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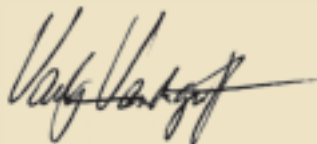
# Dear SIUE Alumni,

In September 2007, SIUE turns 50 years old. We've come a long way. In 1957, only three percent of Madison County and St. Clair County residents had college degrees—today more than 20 percent have attained that educational level. The University has grown from 1,776 students in 1957 to nearly 13,500 students today. We are a university who has transformed a region and been transformed by the nearly 80,000 alumni who have passed through our halls.

After 50 years, SIUE remains committed to excellence in higher education and we have many accomplishments to celebrate:

- SIUE began as a satellite campus of Southern Illinois University. Through the years it has developed and matured and, today, we are the “e”— a premier Metropolitan University celebrated for the quality of our undergraduate, graduate and professional programs, as well as our diverse faculty and student body.
- SIUE began as a commuter campus. While we will always serve commuting students, today we are a primarily residential campus, as designated by the Carnegie Commission on Higher Education.
- We are ranked nationally by *U.S. News and World Report* for the quality of our academic programs and are in the process of transitioning to NCAA Division I Athletics.
- A 2007 study shows SIUE ranked first in nine out of 10 competitive categories when compared with other peer universities. Prospective students now rank SIUE as a first-choice institution.

While much has changed at SIUE, much remains the same. The same excitement lights up a student's face on the first day of classes. The same life-long friendship opportunities exist. And the same promise of a better future is here for our students today—just as it was for you or someone you know. We hope you'll join us as we celebrate our first 50 years and dream of the possibilities that lie ahead in the next half century.



Vaughn Vandegrift, Ph.D.  
*SIUE Chancellor*



# SIUE Today

As part of a community education outreach initiative, first-year students from the **School of Pharmacy** received poison education training and visited area schools in March, which has been named Illinois Poison Prevention Month. The pharmacy students talked to more than 8,000 children—kindergarten through fifth-grade—about the importance of staying away from cleaning supplies, medications and other potentially hazardous items.



About \$40,000 worth of dental care was provided to nearly 200 area children, at no cost to parents at the 4<sup>th</sup> annual **School of Dental Medicine** Give Kids A Smile Day. Nearly 400 dental professionals volunteered to treat qualified children between the ages of three and 13. Free examinations, X-rays, cleanings, fillings, extractions and more were offered during the day. Children qualified to participate in the event were those eligible for free and reduced-priced meal programs.

Rik W. Hafer, a professor of Economics and Finance and chair of that department, and Krzysztof Jarosz, a professor of Mathematics and Statistics and chair of that department, have been recognized by the **Graduate School** as the 2007 Distinguished Research Professors. Hafer's research initiatives include the study of monetary policy in the U.S. and abroad, specifically how monetary policy actions influence the economy. Jarosz's area of research interest is modern analysis, which is a new line of research of international significance that incorporates mathematical concepts involving Banach and topological algebras and function spaces to solve long-standing, open problems.

Two **School of Engineering** students won first place at the Unigraphics Solutions (UGS) Connection Americas 2007 Users Conference. Terry Goble, a senior from Kansas, Ill., and Brian Graham, a junior from Washington, Ill., both majoring in industrial and manufacturing engineering, presented "Application of 3D Modeling Technology to Lego Industries" at the event in Long Beach, Calif. Using UGS modeling technology, the students created a 3D model for a sample Lego product demonstrating its usage for Lego Design/Manufacturing Industries. More than 2,100 people, representing 27 countries, attended the international conference.



# Stay up-to-date with SIUE news.

Visit [www.siue.edu/news](http://www.siue.edu/news) and subscribe to an SIUE RSS feed.

School shootings, bomb threats, assault and battery—these are issues that teachers in today's classrooms might face. Area teachers taking the **School of Education** summer course, Curriculum and Instruction 556: Classroom Management, participated in a roundtable discussion about response to school violence. Chiefs and officials from the Edwardsville, Collinsville, Maryville and Glen Carbon police departments met with students to discuss the prospect of classroom violence and response plans.

**The School of Business**, along with the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis and the University of Missouri–St. Louis collaborated to offer the course, “Making Sense of Money and Banking,” for elementary and secondary educators interested in integrating money and banking into their coursework. Participants received training, Virtual Economics—a CD collection of strategies and materials for all grade levels, lesson plans, videos and publications to assist them in their own classrooms.

The third year for the **School of Nursing** Excellence Gala raised more than \$14,000 for student scholarships. The money was raised at the gala and awards ceremony through a silent and a live auction. Four awards were presented at the event: Outstanding Hospital or Health Care Agency: Alton Memorial Hospital; Outstanding Friend to Nursing: Sam and Geri Winston; Outstanding SIUE School of Nursing Alumnus: Jim Cato; Outstanding New SIUE School of Nursing Alumna: Gretchen Henderson.

Margaret “Peg” Simons, professor of Philosophy and chair of that department in the **College of Arts & Sciences**, is the second recipient of SIUE's William and Margaret Going Endowed Professorship. The \$10,000 gift is awarded to a faculty member who demonstrates great passion for his or her own work. Simons, who has studied Simone de Beauvoir for the last 35 years, is editing a seven-volume series of Beauvoir's philosophical writings in English translation.

SIUE has been named to the American Institute of Architects' 150 Illinois Great Places, a list of the greatest architectural sites in the state. This AIA recognition places the SIUE campus alongside structures designed by Frank Lloyd Wright as well as designers of the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign and the University of Chicago Quadrangles.





