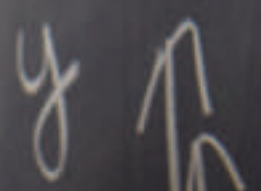


The Magazine for
Southern Illinois University Edwardsville
Alumni Association & Friends
No. 17
Spring 2014

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The blooming Bradford Pears add to the beauty of our campus. To see more photos of campus, follow us on Instagram.



@siuedwardsville

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The eConnection is published by the SIUE Alumni Association and the SIUE Foundation, in cooperation with the Office of the Vice Chancellor for University Advancement.

We welcome your comments and suggestions. Contact Director of Alumni Affairs Steve Jankowski: sjankow@siue.edu 618-650-2346.

The following alumni have contributed to the production of this magazine:

- Bill Brinson, '76
- Carol B. Dappert, '81
- Dana Humke, '11
- Stephen Jankowski, '74
- Heather V. Kniffel, '95, '13

Great News for SIU^e Alumni:

We now offer in-state tuition to your family members!

If you are the:

- Parent
- Grandparent
- Sibling
- Step-parent
- Legal guardian

of a soon-to-be freshman or transfer undergraduate student, your family member qualifies for in-state tuition.

This opportunity provides a **savings of nearly \$11,000 per year** compared to previously published rates for out-of-state students. SIUE offers one of the lowest tuition and required fees of all four-year institutions in Illinois and is proud to provide an affordable tuition rate to help alumni legacies achieve their educational goals.

The in-state tuition rate is effective beginning with the fall 2014 semester. **Do you know any high school seniors who scored a 27 or better on the ACT?** They qualify for in-state tuition, too!

siue.edu/instatetuition 

Students from Missouri, Iowa, Kentucky, Wisconsin, Arkansas, Indiana and Tennessee also pay in-state tuition.



Driving Distances from Major Cities to SIUE

	<i>miles</i>		
Milwaukee	350	Lexington	338
Des Moines	362	Louisville	261
Kansas City	261	Paducah	175
St. Louis	25	Nashville	310
Chicago	274	Memphis	310
Indianapolis	228	Little Rock	370
Evansville	174	Springfield	78

Dear Alumni and Friends of SIUE,

There is clearly no better time to focus the attention of higher education on science, technology, engineering and math-related learning, better known as the STEM fields. With dynamic technological advances and expanding global competition underway, SIUE is poised to lead the way in areas involving STEM education.

Need some examples?

- The University's new Science Building West, dedicated last summer, has recently been awarded a LEED Silver rating for sustainability and construction excellence. SIUE is second among St. Louis regional universities in the number of LEED buildings. Once all eligible SIUE buildings attain LEED certification, the University will tie for first in the state with seven LEED buildings.
- Due to unexpected and very welcome growth in our engineering programs, SIUE's relatively new Engineering Building has been expanded to include a 32,000 square-foot addition. This facility houses classrooms, laboratories, a conference room, and offices for faculty and graduate assistants. Renovations to the existing building are also now underway.
- The Center for STEM Research, Education and Outreach is a collaboration between several SIUE academic units, other regional higher education institutions, local community colleges and K-12 school districts, government agencies, the business world, and the greater community.



According to the STEM Center website (siue.edu/stem), specific goals include:

1. The assembly and support of interdisciplinary teams of our faculty to conduct STEM education projects and secure external and internal funding
2. Providing access to equipment, facilities and expertise for STEM education research to SIUE faculty and students and the broader community
3. Facilitate and promote innovations in SIUE undergraduate and graduate STEM teaching
4. Enhance teaching and learning of STEM for pre-service and in-service teachers
5. Develop and maintain a comprehensive STEM resource and equipment center for in-service and pre-service teachers, SIUE faculty, and other local stakeholders

In this issue, you'll be introduced to SIUE alumni who are making their mark in STEM careers. These are fellow Cougars who are helping to advance society as a whole by implementing both the knowledge and values attained while at the University. In this day of results-oriented funding and increasing competition, you might say that STEM is at the root of things.

We invite you to access SIUE's updated Strategic Plan at the website listed on the following page. It contains a number of STEM-related initiatives, as well as a broad-based look at the University's goals for the coming years.

Please let us know when you are next on campus; we would love to show you all that's happening at the **e!**

Best wishes,
Julie Furst-Bowe, EdD
SIUE Chancellor



SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
EDWARDSVILLE

Learn about SIUE's exciting future plans

siue.edu/chancellor/strategic 

SIUE Today

School of Dental Medicine to Receive \$1.2 million Through NIH-funded National Study

Dr. Nathalia Garcia, periodontist from the School of Dental Medicine, is a principal investigator for the project titled “Biomarkers of Periodontal Disease Progression.” It is a multi-center study funded by the National Institutes of Health that will award more than \$1.2 million to the School for its contribution to the overall research. The School's portion is part of a \$20.7 million consortium project. The award's prime recipient is the Forsyth Institute located in Cambridge, Mass., and associated with Harvard University's School of Medicine. The study spans five different dental research centers. Other participating institutions include the University of Michigan, New York University and State University of New York. A total of 500 clinical subjects will take part in the study.



School of Nursing to Offer Doctorate for Nurse Anesthetists

The nurse anesthesia (NA) program has been approved to transition from a master's degree program to a doctor of nursing practice (DNP) program in May 2015. SIUE's DNP NA program has received all University approvals and received approval from the Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Programs (COA) in January 2014. SIUE is the first higher education institution in the St. Louis metropolitan area to offer a doctoral degree for nurse anesthetists. The new program will retain its core anesthesia curriculum, but will also incorporate the School's DNP curriculum. The transition to the DNP reflects the changes in the national health care system, as well as the growing need for nursing leaders to have extensive knowledge to design, implement and assess care.



THE
CAMPUS
KITCHENS
PROJECTSM

SIUE Wins Sodexo Campus Kitchens Project Grant

SIUE was awarded a grant to bring a Campus Kitchen to campus. SIUE was among five universities to receive a \$5,000 startup grant during the first-ever Launch Grant Video Competition hosted by the Campus Kitchens

Project. The grant, sponsored by the Sodexo Foundation, will allow SIUE students, faculty and staff to provide food to poverty stricken areas in local communities. The startup grant makes SIUE one of only 39 universities that have been selected to host Campus Kitchens nationwide. Campus Kitchens is a national community service organization that empowers students to take a stand against hunger by reducing food waste and utilizing unused food to provide meals for low-income families.



SIUE Celebrates St. Louis' 250th Birthday with Outdoor Cake Sculptures

SIUE was chosen to be one of 250 places of distinction in the 15-county region and is part of the “Cakeway to the West” campaign. A four-foot tall, two-tier fiber glass birthday cake sits near the Builders of the University Plaza. The cake is one of 250 throughout the bi-state region, commemorating the 250th anniversary of the founding of St. Louis. The 250 sites were chosen based on such criteria as landmark sites, heritage and culture, the great outdoors, local favorites, and innovation. For more information about StL250 or to vote for a favorite St. Louis spot, visit their Facebook page:

facebook.com/StL250.




SIUE Marketing and Communications Earns Six Educational Advertising Awards

The *Higher Education Marketing Report* awarded six Educational Advertising Awards to SIUE in late February. Selections were made from a pool of approximately 2,000 entries from more than 1,000 colleges, universities and secondary schools from the United States and several foreign countries. The Educational Advertising Awards is the largest

educational advertising awards competition in the country. The awards were judged by a national panel of marketers, advertising creative directors, and marketing and advertising professionals working in higher education, as well as the editorial board of *Higher Education Marketing Report*. SIUE awards include:

- SIUE “Me” campaign ads: Gold Award, Newspaper Series
- Mission Vision Values Brochure: Silver Award, Brochure Category
- SIUE Research & Creative Activities Magazine: Merit Award, Publication Category
- Annual Chancellor’s Report: Merit Award, Annual Report Category
- SIUE Study Abroad Website: Merit Award, Website Category
- SIUE Undergraduate Recruitment Package: Merit Award, Total Recruitment Category



decidedly me.

When I chose Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, I knew it was the right decision for me. Now I'm getting the education necessary to work toward a career in dentistry at a university with a nationally recognized School of Dental Medicine. My professors know my name and help me to succeed. I have friends who share my interests, as well as my major. At SIUE, I can afford not only a quality education, but also an amazing college experience on a beautiful campus that feels like home. That is decidedly right for me.

Shadee
Pre-Dental Medicine

In-state tuition for Missouri

Before you decide, visit siue.edu to see why the “e” equals excellence.

SIUE

SIUE's Holt Receives Paul Simon Outstanding Teacher-Scholar Award

Julie Zimmerman Holt, PhD, was named the SIUE 2014 Paul Simon Outstanding Teacher-Scholar Award recipient. Holt is a professor in the Department of Anthropology in the College of Arts and Sciences. This award is given annually to a faculty member who has a proven record of combining scholarship and teaching. It emphasizes SIUE's commitment to the prospect that good scholars make the best teachers. Holt was honored for contributing to original research and creative activities, while integrating those contributions with her teaching practices.



Eddie the Cougar Wins OVC Mascot Challenge

SIUE's Eddie the Cougar is now an Ohio Valley Conference Champion.

Fans, students, faculty and alumni of #SIUENation helped Eddie the Cougar gather 3,440 of the 11,000 votes cast in the 2014 OVC Mascot Challenge. The results were announced during the OVC Men's and Women's Tournament. “We congratulate SIUE's Eddie the Cougar and his fans across the country,” said Beth DeBauche, OVC Commissioner.

“The OVC Mascot Challenge has proven to be a fierce competition, with Eddie the Cougar garnering almost 31 percent of the total votes this year.” Eddie the Cougar earns “bragging rights” for the year, and SIUE will be awarded \$1,000 for its general scholarship fund.



