

SIUE School of Nursing Alumna Klaustermeier reflects on past, present

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EDWARDSVILLE — In September, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville honored eight remarkable graduates at the 2018 SIUE Alumni Hall of Fame ceremony, “A Night Among the Stars.” Of the eight inductees, The School of Nursing (SON) chose to honor Lisa Klaustermeier for a place in the Hall of Fame

On this week’s episode of Segue, SIUE’s premier radio show, Chancellor Randy Pembroke, PhD, interviews Klaustermeier about her exceptional career in nursing and her time as an SIUE student.

The conversation will air at 9 a.m. on Sunday, Nov. 25, on WSIE 88.7 FM The Sound.

*Photo: For The Intelligencer
SIUE School of Nursing Dean Laura Bernaix, left,
and Lisa Klaustermeier at the 2018
Alumni Hall of Fame ceremony.*

Klaustermeier graduated from SIUE with a bachelor’s and master’s in nursing in 1993 and 2001, respectively. For the last nine years, she has served as the chief nursing officer at Anderson Hospital in Maryville. Her career began at Saint Louis University Hospital, where she quickly moved into a management position. She then moved to Anderson Hospital, where she has served in leadership positions for 20 years.

During her tenure as chief nursing officer, she has been instrumental in mentoring staff and students, expanding and improving patient care service lines, providing leadership to more than 400 nurses and staff members, and leading performance improvement programs.

An adjunct faculty member in the SON, she is a member of the American Organization of Nurse Leaders, American Nurses Association and Illinois Organization of Nurse Leaders where she served as regional president.

“What was your reaction when you received the news you were going to be honored by the SIUE Alumni Association?” Chancellor Pembroke asks.

“I received a text from Dr. Laura Bernaix, and I was initially a little worried, because she does not text me,” Klaustermeier explains. “I called her, and she gave me the information regarding the induction.

“There are thousands of nurses who have graduated from the SIUE School of Nursing, and I was honored to be chosen.”

“With all of your amazing experiences, I’m not at all surprised that you were inducted,” Pembroke says. “Something I love about the Alumni Hall of Fame is that people get to interact with former faculty members, perhaps some colleagues they have not seen in a long time. Did you have anything similar occur as far as your Hall of Fame experience?”

“I had the opportunity to be on campus during the day of the event, and I attended a class of undergraduate students. I was able to share my personal and career experiences,” Klaustermeier says. “I had lunch with faculty from the School of Nursing, and discussed the collaboration and cooperation of the academic and clinical world.

“We came up with goals for our future of working together, so it was a productive lunch as well as an opportunity for me to see them, as I’ve worked with them in the past both as a student and as colleagues.”

In terms of the SON’s strengths, Klaustermeier is amazed by the opportunities offered by the School’s leadership, the mentorship from exceptional faculty members provided to each student, and level of innovation that the School strives to achieve.

“Dr. Bernaix and the faculty are outstanding,” Klaustermeier said. “They continue to do research, are current on best practices and reach out to the community. Those things are so crucial to moving a program forward. Above all, they are not afraid to take risks and make changes in their programs that make their curriculum more accessible or available to potential and active students.

“The technology the students have at their fingertips in the program, especially with the Nursing Simulation Lab, is impressive. Anything you can do to have that hands-on element is extremely attractive to students. Also, to have so many clinical partners, like Anderson Hospital, on board with your program, to give your students a wealth of options to choose from, makes your program stand out.”

“I want to applaud the School of Nursing for thinking about those community partnerships and creating those hands-on experiences,” Pembroke says. “Those experiences are so important and by now, they’ve become a trademark of an SIUE education. They have opportunities to work in different environments and share the skills they’ve learned with others before they graduate, which is quite special.”

Among the SON’s many hands-on opportunities, the School now offers students the option to explore the human body like never before with a life-size, 3D Anatomage Table. Students can virtually dissect and study human anatomy in ways that were previously inaccessible.

“It’s kind of like an anatomy lesion where you can ‘peel back the layers’ and see what’s underneath,” Pembroke explains.

“When I was here on campus, Dr. Bernaix demonstrated a little bit of what the board could do,” Klaustermeier says. “I asked when I come back for my next visit, that I’d love to get my hands on it and explore what it can do. Also, what a great opportunity for students! They can look into the body, see how the body’s systems work, and dive deeper into the anatomy and physiology of human beings.”

To hear more of the duo’s conversation, including more on Klaustermeier’s career at Anderson Hospital in Maryville, tune in to Segue at 9 a.m. on Sunday, Nov. 25, on WSIE 88.7 FM The Sound.