

SIUE students set the pace at Chicago conference

Telegraph staff report

EDWARDSVILLE — The significance of a student being invited to make a presentation at the Psi Chi Session of the Midwestern Psychological Association's annual meeting may not be readily understood by most. But it's like a college basketball team being invited to the NCAA Tournament. Only the best make it.

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville had 32 students accepted to this year's presentations — and this is an "average" year for

the university's Psychology Department.

To make a presentation at the annual meeting in Chicago, which will be held May 8 through 10, students must first submit an abstract — a synopsis of their presentation. The abstract is judged by psychology professors and either accepted or rejected.

Sue Thomas, associate professor of psychology, is the adviser for SIUE's student presenters.

Thomas and the psychology faculty not only coach the students on their abstract and paper presentation but on comportment, protocol and presentation skills.

"Students look at each other's posters and presenta-

tions when they get to the MPA," Thomas said. "They want to see what their colleagues are doing and how they do it. Our presentations are clearly and consistently at the top. Our students recognize that and take pride in it. Being well-represented at the MPA has become a tradition for us. It's an honor and something students take pride in and look forward to."

Thomas said most students use their presentations as the senior research assignment. SIUE seniors are required to complete a senior research assignment that demonstrates proficiency in their major. Seniors conduct research with a faculty mentor.

If the association project qualifies as a senior assignment, the students receive full funding for their work and a per diem for the trip to the meeting.

This year's subjects for presentation by SIUE students include the effects of self-consciousness, first impressions in job interviews and whether popularity matters in adolescent relationships.

Of the 32 students accepted for meeting, the following 22 will make the trip to Chicago:

Susan Bandy, Miami; Robyn Beare, Millstadt; Amanda Brenzek, Plainfield; Kiana Cox, Chicago; Donna Hardbeck, Chicago; J.R. Haslett, Lebanon; Holly Howard, East Alton; Marlisa Isom, Alton; Anna Jennies, Glen Carbon; Lori Meckles, Benld; Cindy McMillan, Carlinville; Kelly Nelson, Collinsville; Crystal Nilges, Waterloo; Dana Pennington, Winthrop Harbor; Abbey Pierce, Belleville; Melissa Preusser, Fairview Heights; Amy Preuter, St. Jacob; Tracy Roach, Edwardsville; Laura Springer, Fairview Heights; Liette Straub, Waterloo; Jenny Wildy, New Athens; and Rachael Zweigart, Tilden.