

Unleashing Opportunity.

Inspiring Progress.

2023 Dean's Report



CHAIFETZ
SCHOOL OF BUSINESS
SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY

2023 Dean's Report





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Barnali Gupta

From the Edward Jones Dean



At the Richard A. Chaifetz School of Business, we are constructing a new elevator just off the atrium in Cook Hall. The construction team began the noisy process by chipping through the building's foundation and setting proper footings to hold the heavy equipment. They ran wiring, drywalled the new shaft and ensured aesthetic elements matched the existing surroundings. Soon, we will have a state-of-the-art elevator to connect all floors in the building.

It is rather unorthodox to open with a description of capital improvement, but it mirrors the trajectory of the Chaifetz School. We have a strong foundation of robust academics, talented students, faculty and staff and an engaged alumni community. However, we remain on a path of continuous improvement. This year, we welcomed talented team members, innovated and modernized and added new programming that promises long-lasting impact.

And it's getting noticed.

The School officially ranked No. 49 in the nation by Poets&Quants' Best Undergraduate Business Schools of 2024 — marking our first top-50 ranking and a dramatic increase over our No. 72 ranking in 2021. The change stands as a testament to our efforts. Together, we have gained national recognition for research, increased enrollment, bolstered our experiential learning opportunities and fostered wonderful career outcomes.

We are the business school where *Mission Meets the Market*, and we are making a difference.

Our development has brought necessary changes, yet our core principles remain constant: to be globally recognized as a highly ranked business school that graduates ethical leaders of business. The Chaifetz community embraces a growth mindset centered on a shared commitment to innovation, inclusion and impact.

As my time as the Edward Jones Dean of the Chaifetz School comes to a close, I take such pride in the differences our Business Billikens are making in the world and am so impressed by their determination to extend transformational leadership into the business landscape. What we see here every day is an exciting peek into a bright future.

A warm note of heartfelt gratitude for all you do to support our work. It has been my privilege to lead this community, and I look forward with great anticipation to the future of this wonderful institution.

Barnali Gupta

Barnali Gupta, Ph.D.
Edward Jones Dean
Professor of Economics
Chaifetz School of Business

A YEAR IN REVIEW

The Richard A. Chaifetz School of Business commits itself to inclusion, innovation and impact, ensuring forward momentum in business education. This past year demonstrated how our faculty and staff are changing the tide for the next generation of business leaders.

Cracking the Top 50

For the fourth consecutive year, the Richard A. Chaifetz School of Business moved up in the Poets&Quants Best Undergraduate Business School Rankings. The School officially cracked the top 50, reaching an overall rank of No. 49.

“We are so pleased that Poets&Quants is giving formal recognition to what we already know,” Edward Jones Dean Barnali Gupta, Ph.D., said.

This is a seven-point jump from 2023’s ranking and a whopping 22-point difference from 2022’s No. 71 ranking. The top-50 ranking achieves a major goal of Gupta before she retires at the end of the 2023-2024 academic year. She shared her excitement for the recognition the Chaifetz community so greatly deserves.

“The Chaifetz School is one of the top business education programs in the country, one where our Jesuit identity and authentic focus to be where Mission Meets the Market are woven into the fabric of our community,” Gupta said.

No. 49

Poets&Quants Best Undergraduate Business School Rankings

Paving Career Paths

Students enter our halls with wide eyes and leave as agents of change, each striving to make a positive impact on their respective community. The Chaifetz School is proud to graduate ethical leaders whose critical thinking skills and data-driven mindsets contribute to the growth of industries around the world.

In the 2022-2023 academic year, 92 different employers welcomed our graduates with open arms. *Many of them have deep ties with the Chaifetz School, including:*

- Anheuser-Busch
- Deloitte
- KPMG
- PricewaterhouseCoopers International Limited
- Nestlé Purina



Chaifetz by the Numbers

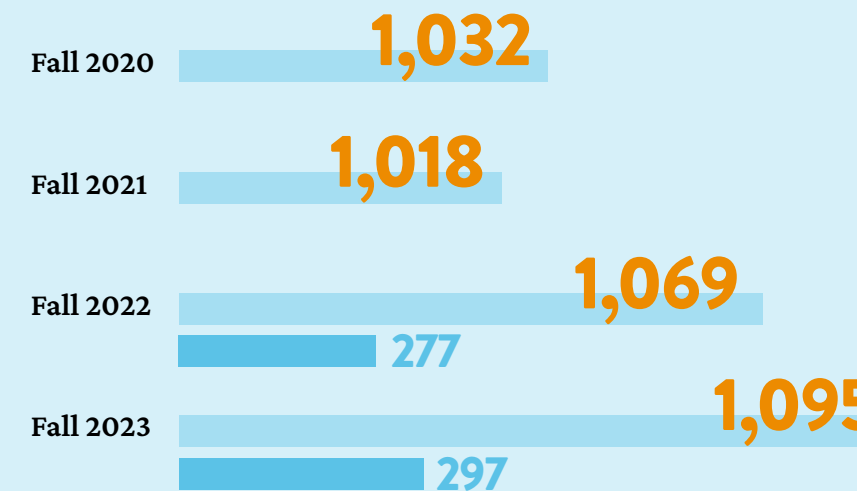
2023 was a year of continued growth and opportunity for the Chaifetz School of Business.

Students from around the world recognized the Chaifetz School for its cutting-edge programs and the breadth of opportunities. Here, future business leaders develop a global perspective, engaging in personal development both inside and outside of the classroom.

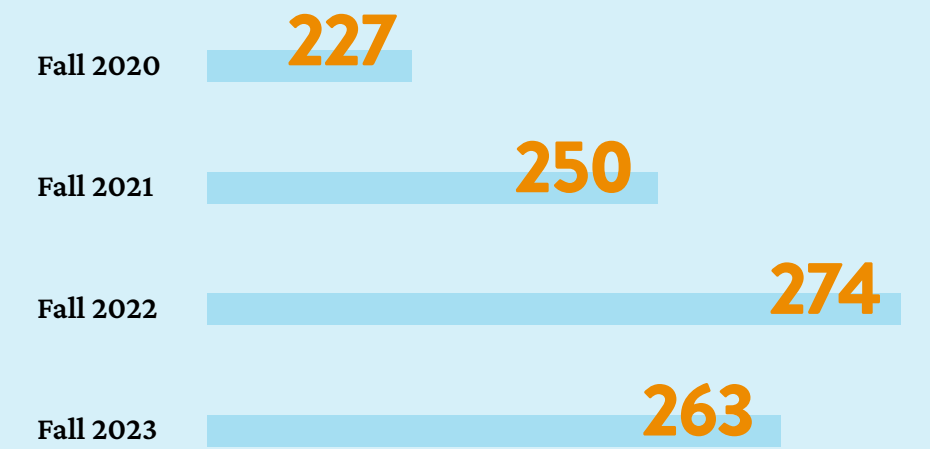
Enrollment numbers from the 2022-2023 academic year reveal more and more budding professionals now walk our halls.

