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DEAN'S WELCOME

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SIUe

"We don't even know what skills may be needed in the years ahead. That is why we must train our young people in the fundamental fields of knowledge, and equip them to understand and cope with change. That is why we must give them the critical qualities of mind and durable qualities of character that will serve them in circumstances we cannot now even predict."

John W. Gardner

President

Carnegie Foundation for Advancement of Teaching

Gardner's words are as true today as they were when he first published "Excellence" in 1961. He was a leader, an activist, an author and a reformer, who understood the value of the liberal arts and sciences as a foundation for successful careers, but even more so as a preparation for life-long learning.

Liberal arts and sciences studies do not train students for specific jobs, but they do offer graduates tools that are adaptable and transferable to all professions. They are the skills that employers want and graduates need to be successful, both on the job and as local, national and global citizens. The National Association of Colleges and Employers' *Job Outlook 2003* survey of 1,339 employer members clearly showed that a liberal arts and sciences education can position graduates for success by offering a firm foundation in the transferable skills that employers rank as the most important, such as communication, honesty/integrity, teamwork skills, interpersonal skills, motivation/initiative; and a strong work ethic. In a world that is rapidly changing with each new discovery, obsolescence of technical skills is a foregone conclusion. but the ability to effectively communicate through written and spoken word, to analyze and synthesize information, to be open and adaptable to change and diversity, and to relate a variety of knowledge to a bigger picture will never be out of vogue. A liberal arts and sciences education helps students expand their worlds to prepare graduates to appreciate the beauty and challenge of life as individuals and as members of society throughout their lives.

In this issue of ***Arts & Sciences Today***, we bring you the stories of CAS graduates who have utilized the skills they learned to make their marks in a variety of business, non-profit, and legal settings. We also take a look at some alumni who have left the "9 to 5" routine, but who remain active and challenged in retirement.

I invite you to read their stories and to share your own story with us. Every success, whether professional or personal, is a reason to celebrate with your arts and sciences family.

Kent Neely

Dean

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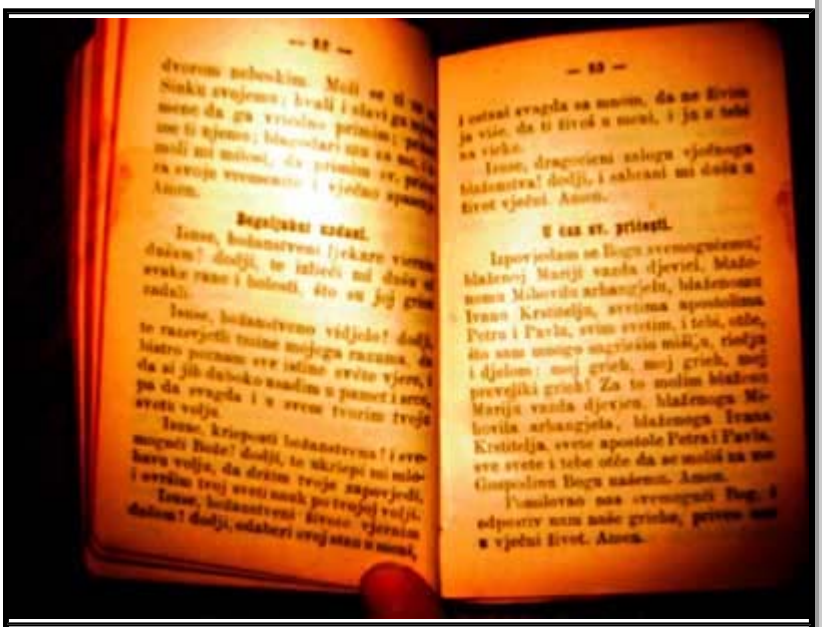
The Croatian Heritage Project Preserves Local Community's Cultural History



A 1922 Christian prayer book written in Croatian.

A little over a year ago, community member **Tom Layloff** lamented with family on the decline of the institutions and social fabric of their Croatian heritage. Concerned that the legacy of the Croatian community was drifting away and that the history would be lost, Layloff enlisted the University's help in establishing a Croatian Heritage Project to collect, inventory, study, and preserve cultural items.

With the help of Historical Studies Professor **Laura Fowler**, Layloff then worked to form a Croatian Heritage Project Advisory Committee to assist in identifying and soliciting items to be donated to SIUE for archiving and study. Funds were collected to support graduate assistant **Tracy Speakman**, and the project is now underway.

The end result of the project will be a website that will tell the history of the Croatian Home, Inc., a community center in Madison, Illinois that went bankrupt in November 2005. The records and materials that were housed at Croatian Home were then transferred to Lodge 44, another Croatian Mutual Aid society in Granite City.

Fowler received a donation of materials from members of Lodge 44 this spring, at which point Speakman began reviewing the documents to reconstruct the history of the Croatian community in Southwestern Illinois. Commenting on the logistics of such a task, Speakman notes, “It will be sometime before any true assessments are made about the material. Because the items are coming to us in printer paper boxes and plastic bags, the first order of business is to process the material so that there is a sense of organization and break down of the material.”

A handmade flag hung inside the Croatian Home in Granite City, IL.

