

March 3, 2010

Steve Rensberry
News Editor
The Edwardsville *Intelligencer*
117 N. Second St.
Edwardsville, IL 62025

Dear Mr. Rensberry,

Networking at 7:30 a.m.? Who does that? SIUE Alumni Association thinks it's a great idea. The SIUE Alumni Association has launched a new series of events called "SIUE Alumni Networking Breakfasts" that will be held throughout the St. Louis Metropolitan area. The breakfasts are designed to bring area alumni together.

In an unsteady economy, it is vital to network often. Building relationships with other business professionals can open many doors for career opportunities. The old saying "it's not what you know, it's who you know" is becoming even more true with the current unemployment rate at 9.7 percent, according to the United States Department of Labor.

The networking breakfasts will entail networking with other business professionals while eating breakfast and listening to a keynote speaker. Each of the keynote speakers will be accomplished alumni, who will discuss their professional background. The first networking breakfast was a huge success. It was held at Scott Credit Union in Belleville, Ill., where 23 alumni attended the event. The keynote speaker was accomplished alumnus, Samuel J. Lutton, '75 BS, who talked about his past career and his current passion, writing novels. Lutton's speech was inspiring to attendees because he exemplified that hard work always pays off. He even inspired attendees to think about creative writing as a hobby. The second networking breakfast will be held at the Gateway Center in Collinsville, Ill., in the Mississippian Room from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. on March 31. The keynote speaker will be SIUE alumnus, Congressman John Shimkus, '97 MBA. To read full biographies of the speakers, go to www.siue.edu/alumni.

I'll be following up with you soon to discuss your interest in a story on the SIUE Alumni Networking Breakfast events. Interviews and photo ops can be arranged. If you have any questions, please contact me directly at (618) 650-2760 or lahayes@siue.edu.

With Warm Regards,

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