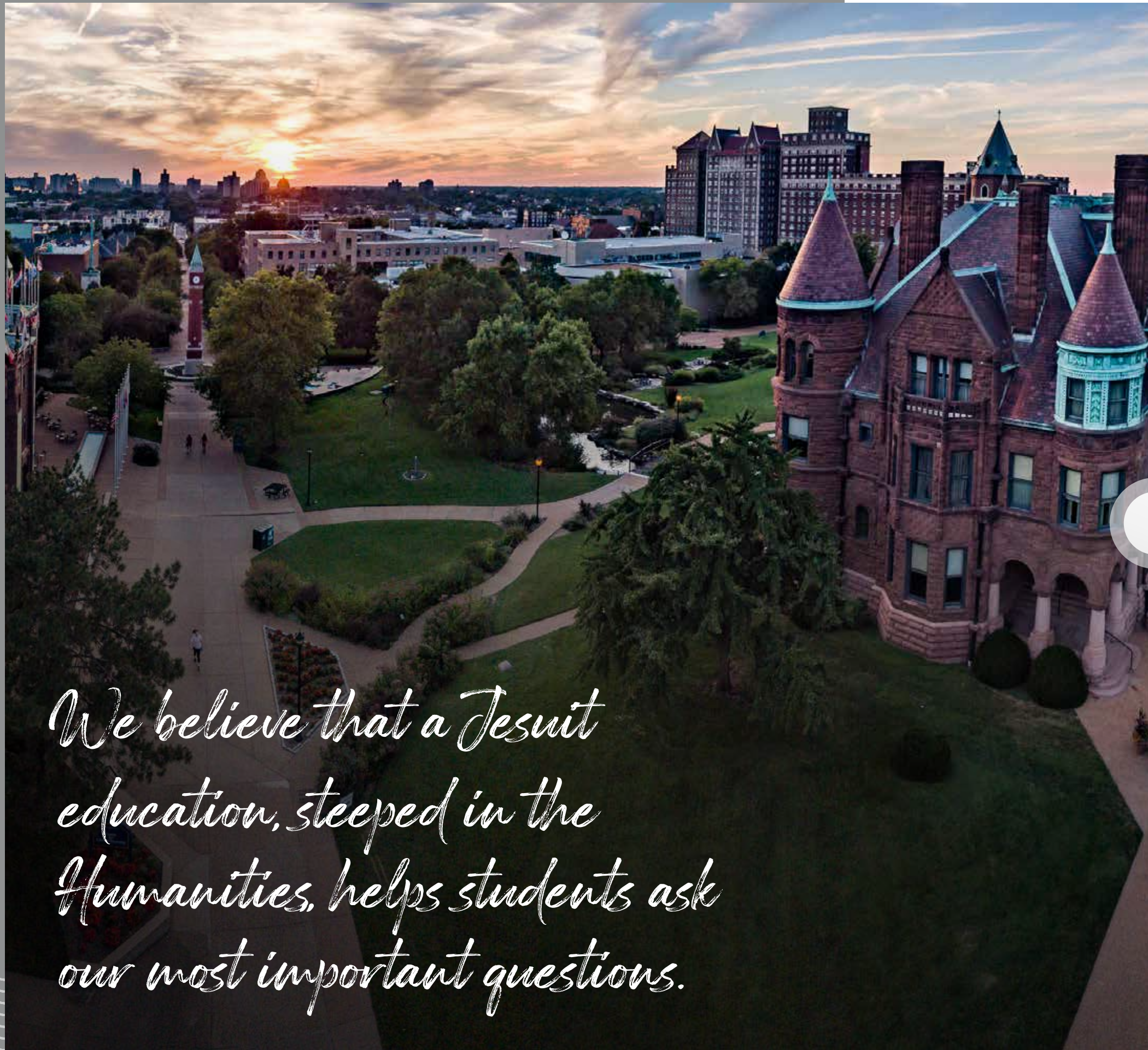
— EST. 1818 —

The ENDOWMENT *for the* HUMANITIES
at SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY



*What can I know?
What ought I do?
What may I hope?*

— IMMANUEL KANT
CRITIQUE OF PURE REASON,
1781



We believe that a Jesuit education, steeped in the Humanities, helps students ask our most important questions.



We live in a time of critical questions: intellectual, ethical, social, political and emotional. We are confronted with difficult situations that arise from our own aspirations, politics, global crises and movements that change cultures. How can we equip our current and future generations with the depth and breadth of thought to understand issues and make decisions based not only on current circumstance, but also in the context of life experience over the ages?

We believe that a Jesuit education, steeped in the Humanities, helps students ask our most important questions.