Speakman discussed some of the expectations she has going into the project, saying “Many of the people that we have talked to in the community have expressed a concern for the lack of interest in Croatian culture on the part of younger generations. This seems to be a common occurrence in many cultural groups. By about the third generation, the interest is tenuous at best. Within the material collected for this project, I hope to pinpoint where this begins to happen and why. One focal point of the Croatian culture in Madison and Granite City has always been the music and dance. To this day, Tamburitzan music has been at the center of the Croatian Home, even attracting many of its non-Croatian members. It will be interesting to see the many roles that this music has played within the material given to us.”

Advisory Committee member **Frances Irwin**, a member of the Croatian Fraternal Union and the Tamburitza Association of America, earned her doctorate with a dissertation on using Balkan folk music to teach irregular meter. She notes, “There are many Croatians on the St. Louis side who have artifacts that should be retained and preserved…Many of the old Croatians have a wealth of history that should be recorded, and items that should be saved somewhere. So, this project hopefully will gain attention.”

The project’s eventual website will grant community members access to the information gathered through the Croatian Heritage Project. The site will explore the impact of Croatian culture on local community as well as the impact of local community on Croatian culture. Plans are also underway to eventually accept permanent donations of records and mementos from the Croatian community into the Louisa H. Bowen University Archives, which would serve as a central location for such materials to be accessed throughout the Greater St. Louis area.

Complementing the project last fall was an oral history course in which students interviewed approximately 50 members of the Croatian community throughout the metropolitan area. The students interviewed immigrants who left Croatian during the communist era, as well as those whose families came to the United States early in the twentieth century. Professor **Anne Valk** explains that the interviews served to "elicit people's memories about institutions, such as the lodge, families, and churches, that were important to the community and through which cultural traditions were passed along to younger generations. In addition, the interviews focused on neighborhoods, workplaces, and events that are important in understanding the evolution of this community and its impact on the local area."

Commenting on the overall significance of the project, Layloff emphasizes, "We all have a heritage which generally is lost as we assimilate into the great melting pot of the USA. To preserve this heritage for our children and their children, it is important to secure the historical items and memorabilia in an institution which has continuity and commitment. We are fortunate in our area to have such an institution in SIUE, which serves not only to educate us but also to bring cultural enrichment to our lives…

I encourage all of the people of Croatian descent or those with interest in our local heritage to support this effort with their contributions of funds, memorabilia, and historical items."

Academically speaking, Fowler stresses, "This project is a wonderful opportunity for masters-level History and Museum Studies students to delve into local history and to see the challenges and rewards of community work. We hope that we can continue to receive funding from the community to hire graduate assistants to assist with this project."

Fowler is actively pursuing project funds, including an Illinois Humanities Council Major Grant she is applying for this February. Donations made payable to the SIUE Foundation are tax deductible as allowable by law. Convenient and secure online donations may be made at:

https://secure.conveniencepay.com/wfapp/siuef/customer/

For more information about making a contribution, contact the CAS Development Director:

Marilyn Marsho
College of Arts and Sciences
Phone: 618/650-5048
Email: mmarsho@siue.edu

For more information about the project, see:

http://www.siue.edu/%7Elmilsk/Site/About%20Me.html

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Alumni Leaders Excel in Executive Positions

Chief Information Officer at Monsanto Company, Mark Showers (third from the right), with his team at Monsanto's seed plant in Uberlandia, Brazil.

Croatian Heritage
Alumni Executives
CAS Legal Eagles
Active Boomers
MRF Revisited
New Alum Director

The student characteristics fostered by SIUE's College of Arts and Sciences, including communication, critical thinking, and problem solving capabilities, enable graduates to successfully take on leadership roles in a variety of professional arenas. Many CAS alumni are finding that such leadership skills are allowing them to excel in executive positions in a multitude of work environments.

Becky Gould-Levine (B.S. '00, Speech Communication), for instance, has quickly advanced professionally to become the envy of basketball fans. In her position as Account Executive in Service and Fan Relations for the Memphis Grizzlies NBA Professional Basketball Team, Gould-Levine works closely with the season ticket base to give it a sense of personal connection with the team. Providing this sense of connection entails planning events such as the annual season ticket holder party and informing season ticket holders of special offers

and inside scoops.

Alumna Becky Gould-Levine works as Account Executive in Service and Fan Relations for the Memphis Grizzlies NBA Professional Basketball Team.

In the mere half-decade since Gould-Levine's graduation, she has gained tremendous professional knowledge in three different states, including California, Oklahoma, and now, Tennessee. In California, she worked for the Fresno State Bulldogs Division I Athletic Department as a Marketing Assistant. "There I learned just about everything that I know from a professional aspect." Looking for the next challenge, she moved on to work in the Golden Eagle Athletic Marketing Department at Oral Roberts University in Tulsa as the Assistant Director of Marketing. "There I worked on a higher level and had much more of a supervisory role. After two years in Tulsa, I came here to Memphis and now work in the NBA—a place and job that I love. The NBA is very competitive, so I was very lucky to break in when I did."

Alumna Dee Joyner serves as Commerce Bank's senior vice president.

Dee Joyner (B.A. '71, M.S. '73, Government) is another SIUE alumna with a successful executive career. Joyner's longstanding career has transitioned from the public to the private sector, in which she has spent the last fifteen years at Commerce Bank. For the past five of those years, she has served as the bank's senior vice president, maintaining responsibility for the corporation's Organizational Development and Community Relations for the St. Louis Market.

