

COLLEGE OF

Arts & Sciences

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Message from the Chancellor

Shaping the future of SIUE. Together. That was the primary focus as we recently updated the University's strategic plan, which was originally developed in 2001. That plan served the institution well and was a guiding force as we envisioned the University's goals for the future.

In 2012, a campus-wide committee was established to determine long-term goals and update the key elements of the strategic plan - SIUE's mission, vision and values. The committee solicited input from internal and external stakeholder groups to guide SIUE through the next decade.

The new strategic plan reaffirms and enhances SIUE's ongoing efforts at adapting to state and national trends, promoting and achieving student success, and continuing the University's momentum amidst the dynamic evolution of 21st-century higher education.

The College of Arts and Sciences continues to offer students exciting learning and cultural opportunities to enhance their experiences

in and out of the classroom. With greater emphasis on thriving in a global society, the College is committed to expanding students' cultural knowledge so they may contribute their expertise on an international level upon graduation. In this report, stories on study abroad opportunities, testimonies from successful alumni and renovated learning spaces on campus encourage everyone to think, learn and work globally.

The cooperation, hard work and persistence that have made this University successful will be increasingly important going forward. Every SIUE stakeholder has a role in shaping the future of the University, and I am confident the future holds great things for SIUE.

Let's celebrate the "e"!

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Julie Furst-Bowe".

Julie Furst-Bowe, EdD

SIUE Chancellor

Message from the Dean

As the largest academic unit at SIUE, the College of Arts and Sciences touches the lives of many individuals in a number of ways. Students, alumni, faculty, staff, the community and society in general all benefit from the efforts put forth in our classrooms, laboratories, studios and field sites.

This year's Dean's Report presents a broad cross-section of the many activities and initiatives currently underway throughout the College. The stories presented provide a sense of who we are and what we are doing. I believe the scope and diversity is exciting. But perhaps what is most impressive are the meaningful connections that are being made. These are demonstrated in how the archaeology field school links the past with the present; how alumni, public servants and friends reach out to current students through scholarships;

how our students and faculty visit the world through travel study trips; and how the world and community touch our students through master classes and innovative continuing educational offerings in the sciences.

These connections help the College fulfill one of the most important parts of its mission: to transform thought. Whatever your connection to the College of Arts and Sciences or to Southern Illinois University Edwardsville might be, you are always welcome to join us in this endeavor.

Sincerely,

A stylized handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Aldemaro".

Aldemaro Romero Jr., PhD

Dean



COLLEGE OF Arts & Sciences

The largest academic unit at SIUE, the College of Arts & Sciences (CAS) touches the lives of all students through its dedication to liberal arts and sciences and by helping students gain knowledge and skills applicable across all disciplines. CAS is committed to ensuring that its graduates acquire the skills and knowledge necessary to function as educated individuals, life-long learners and responsible citizens.

From the study of the atom and the simplest forms of life to the most complex issues affecting our society, CAS offers 85 areas of study in the natural sciences, humanities, arts, social sciences and communications.

DEPARTMENTS AND PROGRAMS IN THE COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES

Anthropology
Art & Design
Biological Sciences
Chemistry
Economics
English Language & Literature
Environmental Sciences
Foreign Languages & Literature
Geography
Historical Studies
Liberal Studies

Mass Communications
Mathematics & Statistics
Music
Philosophy
Physics
Political Science
Public Administration & Policy Analysis
Social Work
Sociology & Criminal Justice Studies
Speech Communication
Theater & Dance

INTERDISCIPLINARY MINORS

African Studies
Asian Studies
Black Studies
Classical Studies
Environmental Sciences
European Studies
Forensic Sciences
Latin American Studies
Native American Studies
Peace & International Studies
Pre-Law
Religious Studies
Women's Studies

ACCREDITATIONS

Accrediting Council on Education in Journalism and Mass Communications: Mass Communications baccalaureate program

American Art Therapy Association: Art Therapy master's program

American Chemical Society: Chemistry ACS baccalaureate curriculum

Council on Social Work Education: Social Work baccalaureate and master's programs

National Association of Schools of Music: Music baccalaureate and master's programs

National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration: Public Administration master's program

National Association of Schools of Theatre: Theater baccalaureate programs



ABOUT SIUE

Beautifully situated on 2,660 acres, SIUE is a public university offering a broad choice of degrees and programs, ranging from liberal arts to professional studies. SIUE awards undergraduate and graduate degrees in the arts and sciences, nursing, education, business, and engineering. The Schools of Dental Medicine and Pharmacy award doctor's "first professional" degrees in dental medicine (DMD) and in pharmacy (PharmD). The Schools of Nursing and Education award doctoral degrees in nursing practice (DNP) and educational leadership (EdD). Nearly 14,000 students choose SIUE for its enlightening programs, engaging faculty and convenient location, just 25 minutes from St. Louis.

