

Staff Senate

News for You

<http://www.siu.edu/UGOV/STAFF/>

\$2500 in Staff Senate Scholarships to be Awarded to Dependents of University Staff Employees



Left to right: Bill Hendey, Mick Ostrander, Dave Heth and Senate Treasurer Jesse Harris enjoy the food and share a joke at last year's Staff Senate Barbeque.

The University Staff Senate annually awards scholarships to deserving offspring of staff employees of the university who attend SIUE. Funds for these awards are collected through our many fundraisers including the Staff Senate Barbeque and Benefits Fair and the Ice Cream Cabaret. To be eligible for consideration for a scholarship award, students must meet the following criteria:

a. Must be the son, daughter, grandchild, or spouse of a presently employed or retired Civil Service (excluding non-status) or Professional Staff (excluding appointments of less than 50% and term appointments of less than six months) employee at SIU Edwardsville;

b. You must meet admissions requirements for undergraduate study at SIUE and be admitted for full-time undergraduate study or half-time undergraduate study for summers only.

c. Applicants with fewer than twelve semester earned in college

1. The applicant must have an ACT composite of 19 or above (unless exempt because of age) SIU Edwardsville's admissions standard.

2. The applicant must have at least B average from high school

Applicants with twelve or more semester hours earned in college:

1. Must have completed at least one term of full-time attendance

2. Must have an accumulative college GPA of at least a B, 3.000 or above on a 4 point scale or

4.000 on a 5 point scale.

d. The applicant must make available high school and/or college transcripts and ACT composite scores, if applicable, for review by the Scholarship Selection Committee.

e. The applicant must file a financial assistance with the Office of Student Work and Financial Assistance.

\$500 in scholarship monies is available for summer 2007. The application will be made available on March 12th and are due on April 6th. The applications for \$2000 in fall semester 2007 scholarship monies will be made available on June 11th and are due on July 6th.

The scholarship award will be applied to your university account for the Semester. Should this amount combined with other awards or payments cause a credit balance on your account, a refund check will be mailed to you from the Bursar's Office. This award will be reported to the Office of Student Financial Aid to be considered in evaluating your overall financial aid package. Applicants may apply more than once during their academic career, but the applicant may receive the award only once every two years.

Applications can be accessed at <http://www.siu.edu/UGOV/STAFF/>

Kyle's Korner

by President Kyle Stunkel

Welcome to the first edition of the Staff Senate newsletter. We hope you find the stories and information provided useful and relevant as members of the SIUE staff. The newsletter is just one more means of communication between the senate and you. Our intent is to provide two editions of the

newsletter per year, one fall semester, and one during the spring. On behalf of the entire Staff Senate, I want to encourage you to share your ideas, thoughts, and concerns with us at any time. You will find my phone number and those of current officers along with our website and email address listed in this issue for that purpose. In fact we need your help in naming the newsletter. Send me your ideas. I hope you enjoy this first edition of the newsletter and I look forward to hearing from you.

Kyle

Important Phone Numbers

President

Kyle Stunkel
650 - 3710

Secretary

William Dusenbery
482 - 8338

Treasurer

Jesse B. Harris Jr.
650 - 3701

President-Elect

Larry Bennett
650 - 3236

University Governance Office

650-2770

The University Staff Senate meetings are open. Non senate members are always welcome. For more information please contact the University Governance Office at 650-2770.

A complete list of Staff Senate Members may be found at our website at www.siu.edu/UGOV/STAFF/

The Staff Senate is always interested in your questions, comments, or concerns. Contact us at staffsenate@siue.edu and tell us what you think of the first edition of your newsletter.

Send your idea for the Newsletter Name to: staffsenate@siue.edu Two tickets to the Staff Senate Barbeque will be awarded to the winner. Ideas must be recieved by April 15th.

MAILERS BOX

Chancellor's Walk Continues in April

Fitness and Benefits Fair, Staff Senate BBQ and Chancellors Walk - Thursday, April 26 from 11:30am - 1:30pm

Chancellor Vaughn Vandegrift will lead the way at the annual Chancellor's Walk, Benefit's Fair, and Staff Senate Barbeque Thursday, April 26 from 11:30am to 1:30pm. The event represents a collaboration of effort from the Office of Human Resources, Department of Campus Recreation and the University Staff Senate.

The festivities begin with a leisurely walk through the scenic parts of SIUE with Chancellor Vandegrift and members of the campus community. In the event of rain the walk will be held on the SFC indoor track. All employees who complete the walk have a chance to win a free membership for one year to the Student Fitness Center.