Rooted in Jesuit tradition and strengthened by more than 200 years of history, Saint Louis University prepares students to embrace the complexities of the 21st century and beyond. With your help, we will provide students with the perspectives of thinkers and writers from diverse cultures throughout millennia to help them navigate the challenges they will face so that they serve a higher purpose and contribute to the greater good.

Fred P. Pestello, Ph.D.
President

David Suwalsky, S.J., Ph.D.
Vice President
Mission and Identity



What can your gift do?

At Saint Louis University, we transform today's students into tomorrow's leaders and innovators, educating them to shape our communities, our country and our world. The study of the Humanities is a key component of this transformational education.

Saint Louis University seeks a \$10 million endowment specifically restricted to Humanities education. Your support will help build the endowment to secure Humanities education at SLU now and in perpetuity.

Of the \$10 million endowment, Saint Louis University already has raised 75% of this goal.

We now seek to secure **completion funding of \$2.7 million.** Your gift can help us realize this goal and complete the endowment.



About Saint Louis University

Founded in 1818 as the first university west of the Mississippi River, Saint Louis University is one of the nation's oldest and most prestigious Catholic institutions. Now in its third century, SLU offers nearly 12,000 students a rigorous, transformative education each year. Fundamental to the University's diverse community of scholars is SLU's Jesuit mission, which places a service-focused emphasis on being men and women for others. SLU challenges and prepares students to make the world a better, more just place.

A focus on the Humanities is at the core of SLU's identity. As a Jesuit institution, the University seeks to find God in all things and believes in the value of exploring different paths in the pursuit of truth and the benefit of interdisciplinary approaches in our academic endeavors. This includes critical thinking skills, the need for thoughtful, challenging reflection, the importance of research conducted for betterment of the common good, and the significance of educating the whole person.

St. Francis Xavier
College Church

*The Catholic university
is where the Church
does its thinking.*

— REV. THEODORE HESBURGH,
THE LATE PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY
OF NOTRE DAME

The Catholic Intellectual Traditions and the Role of the Catholic University

A vibrant intellectual tradition is readily seen in the first 1,000 years of the Roman Catholic Church, but it is founded upon the accomplishments of individuals rather than that of institutions like a university. The late Middle Ages witnessed the development of the university, an institution that was unique to western Europe and the church.

Medieval universities were influenced by the emergence of texts from the ancient world that were coming to Europe. Aristotle's works became the foundation of medieval scholasticism, perhaps best represented by Thomas Aquinas. Many other great thinkers form the Catholic intellectual traditions, including Augustine and Jerome.

In 1547, the first Jesuit college was founded in Sicily. Its curriculum was based on Ignatius of Loyola's experience at the University of Paris: the study of the liberal arts. It was not until the mid-20th century that Catholic universities became known for research and scholarship. There is little question that Western intellectual traditions, let alone the Catholic intellectual traditions, were profoundly influenced by the Roman Catholic Church.

Saint Louis University has been connected to the Roman Catholic Church since its founding in 1818 by Catholic Bishop Louis William DuBourg. Less than a decade later, the Society of Jesus assumed control of the University. Ever since, the Catholic and Jesuit traditions have guided the University to serve a higher purpose and to seek the greater good.

A Catholic university, as any university, is immersed in human society; as an extension of its service to the church, and as always within its proper countenance, it is called on to become an ever more effective instrument of cultural progress for individuals as well as society.

Ex Corde Ecclesiae
—John Paul II

Statue of Ignatius of Loyola
at Saint Louis University



What is a Jesuit education?

Ignatius of Loyola, the soldier-turned-priest and founder of the Society of Jesus, graduated from the University of Paris in 1535. Considered the finest university in Europe at the time, a degree from Paris was founded upon the study of literature, philosophy, history, art and theology. Jesuit schools have embraced the spirit of this style of education since the first Jesuit school was established in Messina in 1547. Today, there are close to 200 Jesuit institutions of higher learning around the world, including Saint Louis University.



What forms Jesuit education today?

Every faculty member at a Jesuit institution finds their own way to connect to their university's particular mission, the transformational power of education. This commitment manifests itself in various ways, from community-based service learning to addressing social justice issues in the classroom to *cura personalis* (Latin for "care of the whole person") in dealings with students.

One way faculty can connect to the larger mission of Jesuit education is to be intentional about using the Ignatian Pedagogical Paradigm to shape students' learning experiences. The five elements of Ignatian pedagogy—context, experience, reflection, action and evaluation—derive from the underlying principles, values and actions in St. Ignatius' Spiritual Exercises. Whether we call them "Ignatian" or not, current research on learning confirms that these are the necessary conditions for learning.

