



# Nursing gems



Marcia C. Maurer, Ph.D., RN - Dean, SIUE School of Nursing

*“Save one life and you’re a hero, save a hundred lives and you’re a nurse,” Anonymous*

*This quote was read by Provost Ferguson at the Dedication to the Profession Ceremony, Sept. 2007.*

This academic year has been a special one as the University has sustained a year-long celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Edwardsville campus. The campus faculty, staff, students, former administrators, and guests were treated to a wonderful speech by Chancellor Emeritus, David Werner last September. If you are interested you can go to <http://www.siu.edu/news/mediapacket/ConvocationSpeech.shtml> and read his entire speech. I personally found his presentation extremely compelling. Having been a member of the SIUE campus for five years I have not been immersed in the history of the campus as many of the long-term employees have been, so the “story” of how the campus was “born” and developed was riveting.

Nursing enrollment continues to be robust. The combined undergraduate and graduate enrollment for the Spring, 2008 term was 731 students. We are working diligently to initiate the Doctorate of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree. Our goal is to admit the first class in the Fall of 2009.

I wish to thank our many alumni and friends who have contributed time, energy, and money to the SON. We cannot move forward without you. I would like to especially thank

Dr. Gloria Perry, emeritus faculty who has established an annual scholarship to be awarded to an RN to BS student who intends to move directly into the graduate program. Corporations have also joined in to assist us provide for our students. AT&T was kind enough to award us the money to purchase lap top computers for our SNAP (Student Nurse Achievement Program) students. These students from economically, socially, and educationally deprived regions are unable to secure things like computers. The contribution made by AT&T is therefore extremely meaningful to us and will help these students be successful.

The crowning experience for students in a School of Nursing is their clinical experience. The SON is extremely fortunate to be able to secure wonderful clinical experiences for our students in the metro-east region which includes St. Louis. Our students and faculty also travel as far north as Springfield and all sites in between there and Edwardsville to obtain clinical experiences. We are so grateful to our clinical agencies for welcoming the students and faculty into their agencies. With over 200 clinical contracts active, I would be remiss to try and name our agencies for surely I would omit some. For anyone interested we have included some of these clinical sites on our web page.

There is truly insufficient space to talk about everything that is happening in the SON! The one element truly missing is information about YOU, our graduates, our alums. What are you up to? We would absolutely love hearing from you and reporting your achievements in our annual Dean’s Report (mailed in January) and our two yearly newsletters. Angie Peters, our Director of Development, always enjoys getting emails from our alums and sharing those with the SON. Please drop a note and let her know what you are doing: [angpete@siue.edu](mailto:angpete@siue.edu). Happy Fall!

*Marcia Maurer, Ph.D., RN*

Marcia C. Maurer, Ph.D., RN  
 Dean, SIUE School of Nursing  
 RWJ Executive Nurse Fellow – Alum

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# Alumni Heritage Walk



**H**i! I am Jenne Delkus, President of the School of Nursing (SON) Alumni Advisory Board. I would very much like to invite you to join SON alumni, faculty, staff, students, hospital representatives, friends of nursing and myself at our fifth annual School of Nursing (SON) Alumni Heritage Walk for Nursing

Scholarships. The walk will take place on Saturday, September 13, 2008 at 9:00 a.m. on the SIUE Campus, at Alumni Hall on the north lawn.

For me, the Walk is not only an annual opportunity to reconnect with classmates and visit with my favorite professors, it's a chance to support current SON students in a meaningful way. The funds raised go toward scholarships for our SON students, a cause near and dear to me.

So put on your walking shoes and join me, along with other SON supporters, for a walk around the gorgeous SIUE campus. Your \$25.00 registration fee gets you a t-shirt, continental breakfast, and that great feeling that comes from supporting such a worthy cause!

## Fourth Annual SIUE School of Nursing Alumni Heritage Walk for Nursing Scholarships

*SON alumni and supporters enjoy walking on the course through the beautiful SIUE campus in September.*



For questions or more information, please contact Kris Heather, Special Events Facilitator, at (618) 650-2551 or [kheathe@siue.edu](mailto:kheathe@siue.edu). Or you can visit <http://www.siue.edu/nursing/news> and click on the Walk logo to find registration and hotel information.

Hope to see you and your friends at the Alumni Heritage Walk for Nursing Scholarships!

