



Heartbeat

The beat of Students for Life at SLU

Volume 2, Issue 7, April 2009



Upcoming Events

*Our Lady's Inn
Baby Shower*
April 25, 2009

Relay for Life
April 25 - 26, 2009
6pm to 6am
Hermann Stadium, SLU
Register at slurelay.org.

Students for Life Meetings

Meetings this year are
Tuesdays at 8:00 pm in
Ritter 320.



Cold Doesn't Keep SFL Supporters From Running for Life

By: Ellen Albritton



On March 28th, after months of hard work and preparation, Students for Life held the 3rd Annual Run for Their Lives 5K Run/Walk to raise money for the Virginia D. Murphy Endowment for Pregnant and Parenting Student Assistance. In the final days leading up to the event, the weather forecasts did not look promising, and the crazy St. Louis weather was in full force on Saturday. After weeks of warm,

pleasant days, all of those present at the Run endured rain, sleet, cold temperatures, and a biting wind. With such miserable conditions, many of the SFL volunteers on the morning of the Run wondered if any runners would show up and tough out the chill.

Our doubts, however, were unfounded. Although the weather might have kept some participants at home that morning, ninety-one runners and walkers braved the conditions and came out in support of the Assistance Fund. It was inspiring to see how many of our friends, family members, and supporters ran or walked for life in such wretched conditions. Although the Run was dampened by the weather, it was still a huge success, raising over \$2000 dollars for the Assistance Fund. Students for Life member and Run for Their Lives chairperson, Kelsey Evans, deserves special thanks for all of her hard work in making the Run possible. Many thanks also go out to all the participants who endured the cold and wet weather to run or walk for Life!



Photos by Laura Childs

Fight Back and Write Back!

By: Mary Ellen Lechner

The real answer cannot be, in fact, to give death, as 'gentle' as this may be, but to testify to the love that helps us to face pain and agony in a humane way"
- Benedict XVI on euthanasia

"I will give no deadly medicine to anyone if asked, no suggest any such counsel"
- Hippocratic Oath

For their March issue, *Glamour Magazine* published three different articles by Liz Welch entitled: "What Women Ask Most About Abortion"; "Abortion: The Serious Health Decision Women Aren't Talking About Until Now"; and "The Serious Health Decision These Women Are Ready to Talk About: Eight Women Share Their Abortion Stories." The overall purpose of the articles was to provide an outlet for women to speak about their own abortion stories and to answer inquiries about the abortion procedure.

Since the main theme of the articles was to supply an outlet for women, a reader might assume that there would be evidence of all types of abortion experiences, both good and bad. Suzie Q (name changed due to privacy), a freshman studying in New York, read the articles and was flabbergasted at the lack of evidence that these abortion stories offered. Therefore, Suzie Q voiced her opinion by sending this e-mail to the editors of the magazine:

To Whom it May Concern, I would like to comment on the abortion articles in your most recent issue. I agree that it is something that must be discussed. However I was very upset because the articles were very biased and did not accurately represent the entire population of women who have chosen to have an abortion. What about the women who were in the most excruciating pain of their life? What about the women who now have depression and anxiety? What about the women who are now sterile? What about all of the women who have died? Although it is very disturbing and horrifying, I think that in order to properly educate women about their choice it is important to accurately portray both sides of the argument equally. These women may be only a small percentage of abortions but it is important that they have a voice. Thank you for your time. Suzie Q.

Surprisingly, Suzie Q received a response from her e-mail to the editor! To reiterate the e-mail that *Glamour* sent, it was to this effect:

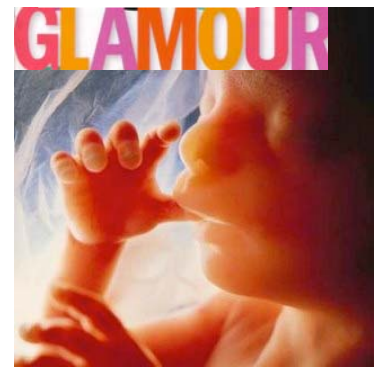
We do respect and appreciate our readers' viewpoints and your letter has been forwarded to our senior editors, including Editor-In-Chief Cindi Leive. These articles also provide information on adoption, contraception, and how to make the best possible personal decision - our hope is that the article will open up a dialogue between women on this issue.

Glamour also included a portion on contraception and why the abortion rate is so high. *Glamour* claims, "While 54 percent of women who have an abortion say they were using contraception, 46 percent admit they weren't. The simple truth is that we can do better—and that we owe it to ourselves to use protection consistently." Personally, that makes no sense to me whatsoever. If there is a higher percentage of women getting abortions who are, in fact, on the Pill, then why would women who are not using such contraceptives start? This "simple truth" that *Glamour* presents is inconclusive with their data analysis.

Articles, such as these published by *Glamour* magazine, may not be accepted by their pro-life readers. Suzie Q opted to fight back by sending an e-mail to the editors of the magazine and was rewarded. Suzie Q's initial response to the articles published in *Glamour's* March issue has been passed on to the Senior Editorial Staff of *Glamour Magazine*. If she can do it...so can you!