## From your director.

Greetings Fellow Alumni,

I suppose it's a lesson in "never get too comfortable." You may have still been reading the previous edition of the eConnection when Assistant Director of Alumni Affairs Anna Dunham submitted her resignation. Anna proudly and wonderfully served the Office of Alumni Affairs and the SIUE Alumni Association for five years. Her resignation presented us with a dilemma and an opportunity.

The search was launched for someone who could help the SIUE Alumni Association set the course for our future. Almost 150 people applied for the position and after an exhaustive and rigorous screening process, I am happy to say we have found that person. Katie Bennett, a 2003 Mass Communications SIUE graduate, started her role as Assistant Director of Alumni Affairs on Aug. 13. Katie brings great skills and enthusiasm to her new position, which will focus heavily on communicating with you via electronic means.

Cougar Tracks is the first of several new initiatives that will be implemented as we work to achieve the goals being structured through our strategic planning process. Cougar Tracks is an on-line community which will allow alumni, faculty, staff and students to interact, interchange and enhance the new mission of the Alumni Association.

Katie and I are eager to partner with you as we work together to achieve the goals of the SIUE Alumni Association and realize the vision of SIUE.

I look forward to seeing you at an upcoming 50th Anniversary event!

Steve Jankowski '74 BS  
Director of Alumni Affairs  
sjankow@siue.edu

Katie Bennett, BS '03

The mission of the SIUE Alumni Association is to enhance the personal and professional advancement of SIUE alumni through the establishment and nurturing of mutually beneficial relationships which support the mission of SIUE.

### SIUE Mission

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville is a public comprehensive university dedicated to the communication, expansion and integration of knowledge through excellent undergraduate education as its first priority and complementary excellent graduate and professional academic programs; through the scholarly, creative and research activity of its faculty, staff and students; and through public service and cultural and arts programming in its region.

### SIUE Vision

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, as a premier Metropolitan University, will be recognized nationally for the excellence of its programs and development of professional and community leaders.



# Legacy Scholarship Winners

The SIUE Alumni Association Legacy program and the Alumni Association Board of Directors award two full scholarships each year—one to a current undergraduate student and one to an incoming freshman—in addition to five \$100 scholarships.

## Current Student



Corey Meyer

“In one short year I will graduate from SIUE with a BS in Nursing. I am very excited to begin my career as a nurse and start making a difference. The SIUE Alumni Association has honored me, recognized my hard work, and contributed financially to my success at SIUE. I will always be extremely thankful.”

Corey Meyer, *SIUE Nursing Student*  
Alumni Association Scholarship Recipient

*This is the second year in a row Corey Meyer has received the Legacy Scholarship.*

## Incoming Freshman



Rachel Hankins

“Throughout high school, I strove to do my best in my classes and stay involved in extracurricular activities. I look forward to continuing my work of involvement and academics at SIUE, thanks to this scholarship. Thank you for giving me the amazing opportunity to attend SIUE and take yet another step toward fulfilling my dreams.”

Rachel Hankins, *Incoming Freshman*  
Alumni Association Scholarship Recipient

Legacy Scholarships are funded through fundraisers, events and membership dues paid each year. To learn more about the Legacy program or apply for the scholarship, visit [www.siu.edu/alumni](http://www.siu.edu/alumni) and click on the scholarship link.

# Outstanding Recognition

The Distinguished Alumnus Award honors SIUE graduates who have achieved distinction in their chosen field and have served the University. The Great Teacher Award honors an SIUE instructor/professor who has significantly impacted students through dedicated and innovative teaching. Award recipients for 2007 were honored at SIUE’s summer commencement ceremony.

## Distinguished Alumnus Award



Keith Alper

Keith Alper is co-founder, executive producer and CEO at Creative Producers Group Inc. (CPG) in St. Louis. He earned a bachelor of science in Mass Communications in 1984. Recognized nationally for excellence in his field, Keith has been featured in the *Wall Street Journal*, *New York Times*, *INC*, and *Fortune* magazine.

Keith has remained connected to the University through participation on various advisory boards. He also devotes time to local business groups and non-profit organizations. CPG worked with SIUE on a new branding launch in 2005.

## Great Teacher Award



Barbara Regnell

Barbara Regnell, professor emerita of mass communications at SIUE, retired in 1997 after a 30-year career in education. She earned a bachelor of science in speech, with an emphasis in radio and television, at Syracuse University in 1957, and a master’s in speech education in 1966. At the time of her retirement, Regnell told an interviewer she was proud of the accomplishments of SIUE’s mass communications graduates. “We can compete with anyone in the St. Louis Metro Market,” she said. “You can’t go anywhere in this marketplace without running into an SIUE alum.”

# Networking. Connecting. Fun!

Alumni events are all about you connecting with fellow alumni for business and pleasure! We look forward to seeing you at upcoming events!

## April 2007

SIUE Alumni Affairs staff visited 35 alumni, family and friends living in the San Francisco area. A reception was hosted by retired SIUE School of Business Professor John Schrage. The group made the short walk to the Cardinals vs. Giants baseball game. The event was such a success that a chapter is being organized for the nearly 350 SIUE alumni living in the San Francisco Bay area.



Mass Communications alumnus Patrick Clark hosted more than 80 alumni, guests, faculty and staff at the 37th Annual Mass Communications alumni gathering at Anheuser-Busch Cos. Annual scholarships were announced and former Mass Communications Professor Jack Shaheen made a special appearance.

The annual Cardinals vs. Cubs alumni event sold out two days after being announced. Three hundred people gathered at the Bowling Hall of Fame and Museum for food and fun before the game at Busch Stadium.

