



STUDENT LEADERSHIP UNIVERSITY

THINK. DREAM. LEAD.

SLU 201 2025 MEET THE STAFF

Matthew Alves

SLU Programs Completed as a Student: 101 (Orlando), 201, 301

Years as Staff: SLU 101 San Antonio (2017), SLU 101 Orlando Winter Week (2019), SLU 201 (2017-2019, 2024-2025)

Currently Doing: Matt and his wife, Kara, currently live in Shelby, NC. He teaches Middle School History and Bible at Gaston Christian School while Kara works at Gardner-Webb University ('sko dawgs). He just completed a Master of Theology from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. In his free time, Matt enjoys writing, reading a philosophy book, watching the Texas Rangers, and exploring the world with Kara. Matt and Kara are actively involved in their church. Fun fact: Matt is a triplet. Matt is looking forward to seeing what God will do in these students' lives, and he cannot wait to tour the world's most incredible city with the world's greatest students.

Gracie Ballard

SLU Programs Completed as Student: 101 (Orlando), 201, 301 (London, Oxford, Normandy), 401 (Greece)

Years as Staff: SLU 201 (2025)

Currently Doing: Gracie is the Community Relations Assistant at Life Choices of Memphis, a non-profit organization in West Tennessee. She assists in event planning logistics, marketing, website maintenance, and community engagement. Gracie enjoys traveling, visiting friends, and dancing. She is so excited to be a part of the next generation of students' 201 experience and see firsthand how God will use this to grow each of them as leaders.

Maggie Bice

SLU Programs Completed as Student: 101 (Orlando), 201 (Reimagined), 301 (London, Oxford, Normandy), 401 (Greece)

Years as Staff: SLU 201 (2025)

Currently Doing: Maggie is a junior at Carson-Newman University, studying Family and Consumer Sciences, Education, and Fashion design. She is passionate about fostering creativity and inspiring a love of sewing in future generations. Outside the classroom, Maggie enjoys exploring God's creation and staying busy with her latest knitting project. Maggie is unbelievably excited to take this next step in her leadership journey and explore D.C. with you all!

Abbie Blain

Completed as a Student: 101, 201, 301 (London, Oxford, Normandy, Paris), 401 (Israel and Jordan)

Years as Staff: SLU 101 San Antonio (2019, 2023-2025), SLU 101 Winter Week (2023-2025), SLU 101 Orlando (2024), SLU 201 (2019, 2022-2025)

Currently Doing: Abbie has been involved with SLU for over ten years as a student, student ambassador and as a summer staff member. The lessons she has learned throughout her time at SLU are evident every day as she lives out her dream from the 101 dream session of being a teacher! One of her favorite lessons she has learned throughout her time at SLU has been to identify one thing you have failed at each week to see what you can learn and grow from. There is always room for growth and no leader is perfect. Having grown up in Florida she has a deep love for Disney and sunshine. She graduated from Cedarville University and is an elementary teacher in Nashville, TN. Abbie loves to travel and explore and was able to complete her student teaching in Vienna, Austria. Serving at SLU events is one of the most special opportunities for Abbie to invest in students and serve the next generation of leaders!

Austin Bracci

Years as Staff: Full Time Staff with SLU

Currently Doing: Austin currently serves as the Executive Assistant for SLU. He is a team player passionate about reaching the current generation of students with the transformational news of the gospel. He is a father to two boys (Kanon and Noah). His passions are the local church, exercise, and woodworking. Austin received his bachelor's degree from Middle Tennessee State University in Organization Communication and his Master of Arts in Theology from Liberty University. He has spent more than 10 years in local church ministry doing everything from youth, college, and adult Groups ministry. As a youth pastor, he personally benefited from SLU while attending a YPS and is excited to extend the impact of the ministry of SLU.