Annual Botball Tournament Held at SIUE

Middle and high school students engaged their minds and their robots when SIUE hosted its annual Botball tournament in April. This was the 17th Botball season and the 12th year that SIUE hosted the region's tournament. More than 20 teams came to the Morris University Center's Meridian Ballroom for the competition. The event, coordinated through the KISS Institute for Practical Robotics, pits teams against one another in two-minute rounds. A team's student-created robot must demonstrate its ability to perform a number of tasks worth varying points. The regional competition is open to the public and typically draws approximately 200 spectators with its growing number of teams from Illinois, Missouri, Indiana and Arkansas.



SIUE Becomes Institute of International Education Partner

SIUE has pledged to double the number of students studying abroad over the next five years as a lead partner in the Institute of International Education's Generation Study Abroad initiative. Committing to specific, measurable actions to achieve this ambitious goal, SIUE joins a host of other well-renowned higher education institutions — 150 in all — including Purdue University, Rutgers University and the College of William & Mary. Higher education associations, study abroad provider organizations, several foreign institutions or government agencies, and the U.S. Dept. of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs are also program partners. The result of this concerted effort, according to Narbeth Emmanuel, vice chancellor for Student Affairs, is that thousands more American students nationwide will graduate with the international experience necessary for success in a globalized world. SIUE currently offers students more than 150 study abroad opportunities in more than 20 countries.

siue.edu/studyabroad 

SIUE Charles and Mary Lukas Athletics Annex Achieves LEED Silver Rating



The U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) has certified the Charles and Mary Lukas Athletics Annex, located adjacent to the Vadalabene Center, as a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Silver building. It is the fourth structure on the SIUE campus to achieve LEED distinction. The additional structures include the new Science Building, an apartment building in Cougar Village and the Art and Design Building expansion, which achieved LEED Gold certification last September. Once all eligible SIUE buildings attain LEED certification, the University will tie with the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana for first in the state, each with seven LEED buildings.

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LinkedIn



Spring 2014 Commencement: Celebrating Success

SIUE's commencement ceremonies were held May 9-10. The University community gathered with our nearly 2,000 graduates and their family and friends to celebrate academic achievement and the beginning of an exciting new chapter.



Spring Commencement Honorees

Honorary Degree Recipient



Each year, SIUE awards an honorary degree to an individual who has made significant contributions to cultural, educational, scientific, economic, social, humanitarian or other worthy fields of endeavor. John Simmons was presented an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters, and served as the commencement speaker at the May ceremonies.

Simmons, who graduated with honors from SIUE in political science, earned his Juris Doctor from Southern Methodist University School of Law in Dallas. He is founder and chairman of Simmons Browder Gianaris Angelides & Barnerd LLC, a national law firm headquartered in Alton, with additional offices in St. Louis, Chicago, San Francisco and El Segundo, Calif. Since the founding of his firm in 1999, Simmons has given his time, service and finances to benefit SIUE and the surrounding community.

Chancellor Julie Furst-Bowe said Simmons' honor is well deserved. "John continues to be highly involved in the University and, as an alum, he is one of our biggest proponents, as well as an excellent role model," Furst-Bowe said.

Distinguished Service Award Recipient



SIUE selects an annual recipient of the Distinguished Service Award to recognize a person who has given outstanding service to the University, the region or the state. Dixie Engelman was presented the Distinguished Service Award, and served as the commencement speaker at the May ceremonies.

Engelman, dean emerita of the SIUE College of Arts and Sciences and associate professor emerita of speech pathology and audiology, has been a community advocate and volunteer for more than 35 years. She was the first president and remains a charter member of the SIUE Meridian Society. The Society is a group of women who provide leadership through philanthropy and pool their resources to assist SIUE community-based projects.

Chancellor Julie Furst-Bowe said Engelman's loyal, tangible efforts in educating women on philanthropy, her inspiring commitment in supporting community causes and her participation in influencing SIUE and the community through annual Impact Fund Awards speaks volumes. "Dixie has invested an incredible amount in this community and in the lives of countless students," Furst-Bowe said.

Cougar Athletics



Basketball Takes Part in Music City Madness



In March, the men's and women's basketball teams took part in the Ohio Valley Conference postseason basketball tournament in Nashville, Tenn. While the women's team was making its second consecutive appearance at the OVC Championships, the men were participating for the first time. Both teams finished the regular

season with a 7-9 record in conference play. The men's team was the No. 8 seed in the tournament and fell in a first-round matchup to No. 5 seed Tennessee Tech, 74-67, in a hard fought contest. Women's basketball was the No. 7 seed in the tournament and also dropped its first-round game, losing to sixth-seeded Jacksonville State, 71-59.

Despite the short stay at the tournament, both teams enjoyed successful seasons. The men won 11 overall games, the most at the Division I level. The 7-9 OVC record also was the best for SIUE at the Division I level. On the women's side, the Cougars reeled off six wins in their final eight games to qualify for their second straight OVC tournament.

Two individuals received recognition from the conference. Sophomore transfer Donivine Stewart was named to the OVC's All-Newcomer Team, while freshman Micah Jones of the women's team also earned All-Newcomer honors.



Donnelly Assumes Soccer Head Coach Position



—Scott Donnelly
head soccer coach

Scott Donnelly was introduced as the fourth men's soccer head coach in SIUE's storied history in December. Donnelly, who served as SIUE's associate head coach in 2012 and 2013, succeeds Kevin Kalish who resigned to pursue other career opportunities following a successful six-year run as head coach.

"I'm honored to lead this program forward and continue the men's soccer legacy at SIUE," Donnelly said.

"As a program, everything is in place for sustained success and our expectations for the future are significant."

Prior to joining the staff at SIUE, Donnelly served three seasons as the associate head coach at Northern Illinois University and was the head coach at Division II Mars Hill (N.C.) College.

Donnelly added that he understands the significance of being just the fourth head coach in the program's history. "When a program with the history of ours has had only four head coaches, it indicates continuity, success and belief," Donnelly said. "Bob Guelker, Ed Huneke and Kevin Kalish are three exceptional head coaches, each of whom has had significant success here. There is responsibility in that, there is expectation in that and I welcome it. My own standards are quite high, and it's my job to represent SIUE and this program as well as possible."

Donnelly began supplementing his staff with his first hire in February. David Korn was added to the men's soccer staff as an assistant coach. Korn had previously served as the associate head coach at Wright State and an assistant coach at Denver. In March assistant Scott Gyllenborg was added. Gyllenborg spent the previous two seasons at Colgate.

SIUE Basketball Players Named to OVC All Newcomer Team

Donivine Stewart, *Sophomore, Peoria, Ill. (pictured at left)*
Micah Jones, *Freshman, Cowden, Ill. (pictured at right)*

Cougar Performance Center Opens



SIUE Athletics took a giant leap forward with the opening of a new strength and conditioning facility in January. The Cougar Performance Center, in the bottom floor of the Charles and Mary Lukas Athletics Annex, vaults SIUE above its peers with a facility that allows the strength and conditioning staff abundant resources.

“Not having a weight room has been the number one concern of graduating seniors for several years,” said SIUE Director of Athletics Brad Hewitt. “When asked what they would change about our program, most student-athletes tell me that we need a weight room.”

Hewitt said the commitment from SIUE’s administration and its donors, including Alton Memorial Hospital, an affiliate of BJC HealthCare, have provided Intercollegiate Athletics with a unique facility that puts SIUE near the top in strength and conditioning facilities among Ohio Valley Conference members.

“The Cougar Weight Room is the first of the final three pieces we need to be a complete first class Division I program. We needed a weight room, we need additional gym practice space, and we need an indoor field house.”

—Brad Hewitt
SIUE Director of Athletics

Strength and Conditioning Coach Meade Smith was charged with designing the space, ordering the new equipment and implementing the strategies to help SIUE student-athletes to become bigger, stronger and faster. “The biggest thing this room is going to give us is space,” Smith said. “Our philosophy is that we want to make sure everything is functional and applicable to every sport. The greatest thing about this design

is that it gives us all the things we need.”

The “L-shaped” space has two separate, functional areas, one with traditional weight room equipment and another open, turfed area that can be utilized for warm-ups, sprint work or general cardio workouts.

The weight room includes seven lifting racks, including four with video playback technology that will show a student-athlete their form, as well as measure the velocity of the bar being lifted. The technology from EliteForm enables the strength and conditioning staff to monitor progression, set up customized workouts, and help student-athletes visualize their form and proper technique. “We tell our student-athletes to push the weights faster and be more explosive,” Smith said. “EliteForm has given us technology that will help us provide the student-athletes with instant feedback. It will measure their workouts.”

There are nine Olympic-style weightlifting platforms, four glute and hamstring developers, two VersaClimbers, two elliptical machines, and eight stationary bicycles. The student-athletes also can utilize vertical jump boxes, ropes, dumbbells, jump ropes and numerous other strength tools.

“The most impressive thing to me was the support from Dr. Hewitt and the administration,” said Smith. “This is everything I asked for when I envisioned putting this room together. What we have here is something special. We should be able to take it to the next level.”

On the second floor of the Lovejoy Library is my favorite piece of art on the SIUE campus. I first discovered it while studying for a biology test, probably during my freshman year — and I've been intrigued by it ever since.

It's a 10' x 13' painting of a seemingly ordinary group situated in a park. It towers over the study space in the southwest corner of Lovejoy. When you enter the otherwise quiet space, its beauty demands your attention. But unless you stop and spend some time with it, you won't notice its great mystery.

For whatever reason, each figure in the painting appears to be stirring. It's almost as if — just moments before — something occurred which has roused them from their activity. Something has caught their attention. You can see it on their faces. And when you spot that little detail, everything changes.

Suddenly you're wondering whether they're affiliated with each other or if they're strangers who've assembled randomly. And what happened? Was something shocking just said? Was an irreverent word spoken? What has caused these figures, frozen for the last 60 years in oil on canvas, to have stopped in their tracks? So many questions.