The SIUE School of Nursing Jewels of Nursing Excellence Gala brought more than 230 people to the Collinsville Holiday Inn for the annual fundraising auction and award ceremony.

## May 2007

The SIUE School of Business Alumni Council hosted a gathering at Big Daddy's for SIUE alumni employed at Anheuser-Busch Cos. More than a dozen people enjoyed networking, conversation, drinks and appetizers.

## July 2007

Our Disney's The Lion King performance and brunch was a sell-out. Sixty alumni and guests gathered for a private brunch and reception at Jazz at the Bistro and then walked the short distance to the Fox Theater for the award-winning musical. A similar event will be held when Wicked comes to town in December.

## Happy Birthday SIUE



## September 27

Bring your blankets and your memories for a night of music and nostalgia as we flashback to the MRF. The Morris University Center's Meridian Ballroom will be transformed into a concert venue which will take you back to the glorious days in the outdoor amphitheater when music filled the summer night air. Enjoy the music of Rich Dalton and the Classics Band, two MRF films, great memories, food and drink. Two dollars gets you a commemorative MRF admissions ticket and the chance to relive some of the best times you spent at SIUE.

## September 29

Five-time MRF performer Judy Collins will be in concert as part of the Arts and Issues Salute to the MRF. Music will be followed by fireworks over the SIUE campus.

Performance and ticket information is available online: [www.siue.edu/community](http://www.siue.edu/community), click on Arts & Issues.

**See page 9 for more 50th Anniversary events.**



Upcoming Events

# Homecoming at SIUE!

October 5-7

**Friday, Oct. 5**

**Annual Chili Cook-off**

5-7 p.m.

Korte Stadium

**Cougar Soccer vs. UMSL**

Women's game 5 p.m.

Men's game 7:30 p.m.

Korte Stadium

**Casino Night**

Following the soccer games

Goshen Lounge and Meridian Ballroom, Morris University Center

**Saturday, Oct. 6**

**Read with Clifford the Big Red Dog**

10 a.m.

Goshen Lounge, Morris University Center

Free books available (limited supply)

**Residence Hall Tours**

11 a.m.

Evergreen Hall and Bluff Hall

**Classic and Custom Car Show and "Sh-Boom"**

50s and 60s band

11 a.m.

Parking Lot B

**Alumni Picnic**

12 noon

Field west of the Morris University Center

More event details are available on the SIUE Alumni Association Web site: [www.siu.edu/alumni](http://www.siu.edu/alumni).

**Oct. 24**

**Ghost Tour!**

5 p.m.

Birger Hall

Buffet dinner at Feasting Fox Restaurant (a business known to serve more than customers)

We'll visit some of the most haunted places in St. Louis, including the Lemp Mansion and a historic downtown cemetery

More information and tickets available on the SIUE Alumni Association Web site: [www.siu.edu/alumni](http://www.siu.edu/alumni).

# Arts & Issues

Meridian Ballroom on the SIUE Campus

**Judy Collins**, Sept. 29

**Retired General Barry McCaffrey**, Oct. 27

**Big Bad Voodoo Daddy**, Nov. 30

**Sandra Reaves-Phillips**, Feb. 2

**Arlo Guthrie**, March 5

**Anna Deveare Smith**, March 27

**Anna Quindlen**, April 24

Performance and ticket information is available online: [www.siu.edu/community](http://www.siu.edu/community), click Arts & Issues.



Judy Collins

# University Theater Productions

Thursday-Saturday 7:30 p.m., Sunday 2 p.m.  
*Dunham Hall theater on the SIUE campus*

**A Lesson Before Dying**, Oct. 10-14

**Dance in Concert 2007**, Nov. 7-11

**Every Angel**, Nov. 29-Dec. 2 and Dec. 6-9

**The Trip to Bountiful**, Feb. 27-March 2

**Antigone**, April 23-27

# A Season for the Child

Saturdays at 7 p.m.

*Dunham Hall Theater on the SIUE campus*

**The Wisdom of Fools**, Oct. 20

**The Ant and the Grasshopper**, Dec. 1 (2 p.m. and 7 p.m.)

**Goldilocks and the Three Bears**, Jan. 26

**A Midsummer Night's Dream**, March 29

Performance and ticket information is available online: [www.siu.edu/THEATER](http://www.siu.edu/THEATER).

Remember to show your SIUE Alumni Association membership card to receive a discount on both Arts & Issues and University Theater performances (restrictions may apply).



## From your SIUE Alumni Association Board President

Fifty years ago, the rich farm bluffs just west of Edwardsville provided fertile ground for the crops planted by local farmers. I was just a boy and did not understand the significance of the talk about locating a university on this scenic land.

The vision of higher education for residents of Madison and St. Clair counties also proved to be planted on fertile ground. This vision took hold and has continued to grow, far beyond even a visionary's idea of the future. Today, nearly 80,000 SIUE alumni are making a positive impact throughout the region, the country and around the world.

As we celebrate SIUE's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, please join me in letting the world know that you are a proud graduate of SIUE. If you are already a member of the SIUE Alumni Association, thank you! If not, what are you waiting for? Join us today!

With Cougar Pride,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Larry Lexow". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Larry Lexow '75 BS

*The SIUE Alumni Association is moving forward with many initiatives focused on bringing greater value to you and your SIUE degree. For starters, the alumni Web site has been updated to complement the look and feel of the University Web site and communicate the many benefits of membership. Take a look at your new site: [www.siu.edu/alumni](http://www.siu.edu/alumni).*



*Celebrating 50 Years*

*Engagement. Enrichment. Excitement.*

# You are invited. Join the party.

SIUE celebrates its 50th Anniversary in 2007. We have grown from 1,776 students to nearly 13,500 students and nearly 80,000 alumni today. Join us as we celebrate our significant accomplishments during this momentous year.