Prior to her position at Commerce Bank, Joyner worked close to twenty years in the government and nonprofit sector, beginning at the East-West Gateway Coordinating Council and ending as chief of staff to the St. Louis County Executive. While she was at SIUE, Joyner got her start in the professional workforce as a student worker for the Labor Institute and the Institute for Housing, Renewal and Code Enforcement. She recalls, "My fondest memories are of assisting with the conferences we put on and driving speakers from the airport to the conference site, thus having an opportunity to learn first hand from some very interesting and successful leaders from around the country."

Joyner says that her education at SIUE was an invaluable part of her career preparation. "Quality and accessibility of the faculty played a key role in preparing

me for the future. The opportunity to participate in internships and independent study also exposed me to career options I might not otherwise have considered."

Drawing from her extensive experience in leadership roles, Joyner advises future potential executives, "Work hard, do the best that you can, volunteer to take on assignments, and don't worry about who gets credit. Also, become involved in the community. It is a wonderful way to give back, to meet people, and to learn new skills."

Mark Showers (B.A. '77, Chemistry and Mathematics), the Chief Information Officer at Monsanto Company, advises students and new graduates "to always continue learning, focus on delivering results in your current job, and be prepared to seize the opportunities that are presented to you as your career progresses."

Alumnus Mark Showers has served as Monsanto's CIO since January 2005.

Showers began his career as a chemist. Following his participation in SIUE's Chemistry department's Co-Op, or internship, program, he secured a full-time position with the host company, Carboline. He then went to work for Monsanto after earning his Masters in Physical Chemistry at Washington University. As his career progressed, Showers went back to school yet again to complete an MBA in the Executive MBA program at Washington University in 1995. He has served as Monsanto's CIO since January of 2005.

Showers reflects, "If you choose a career in industry, it is almost impossible to predict your career path. I would have never guessed when I started my career as a chemist in high performance coatings that I would eventually end up in Information Technology and, even more surprising, as CIO of a major corporation."

And it was SIUE that got his successful career path started. "SIUE provided me with a strong fundamental background in mathematics and the sciences that still serves me well today, almost thirty years after graduation."

Today's SIUE students are faced with opportunities similar to those available to Showers a generation ago. Showers notes, "My organization has a very active Co-Op program in information technology and routinely hires SIUE students as Co-Ops and eventually as full time employees."

Another SIUE alumnus to take on an executive role now works for the nation's largest operator of long-term

acute hospitals. **James Pomeroy** (B.A. '69, Social Work; M.A. '75, Sociology) serves as Vice President-Business Development for Select Medical Corporation, which is based in Mechanicsburg, PA but maintains its development division in St. Louis. He has worked for the company since 1994 but didn't get involved in the development of specialty hospitals until 1997.

Alumnus James Pomeroy works in St. Louis as Vice President-Business Development for Pennsylvania-based Select Medical Corporation.

After earning his bachelor's in Social Work, Pomeroy went to work for the Council on Alcohol and Drugs, a non-profit in Marion, Ohio. He worked with the council to provide injury prevention programs, which introduced him to representatives of the Insurance Company of North America (now CIGNA Corporation). The INA eventually hired him to direct their efforts at developing managed mental health services benefit programs, and Pomeroy worked in Philadelphia and New York to help develop Employee Assistance Programs for Fortune 500 Corporations.

Prior to these stepping stones, however, was Pomeroy's significant experience as a student at SIUE. He reflects, "As with many students who attended SIUE in the late 1960s, I was actually working full-time in a steel mill since my family could not afford to send me to college."

The need to balance work and school provided good time management training, and Pomeroy eventually left the steel mill to take on student jobs in both the library and the campus post office. He notes, "My work in the library gave me access to all the reserved books and a quality education on the use of library resources. My job in the post office allowed me to interact with faculty on a regular basis… Finally, my classroom instruction provided me with the ability to critically evaluate and initiate change from within an organization. Unlike many of my peers in the late '60s, I was convinced (and remain so) that change comes from within a system."

Pomeroy says that one of the most profound lessons he has learned is to have persistence and a well thought-out strategy. "The planning process is one that must 'anticipate the alligators' in order to be successful. Persistence involves working with others objections rather than 'caving-in' to expedience."

Donald Rice (B.A. '94, Music Merchandising), a program specialist at the Missouri Arts Council, also advises young people to maintain persistence. "Don't give up on your dreams. It took me eight years to get my first arts/entertainment industry job. Make contacts with as many people in the

industry as possible. This business is all about relationships."

While Rice doesn't hold an executive position in the traditional corporate setting, his duties at the Missouri Arts Council demand the leadership and management abilities one would need to succeed in an executive role. For the past five years, Rice has worked with the council to plan, coordinate, and manage the operations of the Festivals, Mini Grants, Minority Arts, and Technical Assistance programs.

Alumnus Donald Rice's job as a program specialist at the Missouri Arts Council demands the leadership and management skills one needs to succeed in an executive role.

This involves reviewing program grant applications, writing summary reports on applications received, and participating in the evaluation process. He also assists applicants with program development and functions as a liaison between the agency and the arts community, review panels, nonprofit organizations, site consultants, advisory committees, and the general public.

In addition to his experience at SIUE, a position as coordinator for the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial helped prepare Rice for his current position. The National Endowment for the Arts played a major role in the celebration, and Rice served as the liaison between two Missouri artists and the NEA. Rice notes, "It was a major stepping stone, because I was convening meetings all over the state and meeting people across the country."