According to a recent exhibition piece produced by the Midwest Paint Group and The University Museum, the painting is titled "Le Grand Luxembourg" and is the work of a French painter named Jean Helion. He painted this particular work from 1954-1957 at his studio in Paris. It was donated to SIUE eight years later and University Museum Director Eric Barnett says we're fortunate to have it. I agree with him, and frankly, I like that it remains a little mysterious.

As president of the Alumni Association, I've had the privilege of participating in SIUE's graduation ceremonies for the past two years. It sounds tedious, but there's something magical about being a part of this important event in a person's life. You can see on their faces a mix of excitement and trepidation.

Their post-graduation life probably seems a bit like that painting: so attractive, and possessive of so many questions.

This past December's graduation was my favorite.

I had the unique opportunity to greet two important SIUE graduates on stage: my wife Emily who received her master's in English and my brother Kyle who received his bachelor's in business. It was an incredibly special moment. Once again, SIUE was playing a prominent role in our story.

You see, along with it being our *alma mater*, my wife and I actually met because of SIUE. She had just graduated from SIUE and decided to stay in Edwardsville, and I had recently moved back. Like me, she was also charmed by the people, places and programs of SIUE and I was completely enchanted by her. Drawn to her, I was, and am, because of her beauty and mystery. Like a great work of art, there are some things that continue to intrigue and enamor you more and more, as time goes on.

So with Emily at my side, you'll find us cheering at SIUE basketball games, attending lectures and concerts, or just walking through campus, enjoying each other's company. There's even a spot in the Gardens we've laid claim to, under a grove of tulip trees where we like to rest after a bike ride with a picnic and a book.

Needless to say, we love SIUE.

In June, my term as president draws to a close. It's been an honor to serve and to meet so many alums who are as proud of SIUE as we are. And whose lives, like ours, have been incredibly impacted by this wonderful university nestled in the hills and hollows west of Edwardsville.

Perhaps like me, you have a story of beauty and mystery that links you to SIUE. Either way, I believe that we have an opportunity and an obligation to work for its betterment. So I urge you to get involved.

Go Cougars!

SJ Morrison, BA Mass Communications '02
Alumni Association Board of Directors President



Emily and SJ Morrison

Make a difference. Get involved. Give back.


siue.edu/give 

SIUE Hall of Fame Nominations Being Accepted

The SIUE Alumni Hall of Fame was established in 2008 to better recognize outstanding graduates of our *alma mater*. We invite you to nominate a fellow SIUE alum who:

- have made significant contributions to their fields
- have demonstrated achievement and success in their chosen profession
- have served as positive representatives of our University
- can serve as an inspiration to generations of Cougars to come

**Alumni Hall of Fame
Class of 2014
Nomination Deadline:
May 30, 2014**

**Find the nomination
form online:
siue.edu/alumni **

Become a Mentor ... Change a Life!

The SIUE Alumni Association has teamed with the SIUE Career Development Center to build a network of alumni mentors who can provide the wisdom, insight and contacts needed to support current and future SIUE students. You can determine how much interaction you want to have with SIUE students who are in search of the wisdom that comes with experience.

**Create your
profile today**

**myinterfase.com/
siue/mentor **

Free Career Webinars

Do you find yourself at a professional crossroads? Do you need a knock-'em-dead resume? Want to sharpen your networking skills? Don't miss your opportunity to fill those needs with our free Career Webinar Series. Register today and have access to previous and upcoming presentations.

alumnicareerservices.org/siue

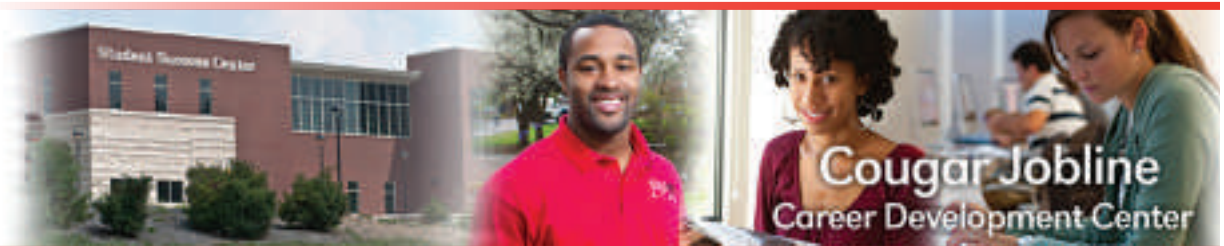


SIUE Alumni Association APP

Stay connected with the SIUE Alumni Association and get the latest benefits of membership by downloading our APP. Scan the QR Code into your smartphone or text 618-391-0236 and use the keyword "alumni." (Thanks to SIUE alumnus Dewayne Staats, '75, for his generosity!)



**Scan to
download the
new SIUE Alumni
Association App!**



Changing of the Guard

Thank you to following members of the SIUE Alumni Association Board of Directors whose terms will expire this June. They have been key members of the group which helps set the direction for the Association.

Paul Baeske, '97, '99

*Finance/Audit
Committee member*

Bev George, '76, '79

Immediate Past President

Melissa Glauber, '03

Vice-President

Dr. Rhonda Green, '92, '96

*SDM Alumni Council
Representative*

Christine Jackson, '06, '08

*Chair-Alumni Engagement
Committee*

Jeremy Plank, '05, '08

Vice-President/Treasurer

Tim West, '07

Board Member

Welcome our newest board members:

Dr. Bethel Buerk, '91, '92

Robert Crockett, '06, '10, '12

Ann Renken Frank, '86, '93

Bree Harms, '05

Dr. Vince Hughes, '01, '11, '13

Hannah Malik, '11

Ryan Perryman, '04

Dr. Cody Sandusky, '12

Elizabeth Sheley, '05

Thank you to SJ Morrison, '02, who has served as the Board president since June 2012. He will become immediate past president. Assuming the role of Board president is Kevin Nesselhauf '08, '13. We look forward to Kevin's leadership.

Past Events

SIUE vs. SLU Pregame Reception

We teamed up with SIUE Athletics to host a pregame reception for alumni and friends before the SIUE vs. SLU men's basketball game in November. More than 60 alumni met for dinner and drinks before the game and during halftime.



SIUE Alumni Association Holiday Reception at the Governor's Mansion

Alumni and friends gathered in early December to kick-off the holiday season with a festive gathering at the Illinois Governor's Mansion. Guests enjoyed the sights of the lavishly decorated mansion and more than one dozen trees. The night ended with a private guided tour of the mansion.

Jersey Boys

We were joined by numerous alumni for our Jersey Boys at The Fox Theatre event in February. The day began with brunch at Jazz at the Bistro and concluded with the afternoon performance of *Jersey Boys*.

SIUE Alumni Day at Busch Stadium

On April 27, SIUE Alumni enjoyed an afternoon at the ballpark as the Cardinals took on the Pirates. We filled the seats in the lower right field boxes as we cheered on our teams and celebrated being Cougars.



Speaker Series

The Office of Alumni Affairs has partnered with the Office of Educational Outreach to sponsor a speaker series that covers a wide range of topics. In December, we presented "From Point A to Point B: How to Start a Business." We were thrilled to have Jeffrey Harrison, '12, COO, RoverTown, and Patrick McKeegan, director of the Illinois Small Business Development Center, as our guest speakers. Attendees learned about valuable resources available to them in the Metro-East area, as well as necessary connections to make before starting a business. In January, we started the New Year off by "Getting Fiscally Fit" with Chris Brefeld, '97 '13, financial advisor, and Susan Young, '92, CPA. Topics covered ranged from helpful savings tips to how to keep Uncle Sam happy.

Association-Sponsored Events

The Alumni Association sponsored a reception for SIUE alumni and faculty attending the College Art Association Conference in Chicago on February 13. The Association continued its sponsorship of the alumni reception for the School of Dental Medicine Mid-Winter Conference in Chicago on February 21.

Cougars on the Move: Washington, D.C.

We recently concluded our second Cougars on the Move trip. This time, we traveled to Washington, D.C. for the National Cherry Blossom Festival. Our weekend included several alumni gatherings and activities:

- Friday night welcome reception
- Guided tour of the United States Capitol
- Dinner and Fireworks Cruise on the Potomac River
- Brunch at Old Ebbitt Grill



Homecoming 2014 Save the Date!

Mark your calendars and plan on coming back to your *alma mater*. You'll be amazed by how much we've grown! The SIUE Alumni Hall of Fame Awards Dinner will be Friday, Oct. 3, in the Morris University Center. On Saturday, Oct. 4, join us for the tailgating excitement as we cheer on the SIUE men's soccer team when they face fellow Missouri Valley Conference member Bradley University at Korte Stadium. More activities are being planned.

Visit siue.edu/alumni for updates! 

If you have thoughts or suggestions on events you'd like to see planned, please contact our office: 618-650-2760 or sjankow@siue.edu.

We look forward to seeing you at an upcoming event!



Photographic Tour of Cuba

SIUE alumni traveled to Cuba in March to photograph sites and scenes of Cuba's land and people.

St. Francis Cathedral



Photos by Maxine Johnson, '69, '83, and John Johnson Jr., '83



Meridian Scholars Day

Nearly 200 high-achieving high school students and their family members attended the Meridian Scholars Day on February 14. Scholarship applicants were interviewed by SIUE faculty, staff, students and alumni. During lunch, Interim Provost Ann Boyle announced that SIUE will offer all students who are not awarded a Meridian Scholarship a four-year, full-tuition, undergraduate scholarship and membership in the SIUE Honors Program. Students who enroll will be in the first group of Provost Scholars.

“These students will have a positive impact on the academic community they choose to join,” Boyle said. “We would love to be that academic community. We want them to set the bar high for the students who will follow them to this campus for years to come.”

