



# Heartbeat

The beat of Students for Life at SLU

Volume 1, Issue 1, September 2007



## Upcoming Events

- ▶ Sept. 4-first regular meeting
- ▶ Sept. 29-Oct. 7, Respect Life Week

## Meetings

Every Tuesday at 7:00pm, in the John Cook School of Business, room 330

*"Any effort of ours to save even a single life is worthwhile"*

-Bishop Austin Vaughan



## Students for Life Looking Back...and Ahead

Respect Life Week...Cemetery of the Innocents...March for Life in D.C....Run for Their Lives...Baby Shower...Campus Speakers...these are just a few of the events put on by Students for Life at Saint Louis University. Last year, Students for Life was one of the most active groups on campus. The Division of Student Development Leadership and Service at Saint Louis University honored Students for Life with the 2006-2007 Outstanding Small Organization Award in April, and the Student Government Association recognized Students for Life as an organization of the week. In addition, Georgetown University Right to Life honored Students for Life with the Second Annual Evangelium Vitae Award for leadership and excellence in college pro-life activities. This year, Students for Life plans to continue to be a strong voice at Saint Louis University. We hope to grow in strength and numbers to continue impacting both the University and the surrounding community.

The first big Students for Life event to look forward to is Respect Life Week, which will be held the first week of October. During Respect Life Week, over 1,750 crosses will be displayed in the quad, with each cross representing two of the over 3,500 abortions that occur daily in the United States. Furthermore, students will have the opportunity to raise money for local pregnancy centers through Project Baby Bottle, spread facts about abortion through stake signs and handbills, and educate themselves about the pro-life movement through speakers, including a Feminists for Life speaker.

As the school-year begins, Students for Life members are making big plans for the upcoming year. New faces are welcome to attend any of our meetings, held every Tuesday at 7:00 in John Cook room 330, to find out more and help Students for Life become an even a stronger voice for the voiceless.

Thanks for Your Support,  
*Kathleen Neuner, President 07-08*

## **Life Lesson: A beating heart: person or not?**

*By Kevin Grilliot*

The first and main argument in the abortion debate is over when human life begins. One point of view is that life begins at birth, not conception. When the mother is pregnant, she is said to have a fetus and not a baby. In this view, a fetus is considered to be only a potential human being, which is why some believe it should be the mother's right to chose whether or not she wants the fetus.

This pro-choice position, however, overlooks several scientific facts. Even before the baby is considered a fetus and is still called an embryo, amazing things are occurring in its development<sup>1</sup>. At the moment of conception, the baby's gender is determined, as well as all of his or her other unique genetic traits. In week five of the pregnancy, the first heartbeat can be heard. Even

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**Did you know...**

"that a baby's heart begins to beat 21 days after conception, when the mother is only one week late for her menstrual period?"

[www.americanpregnancy.org](http://www.americanpregnancy.org)

**FACT:**

"According to the most recent data, there are 246 abortions per 1000 live births, which means that nearly 1 in 5 babies conceived are aborted"

[www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)

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before the baby enters the fetal period, teeth, fingers, ears, eyes, and a nose are all forming in week seven. Brain activity and growth also have already started<sup>2</sup>. Although abortion is wrong at any stage of pregnancy, nearly half of abortions are performed during or after the first week of the fetal period, week nine<sup>3</sup>. Women are currently allowed to choose whether the baby inside of them, with a heartbeat and all, should be allowed to continue to live and grow.

Through research, data, and a better understanding of pregnancy, science has proven that a pregnant woman is carrying a genetically complete, tiny human being from the moment of conception. All that is added to the fertilized egg are nutrients and time. The unborn baby is a distinct person with personality traits and identifying characteristics who should be given the same right to live as you and I.

1. Santrock, John W. *Life-Span Development*. pg 106. New York, NY: McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc. 2006.
2. Pregnancy.org. "Fetal Development". 25 August 2007.  
<http://www.pregnancy.org/pregnancy/fetaldevelopment1.php>.
3. CDC.gov. "Abortion Surveillance --- United States, 2000." 1 September, 2007.  
<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/ss5212a1.htm>.

## Pro-Life in the News

By Emily Dalton and Sarah Schumacher

["Groups join growing protest of Aurora Planned Parenthood clinic"](#)

- Chicago Tribune

["Largest Ever Planned Parenthood Abortion Mill Threatens to Open Near Chicago"](#) - Lifesite.net

Planned Parenthood is slated to open a new abortion clinic in Aurora, IL, on September 18<sup>th</sup>. Protesters are involved in a 24-hour vigil, praying for God to interfere with the clinic's opening. Many Aurora citizens claim that Planned Parenthood "snuck into town," keeping the construction quiet until the building neared completion.

["Judge to decide anti-abortion law's fate"](#) -St. Louis Review

Planned Parenthood requested that a restraining order be placed on the enforcement of an abortion regulating law. U.S. District Judge Ortrie Smith agreed. The law placed stricter license regulations for abortion clinics. This would have closed the Planned Parenthood facilities in Kansas City and Columbia.

["Archdiocese supports new anti-cloning fight"](#) -St. Louis Review

Cures Without Cloning is beginning a campaign to make clear the misleading language on Amendment 2 with a new proposed constitutional amendment. Meetings held by pro-life organizations will be held to train volunteers on collecting the signatures necessary to place the proposal on the ballot.

**Our Mission:**

*Unwavering in its defense of the unborn, Students for Life at Saint Louis University is dedicated to protecting each and every human life from the moment of conception. With the distinct understanding that college-aged women are one of the most susceptible age demographics to abortion, we seek to educate, to engage, and to inform college men and women on the destructive nature of abortion.*

We hope you have enjoyed the first issue of Heartbeat. If you have any comments or suggestions, or if there is anything you would like to see in future issues, please do not hesitate to contact us at [sfl@slu.edu](mailto:sfl@slu.edu).

"A Voice for the Voiceless"

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



*Pregnant? Need Help?*

The local Pregnancy Resource Center is within walking distance of SLU, at 4331 Lindell Blvd. Call them at 314-783-3040, or visit their website, [www.prcmo.net](http://www.prcmo.net).

FREE. CONFIDENTIAL. COMPASSIONATE.

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If you would no longer like to receive this newsletter, please e-mail [sfl@slu.edu](mailto:sfl@slu.edu).

*Newsletter design by  
Sarah Schumacher*