## Make plans now to join the fun!

### **Founders Day Convocation Followed by Taste of SIUE**

Sept. 24  
10:30 a.m.  
*Vadalabene Center, SIUE Campus*

### **Birthday Cake**

Sept. 24  
1:30 p.m.  
*Morris University Center, SIUE Campus*

### **Founders Day in Alton ~ A Celebration of Versatility**

Sept. 25  
Noon – 2:00 p.m.  
*Science Building: Building 279,  
Alton Campus*

### **Founders Day in East St. Louis**

Sept. 26  
1:30 – 5:00 p.m.  
*Outside Quadrangle,  
East St. Louis Campus*

### **Flashback to the MRF**

Sept. 27  
6:30 p.m.  
*Morris University Center, SIUE Campus*

### **Arts & Issues Tribute to the MRF And Fireworks over Campus**

Sept. 29  
8:00 – 10:30 p.m.  
*Morris University Center, SIUE Campus*

### **Local Alumni Art Exhibit and Reception**

Month of October  
9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.  
*Art Gallery, Morris University Center,  
SIUE Campus*

### **Coffee Concert Reunion**

Oct. 1  
7:30 p.m.  
*Morris University Center,  
Madison Room, SIUE Campus*

### **50th Anniversary Lecture**

Jan. 16  
7:00 p.m.  
*Morris University Center, SIUE Campus*

### **Goshen Ocean**

Feb. 6  
10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.  
*Morris University Center, SIUE Campus*

### **Town Gown Gala**

(by invitation only)  
April 5  
6:30 – 10:00 p.m.  
*Morris University Center, SIUE Campus*

### **Time Capsule Burial Ceremony**

April 16  
Noon – 1:00 p.m.  
*Stratton Quadrangle, SIUE Campus*

### **Paint the Rock**

April 16-17  
10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.  
*Stratton Quadrangle, SIUE Campus*

### **50th Anniversary Community Festival**

April 19  
10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.  
*Stratton Quadrangle, SIUE Campus*

*Schedules are subject to change.*

Visit [www.siu.edu/50](http://www.siu.edu/50) for event details.

*Check out the 50th  
blog and share your  
SIUE memories!*

Alumni Profiles:

# Through the Decades



# 1950s–Today

# 1950s

## Gail Buenger



Gail Buenger was the first person to receive a degree from SIUE. Gail was among 11 students from the Alton Residence Center Campus who received diplomas in

a ceremony held at SIU Carbondale in 1958. SIUE's first graduate earned a BS in business administration.

Gail met his wife, Carlene, while attending SIUE. Carlene was in the first graduating class on the Edwardsville campus. She walked across an open field in 1960 to accept her diploma.

“My SIUE education was very broad and well-rounded,” said Gail, “I’ve been able to experience 28 different career adventures in my lifetime.”

Gail is currently the president of Senior Alternatives Inc., a business he started from scratch seven years ago. That business is now worth some 45 million dollars. Gail helped organize the original SIUE Alumni Association, serving as its first president. He also served 25 years on the SIUE Foundation Board.

“SIUE is an economic powerhouse for this region,” said Gail. “It’s been amazing to watch the University reinvent itself.”



## 1960s

# Carol Lynella Smalley



When Carol Smalley considered going to college, she considered both location and value. “I never entertained going anywhere but SIUE,” she said.

In 1965, only two buildings greeted Carol as she made the wind-blown walk from the outer parking lots. “Peck was open and the library was open,” she said. “The cafeteria consisted of vending machines in the library basement.”

As a music education major, Carol remembers taking classes in a variety of small buildings and farmhouses scattered over what was becoming the SIUE campus. “We could see it was going to be a great campus when it was finished,” she said.

Carol graduated in 1969. She enrolled in graduate school and began to work at what was being called the Mississippi River Festival. Carol and her husband both worked the MRF, becoming good friends with high school classmate Lyle Ward and Tentmaster Skip Manley.

Carol spent 20 years teaching locally and returned to SIUE in the '90s to finish her master's. She ended her public school career after five years as an elementary principal. Two years ago Carol retired, only to be called out of retirement to serve as an adjunct professor at McKendree College.

Carol encourages all students to enjoy the college years. “Higher education gives you the chance to stretch beyond what you know,” she said. “Don't be afraid to have your ideas challenged.”



### Mississippi River Festival

*The Mississippi River Festival was an incredibly popular outdoor festival of performing arts held on the SIUE campus from 1969-1980. It drew thousands of visitors to campus and featured legendary performers such as Joan Baez, Bob Dylan, The Beach Boys and REO Speedwagon, to name a few.*

# 1970s

## Chuck Rathert



Chuck Rathert considers himself a hometown boy. “It was my good fortune that someone decided to build a university half a mile from my home,” said Chuck.

Chuck wanted to be a high school history teacher and football coach—until he had a conversation his freshman year with the SIUE athletic director at the time, Eldon Bigham. “He told me that things were pretty tight for new teachers, and I may want to reconsider entering the profession,” said Chuck.

That advice took root. Chuck met a WSIE Radio broadcast team at a basketball game and eventually visited the campus radio station. That was the beginning of a three-year relationship that led to Chuck being named WSIE Operations Manager his senior year.

“The experiences I had at WSIE Radio had a tremendous impact on my career choice,” said Chuck. “I’m grateful for faculty members like John Rider, Jno Moormann and others who helped shaped my life.”

