Parents: Laurentians for Life, Too

By Kelly Gamache ’15

They are there, from the moment that cherished acceptance letter comes in the mail until the caps fly through the air at graduation. From Family Weekends and sporting events, to being the ultimate supply of “real world” advice, St. Lawrence would not be the same without the time and efforts of Laurentian parents.

Parents take part in the St. Lawrence community both through engaging with their own son or daughter’s experience and by contributing their time and expertise to help nourish the experiences of other students and their families, according to Chad Tessier ’93, M’04, director of Parent Leadership Giving. For example, parents can serve as sophomore year Career Boot Camp panelists as well as “Shadow a Saint” mentors for students looking to learn more about specific careers, Tessier explains.

Connecting with parents is one of the University’s top priorities. Tessier says, “We want parents to feel that their investment in St. Lawrence is a good one. The more connected they are to St. Lawrence, the more they learn about our people, place and programs.”

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After visiting campus and engaging with campus activities over the last four years, Karen Seevers, mother of Samantha Weber ’15, has fallen in love with St. Lawrence and Canton. She says, “I loved visiting Canton, whether for Family Weekend, concerts, sporting events, or move-in days. Luckily, I was able to experience why [Sam] loves SLU so much!”

However, parents don’t have to leave home to feel connected to St. Lawrence. According to Tessier, aside from bi-weekly SLU News emails, parents are invited to register for the monthly Laurentian Lecture Series. Parents can tune in on St. Lawrence’s alumni website and learn about topics from money and politics with government professor Fred Exoo, to the geologic history of the Adirondacks with geology professor Jeff Chiarenzelli ’81, P’16, to the politics of ethnicity in Kenya with history Professor Matt Carotenuto, who took part in St. Lawrence’s Kenya Semester in his undergraduate days.

Tessier explains that parents can also join the Parents Committee, through which there are many opportunities to volunteer on behalf of the University, including helping plan Family and Winter Weekends.

According to Seevers, “During Family Weekend of [Sam’s] first year, I met her First-Year Program advisor, Prof. Thacker, and he asked me when I attended SLU, mistaking me for an alumna. Nothing would have made me prouder than to be able to say he was right!” As an indispensable part of the St. Lawrence experience, parents definitely become Laurentians for Life.
PRESCRIPTION FOR SUCCESS:
ST. LAWRENCE ENTERS PHARMACY PROGRAM AGREEMENT

By Sam Weber ’15

THANKS TO A RECENT AGREEMENT between St. Lawrence and the State University of New York at Buffalo, Laurentians have the opportunity to obtain a Doctor of Pharmacy degree in just seven years, allowing them to finish their undergraduate degree a year early.

This three-plus-four (3+4) program allows students to complete their St. Lawrence undergraduate degree in just three years, then shift to Buffalo’s pharmaceutical program. Dana Professor of Biology David Hornung, member of the Health Careers Committee, says, “The program provides a framework for students to get into pharmacy school, and maybe takes a little bit of the pressure off of applying because they will know that they’re well prepared.” While participation in the program does not give students guaranteed admission to SUNY Buffalo’s program, it does give them the advantage of coming from an approved undergraduate program.

Students must hold an overall 3.3 grade point average (GPA) as well as a minimum 3.3 GPA in their math and science courses at St. Lawrence. Additionally, they must major in biology, chemistry, biochemistry or neuroscience, complete a variety of prerequisite courses, and take the Pharmacy College Admissions Test. They can then apply to Buffalo’s pharmaceutical program during the fall semester of their junior year.

“We’re hoping this will help students start thinking about pharmacy a little earlier. We already have agreements with PA, PT, dental and other medical programs [see www.stlawu.edu/biology/health-careers], so it seemed like students should have this option as well. Buffalo is certainly one of the premier pharmacy programs in the country,” says Hornung.

While many St. Lawrence students pursue medical professions, Hornung says he typically sees just a handful go on to pharmacy school each year. “The Health Careers Committee is interested in exposing people to as many choices as possible, perhaps some that students may not have thought about,” he says.

COMING TO CAMPUS?
LOOKING FOR A PLACE TO STAY?
stlawu.edu/accom.html
brushalumnihouse@stlawu.edu*
stlawbandb.com
*Not available for Family Weekend
every laurentian.
Every year.
everyone counts.

Our family weekend experience will reveal to you why we believe that every Laurentian, every year, everyone counts. Faculty motivate, staff advise, alumni assist, neighbors appreciate: all of us work together with one goal. We encourage your student to tap his or her full potential. We do this from the day we send that cherished acceptance letter, and we never stop.

Come to Family Weekend and meet the people to whom you have entrusted your son’s or daughter’s education, the people who will stand alongside, cheering and helping at every step. The Laurentian motto “Fides et Veritas” imprints permanently on all members of our community, an imprint that connects students and faculty and staff and parents and alumni with each other and with the University in resilient and precious bonds. Everyone counts; everyone becomes a Laurentian for life. When you hear this from your own student, you’ll know exactly what we mean.

—William L. Fox ’75
President

Q&A: Who is the Class of 2019?

Over the last several months, St. Lawrence has celebrated a record-breaking number of applications and, with the arrival of the Class of 2019, the largest first-year class in the University’s 159-year history. We spoke with Vice President and Dean of Admissions and Financial Aid Jeff Rickey about what the Class of 2019 is bringing to the Laurentian community.

