



[today's Griffiths Arts Center, completed in 1967] was proposed I contacted Dean Joseph Romoda and said I could give a few dollars, or if SLU was interested could start a photography collection by getting prints from friends and various photographic contacts I had made over the years. He was most enthusiastic, for he had been mulling over the thought of setting up some photography courses.

In assembling the collection I kept in mind the teaching purpose as well as the aesthetic, including examples of various papers, developers, toning, printing processes, retouching, etc. Two samples are below.

While I don't get out to take pictures these days, I do judge photographic competitions and attend camera club meetings and photographic conventions. So, a course "I'll never use" became a deciding factor in my life and still is today. ■

A widely known photographer for many years, Doris Offermann lives in retirement in Arizona. A retrospective of her work, including the photo at left, was shown in Brush Gallery in fall 1997. The University's photography collection, which she began, now numbers nearly 1,000 items.

◀ **Doris Offermann '34,**
The Blizzard (n.d.),
9" x 7" chloro-bromide
print, SLU Permanent
Collection 65.1.33



Charles R. Martz ▶
untitled (ca. 1942),
10" x 7-7/8" black-and-
white photograph, SLU
Permanent Collection
65.1.123

You Never Know

So often one hears a young person say, "Why should I study that? I'll never use it!" Them's fighting words to me!

By Doris M. Offermann '34

One year, several sorority sisters and I, an economics major, decided to take an extra course, to broaden our education—a one-semester fine arts course on Italian painters. Every Italian painter produced a "Madonna and Child," and I still don't know most of them. But I did learn about composition and balance.

One evening a friend took me to a Camera Club meeting, and I was hooked. What I had learned about technique in my art course led to my winning the top-score trophy of the year in the competition for the beginners group in black-and-white prints. This resulted in my being invited to join a prestigious group of amateur photographers, people who had had their work accepted in international competition. Guess who took first place in the subsequent print-of-the-year competition? This picture, "The Blizzard," is in the SLU collection.

Next I joined the Photographic Society of America, an international organization, and soon found myself competing in color slide photography as well as becoming an officer of the society, thereby making lifelong friendships throughout the United States. In time I was granted my APSA, or associate in the society, for photographic excellence, organizational work and promoting photography as a fine art.

This again brought St. Lawrence into the picture. When a matching grant drive for a new fine arts building



W.G. Pollak ▶
Balloon Dancer
(n.d.), 13" x 7-3/8"
black-and-white
photograph,
SLU Permanent
Collection
65.1.81