**Jenne Delkus, '93**

President, SON Alumni Advisory Board

## Another great year in the SON



### SON Gala

Dean Mauer makes a special delivery to the Ferguson family of her coveted Christmas cookies – the most prized auction item at the SON Gala. Provost Ferguson was the successful bidder!

### First Annual School of Nursing Faculty Banquet & Awards

Christine Emling, pictured with Dean Marcia Maurer and Provost Paul Ferguson, receives the Betty AuBuchon Award for Excellence in Teaching. The awards event further recognizes faculty for their commitment to students and their scholarly work.

# Alumni Association



As you work to build your career in the healing arts, the SIUE Office of Alumni Affairs is working to build an Alumni Association that is worthy of the 80-thousand graduates of our alma mater, including you.

If you're already a member of the Association, we thank you. If you haven't joined, please

consider what you've been missing.

Over the past year, we have hosted a variety of events, from wine tastings to brunch and tickets to the Broadway smash "Wicked." We organized the Flashback to the MRF, which saw more than a thousand people reconnect with old friends and great memories. We're committed to community involvement, continuing education, and volunteerism. We have also dramatically improved the financial benefits which accompany Alumni Association membership; from on-line buying

services with major cost reductions to discounts at local businesses.

The list of those providers grows every day. We have launched "Cougar Tracks," an on-line community to enhance that critical area of networking. The level and quality of communication has also been raised to award winning levels through our alumni magazine e-Connection, and timely and substantive e-mails.

We have also opened the doors of communication to you, the SIUE alumnus/alumna, seeking input on everything from where we're headed to how we get there. I invite you to share your concerns, suggestions and comments to us by e-mailing me directly at [sjankow@siue.edu](mailto:sjankow@siue.edu).

I'd love your input, whether you're a member of the Association or not. I look forward to hearing from you.

**Steve Jankowski '74**

Director, Alumni Affairs



## SIUE Involved In Landmark National Research Initiative

SIUE's School of Nursing will receive about \$4 million over 5 years and take an active role in the National Children's Study through Dr. Louise Flick, professor in the SON and co-principal investigator for the study. Dr. Flick is pictured here with Dr. Trish Fazzone, SIUE Department Chair Family Health & Community Health Nursing.



## Jewels of Nursing Excellence

Nancy Weston was awarded the Outstanding Nursing Alumna for 2008 at the Gala in April. Nancy is pictured here with her colleagues from Memorial Hospital in Belleville. Nancy was described in the letter of nomination as, improving the image of nursing through, "her pursuit of excellence, servant leadership style, tireless quality and patient safety initiatives, and interdisciplinary collaboration."

# A TIME WORTH REMEMBERING:

## One Nurse's Career Journey to Retirement by Arleen Fearing, RN, EdD

Large signs hanging along the campus roads remind us that SIUE has just finished celebrating its 50th Anniversary, 1957-2007. Those years represent a special anniversary for me because in 1957 I graduated from high school and entered nursing school, and 2007 is the year I retired from SIUE School of Nursing.

When I was growing up an accepted fact was that girls did not need an education, but boys needed high school and college to support their families. Despite this, I was determined at an early age to complete high school and become a radio

announcer. To pay for broadcasting school, I obtained an after school and week end job at the local hospital. This was my introduction to healthcare, first working in the diet kitchen on the medical-surgical floor, then as a nurses' aid. After excelling in public speaking and passing the required voice tests, I was accepted into the American Institute of the Air in Minneapolis. At my high school graduation, however, I was presented with a full scholarship for nursing school at the hospital where I was working. This was a surprise to me and required that I make a decision within three days. Three patients I had taken care of in the hospital obtained the scholarship in my behalf because they had decided I "had to be a nurse." My mother convinced me not to go to Minneapolis alone; so, I entered nursing as a student in my hometown in 1957.

My student days were quite different from what our SIUE students experience today. We did not have a choice about living in the dorm, we had to follow strict rules and a tight schedule. Our 3 month clinical rotations included all three shifts, week ends and holidays, in addition to theory classes and skills lab. There were no video procedure tapes, computers or human simulators – we practiced many of the procedures on each other.