Visit www.glamour.com and you read the articles on abortion, write an e-mail of your own reaction of the articles at <http://www.glamour.com/contact/youSaidIt>.

THE REAL



Choosing Life in the SLU Community: A Student's Perspective

By: Erin Reynolds

My name is Erin Reynolds, and I arrived at Saint Louis University in August of 2008 as a pregnant student. I am now a proud parenting student of a two-month-old baby girl, Eila Marie. I knew that finances would be tight as a single mother at the age of nineteen, but I also knew that staying in school was

vital to my success in life. Since Eila Marie's birth in January, I have learned that being a parent is a very demanding job. There are long nights staying up with the baby, constant feedings and diaper changings, endless homework, hours of studying, doctor appointments, and at the end of the day, trying to find time to bond with my child, which is the most important thing. Although I, like any mother, would love to spend all my time outside of school with my child, I have come to find that kids can be quite expensive – thus, I also have a part-time job. After contacting Students for Life, however, Steve Fowler, the SFL advisor, helped me to see that there are also opportunities available for young women in my situation (such as WIC and Pregnancy Resource Centers) that can be such a blessing. Students for Life has become a safe haven for me – people I can trust and confide in. Recently, the group even threw a baby shower for me, which my daughter and I attended along with all of the other SFL members.



Immediately upon my entry into college, I contacted the leaders of Students for Life at SLU to learn about the Pregnant and Parenting Student Assistance, which is now the Virginia D. Murphy Endowment for Pregnant and Parenting Student Assistance. Not long after becoming involved with SFL, I learned what the true meaning of the Assistance Fund is all about – it is about allowing young women who find themselves pregnant in the midst of their college years to stay connected with the SLU community and never feel alone in their situation. With this fund, SFL has made a huge step towards breaking the barrier for pregnant and parenting students; and by doing this, a message is sent to these young women that they are not alone in their decision to choose life. It is a whole new approach to being pro-life that is unique and modern. Instead of condemning these women for having children at a young age, SFL has decided to be an advocate for them and to speak on their behalf – saying yes to life.

Choosing Life in the SLU Community: A Professor's Perspective

By David Kirschner

An unexpected pregnancy. This has to be one of the most difficult things to accept. We understand that abortion is a choice one might make, but our experience demonstrates a more rewarding alternative. In 2007, our family personally benefited from the difficult decision a young woman made to carry through with her unplanned pregnancy. Heather is a single woman in her mid-20s who became pregnant unexpectedly. She had briefly considered an

"Now that's a real stimulus plan!"
-Dr. Alveda King,
in reference to
SFL's Endowment
Fund

"There is a clear
and definite trend
toward a drop in
access to
[abortion]"
- Susan Tew, Alan
Gutmacher
Institute



"For the first time ever in the history of treating MS we have reversed disability."
 - Dr. Richard Burt, explaining adult stem cells' role in treating multiple sclerosis

FACT: 40% of all women who have abortions will have 2 or more. Source: Alan Guttmacher Institute

abortion early in the pregnancy, but her conscience would not allow her to kill an innocent life. She knew, however, that at this point in her life she would not be able to raise a child in a loving, stable home; so she decided to find a couple who would be able to provide her child love, security, and stability. My wife, Carol, and I are that couple.

We first met Heather through a mutual friend when



Heather was six months pregnant. Our initial meetings were slightly awkward since we were going into uncharted territory, but we mutually agreed that Carol and I would adopt Heather's child. It just seemed right to all involved, as if God had orchestrated our paths. Our little daughter, Hannah Elizabeth Kirschner, was born at 3:20pm on November 26, 2007. Carol and I were at the hospital during Hannah's birth. Heather, her family, and we were able to share this time together - it was emotional, it was joyful, it was awkward, it was wonderful. Hannah stayed with Heather in the hospital for the first two nights, and was then released to our care. We took Hannah home with us and began the wonderful experience of caring for a newborn child. It is 16 months later and we have showered our little girl with love galore! She is a wonderful little girl with a beautiful smile, a cheerful face, a playful spirit, an easy going personality. We love being her mommy and daddy.

We did not initially plan to have a very open adoption, but life has a way of bringing pleasant surprises. We had assumed that we would be in contact with Hannah's birth family through letters and photos and an occasional personal visit. Little did we know that God would knit our hearts together with a common thread of love for our adorable little girl. While visits with Heather are unfortunately only every three or four months since she lives approximately 500 miles away, we see Heather's mother, Diane, and brother, Ty, at least two or three times a month. Over the past year and a half, we have become a blended family who love each other and love our common bond of Hannah. Hannah will grow up knowing that Heather's decision to place her for adoption into our family was not a sign of rejection, but rather an act of selfless love. Heather would be the first to tell you that her decision to carry out her pregnancy and give her baby up for adoption was the hardest decision of her life. She has great satisfaction seeing Hannah healthy and happy, and can live without regrets knowing that she has found Hannah a father and mother who love and cherish her. Thank God and thank you, Heather, that Hannah has come into our lives! This is the rewarding alternative: adoption, not abortion.

