



Dean's Report 2011

College of **ARTS & SCIENCES**



Student Scholarship New Observatory Media Convergence Laboratory Visiting Artists and Professors Connecting with Cuba Mapping Technology

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
EDWARDSVILLE
COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES



Vaughn Vandegrift, Ph.D.
SIUE Chancellor

ABOUT SIUE

SIUE is a nationally recognized university that educates and develops professional and community leaders through its excellent faculty and broad choice of degrees and programs ranging from liberal arts to professional studies. Undergraduate and graduate degrees are offered in the arts and sciences, business, education, engineering and nursing. Professional degrees are available in dental medicine and pharmacy. More than 14,200 students choose SIUE for the enlightening programs, engaging faculty and convenient locations just 25 minutes from St. Louis.



FROM THE CHANCELLOR

At SIUE, we believe in saying, “Yes.” Yes to academic excellence. Yes to improving our region. Yes to doing the right things and doing them well.

For the second consecutive year, *Washington Monthly* ranks SIUE among the Top 50 master’s granting colleges and universities in the nation for our contributions to the public good. We are particularly pleased to be 13th among public universities across the United States on the list. *U.S. News & World Report’s America’s Best Colleges 2012* edition recognizes SIUE for numerous achievements. The University is cited as one of 46 “up-and-coming” schools for the third consecutive year and listed among the top 15 public universities in the best Regional Universities Midwest (master’s granting) category for the eighth consecutive year.

SIUE has launched its first ever major gifts campaign to enhance the scholarship offerings at the University as well as support the academic programming for which SIUE is gaining increasing national recognition. “*Defining Excellence – The Campaign for SIUE*” was announced officially on March 19, 2011. Private support is needed to help SIUE expand on the incredible impact it has had on Southwestern Illinois over the past 54 years.

Several campaign priorities have been identified for the College of Arts and Sciences—equipment funding for the new Science Building, endowed funds for student scholarships and a visiting artists/professors program, a mass communications digital convergence laboratory, and technology to support the physics observatory.

The College of Arts and Sciences is committed to helping students explore diversity of ideas, experiences and people while learning to think and live as fulfilled, productive members of a global society. Donor support will allow the College to continue to prepare students to meet the challenges of the future.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Vaughn Vandegrift'.

Vaughn Vandegrift, Ph.D.
SIUE Chancellor



Aldemaro Romero, Ph.D.
Dean



FROM THE DEAN

If there is one phrase to describe SIUE's College of Arts and Sciences, I would suggest "kinetic energy" because the College is constantly in motion. This Dean's Report provides a perfect opportunity to share some of our "movements" with you. Here's a preview of what's inside.

The new Science Building gets closer to a reality every day. Contractors and construction workers have been working through the cold of last winter, rain of this spring, and heat of the summer to create a state-of-the-art facility for our students and faculty. The completion of this building, along with the renovation of the current building, will benefit not only our science majors, but also students throughout the University.

We are pleased to be an important part in the record enrollment of 14,235 students taking courses at the University this fall. Nearly one-fourth of all SIUE undergraduate students are majoring in a CAS discipline, while more than 30 percent of graduate students are also enrolled in fields within the College. Several of our departments and programs have marked significant enrollment growth this year, including anthropology, biological sciences, chemistry, sociology and criminal justice, music, and theater and dance.

Our faculty members continue their myriad of creative endeavors while providing students with quality education. You can appreciate their fascinating work when you read the "Faculty Highlights" section of this report.

And of course our students are actively involved in their educations. They can be found not only in classrooms, labs, studios and stages at SIUE, but also in local internship and field sites, international universities as study abroad participants, and in regional agencies while engaged in service learning projects.

All of us in the College of Arts and Sciences owe a debt of gratitude to the alumni and friends who play active roles in our successes. Thank you for all you do to help keep the motion and momentum going throughout the College.

Sincerely,

Aldemaro Romero, Ph.D.
Dean

Defining Excellence

THE CAMPAIGN FOR SIUE



Southern Illinois University Edwardsville has grown in leaps and bounds from its humble beginnings in the late 1950s. Community members believed in the concept of higher education for Southern Illinois, and advocated for the creation of the University. They organized fund drives of private monies, donated property and campaigned for a state bond issue to finance building construction.

