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DEAN'S WELCOME



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In 1967, media analyst and educator Marshall McLuhan became famous for his cutting edge book *The Medium is the Message*. McLuhan predicted that the dissolution of information boundaries through instant communication technologies had the power to create what McLuhan called a "global village." Global connectedness has become the norm for all of us as we communicate next door and around the world via computers, cell phones, and PDAs on a "24/7" basis.

Last year, the College of Arts and Sciences introduced *The Dean's Report*, an electronic newsletter to open a communication link between CAS and its alumni.

We heard many nice comments from graduates who appreciated this outreach effort. Though we were pleased with the College's initial foray into the electronic newsletter arena, it became clear that the College is just too large to package all our news in one publication.

We will continue to publish *The Dean's Report* in March with information on educational trends and issues as well as strategic planning and new initiatives in the College of Arts and Sciences. To provide more alumni news, we are

introducing ***Arts and Sciences Today***, which will be sent to you electronically in September, December, and June. Both publications will have a new format that is “reader-friendly” and utilizes links for easier navigation.

We hope that you will take advantage of *Arts and Sciences Today* and *The Dean’s Report* to reconnect with classmates, your department, and the College. Utilizing the power of the Internet to cost-effectively communicate on a global basis, we want to reach out to our 20,000 CAS alumni world-wide to bring you home to SIUE ... at least four times a year through *Arts and Sciences Today* and *The Dean’s Report*.



Kent Neely

Dean

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INTERNSHIPS PAY OFF FOR OUR MASS COMM STUDENTS



Lendell Phelps (left) with Greg Sthay (right) at Enterprise Rent-A-Car.

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SIUE's Department of Mass Communications, one of only 104 accredited programs in the nation, has been training students to become qualified professionals for decades. Department Chair **Patrick Murphy** describes the unique strength of the University's program. "What makes our program special is a mixture of opportunities not found in concert in the vast majority of mass communications programs around the country."

The department's internship program represents one of the most significant opportunities available to students. The program allows graduating seniors to gain real-world experience in the media industry throughout the Greater St. Louis area. Murphy explains that the internships "facilitate the transition from students' academic experiences to professional lives. The professional training that they gain from internships is what makes this transition work."

Doug Hastings (B.S. '79) moved easily from intern to employee. "SIUE opened the door to the platform from



Doug Hastings (left) and Michael Stroot of Technisonic Studios

work there after graduation...This was my first job in Mass Com—I was an Assistant Director in the news department.”

Hastings currently is one of two Directors of Photography at Technisonic Studios in St. Louis. He says the internship experience not only provided an invaluable career break but the knowledge that he did not want to work on the broadcasting side of the industry. “Television news was not my cup of tea. The KTVI Assistant News Director once told me I did not have the aptitude or vision to be a shooter. With dozens of shooting and lighting awards later, I would sure like to meet him now.”

Michael Stroot (B.S. '76), owner and president of Technisonic Studios, is another SIUE Mass Communications alumnus. He landed a job at KTVI as a result of his internship. “In my junior year, I asked permission to do an internship rather than wait until my senior year. My reasoning was that I believed practical experience at a TV station would help me better understand the subject matter of my remaining classes.” Stroot says he picked KTVI as his internship host, because they “always seemed to be in turmoil and losing people. To me, that spelled job opportunity.” On his last day interning in the news department, the news director offered him a job starting the following Monday.

Today, Stroot himself hosts SIUE interns at Technisonic, where students work in a “modern, full-service video production company where all aspects of a television commercial can be completed under one roof.” Hastings served as an internship coordinator for Technisonic and his previous employer, Innervision. He reiterates, “There is just no way for a Mass Comm department to provide the “latest-greatest” in the way of equipment or experiences that their students need to jump right into today’s job market...I believe it is our responsibility as working professionals to give the next generation their first opportunity to work in the real world.”

Lendell Phelps (B.S. '71) also benefited from a well-timed internship. Phelps assisted the creative services director at WRTH radio, performing ratings

which I took the leap from academic to working professional. SIUE provided me with an opportunity to intern at KTVI Channel 2 News. As luck would have it, someone quit their job at KTVI during my internship, and I was able to step up and take on the position. I became a KTVI employee about a third of the way through my internship and continued

research, organizing community affairs, and giving sales presentations. His supervisor left during his internship, and he was able to slide right into her position after graduation.

Now Vice President of Marketing for AT&T in St. Louis, Phelps makes a point to help his interns find professional positions. "You should come out of my internship with at least two or three job offers." Phelps' spring SIUE intern, **Greg Sthay** (B.S. '06), had already interviewed at KMOX radio three times, had scheduled his final interview with Enterprise Rent-a-Car (where he has since secured a position), and was preparing for his first interview with Edward Jones. Sthay, who hopes to go into sales, says, "I probably wouldn't have anything lined up if it wasn't for him." As the executive assistant to Phelps, Sthay did PowerPoint presentations and performed research in preparation for meetings with new client companies. After meetings, Sthay says Phelps would ask him for his perspective—what he saw going on and what thoughts he had. "I feel involved with him...He's like your coach."