Beyond his job at the Missouri Arts Council, Rice applies his leadership skills to a variety of musical endeavors. He is an active participant in the St. Louis gospel music scene, serving as the drum instructor for West Side Missionary Baptist Church Music Academy and as Minister of Magnification for Liberty Community Worship Center, where he coordinates not only music but every element of arts and entertainment.

No matter what the area of study within the College for Arts and Sciences, CAS graduates are finding their niches and proving that a liberal arts education does prepare students for successful leadership roles in a variety of professional settings.

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CAS LEGAL EAGLES ARE FLYING HIGH

Joanne Olson (center) receiving a scholarship at Hinshaw & Culberson LLP, a national law firm headquartered in Washington, D.C.

SIUE's College of Arts and Sciences provides students with the fundamental skills needed to succeed in law. Simply by offering a wide variety of quality liberal arts courses, SIUE lays the foundation from which students build successful law careers.

The Pre-Law Advising Program, along with special events and student organizations, such as the Law and Society Lunchtime conversations and the Pre-Law Association (PLA), serve to enhance the SIUE experience for students interested in pursuing a career in law.

PLA president **Alyx Mark** says, "Law schools are becoming more and more diverse with the types of major they are accepting, so a Pre-Law degree wouldn't necessarily aid a person in getting into law school more than any other degree… Basically, SIUE prepares students for law schools by giving them lots of choices—clubs, organizations, classes, etc.—and that's what schools are looking for."

Commenting on the importance of the PLA, Mark notes, “There are students out there who aren’t really sure what direction they want to take in life, or more narrowly, in law. The PLA allows students to be informed about different events that might help them answer questions about where they want to see themselves.”

Left to right—Andrea Smith, Morgan Clymer and Alyx Mark of SIUE’s student Pre-Law Association.

Mark, who earned local fame in November by winning $100,000 as a contestant on ABC’s “Who Wants to Be a Millionaire,” is a Chancellor’s scholar double majoring in Political Science and History, with minors in English and Mass Communications. After graduating, she hopes to attend law school at Georgetown but says she will apply to every school within a fifty mile radius of Washington D.C.

“Right now, I am very interested in international law. I will be studying abroad in South Africa next summer, and the thought of dealing with diplomacy, international conflict resolution, [and] war and peace really intrigues me. I would love to be a foreign diplomat, but then again, it’s a lofty goal…But, I’m up to the challenge.”

Joanne Olson (B.A. ’03, Philosophy & English) is in her third year at SIUC, where she focuses on immigration law, constitutional law, and criminal law. She hopes to graduate in 2007 in the top 10 percent of her class, pass the Missouri and Illinois State Bars, and then work at a law firm in downtown St. Louis.

Commenting on the quality of education she received at SIUE, Olson proclaims, “Official pre-law programs would probably have been detrimental to my preparation for law school…You are prepared for law school if you have a certain set of basic skills—reading and writing, logic and analytical reasoning.”

She explains that the information that you might learn in an undergrad pre-law program won’t really do a student much good, because the law is so unique. Each state is different, and each jurisdiction in each state is different. “What is most valuable is having skills to read and extract the rule of law from case law. I feel the English and Philosophy departments prepared me to succeed in law school.”

Matt Warren (B.S. ’05, Political

Science & Philosophy) is in his second year at the University of Arizona James E. Rogers College of Law. "I feel that I was incredibly well prepared for law school by my education at SIUE. The Philosophy and Political Science departments at SIUE are very strong, and the professors completely prepared me for the competitive law school environment."

Alumnus Matt Warren is currently ranked No. 1 in his class at the University of Arizona James E. Rogers College of Law.

He emphasizes, "My education [at SIUE] has taught me to analyze issues and to extrapolate key concepts from complicated materials. Here at the University of Arizona, I am in competition with students who have undergraduate educations from schools such as Dartmouth, Stanford, Yale, University of Chicago, Harvard, etc. I feel that I was at least as prepared, if not more prepared, than students coming from any of these universities."

Warren wrote onto the Arizona Law Review and is currently ranked number one in his class with a 4.0. His specific area of interest is in international business and copyright law as well as in tort law and white collar crime. After graduating, Warren plans to practice law for a few years, earn a Ph.D. in philosophy, and become a law professor.

Amy Gantvoort(B.S. '94) is an example that there is no best major for pre-law students. Although she majored in theater and minored in speech communication, Gantvoort now works as a labor and employment attorney in the Santa Monica, CA office of St. Louis-based Bryan Cave LLP. The firm has offices around the world and is rated among the nation's most prestigious law firms in the 2006 Vault Guide to the Top 100 Law Firms.

After graduating from SIUE, Gantvoort worked at various theater companies for several years and tried to get an acting career off the ground. Her main employment was at The New Theatre, a professional union theater company in St. Louis, where she quickly became General Manager.

Amy Gantvoort on the day she took her oath of office to practice law in California.

"I moved to LA in 1997 to really pursue the dream," Gantvoort reflects. "After three years, I decided that I needed more than just waiting tables and waiting for my career to happen, so I turned to my other interest—law. Law school proved to be the right place for me."