Obama to Speak at Notre Dame

By: Tim Wright



There has been a lot of buzz over the Internet and the newswires over the recent announcement that President Barack Obama will be speaking at Notre Dame's commencement on May 17th, and receiving an honorary doctor of law degree. The decision of the Fighting Irish to honor President Obama has stirred more than a handful of objections. Simply put, the objections

"Accepting short-term solutions like abortion only delays the implementation of real reforms like decent maternity and paternity leaves, job protection, high-quality child care, community responsibility for dependent people of all ages, and recognition of the economic contribution of child-minders."
- Daphne de Jong

focus on the fact that Obama has a strong record of supporting abortion, a position at odds with the Catholic Church, the faith of which was a cornerstone for Notre Dame.

The issue is a complicated one. On the one hand, Obama is still the President of the United States, and inviting him does not equate to endorsing his views on every single position. Likewise, he himself is not Catholic, and no doubt there are any number of pro-abortion students enrolled at the school (and doubtless, a number of pro-abortion faculty as well). Yet President Obama is not merely giving a speech—he is accepting an honorary award from the school. To honor a person this way and to invite them to speak is in effect declaring that this is a man who is worth emulating. Can that message be sincere and yet still condemn certain positions he holds close?

Without saying definitively one way or the other, this event (which seems inevitable) should be taken as an opportunity: an opportunity to continue the discussion, to debate, and to educate anyone who will listen about the truth of the pro-life cause. With a little luck and a lot of prayer, perhaps even President Obama will start to listen.

Students for Life at SLU Speaks Out

Because of Students for Life's commitment to upholding the fundamental right to life the group has released the following statement in response to President Obama's invitation to deliver the commencement address at Notre Dame:

STATEMENT BY STUDENTS FOR LIFE AT SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY

We were deeply distressed and saddened to learn of the University of Notre Dame's invitation to President Barack Obama to deliver this year's principle commencement address and to award him an honorary degree. We adamantly oppose the University's decision. And furthermore, we stand in solidarity with the Notre Dame Right to Life pro-life student organization and all of our fellow students who oppose this scandalous invitation.

Since President Obama's inauguration, he has repeatedly levied attacks in word and deed on the most innocent and defenseless persons in our society. From allowing federal funds to go towards abortions overseas to removing barriers that prevent the destruction of human life through embryonic stem cell research – even assuring supporters that he is determined to expand access to abortion – the President has unapologetically assailed the right to life during the first months of his presidency.

Catholic institutions of higher learning like Notre Dame and Saint Louis University have a moral responsibility not to provide platforms to speakers whose public stances are in direct opposition to the most fundamental teachings of the Catholic Church, even if that person happens to be the President of the United States. That this invitation was extended for a commencement address particularly disheartens us, as such remarks should not only reflect the teachings of the Catholic Church in their fullness, but also emphasize the importance of the graduates ordering their souls to truth. The President's stance on life issues is in direct violation of the truth that all human life, regardless of development stage, is sacred.

As the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops expressed in their statement Catholics in Political Life, "The Catholic community and Catholic institutions should not honor those who act in defiance of our fundamental moral



principles. They should not be given awards, honors or platforms which would suggest support for their actions." For Notre Dame, or any Catholic institution, to provide such a platform is to abandon its Catholic character for the lure of worldly desires.

We continue to hope and pray that our public officials will have a greater respect for all human, and that Catholic institutions will foster a commitment to the right to life in all of their actions.

SFL in SLU President's Message

"Congratulations to Students for Life: Last month one of our largest and most active student groups was recognized with a national award for its inspirational and dutiful work in spreading the message of the sanctity of life.

SLU's Students for Life group was recognized as the "Group of the Year" during the Students for Life of America Conference at Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. Our Students for Life members were honored for their dedication to the pro-life movement and implementation of pro-life student initiatives.

I think I speak for many members of the campus community when I say how proud I am of the Students for Life and their work. The Right to Life week, held annually in the fall, is one of the most insightful and comprehensive events held on campus. And the group's establishment of the Pregnant and Parenting Student Assistance Fund shows a deep commitment and care for others we hope to see from all students as well as a true dedication to the pro-life movement.

I congratulate Students for Life on this latest award and continue to applaud members' impassioned and respectful commitment to spreading their message.

At a time of so much stress for so many people, we can all be encouraged by the good works and commitment to SLU and our Jesuit mission by all in our University community. Together we are strong. Let us be committed to one another. Let us pray that better days will be ahead for each of us."

*Lawrence Biondi, S.J.
Saint Louis University President*

Visit Our Website at <http://pages.slu.edu/org/sfl>

Like What You See?
Support SFL at SLU!
Send check donations to:
Students for Life
Busch Student Center,
MSC # 11
20 N. Grand Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63103

"A Voice for the Voiceless"



Pregnant? Need Help?

The local Pregnancy Resource Center is within walking distance of SLU, at 4331 Lindell Blvd. Call them at 314-783-0478, or visit their website, www.thrivestlouis.org.

FREE. CONFIDENTIAL. COMPASSIONATE.

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