Phelps is so involved with his interns, in fact, that he keeps his former interns' personal contact information in his cell phone. Former SIUE intern **Todd Volz** (B.S. '97) says, "Lendell is still a mentor of mine, and while I don't get to spend as much time with him as I would like, I still call him for advice...He has a wealth of business knowledge [and] is willing to share it. All he asks in return is that when you get in a position to help someone the same way, pass the knowledge along."

Volz's career in the telecommunications industry began when he was hired at AT&T immediately after his internship. Volz says, "I believe that my internship was the catalyst for my entire career," which has since taken him to SBC, Wal-Mart, and now Edward Jones, where he works as a Sr. Manager in St. Louis.

Jeff Saunders (B.S. '05), another former Phelps intern, details the value of his internship experience. "Internships can make or break you in the real world. To be brutally honest, nowadays, a great majority of Americans have a bachelor's degree. When you go into that initial interview with Human Resources, they want to hear about good old fashioned experience...Degrees are a must, but experience will win you the job!"

Saunders has recently finished his first year with Maritz Incentives in Fenton, MO, where he works on the Rewards and Incentive programs for Fortune 500 companies such as Anheuser-Busch, Sprint, AT&T, Honda, and Ralston Purina. "Just in my first year, I've helped innovate and create five different campaigns which have included major print and electronic communications pieces. My advertising option for Mass Communications has really helped me in this area of my job. Creating themes, rationales and budgets were all part of my major, which in turn have immensely helped me with my new role at Maritz."

Megan Lynch (B.S. '92) interned at WIL-FM as a reporter. She worked the morning drive, writing stories and preparing audio for news casts. "The

experience was invaluable. I learned how to write on deadline and how to prepare a story in the field.” Lynch also praises the practical, hands-on experience she gained at SIUE in the broadcasting studios. “I still use the writing and announcing tips and tricks taught to me by professors who had real-life experience in the business.”

Now, Lynch works as an Investigative Reporter and fill-in news anchor/host for KMOX, where she has had the opportunity to travel and to work on in-depth news series important to the community. KMOX, in turn, now serves as a host to current SIUE interns. Lynch knows that experience in the field is what will set individuals apart from other grads. “We try to give students a real experience by assigning them daily stories. They see what it’s like to work during busy drive times with multiple deadlines. They accompany reporters in the field to news conferences and breaking events...They learn to be flexible, to perform under pressure, and to think on their feet.”



Megan Lynch, at KMOX

Recent graduate **Elizabeth Erwin** (B.A. '05) benefited from an internship at KPLR-TV, which was recommended to her by former interns as the place to get the most hands-on experience. “It took the information I learned in the classroom and brought it to another level. You can listen during lectures and complete exercises, but trying it in the “real world” makes you realize if it’s something you want to do the rest of your life...I feel this was the stepping stone I needed before taking an actual reporting position.”

Erwin says that the “hands-on experience I got while working as WSIE and SIUE Global Village helped develop my writing and on-air presentation while giving me the experience I needed to produce a decent resume tape.” Shortly after graduation, Erwin accepted a position as a reporter and fill-in anchor for the ABC affiliate in Sioux City, Iowa. About six months later, she was promoted to the company’s sister station in Des Moines.

When asked for advice for current Mass Communications, what these successful alumni stress is “get experience” and “network.” Assistant Managing Editor for the Post-Dispatch **Andre Jackson** (B.S. '84) says, “Get internships that will give you solid, tangible examples of your work with which you can wow potential employers. And network, network, network. Attend conferences and use the opportunity to schmooze and make contacts with both your peers and those at levels where you aspire to be.”

KSDK Illinois Bureau Chief **Steve Jankowski** (B.S. '74) reiterates, “My advice to any student in Mass Comm at SIUE is to draw from every well that exists on campus...Seize the opportunity to make use of all of the facilities in place there. Build relationships with faculty and fellow students, as you never know when

those relationships will play a critical role in placing you in a better place in your career. Once those relationships are established, maintain them.” Todd Volz sums up this philosophy, advising students to “build relationships, be loyal, and never stop learning.”

If your company is interested in offering an intern opportunity for a CAS student, contact the College department via their web page by linking to:

http://www.siu.edu/CAS/cas_dept.html

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SMITH AND PATRICK RECOGNIZED FOR RESEARCH EXCELLENCE



Marian Smith examining the subject of her research, Boltonia decurrens.