14 Spring 2014

About the Meridian Scholars Program

The Meridian Scholars Program offers scholarships to 20 students with strong academic ability and a record of personal achievement, leadership, service and special talents. Students who have earned at least a 27 ACT and at least a 3.75 high school GPA or rank in the top 10 percent of their high school graduating classes compete for this award. Meridian Scholars receive an eight-semester, renewable scholarship for tuition, mandatory fees, room and board. Scholars automatically are admitted into the Honors Scholars Program, which allows them to design a curriculum focused on exploring their intellectual interests.

Thank you to the 43 SIUE alumni, including past President's, Chancellor's and Meridian Scholars, who volunteered to be part of the Meridian Scholars Day:

(several participants are not pictured here)



Dana Adams, '89	• Marlana Hairston, '98, '03	• Angela Nemsy, '85	• Dr. Katherine Schlechte, '81, '86
Stephanie Bloch, '12	• Amy Hamel, '12, '13	• Antonette Palumbo, '10	• Hannah Schlemer, '12
Gordon Bush, '70, '71	• Tammy Hannah, '02	• Ashlee Peno, '04	• Shannon Shepard, '92, '95, '97
Stephanie Crawford, '02	• Susan Hemker, '90, '00	• Ryan Perryman, '04	• Henry Tapy, '88
Belinda Counts, '88	• Brian Henry, '95	• Dr. Rachele Phillips, '06, '09	• Brittney Veenstra, '00
Ben Erschen, '04	• Dr. Lauren Hood-Olson, '03, '06	• Mark Pierce, '90	• Suzanne Vogel, '84, '91
Stephanie Hawk Fernandes, '97, '98	• Dr. Shari Kaminsky, '84	• Christopher Polley, '05	• Judge Milton Wharton, '69
Dr. Julie Francois, '00	• Dr. Katie (Rathert) Kosten, '02, '09	• Andy Ravanelli, '04	• Kayla (Chaplin) Whiteaker, '10
Lucinda Fulton, '91, '97	• Karen (Kettner) Kress, '11	• Mitchell Rentfro, '03	• Sheri Wilhite, '85
Emily (Kreke) Gnaedinger, '10	• Garrett Mitchell, '07	• Dustin Riechmann, '01	• Emily Wilken, '09
Timothy Gross, '00, '05	• Kimberly (Kolweier) Mueller, '09	• Sara (Guarino) Salger, '04	

Hear what they had to say about their experience:

“I’m excited about the University’s decision to actively recruit highly motivated, intelligent scholars who will help shape a changing world.”

—Emily Wilken, '09
Mathematics Teacher
Bradley Bourbonnais Community High School, Bradley, Ill.

“The University and the Meridian Scholar Program have provided so much for me, and I still take every opportunity to 'pay it back' by staying involved. It was also a great opportunity to see the development on campus and catch up with old friends!”

— Emily K. Gnaedinger, '10
Advanced Doctoral Student
School Psychology Program, Illinois State University

“Being a Chancellor's Scholar helped lay the foundation for who I am today, what I have accomplished so far in my life and what I will continue to achieve. I jumped at the chance to be able to be a part of that process for a fellow scholar.”

— Brittney A. Veenstra, '00
Nurse Practitioner, Department of Oncology/Hematology
Springfield Clinic, Springfield, Ill.

“I was impressed by the number and the quality of the candidates interviewing for scholarships. The students I met with were very bright and talented, and they had a lot of options. I felt pride upon hearing them explain why they chose SIUE.”

— Marlana A. Hairston, '98, '03
Program Director, Higher Education Consortium
TRIO Educational Opportunity Centers, St. Louis

“I was so impressed with the caliber of students competing for the scholarship. Overall, I was impressed with the obvious commitment that SIUE is making to raise expectations, both for itself as an academic institution and for its students.”

— Dr. Katie Kosten, '02, '09
Dental Director, Dental Care for Kids, St. Louis

**Meridian Scholars Day 2015
Friday, February 13**

We welcome past recipients of these awards to participate in this important recruitment event!

More information:
sjankow@siue.edu





BRAGGIN' RIGHTS



Jobs in healthcare and STEM fields are the two fastest-growing career categories nationwide. By 2018, there will be nearly six million jobs to be filled (Center of Education and the Workforce). Only 36 percent of 2013 ACT test-takers nationwide were considered ready for college-level science. At SIUE, we're doing our part to face this challenge head on.

The construction of a new science building, an addition to the engineering building and a new dental simulation lab are enhancing our students' learning experiences.



Our brand-new, nearly \$80 million state-of-the-art Science Building Complex is equipped with the same types of high-tech equipment that students will find in the research labs of future employers.

The School of Dental Medicine's new \$9.5 million multidisciplinary simulation laboratory contains 60 simulation units, a ceramic reconstruction room, an x-ray room, and casting and dispensing areas.



The estimated \$14.2 million, 32,000-square-foot addition to the award-winning Engineering Building provides much-needed space for the School's increasing enrollment and enhances the state-of-the-art engineering education provided to students.



Learn more: siue.edu/campusgrowth

Cutting-edge science education initiatives, extensive community outreach and the contemporary research of SIUE faculty and students provide an ideal environment for preparing for a successful healthcare or STEM career.



- As society's demand for leadership and innovation in STEM areas grows, SIUE is rising to the challenge with a center dedicated to strengthening STEM education for all students, as well as for current and future teachers. The center loans science materials to teachers, and offers camps and activities for area K-12 students, as well as educators. The Center has forged vital partnerships, including those with the United States Transportation Command and The Boeing Company, to expand community outreach efforts.
-
- The National Science Foundation recently awarded a \$1.2 million grant to SIUE, which will fund the Robert Noyce Scholarship Program. The money provides funding for scholarships, stipends and programming to recruit students majoring in science, technology, engineering or math (STEM) to the field of teaching.
 - *U.S. News & World Report* ranked the School of Nursing in their Best Online Graduate Nursing Programs. Rankings for the top distance learning programs were based on student engagement, faculty credentials and training, student services and technology, peer reputation, and admissions selectivity.

- With financial support from the National Science Foundation, the Teen Science Cafés Network is giving area teens access to nationally prominent scientists, engineers and inventors. Presented by the SIUE STEM Center, the Academy of Science — St. Louis and the St. Louis Science Center's Taylor Center, the program is aimed at starting conversations with prominent leaders in their fields, while providing a non-intimidating, relaxed environment where teens can explore the latest science and technology ideas.
- SIUE and the Society of Women Engineers (SWE) hosted nearly 150 middle school-age girls for the second annual Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day in February. Activities included small groups using teamwork to design and create miniature roller coasters, ferris wheels and slingshots. "We want girls to know the possibilities in the math and science fields, and to see the possibilities in a traditionally male-dominated field," said Sofia Chkautovich, chair of the SWE event committee and a junior civil engineering major from St. Louis.
- The School of Pharmacy hosted "Roll Up Your Sleeves, Edwardsville" in April. Teams of pharmacy students and faculty pharmacists visited businesses to perform blood pressure screenings for employees who are typically too busy to attend screening events.

Turn the page to read about SIUE alumni who are working in STEM fields.



ScienceTEM

Dr. Julie Francois

As the Monsanto Company benefits from the expertise of Dr. Julie Francois, it might want to thank a high school science teacher who helped inspire a young woman to enter a field where women sometimes fear to tread. Julie didn't know much about chemistry until she got to high school. There, a female science teacher pulled her aside and told her she was good at math and science and that she shouldn't let anyone tell her she wasn't. "There was something about math and science," Julie said. "Mixing things together, using your hands and seeing what happens, and using math; it just all fit."

Julie was told by her parents that a college degree would require either a scholarship or going somewhere local. She discovered SIUE offered what was then called the Chancellor's Scholarship, and she applied. Receiving that award covered both sides of the argument, and with a full ride, she could get out on her own.

"I fell immediately into the sciences at SIUE," Julie said. "The faculty really cared about me and my education." Her mentor, Dr. Virginia Bryan, professor emerita, helped her with class selection and enabled her to graduate on time in 2000 with bachelor's in both chemistry and mathematical studies. In 2006, Julie earned a PhD in biochemistry from Washington University in St. Louis.

Julie describes her job at Monsanto as that of an analytical biochemist. Her group is in charge of helping all of the other groups within the company on their projects. "I conduct a lot of mode of action studies. Whatever the project teams dream up, we work on it."

Monsanto has invested in the advancement of math and science education. Julie is involved in Monsanto's very active science outreach program and takes a personal interest in promoting science and math education. "When I'm around young girls, I tell them math and science is fun," she said.

Julie believes it is important for everyone to have a rudimentary understanding of science. "I think it's essential, especially with the internet," she said. "It is amazing how much inaccuracy exists in cyberspace."

With a basic understanding of math and science, Julie believes people are more likely to dig for what is true



instead of accepting something as fact just because it's on the internet. She also feels that television shows like CSI are a double-edged sword. "CSI conducts scientific tests that are accomplished in what appears to be seconds, when some of the projects we work on at Monsanto take years to complete." She does admit those shows may get kids to see that science is cool.

Julie worries that too much technology stymies our ability to problem solve effectively. "We need to use technology when it is helpful, but we also need to spend time building with blocks and working with puzzles," she said. "We have enacted a no gadget time around our 15-month-old son."

"Women are often told, 'You're not good at math and science; it's not in your genes.' That is not the case, but the myth continues."

—Dr. Julie Francois, BS Chemistry '00, BS Mathematics '00

STechnologyEM

Dr. Scott Umbaugh

When Dr. Scott Umbaugh came to SIUE as a student in the mid-'70s, he had no plans to become an engineer. "I wanted to be a rock and roll star," Umbaugh remembers. "I was a music major for my first three years at SIUE." A neurological problem with one of his fingers forced him to give up his dream of being a rock star.

Even though Scott was good at math, he participated on the math team in high school, and his father and brother were engineers, the switch to engineering was not an easy one, until Scott realized that engineering is all about solving problems. "I enjoy solving problems and I began to realize that's where my talents are," Scott said. "Even when I was a musician, I approached it from a technical perspective."

