



STUDENT LEADERSHIP UNIVERSITY

THINK. DREAM. LEAD.

SLU 201 2026 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, 2024-2026)

Currently Doing: Matt and his wife, Kara, currently live in Shelby, NC. He is currently a PhD Student at the University of Aberdeen, where he is researching different models of the Incarnation. Matt teaches Middle School History and Bible at Gaston Christian School while Kara works at Gardner-Webb University ('sko dawgs). In his free time, Matt enjoys writing, reading a philosophy book, watching the Texas Rangers, and exploring new places 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.

Gabe Baker

SLU Programs Completed as Student: 101 (Orlando 2018), 101 (Orlando 2021), 201 (2019), Lift Tour (Nashville 2019)

Years as Staff: SLU 201 (2026)

Currently Doing: Gabe Baker is from the beautiful city of Somerset, Kentucky, where he is a member of Oak Hill Baptist Church. He is studying communications at Boyce College in Louisville, Kentucky, where he is set to graduate in the spring of 2027. Gabe works at Chick-fil-A back home and is a member of Chick-fil-A's Field Talent Staff for corporate. This means he travels to Chick-fil-A restaurants that are opening, struggling, or just really need help. Gabe is a very creative person and loves to create things. Whether that's painting, making videos, making music, redecorating his living space, or even doing laundry, he loves to create and be artistic in all he does. Gabe enjoys traveling, music, movies, friends, family, being creative, staying active, trying new things, and living life to the fullest. This will be Gabe's first time serving at SLU and he says he "can't wait!"

Christina Bals

SLU Programs Completed as Student: 101 (2023)

Years as Staff: SLU 101 (2024), SLU 101 Winter Week (2025)

Currently Doing: Christina recently earned her bachelor's degree in Pre-Law and Legal Studies from Charleston Southern University. She was born and raised at the Jersey Shore but came to the South for school. She is a member of Portside Baptist Church here in Charleston. In her free time, she enjoys reading, writing, drinking coffee, watching good films, and weightlifting.

Maggie Bice

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

Years as Staff: SLU 201 (2025-2026)

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, 2023-2026), SLU 101 Winter Week (2023-2026), SLU 101 Orlando (2024), SLU 201 (2019, 2022-2026)

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 in Nashville, TN! 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. You can often find Abbie reading a new book and drinking coffee!

Mary-Morgan Chambers

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

Years as Staff: SLU 101 San Antonio (2026), SLU 201 (2026)

Currently Doing: Currently Doing: Mary-Morgan is a sophomore at Belmont University in Nursing School. She is excited to learn more about how to provide healthcare that meets patients' physical and spiritual needs. At school she loves being the hands and feet of Christ with her leadership skills in supporting collegiate ministries, healthcare clubs, sports teams, and foster care organizations. Outside of school, Mary-Morgan enjoys staying active by doing CrossFit, running, and playing lots of pickleball. SLU had a big hand in shaping the leader Mary-Morgan is today, and she is excited to be a part of shaping other students as they embark to become the leaders God created them to be!

Ryan Cole

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

Years as Staff: SLU 201 (2025-2026)

Currently Doing: Ryan is a senior at East Carolina University getting his Bachelor 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 Holcombe

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), SLU 201 (2022-2026)

Currently Doing: Meagan is a high school English teacher in Florence, Alabama, where she enjoys helping students grow in their love of reading, writing, and learning. She graduated from the University of North Alabama with a bachelor's degree in Secondary Education and is currently pursuing her master's degree in Secondary Education with a concentration in English Language Arts. In December, she married her college sweetheart, Luke, and they are enjoying this new season of life together. This is Meagan's fifth summer serving with SLU, and she is excited to be part of the team once again. She loves sharing the love of Christ with students and encouraging them as they begin their own SLU journey.

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 (2025-2026)

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!

Lauren Dye

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

Years as Staff: SLU 101 Orlando Winter Week (2025), SLU 101 Jacksonville Imagine (2025), SLU 101 San Antonio (2026), SLU 201 (2026)

Currently doing: Lauren will be a Junior at the University of Florida this fall, studying Tourism, Hospitality and Event Management, with an emphasis on Nonprofit Organizational Leadership. She works on the events team for the UF Office of Admissions and is passionate about planning events that help students grow in their leadership and spiritual journey. Outside of her studies, Lauren is a leader in the UF Baptist Collegiate Ministry and loves to explore new coffee spots or bookshops in her free time. She is so excited to be serving with SLU this summer and cannot wait to see God work in you to think, dream and lead this year!

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 28 years on staff with SLU! She started with SLU in 1998 as an intern and now serves as SLU's Vice President 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.