The University currently offers degrees in more than 100 areas, and is nationally recognized for its unique undergraduate capstone experience. SIUE Intercollegiate Athletics is moving into full Division I status. Students come from 46 states and 48 nations, and average ACT scores for incoming freshmen are increasing. While some institutions are struggling with enrollment, SIUE reached record enrollment in fall 2011, with 14,235 students enrolled.

The University was founded on the concept of accessibility, offering residents of Southwestern Illinois the opportunity to complete a college education. SIUE has helped create an educated, skilled workforce for organizations of all sizes and types, and has contributed to the quality of life in the region by making fine and performing arts easily accessible to residents.

During the last decade, state funding for SIUE has declined from 46 percent of our budget to 29 percent. Meanwhile the financial burden on our students and their families has substantially increased as the University's tuition income has increased from 17 percent to 26 percent. Furthermore, the state has struggled over the past several years to meet deadlines for transferring funds to all public universities, creating critical cash flow situations.

SIUE has successfully weathered this storm through responsible financial stewardship. Yet, providing a high quality, well-rounded higher education experience requires public universities, like SIUE, to look beyond state allocations, tuition and student fees. To maintain excellence and prepare SIUE students to succeed in the 21st Century, we must depend on the generous contributions of alumni and friends. For that reason, SIUE kicked off the public phase of its first major gifts campaign on March 19, 2011.

Having reached more than \$27 million at the time of the kick-off event, SIUE is positioned to successfully reach the University-wide "Defining Excellence: The Campaign for SIUE" goal of \$50 million. These funds will provide our students with affordable educations and necessary student support services, assist our nationally recognized faculty, direct an engine for scientific discovery and education, cultivate The Gardens at SIUE and strengthen the athletics program.

With the help of generous contributors, the University can build on its strong foundation. The vision that fostered the campus more than five decades ago is alive and well. The enclosed stories shed some light on where the future is leading SIUE and the College of Arts and Sciences.



siue.edu/definingexcellence

SERVING AS THE **INTELLECTUAL HEART** OF THE UNIVERSITY
TRANSFORMING THOUGHT THROUGH OUTSTANDING LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES EDUCATION
PROMOTING **DIVERSITY** IN IDEAS, EXPERIENCES AND PEOPLE
TEACHING REAL-WORLD TRANSFERABLE SKILLS AND **PREPARING STUDENTS** FOR LIVES OF PURPOSE
IMPROVING SOCIETY THROUGH INNOVATIVE
MEANINGFUL RESEARCH AND CREATIVE ACTIVITIES



Chris Spangler, senior, studio art major

Support for Students:

SCHOLARSHIPS

SIUE offers quality higher education at an affordable cost, and scholarships play an important role in attracting and retaining top-notch students. This is especially true in the arts, where aptitudes cannot be measured by standard college admission exams. The performing arts are one area in which the strength of the ensemble or production is dependent on the quality of the individuals. Thus, scholarships play a vital role not only in attracting first-rate students, but also in keeping the entire program robust.

“The more scholarship money you have to offer, the better your chances are at attracting the best students from around the country and world,” said Audrey Tallent, professor of music and chair of that department.

And she does mean around the world. Current and recent international students hail from Brazil, Finland, Taiwan and South Korea, and the department’s current enrollment is around 130 undergraduate students and 35 graduate students.

“We are at a great disadvantage because we do not offer full ride, or even half ride, scholarships to talented students,” Tallant said. “We certainly have excellent faculty who attract high-quality students, but we lose many good students to other programs because of the lack of scholarship offerings. We had 92 students audition last year and only 2.5 tuition waivers to offer to incoming freshmen.”

Chris Spangler, a studio art major from Springfield, Ill., took out his first student loans when he enrolled for classes at SIUE in spring 2010. Since then, he has received the Phi Kappa Phi scholarship and a Provost’s Fine Arts Scholarship at SIUE.

“Thanks to the scholarships, I will be able to graduate without having to borrow anything more than I did my

first year, leaving me with minimal debt,” he said. Spangler believes that scholarships in the arts benefit more than just the students who receive them.

“By alleviating the burden of keeping up with mounting expenses, students can focus their efforts on their studies and producing creative work, which will contribute positively to the public image for the student and the University.”

Scholarships are welcome across all 19 departments within the College of Arts and Sciences, but are particularly vital in the fine arts areas. Special scholarship assistance is needed in:

■ *Music, Art & Design, Theater & Dance* departments can raise the bar on the quality of artistic performance and exhibitions presented to the citizens of the region with an infusion of scholarship funding for recruitment and retention.

