OPEN DOORS
A REFLECTION ON ST. LAWRENCE’S STRONG ADMISSIONS APPEAL

In April of 2012, I stood with my face pressed against the glass window of The Hill News office. I was on my St. Lawrence admissions tour, and my obliging guide had made a special detour to this office nestled in the back corner of Sullivan Student Center. My Admissions Ambassador knew that journalism was my passion, and he wanted to share St. Lawrence’s edition with me that day. So I stood there, taking it all in; the resources that St. Lawrence had to offer. This is why I came. Among all of the universities with student newspapers, St. Lawrence was the only one whose Admissions staff let me explore the campus resources and facilities, and who shared my excitement while I did. I felt comfortable, not because of the news office, but because of simply being invited to see it. The people here cared that I find my place among them.

Alea Robinson ’17 of Eagle River, Alaska, remembers, “I knew before starting that St. Lawrence had a great reputation both academically and socially, but I was awestruck by the number of wonderful peers I met in a very short time. Almost every day I am reminded of the fantastic community SLU is known for, and the endless activities I can participate in.”

As a visiting high school student from Center Barnstead, N.H., Mark Jannini ’18 felt welcomed at St. Lawrence even before parking his car. “I still remember going through the Student Center for the first time and seeing the banners, people, environment, all so vibrant,” Mark said. “St. Lawrence had the active and inviting campus that I always wished for but didn’t think existed. Now I am immersed in that environment, and it’s a surreal feeling to be able to say that everything I envisioned about St. Lawrence is true and more.”

Nearly four years later, I am the editor-in-chief of The Hill News. I’ve moved past the glass window into the office, and I’ve felt it become my own. This, beyond anything else, is what makes St. Lawrence so special. This place not only offers you resources; it also helps you to grasp them fully and passionately. St. Lawrence holds the door open for you to pass through, both literally and figuratively.

By Emma Cummings-Krueger ’16

MEASURES OF SUCCESS
Last year, St. Lawrence received 5,888 applications, a record 686 students enrolled, a record 18% of them were legacies, a record

St. Lawrence was featured in numerous prestigious resources, among them:
• The Princeton Review’s Colleges that Create Futures: 50 Schools That Launch Careers By Going Beyond the Classroom
• The Daily Meal (for outstanding food)
• U.S. News & World Report
• USA Today’s College Factual
• College Raptor (which called St. Lawrence a “hidden gem”)
• StartClass.com (for its proximity to great skiing)
• Kiplinger’s Personal Finance (for its value)
GROWTH IN PARENT SUPPORT ENHANCES STUDENT EXPERIENCE

By Rebecca Doser ’16

The Parents Fund plays an important role in distinguishing St. Lawrence University as a high-quality liberal arts college by providing a flexible source of income that propels the University’s strategic programs, projects and initiatives every year. Last year marked a significant increase in support of the Parents Fund, which turns individual gifts of all sizes into a collective pool of support for every aspect of the St. Lawrence experience.

“Our goal was to raise $650,000, and we raised $743,658,” Associate Director of Parent Leadership Giving and Major Gifts John Pezdek ’03, M’07 says. “That was a 26 percent increase over what we raised for the Parents Fund in Fiscal Year 2014. Over 1,730 parents supported our fundraising efforts, a 6 percent increase over FY 2014.”

This increase in support meets some of the University’s most immediate needs, including financial aid. Approximately 96 percent of all students receive some level of financial assistance.

Parent giving also contributes to critical resources for academic initiatives such as library materials, faculty and student research, and international programming. Student activities and sports equipment are among the many other products of parent support.

The increase in parent giving is in part due to increased staffing in the Parent Leadership Giving Office, according to Chad Tessier ’93, M’04, director of parent leadership giving and senior associate director of major gifts.

“The parents are great,” Tessier says. “They’re a nice group to work with, and they want to make an impact now.”

Parents Fund gifts are spent in the same year in which they are received. The gifts enable St. Lawrence to retain an exceptional faculty with small class sizes and student-faculty ratios, so that students can engage in active learning, discussion, field study and research.

Joseph Manory, vice president and treasurer of finance, says, “Parents are an important component of what we do. You cannot underestimate the importance of annual giving for a university like ours.”

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—Joseph Manory

KEEP UP WITH THE LATEST FROM ST. LAWRENCE!

Do you use social media? We’d love to connect with you!

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INSTAGRAM.COM/STLAWRENCEU
INSTAGRAM.COM/HEREWEGOSAINTS
SNAPCHAT:STLAWRENCEU

COMMENCEMENT WEEKEND!

May 20-22

Want to see the tentative schedule? Planning to reserve tickets for the Senior Class Dinner Dance? Have questions? Want info?

Go to: www.stlawu.edu/commence
HOW WE DO BUSINESS
SLU’S BUSINESS PROGRAM IS INNOVATIVE AND COLLABORATIVE IN REQUIRING A DOUBLE MAJOR

By Charlotte Crawford ’16

Two years ago, much attention was generated over the creation of a new course of study at St. Lawrence. The Business in the Liberal Arts major, born of popular demand, was unique to SLU in many respects. One such difference is the double-major requirement: every major is required to pursue a separate primary line of study. There are no restrictions as to what that “first major” might be.