Gantvoort has been practicing in general litigation for the past three years and notes that her theater experience prior to law school has proved to be a huge asset in both securing employment and handling her clients. "I cannot measure how valuable my experience at SIUE has been for me. My acting and speech communication courses helped me to gain confidence and my ability to speak in public effectively and to hide my nerves when necessary!"

Predictably, Gantvoort, like others, advises students interested in law to look at courses beyond the obvious choices of government or pre-law. "Although I am sure that they are quite valuable and should be taken if possible, other courses such as speech communication and acting classes will prove to be just as beneficial if you plan to be a litigator."

SIUE alumna **Rutha Lawrence-Prude** (B.A., '00) likewise benefited from a broader liberal arts and sciences background. She earned her bachelor's through the Liberal Studies degree program, which offers students the flexibility to develop individualized programs of study with an interdisciplinary focus. She then went on to earn her master's in legal studies from Webster University.

Alumna Rutha Lawrence-Prude is the corporate paralegal for the St. Louis-based architectural firm HOK.

Prude now works as the corporate paralegal for the St. Louis-based and nationally renowned architectural firm of Hellmuth, Obata, and Kassabaum (HOK), which does business in each of the 50 states and has 24 offices throughout the U.S. in addition to offices in Beijing, Brisbane, Dubai, Hong Kong, London, Mexico City, Ottawa, Shanghai, and Toronto.

In her position, Prude assists the General Counsel to ensure they are receiving valid contracts from each of the company's entities. She also ensures that the firm's business license and registrations are current and assists in trial preparation in the event the company must defend itself in court.

Prude notes that a broad experience base prepared her for the multitude of duties that she now faces as HOK. "What I do here is really the culmination of four different places I worked previously. When I came here I was supposed to be here for only three months to enter their contracts into a new database. But they found that my talents were deep, [so] I was hired and given more responsibility." She also says that her liberal studies background prepared her for the amount of research demanded by her job, while it gave her a broader knowledge base."

Two SIUE alumni who have gone on to become prominent local figures in the field of law include Supreme Court Justice for the State of Illinois Judge **Phillip Rarick, III** (B.A. '65, Sociology) and United States District Court Judge for the Southern District of Illinois **David Herndon** (B.A. '74, Government).

Alumnus David Herndon serves as the United States District Court Judge for the Southern District of Illinois.

Herndon was appointed to his present position by President Bill Clinton in 1998. He says his appointment to the federal bench was the proudest moment in his career, which included seven years as an Associate Judge in the Third Judicial Circuit for the State of Illinois and fourteen years as a trial lawyer largely representing rail workers of the United Transportation Union. "It clearly was the culmination of my ultimate professional goal—interestingly enough, a goal I set while I was a student at SIUE."

"My major at SIUE was Government, with a minor in History, which gave me a great curiosity and interest in the proper roles of the three branches of government and how each one relates to the other…Clearly, the curiosity and study that was engendered in the education I began at SIUE prepared me for the rigors of law school."

Herndon stresses that students who are going into law must first and foremost "learn how to study and study efficiently. They also need to develop a very strong work ethic. Once they have learned both of those things in undergrad, they need to be prepared to triple them in law school."

SIUE law students at SLU, from L to R, Alexis Overstreet, Cara Jackson, Adam Berry, Alyx Mark, Christine Williams.

SIUE faculty are ensuring that students also connect law to broader societal issues. Beginning in 2005, Professor of Criminal Justice **Trish Oberweis** organized Law and Society lunchtime conversations. The conversations include some that are designed for faculty and others that are primarily for students. Those interested in law and society are welcomed to contact Oberweis at toberwe@siue.edu.

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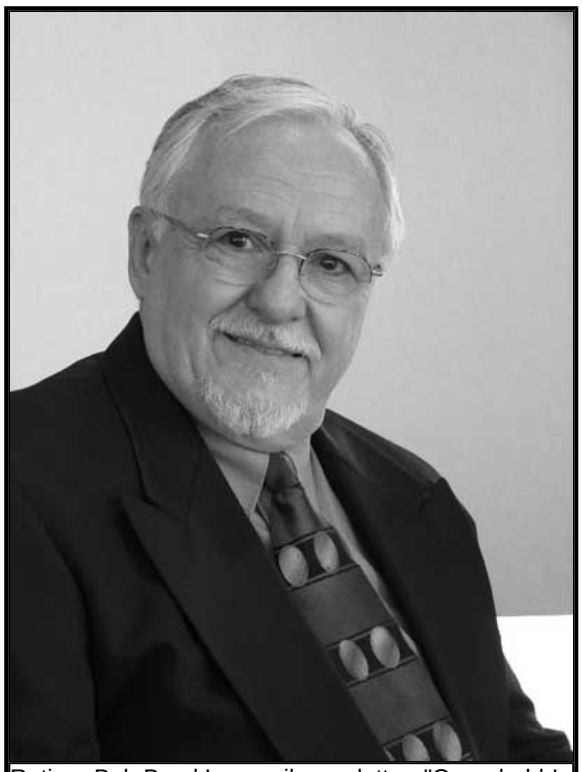
Retirement Means New Beginnings for CAS Alumni



Retiree Bob Brock's e-mail newsletter, "Operabobb's E-news," provides about 1,000 San Francisco Bay area opera fans with opera news and events.

