# SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY School of BUSINESS



Your connection to the School of Business Economics & Finance Department

### CONTENTS

Chair's Message	1
Nicole Miller	2
Dr. Gil Rutman	2
Alumni Membership	3
New Faculty	4

### Calendar of Events

#### Saturday, March 18

**Spring Open House School of Business Founders Hall** 

#### Saturday, March 18

**AMA Trivia Night** 6:30 p.m. **Edwardsville VFW** Register at: www.siue.edu/~ehershb/ AMA/trivia.html

### Friday, March 31

**Power Breakfast with Alumnus Steve McCann '79** CFO, Longs Drug Stores Corp. By Invitation

### Monday, April 3

**School of Business Scholarship & Awards Program Morris University Center** 

#### Saturday, May 6

Commencement 5:00 p.m. **Vadalabene Center** 

## Message from the Chair

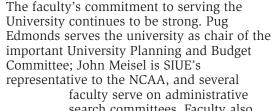
The past year was filled with accomplishments, and the year ahead brims with promise. Since the last newsletter, two new faculty members ioined the department. Avse Evrensel received her Ph.D. in Economics from Clemson. She adds to our coverage of macroeconomics,

international and financial markets. Manu Gupta has a Ph.D. in Finance from Texas A&M. Manu's expertise is corporate finance. He currently is teaching both undergraduate and graduate courses in this area.

While I am on the subject of new hires, let me look to the future. We may have hired two new faculty members in finance for Fall 2006. In January we attended the Allied Social Science Association meetings in Boston to

interview candidates for a position in economics. I hope that in the next installment I can tell you about another new faculty member.





search committees. Faculty also have leadership roles on many committees at all levels of the School and the University.

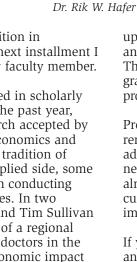
What's on tap for the coming year? We currently are in the process of revising the undergraduate Economics and Finance major. Based on feedback from our graduates, a major goal is to strengthen the quantitative skills of our graduates. We're also in the process of making some changes in the Arts and Sciences Economics major along similar lines. The

upshot is that we are committed to building and improving the skills of our graduates. This enhances their success in business or in graduate studies (hopefully in our graduate program).

Providing a quality educational experience remains our primary objective. Hiring additional faculty means that we are bringing new views and up-to-date training to our already strong roster of faculty. Changes in the curriculum also are geared to always improving our product.

If you're interested in the changes in motion and on the planning board, don't hesitate to call or email. We always appreciate hearing from you.

> Dr. Rik Hafer Chair, Economics and Finance Department



Visit the Department at www.siue.edu/BUSINESS/econfin

Newsletter Editor: Kimberly Coomes

## Alumni Spotlight: Nicole Miller

Foreign Currency and Bond Futures Analyst, A.G. Edwards & Sons, Inc.

It all began when Nicole L. Miller

undergraduate student at SIUE

Finance. She commuted an hour and a half each way to school

every day and managed to earn

Edwards, she listened. More than

majoring in Economics and

academic honors. When Dr.

Donald Elliott suggested she submit her resume for a summer

internship position at A.G.

('99 BS; '01 MS) was an



Nicole Miller

five years later, Miller humbly acknowledges the role that Elliott and SIUE had in her career at A.G. Edwards. While these may have been factors encouraging her application as an intern, her own hard work and knowledge have advanced her to where she is today.

Miller was promoted to Foreign Currency and Bond Futures Analyst for A.G. Edwards & Sons, Inc. in May 2005. "Since I am the only analyst covering these markets," she explains, "things can be very hectic." Her responsibilities include publishing daily comments on the markets, discussing the markets with brokers, clients, and the media, writing bi-weekly reports on the markets, and giving presentations to branch offices. Before her current position, she was an associate quantitative analyst. She accepted that position when her internship at A.G. Edwards ended in 2000.

During her time at SIUE, Miller remembers several classes that challenged her. Dr. Hafer's economics class was most memorable, because she was interested in monetary policy and the Federal Reserve. She states, "Not only did my classes give me a solid foundation of knowledge to build on, but they helped me to think analytically as well."