Undergraduate Enrollment

TOTAL ENROLLMENT

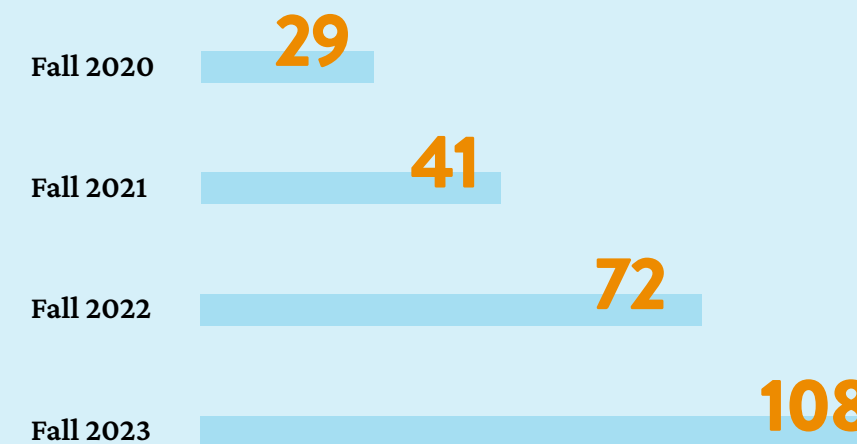


FINANCE PROGRAMS

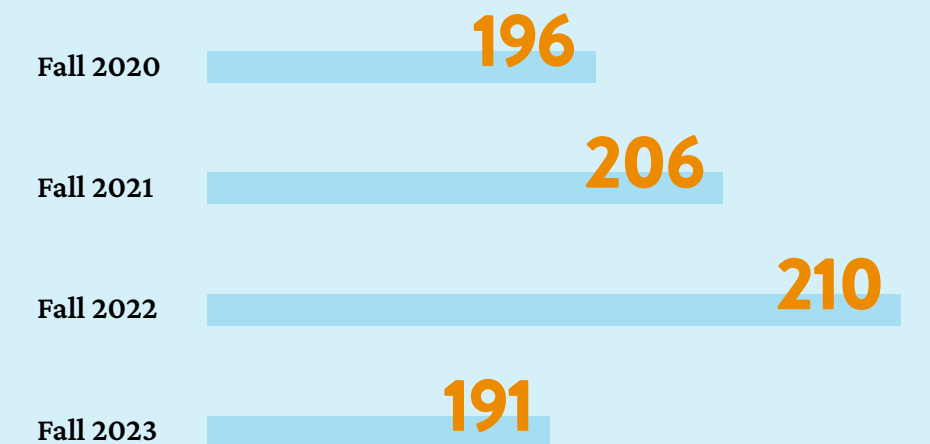


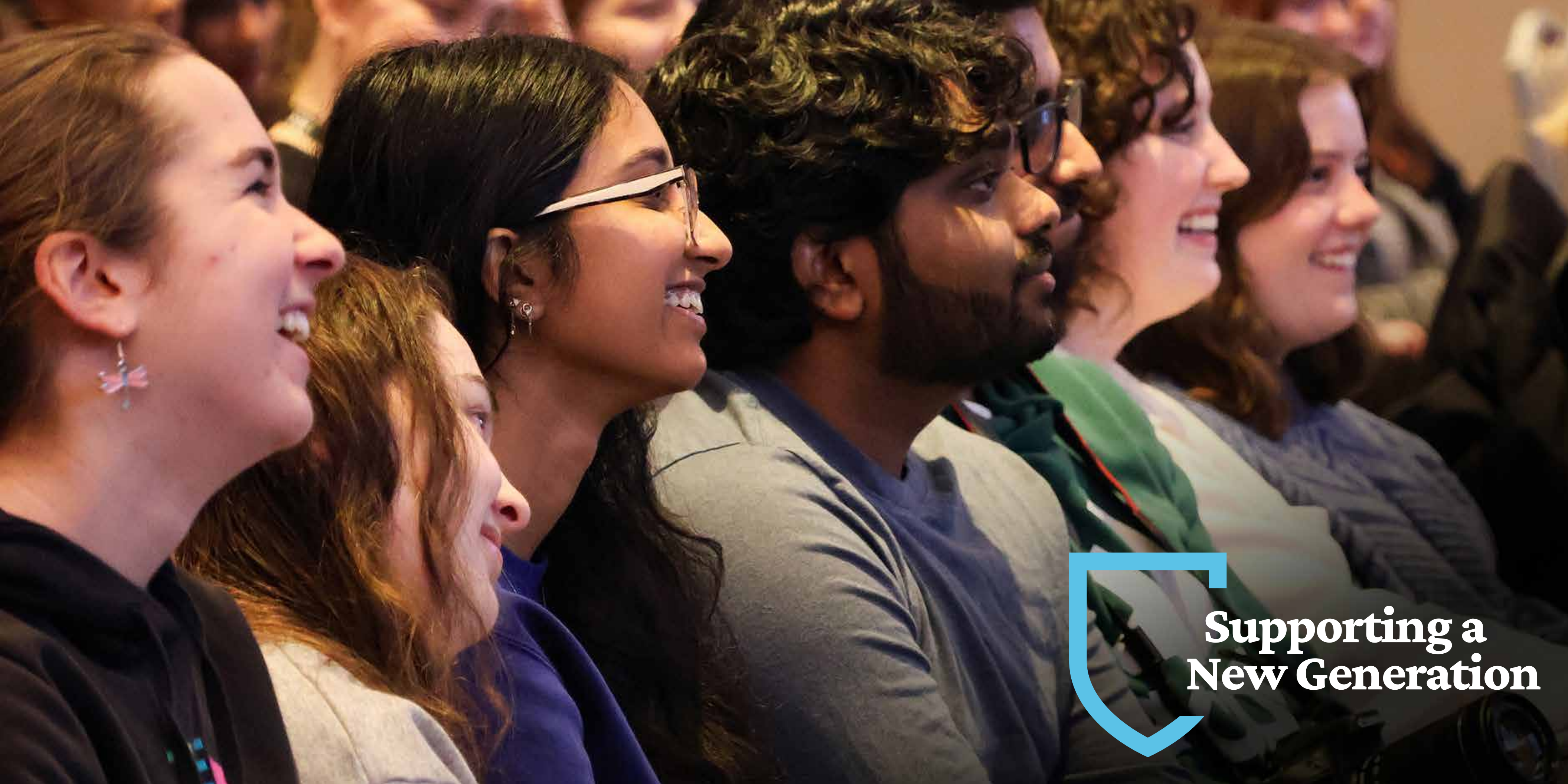
Graduate Enrollment

M.S. IN SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT



PROFESSIONAL MBA





**Supporting a
New Generation**

CLASS OF 2023: WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

The Chaifetz School of Business Class of 2023 graduated in May equipped with a diverse array of focuses, experiences and future aspirations. As they venture into the business world, they carry a sense of purpose rooted in Jesuit principles and an incomparable foundation of knowledge. All Chaifetz graduates have their own story — here’s where a few of our 2023 alumni are today.

Mary Baldwin

Mary Baldwin, a 2023 graduate with a degree in marketing and a minor in international business, felt at home at Saint Louis University from her first visit. While the Chaifetz School’s curriculum was alluring, the opportunities off campus sealed her decision to become a Billiken.



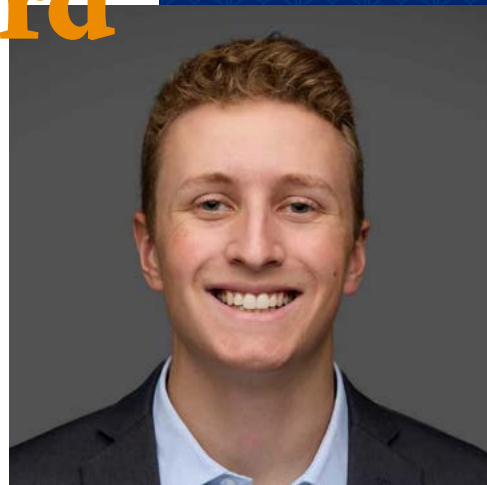
“The study abroad program at SLU-Madrid was a large factor in my choice due to how easy it would be to spend a semester abroad,” Baldwin said. “One of my favorite classes was my global immersion in international business course, where, as a class, we got to spend a week in Budapest, Hungary, and consult with Bayer on an international marketing strategy plan.”

After graduating from the Chaifetz School, Baldwin became a digital strategist and account manager at STL Bucket List Creative Agency. As she remains in the St. Louis area, Baldwin has found comfort in the SLU community while she navigates her career.

“It is comforting knowing that even though I am not a current student, I could easily find help within our SLU sphere for whatever I need as I navigate my first steps into post-grad life,” Baldwin said.

Stephen Rashford

During his years at the Chaifetz School, Stephen Rashford embraced opportunities to learn new skills. He dove into securing pandemic funding through the Habitat for Neighborhood Business program and impacting the greater community through the Service Leadership Program.



“[These programs] show you the importance of not just turning a profit but giving back to the community with the things you’ve been given,” Rashford said.

Throughout his job search, Rashford discovered the value of SLU’s on-campus career resources and alumni network. He connected with alumni working at the organizations he applied to — gaining firsthand insights and advice from the inside.

“The Career Services team also helped me update my resume before the career fair, where I met the team from Maryville,” Rashford said. “[Their guidance] gave me a leg up over people who applied online.”

Now an alumnus of the Chaifetz School’s Finance and Applied Portfolio Management programs, Stephen Rashford works as an associate consultant in the technology business management practice at Maryville Consulting in Clayton, Missouri.

Billikens Across the Globe



Samad Arif



From day one, Samad Arif, a 2023 graduate, found himself drawn to the opportunities held at the Chaifetz School. He dedicated his time to the pursuit of knowledge, double majoring in finance and accounting because it blended his passion for mathematics and business.

“Both majors allowed me to explore my interests within capital markets while simultaneously gaining a comprehensive understanding of various financial nuances,” Arif said.

He built his skills further through extracurriculars, such as the Chess Club and the Dean’s Student Advisory Board. He served as president of the Finance Club

during his senior year and even helped launch Billiken Asset Management (BAM), SLU’s first student-run investment fund.

Shortly after graduation, Arif was hired as a fixed income and derivatives analyst at NISA Investment Advisors in St. Louis. His role directly influences the management of over \$500 billion in assets. Reflecting on the journey that led him here, Arif shared that the Chaifetz School gave him a foundation of invaluable skills and a community of professionals to lean on.

“Every alum I have had the pleasure to come across is willing to put time aside for me,” Arif said. “It’s apparent that the values instilled in us during our time at SLU don’t go away after graduation, but become pillars which guide us day to day.”

ENGAGEMENT WITHIN CAMPUS LINES

Students in the Richard A. Chaifetz School of Business have a wide range of activities and experiences at their fingertips — whether directly on campus, around the neighborhood, across the St. Louis region or even internationally. Extracurricular opportunities allow students to chase their passions and merge them with career aspirations in prolific ways.



From left, Betsy Cohen, Eliza Angarano and Nalini Mahadevan conduct a panel for international students.

“Wherever your journey takes you, be confident that you are prepared to lead business with impact. I have been inspired by you, and I know this is the beginning of the unique stories that each of you will write.”

-Barnali Gupta, Ph.D., Edward Jones Dean
in her Senior Send-Off toast

The Dean’s Student Advisory Board

All students deserve to have their voices heard. The Dean’s Student Advisory Board (DSAB) unifies representatives from each club and department, as well as other populations within the Chaifetz School of Business. The board serves as an advisory body for the Edward Jones Dean and a forum for student collaboration on projects, programming and events.