Every 8 seconds, according to a National Public Radio report, another North American baby boomer has turned 60 since the beginning of 2006. That adds up to 11,000 each day and 4.5 million each year. Beyond their staggering numbers, what's significant about this aging Boomer generation is that it's retiring old notions of what it means to be retired.

America's new breed of retirees isn't planning to let life pass them by. Rather, they're using their later years to reinvent retirement by continuing to work, entering new careers, launching new businesses, serving as volunteers, going back to school, and pursuing other paths that build on the interests, skills, and wisdom they've developed over the years.

This trend complements two of the desired characteristics and capabilities fostered by SIUE's College of Arts and Sciences—life-long learning and citizenship. The college is dedicated to ensuring that its graduates acquire the ability and knowledge needed to become life-long learners and responsible citizens.

Indeed, SIUE alumni are showing that they maintain a sense of curiosity, an appreciation for the process of learning, and an eagerness to participate in community affairs even into their retirement.

Jo Harmon Arnold (B.A. '72, Sociology) is a case in point. Arnold worked at Emerson Electric in St. Louis for forty years. She began working there in the employment office as a clerical associate, and by retirement, she was Sr. Vice President. In her position, Arnold was responsible for many of the administrative functions, involving executive compensation, the charitable foundation, and Emerson facilities throughout the world.

At retirement, Arnold was asked to consider a consulting agreement which requires her to work part-time. She has now consulted for over two years, working primarily to represent Emerson on key boards and initiatives in the St. Louis community.

Arnold's experience is consistent with the findings of an AARP survey which showed that seven out of ten workers 45 and older plan to work during their retirement years. While earning money is a major motivator, one in three say they will work mainly for enjoyment and a sense of purpose. Certainly, continuing to learn and contribute to society are invaluable elements of life-long personal fulfillment.

Arnold describes how the college's efforts to instill an appreciation for the process of learning have been of great personal benefit: "Clearly, my liberal arts and sociology background has been an asset in all these endeavors. The broad exposure of a liberal arts education simply made me more curious about many different areas of life from the statistics of executive compensation to the cultural world of music and art. Sociology and the study of group dynamics provided the underlying philosophy to help me in working with many different groups and cultures."

A 2004 Wall Street Journal/NBC News poll found that more than 2/3 of the respondents plan to volunteer for public serve or community organizations, and in addition to continuing to work, Arnold has maintained her interest in the culture and the arts by serving on a number of community boards. Among them are the St. Louis Symphony, the Opera Theatre, the Urban League, Oasis, and Interlochen Academy for the Arts.

Bob Brock (M.S. '71, Theater) is another alumnus who has dedicated much of his retirement to serving the local arts community. Brock was an Army Officer at the time he received his master's in 1971. He 'retired' from the Army in 1979 after 21 years in uniform to begin his second career in software sales, marketing,

and design, which lasted 13 years. In 1992, Brock started his third career when he joined his wife's Medicare home health agency as the Executive Vice President. In 2003, the couple sold the agency and retired.

Throughout all the career changes, Brock has maintained a dedication to community theater work. Even while stationed in Italy with the Army, he played Pseudolus in "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum" and Biggley in "How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying." In addition to performing, Brock has also done some writing and directing over the years.

But Brock's biggest passion is for opera. "Since I was a teenager, I've been interested in opera. I have always attended opera wherever I've lived (except, of course, in Vietnam during the war)."

Since moving to the San Francisco Bay Area, Brock has had such opportunities as directing Donizetti's "Elixir of Love" and doing set and lighting design for Menotti's "Amahl and the Night Visitors."

Brock's activity in the San Francisco Opera Guild began in 1985. Now in retirement, he serves on the Board of Directors, as the Vice President of all the Guild Chapters, and as the Western Representative of the Board of Opera Volunteers International. His main role in the local opera community, however, is as publisher of "Operabobb's E-news," an e-mail newsletter providing about 1,000 Bay Area opera fans with opera news and events.

Brock describes opera as "very prolific" in the San Francisco Bay Area, with 22 opera companies active in a 70 mile radius.

Jack Klobnak (B.A. '73, Mass Communications) is another SIUE alumnus who stays tremendously active in his retirement years. Klobnak retired as the Chairman/CEO of Laser Vision Centers, Inc., a publicly traded, NASDAQ listed company, in 2001 when it merged with TLC Laser Eye Centers to form TLC Vision.

"I was the entrepreneur who started the company literally from one desk and one phone." Klobnak's role was to help build the company that, with the second excimer laser ever built, was the first to do laser refractive eye surgery on a commercial basis.

By the time of its merger, Klobnak's company performed one out of every eight such surgeries in America, with additional centers in Canada, the UK, Ireland, Sweden, Finland, Greece and Cyprus. Laser Vision Centers, Inc. also designed several patented devices, one of which was named among the top ten advancements in ophthalmology in 1997.

After graduating from SIUE in 1973 with a degree in Mass Communications, Klobnak worked as a reporter and producer for radio and television. He notes that the difference between a successful broadcaster and businessperson isn't as big as one might think. "You might say that the job of a broadcast producer is

much like that of a CEO. Both jobs need to be able to juggle many balls in the air simultaneously and work with a lot of different personalities."

Now retired, Klobnak remains involved in business opportunities. He is a strategic partner in one of the country's largest life science venture capital firms, SV Life Sciences, and is the non-executive Chairman of one of the firm's portfolio companies.

