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Student Profiles: Elle Hogan, Saint Louis University

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Student Profile

Social Justice Runs in the Family

Saint Louis University

By Billy Brennan

For two years in a row, Elle Hogan did not ask for dolls for Christmas; instead she wanted a baby from China. When she was ten years old, Hogan had seen a special on television about the one child policy in China, and it upset her to think that there were people out there who did not want their own babies. While some would probably see this type of concern as being odd for a child at this age, not for Hogan's parents. Hogan's mother has said that her daughter has always been spontaneous, never short for words and always concerned with the 'happenings' of the world. To this day, Elle is still actively living the same way her mother describes her.

Elle is a sophomore at Saint Louis University, majoring in communications with an emphasis in journalism. This 20-year old Cincinnati native wants to be a journalist after she receives her SLU diploma. After high school, Hogan was accepted into many prestigious universities with excellent journalism programs, but she chose SLU because she was overwhelmed by the sense of community in faith that she had experienced taking place there. This is the first time Elle has attended a Catholic school.

"I love the Jesuit education that I'm receiving in the classrooms at SLU; but to see Jesuits outside the classroom and in the dorms, at dinner or just hanging out with the students is amazing," Hogan says.

She feels that the interaction with the Jesuits brings a whole new per-



Elle Hogan

spective that she has never experienced in her life and that she cherishes daily at SLU.

The integration of faith is something that Hogan says is represented by the Jesuits at SLU and is something that she tries to incorporate into her own everyday life. One way she does that is her countless hours of community service. She says this is a way of "working for a cause that you're passionate about and allowing faith to be integrated into your life by helping others."

Hogan has been actively involved in community service since she was a child. Her father used to run several

group homes for the mentally challenged in Cincinnati, helping them become more independent. Hogan and her family would go to the group homes and do service on weekends, while other kids were out playing. She readily acknowledges that if she had the chance to go back and change the way she was brought up, she would not. Those visits to the group homes helped shape Hogan into the caring person she is today.

By using her skills of writing and speaking, Hogan hopes to make a difference in the world, even if that means taking one small step at a time. She has been involved in many different types of service over the past couple of years, including: tutoring at a middle school, babysitting and mentoring foster children in her neighborhood, being a manicurist at a nursing home for the elderly, and even working with new writers at SLU for the university's school newspaper, helping them develop their writing skills.

"My educators at SLU have taught me a lot about Jesuit ideals and they have allowed me to think about and act on my own faith," says Hogan. She is very appreciative of the education of the whole mind, body, and spirit that she is getting at SLU. Hogan knows that her Jesuit education will help her with her ultimate goal of making a difference in the world one day, not realizing she already is making a difference.

Billy Brennan is a senior majoring in communications