Senior Send-Off

In April 2023, DSAB planned the Chaifetz School’s first-annual Senior Send-Off, held in the Sinquefeld Room in DuBourg Hall. The evening featured remarks on post-graduate community service by Chaifetz Executive Board Member Jerry Dwyer, M.D., MBA, and a champagne toast by Edward Jones Dean Barnali Gupta, Ph.D., to congratulate the seniors on their achievements.

The event was well-received as a memorable way to cap off the undergraduate careers of a class whose tenure was markedly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Navigating Jobs as International Students

DSAB recognizes a need among international student peers to have a one-stop resource for information about the process of job applications and the different work visas available in the United States. Arthur Simoes, DSAB’s vice president of diversity, equity and inclusion, expressed that many do not realize the extensive requirements associated with working in a foreign country.

“Most assume the process of getting an internship or job is the same for international students,” Simoes said. “There are many barriers international students face to work in the United States.”

In November, DSAB organized an informational panel featuring Immigration Attorney Nalini Mahadevan, JD and MBA, St. Louis Mosaic Project Executive Director Betsy Cohen and SLU Assistant Director of International Career Services Eliza Angarano. Student participants engaged extensively with the panelists, asking questions and even staying over the allotted time to network.



Spring 2023 graduates listen to remarks at the inaugural Senior Send-Off.

Standout Student Insights



Each spring, the Student Insights Association competition brings disparate student teams together to uncover analytical insights that will push impactful businesses forward. This year, the Association challenged students to research one question: “How are rapidly rising prices at grocery retail impacting the way consumers shop differently across generations?”

Four members of the SLU Marketing Club — Max Browning, Alexandra Leung, Shrishik Akkala and Kunjan Gazula — participated in the 2023 competition. Katie Kelting, Ph.D., professor of marketing, and Julie Kurd, vice president of enterprise strategy, sales and revenue at Chadwick Martin Bailey, stood by to guide the team over the course of the spring semester. Together, they collected qualitative and quantitative data to examine behaviors across three generations (Generations X, Y and Z).

On April 28, 2023, the students presented their findings to a virtual panel of four industry experts. The panel applauded the SLU team for its use of different methods and clear presentation of findings. On May 5, 2023, the Student Insights Association announced SLU as the winner of its student competition — earning them a prize of \$2,000.

52%

of May 2023 Graduates Working or in Graduate School Within Six Months of Graduation



Students explore sustainable field operations within the cacao industry.

48%

of Graduates Completed Service Activities While at SLU



Business Immersion students pose with a sign in Punta Gorda, Belize — a town known locally as Peini.



Chaifetz students serve the community by organizing local classrooms and storage areas.



Billikens gather for a group photo during a spring 2023 service initiative.

LIVING THE JESUIT MISSION

Community service is deeply woven into the fabric of the Chaifetz School of Business. Students have taken its motto, “Where Mission Meets the Market,” to heart — impacting the community through countless service initiatives and educational engagements.

Sustaining International Business

For the first time since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, Chaifetz students traveled to Central America for the Belize Business Immersion Experience. The March 2023 trip placed renewed focus on sustainable development and business within the context of the Central American reality.

During this weeklong experience, students engaged with all stages of the cacao industry — from farming to chocolate production. Program material emphasizes the significance of cacao in the Mayan cultures of Belize and the importance of sustainable field operations. For added perspective, students engaged with Naledo, a social enterprise focused on turmeric products. All participating students received a core Reflection in Action credit.

Serving the St. Louis Community

In spring 2023, students organized a service day at Central Visual and Performing Arts High School as well as Collegiate School of Medicine and Bioscience in south St. Louis — the site of a tragic school shooting the previous fall.

Students spent the morning cleaning classrooms and storage areas in the building. In the afternoon, they held a Wellness Day for the high school students, offering activities, games and transition-to-college panel discussions.

“It was great to see the smiles on the students’ faces when they left for the day,” Sam Aitchison, a sophomore finance major and member of the organizational committee, said. “You could tell it had been a great day to just relax, have fun and be themselves after a really tough year.”

Service Leadership students selected Grand Center Arts Academy as their December service site. Volunteers conducted informative sessions on college readiness, financial literacy, career readiness and mental wellness. Students from Grand Center Arts Academy engaged positively with presenters, gaining valuable insights before they set off on their next chapter.

Fostering Conscious Consumers

The Catholic Ethical Purchasing Alliance (CEPA) is a Jesuit-led initiative promoting ethical production and purchasing decisions — all in alignment with Catholic social teaching and protecting the dignity of workers and the planet.

In May 2023, a guest speaker from CEPA inspired Chaifetz students to start an Ethical Purchasing Committee themselves. Coincidentally, this development occurred alongside the campus bookstore’s annual contract renewal process, and the committee advocated for ethical purchasing principles in new agreements. Now, a dedicated section of items — such as socks, hats and sweatshirts — in the bookstore are sourced from CEPA-certified vendors.

Over SLU’s fall break, committee members traveled to Morganton, North Carolina, for a CEPA consumer initiative. They visited the town’s industrial commons, engaged in workshops and discussions and took on a problem analysis exercise — all to help determine how to promote the principles of ethical purchasing in the SLU community.

“What we’re trying to do right now is educate our fellow students on why this is important,” Paige Smith, a senior marketing student, said. “We’re looking to start with Greek Life since they purchase so many T-shirts and other clothing items that can be sourced ethically.”

Exploring Business Vocations

In October 2023, the School held its second annual Vocation of Business Retreat, with more than 30 students in attendance. The Retreat featured speeches by Father Carlos Esparza (Economics), Sarah Jamison (Career Resources) and Abhimanyu Gupta, Ph.D., (Operations and IT Management), as well as small-group discussions targeted to certain communities and interest areas.

“Father Esparza spoke about vocational discernment in the Ignatian Tradition, and I love the Jesuit attitude toward decision making,” Thomas Marron, a junior economics major, said. “It’s all about what keeps you excited, and what keeps that feeling of excitement from going away.”

Marron expressed his appreciation for the overall educational value of the retreat — also noting Professor Gupta’s talk, titled “Seven Levels of ‘Why,’” which included a hands-on exercise to help students identify their core passions.

“The whole event was very grounded and focused — they could really hone in on specifics since the attendees were all from a similar academic background and setting out on a similar career path,” Marron said. “I enjoyed hearing personal stories from the speakers and having engaging interactions and activities.”

“What we’re trying to do right now is educate our fellow students on why this is important.”

-Paige Smith, Marketing, Class of 2024 on ethical sourcing



Students learn from a CEPA practitioner in Morganton, North Carolina.

MISSION MEETS THE MARKET WEEK

The third annual Mission Meets the Market Week was held February 13-17, 2023 — once again sponsored by a longtime partner of the Chaifetz School and proud employer of many talented Billiken alumni, Deloitte.

Mission Meets the Market Week brings the business community together for a weeklong celebration of the unique tenets of the Chaifetz School — the unyielding commitment of students, alumni, faculty and staff to leverage business as a force for good. Organized by Chaifetz School students, the week featured a range of signature events and activities sponsored by student clubs.



Guest Speakers

Chaifetz students, faculty and staff engaged with nationally recognized brands and trailblazers in the business world. From examining the implications of globalization to addressing generational inequity through sustainability, attendees uncovered new depths of knowledge that will influence their future business practices.



Joel Austin and Brett Tintera
Founders of Two Men and a Garden

Catherine Armstrong
Director of the Carolina Textile District

Mike Ponder
Boeing Senior Program Manager and EMIB Alumnus

**Members of the Service Leadership Program
and the Catholic Ethical Purchasing Alliance**



Events and Panels

This year's events and panels provided a space for attendees to discuss hot topics around personal aspirations and organizational health. From exploring avenues for passive income to creating support for inclusive environments, members of student organizations delivered new insights for business leaders and recent college graduates alike.

A Crash Course for Business Etiquette
Presented by Barbara Gradala, Certified Etiquette Instructor

Business 'n' Brunch
Hosted by the Dean's Student Advisory Board

Mission Meets the Market Hackathon
Hosted by the Chaifetz Center for Entrepreneurship

How to Become a Millionaire
Hosted by Alpha Kappa Psi

Breaking the Ice
Hosted by Aspire STL and the Saint Louis University Finance Club

DEI in the Workplace — Being Advocates and Building Supportive Elements
Hosted by Alpha Kappa Psi, Beta Alpha Psi, Delta Sigma Pi, the Chaifetz School of Business Office of Inclusive Excellence and the Career Resources Center

Sustainability on a Global Scale
Hosted by the International Business Club and the Economics Club

On the Line: When do teams separate themselves from their athletes?
Hosted by the Sports Business Association and the Marketing Club

Friday Faculty Seminar: Mental Health



HABITAT FOR NEIGHBORHOOD BUSINESS

Habitat for Neighborhood Business (HNB) was born from the ambitions of a Chaifetz School of Business alumnus. Douglas Brown ('66) established the nonprofit organization in 2006 in the hopes of restoring economic vitality to disadvantaged St. Louis neighborhoods. In partnership with Saint Louis University, HNB pairs students with local business owners to solve complex challenges.