■ The *Mass Communications* program is one of only 120 in the nation accredited by the prestigious Accrediting Council for Education in Journalism and Mass Communications. The department needs scholarships to maintain the quality of this highly competitive and rapidly changing academic program.

■ *Fellowships* provide a stipend of \$15,000 per year (three semesters). These help recruit and retain one exceptional graduate student for a 12-month fellowship to assist in the classroom and laboratory, alongside outstanding faculty in the sciences, social sciences, arts or humanities.

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Ideal Environment for Teaching Science:

SCIENCE BUILDING

Bit by bit, the concrete, pipe and rebar have come together on the SIUE campus as the new Science Building Complex takes shape. The 136,000-square-foot addition is being constructed adjacent to the existing Science Building; the two will connect via a bridge walkway on the first level.

The new four-story building will house the University's biological sciences and chemistry departments and the environmental sciences program, along with state-of-the-art labs and offices for faculty. After these departments relocate, renovation of the current Science Building will begin.

The mathematics and statistics department and the physics department will stay in the refurbished Science Building, which will also contain two large auditorium classrooms, general classroom space and renovated research areas. Additional refurbished space will be used by the University's STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) Center.

Funding for renovations and updates has been limited in recent years. These issues, coupled with enrollment growth, demonstrated the need for a new structure. Plans were originally presented for a new building in 1999, but the State of Illinois did not release funding for the project until 2009. The cost of constructing the new building is

\$53 million while the renovation of the existing Science Building will be \$29 million. The current timeline calls for the new structure to be finished in 2012. Renovation of the current facility is expected to take two years to complete.

"Twelve years of dreaming of a new science facility at SIUE will be worth the wait when we move," said Robert Dixon, associate professor of chemistry and chair of that department.

Approximately 135 students are enrolled in the chemistry program, and the department also teaches required courses with accompanying laboratories for many popular majors, including biology, pre-medicine, pre-pharmacy, engineering, nursing and health education. This demand has created a tremendous strain on space and resources for the department, with labs being taught from 8:30 a.m. until 9:30 p.m. and on weekends.

"The new building will double the number of labs for upper-level chemistry majors," said Dixon. "Our students can integrate all areas of science into answering current questions and problems in chemistry. This will allow us to offer open-ended, project-based labs that will emulate what will be required of our students in their future professions."

