

ParentScope

A Publication of the St. Lawrence University Parents Committee

Fall 2004



From the President's Desk

Welcome parents and families!

Ann and I look forward every year to welcoming you to campus for Family Weekend. Being here with us allows you the opportunity to see how your St. Lawrence student is flourishing, and gives him or her the chance to share with you some experiences since arriving in August. Your visit also makes it possible for us to have helpful conversations with you to find out how things are going from your perspective. We'll work on the weather, and provide a program that we think you'll enjoy.

This is a special place — deeply serious and challenging but also lighthearted and warm, devoted to students and their academic and personal development. As you get to know us, we hope to see you often. So, stay in touch, and enjoy Family Weekend.

Sincerely,

Daniel F. Sullivan
President

PREVIEW SCHEDULE

Family Weekend 2004

—Friday, October 1—

8:30 a.m.—4:00 p.m.

Class Visitations—Parents are invited to visit classes to meet faculty or to visit administrators in their offices. Appointments in advance are encouraged and should be made through your student or by calling the department directly.

Coaching Staff Appointments—Families interested in meeting with members of the coaching staff are encouraged to do so. Appointments should be scheduled in advance; coaches can be reached by calling 315-229-5421.

12:00—10:00 p.m.

Family Weekend Registration—*Student Center.* Families not pre-registered may do so at this time.

12:00—8:00 p.m.

Art Exhibition—*Richard F. Brush Art Gallery.* *Captive Beauty: Zoo Portraits* by Frank Noelker (main galleries) and *Mbari Houses: Photographs* by Ulli Beier (hallway gallery).

4:00 p.m.

Omicron Delta Kappa (ODK) Induction—*The Leadership Academy, Hulett-Jencks Commons.* Members of the Class of 2006 tapped in the spring of 2004 will be inducted into this national leadership society. All are welcome.

4:30 p.m.

Honors Reception—*Eben Holden.* President Daniel F. Sullivan will offer remarks at this reception hosted by Vice President & Dean of Academic Affairs Grant Cornwell '79 and Vice President & Dean of Student Life & Co-Curricular Education M.L. Petty. Academic honorary organizations and departments will also celebrate the accomplishments of their members. **SLU Fellows** will have poster presentations on their summer research projects. All honor students and their family members are invited.

5:00 p.m.

Bachelor Memorial Chime Concert—*Gunnison Memorial Chapel.*

7:00 and 9:30 p.m.

Harry Potter & the Prisoner of Azkaban—*Gulick Theatre, Noble Center.*

7:30—8:30 p.m.

Laurentian Singers Concert—*Gunnison Memorial Chapel.*

9:00 p.m.

Sinners and Saints Concert—*Gunnison Memorial Chapel.* Come enjoy the sounds of our men's and women's a capella groups.

10:00 p.m.

Kick Head—*The Laurentian Room, Student Center.* An improv comedy troupe, similar to "Whose Line is it Anyway?" Come laugh away the evening with your family and friends!

—Saturday, October 2—

8:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.

Family Weekend Registration—*Student Center.*

8:30—9:30 a.m.

Continental Breakfast with Student Life Staff—*The Laurentian Room, Student Center.* Dean Petty invites families to join the Student Life staff for an informal breakfast and discussion on life at St. Lawrence.

9:30—10:15 a.m.

Preparing for Off-Campus Study in Spring 2005—*Carnegie 108.* Student applicants for off-campus study and their families are warmly invited to an open house at the International and Intercultural Studies Office. On hand to answer your questions will be students who have studied abroad; Patricia Alden, associate dean for international and intercultural studies; Nancy Pierce, director of off-campus programs and Sara Trimm, assistant director of off-campus programs.

The Arts at SLU: Creativity in Action—*Griffiths 123.* Rebecca Daniels, associate professor of speech and theatre and project shepherd for the arts renovation, will focus on the integrated arts vision for a coherent, more integrated curriculum and related arts and cultural programs at St. Lawrence. This vision is currently reflected in a multi-phase master plan for arts facilities expansion that will provide a shared location for innovative pedagogies and creative collaboration among departments, faculty and students in the arts.