Olivia Bridges

SLU Programs Completed as a Student: 101 (Orlando), 201, 301 (London, Oxford, Normandy, Paris), 401 (Israel & Jordan)

Years as Staff: SLU 101 Orlando (2019, 2021), SLU 101 Winter Week (2018-2023), SLU 201 (2022-2025)

Currently Doing: Olivia is currently living in Summerville, SC, and is a graduate from Charleston Southern University with a BBA in Business Marketing. Olivia is the Catering and External Sales Lead at Chick-fil-A of Summerville. She believes CFA's and Student Leadership University's leadership skills go hand-in-hand, and she loves to work with two organizations that has Christ as the center. Reflecting on her time as a student, she has seen the impact of SLU in all she was/is involved in. Olivia has been through all four programs, and she understands the importance of the life lessons SLU imposes on students' lives. SLU has made a huge impact on her life, and she is very excited to return as a part of the SLU 201 Staff so she can continue to have the chance to make an impact and invest in students like she has been invested in. She is continuously learning what it means to be a servant leader and can't wait to see what God has in store for her as she continues her journey in a hospitality role.

Jessie Clegg

SLU Programs Completed as Student: 101 (Orlando), 201 , 301 (London, Oxford, Normandy), 401 (Greece)

Years as Staff: SLU 201 (2025)

Currently Doing: Jessie is going into her second gap year and is taking online classes. She plans to transfer to a four year university to get her bachelors degree in social sciences and hopes to get her masters from London University. She enjoys spontaneous road trips, meeting new people, and starting a new hobby every week. She is extremely grateful for the opportunity to serve in DC at 201 and looks forward to seeing God move, shape, and mold young leaders.

Parker Cole

SLU Programs Completed as Student: 101 (Orlando), 201 , 301 (London, Oxford, Normandy), 401 (Greece)

Years as Staff: SLU 201 (2025)

Currently Doing: Parker is currently a junior at UNC Pembroke with majoring in business administration with a focus in entrepreneurship. In the future, he hopes to open a coffee shop in his hometown where he can serve specialty drinks and the gospel. He serves as the president for CRU (Campus Crusade for Christ) at UNC Pembroke. This is his first summer serving with SLU and he can't wait to see how the SLU journey continues for students and himself.

Ryan Cole

SLU Programs Completed as Student: 101 (Orlando), 201 , 301 (London, Oxford, Normandy), 401 (Greece)

Years as Staff: SLU 201 (2025)

Currently Doing: Ryan is a senior at East Carolina University getting his Bachelors of science in Applied Atmospheric Science. He is currently the vice president of the American Meteorological Society Student Chapter on campus. When he came to 201 for the first time, it was during COVID, so he is excited to get the full SLU 201 experience while walking alongside the next generation of leaders.

Meagan Davis

SLU Programs Completed as a Student: 101 (Orlando), 201, 301 (London, Oxford, Normandy, Paris)

Years as Staff: SLU 101 San Antonio (2022) SLU 101 Winter Week (2024, 2025) and SLU 201 (2022, 2023, 2024, 2025)

Currently Doing: Meagan is a recent graduate from The University of North Alabama with a Bachelor's Degree in Secondary Education with a focus in English Language Arts. She is residing in Florence, Alabama and will be teaching high school English in the fall. She is also getting married to her college sweetheart, Luke, in December. This is Meagan's fourth summer serving with SLU, and she is so excited to be a part of the team once again. She is ecstatic to share her love for Christ with students and champion them on as they are beginning their own journey through SLU!

Lana Davis

SLU Programs Completed as a Student: SLU 101 (Orlando), 201, 301 (London, Oxford, Normandy, Paris)

Years as Staff: SLU 101 San Antonio (2025), SLU 201 (2025)

Currently doing: Lana loved every summer as a student at SLU as well as her time as an ambassador and cannot wait to start her journey alongside the young leaders of today as a summer staff member! Now, she is a rising sophomore at the University of Mobile where she is majoring in Communications: Ad./PR and minoring in both Graphic Design and Church History (yes, she knows a Church History minor applies to zero jobs - she just likes it). On campus, Lana is involved in the Honors Program, several intramural sports teams, Theological Fellowship, and her local church's Young Adults ministry. You will often find her reading a novel by the pool, painting watercolor flowers, on the beach volleyball court, or at a local coffee shop: always with friends. She is a big fan of Jesus, the beach, and tacos, in that order. She is so excited to see what God has to teach her through this next season at SLU!