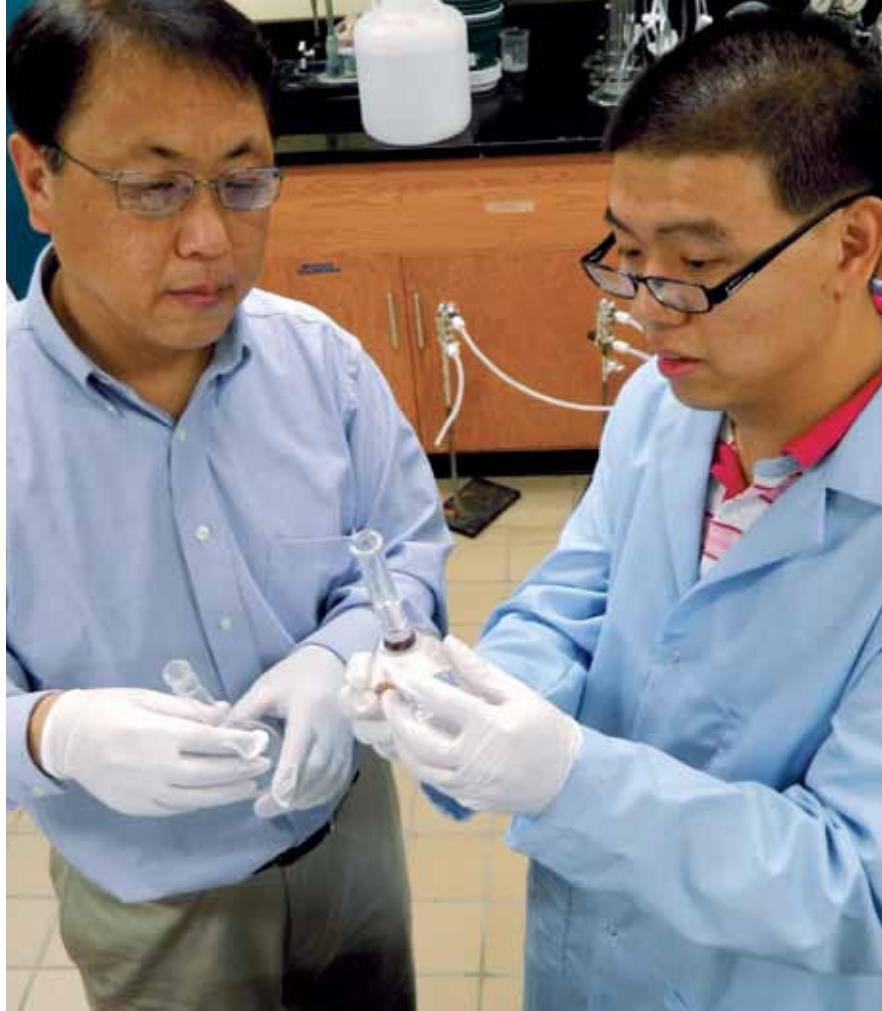




Robert Dixon, associate professor and department chair, chemistry

“In order to prepare science, allied health and engineering students to transition successfully into the job market, we must ensure their proficiency in working with instrumentation they will encounter on a daily basis in research, medical and corporate environments.”

– Dean Aldemaro Romero



From left: Zhi-Qing Lin, associate professor, biological sciences and environmental sciences, and environmental sciences graduate student Yangyu Zhu

Zhi-Qing Lin is an associate professor with a split appointment between biological sciences and environmental sciences. His research centers on studying environmental toxins and the use of plants to remove these contaminants. When he interviewed at SIUE in 2002, Lin said the promised new lab space was partly what attracted him to the University. He is looking forward to leaving behind the cart of chemicals that he currently moves from room to room to conduct research with his students.

“My new research space will mean higher efficiency and productivity for my students and me,” he said. “The new space will allow for better lab conditions to run chemical analyses.”

Alumni also believe the new facilities will only strengthen the high quality of science offerings at SIUE. Dustin Hancks graduated from SIUE with his biological sciences degree in 2006. In May 2011, he received his Ph.D. in cell and molecular biology from the University of Pennsylvania. He believes he was well prepared for his graduate education. “SIUE provided me with a strong foundation in the biological sciences,” Hancks said. “The new facilities will likely increase recruitment and retention of good students for graduate studies in the sciences at SIUE.”

Private contributions from alumni, friends, corporations and foundations are needed to equip the new Science Building Complex. Since the approval of the state funding for construction, the University has been utilizing available funds to purchase updated equipment that can be relocated to the new addition; however, some equipment is outdated or unstable to withstand relocation.

“In order to prepare science, allied health and engineering students to transition successfully into the job market, we must ensure their proficiency in working with instrumentation they will encounter on a daily basis in research, medical and corporate environments,” said College of Arts and Sciences Dean Aldemaro Romero.

All contributions are welcome and will play a critical role in defining excellence at SIUE.

To make a contribution, visit siue.edu/artsandsciences/giving.

 **READ MORE ONLINE**
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From left: Jeffrey Sabby, assistant professor of physics; Abdullatif Hamad, professor and department chair of Physics; Interim Provost Ann Boyle; Chancellor Vaughn Vandegrift; astrophysicist Neil deGrasse Tyson, director of Hayden Planetarium and 2011 SIUE Shaw Lecturer; and CAS Dean Aldemaro Romero

Ideal Environment for Teaching Science:

PHYSICS OBSERVATORY

Months of planning, preparation and hard work are paying off for Jeffrey Sabby. The assistant professor of physics is putting the final touches on an automated roboscope observatory located near Prairie Hall on the main SIUE campus. Sabby has been working on the project for the past several years, securing grants and other funding to ensure that the structure is built.

“The observatory will provide a new research avenue for the Department of Physics,” he said. “Through this project, SIUE will enter an elite group of universities that own and operate fully automated astronomical observatories.”

The observatory will offer exciting new astronomical research opportunities for students and faculty as well as educational outreach programs for the community.

The building is a 25-foot tall, two-story block and metal structure designed by Sabby. It houses a Ritchey-Chrétien optical design telescope. This high-end telescope provides a large viewing field with little distortion and allows researchers to see a wide view of the electromagnetic spectral range. A special camera also captures 30 times more light than a traditional film camera.

The most unique feature of the observatory is that the telescope is controlled off-site. According to Sabby, this

allows the telescope to be controlled from “anywhere in the world that has a stable internet connection,” making the observatory more accessible to students, faculty and visitors.