After graduating in August 1974 with a BA in mass communications, Chuck launched a radio career that has spanned more than 35 years. He is currently the station manager at KFUE-AM & Classic 99 KFUE-FM in St. Louis.

Chuck still lives half a mile from the SIUE campus and his family shares his hometown attitude. His wife, Debbie, graduated from SIUE in 1975. Their daughter, Katie, graduated from SIUE in 2004, and is now in her second year at the School of Dental Medicine in Alton. Daughter Annie graduated with a degree in mass communications last year and is working in St. Louis radio.

Chuck is giving back to the University as the newest member of the SIUE Alumni Association Board.



# 1980s

## Kay Guse



A high school test indicated Kay Guse had an interest in and aptitude for industrial engineering. SIUE was one of the few schools with that program. In 1984, Kay began

her studies here in a program she said was a perfect fit.

“It was a small program which provided great interaction between students and faculty,” said Kay. “I developed friendships which have lasted over the years.”

Kay was interning with McDonnell Douglas (which is now The Boeing Company) when a project undertaken by the aerospace giant called for a large number of industrial engineers. They hired Kay’s entire graduating class; many of whom, like Kay, are still employed by Boeing.

Kay graduated in 1988 with a BS in Industrial Engineering, launching a career that has carried her up and through just about every engineering classification within Boeing. “My SIUE degree is the foundation of everything I do,” said Kay. “The team-building skills and technical knowledge I gained have given me the ability to advance my engineering career.”

Kay is still involved with SIUE. She is one of two founders of the SIUE Society of Women Engineers, a member of the advisory board to the SIUE School of Engineering and a member of the SIUE Alumni Association Board of Directors.





1990s

## Audra Liddell



Audra Liddell's mother was working at SIUE when Audra's college career began. "I initially fought going to SIUE because mom was there," said Audra.

After a year at McKendree College, Audra transferred to the SIUE School of Business. "The general business courses really paid off," said Audra. "One of my most valuable lessons learned at SIUE was how to work effectively in a group." She graduated in 1997 with a BSA in Accountancy.

Classes weren't the only things consuming her time. Audra chaired the SIUE Student Government finance committee and served on the accounting board and the National Association of Black Accountants.

After graduation, she joined the accounting firm KPMG in St. Louis. She worked at KPMG until her son was born and later earned her real estate license. A recent job change for her husband has taken the family to Louisiana. Audra works as a Pampered Chef Consultant and is considering opening a tax business in her new home.

"My experiences at SIUE prepared me very well for my career," she said. "My SIUE education becomes more valuable as time goes on."



## 2000s

# Dr. Briana Oller



Briana (Beyers) Oller knew when she was a high school freshman that she wanted to be a dentist. She left the small town of Pana, Ill., and came to a campus that felt like home.

“I liked the open setting of the campus,” Briana said. “It’s not too overwhelming for someone leaving home for the first time.”

Living in the residence halls enabled Briana to meet many new friends. She enjoyed a rich life in campus activities including intramural volleyball and basketball.

Briana received her BS in biology in 2000 and continued her education at the School of Dental Medicine in Alton. “The dental program provided me with every opportunity to excel in all areas of dentistry,” she said.

She received her DMD in 2003 and joined the practice of Dr. Mary Lucido in Edwardsville. “SIUE brought me to Edwardsville and I decided to stay in the area,” Briana said.

Briana’s family represents the first decade of the new millennium at SIUE. Her husband Tom transferred to SIUE from Eastern Illinois University and earned his degree in 2000. He teaches and coaches at Liberty Middle School in Edwardsville. Briana’s two younger sisters also chose SIUE. Lynette Beyers graduated in 2002 with a degree in nursing and works at St. John’s Hospital in Springfield, Ill. Andrea Beyers graduated with her nursing degree in 2005. Andrea works at Cardinal Glennon Children’s Hospital and is in the nurse practitioner program at SIUE.





Dave and Kay Werner met while watching Iron Butterfly perform at the Mississippi River Festival in 1969. Not surprisingly, In-A-Gadda-Da-Vida by Iron Butterfly became their “song.”

# SIUE Love Connection

The summer of 1967 is considered the “Summer of Love.” For former SIUE Chancellor David Werner and his wife, Kay, 1969 will do just fine.

It was the summer of '69. David had been on the SIUE faculty for just six months and Kay Buxton was teaching at McCluer High School in Florissant, Mo. Both lived in North St. Louis County, and, although they had mutual friends, they had never met.

On July 16, 1969, Iron Butterfly was performing at the Mississippi River Festival. Another SIUE faculty member invited David to join a group of 14 who were heading to the concert. That group included Kay.

The concert goers were waiting at the apartment of another member of the group, when all were startled by the noise of David Werner's 1960 Ford Falcon and its broken manifold. “That's Dave,” announced his faculty member friend. When David walked into the apartment, he was greeted with laughter and “Hi Dave!” from a group of strangers.

They attended the concert as a group, but David was intrigued by Kay and began asking her out. Five times he asked her out with Kay declining each invitation. As Kay described it, “I was very busy.”

Two years later they met again at a big party in Ladue. They left the party together and went for coffee. That was June of 1971. David and Kay went out over that summer, with their

time together interrupted by a trip to Europe for David. In September 1971, David proposed to Kay beneath the St. Louis Arch. They were married in January 1972.

The love they share includes a deep affection for SIUE. “Our lives are intertwined with the University,” said David. Kay describes SIUE as home, a place where they have spent all of their adult lives. Their three boys have grown up here.

David and Kay Werner see SIUE as a special place and a great environment for people to get together. Or as David Werner put it, “there's something in the water.”