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Student, Faculty, Parents Collaborate for Research Projects

By Rachel Peterson '04

How would you like your son

to spend a summer developing a meditation model for athletes based on Tibetan Buddhist methods? Or maybe traveling to North Dakota to do paleobotanic research at the Hell Creek formation piques your daughter's interest? How about experiencing real-world neuroscience research at an Ivy League medical school? University Fellowships and travel grants take dozens of students around the world each summer to conduct self-designed research projects under the guidance of dedicated faculty members.

Senior **Terran Palmer-Angel's** project pulls together more than a year's worth of research, which started during his semester abroad in India. An independent study there found him interviewing the Dalai Lama's personal translator and other high lamas and monks about meditation practices. Then he decided to develop a senior project, complete with summer research as a University Fellow. Under the supervision of his psychology advisor, Dr. Artur Poczwardowski, Terran developed a meditation model that he will test during the upcoming tennis season. "My ultimate goal is to figure out how to train people to control their physiology through meditation and to develop a model specifically for tennis players that could be modified for other athletes as well," he says.

Kaia Klockeman '06 also received a University Fellowship on campus researching the ways in which two world organizations, the United Nations and the World Bank, allocate development assistance to underdeveloped countries. Kaia, an economics major working with Dr. Michael Jenkins, studied how these organizations use surveys and statistical analyses to measure the needs of these countries. She says this project is having a massive impact on her future, and hopes to use her study of economic development to one day work for the United Nations. "I just feel like the United Nations is doing so much good on many different levels and it would be a dream come true to be a part of



Steve Peraza '06, with Associate Professor of English Margaret Kent Bass, received a summer 2004 fellowship to study University history in preparation for the 150th anniversary in 2005-2006.

that," she says. "I'm figuring out a way that I can potentially make a difference in the lives of people by studying economics."

A different kind of project took place at Dartmouth Medical School, where four St. Lawrence students completed projects under the supervision of Dr. Jay Leiter, professor of physiology and medicine and Ph.D. advisor to St. Lawrence assistant professor of biology Joe Erlichman. **Randy Pifer '05**, **Pat Reagan '05**, **A.J. Bergeron '05** and **Eddie Sirlin '05** worked with Leiter on self-designed projects that taught them what real-world lab research is like. The respiratory physiology group at Dartmouth Medical School — of which Gene Nattie, father of Katri '05, is also a member and a project sponsor — is known internationally for turning out great researchers. These four students got a hands-on look at a wide breadth of neuroscience that most undergraduates don't get to experience. And St. Lawrence prepares its students well for such experiences. "The fact that St. Lawrence students do more than excel makes me happy with the training they receive at St. Lawrence," Erlichman explains.

Many students conducted off-campus projects with funding from University Fellowships and travel grants. **Trisha Smrecak '06** traveled to the Hell Creek formation in

North Dakota to study fossil plants under the direction of Dr. Mark Erickson. She says her goal is to contribute to research on the change in climate around the period of dinosaur extinction. "I got a chance to design my own research and meet important people in the field. As an undergraduate, that's unheard of, especially as a sophomore," she explains. "The faculty support is tremendous. Now I know for certain the geology department is the right place for me."

Off-campus also means international, as several students discovered. **Charles Bour '05** spent his summer teaching soccer in Bolivia with the assistance of a travel research grant, and **Amy Earl '05** traveled to Spain to compile an oral history of the recent Madrid bombings. As travel grants can be used at any point during the year as independent research or to complement abroad study, several more students are conducting research projects this fall on subjects ranging from language nationalism in Ireland to the New Zealand backcountry hut system.

Summer has been the perfect occasion for self-motivated, independent research pursuits of all kinds. Many St. Lawrence students demonstrated the academic maturity and intellectual drive to pursue projects that often are the key to unlocking future studies and goals.

Talking about Alcohol Use and Abuse

By Rachel Peterson '04
with Lisa M. Cania

When a letter from the University president arrived in the mail, especially when your child had not yet enrolled in classes, you probably stopped to take a good look. Every summer, St. Lawrence President Daniel F. Sullivan writes to the parents of incoming first-year students, articulating candidly the challenges with high-risk alcohol use faced by colleges. President Sullivan's up-front and straight talk is just one example of how the University extends to parents its commitment to educate about responsible drinking.

