

# THE TEACHERS' LOUNGE

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF EDUCATION



## MEET THE DEAN

Dr. Gary Ritter joined the Saint Louis University School of Education in August 2018 after serving as a faculty member at University of Arkansas for nearly 20 years. Although packing up and moving to Saint Louis was difficult, the opportunity to work at a Jesuit university was one that Dr. Ritter could not pass up.

His passion for the Jesuit mission began at St. Ignatius High School and John Carroll University and continued when he participated in the Jesuit Volunteer Corps in New Jersey from 1991 to 1992. His experience in working in a low income Catholic school sparked his interest in improving the experience of students in economically disadvantaged schools.

Dr. Ritter's commitment to Jesuit ideals plays out in his vision of the School of Education. He wants the School to serve the broader community by preparing teachers to serve students who need them the most.

Keeping up with the midterm season, Dr. Ritter wants to remind students to become involved during their four years at SLU. "We have plenty of activities that will prepare you for what you are going to do beyond this time," whether that be joining a club or stopping by Fitzgerald Hall to meet with faculty.



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# FACULTY & STAFF SPOTLIGHT

## *Dr. Sally Beth Lyon*

Dr. Sally Beth Lyon has worked at Saint Louis University as an Assistant Professor for the past 4 years. This past year, she was recipient of the Emerson Excellence in Teaching Award. This award is given to outstanding educators in the Saint Louis Area for their work in teaching graduate programs and educational leadership.

Dr. Lyon is proud that her recognition is for work with students in terms of classroom instruction and innovation in the program. She is also pleased that the Saint Louis University School of Education is being recognized through her honor. For her, receiving this award affirms the importance of teaching, “not just mine, but teaching for deep learning across the spectrum,” she added.

Dr. Lyon not only wants her students to be educated about principles of human learning, but she wants them to be able to use those principles when they are designing learning experiences for students. She places her own students' needs above her own in the classroom, saying, “it’s not about me as an individual, its about them and their goals.”

Her career in education started later in life. After finishing her undergraduate degree, she worked for IBM before going back to school for an M.S. in Teaching. Even after teaching for 25 years, her passion for education has not dwindled. Dr. Lyon admits that her favorite part of teaching is interacting with students. She notes, “I learn just as much from them as vice versa.” An inspiration for students and faculty alike, Dr. Lyon reminds us it’s never too late to follow your passion.



## THE BUZZ ON EDUCATION

Dr. Kathryn Mitchell-Pierce, recently published her book, *Going Public with Assessment: A Community Practice Approach* (2018), with the National Council of Teachers of English

Dr. Molly Schaller recently published an article, *Intentional Design of the College Sophomore Year* (2018), published in *New Directions in Higher Education* in August

Saint Louis University School of Education was ranked the #2 School of Education in Missouri by Niche, who ranks thousands of Universities every year based on data and statistics from the U.S. Census, the Department of Education, and the FBI.



## ASK ED

Dear Ed,

*I've been looking to become more involved with extracurriculars, specifically ones that deal with education. Is it too late to join?*

Sincerely,  
Late to the Party

Dear Late to the Party,

It's never too late to become involved! A great example is SLU Teach. This is a student run organization that allows education students to network with each other and helps Ed majors and minors get more connected and involved in the community. Thankfully, enrollment in SLU Teach is rolling and you can contact Jen Graf (Jen.Graf@slu.edu) for more information on getting involved.

Sincerely,  
Ed



## WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

### *Dr. Tiffany Anderson*

Dr. Tiffany Anderson earned both her undergraduate and doctoral degree from Saint Louis University. She began her career as an educator after graduating and has been working in public schools for over 24 years. Her most notable achievements are being improving and closing gaps educational gaps in underserved areas. Dr. Anderson was appointed as the first female African American superintendent in Montgomery County schools in Virginia. In this role, she served 23 schools in 4 different localities. Her hard work and leadership led multiple schools in the Montgomery County to be recognized under the Virginia Governor's Competence to Excellence Award. After moving to Missouri, Dr. Anderson served as the superintendent in University Academy and Jennings School District. Today she serves as the superintendent of Topeka Public Schools, at the site where the landmark Supreme Court segregation case took place.





# HOMECOMING AND FAMILY WEEKEND 2018

In celebration of Saint Louis University's Bicentennial, the School of Education and The Ability Institute were so thankful to host musician and author, Jim Gill, as part of our 2018 Homecoming and Family Weekend events. Please enjoy a few photos from this event!