Riley Glazier

SLU Programs Completed as a Student: 101 (Orlando), 201, 301 (London, Oxford, Normandy)

Years as Staff: SLU 101 San Antonio (2025), SLU 201 (2025)

Currently Doing: Riley is from Pensacola, Florida—yes, the place with the really pretty beaches. She just completed her freshman year at the University of West Florida where she is majoring in Management with a minor in Graphic Design. She hopes to pursue project management certifications and one day become a project manager. On campus, she plays intramurals and is actively involved in her school's Baptist Collegiate Ministry (BCM). She also serves on the college leadership team at her church, Hillcrest Spanish Trail. In her free time, she loves playing sports with friends, taking spontaneous trips to the pet store to play with puppies, and spending late nights at Waffle House. SLU was a defining experience in her life—her first time traveling with friends, learning from wise leaders, and discovering her unique leadership style. She's excited to serve students at SLU this summer and see how the Lord works in their lives just as He did in hers.

Nikki Hoffpauir

SLU Programs Completed as a Student: SLU 101, 201, 301 (Israel)

Years as Staff: Full-time Staff Member with SLU

Currently Doing: Nikki is currently celebrating 27 years on staff with SLU! She started with SLU in 1998 as an intern and now serves as SLU's COO where she oversees operations and program logistics for many aspects of the ministry. Nikki earned her bachelor's degree in interdisciplinary Social Sciences from Florida State University in 2001 (best school in the ACC) and her Master's in Public Administration from George Washington University in 2004. In between, she took a year to serve with AmeriCorps - teaching in the DC public schools. Nikki is known around the office for her superhero capes, #redbusbestbus, and machete collection and keeps herself entertained with her favorite hobbies: backpacking, camping, cooking, and playing with her two awesome kids, Mackenzie and Tucker. Nikki is married to her best friend, Brady Hoffpauir, and they are members of Carmel Baptist Church in Charlotte, NC.

Adelaide Jones

SLU Programs Completed as a Student: 101 (San Antonio), 201, 301, 401 (Israel, Jordan)

Years as Staff: SLU 101 San Antonio (2021), SLU 201 (2021-2025)

Currently Doing: Adelaide is from Lafayette, Louisiana and works as a commercial loan underwriter. She graduated from Louisiana Tech with her bachelor's degree in Finance and her MBA last summer. She is an active member of her church in Lafayette and in Ruston. In her free time she can be found reading a good book, playing piano, waterskiing, or shooting pistols competitively. SLU has been a huge part of her life since the summer before her 8th grade year when she started with SLU 101. One of her favorite quotes from SLU is "blessed are the flexible, for they won't be bent out of shape!" She is so excited to be in D.C. with students continuing on their SLU Journey!

Alexis Kelley

SLU Programs Completed as a Student: 101 (Orlando), 201, 301 (London, Oxford, Normandy)

Years as Staff: Full Time Staff with SLU

Currently Doing: Alexis was born and raised in Albany, Georgia and got the opportunity to go to SLU 101 and 201 through her church there! She is a graduate from the University of Georgia with a Bachelor of Arts in English and a Bachelor of Business Administration in Marketing. During her time at UGA, she spent three years as an intern with her local church and loved getting the chance to pour into the people around her! Alexis is excited to be a part of the SLU team and to see how the Lord works in the lives of students through this ministry.

Brennan Kress

SLU Programs Completed as a Student: 101 (San Antonio), 201, 301, 401 (Israel & Jordan)

Years as Staff: SLU 101 San Antonio(2019, 2024), SLU 101 Winter Week (2020, 2023-2024) SLU 201 (2019, 2021-2025)

Currently Doing: Brennan Kress serves as pastor of Redemption Community Church in Stanton, TN just outside of Memphis. He also attends Southern Baptist Theological Seminary through an extension program in Jackson. When he's not studying, Brennan enjoys creative writing as well as spending time with his fiancé Emmeline. His greatest take away from his SLU journey was learning to dream big dreams for the glory of God. He hopes to continue to serve students by encouraging them to pursue their dreams for the glory of God and His kingdom as other leaders in SLU did for him.

Mary Moore

SLU Programs Completed as Student: 101 (Orlando), 201 (Reimagined), 301 (London, Oxford, Normandy), 401 (Greece)

Years as Staff: SLU 201 (2025)

Currently Doing: While originally from the great state of Texas, Mary currently lives in North Carolina with her family. She began her SLU journey in high school and is so grateful that it is still not over! Mary has completed three years at Judson College and is pursuing a Social Studies degree in the teaching track, and hopes to teach middle school students after she graduates. This fall, she is taking a break from school to get her phlebotomy certification. When she has free time, you can find Mary reading, working on a craft project, or spending time with family and friends.