**David Werner served SIUE during 36 years of its 50-year history. He began his SIUE career as an assistant professor of management science in 1968, later becoming an associate professor, then a professor, then associate dean. Werner was named dean of the School of Business in 1975 and served in that capacity for 12 years. In 1987, he became provost and vice chancellor for Academic Affairs. He held that post until being named SIUE Chancellor in 1997. Werner served as SIUE's 6th Chancellor until 2004. Chancellor Emeritus Werner and his wife Kay, First Lady Emeritus, reside in Glen Carbon. They have three children and one grandchild.**

# Class Notes

A full listing of Class Notes received from all alumni can be found at [www.siue.edu/alumni](http://www.siue.edu/alumni).

## School of Business

\*\*John Allison, '05 BS Business Administration, has opened Allison's Comfort Shoes and Boots in Glen Carbon.

Albert Buckles, '93 BSBA, is the assistant director of Athletics at the University of Texas at Dallas. He's been with that university for just over three years. July 7 of this year Albert married Jennifer Bagley in Seattle, Wash., on Waterways Cruise Inc.'s Emerald Star Yacht.

\* Jorge Garcia, '01 BS, '04 MBA, is a C&P administrator for the Boeing Company's Integrated Defense Systems in Hazelwood, Mo. He has been with Boeing since 2001, having also served four years in the Marine Corps. In 2000, he married Adrianna and last year, she gave birth to their second daughter. Jorge ran two marathons in 2006, and is training for two more this October.

Anthony "Bud" Hollenkamp, '00 BSA, is an audit supervisor with BKD, LLP in St. Louis. He's been with the company for seven years.

Anna Womack '95 BSA, '98 MSA, lives in Wood River with three of her four sons. She is manager of Investment Administration, Pension Investments with Emerson Electric Co.

## College of Arts & Sciences

Julie (Rodgers) Echols, '98 MPA, is currently serving as Human Resources coordinator for the city of Lake St. Louis, Mo.

Lisa King Rimmert, '05 BS Mass Communications, was just hired as associate director of Annual Fund and Alumni Affairs for Methodist University in Fayetteville, N.C.

\* Ben Shashack, '01 BA History, recently opened a new business. N2 Publishing in Edwardsville publishes monthly newsletters for the Home Owners Associations in Edwardsville.

Danielle M. Stern, '01 BS Speech Communication, '03 MS Mass Communications, has accepted an assistant professor position in the Department of Communication at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater.

Kelly Tracy, '01 BS Mass Communications, has been appointed to represent District Four of the Madison County Board of Directors. Tracy is also owner of Kelly Tracy Advertising and Design.

Ron Wilson, '77 Mass Communications, is president of the Gateway Region National Association of Credit Management based in St. Louis. He also is a member of the Certified Association Executive Commission which administers the nationwide CAE program for the American Society of Association Executives.

Vershawn Ashanti Young, '95 MA, is an assistant professor of African American Studies and Rhetoric at the University of Iowa. He wrote a new monograph and one man show, "Ghetto Memories: A Story of Race, Language, and Urban Masculinity."

### School of Education

Richard Burroughs, '72 BS, '83 MS, retired May 25, 2007, from the Waterloo Community School District as a Junior High School Geography teacher. He spent 34 years as a teacher.

Adriana Garcia, '01 BS, '05 MS, is a fifth grade special education teacher at Collinsville Intermediate School. She joined the district in 2001, a year after marrying Jorge Garcia. Their second daughter was born last year, and she is now training to run the Chicago Marathon in October.

- \* Patrick Graney, '73 BME, '93 MS Mass Communications, teaches music and media in the Francis Howell School District. His fourth and fifth grade classes broadcast a TV news program every morning to the school.

### School of Engineering

Cathleen (Kennedy) Gotsch, '01 BS, '02 MS Electrical Engineering, is an engineering specialist at DRS Sustainment Systems in St. Louis. She has worked in the Automatic Test Equipment department since Aug. 2002. In September, Cathleen married Jason Gotsch and they live in Bridgeton, Mo.

Kyle Loyd, '99 Civil Engineering, is currently employed by the Greenstreak Group in St. Louis as a senior sales engineer. His current focus is in products for the petrochemical/ industrial hazardous chemical containment market. Kyle says after receiving his engineering degree, he “did a 180” and decided to go into sales, which he describes as “the right move.” He has traveled to job sites in China, Panama and Costa Rica. He currently serves on the National Suppliers Committee of the Tilt-up Concrete Association. He received his Professional Engineering license in 2004. He and his wife, Joanie, live in Fenton, Mo.

Ryan Perryman, '04 Construction Management, recently was promoted to Project Manager at S.M. Wilson & Company. He currently manages various projects at the Anheuser-Busch Cos. St. Louis Brewery.

Gina (Foster) Prevett, '95 Electrical Engineering, and her husband, Tyler, are celebrating the first birthday of their son James (Jimmy) Tyler who was born Aug. 10, 2006, at three pounds, 13.3 ounces. He now weighs over 17 pounds and is walking.

Tanveer Rao, '80 Civil Engineering, a construction executive with a focus on water and waste water treatment plant design and construction, recently was named a Professional Associate in his field of expertise by HDR Engineering Inc. He resides with his wife and five year old son in Huntington Beach, Calif. His work, however, takes him nationwide.

Todd Rehg, '93 Civil Engineering, currently serves as the assistant director of Public Works for the city of Kirkwood, Mo.

- \*\*Muhammad Asif Tak, '04 Civil Engineering, is a project engineer at EA Engineering in Baltimore, Md.