Students drink, despite the fact that most are under the legal age of 21. But the University has made extraordinary efforts in recent years, based on the best, most contemporary research on alcohol use and abuse, to make sure that its consumption remains safe. With the healthy lifestyle-promoting Wellness Initiative and a strong team of people committed to educating students about the consequences of alcohol consumption, St. Lawrence is at the top of its peer group in terms of innovative and effectively dealing with alcohol use among students.

When Dean M. L. Petty arrived six years ago, she started the Alcohol Task Force, a study of high-risk drinking on campus. "The task force was a two-year project that looked at all aspects of student, faculty and staff life to determine how alcohol played a role," she explains. Research funded by the New York State Office of Alcohol and Substance Abuse and coordinated by a member of the psychology faculty provided the Alcohol Task Force with the information needed to begin a campaign on misperceptions about alcohol use and education about choices. The coordinators learned that most students overestimate the number of peers who drink and accept that heavy drinking is the norm, when in fact, it is not. However, even one student who abuses alcohol is one too many, so the coordinators, according to Director of Counseling Services Bill Burns, set out "to make

Programs by the student life staff and the office of security and safety inform students about the physical and psychological effects of alcohol consumption as well as legal consequences should they be caught publicly intoxicated or drinking underage.

sure information is out to students about high-risk drinking and the University's rules and regulations about drinking for underage and of-age students."

The Alcohol Initiative is now merged with the broader Wellness Initiative on campus. Programs by the student life staff and the office of security and safety inform students about the physical and psychological effects of alcohol consumption as well as legal consequences should they be caught publicly intoxicated or drinking underage. Director of Security and Safety Dick Matte says, "We work to make the dialogue educational; before writing them up for alcohol violations, we make sure students understand the situation."

Students themselves are among the best educators. Community assistants (C.A.'s) organize programs such as "mocktail" nights and put up informational bulletin boards to help build a safe residential community. They also are trained to assess the condition of intoxicated residents to determine if medical assistance is needed. Kendall Landers '06 explains that one role of all C.A.'s is to monitor residents to make sure high-risk drinking isn't a habit. "I think one advantage to dealing with alcohol issues as a C.A. is that students are more likely to listen to their peers because students are all in the same position," she says.

And if a student makes a poor decision and becomes ill? Punishment is not the point. Students are encouraged to call for help at any time; such a policy has led to an increase in reported alcohol poisonings but has potentially saved lives.

Dean Petty emphasizes that alcohol education starts at home. "The biggest influence on how kids drink is their parents. If parents communicate their expectations, students will be much more likely to make wise choices," she says.

A full report on the Alcohol Initiative was published in the Spring 2001 University magazine. For a copy, contact Lisa Cania, Associate Vice President for University Relations, lcania@stlawu.edu.

Whom To Call at St. Lawrence

All are 315 area code; extensions should be preceded by 229.

Academic Advising	5876	International Student Advisor	5991
Academic Services for Students with Special Needs	5104	Mail Center (CMR)	5710
Alumni and Parent Programs	5504	President's Office	5892
Athletics Info Line	7587	Parents Committee	5915
Brewer Bookstore	5460	Registrar	5267
Career Services	5906	Residential Learning Communities	5250
Counseling Services	5391	Security and Safety	5554
Dean of Academic Affairs	5993	Student Financial Services	5581
Dining Services	5995/5983	Student Life	5311
Financial Aid	800-355-0863	Switchboard (phone numbers)	7411
First-Year Program	5909	Telecommunications (phone info)	5500
Health Center	5392	University Communications	5585
Information Technology (computers)	5595	Writing Program	5367

THE QUESTION:

To Call or Not to Call?

Since your student began kindergarten, you've heard the advice: parental involvement in education is the key to success. Yet even throughout elementary, middle and high school, you had to decide when to step in and when to sit back and let your son or daughter work through challenges. Such judgment is as crucial to your child's success in college as it ever was.