Scott began his career in the field of technology and engineering in 1981 as an intern with McDonnell Douglas where he worked on the AV-8B Harrier (a vertical takeoff jet). After graduating from SIUE in 1982 with a bachelor's in electrical engineering, Scott worked for ITT North in Columbus, Ohio, designing and developing software for a new digital telephone switch and a microprocessor-based board. After a year in Ohio, Scott realized that biomedical research and teaching would give him a chance to make the world a better place.

Returning to the area, Scott worked in St. Louis for a small computer firm where he developed one of the first personal computers (PC), one year before the release of the IBM PC. He attended graduate school part-time and eventually moved to Rolla, where he earned his master's and doctoral degrees in electrical engineering from the Missouri University of Science and Technology. His graduate research focused on the development of a computer vision system for skin cancer diagnosis.

Scott returned to SIUE in 1989 and is now a professor in the SIUE Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering and the graduate program director of the electrical engineering master's program. He also directs the Computer Vision and Image Processing lab. He is the author of "Digital Image Processing and Analysis: Human and Computer Vision Applications with CVIPtools," currently in its third edition.

He credits SIUE Emeritus Professor Raghu Bollini for his interest in teaching. "I learned from Raghu that working with



students is very rewarding. That is the strength at SIUE — we focus on the students," said Umbaugh.

For more than 25 years, Scott has been helping SIUE students achieve an education in engineering. "We spend three years teaching students in math, science and engineering courses that there is a correct method to find a solution," he said. "One of the things I tell my senior design students is, 'We're going to do things differently from what you've done before.'"

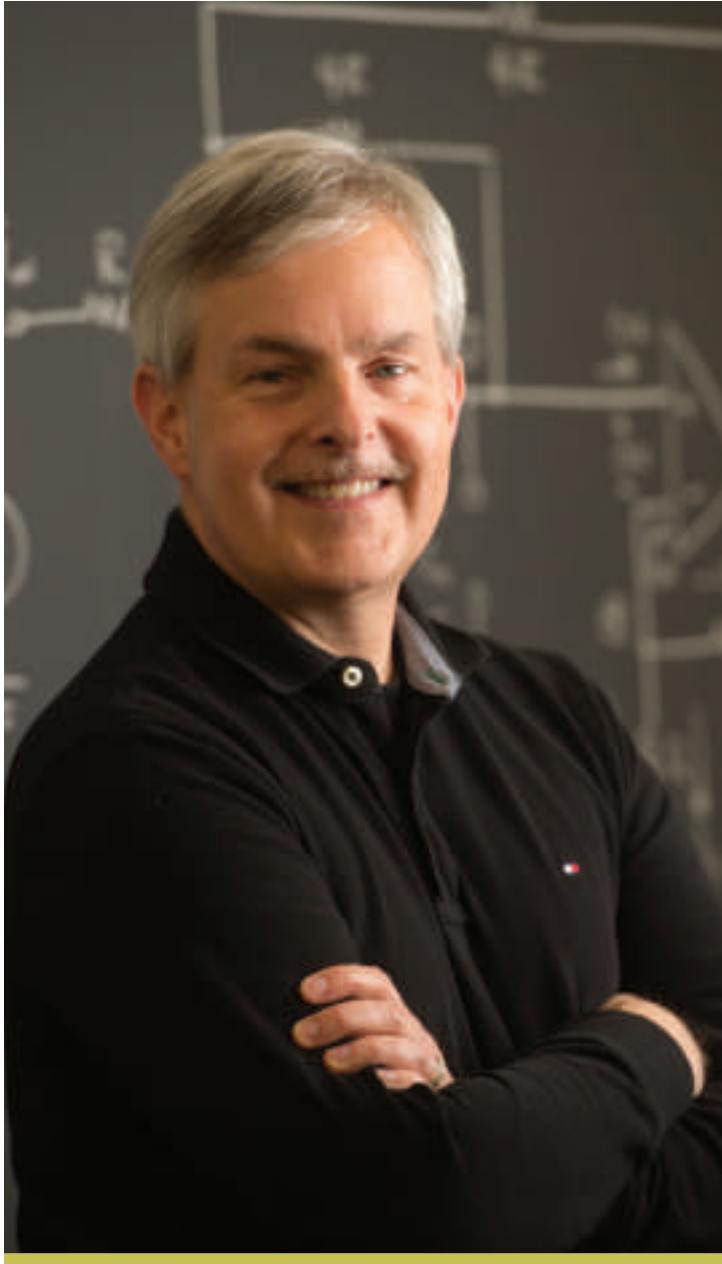
Scott has an intimate knowledge of how things work from the ground up. He can see that the technology we have now is just a more advanced version of what we have had previously. "As engineers, we see that progress is incremental, and we get to be involved in each step," he said. Scott also believes technology can help solve some of our problems, but has concerns about the impact the abundance of technology has on our culture.

Then this professor, with the heart of a musician and the mind of an engineer, who grew up with Star Trek, smiles when he opens his flip phone and announces, "I never thought I would have a communicator."

"Any kind of design in engineering requires creativity and innovation, and often there is no one correct solution."

—Dr. Scott Umbaugh, BS Electrical Engineering '82

STEM Engineering M



“Choose a career because you have a passion for it and absolutely enjoy it.”

*—Steve Muren, BS Electrical Engineering '93,
MS Electrical Engineering '00*

Steve Muren

Steve Muren believes it takes more than an interest in the process when it comes to advancing in math, science or engineering. It also takes confidence. For Steve, that confidence began when he started high school. One of his first classes was shop, which included a drafting component. “I loved it,” Steve said. “The other part of that shop class had electronics, machine shop and wood working. I loved the electronics portion of it.” His focus didn’t shift to engineering until later in high school when he discovered he was also doing well in math. After high school, he started working as a draftsman technician, but he wanted more.

He chose SIUE because it was close to home and the quality and reputation of the engineering program was growing. He earned a bachelor’s in electrical engineering in 1993 and a master’s in electrical engineering in 2000. “I really didn’t appreciate the quality of education I received at SIUE until I graduated and realized that SIUE is on a par with any other school in the region.”

Steve brought his experience from a 23-year career as an engineer and engineering manager back to SIUE in 2001 when he started teaching part time. In 2005, he joined the School of Engineering full time and currently serves as lab manager and lecturer in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering. Steve also is a faculty co-advisor for the SIUE Solar Car Team.

“The fun part of engineering is problem-solving,” Steve said. “I love being able to find a solution either mathematically or through scientific experimentation.” He stresses if a student is able to build skills in those areas, it builds the confidence needed to successfully complete the engineering program. “To get an engineering degree, you have to have the confidence and commitment to know you can do it.” Steve strives to instill excellent communication skills and a strong work ethic in his students, not only for their academic studies, but also for success in their careers.

Steve would like to see the United States improve its global ranking in STEM education. To accomplish this, he wants to see the momentum that’s been created in promoting science, technology, engineering and math careers to students at all levels of education continue. He also would like to see more resources and respect brought to bear in our elementary and secondary schools’ science and math programs. “If the United States wants to continue to drive the world economy, a workforce highly skilled in the STEM areas is imperative.”

STEMathematics

Yukiko May

Yukiko May grew up in Yokohama, Japan. When asked if she has always been interested in math, she answered “yes and no.”

“In Japan, math is one of the subjects that is heavily emphasized. There is little gender bias when it comes to math education. Girls are provided the same level of exposure to the subject as boys, and the expectation for proficiency is shared across the sexes,” she said.

Yukiko left Japan after meeting and marrying a U.S. serviceman. They initially lived in California, and eventually returned to the Midwest where her husband fulfilled his dream of earning his degree from SIUE. Yukiko enrolled at SIUE in 1987. Her interest in math grew, thanks to individuals she described as great teachers who were fun, enthusiastic and encouraging. Professor Emeritus Paul Phillips was her mentor, and she eventually worked for him as a teaching assistant. Yukiko earned a bachelor’s in mathematics in 1992 and a master’s in mathematics a year later. When Dr. Phillips retired, she worked as a math instructor and shared his office.

Yukiko believes it is very important for all students to have a solid base in mathematics. “The logic students have to use to solve problems in mathematics can help them in any area of study,” she said. “We need to look at math from a very different perspective. Math is not all about adding and subtracting. We need to put an emphasis on that.” Yukiko admits she doesn’t know much about what happens at the elementary education level when it comes to math instruction, but she believes students would be helped if people would stop making negative comments about math being difficult. She fears students then develop preconceived notions that they won’t do well in math.



She admits that it has become harder and harder to fight with students about their dependence on technology in the form of graphing calculators. “Even when I talk to them about theorems and definitions when they don’t need calculators, some of them will hold onto their calculators,” she said. “It’s almost as if they don’t feel secure without them. We want them to focus on the logic of math, not just getting the final answer.”

Yukiko believes students need to approach math with an open mind. “I was really lucky to have good teachers and mentors,” she said. According to Yukiko, students leave the math program at SIUE well prepared to advance. She quickly adds, “Those students who work hard get what they deserve.”

“I hope I am providing the type of mentorship to my students that helped me through my education at SIUE.”

—Yukiko May, BS Mathematics, '92
MS Mathematics '93

Help another SIUE student reach their potential with your financial support

siue.edu/give



Meet Rachel Stack, Vice Chancellor for University Advancement

Extrovert ... animal lover ... energetic ... competitive ... vegetarian ... voracious reader ... world traveler ... exercise enthusiast ... East Coast native ... connoisseur of the arts ... history buff ... cook ...

These are just a few of the adjectives that describe Rachel Stack, who began her role as SIUE vice chancellor for University Advancement on January 6, 2014.

Stack's path to SIUE began as an infant in Rhode Island through a childhood in upstate New York. She attributes the fact that she is a vegetarian to the collection of animals she had during her youth - a menagerie that included dogs, cats, rabbits, chickens and Peking ducks.