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Distinguished Research Professor Dr. Timothy Patrick

Last March, the University promoted two of its top professors to Distinguished Research Professors. **Dr. Marian Smith** of Biological Sciences and **Dr. Timothy Patrick** of Chemistry have been formally recognized for their sustained record of research and scholarly activity.

Former University Provost **Sharon Hahs** stated that “the Distinguished Research Professor rank is an important recognition for faculty

members who have made an outstanding contribution to research as a result of their continued commitment to scholarship beyond the period of their promotion to Professor. The award recognizes that faculty scholarship is essential to the teaching experience.”

For Smith, an expert on rare and endangered plant species in the Illinois River Valley, the role of research is critical. “In science, for us to have anything valid to teach, we must have research.” She emphasizes that it is important to encourage faculty to not only perform research but to maintain it throughout their careers. The Distinguished Professor rank is significant, because it represents a validation and recognition of years of dedicated scholarship, while it serves as an incentive for continued research among all faculty members.

Patrick stresses, “The significance of my promotion is that it shows the University greatly appreciates and encourages research and grant productivity. Our research is an integral part of the overall mission of the University, excellence in teaching and research.”

“Thirty years ago some people would refer to SIUE as a non-research university, but those days are long gone. We use research as a premier form of engaged teaching,” said Patrick. “I review many research proposals both internal and external. The programs I see in the University are exciting and top rate, and the investigators have excellent research records.”

The high level of research at SIUE is evidenced by funding from outside major granting agencies, publications from faculty, and graduate school initiatives to support and encourage research and research awards.

This year marks the first awards as Distinguished Research Professor at SIUE. Patrick notes that in the future, the message about research will be “loud and clear: SIUE conducts top quality research in all areas.”

Smith earned her Ph.D. in Botany from the University of Kansas and came to SIUE in 1987. She now receives funding from a large number of prestigious agencies and companies, such as the National Science Foundation, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, the Missouri Department of Conservation, and the Illinois Groundwater Consortium.

Patrick came to SIUE in 1969 after earning his Ph.D. from West Virginia University in 1967 and performing postdoctoral work at both Ohio State University and Washington University Medical School. He has received research grant support from the Petroleum Research Foundation, the Research Corporation, the National Institutes of Health, the National Science Foundation, and Mallinckrodt.

For information about Research at SIUE, go to

http://www.siue.edu/ORP/ORP_PUBS/orppubs.html

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MERIDIAN SOCIETY GRANTS AWARDS FOR 2006



Shown left to right are Friends of Colonel Benjamin Stephenson House (CBSH) President Carol Wetzel, Barbara Nwacha, Joe Weber, and Friends of CBSH Treasurer Lisa Shashek.

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Founded in 2003, the Meridian Society serves to promote philanthropy through annual awards to university-based individuals or groups who partner with community organizations. The society thereby works towards SIUE's long term goals of Active Community Engagement and Excellent Reputation.

Additionally, the society aims to inspire women to become local leaders in supporting SIUE and community causes and to educate women on personal finance and philanthropic goals. **Dixie Engelman**, emeritus dean of the SIUE College of Arts and Sciences and former Meridian Society chair, says, "In the field of philanthropy, we are described as a 'giving circle.' We continue to learn what we can do collectively, as well as what we need to do on an individual and personal level."

This year marks the society's third year of awards, which have ranged from under \$1,000 to over \$5,000. Each year, the society has received unique and competitive applications, and previous awards have benefited CAS. In 2004, for instance, the Department of Mass Communications received a Meridian Award for

the production of an Introductory Visitors Video for the 1820 Col. Benjamin Stephenson House in Edwardsville. The video was well-received and is now viewed by visitors upon entering the historical site.



Stephenson House brochure, designed by Professor of Art & Design Barbara Nwacha.

Building on the success of that project, the society has now awarded the Department of Art and Design funds to design and print an informational color brochure that will be given to visitors at the Stephenson House. Designed by Head of Graphics Design **Barbara Nwacha**, the brochure will include photographs and historical information detailing the architectural and historic

features of the House. The brochure represents not only an important marketing tool for the colonial home but a public service that serves to educate the community on its role in early Illinois history.

Another 2006 Meridian Award involves the Department of Biological Sciences, which, along with The Gardens at SIUE, the Nature Preserve Foundation, Inc., and the Great Rivers Chapter of the Illinois Audubon Society, will coordinate the forest edge restoration project. While the forest edge serves as a critical habitat for animals and a transition zone between forest and grassland, in southern Illinois high quality edge habitats dominated by native species are disappearing. The project will work to restore a one-half acre portion of the forest edge in the Gardens at SIUE, a collaborative project with the Missouri Botanical Gardens to create a "Shaw's Garden East" in the existing Donal G. Myer Arboreteum. According to Gardens Director **Doug Conley**, actions that will be taken include the removal of invasive exotic species, the reintroduction of native species, and the provision of food, shelter, and water for a variety of birds and other wildlife.