The walk concludes at the Student Fitness Center where appetites will be satisfied at the Staff Senate Barbeque. Enjoy lunch in the fitness center gymnasium with colleagues and friends from around the university. The great, low price of admission helps support the Staff Senate Student Scholarship Program. Tickets may be purchased in advance from all staff senate members beginning in early April or at the door the day of the event if tickets remain.

After lunch, take a look around the Benefits Fair, also held in the SFC gymnasium. Meet with representatives from the various firms and gather information about their services and explore all of the benefit



Kim Durr, Executive Assistant to the Chancellor, mingles with the crowd at last year's walk.

options you have as an employee of SIUE. There just may be an option or two that you may not even know about! Put on your walking shoes, build up your appetite and join us on April 26th.

Domestic Partner Insurance Benefits

(From *The Advocate* Vol. 15 No. 2)

Please note that the following information applies to State of Illinois employees covered by the State Group Insurance Act.

In response to a letter from the Director of Department of Central Management Services, the Executive Director of the State Universities Retirement Services sent the following notice:

"All employees and benefit recipients, without exception, of the State Universities Retirement System are extended the domestic partner health, dental, and vision benefits referred to in Governor Blagojevich's news release of May 8, 2006."

Who is Eligible for the Domestic Partner benefit?

The AFSCME agreement of July 2004 negotiated health benefits for employees who have an eligible same-sex domestic partner. Effective July 1, 2006, unrelated, same-sex individuals who reside in the same household and have financial and emotional

interdependence, consistent with that of a married couple for a period of not less than one year and continue to maintain such arrangement are eligible for medical, dental, and vision benefits through the state of Illinois Group Insurance Program. The minimum age of a domestic partner is 19 years old. Neither the member, nor the domestic, may be married at any time after the enrollment. If either partner gets married at any time after the enrollment, the domestic partner's coverage must be terminated. If both parties are State members, one may not waive coverage as a member to become a dependent of the other member. Please note, dependent children cannot be added to the member's coverage unless the member legally adopts or obtains legal guardianship of the children.

For more information regarding domestic partner benefits, contact Central Management Services at 1-800-442-1300.

Moneysaving Discounts Just For You

Did you know that the Purchasing Department at Southern Illinois University has developed an employee discount program which provides savings with regional and national retailers to all employees of the university?

The following companies are currently in the Employee Discount Program: Enterprise Rent-A-Car, National Car Rental, Club Quartz Hotel, North American Van Lines, Allied Van Lines, Ryder Truck Rental, Verizon Wireless, Sprint PCS, Zones Inc. and Dell Computers through Seventen Bookstores.

University employees who contract with any of these companies are personally responsible for direct payment to the vendor for all expenses incurred. The University will not assume any financial liability for personal contracts made by faculty and staff. Questions about specific discount programs may be directed to either Craig McIntosh (Verizon Wireless, Sprint PCS, Ryder Truck Rental, and Enterprise Rent-A-Car, Dell Computers/Seventen Bookstore) at extension 2834, Jeanette Anderson (Club Quarters) at extension 2859, or Sharon Giffhorn (North American Van Lines) at extension 3384. General questions about the discount program may be directed to Larry Hinton at extension 3255.

Important Dates

- **March 1**
Staff Senate Meeting
- **April 5**
Staff Senate Meeting, Alton Campus
- **April 6**
Summer Scholarship Application Deadline
- **April 26**
Chancellor's Walk
Morris University Ctr.
11:30am - ?
Staff Senate BBQ & Benefits Fair
Student Fitness Ctr.
11:30am - 1:30pm
- **July 6**
Fall Scholarship Application Deadline

Degree Completion Award Program

Are you someone who has always intended to complete your degree but for one reason or another have been unable to do so? Well, here is your opportunity.

The Degree Completion Award allows one Civil Service, Administrative Staff, or Professional Staff employee to complete his or her first baccalaureate degree as a full-time student each year. The award recipient receives two semesters off work with pay and a waiver of tuition for classes taken during the award period. Fees are the responsibility of the recipient.

To qualify for the award, you must:

- Be a full-time Civil Service, Administrative Staff, or Professional Staff employee and have worked for the University for at least three years.
- Be within 32 credit hours of earning your first bac-

calaureate degree at the time the leave commences.

- Earn the degree at SIUE.
- Be willing to sign an agreement requiring you to work for SIUE for two years following your return from the award period.

The award is competitive and the decision is based on the applicant's essay, a letter of reference and grade point average. The decision is made by a committee of five faculty members and may not be appealed. In addition, the committee has the option of not presenting the award if no suitable applicants apply. Application materials for the award will be available in the Offices of Human Resources the first week of December each year.

If you would like more information about this award, please call Bill Misiak at extension 2190 or visit <http://www.siu.edu/PERSONNEL/current.html>