“This project is a powerful educational, research and recruitment tool that will be used to attract incoming students by offering exciting educational opportunities,” Sabby said.

Sabby has secured more than \$400,000 in grants for the project. Additional equipment is needed to complete the roboscope observatory. As technology changes, computers and other equipment will need to be replaced, classroom enhancement material will be needed, and maintenance and repairs will require funding.

To make a contribution, visit siue.edu/artsandsciences/giving.



 **READ MORE ONLINE**
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The William C. Shaw Sky Lab opened in 1978 to honor the late professor who was a pioneer physics faculty member. The site serves as an outdoor classroom for the PHYS 118 Astronomy class, and is also open to the general public. Contact the Department of Physics at 618-650-2472 for more information.



“I believe every reporter today should be able to go beyond spreadsheets and handle at least one kind of relational database, because so much of what needs to be reported now exists in these formats.”

– Paige St. John, BA '86,
Journalism, Recipient
of the 2011 Pulitzer Prize
for investigative reporting

Mass Communications in the 21st Century:

MEDIA CONVERGENCE LABORATORY

One of only 120 programs in the nation accredited by the prestigious Accrediting Council for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication, the SIUE Department of Mass Communications has been responsible for teaching and producing highly capable graduates for decades. As the means of communication move forward by leaps and bounds, the mass communications program must keep pace with rapid changes. The department's new media convergence laboratory will help ensure this.

“Media industries have entered what is known as the convergent era, meaning that there are no longer clear lines of distinction between the various forms of media,” explains Gary Hicks, associate professor of mass communications and chair of that department. “The media convergence lab will allow students to learn to produce quality content and distribute it on multiple platforms.”

Mass Communications Instructor M. Shawn Maxfield is the department's resident expert on convergence communication and new media. “New technologies and uses are appearing on a daily basis, and students who are trained in convergent communications media technologies, concepts and practices are increasingly in demand across all disciplines.

“The convergent communications media lab will allow our students to fully engage in the digital communications revolution,” Maxfield said. “Advanced conceptual and practical know-how will greatly enhance their marketability and establish them as tomorrow's leaders.”

The new convergence laboratory will include seven distinct spaces:

- Convergence Broadcast Performance Studio and Laboratory
- Multimedia Laboratory
- Convergent Media News Laboratory
- Digital Video Laboratory
- Digital Audio Laboratory
- Digital Animation and Virtual Reality Studio
- Convergent Media Library and Resource Center

In the new environment, students and faculty will be creating websites, multi-channel news stories, interactive web stories and training programs, simulations, e-learning modules, wikis, content communities and social networking sites.

The price tag of constructing the new laboratory is \$250,000. An additional \$175,000 is being sought to establish a permanent endowment that will allow the mass communications department to stay current with the latest technology and software.

“The tools and technologies available in this facility will allow our faculty to maximize our efficacy, allowing us to better serve and prepare our students in an evolving world,” Maxfield said.

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“I hope we can secure more funding for the visiting artists/professors program, so we can bring more outstanding scholars to SIUE.”

– J. Debbie Mann, Professor
Foreign Languages and Literature

Support for Faculty:

VISITING ARTISTS AND PROFESSORS

Visiting lecturers and artists provide insight into diverse global perspectives. By bringing their unique cultures, viewpoints and techniques to campus, visiting scholars introduce students to new concepts, enhancing the learning experience.

“The fresh perspective is what I enjoy most from visiting professors,” said Elisabeth Jones, a senior majoring in German and psychology.

Jones is president of the Students and Professors Exploring All Cultures (SPEAC) club in the Department of Foreign Languages and Literature. She organized a talk in 2011 by Yannick Le Boulicaut, professor of English and translation studies at the Université Catholique de l’Ouest in Angers, France.

Le Boulicaut has been participating in a faculty exchange with SIUE’s Department of Foreign Languages and Literature since 1994. He and Professor J. Debbie Mann, who has taught French at SIUE for more than two decades, have swapped classroom teaching experiences three times.

“For students, the opportunity to be taught by a faculty member who is a native speaker of the language they are studying offers unique linguistic and cultural insights,” Mann said. “I can clearly see how the students gained confidence and improved their listening skills, thanks

to the small group work they did with Professor Le Boulicaut,” she said.