Clint Woods, '04 Civil Engineering, lives in St. Louis and is with Parsons Water and Infrastructure in Chesterfield, Mo.

### Alumni Passings

- \*\* John H. Cwan, '67 BS Math Studies, died suddenly June 28, 2007. John had been serving as assistant vice president at Wright State University in Dayton, Ohio. He was 62 years old.

Sister Andree Fries, '72 MBA, died July 14, 2007, of complications from knee surgery. Sister Fries served the U.S. Catholic Conference in Washington, DC. She was 65 years old.

Colleen Rita Harmon, '75 MSED, who ran a Washington-based consulting firm and wrote and spoke on leadership issues, died May 18, 2007, of complications of cancer. She was 59 years old.

- \*\* Denotes Lifetime Association Member

- \* Denotes Annual Association Member

*Have you changed careers, married or had a baby? Let us know so you can be listed in the next issue and on the Web site. Photographs are welcome, too!*



## Bold Leadership for SIUE

Vaughn Vandegrift took the helm as the seventh chancellor of SIUE in 2004. Since then, his influence has been unmistakable—through the increased visibility of its quality academic programs, evidenced by numerous national awards and recognitions, including being ranked for the first time in *U.S. News & World Report*. Vandegrift championed an integrated marketing effort, which has helped position the University to be viewed by prospective students as a first-tier, first-choice institution. In January 2007 he announced that the University would pursue NCAA Division I status for Intercollegiate Athletics. Shy? Definitely not. Vandegrift has embraced SIUE's bold vision with a strong leadership style. We recently sat down with him to learn about his driving motivation.

**e:** Chancellor, tell us a little bit about your background.

**Vaughn Vandegriff:** I am the third of five children. My father, who is originally from Ohio, met my mother at the Port of New York during World War II. They married and raised the family in New Jersey. I was the first of my siblings to go to college. I graduated from Montclair State College with a bachelor's and master's in chemistry and that's where I met my wife, Sue. I then went on to earn a Ph.D. in biochemistry from Ohio University. I held faculty positions at Southern Illinois University Carbondale and Illinois State University in Normal, and was chairman of the Department of Chemistry at Murray State University in Kentucky, and then moved on to serve as dean of the College of Science and Mathematics at my *alma mater*, Montclair State. Before coming to SIUE I was the provost at Georgia Southern University.

**e:** Tell me about your daughter and two sons.

**VV:** I love talking about my children. My daughter, Beth, is an attorney, and my sons, David and Mark, are employed in private businesses. I am very proud of them and all they have accomplished. They all attended public universities. I told them that when they reached college age, they could attend any college or university in the nation, as long as it was a public institution. I'm also the proud grandfather of two captivating granddaughters, Vaughn, age 2, and newborn, Camilla.

**e:** What were your first impressions of SIUE?

**VV:** When I first visited campus, I was struck by the lack of litter and immediate sense of 'place' that you feel when you arrive on campus. It made me think, 'This is a university that cares. This is a place you respect.' It's a beautiful campus, but there is so much more to this place than its beauty. It's the sense of community that really makes SIUE special.

**e:** You are building a legacy as a Chancellor of change—a Chancellor who will truly take SIUE to the next level. Tell us about your vision.

**VV:** When I arrived, the vision statement for SIUE was already in place. That vision was inspired by leaders before me and by the many faculty and staff on the SIUE campus today. My first impression of SIUE was that it was already realizing its vision in many ways. It was a premier Metropolitan University and was positioned to be recognized nationally for the excellence of its programs and development of professional and community leaders. My vision is that we take confidence in ourselves as an institution and then ask, "what's next—what's the next level of excellence and how can we get there." That is, what do we need to do to fulfill our vision?

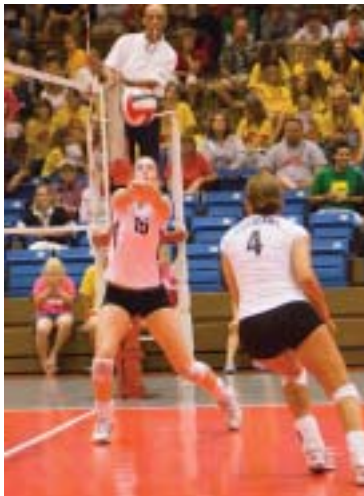
**e:** As the chancellor of a growing university now celebrating its 50th Anniversary, what keeps you up at night?

**VV:** Good question. Things are changing quickly here as we grow and mature as a university. I think a lot about balance. Balancing competing agendas and needs and making sure that we always consider the needs of our students first. They are our lifeblood and the very promise for our future. You're constantly juggling where to place priority as the University grows. Quality academic programs and faculty are essential and foremost. But our work must also be supported by excellent student services, administrative support and physical facilities. Our co-curricular and other activities that enhance a learning environment, such as the arts and athletics, must also excel. There must be 'windows' for the university community to see the outside world, just as there must be 'windows' for those outside the university community to see inward.

**e:** In a nutshell, what is the true value of SIUE?

**VV:** You've probably heard me say this before. We are in the human potential business. We add value to people's lives. What could be better than that?





## A successful season

SIUE Intercollegiate Athletics won both the Great Lakes Valley Conference (GLVC) All-Sports Trophy and the Commissioner's Cup for the 2006-07 season, both prestigious awards.

The GLVC annually awards the All-Sports Trophy to the member institution with the best all-around performance in the league's 17 sponsored sports. The Cougars won the All-Sports Trophy with 141.5 points, the highest total points recorded in a single season since the award was conceived more than 25 years ago.