Much like many SIUE undergraduates, Stack was a first generation college student. Her interest in the work of Samuel Clemens led to studying at Elmira (NY) College where she earned a bachelor's in English in 1986.

A master's in English followed in 1990 from the State University of New York at Binghamton. Stack began work on a second master's at SUNY Buffalo, enrolling in an interdisciplinary program focused on health interventions in developing countries.

However, Stack left SUNY before completing the program. After a short stint in her first "for profit job," she found her way into fundraising, which became her passion.



econnection: Please describe the path you've taken in your fundraising career.

Rachel Stack: I credit my parents, Wendy and John Gay, for pushing me to achieve in school. They were the ultimate motivators to my success. I started by managing a massive and highly successful Gus Macker 3-on-3 basketball tournament for a camp in New York. Next, I managed the annual fund at Canisius High School in Buffalo before moving into a major gift officer position at SUNY-Buffalo. In that position, I traveled nationally to meet donors for the Colleges of Pharmacy and Nursing until my husband was transferred to the Midwest.

I was fortunate to secure the position of associate director of development at Northwestern University's McCormick School of Engineering. After completing two departmental campaigns in chemical and biological engineering, and materials science, I became the senior director for fundraising in the Midwest region for CARE.

International travel was the highlight of my CARE experience. A trip to Africa proved to be a seminal point in my life. It truly cemented two concepts in my mind that are extremely important to me. One is education at every level is essential for people to get ahead. Second is food security. I discovered that if you have those two fundamentals, you absolutely have a good edge on life.

Eventually, I left CARE for a position with the University of Illinois Chicago as assistant dean in the College of Business. As a first generation college student, I was attracted to its mission, the urban landscape and the young university.

econnection: What made you interested in SIUE?

RS: I have always worked hard to succeed and am honored to hold a position of this influence. However, my first job is wife and mother so my family and I did a recon mission to the area before I knew I was to be interviewed, and we all agreed this could be a good move. So when I applied for the job, I was all in. I did a tremendous amount of homework on SIUE, and I was highly impressed. My first few months have been quite productive as we strategically rebuild the infrastructure and connect with key stakeholders and corporations.

econnection: What do you see as the challenges and opportunities?

RS: I see everything as an opportunity. That's the way I'm wired. Basically it's optimizing the team that we have and creating more synergies between the SIUE Foundation, the campus and the community.

I want to make sure that the relationships between the University, our alumni and friends are maintained and

nurtured. We also need to work on increasing the overall retention of advancement staff on campus. The Foundation is here not only to serve the campus and its students, but also play a vital role in campus life. We need to see more formal and informal interaction between the campus and the Foundation.

econnection: What is your philosophy in working with SIUE alumni?

RS: Our alumni are our most valuable resource. The activities they do represent their affinity to the University. From what I can tell so far and from surveys I've seen, our alumni are engaged with the University. We need to marshal that enthusiasm and replicate it whenever and wherever we can.

econnection: What would be your top three goals?

RS: One, create a culture of advancement across the campus. Two, focus on advancing the strategic plan and goals of the Chancellor and the University. Third, make SIUE the destination of choice for students, faculty and staff in as much as we are able to influence people to visit this gorgeous campus, work together to move the institution forward and have an enjoyable experience along the way.

econnection: Speaking of fun, what do you enjoy doing in your spare time?

RS: My responsibilities as vice chancellor keep me on the go. Nevertheless, I have an art journal. I'm helping to remodel our new home, and I find the demolition highly gratifying. I also love to exercise. I also enjoy cooking and travelling. My favorite place to visit is Scotland. It's a beautiful, wild, and inspiring place. The people there are rugged but really friendly.

econnection: Rachel, you had mentioned that your touchstone was books. What's your favorite genre?

RS: I enjoy history or historical fiction, but I like reading almost anything. I also like to challenge myself and re-read the classics, which are mostly free on my kindle. Every Halloween I read "MacBeth," and in the summer I read "Rebecca." I've just finished "the Nightingale" and now am starting "The Interestings." I've also written for a small antiques magazine. I believe the world of reading is what led to becoming an English major in college. The major has served me well throughout my career.

econnection note: Rachel Stack assumes a new position at SIUE as vice chancellor of University Advancement. We welcome Rachel to our University.



From Where I Sit

Thanks to the structure of the alumni program at SIUE, I am privileged to wear two hats. I serve the University as the director of the Office of Alumni Affairs, and I serve each of you as the executive director of the SIUE Alumni Association. In each capacity, I have the opportunity to work with University colleagues and alumni volunteers who help set the direction of both the Office of Alumni Affairs and the Alumni Association.

In that light, it is my distinct pleasure to welcome Ms. Rachel Stack to SIUE in her capacity as vice chancellor for University Advancement. Rachel is my immediate supervisor, and in her first few months has demonstrated a commitment to serving each of you, as well as our *alma mater*. I look forward to working with Rachel as we strive to fulfill the mission of our office and the Association. I also bid farewell to Patrick Hundley, who retired on February 28, after almost six years of service to our University and our alumni, as the vice chancellor for University Relations. I wish him and his family much happiness and success as he moves on to the next phase of his life.

In my more than seven years at SIUE, I have had the distinct pleasure of working with some of the most dedicated alumni volunteers for which an executive director could hope. Those individuals who desire board service commit themselves to a list of responsibilities and expectations. In sharing the load of providing you the type of alumni association you deserve, we all become very close. I want to take this time to thank all of the board members who have served and then moved on at the end of their terms. Several have chosen to stay involved as members of a board advisory council. In June, the following board members will make that transition; Paul Baeske, Bev George, Mel Glauber, Dr. Rhonda Green and Christine Jackson. To these members, and those who have ended their service before them, I say, "THANK YOU!" I also extend a warm welcome to the new alumni volunteers who are taking their place. Together, we will continue our efforts to engage, empower and educate. *Cougars for Life!*

Steve Jankowski, BS Mass Communications '74
Director of Alumni Affairs
Executive Director of the Alumni Association

Class Notes

Have you recently gotten married or started a new career? Share news with your fellow Cougars by submitting a class note at siue.edu/alumni.



COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES

1960s

Arthur Towata (BS Art & Design '62, MFA '71) was imprisoned with his mother and brother in the Manzanar War Relocation Center after Imperial Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor. Today, Towata tells his story to his interdisciplinary studies class, "The Atomic Era: Hitler, the Holocaust, and the Bomb."

1970s

Gregory Huebner (MFA '73) retired from Wabash College after 37 years of teaching and serving as chair of the art department for 26 years. He now is the Artist-in-Residence at Apparatus, a tech firm in Indianapolis. His most recent endeavour is his exhibition entitled, "The Last Thirty Years: The Art of Gregory Huebner."

Fred Bright (BA Human Services '74, MSED Counselor Education '75) was awarded the Lanxon Public Service Award sponsored by the Southwestern Illinois Law Enforcement Commission and the Southern Illinois Police Chiefs' Association. Bright is the mayor of East Alton, Ill.

Dewayne Staats (BA Mass Communications '75) won his first Sportscaster of the Year Award. Staats is TV announcer for the Tampa Bay Rays on Fox Sports Florida and Sun Sports.

2000s

Kimberly Wilks (BLS '01) was presented the "Those Who Excel" award sponsored by the Illinois State Board of Education. Wilks is principal of Trimpe Middle School in Bethalto, Ill.

Eanista Bailey (BS Criminal Justice '05) is a case manager at Riverbend Head Start and Family Services at the Collinsville Head Start Center.

Scott Athmer (BS Criminal Justice '05, MPA '09) received the Life Saving Award given by the Southwestern Illinois Law Enforcement Commission and the Southern Illinois Chiefs of Police Association.



Blaser

Eryn Blaser (BS Art Education/Art History '06) was awarded the 2013 Illinois Elementary Art Educator of the Year in recognition of her commitment to visual art education and her impact on the Northeastern Illinois region. She works for Meadow Ridge School in Orland Park, Ill.

Michael W. Bell (BS Criminal Justice '07) received the Life Saving Award given by the Southwestern Illinois Law Enforcement Commission and the Southern Illinois Chiefs of Police Association.

Christopher Reilly (BA Criminal Justice '08) received the Law Enforcement Certificate of Merit given by the Southwestern Illinois Law Enforcement Commission and the Southern Illinois Chiefs of Police Association.

Timothy M. Lawrence (BS Criminal Justice '08) received the Life Saving Award given by the Southwestern Illinois Law Enforcement Commission and the Southern Illinois Chiefs of Police Association.

Mathew Cooze (BS Criminal Justice '10) and MacKenzie (Conley) Cooze (BS Criminal Justice '10) were married on Oct. 12, 2013.

SCHOOL OF BUSINESS**1970s**

Ben Dickmann (Business Administration '71) retired as Edwardsville City Administrator. Before working as city administrator, he was a patrol officer and Edwardsville's chief of police.

Robert McClellan (BS Business '73, MBA '76) was asked by the Edwardsville/Glen Carbon Chamber of Commerce to create a committee that would give the organizational chart a new direction. Recently, the committee unveiled the five-year strategic plan to the Chamber of Commerce. McClellan is a former president and CEO of Hortica Insurance.

Jack Tueth (BS Business Administration/ Marketing '74) retired in July 2013 after a 40-year career. Tueth spent the past 19 years as the business manager and financial secretary for the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 649. Recently, he was presented a Chairman's Award from the RiverBend Growth Association.

Dennis Terry (BS Economics '76) resigned as president and CEO of First Clover Leaf Bank, and is currently serving as director of market relations and board projects.

P. David Kuhl (MBA '77) was named president and CEO of First Clover Leaf Bank on Oct. 7, 2013.

Kevin Pesko (BS Business Administration/ Accounting '79, MBA '88) was named to the board of directors for the Leadership Council Southwestern Illinois.