“I’m impressed by the quality of the questions and the interest I see in SIUE students’ eyes during my visits,” Le Boulicaut said. “I also noticed the number of students from around the world; it is a global mix at SIUE.”

Mann and Le Boulicaut’s exchanges have been shortened for each successive trip. In 1994, they were in each other’s classrooms for one full semester, while the time was shortened to a single week in 2011. Budget constraints are directly responsible for the decrease.

“I hope we can secure more funding for the visiting artists/professors program, so we can bring more outstanding scholars to SIUE,” Mann said.

This visiting scholar program exists in some variation across all areas in the College of Arts and Sciences. This program needs to be solidified and expanded into a permanent commitment that will enhance learning and directly benefit students and faculty. Your contribution can help make this a reality.

To make a contribution, visit siue.edu/artsandsciences/giving.

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CAS Initiatives:

CONNECTING WITH CUBA

Cuba is a country with a rich culture and interesting history. However, there has been little contact between the island nation and the United States since Fidel Castro rose to power in 1959. The College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) is actively exploring avenues of scholarly and educational exchanges between the SIU system and academic institutions in Cuba.

"When I came to SIUE, I found there were a number of faculty members who had been to Cuba in the past—some who even had ties with Cuban colleagues," said CAS Dean Aldemaro Romero. "I am reviving those contacts in an effort to internationalize and diversify CAS."

One past trip to Cuba included an SIU delegation led by Senator Paul Simon in 2001. This group had the rare opportunity to meet one-on-one with Fidel Castro. Another trip, lead by Thomas Jordan, associate professor of historical studies at SIUE, and Liz Fonseca, emerita associate professor of foreign languages and literature at SIUE, took students from SIUE and SIU Carbondale on a trip to explore Cuba. This was the first and only time SIU students participated in a travel-study trip to Cuba.

"Cuba sits in a very interesting nexus, being both Caribbean and Latin American," Jordan said. "As such, it offers opportunities for students who are interested in the politics and cultures of both regions."

Dean Romero visited Cuba in January 2011 to coordinate the establishment of a formal educational exchange with the University of Havana, the National Museum of

Fine Arts and other influential institutions. Both the SIU System and the University of Havana have approved a memorandum of understanding which includes agreed upon equal faculty and student exchanges, as well as semester and summer-long programs.

The SIUE choir performed in Cuba for an international choir festival in early December. Joel Knapp, professor of music and director of SIUE's choral activities, attended with music instructor Carolyn Minear and 18 students. "The choir performed fantastically," he said. "They were incredible ambassadors for SIUE and the United States. We were the only American choir invited to perform," said Knapp.

Representatives from Cuba are expected to travel to SIUE as soon as May 2012. Their visit will fine tune the terms of the memorandum as well as ensure permanence of this exciting new relationship.



 **READ MORE ONLINE**
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Randall Pearson, professor of geography and LASA director

CAS Initiatives:

MAPPING TECHNOLOGY

To some of us, the field of geography includes old-fashioned images of maps or globes. Technology has transformed those maps into multi-dimensional pictures that can yield information on a myriad of variables, thanks to geographic imaging systems (GIS.)

GIS allows many types of information on the same geographic location to be “layered” upon each other. These layers include underground maps, topographical and hydrologic information, power systems, weather models, population densities and disease statistics. New patterns and relationships often emerge when this information is compared.

For decades, SIUE has been at the forefront of the GIS movement. As the field has grown, so has SIUE’s GIS program, expanding to 14 courses taught by four faculty members. Additionally, the Laboratory for Applied Spatial Analysis (LASA) has new, state-of-the-art facilities.

“GIS has been a great mechanism of connecting our students and our faculty to a wide variety of opportunity,” said Randall Pearson, professor of geography and director of LASA.

Each semester, undergraduate and graduate students have the opportunity to conduct site and field work with LASA. These students gain real world experience by working on

projects for a wide variety of agencies. LASA has generated nearly \$5 million in external contractual revenue.

“GIS has provided a bridge from geography to other disciplines, other schools, the SIUE administration and local industry,” said Pearson. The department has also installed and maintains GIS software on more than 100 computers throughout campus, many of which do not belong to geography.

Because GIS is a technology-driven industry, changes take place rapidly. “It is absolutely imperative that we keep our GIS computing facilities, our software and our faculty’s GIS knowledge base at the very highest level,” said Pearson.