As of 2023, the HNB program has served 53 minority entrepreneurs who own businesses in the north St. Louis area. Entrepreneurs often receive small business assistance such as mentoring on start-up logistics, small business loan programming, access to an advisory board and connections to a thriving network of aspiring minority entrepreneurs.

These partnerships allow Chaifetz community members to use business principles as a driving force for good — pushing forward urban revitalization over time.

31

Business Students Provided Service to the Habitat for Neighborhood Business Program

53

Minority Entrepreneurs Served by the Habitat for Neighborhood Business Program as of 2023

2023 Work with Chaifetz

In collaboration with the Chaifetz School of Business, Habitat for Neighborhood Business initiated several facets to the program in 2023.

Student-Entrepreneur Initiatives

Each year, undergraduate Service Leadership students from the Chaifetz School pair off with HNB entrepreneurs. Together, they examine each business' processes and identify actionable solutions to critical problems.

For the first time in 2023, this program extended to a two-semester commitment. The student teams work throughout the year to recommend new projects that will push each business closer to its goals. A grant through the Steven N. Frank Family Award Fund was provided to HNB entrepreneurs for implementation of the students' recommendations.

Business Model Course

The Chaifetz Center for Entrepreneurship's program manager, Hayley Johnston, taught the Business Model Canvas course to six HNB entrepreneurs in fall 2023. Completion of the course allows participants to join a Mentor Forum — providing unparalleled access to executive-level benefits of the HNB program.

Global Graduate Scholars Online Course Development

In December 2023, graduate students in the Global Graduate Scholars program completed an online Business Model Canvas course developed for HNB entrepreneurs. The course emerged from a collaboration with Abhimanyu Gupta, Ph.D., at the Emerson Leadership Institute.

Student Support

Six undergraduate Service Leadership students and one graduate student assisted the HNB program's staff and entrepreneurs. The students assisted with newsletters, surveys and new projects for the HNB entrepreneurs. Additionally, they organized the HNB Mentor Forums and contacted the speakers invited to meet with the entrepreneurs.



Donor and Alumna Mary Frank (front center) poses with (L-R) Chaifetz Development Director Ann Brennan-Buss, HNB Program Manager Pamela Hoskins and HNB Program Director Gladys Smith.



Sam Aitchison ('26) and Caroline Murphy ('26) meet with Lee Carrell (center), an entrepreneur from the Institute of Personal and Professional Development.



Renee Hodgins (left center), an entrepreneur from the Counseling and Educational Center, poses with (L-R) Qulsum Farzam ('25), Darcy Taylor ('25) and Caitlin Conrad ('26).

ACCELERATING MASTERY

The Richard A. Chaifetz School of Business' One-Year Master of Business Administration (MBA) program offers an accelerated path to enhanced expertise. Over 11 months, students gain a deeper understanding of the marketplace and how to tackle business problems collaboratively.

The curriculum involves multidisciplinary classes, such as marketing, financial decision-making, risk management, global immersion and more. Beyond that, each student participates in a nine-month industry practicum with a local company solving complex issues affecting St. Louis businesses. Namely, the Class of 2024 partnered with Nestlé Purina, Technology Partners, Equifax and the Pujols Family Foundation.

One-Year MBA Practicum

Every One-Year MBA program initially starts with companies pitching their projects. The students then rank the options based on personal interest — from there, each person's experience varies by assignment.

As a student pursuing both her MBA and Master of Health Administration (MHA), Lindsey Evans chose Technology Partners due to their recent association with health care. In collaboration with Washington University's School of Medicine, Technology Partners worked to create a student grading system based on competencies and feedback. Additionally, the partnership aims to create a dashboard where students and professors can access their ratings. Throughout their experience, Evans and her classmates will gain firsthand knowledge of databricks and coding.

Daniella Soriano, another One-Year MBA student, elected to work alongside Nestlé Purina to examine banner effectiveness in e-commerce. Soriano and her group will analyze data from advertising and derive insights on consumer behavior. They will then implement an innovative website design that incorporates cutting-edge technology, such as eye-tracking. Once the research phase ends, students present their findings to key stakeholders at Nestlé Purina.

While each project offers a unique experience, all One-Year MBA students apply classroom skills in a real-world setting. Moreover, they benefit from the incomparable guidance of experts who excel in their respective fields. By the end of the program, students like Soriano and Evans acquire skillsets that set them apart in their intended career path.



2023-2024 PARTNERS



Technology
Partners



EQUIFAX



A Tailor-Made Professional MBA

At the Chaifetz School of Business, education remains flexible — adapting to fit a student's interests and intended career path. In an effort to meet the diverse needs of working professionals, the Chaifetz School offers a wholly customizable Professional MBA program.

The program's stackable certificates empower participants to learn the core tenets of business while exploring a specialized track of their choice. Using nine elective credits, participants select their concentration from a range of specialties, such as real estate, digital marketing, entrepreneurship, finance and international business.

The MBA program allows St. Louis professionals to complete their education at their own pace while focusing on in-demand topics in modern business spheres. The program offers classes in-person and online — allowing students to study in the classroom or on the go.

In a span of two to two and a half years, each professional finds that the opportunities available at the Chaifetz School are endless. They graduate equipped with foundational business knowledge, specialized expertise, a broad network of connections and, most importantly, the confidence to take the business world by storm.

Striking a Balance

Erin Gallagher, a Professional MBA student, credits the flexibility of the program for her success. Due to the customization options available to her, she juggles two jobs while continuing to pursue her master's degree. Gallagher has used her elective credits to concentrate on marketing — but she will also take classes in entrepreneurship and management to fit her future ambitions.

“The Professional MBA program has encouraged an expansion of knowledge across many disciplines. This inspiring community pushes me towards a new level of transformation and excellence.”

-Erin Gallagher,
Professional MBA, Class of 2025



**Altering the
Business Landscape**

THE CHAIFETZ CENTER FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP

The Chaifetz Center for Entrepreneurship advances a culture of entrepreneurship and innovation throughout the University community. The Center fosters collaboration and enhances communication in support of Saint Louis University's future and current students, faculty, staff and alumni.



GEOLaunch

GEOLaunch is a student-driven geospatial and entrepreneurship incubator in the Chaifetz Center for Entrepreneurship at Saint Louis University. The new program is a collaborative effort between the Center for Entrepreneurship, the Taylor Geospatial Institute, the Chaifetz School of Business and the School of Science and Engineering.

Students work in interdisciplinary teams guided by faculty advisors — collaboratively applying geospatial insights to some of humanity's greatest challenges. Teams focus on issues such as food and water security, climate change, economic development and social inequity.

This initiative builds off the momentum of new geospatial research in the St. Louis area while fostering interdisciplinary expertise. Teams bring together students from across the University, merging the perspectives of STEM and non-STEM students to find innovative solutions.

Relaunching the “Wall of Fame”

Over the decades, the Richard A. Chaifetz School of Business has inspired countless students to pursue new ventures. Their efforts have enriched the world, filling it with world-class products, services and experiences.

The induction of the Class of 2023 marks the relaunch of the Entrepreneurship Hall of Fame after a period of inaction. Executive Director of the Chaifetz Center for Entrepreneurship Lewis Sheats expressed excitement for many more years of recognition.

“The Chaifetz School of Business is the place where Mission Meets the Market, and these exceptional

entrepreneurs showcase how that becomes a reality,” Sheats said. “This program and the recognition it provides will give our students great examples and mentors for years to come.”

The newly relaunched Hall of Fame recognizes exceptional entrepreneurs associated with Saint Louis University. Each inductee fully embodies the motto, “Do Good. Do Well.” — positively impacting our society and economy through leadership in corporate and independent ventures as well as philanthropic efforts.

Members elected to the Hall of Fame attest to the power of following your entrepreneurial

dreams and setting an ambitious example for new generations of Chaifetz students. On October 13, 2023, the Hall of Fame unveiled its newest members: Joe Koenig and Meghan Gaffney.

Joe Koenig
President, World Wide Technology
Finance, '87

Joe Koenig graduated from the Chaifetz School of Business in 1987 with a finance degree. He joined World Wide Technology in 1993 as the company's 15th employee. Eventually, he became president, bringing with him over three decades of experience in information technology, sales, marketing and

project management. Koenig's compassionate leadership extends to charitable organizations, including Boys Hope Girls Hope and CEOs Against Cancer - St. Louis.

Meghan Gaffney
Founder & CEO, Veda
Political Science, '04

Meghan Gaffney, a SLU political science alumna, is the founder and CEO of Veda — an innovative platform using artificial intelligence and machine learning to tackle complex health care data challenges. Her work expedites patient access to health care, reduces financial inefficiencies and

fosters innovation in the medical field. Gaffney's entrepreneurial efforts have helped countless communities grow healthier together.

STUDENT ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR
Firaol Ahmed
Founder & CEO, Moii Coffee
Finance and Entrepreneurship, '25

YOUNG ALUMNI ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR
Luis Manta
Founder & CEO, Seoul Juice
Entrepreneurship, '17

THE EMERSON LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

For over 25 years, Emerson and the Richard A. Chaifetz School of Business have partnered to enrich the landscape of future business leadership. The Emerson Leadership Institute stands as a collaborative — fostering leadership training programs, cutting-edge research initiatives and community engagement efforts geared toward ethical leadership values.