Mary Kate Nowell

SLU Programs Completed as a Student: 101 (Orlando), 201, 301, 401 (Israel & Jordan)

Years as Staff: SLU 101 San Antonio (2021), SLU 101 Winter Week (2023), SLU 201 (2021-2023, 2025)

Currently Doing: Mary Kate is from originally from Columbia, South Carolina but is now residing in Birmingham, Alabama. She just graduated from Samford University and has been nurse at Children's of Alabama for two years now. In her free time, you can find her hanging out with friends, going on a walk, drinking coffee, or trying a new delicious restaurant. Mary Kate loves to travel, always drives with her sunroof open, and enjoys reading, so feel free to share book recommendations! SLU played a major role in developing her into the person that she is now, as SLU encouraged her to pursue her dreams and celebrate others who are doing the same. 201 has a special place in her heart and she is so excited to get to know all of you, and hopes you'll feel encouraged and learn through SLU in the same way that she did!

Brady Sanders

SLU Programs Completed as a Student: SLU 101

Years as Staff: SLU 101 Orlando (2024), SLU 201 (2024, 2025)

Currently Doing: Brady will be a senior next year at Charleston Southern University. He is majoring in Global Marketplace Engagement and minoring in Graphic design. He hopes to one day own his own business and use that platform to share the gospel. During his free time, you can find him turning everyday errands into epic quests, starting a new hobby before mastering the last five, and whispering “you got this” to his coffee mug each morning. He’s always up for an adventure, a goofy debate, or a deep conversation over coffee. He is looking forward to the relationships that will be formed this week and is excited to watch the Lord work in the lives of each student and leader.

Shelby Shuman

SLU Programs Completed as a Student: 101 (Orlando), 201, 301 (London, Oxford, Normandy), 401 (Greece)

Years as Staff: SLU 101 San Antonio (2025), SLU 201 (2025)

Currently Doing: Shelby is a junior at Liberty University in Lynchburg, Virginia, majoring in Business humanitarian aid, Supply Chain Management, and Project Management. She looks forward to working with a nonprofit organization to help support people experiencing homelessness in the future. Shelby loves exploring with friends, trying new foods, and traveling the world. Shelby can’t wait for what this summer holds and is excited to experience it with the SLU team!

George Wall

SLU Programs Completed as a Student: 101 (Orlando) 201, 301 (London, Oxford, Normandy, Paris,) 401 (Israel and Jordan)

Years as Staff: SLU 101 San Antonio (2021-2022), SLU 101 Orlando (2022), SLU 101 Winter Week (2023-2024), SLU 201 (2021-2025)

Currently Doing: George is a native of Americus, Georgia, and graduated from Mercer University with his BBA in Finance in 2023. He spent the last two years working for his fraternity, Beta Upsilon Chi (BYX) as an Expansion Consultant, where he led fraternity expansion and new chapter development. George is amped to be serving this summer because he knows firsthand the impact Student Leadership University can have on someone’s life. From learning how to dream for God’s glory in Orlando and D.C., to developing a deeper understanding of sacrifice and calling in Normandy, to walking where Jesus walked in Israel, George has been molded into who he is today through SLU’s journey. Besides the practical leadership lessons, his favorite part of SLU is the opportunity to build meaningful, positive, and lasting relationships with other like-minded students and staff. George can’t wait to meet all of you and is excited to watch how this week changes your life!

Kenneth Wilder

Years as Staff: SLU 101 (2005, 2015-2017, 2022-2025), SLU 201 (2005-2011, 2013 – 2016, 2018-2019, 2021-2025), SLU 301 (2012, 2016-2019, 2022-2025)

Currently Doing: Kenneth works as a Realtor in Orlando, Florida. He graduated from Charleston Southern University with a bachelor’s degree in Biology, a minor in Psychology. Kenneth and his wife Maisha have three awesome children Kaiden, Micah and Maverick. Kenneth loves traveling and always up for a Big Adventure. Kenneth believes that success requires commitment, and it is with that objective in mind countless hours of mentoring and networking is continuously being made to ensure that our next generation is equipped for success.