The benefits of this project are numerous. Beyond providing an invaluable habitat for wildlife, the restoration will create student research opportunities and encourage community members to visit The Gardens at SIUE. Associate Professor of Biological Sciences **Kurt Schulz** says, "This is a wonderful example of how CAS faculty can work with philanthropic groups to enrich the community and Campus together. As partners, we have a limitless future."

The University's Museum Studies Program also received Meridian Society funds for the creation of a "family day" designed to complement an art exhibit entitled, Bona Fide or Bogus: Pre-Columbian Ceramics from the SIUE University Museum, which was on display at the Southwestern Illinois College's William and Florence Schmidt Art Gallery from May 18 to September 22.

Additional 2006 Meridian Society awards have been earmarked to provide poison

safety and prevention programs to southern Illinois communities, to promote peace and cultural understanding of diversity in the Children's Museum through exhibits and educational activities, and to support SIUE East St. Louis Center TRIO Programs' effort to increase the number of male minority students attending SIUE or other postsecondary institutions.

Commenting on the merits of the award recipients, Engelman notes, "In all cases we are reaching a broad audience for the University and for the Meridian Society. We hope that as more women become aware of our good work, they will want to be a part of the process and join our group."

Many of the Meridian Society members are SIUE alumnae. **Rose Powers Somraty Yarbrough** (B.A. '74, Geography), for instance, has served on the Meridian Society Board and Executive Committee as Secretary for the last four years. She reflects, "I enjoyed working with the Meridian Society Steering Committee in the establishment of the Society in 2003. Harold Melser and Dixie Engelman provided the leadership we needed in order to be successful."

Sandy Hardy Chinn (B.A. '74, Mass Communications) likewise joined the society at its inception. "I was intrigued by a philanthropic organization for women and [by the prospect] that we could have a real impact on the community." She stresses, "The Meridian Society is special because of its women only membership. I think women who become involved in philanthropic organizations do so because they really WANT to. They believe in what that organization is doing and they want to be a part of it...And that's one thing that makes the Meridian Society so special—every member really wants to be there."

Women who are interested in joining the Society should contact Julie Babington of the SIUE Foundation office at 618-650-2345. There are two types of membership. A full, voting membership involves a three-year pledge of \$1,000 annually, whereas an associate non-voting membership involves a three-year pledge of \$500 annually. Both membership level members are invited to the annual Salut! Reception at which time awards are announced as well as to an annual educational program on some aspect of philanthropy.

Engelman has recently ended her term as President of the group. **Kelly Hennessey-Schmidt**, a loan officer for The Bank of Edwardsville and a graduate of the School of Business (B.S. '91), now serves as the Society's president, and School of Business Professor Mary Sumner is the new vice president.

For more information, see

http://www.siu.edu/foundation/get_involved/meridiansociety/index.html

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DEAN NEELY VISITS CHINA



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This past May, College of Arts and Sciences **Dean Kent Neely** traveled to southeast China, visiting the cities of Shanghai, Suzhou, and Xiamen in an effort to continue and expand student study abroad programs.

School of Business **Dean Gary Giamartino** had invited Neely to accompany him on the school's annual travel study to China, which focuses on visiting business and cultural sites in order to better understand the economic, cultural, political, and human resource issues of global business.

The College of Arts and Sciences has become increasingly involved in this program, which includes Foreign Language Professor **Tom Lavalley**, who teaches Chinese, in the instructional team.

The group visited two universities, including Soochow University in Suzhou and Xiamen University, with which the School of Business has already been working, in Xiamen. Neely explains that his goal was to enhance the contact with both universities and to “develop arts and sciences experiences as part of the study abroad program in order to expand the experience and attract students from business and arts and sciences.”

The delegation received positive preliminary signs from the Chinese educators,

and SIUE is continuing to explore opportunities to form a partnership with Soochow and expand its existing ties to Xiamen.

Neely explains the significance of strengthening such international relationships, stressing that “university students and faculty must be aware of and engaged with the world community” in order to be well educated and able to contribute to society effectively. “China is the world’s fastest growing economy and it will have a dramatic impact on the US in a variety of ways. SIUE is committed to excellence in education and inter-nation connections are indispensable to that goal.”

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EXPANDING HORIZONS THROUGH TRAVEL LEARNING



Students enjoy campfire tea with the Bedouins.

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In late 2005, the U.S. Senate unanimously declared 2006 to be the “Year of Study Abroad.” The resolution, introduced by Sen. Dick Durbin (D-IL) and Sen. Lamar Alexander (R-TN), recognizes the important role that study abroad plays in shaping American education and global leadership. It also encourages all U.S. citizens, higher education institutions, secondary schools, businesses, and government programs to promote and expand study abroad opportunities. The Association of International Educators (NAFSA) urges educators to “heed the call to open wide the doors of global understanding through promoting and expanding international educational exchange opportunities.”