From group training to professional events, the Institute is a vibrant hub rich in knowledge and practical expertise. Together, associated students, researchers and community leaders uncover the spirit of discovery, pushing continual innovation in the St. Louis area.

Be Heard: Women in Leadership Conference

The 2023 Be Heard: Women in Leadership Conference provided a platform for women in business to showcase their achievements and offer guidance to one another. The Emerson Leadership Institute expanded the event to two days, empowering women in business to be heard for their research and insights derived from personal experiences.



“Every aspect of the conference was meticulously planned and executed by a dream team of Chaifetz School students, faculty and staff.”

- Barnali Gupta, Ph.D.
Edward Jones Dean

Research Symposium

March 9, 2023

On the first day of the event, attendees explored the latest research from Saint Louis University and other leading academic institutions. Student and faculty researchers displayed their research posters throughout the entirety of the two-day event.

The Research Symposium focused on research conducted by women, for women and in support of women in leadership. Topics covered a range of findings in strategic leadership, innovation, diversity and inclusion and beyond. Roundtable discussions and Q&As offered ample space to coordinate future collaborations, exchange new ideas and establish network connections.

KEYNOTE PRESENTATION Women in Leadership: Where Theory Meets Practice



Seemantini Pathak, Ph.D.

Associate Professor, General Management & Strategy
University of Missouri-St. Louis
Ihnatowycz Family Foundation Chair, Ivey Business School, Western University



Conference

March 10, 2023

The second day of the conference centered on gleaned insights from the firsthand experiences of senior women leaders. Notable speakers included Maxine Clark, founder of Build-A-Bear Workshop and inspirator of the Delmar DivINE™, and Leslie Gill, president of Rung for Women.

Speakers addressed challenges in personal effectiveness, communication, emerging research findings and amplifying female voices in organizations. Midway through the day, breakout sessions opened for early-career, mid-career and executive professionals.

Throughout the event, students and fellow professionals uncovered numerous perspectives in business — which they may carry with them throughout the rest of their careers.

KEYNOTE PRESENTATION

Start Small and Dream Big: Making Better Things With Diversity and Inclusion



Lindsay Wrege

Co-Founder and CEO of 321 Coffee



Creating Well-Rounded Students

While students acquire a wide range of skills through coursework, there may still be gaps in their practical knowledge. To educate students past their intended career path, Chaifetz Student Athena Valera-Barrios partnered with the Emerson Leadership Institute to found Well Rounded.

Well Rounded is a student organization that provides knowledge and resources related to key life issues. Through social media posts and in-person events, student organizers break down topics not normally covered in the classroom — such as negotiating rent, finding a job through search engines and using AI to learn about complex issues.

The organization hosted its first FinSmart budgeting event on October 11, 2023. Attendees learned practical strategies for tax season directly from practicing financial experts. Notably, Sheldon McGrath from Northwestern Mutual spoke to students on maximizing savings, making wise investments and staying vigilant as you see returns.

The Center for Supply Chain Excellence at the Richard A. Chaifetz School of Business trains, supports and informs professionals through tailored educational programming. Each year, the Center’s educational programs provide training for supply chain professionals — preparing them to tackle current and future challenges, increase efficiency and boost the long-term profitability of their organizations.

Virtual Integrated Supply Chain Management Program

As a non-credit executive education, the virtual Integrated Supply Chain Management (ISCM) program builds the expertise of existing supply chain professionals. The program includes eight educational modules that cover topics such as inventory management, strategic sourcing and business analytics.

Learners also have the opportunity to engage in a consulting project sponsored by local organizations, including their employers. The project allows them to solve their current supply chain challenges while receiving support from established SLU structures.

“The participants find it very useful because it facilitates cross-pollination of ideas,” Yulia Vorotyntseva, Ph.D., interim director of the Center, said. “The members of the military are especially appreciative — it helps them gain exposure to

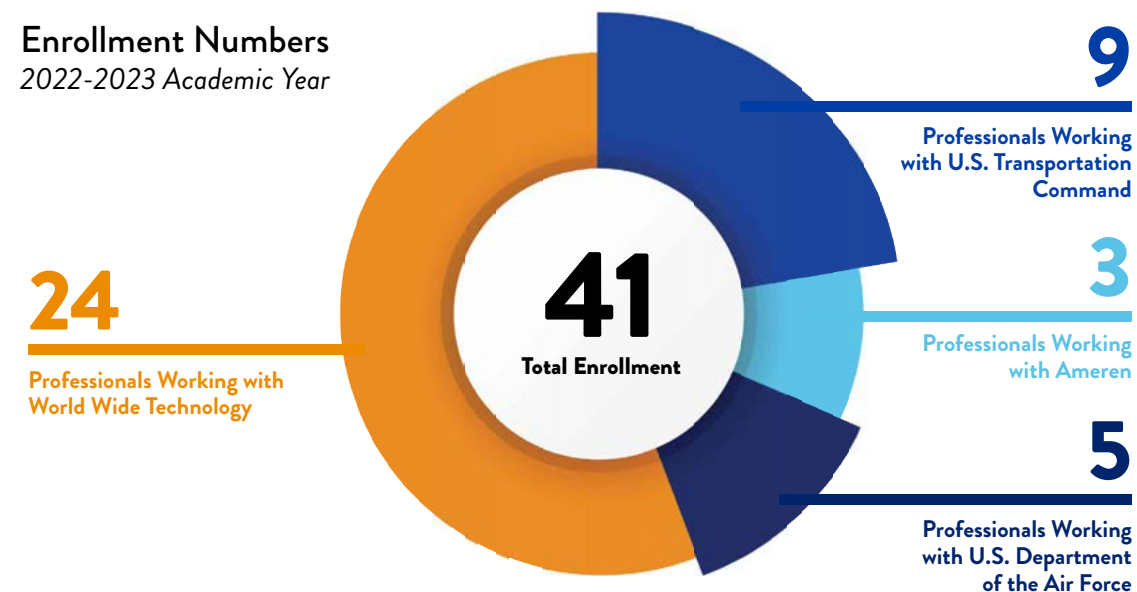
‘outside-world’ processes beyond the system they typically operate in.”

Currently, the ISCM program hosts learners from five organizations, including:

- Ameren
- World Wide Technology
- U.S. Department of the Air Force
- U.S. Transportation Command
- U.S. Military Surface Deployment and Distribution Command

Under SLU’s new credential guidelines, the ISCM program was officially approved as a “continuing education” micro-credential. While some professionals choose to attend individual sessions, those who completed all eight modules and a consulting project earned the credential.

Enrollment Numbers
2022-2023 Academic Year



Distinguished Guest Speaker Series

The Center for Supply Chain Excellence strives to spark conversations and drive connections through shared thought. The Distinguished Guest Speaker Series draws top academics and industry practitioners in supply chain management to lead discussions on valuable topics in modern marketplaces. Beyond educational opportunities, participants get the chance to network.

“We are trying to strengthen our connection with the local industry,” Vorotyntseva said. “The event brings together industry professionals, students and faculty to facilitate that connection.”

Implications for Supply Chains in the Current Cybersecurity Landscape

April 28, 2023

Dmitry Zhdanov, Ph.D.

Director of the Center for Cybersecurity Research and Education, Illinois State University



Developing the AI-Infused Supply Chain Leader of Tomorrow

December 15, 2023

Mark Baxa

CEO and President, Council of Supply Chain Management Professionals (CSCMP) and Fernia Creek



Industry Excursions

Master of Science in Supply Chain Management students receive an inside look at organizational processes through excursion opportunities. This year, students toured the Boone Center, Inc. packaging facility as well as the Caterpillar Inc. distribution and manufacturing facilities. Tour groups got up close and personal with machinery and discussed operations with leadership teams and production floor workers.



Supply Chain Management 101

Supply Chain Management (SCM) 101 conveys the fundamental concepts of supply chain management. Throughout a six-hour online training event offered twice a year, participants unlock an understanding of management tools and how to leverage them to drive profits and mitigate risks. They also learn how to interpret supply chain performance metrics and link them to organizational financial performance.

In 2023, SCM 101 was approved as a “continuing education” digital badge as well as a “skills” badge. To earn the badge, participants complete the training event and conduct a business case analysis using the skills they learned.

THE BOEING INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS

The Boeing Institute of International Business stands as a premier academic institution for the teaching and practice of international business. Since 1984, the Institute has offered global business resources for students and alumni, as well as the business community, faculty, government and professional organizations. Activating SLU's Jesuit mission, practitioners of international business strive to leave the business world better than they found it.



2023 International Business Awards

The 2023 Annual International Business Awards Ceremony celebrated excellence in the global business community. Professional awards honored the global accomplishments of business executives, while scholarships recognized the academic excellence of business students.

This year, the Boeing Institute collaborated with the Bunzl Corporation to establish the inaugural Executive Master of International Business Scholarship. This scholarship will be awarded annually, joining multiple other undergraduate scholarships established by corporate entities, including AB InBev, Mastercard, Bayer and the Novus Corporation.



Meet the Professional Awardees and Student Scholars



2023 Bayer International Business Conference

The Boeing Institute of International Business at Saint Louis University's Chaifetz School of Business hosts the Bayer International Business Conference each year to explore critical and timely topics in the global business community.