ParentScope gives you a list of frequently called numbers on page 3, so clearly we want you to have the information you need when you think you should contact us. How to decide when to call? Here are a few tips from Associate Dean of the First Year Steven G. Horwitz:

- Faculty will honor their relationship with your child and will discuss course-work or academic plans with you only with his or her knowledge and consent.
 - If you hear from your student that she is having an issue with academics, ask whether she has taken advantage of all possible resources. If she's not sure where she might go for help, suggest that she talk to her academic advisor. If the advisor is unavailable, suggest the Office of Academic Planning, Advising and Services (ACPAS) as another good resource.
 - If your student seems overwhelmed by an academic issue even after he has tried other steps, and your instinct tells you that he needs some help, it's okay for you to contact ACPAS at 315-229-5964 (or if your child is a first-year student, you can also call the FYP office at 315-229-5909) and apprise staff of the situation. They can contact his advisor, his faculty members and others who can reach out to to help "unstick" the problem.
- If you worry about your student's safety or well-being, never hesitate to call. Based on the concerns you have, you can direct a first call 24 hours a day, seven days a week to Security and Safety at 315-229-5554; a second great contact is the office of the Dean of Student Life and Co-Curricular Education at 315-229-5311.

LOOKING AHEAD:

Class of 2005 Commencement



Families of the Class of 2005:

Mark your calendars for Sunday, May 15, 10:00 a.m. for Commencement.

Details will be sent to families and students in early spring.

Here's a glimpse at answers to the top questions families ask us:

When should we arrive?

Plan to arrive by noon Saturday and depart mid-afternoon Sunday to take advantage of the planned events.

Where can we stay?

For local motels and B&B locations, check out the University Web site at www.stlawu.edu and follow links for Parents and Accommodations for a list of regional services.

We also rent rooms in the residence halls. Your student may make reservations through the Residential Learning Communities office after Spring Break. We always have plenty of space!

Do students request tickets for family members?

No tickets are necessary for graduation ceremonies. All are most welcome.



Dates to Remember

Daily event and semester-based academic calendar information is updated regularly at www.stlawu.edu/calendar/master_calendar.html.

Fall 2004

Family Weekend	Friday, Oct. 1– Sunday, Oct. 3
Mid-semester Break	Thursday, Oct. 14– Friday, Oct. 15
Thanksgiving Recess	Friday, Nov. 19 at 5 p.m.–Sunday, Nov. 28
Classes end	Friday, Dec. 10
Final Exams end	Friday, Dec. 17

Spring 2005

First Day of Classes	Monday, January 17
Spring Recess	Friday, March 11 at 5 p.m.–Sunday, March 20
Moving-Up Day	Saturday, April 23
Classes End	Friday, April 29
Final Exams End	Saturday, May 7
Commencement	Sunday, May 15

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9:30–10:15 a.m. continued

Intercollegiate Athletics and Recreation at St. Lawrence—Augsbury Physical Education Center, Lobby Conference Room. Join Margie Strait M'73, department chairperson and director of athletics for a question-and-answer session on athletics, club sports and intramural programs at St. Lawrence, followed by a tour of the athletic facilities.

10:30–11:15 a.m.

The World as Your Classroom: Planning Ahead for Off-campus Study—Hepburn 218. Patricia Alden, associate dean for international and intercultural studies, will present an overview of international and domestic off-campus study. Students, faculty and staff will then give short presentations and answer questions about SLU study abroad opportunities at 15 sites from the Adirondacks to Kenya, England to Japan.

First-Year Program Information Session—Dean-Eaton Formal Lounge. Steve Horwitz, associate dean of the first year; Shawn-Eric Brooks, director of residential learning communities; and Bill Burns, director of counseling services, will discuss the goals and objectives of the First-Year Program and answer any questions about the first-year experience at SLU.

A Conversation with the University Chaplains & Tour of the Chapel Windows—Gunnison Memorial Chapel. Join Rev. Kathleen Buckley, University chaplain, and Shaun Whitehead, associate chaplain, as they share an emerging vision for religion and spirituality on college campuses, specifically here at St. Lawrence University. Then enjoy a guided tour of the stained glass windows of the chapel, taking this opportunity to learn about the historical significance of this treasured St. Lawrence place as well as the meaning behind the messages interwoven through each unique and brilliant window.

Campus Facilities Planning: Present to the Future—The John W. Hannon Jr. '44 Room, Student Center. Join Tom Coakley, vice president for administrative operations, as he shares plans for facilities renovations and updates, and what the future holds for the campus of St. Lawrence University.

11:00–11:30 a.m.

Bachelor Memorial Chime Concert—Gunnison Memorial Chapel.

11:30 a.m.