SIUE fully acknowledges the importance of the study abroad experience and is well-prepared to fulfill the recommendations outlined in the resolution. The University has hosted a wide array of group travel opportunities in 2006, including trips to Juarez, Costa Rica, Greece, Egypt, China, South Africa, Italy, Turkey, Germany, Ireland, Quebec, Canada, and Oaxaca, Mexico.

SERVICE LEARNING

Several of the trips sponsored by SIUE are interdisciplinary in nature and are based in the philosophy of service-learning. Each January, for instance, Foreign Languages Professor **Liz Fonseca** leads a group of students to Juarez, Mexico

to help build a home for a community member. Through the service of building a home, the students become deeply engaged with the community, and the language and culture of borderland Mexico becomes much more present to them.



SIUE students explore the Rain Forest in Costa Rica.

Spanish Major **Danielle Thoman** went on the 2006 trip and says, “I really enjoyed the service-learning part. I felt like we actually made a difference in someone’s life. By working there I got to use my Spanish in a more real-life situation.” The program, which began ten years ago, is a collaborative effort with the School of Business and addresses interdisciplinary topics such as politics, NAFTA, and factories run by U.S.

companies to take advantage of cheap labor and lax regulation. Fonseca explains that the interdisciplinary nature of the trip is significant for CAS students, because it provides a more well rounded, less “topic-focused” educational experience.

Economics and Finance Professor **Laura Wolff** directs another ongoing interdisciplinary service-learning program. Beginning in 2001 with funding from EUE, CAS, and the School of Business, students have had the opportunity to participate in the Rainforest Project, which represents a multi-faceted educational and research partnership between SIUE and Carara National Park in Costa Rica. Since then, sixteen different trips have been offered and have involved various departments including biology, political science, economics, foreign languages, geography, history, and anthropology. Wolff explains that the partnership with the park was designed to be “something the whole University could take advantage of.” The typical course provides a holistic learning experience by integrating an interdisciplinary curriculum into the students’ national park service.

Psychology Major and Spanish Minor **April Hosto** went on the trip in 2005 and adds, “There were several instructors that went with the group—a biology professor, a sociology professor, an anthropology professor, and a dance professor. Because of the mix of teachers, we had a very broad education while there. We studied the ecosystems of the rainforest, and learned about conservation and preservation, and the difficulty the park faces each year with poaching, mining, and farming coming into their land. We also looked at the culture broadly, and more specifically, we examined customs, dance, and gender roles.”

The service-learning component of the program is essential, according to Wolff, because it “teaches civic duty”—what it means to be a citizen and how citizenship relates to issues such as environmental policy. Service provides a concrete learning opportunity for students, where everything they’ve been studying academically suddenly becomes real. For Hosto, “The trip helped me feel like I

was a part of something larger than myself—something that will (hopefully) continue for many, many years. I gained new appreciation for another culture and a different lifestyle, and came to understand the U.S. culture a little bit better in the process.”

Two more specialized programs were offered this past summer, including a Sociology course and a course for students intending to be teachers. Specialized field studies courses are also more possible now that the program has built a biological research station in Costa Rica.

ADVENTURES IN GREECE AND EGYPT

The ongoing expeditions to Greece and Egypt also give students interdisciplinary and hands-on travel opportunities. This summer marked the 24th annual program in the ancient world experience, which was originally begun by SIUC Philosophy Professor Robert Hahn. In 1998, seven SIUE faculty members and over fifty SIUE students have participated in trip.

English Professor **Nancy Ruff**, who serves as the SIUE coordinator for the program, stresses the importance of working with other universities. “Collaboration is the magic word! Collaborating with faculty and students from SIUC as well as other institutions...enriches everyone’s experience during the programs, and afterwards, too.” Further, Ruff stresses that alumni should know that the Greece and Egypt programs are open to “life-long learners everywhere! A good mix of students, alumni, and community members is a key element in the quality of these travel study experiences.”

Ruff explains that the expeditions to Greece and Egypt offer participants a unique learning experience. Programs are led by an interdisciplinary team of 4-5 faculty members, allowing students to enroll for credit in a variety of areas and to have the most fundamental experience of interdisciplinarity, according to Ruff. The programs also focus on hands-on learning. “In Egypt, we ride camels through the Sahara Desert at sunset to have tea with the Bedouins at their campfires and discuss with our astronomer how the stars helped the ancients navigate through that same desert...In Greece, we re-enact the trial of Socrates in an ancient council chamber, visit a potter’s shop where we try our hand at copying the beautiful vases we’ve seen in the museums and discuss the red-figure and black-figure styles of painting in ancient Greece.”