Like Arnold and Brock, Klobnak also makes community involvement a priority. He is active with Better Living Communities, a Lutheran-based housing charity in North St. Louis. By the spring of 2007, the organization will have built thirty-four new homes for low-income families on the north side.

Klobnak and his wife are also kept quite busy by their twelve-year-old daughter. Between all of these responsibilities, Klobnak somehow finds time for his two personal passions—books and British automobiles. He has restored two vintage British autos and enjoys taking them out on nice days, and he is an avid reader, devouring an average of three books each week.

Clearly, these alumni embody the characteristics that SIUE is committed to fostering in its graduates. By continuing to challenge themselves and explore their creative abilities into retirement, they epitomize the spirit of life-long learning. By further prioritizing community participation at the local, national, and global level, they model a responsible citizenship by which aging citizens engage in, rather than fade from, public life.

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Arts & Sciences Today
Southern Illinois University Edwardsville

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Revisiting the Mississippi River Festival

An MRF rock concert crowd relaxes on the lawn.

As SIUE's 50th anniversary approaches, faculty members such as University Archivist **Steve Kerber** have been busy making plans to commemorate the Mississippi River Festival (MRF).

The legendary arts festival was initially conceived as a unifier for the Greater St. Louis region. The project was named after the river, because it has always served as an artificial barrier between Missouri and Illinois. The function of the MRF was to bring people from both sides of the river together and the educational features of the festival were very community-oriented. Performances were not only intended for the University community but for the entire metropolitan population to enjoy.

Today, the MRF continues to function as a great unifier, for Kerber describes the festival as "the aspect of the University's history that everyone is interested in."

Those interested can now turn to a new MRF website for all their festival informational needs (http://www.siue.edu/lovejoylibrary/archives/). The site is composed of several elements, including a narrated historical slideshow; a searchable database that features all the performance dates, featured artists,

opening acts, and attendance figures; plus an alphabetical list of all performers, and two digitized motion pictures. The new MRF exhibits are accessible through the University Archives site on the library's webpage.

Kerber is also serving as co-chair, along with Special Education and Communication Disorders Professor Jean Harrison, on an "MRF working committee" charged to suggest to the Chancellor how best to commemorate the festival during the University's 50th anniversary celebration, which will occur during the 2007-2008 academic year.

At the suggestion of the MRF working committee, preliminary discussions are underway regarding the possibility of bringing back original MRF performers for a special commemorative concert sometime during the anniversary year as part of the Arts & Issues series. In addition, Kerber and his archival associate, **Amanda Bahr Evola**, have prepared a definitive pictorial history of the MRF that was published in December 2006. Copies of the book are available from the University Bookstore (618-650-2132) and from Arcadia Publishing (1-888-313-2665).

The MRF was a summer outdoor performing arts festival created as a partnership between SIUE and the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra in 1968. From 1969 to 1974, Peter Pastreich served as the executive director of the orchestra, and he played a pivotal role in the establishment, planning, and operation of the MRF.

During the 2006 May Commencement, SIUE acknowledged Pastreich with an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters for his role in "collaborating with University officials in giving form and substance to the MRF vision, while managing the orchestra's involvement in the festival and overseeing its artistic programming," according to SIUE news. Pastreich was the main figure responsible for booking artists during the first several years of the festival.

Kerber says that the inaugural 1969 season "featured the best of both classical and popular music." Symphony conductor Walter Susskind led seventeen classical concerts that included works by Purcell, Shubert, and Beethoven, while featured soloists included violinist Itzhak Perlman and pianist Van Cliburn.

Fifth Dimension performed at the MRF on August 11, 1972.

Professor of Music **Linda Perry** reflects, "One of the best aspects for me personally, in addition to lovely summer evenings hearing the St. Louis Symphony

out at the tent, was participating in chamber music concerts. Our faculty collaborated with Symphony musicians and had a wonderful time making music together."

The popular acts of the first season showcased performerssuch as Buffy Sainte-Marie, the Paul Butterfield Blues Band, the King Family, Janis Joplin, Arlo Guthrie, Joni Mitchell, Iron Butterfly, Ian and Sylvia, the New Christy Minstrels, Richie Havens, and The Band.

On July 14, 1969, fans were shocked when Bob Dylan unexpectedly joined The Band for a four-number encore. Dylan had performed in concert only twice since an August 1966 motorcycle accident, and although only some 4,000 concert-goers were in attendance that night, in years to come, tens of thousands would claim to have heard Dylan perform.

Janis Joplin performed at the MRF on July 1, 1969.

SIUE Alumnus **Ray Darr** (B.A. '75, M.A. '84, Philosophy) reflects on that night, noting, "Probably the festival event that had the biggest and most lasting impression was during the concert by The Band. They were really good, but about midway through the concert a rumor started being circulated through the crowd that Bob Dylan was backstage. He had just flown in and was going to do a couple of songs with his old backup band. This rumor was like electricity and it ran all through the crowd. The impact of this rumor was directly evident, because the entire lawn audience began moving toward the tent to get a better look."

Darr never saw Bob Dylan that night, but for him, the music was secondary to the event. "The music was a nice addition, but many of us came in order to be with the group." He admits that he struggled to recall details from his MRF days, suggesting that "the excitement of the lawn seating and the entire goings-on may explain the lack of concrete memory I have about the music and the song selections."