1980s

Donna Kay (BS Accounting '81, MBA Accounting '83) was the focus of a "Character" piece in the *St. Louis Business Journal*. Kay is a professor at Maryville University. She is the author of "Computer Accounting with Quick Books" and has written several e-books with colleagues.

Sherri Verdun (BS Accounting '88) was presented the "Those Who Excel" award sponsored by the Illinois State Board of Education. Verdun works for the Bethalto School District.

Stacy West (BS Business '89, MBA '99) is the executive and artistic director of MADCO, the Professional Dance Company in Residence at the Touhill Performing Arts Center at the University of Missouri-St. Louis.

1990s

Daniel Mueller (BS Business Administration/Marketing '91, MBA '98) was hired by Claflin Medical Equipment to lead its regional sales efforts.

Alan Kehrer (BS Business Administration/Management '92, MBA '12) works for Supervalu/Shop-n-Save directing their loss prevention department. He began his new job in February.

2000s

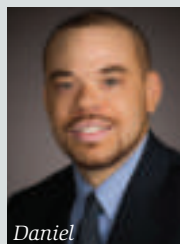
Sara Salger (BS Business '04) was nominated by the National Trial Lawyers for its "Top 40 Under 40." She is a member of the American Bar Association, Illinois State Bar Association, Madison County Bar Association, Illinois Trial Lawyers Association, Missouri State Bar Association, American Association for Justice, National Asbestos Mesothelioma Trial Lawyers, Bar Association of St. Louis and National Women Trial Lawyers.

Jo Ann Di Maggio (BS Business Administration/International Business '05, MBA '07) works at the Illinois Small Business Development Center at SIUE as a small business specialist.

Emily Sill (BSA '05, MS Accounting '07) was promoted to supervisor at Brown Smith Wallace.

Dennis Hutchison (MBA '06) was hired as the director of the Center for Wound Care and Hyperbaric Medicine at Alton Memorial Hospital in Alton, Ill.

Wendy Julian (BS Accounting '08) is ranked number one in the St. Louis area's Mixed Martial Arts (MMA) women's 125-pound weight class. Julian participated in the Thai Boxing Association Muay Thai Classic in June 2013. She holds a record of 4-0 in MMA and 4-1 in Muay Thai (MT).



Daniel

Will Daniel (BS Business Administration '10, BS Construction Management '13) was hired as project engineer for McGrath & Associates in St. Louis. He works on construction projects for Dyno Nobel and Ameren.

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION**1970s**

Bob Meyers (Physical Education '71, MSED '72) was named the 2013 Assistant Coach of the Year by the Illinois High School Tennis Coaches Association.

Ed Hightower (BS Physical Education '74, MSED '77, Specialist Degree '91) ended his 36-year career as a college basketball referee, but remains superintendent of the Edwardsville Community Unit School District 7. Hightower was awarded the Southwestern Illinois Law Enforcement Commission Presidential Award in January 2014.

Jo Kassebaum (BS Elementary Education '76) was named an honoree of the 2013 Emerson Excellence in Teaching award. Recipients are chosen by their school's administration based on their achievements and dedication to teaching. Kassebaum is a kindergarten teacher at Wolf Branch Elementary School in Swansea, Ill.

Terry Schwartz (BS Recreation '78) was inducted into the American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration (AAPRA).

Scot Ambuel (BS Speech Pathology '79, MS Speech Pathology '81) was presented the "Those Who Excel" award sponsored by the Illinois State Board of Education. Ambuel is a speech-language pathologist at LeClaire Elementary School in Edwardsville.

Timothy Jarden (BM Music Education '79, MM '81) was named an honoree of the 2013 Emerson Excellence in Teaching award. Recipients are chosen by their school's administration based on their achievements and dedication to teaching. Jarden is a junior high/middle school teacher at Alton Middle School in Alton, Ill.

1980s

Jeff Burkett (BS Elementary Education '82, MSED '02) was awarded Middle School/Junior High Principal of the Year. Burkett is the principal of Wolf Branch Middle School in Swansea, Ill.

Shirley Bellm (MSED '83) was named an honoree of the 2013 Emerson Excellence in Teaching award. Recipients are chosen by their school's administration based on their achievements and dedication to teaching. Bellm is a special education teacher at Highland Middle School in Highland, Ill.

Ron Trelow (BS Special Education '83, MSED Education '98) was awarded the Herman Graves Award sponsored by the Illinois Principals Association Southwestern Region. Trelow is the junior high/middle school principal at Whiteside Middle School in Belleville, Ill.

Sherry Droste (BS Elementary Education '86) was presented the "Those Who Excel" award sponsored by the Illinois State Board of Education. Droste works at East Elementary in Alton, Ill.

1990s

Denise Rushing (BS Elementary Education '91) was named an honoree of the 2013 Emerson Excellence in Teaching award. Recipients are chosen by their school's administration based on their achievements and dedication to teaching. Rushing is an elementary reading specialist at Marissa Elementary School in Marissa, Ill.

Ida Buckels (BS Elementary Education '91) was named an honoree of the 2013 Emerson Excellence in Teaching award. Recipients are chosen by their school's administration based on their achievements and dedication to teaching. Buckels works for Lovejoy Middle School in Lovejoy, Ill.

Jeff Dosier (MSED Education Administration '91) was awarded the Outstanding Superintendent Award. Dosier is superintendent for Belleville Township High School District 201 in Belleville, Ill.

Rebecca Sedabres (BS Elementary Education '93) was named an honoree of the 2013 Emerson Excellence in Teaching award. Recipients are chosen by their school's administration based on their achievements and dedication to teaching. Sedabres is a second grade teacher at Bernard Long Elementary School in Madison, Ill.

Cindy Steele (MS Psychology '94) was presented the "Those Who Excel" award sponsored by the Illinois State Board of Education. Steele is the special education coordinator for Edwardsville Community Unit School District 7, in Edwardsville.

Sandra Henderson (BS Education '95, MSED '98) was named an honoree of the 2013 Emerson Excellence in Teaching award. Recipients are chosen by their school's administration based on their achievements and dedication to teaching. Henderson is a first grade teacher at LeClaire Elementary School, in Edwardsville.

Class & Faculty Notes

Warren Fehrenz (MSED Administration '96) was awarded Assistant Principal of the Year by the Illinois Principals Association Southwestern Region. Fehrenz is an assistant principal at Belleville East High School in Belleville, Ill.

Laura Munson Dewein (MSED '98) was presented the 'Those Who Excel' award sponsored by the Illinois State Board of Education. Dewein is the principal at Eunice Smith Elementary within the Alton School District in Alton, Ill.

Tonna Smith (BS Education '98) was named an honoree of the 2013 Emerson Excellence in Teaching award. Recipients are chosen by their school's administration based on their achievements and dedication to teaching. Smith is a pre-K teacher at High Mount School in Swansea, Ill.

Jamie Jones (BS Elementary Education '99) was presented the 'Those Who Excel' award sponsored by the Illinois State Board of Education. Jones is a second grade teacher at Jersey East Elementary in Jerseyville, Ill.

Jill Kraft (BS Elementary Education '99) was named an honoree of the 2013 Emerson Excellence in Teaching award. Recipients are chosen by their school's administration based on their achievements and dedication to teaching. Kraft is the reading teacher at Franklin Elementary in Belleville, Ill.

2000s

Heather Phillips (BS Psychology '00, MSED '06) was named an honoree of the 2013 Emerson Excellence in Teaching award. Recipients are chosen by their school's administration based on their achievements and dedication to teaching. Phillips is a fifth grade teacher at Millstadt Consolidated School in Millstadt, Ill.

Martha Flores-Warren (BS Education '00, MS '02, MSED '03) was named an honoree of the 2013 Emerson Excellence in Teaching award. Recipients are chosen by their school's administration based on their achievements and dedication to teaching. Flores-Warren works for East St. Louis Senior High School in East St. Louis, Ill.

Sina Rowe (BS Special Education '00) was nominated as a finalist in the educator recognition program, 'Those Who Excel.' This program is hosted by the Illinois State Board of Education. Rowe is a kindergarten through third grade special education teacher at Goshen Elementary School in Edwardsville.

Chris Schomber (BS Special Education '01, MSED '09) was named an honoree of the 2013 Emerson Excellence in Teaching award. Recipients are chosen by their school's administration based on their achievements and dedication to teaching. Schomber is a special education teacher at Silver Creek Elementary in Troy, Ill.

Cristal Faust (BS Elementary Education '01) was named an honoree of the 2013 Emerson Excellence in Teaching award. Recipients are chosen by their school's administration based on their achievements and dedication to teaching. Faust is a junior high/middle school teacher at Shiloh Middle School in O'Fallon, Ill.

Megan Leonard (BS Speech Pathology '03, Special Education '10) was named an honoree of the 2013 Emerson Excellence in Teaching award. Recipients are chosen by their school's administration based on their achievements and dedication to teaching. Leonard is a special education teacher at Joseph Arthur Middle School in O'Fallon, Ill.

Chris Camacho (Psychology '03, MPPA '04) returned to the Greater Phoenix Economic Council as its executive vice president. Camacho's responsibilities include heading GPEC's day-to-day strategic market objectives, overseeing its domestic and international strategies to build foreign direct investment, and expanding trade relationships within target markets.

Dave Deets (BS Elementary Education '03) was awarded Elementary Principal of the Year by the Illinois Principals Association Southwestern Region. Deets is the principal for Ellis Elementary in Belleville, Ill.

Angie Kuchnicki (MSED Speech Pathology '04) was awarded the Innovative Educator Award and the Peabody Energy "Leaders in Education." The Leaders in Education award recognizes mentors who transform the lives of their students. Kuchnicki is a speech therapist at Lovejoy Elementary in Alton, Ill.

April Becherer (BS Elementary Education '05) was named an honoree of the 2013 Emerson Excellence in Teaching award. Recipients are chosen by their school's administration based on their achievements and dedication to teaching. Becherer is a fifth grade teacher for Signal Hill School in Belleville, Ill.