Ultimately, the elements of Ignatian pedagogy offer a way of understanding how deep, transformative learning occurs.

All learning is ...

- situated in a specific **context**.
- rooted in previous experience and the result of new learning **experiences**.
- dependent upon—and deepened by—**reflection** about those experiences.
- made meaningful when new knowledge is put into some kind of **action**.
- reinforced by explicit **evaluation** (and ultimately, self-evaluation) of those actions and the degree to which learning has occurred.



What is the scope of Humanities programming at SLU?

By exploring the ultimate questions of human purpose and meaning, the Humanities at SLU are the centerpiece of our Jesuit, Catholic education. Humanities disciplines are rooted in intellectual exploration, self-examination and reflection on lived experiences. They examine cultures, histories, belief systems, and artistic and literary expressions to better understand what it means to be human, to be a global citizen, and to live out a life for and with others. The Humanities represent a wide range of study, from exploring foundational problems to discerning how to respond to urgent challenges facing contemporary society.

The Humanities at SLU concentrate on five areas of teaching and scholarship:

- Connected to the Jesuit notion of *cura personalis*, we engage philosophical, ethical, historical and imaginative perspectives stemming from the arts and literature to probe questions about health, wellness, happiness and suffering in the human experience.
- We use tools like storytelling and narrative to reflect on and examine our shared cultures, histories, faiths and worldviews to pursue understanding and social justice for the common good.
- Technological advances affect people and communities in unprecedented ways. The Humanities ask questions about why we create and how to place human innovation in ethical and historical context.
- We address questions about who belongs and how we develop community in a 21st-century world.
- We examine the culture and ethics of sustainability, environmental policy changes and political action in exploring issues of environmental justice.



By studying the world's classical writers, their questions and their visions, students enhance skills for critical thinking and reflection.

How do SLU students benefit from a Humanities education?

A Humanities education is a key component of a liberal arts education, fundamental for many professions. By studying the world's classical writers, philosophers and artists, their questions and visions, students see life's most challenging and inspirational experiences over millennia and across different cultures.

Aristotle guides readers to consider what makes up a good life. Thucydides chronicles and interprets the protracted and deadly conflict between Athens and Sparta. Dante encourages readers to imagine life stories and the resulting consequences of everlasting sorrows and joys in the afterlife. Da Vinci painted one of the most important portraits in art history, the *Mona Lisa*, and forever gave the world her enigmatic smile. Georgia O'Keefe, inspired by the New Mexico landscape, invites us to reflect on the beauty, power and force of the natural world. Maya Angelou shows us how to remain courageous and strong in the midst of struggle. And Virginia Woolf created Lily Briscoe, who with a final stroke in her painting, says of her life and art, "I have had my vision."

But a Humanities education is also practical. By studying the world's classical writers, their questions and their visions, students enhance skills for critical thinking and reflection. In the course of their Humanities studies, students also have a built-in opportunity to develop their critical writing skills, which is a benefit to future attorneys, judges, doctors, public health officials, policy makers and others in diverse professions.



How will endowment funds be used?

Funds can cover:

- **Scholarship support** for undergraduates who want to pursue a Humanities degree
- **Fellowship support** for graduate students, visiting scholars and faculty to pursue their research questions within these areas
- **Support for lecture and speaker series** (for both the academic and public communities) that address topics in Humanities focus areas
- **Other needs of the Humanities faculty**, such as faculty travel for research



How will you and your family be recognized and remembered?

Your name will be linked with Saint Louis University, one of the finest Jesuit universities in the nation.

Whether you contribute to the endowment as a whole, endow a chair or professorship, or create a scholarship, you will receive acknowledgment in a variety of donor recognition materials, including the University's online Honor Roll of Donors. You also will receive invitations to connect with SLU leadership and Humanities faculty at special Humanities endowment events each year.

Photo of St. Francis Xavier
College Church by J.J. Mueller, S.J.

Thank you for your leadership

Thank you for considering support for the Saint Louis University Endowment for the Humanities. Jesuit education, which lays the 475-year-old foundation for Humanities education, informs all we do when our students explore theology, philosophy, literature, history and artistic expression. Our process is based on the teachings of Ignatius of Loyola and has evolved to enable students to stand for principles, tolerate ambiguity and face the challenges they will address throughout their lives. We are ready to support future generations by balancing the wisdom of history and contemporary realities.

Your gift will enable rigorous study by students, visionary teaching and research by faculty, and a committed University that supports inspiration and aspiration, moral action and social justice.

I thank you for your leadership.

Warm regards,



Fred P. Pestello, Ph.D.
President

**If you are inspired to support Humanities education
at Saint Louis University, please contact:**

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