Some procedures we performed were throat irrigations, camphor oil with pneumonia jackets, abdominal binders, and oxygen tents using large green oxygen tanks from the hospital basement (no piped in oxygen then). Thermometers, syringes, I.V. bottles and all drainage bottles were glass which had to be cleaned, sterilized and handled with care. We mixed, prepared and passed medications, even for the IV's.

During my hospital nursing time, I participated in

ushering in many new changes and equipment that benefited patients. One thing that came about was plastic. Not only was everything made out of plastic; but, the items were disposable. No more saving, cleaning, wrapping and autoclaving equipment. Piped in oxygen and suction, IV monitoring machines, portable EKG machines, cardiac monitors, telemetry, and intensive care units were a few of the advancements that came about during my career. I did not realize at the time that I was a modern pioneer establishing a trail for other nurses to follow when I consented to be one of a second group of nurses to be trained by the cardiologists for the new intensive coronary care unit (ICCU) in the hospital where I worked. This was an exciting time to be in nursing, to have autonomy, provide leadership on a true care team, spend more time with patients and their families, teach new nurses and learn more through study and conferences.

I became a nurse educator after completing the BSN and MSN degrees with my first teaching position at Michael Reese Hospital School of Nursing. I taught their last junior level surgical course as the school closed when that class graduated the next

year. I went on to teach at Chicago State University in a baccalaureate program where I was able to participate in the higher education assessment movement, was involved in grant writing, student retention and was a consultant to other schools of nursing across the country on academic enrichment of at-risk nursing students, a program that I coordinated and later directed prior to serving as Director of Academic Support Services on the university level.

My tenure at SIUE School of Nursing has been a special time in my career. I arrived here with all the requirements completed for an EdD degree from ISU except the dissertation; plus enough teaching experience to step right in as a faculty team member in the middle of the 1994-1995 academic year. Fortunately, my dissertation was completed and successfully defended in that first semester.

My career continued to progress here along with my pioneer type spirit, love of teaching students and need to embrace new challenges. The first challenge (after the computer in my office) was two way audio-video distance education teaching. Distance Ed teaching went well, I enjoyed it and colleagues teased by saying that I finally got on T.V. I have been able to participate actively in each new online teaching mode introduced by the University, WebCT and Blackboard, and develop online course material that has been well received by students and other faculty members.

*"I have deep respect and appreciation for those who assisted me during my education and throughout my nursing journey."*

*Arleen Fearing*

ARLEEN FEARING, RN, EdD



I have been involved with a good research team and have been able to participate in many nursing and education research projects, dissemination presentations and co-presentations and publications in refereed nursing journals. One big scholarship highlight was being a co-presenter of our high rise research at the International Nursing Education Convention in Canberra, Australia.

Another early challenge I received was to establish a nursing organization for the graduate students - the Graduate Student Nurses Organization (GSNO) was established as an official student organization in the University through the assistance of Marguerite Riley and a select group of graduate students.

Over my years at SIUE, I fulfilled key assignments during re-accreditation, was able to write the operating policy to establish a Graduate Curriculum Committee and also chaired that new committee in the School of Nursing for two academic years, chaired the task force that developed the Thesis/Project Day, and considered myself fortunate to have been chair and member of many School of Nursing standing committees on both the undergraduate and graduate levels. I served on approximately 85 thesis/project committees, 30 of which I chaired. I also served on several university committees and received promotion and tenure along the way.

Then, suddenly in the middle of my 50th year in nursing, I was retired. This was a career transition that I had not anticipated or really expected to ever happen to me. As a result, I only partially retired maintaining membership in five professional organizations along with assignments and attendance at meetings. I am still completing research projects, scholarly writing and doing research dissemination at upcoming conventions.

Retirement brought a welcomed opportunity to travel. We traveled to London where we took a number of tours; but, my visit to the Florence Nightingale Museum was one of the highlights of the trip. There were actual items there that Florence used for nursing care, records of medications given and letters written by her and a chart showing how she kept statistics that led to uniform hospital record keeping. Even today much of what we value in nursing we owe to Florence Nightingale.

My retirement so far has been quite a learning experience, and hopefully, more travel will continue to be part of it. Overall, my nursing career was a special and rewarding one, not only for me but for all the patients, families, students and faculty that I cared for and taught. I have deep respect and appreciation for those who assisted me during my education and throughout my nursing journey. There were administrators, school of nursing directors and deans, and colleagues who provided the incentive and encouragement for me to perform at a high professional level and expect that same performance from the students I taught.