Elise Jessee

Years as Staff: Full-time Staff Member with SLU

Currently Doing: Elise is a former elementary and middle school teacher who recently joined the SLU team! She earned her bachelor's degree from the University of Central Florida (go Knights!) where she met her best friend, and now husband, Alec. They are members at Metro Life Church in Casselberry, FL. When she's not working or hanging with friends, Elise can be found scrapbooking, drinking coffee, reading, or playing with her dog Basher. Elise's heart bleeds hospitality so she loves to host people for parties or during her young adult's community group. She is so blessed to be apart of such an amazing team with SLU and is ecstatic to be a part of the story that helps inspire the leaders of the future!

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 (2021-2026)

Currently Doing: Adelaide loves SLU and is so excited for another year serving incredible students! She 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. She is an active member of her church in Lafayette. 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 lessons 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!

Nikolas Lee

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

Years as Staff: SLU 101 San Antonio (2021), SLU 201 (2021-2026)

Currently Doing: Nikolas is going into his junior year as a student at Liberty University, studying business administration. He currently resides in Nashville TN. He is interning at his home church First Baptist Mt. Juliet for the summer to explore future career paths. Nikolas enjoys a wide range of hobbies including, playing hockey, woodworking, paddle boarding, biking, traveling, and any leadership opportunity.

Avery McEver

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

Years as Staff: SLU 201 (2026)

Currently Doing: Avery just finished her freshman year at Baylor University, where she is majoring in Business Management and Marketing. Originally from Memphis, Tennessee, she brings a strong sense of community, energy, and leadership into everything she does. At Baylor, Avery is involved in Women in Business, Student Foundations, and Chi Omega, where she enjoys building relationships and growing in leadership through service and campus involvement. Outside of school, Avery loves spending time with friends, traveling, staying active, and trying new coffee spots. She is so excited to be part of SLU 201 and cannot wait to invest in students, build meaningful connections, and see how God works in each student's leadership journey throughout the week in D.C.

Mary Moore

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

Years as Staff: SLU 201 (2025-2026)

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.

Shelby Shuman

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

Years as Staff: SLU 101 San Antonio (2025-2026), SLU 201 (2025-2026)

Currently doing: Shelby recently graduated from Liberty University in Lynchburg, Virginia, earning degrees in Business Administration & Data Analysis with a focus in Nonprofit Management and Supply Chain Management. Passionate about serving others, she hopes to work with nonprofit organizations in the future to support individuals experiencing homelessness. Shelby loves exploring with friends, trying new foods, and traveling the world. This summer marks her second year serving with the SLU team, and she is excited for all that the season will bring!

Ella Simula

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

Years as Staff: SLU 101 San Antonio (2026), SLU 201 (2026)

Currently Doing: Ella is a Junior at Taylor University in Indiana working towards a double major in History and Global Studies. After graduation, she hopes to work in international politics and/or run a CrossFit affiliate. She loves to travel and her most recent trip was a month-long study abroad in Egypt. Before college, she attended two Bible schools through Torchbearers International in Austria and New Zealand. In her free time, she enjoys coaching CrossFit, Nordic skiing, reading, mountain biking, and backcountry camping. This is her first year serving as summer staff, and she is excited to see how God will inspire this next generation of leaders.

Kenneth Wilder

Years as Staff: SLU 101 (2005, 2015-2017, 2022-2025), SLU 201 (2005-2011, 2013 – 2016, 2018-2019, 2021-2026), SLU 301 (2012, 2016-2019, 2022-2026)

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.

Abbey Williams

SLU Programs Completed as a Student: 101 (2015)

Years as Staff: Full Time Staff at SLU

Currently Doing: Abbey joined Student Leadership University in 2026 as a Program and Marketing Coordinator, but her connection to SLU started when she attended SLU 101 in high school; an experience that helped ignite her

passion for leadership, growth, and investing in people. She graduated from College of the Ozarks with a B.A. in Communications and has a minor in Biblical & Theological Studies. With experience coordinating everything from women's retreats and leadership events to community engagement and digital marketing, Abbey loves creating environments where people feel seen, encouraged, connected, and inspired to grow. She brings a relational and creative approach to her work, along with the energy and optimism you'd expect from a classic "I" on the DISC. Having lived in Texas, Arkansas, Tennessee, Oklahoma, Missouri, and now Florida, Abbey genuinely loves meeting new people, exploring new places, and building meaningful relationships along the way. In her free time, you'll usually find her with a favorite mug of coffee in hand, enjoying the outdoors, thrifting, reading, planning her next trip, trying new hobbies, or spending time with friends. Abbey is passionate about helping people discover who they are, grow in confidence and leadership, and live with purpose, and she is excited to be part of SLU's mission.