The event, titled "International Business Resilience Under Global Disruptions," brought together leading industry experts and over 200 attendees for insightful discussions and presentations on the most pressing issues facing international business today.

The conference featured a networking breakfast, a morning speaker panel featuring Dr. Jeremy Williams (Head of Climate LLC, Bayer), Jay Greenberg (Special Agent in Charge, Federal Bureau of Investigation) and Jim McCool (CEO, Bunzl), as well as luncheon keynote speaker, Arnold Donald (Vice Chairman, Carnival Corporation). Net proceeds from the conference support graduate international business scholarships for students at the nationally ranked Chaifetz School of Business.



Experiential Learning Around the World

The Chaifetz School of Business offers countless opportunities for students to immerse themselves in international business operations beyond St. Louis. Global academic partnerships empower students to navigate multicultural teams and learn to create successful transactions in an increasingly globalized market.

Greek Educational Partnership

The Greek Educational Partnership at Saint Louis University (GEP- SLU) is an interdisciplinary program housed within the Boeing Institute of International Business. Select candidates from Greece receive GEP scholarships to pursue a graduate business degree in the Executive Master of International Business program. The award covers complete tuition costs, other academic-related costs and health insurance.

The life-changing experience imparts an understanding of the U.S. free enterprise system and extends it to international entrepreneurship and commerce upon returning to Greece. Notably, students engage in service projects across St. Louis to fully embrace SLU's Jesuit mission.

Undergraduate Global Immersion Programming

The Boeing Institute offers two short-term undergraduate global immersion courses annually with rotating locations, along with two graduate-level immersion courses for the Executive Master of International Business program and the Professional MBA program.

The undergraduate-level courses count for three credit hours and include a pre-trip research paper, a company-sponsored consulting project and a presentation. Students experience diverse economies and cultures, providing a well-rounded experience to augment their studies.

Over winter break 2024, 10 undergraduate international business students traveled abroad for the inaugural undergraduate Global Immersion course in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. While there, students made on-site visits to Mastercard, International Humanitarian City, the Mohammed bin Rashid School of Government, Expo City Dubai, International Flavors & Fragrances and the Department of Tourism and Commerce Marketing.



39 Country Initiative

Box by box, students in the International Business Club at Saint Louis University slowly compiled a business library as part of the 39 Country Initiative. The Initiative strives to support the world's poorest 39 countries, providing current and relevant teaching materials for those pursuing a business education.

After five years of collection, nearly 10,000 books were ready to be sent to a business school in need. Participants selected a location nearly halfway around the world — the Lahore University of Management Science (LUMS) in Pakistan.

LUMS received the shipment in July 2023, making Saint Louis University the first University in the United States to complete the Initiative. With time, this effort will help improve educational outcomes for those at the University. Moreover, the effort displayed SLU's Jesuit mission of care for humankind in full force.



Explore Our Efforts



Fostering Faculty Excellence

NEW FACULTY IN 2023

62

Full-Time Faculty

14

Endowed Positions

9

Named Professorships



Mindy Kim

Ph.D.
Assistant Professor, Accounting

Mindy Kim earned her Ph.D. in accounting from the University of Arizona, her M.S. in accounting from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign and her B.A. in library information science and management from Yonsei University in South Korea. She teaches courses in auditing and taxation in addition to an accounting capstone course. Her research interests include auditing, corporate governance and financial reporting.



Minjung Lee

Ph.D.
Assistant Professor, International Business

Minjung Lee earned her Ph.D. in international management studies at the University of Texas at Dallas and her M.S. in organizational studies and B.S. in business administration at Hanyang University in South Korea. She teaches courses in Asian business, Asia-Pacific business strategy, research sustainability, non-market strategies and public policy. Lee brings extensive experience in international trade operations and business strategy.



Jill Politte

MBA
Instructor, Marketing

Jill Politte earned her MBA from the Chaifetz School of Business and her B.A. in history and religion from Lindenwood University. She brings 15 years of business experience from roles at Nestlé Purina, Anheuser-Busch, Ipsos-P&G and Evaluation Management & Training. Politte is a sponsor of the SLU Marketing Club, Nestlé Purina ambassador and shelter partner, member of the St. Louis Public Schools Marketing Advisory Board and ministry support for Young Life St. Louis City.



Dasol Sim

Ph.D.
Assistant Professor, International Business

Dasol Sim earned his Ph.D. in business administration from Florida International University and his M.S. and B.A. degrees from Konkuk University in South Korea. He teaches courses in international business strategies and environments. Sim's research interests include the influence of CFOs and CEOs, executive succession, compensation and corporate governance. Previously, Sim worked as a full-time researcher at South Korea's Research Institute for Global Management of Technology and Innovation and as an operations manager at Autoliv Korea and Tesco Homeplus.



Tiancheng Zhao

Ph.D.
Assistant Professor, Operations and Information Technology Management.

Tiancheng Zhao earned his Ph.D. in business administration (operations management) from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign (UIUC) and his B.E. in Industrial Engineering from Tsinghua University in China. Previously, Zhao taught business analytics at the Gies College of Business at UIUC. Now, at the Chaifetz School of Business, he teaches courses in prescriptive analytics. Zhao's ongoing research interests include pricing management, revenue management and choice modeling.

Promoted Faculty

Hadi Alhorr

Ph.D.
Paul Lorenzini Professor, International Business



Hadi Alhorr, Ph.D., has been with Saint Louis University for over 17 years. He joined as an assistant professor of International Business in 2006. In 2021, Alhorr was appointed Paul Lorenzini Associate Professor of International Business. In fall 2023, he was promoted to full professor. He currently serves as director of the Boeing Institute of International Business.

Xu (Frank) Wang

Ph.D.
Professor, Accounting



For the past 16 years, Frank Wang, Ph.D., has filled various positions in the Accounting Department. He joined the faculty in 2008 as an assistant professor of accounting before ascending to associate professor in 2014. In fall 2023, Wang was promoted to full professor of accounting.

FACULTY INSIGHT & INQUIRY

The Richard A. Chaifetz School of Business strives not only to educate the next generation of business leaders but also to enrich our perspective of the world. Ongoing research allows the School to examine new facets of business operations and environmental factors that dictate long-term success.



Xu (Frank) Wang

Ph.D.
Professor, Accounting

In his research, Frank Wang, Ph.D., focuses on the impact of corporate reporting and disclosure on stakeholders such as investors and consumers. His paper, “The Brand Value of Earnings: An Event Study of Consumer Responses to Earnings Announcements,” was accepted in *The Accounting Review*.

“We conducted the first-ever short window event study of consumers’ perceptual responses to earnings announcements,” Wang said. “Consumers do respond to highly publicized quantitative news.”

This study examined consumers’ perceptions and responses to the news conveyed in earnings announcements. His team uncovered that consumers make inferences about the brand based on the nature of the news.

Wang indicated that if someone had never used a product, hearing about the product manufacturer when it announced its earnings would make them more aware of the company. Additionally, they would be more or less attracted to the brand depending on whether the earnings news was favorable or unfavorable.



Discover Wang's Findings



Marcus Painter

Ph.D.
Assistant Professor, Finance

Marcus Painter’s, Ph.D., research has recently found that municipal bonds issued in areas susceptible to climate change challenges cost more to issue. For example, coastal counties have a higher chance of succumbing to rising sea levels. As a result, the local government has to pay higher interest rates when they borrow money compared to inland counties.

His paper, titled “An Inconvenient Cost: The Effects of Climate Change on Municipal Bonds,” caught the attention of the White House Council. Its 2023 economic report ended up citing his work — Painter recalled discovering this himself as the report circulated on social media.

“There was a part about climate finance and, half humoring myself, I went to see if I was cited and actually saw it there,” Painter said. “It was a big shock, but a pleasant one.”



Discover Painter's Findings



Yan Sun

Ph.D.
Department Chair, Accounting; Gustave K. Klausner
Endowed Professor, Accounting

In 2023, Yan Sun, Ph.D., published a research paper titled “Unveil the Veil of Limited Liability: Evidence From Firm Investment.” Her research investigated the effect of limited liability on firm investment. She and her coauthor found that firms intending to borrow but with higher risk have a greater probability of transitioning to a limited liability company (LLC).

After this liability regime change, firm investment aggressiveness decreases, but by less than the change for firms using unlimited liability over time. There is also improvement in investment efficiency and return on investment capital. These results suggest that an LLC status encourages firm investment and leads to more effective investment policies.

Sun’s paper was published in the third issue of *The Financial Review* in 2023.



Discover Sun's Findings

FUNDING THE FUTURE OF CHAIFETZ

University research creates knowledge that changes our perspectives. Impactful new technologies, products and practices emerge from the contributions of academic institutions. In an effort to enrich the landscape of business, the Richard A. Chaifetz School of Business has established multiple funding sources to support research and scholarship.

Entrepreneurship Across Campus

The Chaifetz Fellowship Program promotes entrepreneurship education and programming across departmental lines. In 2023, Hayley Johnston, program manager at the Chaifetz Center for Entrepreneurship, received a grant to develop a core course on entrepreneurial identity and self-discovery.