After she earned a bachelor's degree in 1999, she went on to complete her master's degree in Economics and Finance in 2001. For the past two years she has taught as an adjunct instructor in corporate finance for the department. "I really enjoy discussing financial concepts and sharing my experiences in the corporate world with students." In fact, this experience has even led her to change her career objectives. She has enjoyed her experiences teaching so much that she plans to pursue a Ph.D. in finance to have the opportunity to teach full-time.

Miller's career at A.G. Edwards began in part by an encouraging faculty's belief in her abilities. Her success is a result of a combination of hard work and educational background. She says, "SIUE is a wonderful place to obtain a bachelor's and master's degree, and I hope it continues to grow."

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## Former Faculty Spotlight: Dr. Gil Rutman

Catching up with former School of Business faculty

Some people never slow down. This is the case with Dr. Gil Rutman. After his retirement in 1999, he didn't skip a beat. Although he no longer teaches classes at SIUE, he is far from idle. Instead, he now fills his days with new activities and responsibilities. It is also not surprising to see him on campus. After 30 years at SIUE, he has developed many friends

at the University and likes to keep tabs on the happenings in the department.

Rutman is currently a member of the SIUE Foundation Board of Directors. The purpose of the Board is to discuss issues, set policy, review the Foundation's investments, and discuss fund raising. In addition to his work

on the Foundation's board, Rutman also was appointed to the Illinois Board of Higher Education. In this role, he is responsible for assisting in the preparation of the budget for all state universities in Illinois and for reviewing other educational issues for the state. In addition, he explains that he and Dr. David Ault still have grants evaluating job training, on which they continue to collaborate. "I keep busy," he says.

Some time ago, Rutman decided he would like to remember his father while leaving a lasting legacy at SIUE, thus creating the Abraham E. Rutman Forum Fund within the School of Business. The purpose of the fund is to provide a forum on vital business and economic issues of the time. "It promotes a closer relationship between the School of Business and the business community," stated Rutman. This year, the fund helped bring economist Steve Forbes to campus as a part of the SIUE Arts and Issues Series.

When he thinks back to his 30 years at SIUE, Rutman has many fond memories. He also has a good perspective on the growth of SIUE since he began teaching in 1969. He speaks of many growth areas of the School of Business and the University as a whole. "We found a focus," he explained.



SIUE

Dr. Gil Rutman

He said that the School's concentration on developing very fine executive degree programs, especially the Master of Business Administration, has made the School and the University much stronger.

How prepared are students from the School of Business when entering the 'real-world'? "We have a good reputation (in the business community). This is something to be proud of." With faculty like Rutman, who contribute as much to the community as they do to the University, this is not a surprise.

This year, the fund helped bring economist Steve Forbes to campus on January 10, 2006, as a part of the SIUE Arts and Issues Series.

## Become a Member of the SIUE Alumni Association

Last Name	First Name	Middle Initial	Name while attending SIUE
SIUE Class Year(s)	SIUE Degree(s)		
Home Address	City	State	ZIP
Home Phone		E-mail	
Job Title	Company Name		
Company Address	City	State	ZIP
Spouse Last Name	First Name	Middle Initial If SIUE	Grad, name while attending SIUI
Spouse SIUE Class Year(s)	Spouse SIUE Degree(s)		
☐ Annual Membership \$2	25	☐ Single Life Memb	ership \$300
☐ Annual Family Membership \$30		☐ Family Life Membership \$350	

## **Econ/Finance Welcomes Two New Faculty Members**

Two faculty members joined the Economics and Finance Department this academic year. They bring a wealth of knowledge and experience to the already outstanding faculty in the department.

Ayse Evrensel, assistant professor, earned a doctorate in Economic Geography at the University of Zurich



Ayse Evrensel

and a doctorate in Economics at Clemson University.

Before joining the SIUE faculty, Evrensel taught at Ball

State University, the University of California at San Diego,
and at Portland State University. Her teaching experiences
range from macroeconomics and microeconomics to
upper-level undergraduate electives such as econometrics,
international finance, international trade, and

economics of population growth. Her research interests include international finance and open economy macroeconomics.

Manu Gupta, assistant professor, earned a doctorate in Finance at Texas A&M University. He previously taught corporate finance at Texas A&M and at the University of Missouri-Columbia. Gupta's research interests include corporate governance, top management



Manu Gupta

compensation, international finance, market microstructure, and earnings management. He has received many honors and awards, including an award for his dissertation, which was named best graduate student paper at the Eastern Finance Association in 2005.

#### **Economics & Finance Faculty**

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