Staying abreast of current technology can be a costly endeavor. The annual cost of site licenses for the various GIS software programs is \$16,000 per year. LASA houses two servers, 12 computers and 24 handheld GPS units, among other high-tech devices.

Contact the College of Arts and Sciences at 618-650-5044 to support GIS initiatives. For more information on GIS or LASA, contact Pearson at 618-650-2278 or rapears@siue.edu.

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KEEPING UP WITH CAS

There is quite a bit of activity in the College of Arts and Sciences these days. If you want to keep up with all of the latest events, and perhaps even gain a little greater insight into some areas, check out the following:

This Week in CAS (TWIC)

thisweekincas.com

Stay up-to-date with the many happenings in CAS through the weekly electronic newsletter produced by the Department of Mass Communications.

For a weekly e-mail subscription: send request to twicinfo@gmail.com; a Smartphone app is also available through the iTunes Store.

Polymath

siue.edu/artsandsciences

Polymath is an electronic, open access, peer-reviewed journal published quarterly by the College of Arts and Sciences. The journal “celebrates the oft-neglected connections between humanities,

social sciences, physical sciences and the arts where the disciplines can unite, collaborate and engage with each other towards shared research-oriented and educational goals.”

Student researchers are invited to submit articles for publication.

Segue

siue.edu/artsandsciences

Each week, Dean Aldemaro Romero interviews interesting people connected to CAS. The half-hour interviews air on the *Segue* show at 9 a.m. every Sunday on SIUE’s radio station WSIE (FM 88.7). These interviews also appear in a print form each Friday in the “College Talk” column in *The Edwardsville Intelligencer*.



After the Academy

CAS will soon be releasing its sequel to *Adventures in the Academy: Professors in the Land of Lincoln and Beyond*. The book was published in 2010 and includes 15 vignettes of academia and beyond from CAS faculty. The second volume, *After the Academy*, will include stories from current and retired CAS faculty and alumni. The book can be purchased at the SIUE Bookstore, Amazon.com, Barnes and Noble, and many other vendors.

MINORITY ACCESS AWARD

In October 2010, the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) was commended for its approach to diversity. CAS received the commendation during the 12th National Role Models Conference sponsored by Minority Access.

Minority Access, a non-profit association whose goal is to assist colleges and universities in diversifying their campuses,

acknowledged the College of Arts and Sciences’ 2010-2015 strategic plan which calls for active recruitment of diverse faculty and students. The strategic plan involves the utilization of innovative approaches, including multilingual websites and actively recruiting students from a variety of cultural and ethnic backgrounds.

Aldemaro Romero, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, and

Isaac Blankson, assistant to the dean for diversity and internationalization initiatives, associate professor of speech communication and chair of that department, were on hand at the meeting in Las Vegas to accept the honor.

“For us it is a great honor,” said Romero. “It shows that the institution takes its role of promoting diversity seriously.”

FACULTY EXCELLENCE



Jason Stacy

Assistant Professor of Historical Studies **Jason Stacy** received the top teaching award at SIUE in 2011. He was named the University's Teaching Excellence Award recipient.

Stacy has been at SIUE since 2006 and is a noted scholar of Walt Whitman, having authored two books about the poet. He also serves as the editor-in-chief of *The Councilor: The Journal of the Illinois Council for the Social Studies* and supervises students in the Department of Historical Studies who are seeking secondary education certification.

He has written nine journal articles and secured more than \$1 million in grants. The Teaching Excellence Award committee noted that Stacy's "dynamic style and supportive interactions with students encourage thoughtful participation."

The Teaching Excellence Award carries a stipend, and honorees are recognized at a University commencement ceremony.



Edward Navarre

Assistant Professor of Chemistry **Edward Navarre** is the co-inventor of a machine that can test samples of heavy metals. Navarre, along with SIUE Associate Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering Brad Noble, has patented a small portable atomic spectrometer. This instrument is used to test for the presence of heavy metals such as lead in samples of soil, water, blood, urine and other materials, and can run off a car battery. The small size and portability of the analyzer makes it useful for geographic areas such as field sites, and it can produce test results in a matter of minutes. The two professors are involving students in further research to develop a marketable version of the device.



Cory Byers



Denise DeGarmo



Michael Shaw



Rowena McClinton



Andrew Neath

A video that was directed and co-produced by **Cory Byers**, instructor of mass communications, received a Best of Competition Award from the Broadcast Education Association's 2011 Festival of Media Arts. The piece won in the Educational or Instructional Video Category. The 17½ minute work titled "The Stephenson's" recounts the life and times of Col. Benjamin Stephenson. An important historical figure, Stephenson's 1820 Edwardsville home has been restored and is open for tours and other events. The video is shown regularly to visitors at the Stephenson House.