Q: What excites you most about the Class of 2019?

JR: Academic quality is at an historic high and diversity is strong, with international students coming from countries that haven’t been represented in our community before.

Q: Are there qualities about the class that stood out to you as you reviewed applications?

JR: Definitely the number of students who have performed considerable and meaningful volunteer work. Also, more students than ever before shared their personal values and principles in their essays, validated by teachers and counselors who wrote about them, too.

Academic quality is at an historic high.

—Jeff Rickey

Q: With a larger incoming class, will resources on campus be stretched?

JR: Last year’s entering class was smaller than the previous three, so we are already staffed and programmed for this larger class. Numerous people met together regularly all summer to make sure everything was in place to welcome this great class.

Q: Nearly 18 percent of the Class of 2019 is legacies (students who have had family members attend St. Lawrence) – an all-time record. What does this say to you?

JR: It is huge news and a significant affirmation of the St. Lawrence community, historically and currently. It means Laurentians who came before had a top-quality student experience and anticipate the same for their family members who are joining us.

Don’t want all that stuff brought home?
Encourage your student to store it over breaks.

ON CAMPUS: free; students should contact their student government representative

OFF CAMPUS: U-Haul, 315-386-8154
St. Lawrence Self-Storage, 315-265-5123
Dollar Day Storage, 315-265-1544
LAST SPRING, LONG-TIME men’s soccer coach Bob Durocher was appointed director of athletics at St. Lawrence. We asked him for a few of his views on the place of sports at a liberal arts university:

• How do you see athletics fitting into the larger picture of our liberal arts education?

If you believe coaching is teaching, it’s very clear the role athletics plays in a liberal arts education. The holistic approach of our student-athletes assists in the completion of the mind/body connection. Our job as coaches is to teach life lessons and other skills that can’t be learned in a classroom setting. For example, true character is often displayed during difficult moments of competition and the student-athlete’s response to that. These situations create very teachable moments.

• Most people think “varsity” when they see the words “sports” or “athletics.” What role do club sports and intramurals play in your vision of offerings at SLU?

Club sports and intramurals are extremely important because these areas may, perhaps, provide an even better avenue than intercollegiate athletics for love and enrichment of lifetime activity.

• What does the term “scholar-athlete” mean to you?

Scholar-athletes “get it right.” They understand the importance of being the best you can be. They’re high achievers in the classroom and also in their sport. This isn’t always just God-given talent but often hard work, discipline and desire. This is the standard, and expectation, that I will challenge our student-athletes to aspire to.

PARENTS ESTABLISH JOHN MEAGHER ENDOWMENT FUND CHALLENGE

$1,000,000
the goal to establish the John Meagher Endowment Fund to support the Office of Disability and Accessibility Services.

$600,000
the amount raised so far.

$50,000
the challenge from an anonymous parent couple, to be met by December 31, 2015.

Help us meet the challenge! To learn more about the fund, the challenge or how to make a gift contact: Chad Tessier, ctessier@stlawu.edu or 315-229-5519.
NEW THIS FALL: STATISTICS MAJOR

ST. LAWRENCE students have a new major to select from this fall semester. Last summer, the New York State Education Department approved a new Bachelor of Science in Statistics degree at St. Lawrence, giving students the opportunity to major in a discipline that has only recently become distinguished as a distinct field.

Last year, more than 185,000 high school students took the College Board’s Advanced Placement exam in statistics, which is double the number from just five years ago. However, it remains extremely rare for a liberal arts college to offer a bachelor’s degree in statistics.

“There is a difference between mathematics and statistics,” said Michael Schuckers, above, associate professor of statistics and author of the statistics major proposal. “Mathematics uses deductive reasoning to go from the general down to the specific, while statistics uses inductive reasoning that looks at a subset of data and applies it to a larger population. It’s the study of how we collect data, how we summarize that data, and how we make decisions or inferences based on the data, while also recognizing uncertainties.”

Schuckers, who has received national and Canadian recognition for his research on the use of statistics in sports, used the example of a Gallup Poll during a presidential election cycle. Gallup may take a sample of 1,000 people, examine the responses of those people and make inferences that apply to the entire American voting population.

While playing an important role in the liberal arts, statistics has also become an increasingly important discipline in the information era and can be applied to a variety of fields. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment of statisticians is expected to grow 27 percent from 2012 to 2022, which is much faster than the average for all occupations.

The minor in statistics remains in place. For more, visit www.stlawu.edu/math-computer-science-and-statistics.

COMING RIGHT UP!
FAMILY WEEKEND, OCT. 2-4!
POSTER PRESENTATIONS / ART EXHIBITIONS / SPORTS / PERFORMANCES
FOR DETAILS, VISIT WWW.STLAWU.EDU/STUDENT-ACTIVITIES-AND-LEADERSHIP/FAMILY-WEEKEND.
DATES TO NOTE, FALL 2015-SPRING 2016

For the rest: www.stlawu.edu/academic-calendars

Fall Semester 2015

October
2-4 Family Weekend!
9-11 Homecoming
15-18 Mid-semester Break

November
22-29 Thanksgiving Recess

December
10 Classes end
18 Final Exams end

Spring Semester 2016

January
20 Classes begin

February
18-21 Mid-semester Break

March
19-27 Spring Break

April
29 Festival Day
30 Moving-Up Day

May
6 Classes end
14 Final Exams end
22 Commencement!

This calendar is subject to revision by the University.