What the future may bring in nursing and nursing education in the next 50 years is unknown to us. What we do know is that change continues through time and students going into nursing today will have just as many surprises, and maybe more, as my generation had. I am sure innovations and technology will continue; and hopefully, the nurse and caring will remain with the patient, and that we will always strive to leave the profession better than we found it.

For now, let us celebrate the 50th Anniversary of SIUE with best wishes for success during the next 50 years.



### Alumni Meet in D.C.

The SIUE Alumni Association hosted a brunch in Washington, D.C. in March of 2008. Four of the SON alumni, and two of their spouses, were in attendance.



### The Tradition Continues

On September 16, 2007, 161 Juniors took part in the Dedication to the Profession, marking their entry into the clinical arena as nursing students.

# Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE)



The Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) is an arm of the American Association of College of Nursing, that assures excellence of baccalaureate and graduate programs that educate future nurses. According to the CCNE website, "CCNE serves the public interest by assessing and identifying programs that engage in effective educational practices. As a voluntary, self-regulatory process, CCNE accreditation supports and encourages continuing self-assessment by nursing education programs and the continuing growth and improvement of collegiate professional education."

Every ten years a school of nursing comes up for re-accreditation. The SIUE School of Nursing last went through the re-accreditation process in 1998-1999. We are diligently writing our re-accreditation report and will have it submitted to CCNE in September. The CCNE evaluation team will be on our campus November 3-5, 2008 to observe our activities in

the classroom, the clinical practicum sites as well as to interview students, faculty and School of Nursing and University Administrators. We have a great School and look forward to the evaluators' visit so we can showcase the myriad of things that we are doing.

CCNE will provide us with a preliminary report, and then we will post the formal results on the SON website sometime in June 2009 at <http://www.siu.edu/nursing/>.

## SON CLASS NOTES

### 1960s

**Senda Guertzgen (BS '67, MS '90)** retired as the Director for the Division of Nursing at Hannibal-LaGrange College in Missouri. Senda serves as the Chair of the Scholarship and Awards Committee of the Missouri League for Nursing.

### 1970s

**James Cato (BS '78)** is the Vice President and Chief Nursing Officer for the Eclipsys Corporation, based in Atlanta, Georgia.

**Ed Curtis (BS '75)** is the President and Chief Executive Officer of Memorial Health System in Springfield, Illinois.

**Karen Kelly (BS '72, MS '77)** is Associate Professor & Coordinator for Continuing Education in the SIUE School of Nursing. Karen is involved in many local and state nursing associations, including the Illinois

Nurses Association (American Nurses Association) as a Director at Large for 2007 - 2009.

**Karen Mayes (BS '79, MS '90)** is the Director of Nursing Education for St. Louis Community College.

**Karen Pace (BS '74)** is a Senior Program Director of the National Quality Forum in Washington, D.C.

**Marleen Popovic (BS '71, MS '74)** is the Administrator for Illinois Oncology of Maryville and Belleville, Illinois.

**Donna Starkweather (BS '73, MS '84)** is a Psychiatric Risk Manager Consultant in Maryland.

**Nancy Weston (BS '77, MS '94)** was nominated by her colleagues at Memorial Hospital in Belleville, Illinois, and was recognized by the SON as an Outstanding Alumna at the

fourth annual Jewels of Nursing Excellence Gala in April. Nancy serves as Memorial's Vice President for Nursing.

### 1980s

**Linda Becher (BS '85)** was awarded a BJH Service Excellence Award through Barnes-Jewish Hospital in Missouri.

**Andrea Caswell (BS '88)** was recognized as a Clinical Ladder Achiever, Level II-A, by Anderson Hospital in Maryville, Illinois.

**Sherry Hausmann (BS '87)**, President of SSM St. Joseph Hospital/SSM St. Clare Health Center, was selected as one of the Most Influential Business Women in St. Louis, Missouri for 2008.

**Mona Hoffmann (BS '86)** was presented with the Excellence in Mentoring Award by Children's Hospital in St. Louis, Missouri.

**Leslie Montgomery (BS '86, MS '91)** joined the Nursing Practice Development Team as a nursing practice development facilitator at Memorial Medical Center in Springfield, Illinois.