Byers received an SIUE Meridian Society grant to fund the video. He is the executive producer of SIUE's *Global Village*, and teaches classes in advertising and video production for the Department of Mass Communications.

Denise DeGarmo received the 2011 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Humanitarian Award, which is presented annually to an SIUE employee by the SIUE Kimmel Leadership Center. The award was presented at the University's 28th annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. celebration last February.

DeGarmo, an associate professor of political science and chair of that department and coordinator of the peace and international studies program, has been at SIUE since 2000. Her research areas include international relations, international environmental security and U.S. foreign policy. The MLK awards annually recognize those who "exemplify Dr. King's teachings, principles and philosophical beliefs."

Chemistry Professor **Michael Shaw** is the 2011 Paul Simon Outstanding Teacher Scholar at SIUE. Shaw's research focuses on the preparation, characterization and electrochemistry of transition metal compounds, which include both organometallic examples and compounds of bioinorganic interest. He has mentored more than two dozen students at the undergraduate and graduate levels at SIUE and helped secure more than \$1.3 million in grants from the National Science Foundation.

Sponsored by the SIUE Graduate School, the Paul Simon Outstanding Teacher Scholar award recognizes faculty members' commitment to the interdependence between research and teaching. Winners of the Paul Simon award have demonstrated a significant contribution to their area of research or creative activity as well as a true commitment to the integration of that research with their teaching practices.

Shaw has been at SIUE since 1998. He has also received the 2006 SIUE Hoppe Research Award and the 2002 SIUE Teaching Excellence Award.

Rowena McClinton, associate professor of historical studies, released an abridged edition of a previously published book she authored. The University of Nebraska Press published *The Moravian Springplace Mission to the Cherokees, Abridged Edition* in 2010. The book highlights and puts contextual relevance to the diary entries of missionaries to a Cherokee settlement in northwestern Georgia. The book provides insights into the culture and life of those Native Americans from 1801 through 1821. McClinton has been at SIUE since 1999 and, in addition to teaching Native American history, mentors history education students.

Andrew Neath, professor of mathematics and statistics at SIUE, has received the 2011 Hoppe Research Professor Award and the 2011-2012 Annette and Henry Baich Award. Both awards are sponsored by the SIUE Graduate School and recognize Neath's work on statistical models.

Neath received the Hoppe Research Professor award for his project, "Statistical Model Selection and Decision Making in the Presence of Uncertainty." This work focuses on using a Bayesian solution to the problem of statistical decision-making, which could provide more reliable data collection for science, health care, social sciences and a variety of other applications. The Hoppe Award recognizes SIUE faculty whose scholarship has the potential to make a significant contribution to their disciplines.

The Annette and Henry Baich Award is given for the most outstanding Seed Grant for Transitional and Exploratory Projects (STEP) basic research proposal received by the SIUE Graduate School. Neath's project, "Statistical Model Selection and the Theory of Social Choice," was selected for the honor from an internal pool of 55 applicants.

Neath has been at SIUE since 1994, and is the author of three dozen research papers.

Kristine Hildebrandt and **Jason Williams** have each received 2011 Vaughnie Lindsay New Investigator Awards from the SIUE Graduate School.

Kristine Hildebrandt, assistant professor of English language and literature, was recognized for her project "Phonation Types and Laryngeal Classes in the Indic Languages." A linguist, she has been at SIUE since 2008 and specializes in studying the languages of the Himalayas, specifically the areas of Nepal and Manang. She is currently working on mapping the linguistic structures of languages in those areas.

Hildebrandt is well published in her field, and received her doctorate from the University of California-Santa Barbara with a specialization in Tibeto-Burman languages. She has done post-doctoral work at the Universität Leipzig, Germany, and also taught at the University of Manchester, England.

Jason Williams has been an assistant professor of biological sciences at SIUE since 2009. His area of research focuses on how environmental stresses are manifested in insects, and his Vaughnie Lindsay project is "The Effect of Exercise-induced Oxidative Stress on Muscle Mass, ROS Production, Oxidative Capacity." As part of this research, he is studying honeybees and comparing



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Printed by authority of the State of Illinois, 1/12, 14,750, 12110302



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