Meanwhile, veteran Fellow Jintong Tang, Ph.D., received an additional grant to reinforce and expand her existing work. This year, she crafted an entrepreneurship theory seminar for doctoral students. This seminar offers a broad survey of theoretical approaches used in the study of entrepreneurship. It focuses on the foundations as well as cutting-edge research on entrepreneurship. Once approved, this seminar will be offered in fall 2024.



Women in Leadership

In 2022, the Chaifetz School of Business launched the Medart Women in Leadership Grant. The program was created with a gift from alum Mike Medart, chair of the Chaifetz Executive Board, in memory of his late grandmother. In 2023, two exceptional researchers were awarded \$4,000 grants to explore challenges faced by women in leadership.

Bidisha Chakrabarty, Ph.D.

Edward Jones Professor of Finance

“Women in Management and Firms’ Labor Safety Violations”

Although women form about 50% of the labor force, they constitute a minute fraction of top management positions. Increasing efforts to promote more women into leadership positions begins with understanding how they impact firm policies. One such firm outcome is on employee health and safety under women leaders.

Nearly 93% of CEOs rank employee health as a top priority, and labor safety violations cost over \$250 billion annually. Existing research suggests managerial demographics change firm behavior, yet many studies primarily examine the effect of male leaders. Using funds from the Medart Women in Leadership Grant, Bidisha Chakrabarty, Ph.D., will conduct empirical research on how women in leadership affect labor safety practices.

Chakrabarty plans to use part of the funds for purchasing data, and the rest will be used to disseminate the results. Her research will examine and quantify how women in leadership benefit organizations, beyond the ethical imperative of inclusivity. She expressed thanks for the support as she works to promote overall inclusion in business.

“[This grant] highlights to me that SLU and the Chaifetz School stand by their mission to support inclusivity,” Chakrabarty said. “My study addresses a topic of gender inclusivity in business, and I am glad that this research has the support of the Medart Foundation.”

“[This grant] highlights to me that SLU and the Chaifetz School stand by their mission to support inclusivity.”

- Bidisha Chakrabarty, Ph.D.
Edward Jones Professor of Finance

“This grant boosts and promotes my own research, teaching, service and administrative work significantly.”

- Jintong Tang, Ph.D.
Mary Louise Murray Endowed Professor of Management



Jintong Tang, Ph.D.

Mary Louise Murray Endowed Professor of Management

“Breaking and Powering Through the Bamboo Ceiling”

Though viewed as a “model minority,” Asian Americans face hidden challenges in academic performance, workplace inclusion and representation. Notably, Asian Americans are seriously underrepresented in leadership positions — making up only 6% of senior management positions in the U.S. (Goldman Sachs Research Report, 2022).

Jintong Tang, Ph.D., plans to use funding to open conversations about hidden challenges through the third-annual Be Heard Conference titled, “Breaking and Powering through the Bamboo Ceiling: A Conversation and Celebration of Asian Women in Leadership,” to be held May 3, 2024, at SLU. Tang hopes this conference will empower the Asian American community, enhance mutual understanding and create allyship for mutual support for all.

Additionally, Tang also used the funds to support a scholarly research paper on women entrepreneurship. The paper will be published in a premier entrepreneurship journal in the near future. Tang expressed gratitude for the grant, sharing that it not only helps her personally, but also creates a more welcoming environment for students.

“This grant boosts and promotes my research, teaching, service and administrative work significantly,” Tang said. “Broadly speaking, it supports university-wide efforts to create an equitable culture for students, staff and faculty.”

RECOGNIZED RESEARCH

The Richard A. Chaifetz School of Business nurtures researchers studying challenges in modern marketplaces. The Chaifetz community strives to further competitive research capabilities and establish itself as a hub for academic inquiry. One faculty member continues to raise the bar through his achievements in progressive research.

The Future of Ride-Hailing

Ride-hailing in large cities has changed with the advent of modern technology. Years ago, pedestrians would stick their hand out for a taxi or call one for a ride. Uber and Lyft have taken over as one of our primary means of getting around — but availability depends on the number of available drivers and their willingness to travel.

Justin Goodson, Ph.D., Father Davis Professor of Operations and IT Management, used his expertise in sequential decision-making to explore the next stage in ride-hailing. His paper, “Dynamic Ride-Hailing with Electric Vehicles,” explores how remote dispatchers can operate a fleet of autonomous electric vehicles to match supply with demand.

Operators need to know when and where to allocate a limited number of vehicles for the most profit. Goodson and his team found that the use of deep neural networks can help these operators make more informed decisions — showing them the vehicle locations, consumer locations, charge of each vehicle and anticipated demand in the near future.

“It takes the current state of our operational system and tries to synthesize a decision that is not only good now in the moment but, across some time horizon,” Goodson said.

The paper was awarded Paper of the Year in 2023 by the Transportation Science editorial board. Goodson believes this achievement can be attributed to the fact that his research combined cutting-edge methodological work and forward-thinking applications. He expressed gratitude for the honor and his position at SLU — his role as a researcher and a professor empowers him to make an actionable impact each day.

“I view this job as a privilege because I think learning is a privilege,” Goodson said. “I feel extremely lucky that my job requires me to learn.”



Research Institute Fellows

The Saint Louis University Research Institute builds a collaborative environment of discovery and innovation within campus lines. The Research Institute Fellows program recognizes, celebrates and supports researchers whose scholarly accomplishments set a positive example for the scientific community.

The fellows program was made possible through the generosity of Dr. Jeanne and Mr. Rex Sinquefeld. Their \$50 million gift to Saint Louis University established the Saint Louis University Research Institute to promote and support impactful research and scholarship.

The 2023 cohort sits at the highest level of their fields and embodies the University’s Jesuit research mission to innovate and serve. The final 26 outstanding researchers reflect the breadth of the University’s research enterprise and exemplify SLU’s aspirations of rigor and impact. Three Chaifetz faculty members were inducted into the fellowship at a ceremony on November 8, 2023.



2023 INDUCTEES



Mark J. Arnold, Ph.D.
Department Chair, Marketing
Clarence Louis and Helen Irene Steber Professor, Marketing



Brad D. Carlson, Ph.D.
James J. Pierson Endowed Chair,
Marketing
Professor, Marketing



Yan Sun, Ph.D.
Department Chair, Accounting
Gustave K. Klausner Endowed
Professor, Accounting



View the Full List
of 2023 Fellows



Reflecting on the Chaifetz Experience



Adriel Ramirez

Professional MBA, '21

Director of Sales Analytics HUB, Nestlé Purina North America

For the past 17 years, Adriel Ramirez has worked for Nestlé Purina North America. The company empowered him to explore a variety of departments, from international business to market development. His career has yielded a wealth of skills and activated a deeper connection with people and pets — including his Goldendoodle, Tango, and tuxedo cat, Shadow.

“Everything starts with the belief that people and pets are better together,” Ramirez said. “Nestlé Purina really seeks to drive pet nutrition forward but also go beyond by caring for the overall well-being of pets.”

Though still passionate for his work at Nestlé Purina, he uncovered a desire for self-improvement. Ramirez decided to pursue a master’s degree in business administration, hoping to develop a more curated approach to learning. Though he considered many options, he eventually set his sights on the Professional MBA program at the Chaifetz School of Business.

“SLU’s reputation for high-performing alumni and its focus on experiential learning was key for me,” Ramirez said.

Throughout his studies, Ramirez sharpened his skills in business analytics, management and marketing. He cited Palash Bera, Ph.D., of Operations and IT Management, as a person of influence. Throughout his business analytics class, Bera created a diverse, creative environment and encouraged a more human-centric approach to business. The class sparked Ramirez’s interest, ultimately leading him to a position in sales data and analytics.

“It’s a relationship born of a class I took,” Ramirez said. “A few years later, the role I sit in today is in analytics. It’s come full circle.”

Ramirez emphasized that his experience at the Chaifetz School of Business proved to be mutually beneficial. Now, he leads a partnership between Nestlé Purina and the School through a One-Year MBA practicum project involving eye-tracking research. Together, students and professionals unlock new insights into consumer digital shopping behavior for the organization.

“My experience was not limited to learning — the connectivity developed during my years at SLU continues to have an impact on my effectiveness as a leader today,” Ramirez said.

“Everything starts with the belief that people and pets are better together.”



Lennart Hein

International Business, '18

Client Manager, World Wide Technology (London)

As a budding young soccer player from Germany, Lennart Hein was excited for the opportunity to play his sport while pursuing his studies on the highest level. He was highly sought-after, receiving multiple offers from around the world. Surveying his options, Hein noticed that one institution stood out from the pack.

Saint Louis University offered him a competitive soccer program, a robust business curriculum and a strong value system that aligned with his own. The decision was easy and looking back, he expressed gratitude for the chance to attend SLU on a scholarship.

“It was an incredible experience coming from Germany to play for SLU. The soccer facilities and the business school are second to none,” Hein said. “All I wanted to do was improve in every aspect and grow as a person every day — SLU provided the perfect circumstances.”

While he played for the Billikens as a defender, he pursued a degree within the Chaifetz School. Studying international business acknowledged his roots as an international student while addressing his passion for entrepreneurship and diverse cultures. Hein shared that throughout his undergraduate years, faculty members molded his perspective of the marketplace.