**Dawn Reynolds (BS '85)** is a US Navy Nurse working as a liaison between the Department of Defense and the United States Department of Veterans Affairs to support wounded soldiers and their families.

**Johanna Schloemann (BS '84)** presented on the *EMPOWER Program: The Development and Implementation of an Early Intervention Parent Education Program in the NICU at A Passion for Excellence: Creating Brighter Tomorrows for Babies in San Diego*. Johanna also serves as a mentor for the Evidence-Based Practice Scholars Program for Children's Hospital.

# SON CLASS NOTES

**Judy Thompson (BS '80)** was recognized by Anderson Hospital as a Clinical Ladder Achiever, Level II-C.

**Cheryl Weber (BS '84)** reached Clinical Ladder Achiever, Level II-B, and was acknowledged by Anderson Hospital.

**Melissa Wilson (BS '84)** is a Clinical Research Nurse for the National Institute of Health.

**Maggie Wolf (BS '86, MS '96)** presented on the *EMPOWER Program: The Development and Implementation of an Early Intervention Parent Education Program in the NICU* at A Passion for Excellence: Creating Brighter Tomorrows for Babies in San Diego.

## 1990s

**Yvonne Barnes (BS '92)** presented a poster on Bone Marrow Transplant at the BMT Tandem Meetings in San Diego, and presented at the Association of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Nurse's 31st Annual Meeting. Yvonne was recognized for these professional accomplishments by St. Louis Children's Hospital.

**Michele Brown (MS '90)** serves as the Associate Director of Nursing/Patient Care Services for the St. Louis Veteran's Administration Medical Center (VAMC). The St. Louis VAMC was voted the SON 2008 Outstanding Hospital and the leadership team accepted their award at the fourth annual Jewels of Nursing Excellence Gala.

**Amy Cagas (BS '94)** received a Nursing Excellence Award from Memorial Hospital in Belleville, Illinois.

**Shauna Cooper (BS '97, MS '06)** recently received recognition as a Clinical Ladder Achiever, Level III-C, from Anderson Hospital.

**Jamie Danks (BS '94)** was recognized as a Clinical Ladder Achiever, Level II-A, by Anderson Hospital.

**Jennefer Delkus (BS '94)** is President of Global Staffing Strategies, Inc. in Des Peres, Missouri. Jennefer was presented with a crystal gavel at the fourth annual Jewels of Nursing Excellence Gala for her outstanding leadership as President of the SON Alumni Advisory Board.

**Ann Donze (MS '94)** published the article, "An Evidence-based Review of Hyperbillirubinemia in the Late Preterm Infant with Implications for Practice: Management, Follow-up and Breastfeeding Support," in the *Neonatal Network*.

**Jessica Duft (BS '96, MS '01)** was given recognition for reaching Clinical Ladder Achiever, Level III-C, from Anderson Hospital.

**Terri Furfaro (BS '95, MS '04)** had an article entitled, "Nurse Practitioners' Knowledge and Practice Regarding Malignant Melanoma Assessment and Counseling," published in the June 2008 issue of the *Journal of the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners*. SIUE faculty, Drs. Laura Bernaix, Cindy Schmidt, and Jackie Clement co-authored the article. Terri is a Nurse Practitioner at Gregory & Musick Dermatology, based in Swansea, Illinois.

**Philip Holtgrave (BS '96, MS '04)** is a Nurse Practitioner with Soulard-Benton Grace Hill Clinic and Barnes-Jewish Behavioral Health, both located in Missouri.

**Michelle Lawson (MS '97)** presented on the *EMPOWER Program: The Development and Implementation of an Early Intervention Parent Education Program in the NICU* at A Passion for Excellence: Creating Brighter Tomorrows for Babies in San Diego.

**Betty Miller, (BS '95)** was a presenter on the, "Impact of a unified approach to recovery of bladder incontinence for patients after stroke," at the Bedside Scientist Institute

through Memorial Medical Center in Springfield, Illinois.

**Leslie Miller (BS '96)** was honored through Barnes-Jewish Hospital with the Patricia Potter Quality Improvement Award.

**Kim Perry (BS '93)** was acknowledged by Anderson Hospital for completion of a Master of Science in Nursing in December of 2007.