Chris Muth (BS Special Education '05) teaches and coaches at Yorkville High School in Yorkville, Ill. Muth was named "Coach of the Year" for cross-county by DyeStat and by the Illinois Track and Cross-County Coaches Association. This is his fifth year winning the coaches award.

Amber Newell (MSED '08) was presented the 'Those Who Excel' award sponsored by the Illinois State Board of Education. Newell is an elementary school teacher at Parkside Primary School in Bethalto, Ill.

Stephanie Hinkle (BS Elementary Education '11) was presented the 'Those Who Excel' award sponsored by the Illinois State Board of Education. Hinkle works for the Jersey Community School District in Jerseyville, Ill., as educational service personnel.

Kristen Eng (BA Psychology '12) is the project assistant for Rescue and Restore, Hoyleton Ministries. She has spoken about human trafficking to the United Presbyterian Church of Wood River.

SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING

1990s



Jemison

Kelly Jemison (BS Mechanical Engineering '96) is a project engineer for Schnuck Markets Inc. Recently, she remodeled the Schnucks in Alton at 2811 Homer Adams Parkway.

Matthew Pfund (BS Construction Engineering '96) was promoted to senior vice president at Tarlton in St. Louis. His responsibilities include company operations and directing team projects.

2000s

Wes Helmholz (BS Industrial Engineering '08) graduated from Santa Clara University School of Law. Along with this accomplishment, he also became eligible for the High Tech Law Certificate, Intellectual Property Specialization. The Student Intellectual Property Law Association also recognized Helmholz for his leadership. He is an associate at the Los Angeles office of Orrick, Herrington and Sutcliffe.



Schelp

Tim Schelp (BS Mechanical Engineering '10, MBA '12) joined EPIC Systems Inc. in St. Louis as a project engineer. Mechanical design, process equipment integration and project management are Schelp's specialties.

Daniel Baker (Civil Engineering '11) was hired as a junior engineer with Oates Associates.

Jeff Dinkelmann, Jr. (BS Civil Engineering '13) was hired as a project engineer at Bernardin Lochmueller & Associates in Maryville, Ill. Dinkelmann will serve in the bridges and structures department.

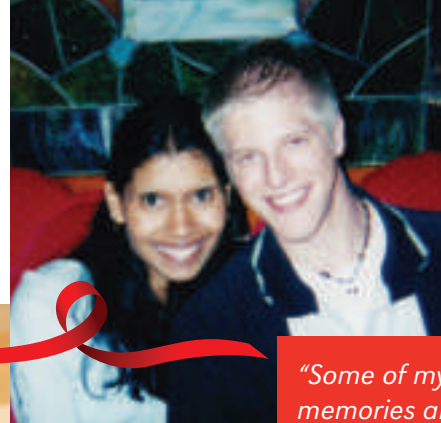
SCHOOL OF NURSING

2000s

Michele Beatty (MS Nursing '07) received a Nurse Educator Fellowship Program Award. Beatty teaches in the Department of Primary Care and Health Systems Nursing. She is among 22 nursing faculty in Illinois colleges and universities chosen by the Illinois Board of Higher Education.

Sara Rosenbery (BS Nursing, '12) earned a certification as a critical care nurse.

SIUE Love Connection



“Some of my favorite memories are just walking back from dinner at the MUC and holding hands the whole way.”

—Aaron Detmer



Aaron Detmer, BS Mechanical Engineering and BS Mathematics, '03, LEED Green Associate, Project Engineer, Senior Project Commissioning Engineer, G&W Engineering; **Kavitha (Kareti) Detmer, BS Speech Communication and BS Sociology, '02**, Master of Public Administration, '05, On-site Billing Manager, St. Louis University Hospital

It was sophomore year when Aaron Detmer transitioned from being a commuter student to a dorm-dwelling SIUE undergrad. During his time as a student, he took on the challenges that came with being in the engineering program, and filled his free time by working in the campus bowling alley, Cougar Lanes. However, it was not all work and no play for Aaron. He soon made friends and found his social circle within his classes and especially his new residence, Woodland Hall.

That same year, Kavitha Kareti moved into Woodland Hall after enjoying her freshman year in what was then the new Prairie Hall. In addition to student life, Kavitha was an active participant in the Student Leadership Development Program. “I lived and breathed Kimmel Leadership Center,” said Kavitha. Her involvement and success with these programs would eventually lead her to a graduate assistantship with SIUE. “I can clearly draw the line from my involvement with Kimmel to where I am in my career today,” she shared.

Aaron and Kavitha’s worlds collided when they were brought together through mutual friends in Woodland Hall, and a great friendship began. Kavitha was drawn to Aaron for his “Zach Morris” resemblance, but was not sure about dating him in the beginning. It took four asks before she finally agreed to see a movie with him. Their first date consisted of a thrilling double feature, “The Sixth Sense” and “The Blair Witch Project.”

The two college students continued dating and socializing among friends during their time on campus. The Woodland Hall group moved to Cougar Village for the following school year. “I can remember trying to plan when I would catch the Cougar Shuttle so I could see her,” remembers Aaron.

After graduation, the couple parted ways as Kavitha began graduate school at SIUE and Aaron moved to Belleville, Ill. Luckily, they were reunited when both moved to St. Louis. The couple agrees that their time apart was a good stepping stone for their relationship. “It made me realize who I liked,” said Aaron.

The two rekindled their romance and were married on August 30, 2009, in Springfield, Ill. Their wedding party included many of their SIUE friends and Woodland Hall family. Today, Kavitha and Aaron are still strongly involved with SIUE. The University is within walking distance of their home. Aaron serves on the Alumni Association Board of Directors, and both are familiar faces at alumni events throughout the year.

Do you have an SIUE love story? Visit siue.edu/alumni and tell us about it. We may feature you in the next eConnection!



Traditions

The Goshen Lounge

When Robert “Bob” Handy was hired as the first director of the Morris University Center (MUC) in 1962, a full year before construction began on the SIUE campus, he envisioned a place where students could access important services and entertaining and beneficial activities.

Working with the architectural firm Hellmuth, Obata and Kassabaum, the same firm that designed the SIUE campus, Handy helped to design the MUC. The design included a meeting area in the center of the main level, which he named the Goshen Lounge. A large square, sunken into the floor and lined with cushioned seating, the Goshen Lounge has been offering students a place to relax at any time of the day or night for nearly 60 years. Recently renovated, the Goshen Lounge continues to be one of the most relevant and welcoming features of SIUE.



The photo on the left shows the Goshen Lounge in 1967, the year the MUC was completed and opened to students, faculty and staff. The third level of the MUC was added several years later and now offers the option of an overhead view of the lounge. The photo on the right is a snapshot from this year, capturing the relaxed hustle and bustle that goes on in and around the Goshen on any given day.



The photos above show one of the longest-running and most popular events in the Goshen Lounge, the “Goshen Ocean” as it was first held in 1967 and most recently in 2012. Several tons of sand fill the lounge while students enjoy beach- and ocean-themed activities in the faux tropical scene.

The Goshen Lounge decorated for the holidays in the late 60s. At the time, the MUC was one of only five buildings on the SIUE campus.



One of the first pieces of art to reside at SIUE is the Plumbob. Gyo Obata, the architect for the first six buildings of the SIUE campus, was visiting an exhibit at the Carnegie Museum in Pittsburgh when he found the Plumbob. He had always planned for a large installation piece to hang in the MUC, and there it was. Donor and trustee Arnold Maremont purchased it and donated it the University. The 480-piece mobile was designed by Yasuhide Kobashi and has hung above the Goshen Lounge since the MUC opened in 1967.



Coined "the living room of the University" by Bob Handy, the first director of the MUC, the Goshen Lounge has always been a place for students to socialize and share in campus life.



Students portray a couple getting married in a demonstration of a traditional Indian wedding ceremony.



Along with the Goshen Ocean, the lounge has held many entertaining events over the years, including the Goshen Rodeo (left), Casino Night, Goshen Carnival, open mic nights and comedy club nights.



SIUE proudly welcomes students from all over the world. Happenings in the Goshen Lounge are often celebrations and showcases of students' varied cultures and traditions.

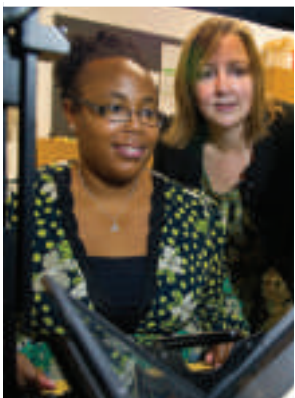


GRADUATE STUDIES AT **SIUE**



SIUE is committed to educating a distinguished and diverse cohort of master's and doctoral students. A graduate degree from SIUE offers opportunities for career advancement and opens doors in a variety of career areas. The graduate programs at SIUE are academically rigorous, and the intellectual learning environment emphasizes research and practice. You will be challenged and inspired to hone your skills and develop new ones.

- SIUE offers highly regarded master's programs plus specialist degrees, post-baccalaureate certificates, doctoral degrees and cooperative doctoral programs.
- *Washington Monthly* and *U.S. News & World Report* consistently rank SIUE among the top master's granting colleges and universities in the nation.
- Graduate programs emphasize real-world experience through original research opportunities, student-faculty research collaborations and partnerships with communities, government, industries and other universities.



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SIUE is proud to support responsible use of forest resources. This magazine is printed with soy-based inks on paper that came from well-managed forests or other controlled sources certified in accordance with the international standards of the Forest Stewardship Council. See below for some interesting statistics based on the selection of materials used in this publication.

Number of trees saved: 23 trees, **Total energy saved:** 11 million BTUs, **Greenhouse gases prevented:** 2,025 lbs., **Wastewater reduction:** 10,985 gallons, **Solid waste reduction:** 735 lbs.