Responses from previous student participants echo Ruff’s enthusiasm for hands-on learning. History Major and Classics Minor **Jodie Woodard**, who has been devouring all things Greek since middle school, went on the 2005 trip to Greece. She reflects, “I felt like a part of history when I was standing next to the Parthenon and putting on a play in a real ancient theater and running a race in a real ancient stadium...We sat in the same places as famous philosophers and ancient temples to the gods.” SIUE Alumna (B.A. ’03, English) **Joanne Olson** went to Greece in 2002 and reiterates the exhilarating thrill of living history. “We put on a Lysistrata at the end of our trip. It was amazing to watch us, dressed up in bed sheets, speaking the words spoken so long ago.”

Jessica Duffield, another SIUE alumna (B.A. '06, English), went to Greece in 2003 and says, "The [professors] and historians brought a wonderful degree of teaching...Even if a person had no background or knowledge of the places or lifestyles of the area, by the end, anyone could tell you [the] diet, games, politics, music and clothing preferences of the people who once inhabited those areas." She stresses, "I gained knowledge that I could never have gained from simply reading a book...Reading about Troy, and watching a movie about Troy, will never rival actually BEING in Troy. To comprehend that a massive historical war went on underneath your very feet hundreds of years ago, that famous people had died where you stood, can never be replaced by words on a page."

SIUE Alumnus **Joe Hinton** (B.A. '02, History) participated in the expedition to Egypt while he was a student, because he had a long-term interest in the archaeology of the country. He was able to do an independent study on the Step Pyramid of Djoser and the "false doors" that are located within the Step Pyramid complex. Hinton shares the sentiments expressed by other student travelers. "There's nothing like studying history firsthand. To be able to see the sites and touch the pyramids was more than I could have picked up from a textbook. I will have a life-long desire to return to Egypt and to continue to learn about the archaeology of different sites."

A WORLD OF LEARNING

Many more specialized group travel opportunities are offered through various departments. Foreign Languages Professor **Tom Lavallee** and Geography Professor **Bin Zhou** have led students to Beijing Normal University for the past two summers through the Human Geography-Chinese field school. The program gives students the opportunity to learn and understand the language and culture of China.

Because we live in a global age in which places in the world are increasingly linked together, diversity education and cultural awareness have become an imperative part of the University curriculum. Geography Major **Stacie McCoy**, who went on the trip in 2005, feels that China represents a particularly interesting case study for understanding globalization, because it "is currently facing the challenge of preserving its culture and history in the face of rapid modernization and economic growth."

"During the trip," Lavallee explains, "students toured famous landmarks such as the Great Wall, the Forbidden City, the Summer Palace, Tiananmen Square and numerous city parks and temples to learn about traditional and contemporary Chinese notions of living space." Such experiences give students a depth of understanding that books alone can not possibly provide.

McCoy reflects, "I have taken several classes that have at least briefly covered the subject of the Forbidden City in Beijing, for example, and I have also seen several movies that were filmed inside the city...The day we actually went into the Forbidden City, I became overwhelmed by the realization that I was standing in the place I have wanted to see for so long. To see people and places with my

own eyes, to reach out and touch ancient buildings with my own hands, and to speak face to face with people of another culture in their own language and in *their* homeland; these are experiences I keep in mind ever day while I study and learn, and I will take those experiences with me wherever I go for the rest of my life.”

SIUE Alumnus **Ben Wilson** (B.A. '06, Liberal Arts) also went on the trip and affirms, “Nothing can duplicate the experience of exposure to a different culture on a personal level. There aren’t any books, movies, or anyone to talk to that can duplicate the exposure to a culture in its environment.” Student Bob Nolte, who has been planning a teaching career, was so impressed by the program that he is “now very intrigued about the possibilities a career in Chinese and Japanese languages and cultures might yield. And I have last year’s trip to thank for that.”

The Geography department also sponsored a five-week travel study to South Africa this past summer. Professor **Susan Hume** escorted students to the University of Stellenbosch, just outside Cape Town, where they pursued coursework in South African geography, history, political science, and economics. Learning opportunities included visits to Robben Island, where Nelson Mandela was imprisoned, Kayamandi Township, Table Mountain, and the Cape of Good Hope. According to Hume, “This program is the first step toward building a long-term relationship with University of Stellenbosch, where in the future SIUE faculty and students from various disciplines will have the opportunity to work and study.”