Associate Professor of Economics Brian Chezum, coordinator of the program, explains the philosophy behind the combined major. “What we know from our alumni is that there is no right series of courses to prepare you for a career in industry, be it for-profit, not-for-profit, or anything else. Given that, liberal arts training is exceptional for the dynamic business world that we live in today,” he says. “Find a primary area of study that enhances your innate skills. Those are the things that you’re ultimately going to take to market: what are you good at?”

George Chapman ’15 is a member of the major’s second graduating class. “I was originally an economics major, and added the business major my junior year,” he says. “I wanted a career in finance and business, and the major supports my current job functions and will be a huge help if I ever decide to pursue an MBA,” says Chapman, who is in GE’s Financial Management Program.

While economics is the most common pairing with the business major, there are quite a few unconventional combinations as well. Lauren Nolan ’17 says that by combining business with her art and art history major, she gets the “perfect mixture of classes: creative and analytical.

Liberal arts training is exceptional for the dynamic business world that we live in today.
—Prof. Brian Chezum

By having classes from opposite ends of the spectrum, I’m constantly forced to approach new material a different way.”

The program is geared toward equipping students with uniquely adaptable sets of skills, with the intention of optimizing their contribution to the business world. “What a liberal arts setting does is give you that set of skills,” says Chezum.

Taylor Draper ’17 pairs her business major with sociology. She also speaks of the value of this cross-disciplinary education model. “The better you understand the way the world works, and how people are affected by it, the more likely you are to develop strategies to succeed,” she says. “The liberal arts component has made me more well-rounded than if I were just a mainstream business major. I would have no experience in another field, which I believe is crucial in helping you find and develop your talents.”
DESTRESS SUCCESS
FROM PETS TO PUZZLES, STUDENTS AND STAFF ALIKE
ATTACK ACADEMIC STRESS IN INNOVATIVE WAYS

By Alexa Mitchell ’16

Finals Week is something many college students dread, but at St. Lawrence University there are plenty of reasons not to worry about this time. University and student organizations alike combat these blues year-round, but in particular during Finals Week, by enacting “destressers,” or ways to take a break from all the studying and have a little fun.

Former Science Librarian Nicole Nawalaniec says, “We provide ‘stressbusters’ like puzzles, board games, coloring pages, Lego blocks and handmade stress balls for the students that use the science library.” Nawalaniec says the library is not just “a storage facility for books and journals, but also a place where students can feel re-energized after a quick mental break, and have some fun while they learn.”

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“Students need an ‘outlet’ for their stress during finals,” Clinical Director of Health Services Darlene Dunn says. “Ways to combat this could be exercise, eating dinner out with some friends, playing with pets, or a long walk around campus.”

With pets in mind, Kristen DiPerno ’16 of the SLU Humane Society helps to plan ‘Doggy Destress Day.’ Kriiisie explains, “The presence of a dog can improve one’s mental well-being, because the act of petting a dog releases both oxytocin and serotonin to the brain, which increases a human’s happiness.”

Elsewhere, the Thelomathesian Society, the student government body, provides a late-night finals breakfast, as well as cookies and coffee in all of the campus libraries.

“We do it because we all deserve a chance to unwind as a student body who works hard, it’s a tradition, and it’s fun and involves free food, so what other reason do you need?” Thelmo Vice President of University Relations Sarah Evarts ’17 says.

Simultaneously, the Greek Council and Association for Campus Entertainment (ACE) run a study-a-thon, which is headed by Greek Council co-academic excellence chairs Cameron “Cricket” Wemyss ’17 and Andrew Rosa ’17 and ACE president Taylor Owen ’16. For destressing during the study-a-thon, Cricket says, “We have supplies any student might need in order to study correctly, from pens to sticky notes to highlighters.” Greek Council has Dining Services cater the event, as well as pizza drop-offs and even student tutors and destress balls, while ACE provides massage chairs, foot massages, spine aligners and oxygen bars.

“It’s important for us students to keep our energy and mental health at its peak during Finals Week,” Taylor says. “Sometimes a little break is all we need to push through to the finish.”
Interested in learning more about St. Lawrence and how you can have a positive impact on your child’s college experience?

JOIN THE PARENTS COMMITTEE!

Connect with a Parents Committee member in your area by visiting www.stlawu.edu/parents/parents-committee-membership

So Who Are These Writers, Anyway?

The main articles in this newsletter were written by the students in English 409, Internships in Communications—just another example of one of the many internships (this one for academic credit and on campus) that St. Lawrence offers its students.

FAMILY WEEKEND

SAVE THE DATE: SEPTEMBER 23-25
And don’t put off finding a place to stay!
IMPORTANT DATES FALL 2016 - SPRING 2017

www.stlawu.edu/academic-calendars

FALL SEMESTER 2016

August
24  Classes Begin

September
23-25 Family Weekend

October
13-16 Mid-semester Break
28-30 Homecoming

November
19-27 Thanksgiving Recess

December
8  Classes End
16 Final Exams End

SPRING SEMESTER 2017

January
18 Classes begin

February
16-19 Mid-semester Break

March
18-26 Spring Break

April
28 Festival Day
29 Moving-Up Day

May
5 Classes End
13 Final Exams End
21 Commencement!

This calendar is subject to revision by the University.