**Cheryl Schunk (BS '95)** achieved certification as a Medical/Surgical RN through Academy of Medical-Surgical Nurses.

## 2000s

**Deborah Beck (BS '03)** was acknowledged by Memorial Medical Center for presenting at the Association of Perioperative Nurses Congress in California.

**Mia Cass (BS '00)** was acknowledged by Anderson Hospital for becoming Clinical Ladder Achiever, Level II-B.

**Deidra Boente (BS '06)** is an Obstetrics Nurse at St. Mary's Health Center in Richmond Heights, Missouri.

**Frank Grasso (BS '06)** was awarded the Rookie of the Year Award by Barnes-Jewish Hospital.

**Amy Hamilton (MS '01)** was honored by Memorial Hospital in Belleville with a Nursing Excellence Award.

**Mary Lahniers (BS '04)** received a Nursing Leadership Award through Barnes-Jewish Hospital.

**Crystal Lask (BS '04)** was nominated by her supervisor at Barnes-Jewish St. Peters Hospital in St. Peters, Missouri, and was awarded the Outstanding New SIUE School of Nursing Alumna. Crystal is currently employed as a Patient Safety/Quality Improvement Coordinator.

**Amy Lehman (BS '06)** is a Labor & Delivery Nurse at St. Joseph Health Center in St. Charles, Missouri.

**Karen Looper (BS '01)** achieved national certification as a Certified Pediatric Nurse.

**Kelly Meier (BS '01)** received recognition as a Clinical Ladder Achiever, Level II-A, from Anderson Hospital.

**Michelle McAfee (BS '00)** serves as the Manager of Programs and Projects for Clinical Excellence for Ascension Health.

**Lisa Mollet (BS '01)** reached Clinical Ladder Achiever, Level II-A, and was acknowledged by Anderson Hospital.

**Steve Nolan (BS '06)** is a nurse at DePaul Hospital in St. Louis, Missouri and is enrolled in the SIUE graduate program for the Nurse Anesthesia specialization.

**Nicole Pelczynski (BS '07)** is a Psychiatric Nurse for the Mood Disorders Unit at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota.

**Pam Phillips (BS '02)** was recognized as a Clinical Ladder Achiever, Level II-B, from Anderson Hospital.

**Alicia Rednour (BS '00)** was acknowledged by Anderson Hospital for becoming a Clinical Ladder Achiever, Level II-B.

**Kaci Shashack (BS '06)** is a nurse at the Anderson Hospital Pavilion for Women in Maryville, Illinois.

**Tara Weirich (BS '04, MS '07)** was published in the February, 2008 *Association of Perioperative Registered Nurses (AORN) Journal* with an article entitled, "Hypothermia/Warming Protocols: Why Are They Not Widely Used in the OR?"

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*compassion* to care *courage* to serve *excellence* in action *curiosity* to learn *creativity* to teach *life-long* learning



## Upcoming Events



### ***Alumni Heritage Walk***

September 13, 2008

### ***School of Nursing Convocation***

December 19, 2008

### ***Commencement***

December 20, 2008

### ***Open House for Prospective Students***

February 14, 2009

### ***Jewels of Nursing Excellence Gala***

April 25, 2009

### ***School of Nursing Convocation***

May 8, 2009

### ***Commencement***

May 9, 2009

***For definitive information contact Kris  
Heather, [kheathe@siue.edu](mailto:kheathe@siue.edu)***

## Contact the SON

**Marcia C. Maurer, Ph.D., RN**

Dean & Professor

[mamaure@siue.edu](mailto:mamaure@siue.edu)

**Mary Ann Boyd, RN, Ph.D., DNS, BC, APN**

Assoc. Dean Academic Programs

[mboyd@siue.edu](mailto:mboyd@siue.edu)

**Jacquelyn Clement, Ph.D. APRN-BC, FNP**

Asst. Dean Graduate Program

[jclemen@siue.edu](mailto:jclemen@siue.edu)

**Mary Mulcahy, RN, Ed.D.**

Asst. Dean, Undergraduate &

Alternative Programs

[mmulcah@siue.edu](mailto:mmulcah@siue.edu)

**Angie Peters**

Director of Development

[angpete@siue.edu](mailto:angpete@siue.edu)

*compassion* to care *courage* to serve *excellence* in action *curiosity* to learn *creativity* to teach *life-long* learning