Meanwhile, the Departments of Foreign Languages and History sponsored the Study Tour of Italy for the second year this summer. Coordinators of the program hope to make it an annual trip to accommodate strong student interest in seeing the historical monuments and churches of Italy. Students visit nine or ten cities, including Rome, Assisi, Florence, Pisa, Venice, and others. Foreign Languages Professor Anthony Di Paolo says, “The Study Tour is designed to reinforce what has been taught in class, via the practical application of the Italian language, literature, history and culture. The experience in seeing, feeling and touching the historical sites of Italy give the students an in-depth understanding of the nation’s characteristics and its influence in shaping the historical evolution of Western Civilization.” The Department of Historical Studies also sponsored a summer 2006 trip to Istanbul with the aim of introducing students to the history of secularism and modern Turkey.

Two summer 2006 travel opportunities were sponsored specifically by the Department of Foreign Languages, including the University’s first language and culture course in Wurzburg, Germany. Professor **Rick Chamberlin** taught the course in Germany for nine years with his previous institution, and he hopes to make it a yearly event at SIUE. The other travel study was provided by Professor **Debbie Mann**, who took French students to Laval University in Quebec, Canada for the third time. She explains that the mission of the program “is to increase students’ proficiency in French and to have them gain an appreciation for and basic understanding of quebecois culture.” Knowledge of the culture and language of Quebec is enhanced by students’ experiences with their homestay families.

“For students,” Mann explains, “it is a marvelous opportunity to deepen their understanding of another culture and to further develop their French language skills. For the University, the significance is that students truly do have a life-changing experience—their horizons are broadened, they learn to question what they had previously taken for granted, and they see themselves and their country from an outside perspective. They grow as students and individuals.”

Finally, the Art department sponsored two student trips abroad this summer. Textile Arts Professor **Laura Strand** accompanied seniors to Mexico for the sixth time. Following the first trip in 1995, students have had the opportunity to work directly with indigenous craftspeople in the small Oaxaca highland town of Tlaxiaco. Strand explains that since 1996, “We have studied daily with Trique weavers and Mixtec potters, learning directly the ancient methods of art making and the cultural settings of these people.” Students then participate in a senior assignment course through the fall wherein they create art in response to their experience.

Strand stresses the importance of promoting intercultural awareness among undergraduates. “We need to expose these evolving world citizens to new landscapes, to other cultures and other modes of living. Through this exposure they are forced to step outside of their own art making and closed cultural experience to see their lives and artwork from a totally new perspective... This is indeed a unique opportunity to expand students’ ability to think about and evaluate their artwork in a broader cultural context.”

Additionally, Professors **Steve Brown** and **John Denhouter** took 16 students to the Burren College of Art in Ballyvaughan, Ireland for the first time this summer to study either photography or painting. The College, which is housed in a 16th century castle, allows visiting schools to conduct classes and utilize their facilities during the summer. Such facilities include personal studios, a well-stocked research library, and a fully equipped darkroom and digital lab. While in Ireland, students also toured such sites as the Cliffs of Moor, Lady Gregory’s Estate, and ancient ring forts.

Brown focused on the concept of space and time with his photography students. “The landscape of western Ireland is layered with historical references that can take you back 200, 600, and even 6,000 years depending in which direction you look. All of this is in the context of the Celtic Tiger, a recent rapid growth of the middle class in Ireland... In effect, the Irish landscape will expose students to both the issues of a developing nation as well as offer insight into ways that America sees and interacts with its landscape that students might not realize while in their own backyards.”

Echoing the voice of other instructors, Brown says, “Traveling abroad offers a unique opportunity for students to experience and interact with other people and their culture. It also gives students a chance to interact with students who will be visiting the college from other parts of the world and the U.S. As our students learn about the education experiences of these other students, so too do they learn about what we do at SIUE.”

Certainly, the ability and willingness of SIUE to offer such a vast array of educational experiences to their students is a service that enriches the overall quality of the University. By encouraging travel study opportunities, the University demonstrates its dedication to promote intercultural awareness and to prepare SIUE students for the challenge that the world is today.

For more information about travel abroad opportunities, go to:

<http://www.siue.edu/studyabroad/>

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NEW CAS CHAIRS

Arts and Sciences Today would like to welcome five faculty members to their new position as Department Chairs. Chairs are the chief academic and administrative officers of their departments, and they ensure that departments work to enhance student learning and strive to fulfill the mission of the University. In concert with faculty, Chairs develop and implement long range department goals, while they bear the critical responsibility of balancing the interests of faculty, programs, students, and staff in the interest of the overall well being of the department.

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New CAS Chairs

Dr. Venessa Brown, Social Work



Dr. Venessa Brown

Brown received her Ph.D. in 1994 from Clark Atlanta University. She is the author of *Child Welfare Case Studies*, and her work experience includes ten years as a Child Protective Services Investigator for the State of Georgia and extensive work with the Juvenile Court System.