The Commissioner's Cup is awarded to the program that produces the overall best finish in the league's seven core sports—men's and women's soccer, volleyball, men's and women's basketball, baseball and softball. SIUE posted top five finishes in six of the seven core sports, including conference titles in men's soccer and softball.

"Winning both the GLVC All-Sports Trophy and the Commissioner's Cup is an amazing accomplishment and testament to the University's decision to enter the Division I arena," said Brad Hewitt, director of Cougar Athletics. "We are positioned to compete at the highest level, and I commend our incredible coaching staff and dedicated student-athletes on this achievement."

SIUE was given approval earlier this year to apply for reclassification to NCAA Division I for all sports in the SIUE program. The University is currently transitioning to NCAA Division I status.



# National Champions!

SIUE captured its first NCAA Division II softball crown with a 3-2 victory over Lock Haven University of Pennsylvania in May. The 12-inning, three-hour, 15-minute marathon championship game was the longest national championship game in history. The SIUE Cougars dethroned the defending national champion Lock Haven Lady Eagles with some strong pitching and timely hitting. "I'm extremely proud of my team," said SIUE Coach Sandy Montgomery. "They did not let down at any moment."

The Softball Cougars completed the season 49-8, winning its last 16 games. SIUE won the Great Lakes Valley Conference title, the NCAA Division II Great Lakes Regional championship, and now have a gold trophy for the national championship. The SIUE softball coaching staff, led by Head Coach Sandy Montgomery, has been honored as the 2007 NCAA Division II Coaching Staff of the Year.



*The SIUE softball team proudly displays their first ever national championship trophy.*

# A new beginning

Lennox Forrester, assistant coach at Bradley University for the past five seasons, has taken the helm of the SIUE men's basketball program. Forrester becomes the seventh men's basketball coach in school history.

Coach Forrester spent 10 seasons (1992-2002) as an assistant coach and administrative assistant for the University of Evansville under Coach Jim Crews. He earned a bachelor of arts in sociology at Evansville in 1992. He was a junior college All-American at Parkland College before transferring to Evansville to finish his degree.



*Lennox Forrester addresses the media at his first news conference as SIUE Men's Basketball Coach.*



## Painting the Rock

The five-ton Rock that sits in the Stratton Quadrangle has been tarred and feathered, memorialized victims of 9-11 and Virginia Tech and declared countless birthday greetings. It's even been reported to the Environmental Protection Agency as a potential toxic waste site (after onsite testing, the EPA rejected this notion). It's a rallying point, a meeting spot and, most notably, a repeated victim of spray paint.

The tradition of painting the Rock began in the late '60s and has remained a campus tradition through the years. Past SIUE President and a founder of the University Delyte Morris is reported to have said, "Better to paint the rock than paint the buildings."

The color of the rock can change every five minutes during Springfest as fraternities, sororities and various student organizations play out their friendly rivalries.

The original Rock, made of the same rose quartz used in the construction of the core campus buildings, was donated in 1965 by the building contractor. Stories say that the contractor wanted the Rock placed in the center of campus to remind the SIUE community of its history.

The rose quartz rock met an unfortunate fate in 2001 when it was broken into small pieces by a student. What remained of the rock was stolen in 2002 and later found by SIUE Police abandoned along Bluff Road, cracked and broken beyond repair. A piece of the original rock is on display in the Morris University Center.

The current rock was installed in March 2003. The five-ton, limestone replacement was donated by SIUE alumni George ('75) and Linda ('75) Green. Then-SIUE Chancellor David Werner continued the tradition of spray painting the rock during a dedication ceremony held that April.

The Rock was unfortunately damaged again this past summer, but the students' enthusiasm wasn't. When students returned this fall, the friendly rivalries and seemingly endless coats of spray paint began again.

## Chuck and Betty Lou Schmidt

# Creating History Through Leadership

Betty Lou Schmidt's late husband, Chuck, was a founding member of the SIUE Foundation Board of Directors. He was a leader in the Edwardsville community, where he served as President and Chairman of Clover Leaf Bank.

Charles "Chuck" Schmidt played a vital role in creating SIUE history, working tirelessly as a member of the executive committee of the Southwestern Illinois Council for Higher Education, the original group that helped develop what would become SIUE. The Chuck and Betty Lou Schmidt Conference Room on the second floor of Birger Hall commemorates the leadership and gifts by Chuck and Betty Lou to SIUE.



Betty Lou Schmidt



Chuck and Betty Lou in the Schmidt Conference Room

Betty Lou continues her commitment to SIUE as a member of the Foundation Board. She has also been a member of the Friends of Lovejoy Library for 25 years.

Recently, Betty Lou made a gift in commemoration of SIUE's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, the latest demonstration of her long-standing commitment and financial support. "Chuck was involved in SIUE from the very beginning. I am pleased to make a special gift at this milestone in SIUE's history," she said. Mrs. Schmidt continues to serve on the SIUE Foundation Board of Directors and is currently serving as a member of the SIUE 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee.



B. Barnard Birger Hall

The Heritage Society honors alumni and friends who include SIUE in their estate plans. These gifts for the future support scholarships, endowments, facilities, programs, and schools of the University.

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*Celebrating 50 Years*

*Engagement.*

*Enrichment.*

*Excitement.*



As alumni, we have played a critical role in shaping SIUE's history. As we celebrate the University's 50th Anniversary, we should also look ahead to our future as an alumni association. Please visit the SIUE Alumni Association Web site: [www.siu.edu/alumni](http://www.siu.edu/alumni), and complete the brief online survey. Your experiences and unique perspectives will help guide the Alumni Association Board as it develops a strategic plan for the SIUE Alumni Association.



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