“A lot of our professors in the business school were former business people who built their own businesses,” Hein said. “They had a lot of practical knowledge. It wasn’t just theoretical and academic. There was actually a real-life example.”

In 2019, Hein signed with the Portland Timbers. Yet, he kept in touch with the sales operations team at World Wide Technology (WWT) in St. Louis. After his Major League Soccer career came to a close, he found himself drawn to St. Louis — joining the WWT team again before transferring to the London office.

“I was trained up in the headquarters, then joined our fast-growing team here in Europe to help expand the WWT brand and build a new business pipeline over here,” Hein said.

Now, as a client manager, Hein activates knowledge from the Chaifetz School to nurture customer relations and exceed sales expectations. He pushes his sales team to create authentic connections and drive profitable business opportunities. Hein credits his trajectory to the experience provided by the Chaifetz School and the men’s soccer program.

“My time at SLU has profoundly shaped my character,” Hein said. “The lessons and experiences I gained there have become integral to my core values, fundamentally influencing who I am today.”

“My time at SLU has profoundly shaped my character.”



Merry Kweiter

“[The Chaifetz School] prepared me to become a student of my profession.”

International Business and Management Information Systems, '94
Managing Director, Deloitte Consulting

From the moment she stepped through the door, Merry Kweiter felt at home in the Chaifetz School of Business. She fondly remembers the moment Celerstine Briggs Johnson, Ed.D., former associate vice provost, welcomed her with a smile — setting the tone for the rest of her academic journey.

In her undergraduate years, Chaifetz faculty members pushed her to activate her strengths. Kweiter noted that Donald Hardaway, Ph.D., former associate professor of operations and IT management, stepped up as an influential mentor. She credits him for her decision to double major in international business and management information systems (MIS).

“Where I am today has a lot to do with the mentorship that I was privileged to receive while at Saint Louis University,” Kweiter said.

Now, as a managing director at Deloitte Consulting, Kweiter focuses on making an impact that matters. Leading large-scale, multi-disciplinary enterprise transformations, her work helps organizations around the globe solve complex challenges through modern technology.

“[The Chaifetz School] prepared me to become a student of my profession,” Kweiter said. “In consulting, [that] one thing is the core of what makes us successful.”

Beyond her role serving clients, she strives to mirror her mentors by welcoming budding professionals into her organization. The Jesuit values instilled in Kweiter push her to support the next generation of leaders — directing Deloitte’s recruitment efforts within SLU’s School of Business, School of Science and Engineering, College of Arts and Sciences and beyond.

“It’s part of my focus to turn the privilege of mentorship that I received into a mentorship program so that Saint Louis University students can apply to be part of Deloitte,” Kweiter said.

Though nearly three decades have passed, Kweiter still feels deeply embedded in the Chaifetz community. Recognizing the value of business students, she shows up to teach alongside Chaifetz professors and assist in curriculum innovation. At this stage in her career, she feels that she practices at the intersection of two missions: SLU’s and Deloitte’s.

“My nature is one that brings people together for the greater good and makes an impact that matters,” Kweiter said.



Alison (Kramp) Talbot

Accounting, '81; Political Science, '81
Former Vice President of Operations, Miss Elaine, Inc.

Alison Talbot fondly remembers her years at Saint Louis University. As a student, she played on the women’s volleyball team and pursued a B.S.B.A. in accounting and a B.A. in political science. While her experience on the court gave her confidence and lifelong friendships, her coursework gave her a foundation of invaluable skills.

“Accounting teaches critical thinking, problem-solving and perseverance,” Talbot said. “Meanwhile, political science opened my mind to the world and how it operates.”

After graduation, Talbot attained her Certified Public Accountant (CPA) license and worked at Ernst and Young. Drawn to the creative atmosphere of the fashion industry, Talbot subsequently took an accounting management position at Edison Brothers Stores. She quickly ascended to VP/general manager of a retail chain and later became vice president of Edison International, the company’s product sourcing arm. Talbot eventually left Edison to become COO/vice president of operations at Miss Elaine, Inc. — a third-generation family-owned St. Louis business known worldwide for quality ladies’ sleepwear and loungewear.

Her work took her around the world, searching for capable suppliers and product inspiration in the Americas, Europe, Africa and Asia. For over 30 years, Talbot had a front-row seat to the evolution of international trade. She interacted with people from diverse cultures, religions and business practices — SLU’s Jesuit values heavily informed her perspective in each transaction.

“The emphasis is that everyone is important and deserves respect and dignity, no matter where you do business,” Talbot said. “It humbles and challenges you to try to understand people where they live.”

In her retirement, Talbot remains active through the school she once called home. She currently sits on both the Chaifetz Executive Board and the Chaifetz Center for Entrepreneurship Advisory Board, working closely with leadership to craft cutting-edge academics and strategic initiatives. Though the years have flown by, Talbot expressed gratitude for her experiences at SLU and remains motivated in fostering new generations of business professionals.

“I am a lifelong Billiken,” Talbot said. “SLU paved the way for much of my success. Education is important for so many reasons — now, it’s important to give back to the school that has given me so much.”

“The emphasis is that everyone is important and deserves respect and dignity, no matter where you do business.”



A Reflection on Barnali Gupta



As Barnali Gupta, Ph.D., retires from the Richard A. Chaifetz School of Business, students and stakeholders reflect on her time as Edward Jones Dean. Countless inspiring stories emerged, revealing how her leadership truly demonstrated the School's foundational principles of inclusion, innovation and impact.

Inclusion

Gupta became a champion for inclusivity at the Chaifetz School of Business. Throughout her time at the School, she supported diversity in all dimensions — especially for minority women in business. She played a leading role in establishing the first Be Heard: Women in Leadership Conference in 2022 to empower women in this industry.

Strong women from academic institutions and industry-leading organizations used this platform to share knowledge earned from their experiences. Hannah Craft, a 2023 marketing graduate, shared that the event became the highlight of the year for many women at the Chaifetz School.

“The women’s conference is something I always looked forward to,” Craft said. “It would not have been so successful had she not empowered all of the women [at the Chaifetz School] to feel important enough to take a seat at the table.”

Innovation

Creating innovative new initiatives was another hallmark of Gupta’s tenure at the Chaifetz School. Her Mission Meets the Market Digital Badge program provided students the opportunity to demonstrate competence with in-demand skills to employers. With each new certification, students were able to further distinguish themselves in a competitive marketplace.

Teaching everything from community engagement to ethical leadership, her program strengthened the already robust offerings of the Chaifetz School. Some students shared that they were always eager to see what she would think of next and how they could get involved.

“I’ve never seen students get so excited to know what she would do, who she would bring to the stage next, or how she would advocate for others next,” Craft said.

Through new programs and curriculum updates, the School has vaulted up in the Poets&Quants Best Undergraduate Business Schools Rankings, reaching an overall rank of No. 49 in the nation and moving into the top 50 for the first time.

This landmark achievement instilled a renewed sense of pride and ambition in the community. After working in the dean’s office for three years, Nikita Anand (Marketing and BTM ’24) emphasized that her efforts deeply resonated with the larger SLU community.

“Dean Gupta is an extremely inspiring leader,” Anand said. “She worked through many challenges and helped improve [the Chaifetz School’s] name and reputation immensely.”

At the same time, Gupta fostered new partnerships that supported, educated and engaged business alumni. Yemi Akande-Bartsch, Ph.D., president and CEO of FOCUS St. Louis, shared that Gupta’s

guidance proved invaluable as they developed new micro-learning programs, including a half-day transformational leadership workshop geared towards business professionals.

“Her proactive involvement and leadership in this endeavor enhanced our understanding of micro-learning,” Akande-Bartsch said. “It also underscored her dedication to empowering our alumni with valuable resources for continuous learning and professional development.”

Impact

Gupta’s insights and care for humankind left a tangible impact beyond the SLU community. This was most evident in the turbulence brought by the COVID-19 pandemic. St. Louisans lost their wages due to the lockdown, and supplies in local food pantries slowly dwindled.

Douglas Brown (Business Administration, ’66), chairman of Habitat for Neighborhood Business, noted that within a week, Gupta adapted to the changing needs of their partnership. Rather than focusing on entrepreneurs, they set their sights wider. Through SLU connections, Gupta’s team helped fund and deliver resources to vulnerable St. Louis City neighborhood food banks — ultimately distributing enough food for 120,000 meals.

“[She] supported the Habitat for Neighborhood Business’ desire to make a short detour from entrepreneurial consulting in underserved neighborhoods to getting food on tables,” Brown said.

Though early in her deanship, she quickly demonstrated a quintessential Jesuit value: care for humankind. Gupta carried that throughout the rest of her tenure, supporting impactful community engagement efforts for students, faculty and staff alike.

Well Wishes

As Gupta enters a new chapter, the Chaifetz School extends endless gratitude to the outgoing Edward Jones Dean. Mike Medart (MBA, ’82), current chair of the Chaifetz Executive Board, emphasized that from day one, the School was fortunate to have her at the helm. He and the rest of the board wished her well, applauding her achievements as a foundation for continued advancement.

“Barnali has set the table for solid growth within the Chaifetz School on multiple fronts,” Medart said. “We’re proud to have witnessed the evolution under her leadership and have no doubt that this momentum will continue for years to come.”

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