Phi Beta Kappa Induction Ceremony—Herring-Cole Hall. All are welcome to join us as the first group of honorees from the Class of 2005 are inducted into this national academic honorary. Election is based on cumulative grade point average.

11:30 a.m.–12:15 p.m.

First-Year College Receptions—Each college will host a reception for first-year students and their families. A schedule of reception locations is available at Registration in the Student Center.



12:00–1:30 p.m.

Annual Family Weekend Barbecue—Leithead Fieldhouse. Please remember to bring your Family Weekend Pass; students must use meal cards.

Programs and Events

1:00 p.m.

Charity Golf Outing at St. Lawrence University Golf Course—sponsored by Panhellenic Council, money raised will go towards The Helena Ptochia Foundation to raise funds to build a women's hospital in Ghana. Entry fee is \$40 per person for 9 holes. Entries will be accepted for pairings, three-somes, or foursomes. Pairings will be combined to create foursomes. Contact Elizabeth Mudie at ermudi02@stlawu.edu for more information.

Men's Soccer @ Clarkson

2:00 p.m.

Women's Field Hockey v. Hamilton

Shrek II—The Laurentian Room, Student Center.

4:00–5:30 p.m.

President's Reception—MacAllaster House, 54 E. Main Street. Prior to your planned evening events, you are cordially invited to an informal reception at the home of President Daniel F. and Ann H. Sullivan. Enjoy light refreshments along with faculty, administrators and other members of the St. Lawrence community. Rain location: Student Center.

6:00 p.m.

Catholic Mass—Gunnison Memorial Chapel.

7:00 p.m.

Shrek II—Gulick Theatre, Noble Center.

7:30–8:30 p.m.

Laurentian Singers Concert—Gunnison Memorial Chapel. See Friday, 7:30 p.m.

8:00 p.m.

The Student Center—Open for billiards, ping pong and foosball.

9:00 p.m.

Jason LeVasseur—The Laurentian Room, Student Center. Jason's style fuses together numerous influences creating a 'charismatic propulsive acoustic pop sound' – you will love what you hear!

9:30 p.m.

Harry Potter & the Prisoner of Azkaban—Gulick Theatre, Noble Center.

—Sunday, October 3—

8:00–9:00 a.m.

Breakfast—For a fee: Dana Dining Center or Northstar Café, Student Center.

9:30 a.m.

Conversation with the President—The John W. Hannon Jr. '44 Room, Student Center. President Daniel F. Sullivan will share his thoughts on St. Lawrence's present and future, followed by a question-and-answer session.

10:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m.

Brunch—Dana Dining Center with your Family Weekend Pass or Northstar Café, Student Center, for a fee.

11:00 a.m.

Multi-Faith Worship Service—Gunnison Memorial Chapel. Family Weekend is an ideal time to honor and celebrate the diversity of the human family. Therefore this service will be multi-faith: including readings, music and reflections from several religious and spiritual traditions. Our Gospel Choir will sing and the service will address the questions: "How do we sustain meaningful relationships across differences?" and "Are you spiritual but not religious?" Everyone is welcome to come and celebrate.

ST. LAWRENCE UNIVERSITY

ALUMNI AND PARENT PROGRAMS

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Interested in Being Involved at Your Son or Daughter's University?



The Parents Committee is designed to give busy, interested parents the opportunity to be more closely connected to their student's St. Lawrence experience and to support the University through admissions, career counseling and fundraising activities.

"It [is] a wonderful way to stay involved in our children's education, meet other St. Lawrence parents, and help support the school that has done and continues to do so much for our kids."

—Pam & Doug Farr P'03, '06

"We belonged to a parents committee at our son's high school and felt it made a significant difference in our ability to stay better connected with our son and his school. We have found the St. Lawrence Parents Committee to be just as rewarding. It is a great way to get to know other parents of SLU students, to understand the financial workings of the institution, to contribute in any way we could monetarily and to volunteer to assist our son's 'four-year home'."

—Denise & Curt Moore P'05



Left: Catling; right: Clusen

Brad Catling

Secretary to the Parents Committee
Director of Parent Leadership Giving
315-229-5915
E-mail: bcatling@stlawu.edu

Cindy Clusen

Assistant Director of Parent Leadership Giving
315-229-5540
E-mail: cclusen@stlawu.edu