Noting that he hasn't seen many of his old friends from the late sixties, Darr jokingly suggests, "Maybe one of these days we can all get together and reminisce about what we don't remember."

University Director of Public Affairs within Marketing and Communication **Greg Conroy** says he was living in University City, Missouri at the time of the MRF. "To me, Edwardsville was a zillion miles away. But I was a great jazz fan, and when I saw the jazz acts that were coming there, I started traveling to SIUE. I saw John McLaughlin and the Mahavishnu Orchestra, Chick Corea, and the Modern Jazz Quartet. My first wife and I also loved folk music, so we came over to see Hoyt Axton and Joan Baez, Pete Seeger and Arlo Guthrie."

The MRF persisted for

years despite continuous financial struggle thanks in large part to the commitment of President John Rendleman. According to Kerber, “When Rendleman died of lung cancer in 1976, the festival lost its strongest supporter.” Incoming President Kenneth “Buzz” Shaw brought in an outside theatrical management firm to run the MRF during the 1978-1980 seasons. The last MRF took place in August 1980 with a concert featuring ZZ Top and the Henry Paul Band.

A sea of rock concert-goers packs the MRF lawn.

The festival was held in a large natural amphitheatre on the northern part of campus where commencement had been held each year beginning in 1963. The trademark MRF tent ceased to be raised after the 1978 season, but several graduating classes attended their commencement ceremonies under its spacious roof between 1969 and 1978, and the last commencement took place at the site in 1981. After being permitted to become overgrown for a quarter of a century, there are few recognizable signs of the MRF site.

Individual memories of the MRF, however, are not so easily overgrown. Conroy reflects, “I remember parking the car in an open field that had some pavement and then walking to the festival area, with the two large drawings of people at the entrance—the canvas painted with a woman to indicate the women’s rest room and a drawing of a man for the men’s…. I remember bringing a blanket to sit on the lawn…. I also remember bringing my two-year-old daughter in a backpack…it was so ‘70s. It was a time and an era that I’ll always remember fondly."

Share your MRF stories and memories at
College_Arts_Sciences@siue.edu

For more information:
http://www.siue.edu/lovejoylibrary/archives/

Or, to order the Mississippi River Festival Book from the SIUE bookstore:
http://www.siuebookstore.com/wum4/viewer?

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Jankowski to Direct SIUE Alumni Association

Steve Jankowski

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MRF Revisited
New Alum Director

Steve Jankowski, whose career in radio, television, marketing, public relations, advertising and teaching has spanned three decades, graduated from SIUE in 1974 with a bachelor of science in Mass Communications. Jankowski credited SIUE with providing “the tools and opportunity which helped make my long and successful career in broadcasting possible.”

In his new post, Jankowski is responsible for developing an alumni relations and communications strategy that will build and strengthen the relationship with the more than 70,000 graduates of SIUE. Jankowski also will work with the SIUE Alumni Association Board in planning activities involving SIUE alumni, including support for enrollment efforts, fundraising, program development opportunities and public relations initiatives.

"I am proud the university has welcomed me back as Alumni Affairs Director, at a time when SIUE is moving rapidly toward achieving its vision of being a premier metropolitan university, recognized nationally for the excellence of its programs and the development of professional and community leaders," Jankowski said. "I believe the thousands of people, who can proudly say they are an alumnus of Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, will play a critical role in realizing that vision."

Before joining KSDK-TV in 1999 as a reporter, Jankowski had been with three St. Louis media outlets—KMOX Radio from 1995-99, KMOV-TV from 1991-95 and KEZK Radio from 1986-1991. During his tenure at these stations, Jankowski was a reporter, show host, news director, program director, on-air talent and bureau chief. He also worked for radio and television stations in Arkansas before moving to the St. Louis market.

As a student at SIUE, he reported sports and news at WSIE-FM (88.7), the University's public radio affiliate, eventually becoming news director.

In addition to his work with electronic media, Jankowski was an associate professor at Lewis and Clark Community College from 1982-89, where he taught classes in broadcasting and public speaking, supervised the radio broadcasting program and managed the college's radio station, WLCA. He also has been a guest lecturer in television production classes at SIUE. He is a frequent speaker and emcee at local events for a variety of organizations, ranging from the Illinois Congressional Delegation prayer breakfast to the American Heart Association.

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FIRST ANNUAL DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK HOLIDAY PARTY

December 12, 2006 – Morris University Center

Click photos to enlarge.

Networking and delicious holiday food

Alumni Deborah Edwards (left) and Sharon Hudson (right) catch up at the holiday event.

Maryann Baumgartner (left), retiring Field Instructor at the William M. Bedell ARC, receives an award in recognition of her valued service from Dr. Carol Wesley, Practicum Director.

Alumni Andrea Robertson (center), LaChelle Cypress (left), and Carrie Schwartzkopf

Chair Venessa Brown (center) with alumni Deadra Humphrey-Vinson (left) and Michelle Brooks.

Dr. Carol Wesley, Practicum Director, recognizes retired Field Instructor Kathleen Hulmes of Catholic Charities for her volunteer contributions to Social Work.

Don't miss the First Annual Social Work Gala on Friday, March 9, 2007 in the Meridian Ballroom at SIUE. Tickets are $50 each to provide scholarships for Social Work students. A tax-deductible contribution of $35 is included in the price of a ticket. For more information, contact the Social Work Department at 618.650.5429.

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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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