Brown came to SIUE in 1995, and her current research focus is correcting child welfare history and international child welfare. She has traveled to the Caribbean, Central America and South Africa studying women and children's issues. Brown has presented professional papers in the U.S. and internationally, and she serves on several peer review journals. Brown has done workshops and extensive research in the areas of abuse and neglect. She is committed to diversity and is the President of the Board of Directors for the National Christian Multicultural Student Leaders Conference, Inc. and is also a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

Brown's specific department goals aim to increase department visibility, to engage alumni and encourage them to get involved with the department, to raise department development funds, to encourage joint faculty scholarship, to become a vibrant resource for community social services agencies, and to develop more collaborative relationships with community agencies.

Professor Thad Duhigg, Art & Design



Professor Thad Duhigg

Duhigg received his B.F.A. from SIUC and his M.F.A. from Syracuse University. He has taught at both Texas Christian University and the University of Wyoming. Duhigg joined SIUE in 2002, and his research focus is sculpture. His most recent series is tentatively titled *national monuments I'd like to see*, and his previous body of work was a critique of race and consumption.

Duhigg's goals as Chair aim to achieve National Association of Schools of Art and Design (NASAD) accreditation, to bring the two parts of the department (art and design on the one hand, and art therapy, history, and education on the other) closer together, and to raise the profile of the department locally, regionally, and nationally.

Dr. Julie Holt, Anthropology

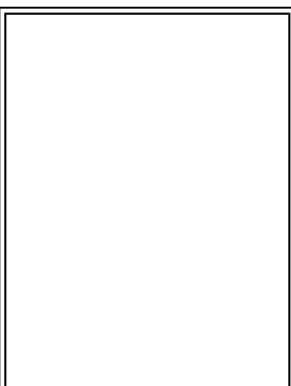


Dr. Julie Holt

Born and raised in Barnhart, Missouri, Holt earned her M.A. and her Ph.D. from New York University. Holt came to SIUE in 2000 and has a research focus in western Illinois archaeology. During her time at SIUE, she has taught several field schools on Native American sites in Madison County. The goals of the field schools are to train students in standard archaeological techniques, to provide research opportunities for students and herself, and to record some of the county's rapidly disappearing archaeological record.

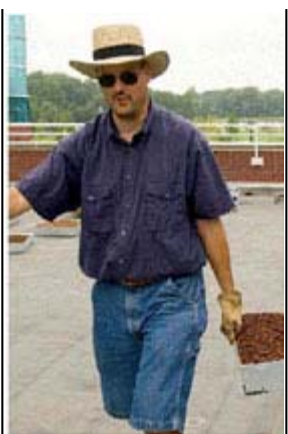
As chair, Holt wants to ensure that students receive the best education possible and that faculty are given all the support they need. Perceiving anthropology's focus on understanding humans from a multicultural perspective as essential to a peaceful 21st century, Holt would also like to see the department expand at SIUE to host more majors and more faculty.

Dr. William Retzlaff, Biological Sciences



Retzlaff received his M.S. from Auburn University and his Ph.D. from Clemson University. He joined SIUE in 1999 and has a research focus in lead contamination and green roofing, which involves the use of plants on roofs to reduce storm runoff, reduce energy consumption, and lower temperatures of urban areas.

As a member of the Green Roof Environmental Evaluation Network (GREEN), Retzlaff works to evaluate the environmental and economic benefits of green roof



Dr. William Retzlaff

implementation and to evaluate the performance of various green roofing materials and techniques.

Dr. Peg Simons, Philosophy



Dr. Peg Simons

Simons earned her M.A. and Ph.D. from Purdue University. She came to SIUE in 1976, and her primary research focus is the philosophy of French author and philosopher Simone de Beauvoir, best known for her 1949 classic, *The Second Sex*.

Simons is currently continuing to edit a seven volume series of Beauvoir's works in English translation. The series

is significant because it will provide the English reading audience with access to scholarly editions of the works of one of the most important women philosophers of the twentieth century for the first time.

The second volume in the series, Beauvoir's *Diary of a Philosophy Student: 1926-27*, is scheduled for publication this winter. Simon's most recent publication is an anthology, *The Philosophy of Simone de Beauvoir: Critical Essays*.

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With your help, CAS was able to assist with scholarships, student awards, assistantships, visiting artists and lecturers. We underwrote some of the printing of a student literary journal as well as offering support for student service-learning and travel abroad experiences. CAS helped with funding for art, theater, and music on campus. The CAS Colloquium and the Black Arts Project also received funds from the College.

These are just a few of a long list of enhancements provided with the help of CAS donors. On behalf of the students and faculty of the College of Arts and Sciences, thank you for supporting excellence in education. We truly could not have accomplished as much as we did in academic year 2005-2006 without your generosity. Thank you for your support and for being part of the College of Arts and Sciences family.

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Danke
Xie xie
Khawp khun
Yum
Salamat
Mahalo
Jospa
Obrigada
Spacibo
Arigato