Xfest

EMBRACING THE EXPERIMENTAL

A love story between an old man
and the moon. A dance production
about the climate change debate.
A series of 30 intriguing, yet off-the-
wall, short plays in just 60 minutes.

CHECK OUT SIUE.EDU/XFEST TO
FIND OUT MORE ABOUT XFEST.
SIGN UP FOR THE XFEST EMAIL
NEWSLETTER TO GET A SNEAK
PEEK INTO XFEST 2014.

X FEST

These are some of the stories and ideas behind highly acclaimed productions in theater and dance today. Because of Xfest, these experimental theater productions are available to the SIUE campus and surrounding communities.

Theater and Dance Professor Peter Cocuzza and Associate Professor Chuck Harper (pictured below) are the co-founders of Xfest. Since 2009, they have tenaciously followed a vision to expand their already eclectic academic season of productions. Every year, Cocuzza and Harper bring some of the most cutting-edge and thought-provoking performers to SIUE through Xfest.

“Since the inception of Xfest, we have aspired to introduce alternative theater productions to SIUE, the Metro East and the St. Louis area,” said Cocuzza. “We also aim to grow as a hub for artists to discuss and create fresh, unique work.”

Using distinct interpretations of art and performance, Xfest embraces different ways of storytelling, pushing the envelope of traditional theater. Each year, students and community members have the opportunity to both watch Xfest performances and participate in workshops led by the performing companies. Companies such as WONDERHEADS, The Seldoms, Chicago Dance Crash and Red Metal Mailbox have traveled from all over America to spark creativity while entertaining and inspiring audiences at SIUE.

“Experimental theater is like conducting a science experiment,” said Harper. “By exposing our students to unique styles of theater and dance, we encourage them to gain a better understanding of the discipline and to be inspired to create their own work. Xfest plays a vital part in this learning-sharing process.”



Peter Cocuzza and Chuck Harper



Gwen Porter

A Work of Art

A RENOVATION IN LEARNING

“The renovated and expanded Art and Design Building has opened gathering spaces and increased usable critique spaces, natural light and air quality,” said Barbara Nwacha, art and design associate professor and department chair. “All of these elements help students and faculty better manage their research and art-making processes.”

The Art and Design Building was first constructed in 1993, and now, 20 years later, has been remodeled with new features that are helping SIUE students and faculty take their artwork and research to a new level.

In addition to the modernization of the existing building, a 29,000-square-foot addition is providing a new art gallery, graduate student studio space, classrooms, an auditorium, lecture hall, and painting and drawing studios.

Prior to the construction and renovation, most studio classes were at the Art and Design Building, while the art therapy, art history and art education courses were in Alumni Hall. Having classes in two locations not only resulted in a long walk for students and faculty, but also a limitation on learning and communicating across the art disciplines. The recently developed spaces are for art and design students of all disciplines, which Nwacha said helps unite the department.

Senior and Edwardsville, Ill., native Gwen Porter has been enthusiastic about the new resources now available and has especially enjoyed having all her classes in one building. As a graphic design major and art history minor, Porter studies art in varied disciplines, and is excited to have diverse criticism of her work so readily available.

“It’s great to receive feedback and to talk with more students and professors. I think that regularly speaking and working with people who have different perspectives will better prepare me for a career in the field.”

– Gwen Porter, *senior*

I was excited to be a part of the opening of the new Art and Design Building this year. The graduate and photography studios were tremendous assets while preparing for my thesis exhibition.

– Heather V. Kniffel,
*MFA, studio art with
emphasis in photography/
digital arts, '13*



Photo credit: Alise O'Brien

Dr. Ralph W. Axtell

FOSTERING GROWTH AT SIUE

As the longest tenured faculty member at SIUE, Biological Sciences Professor Dr. Ralph W. Axtell has seen the University evolve and change. Since joining the faculty in 1960, Axtell has seen the University grow, partially as a result of his dedication to teaching and research.

One of Axtell's areas of expertise is herpetology, and his interest in snakes and lizards was sparked at a young age. While growing up in Texas, he caught rattlesnakes and lizards and read as much as he could about them. As a young man, he served in the Army of Occupation in Japan directly after World War II. During this time, Axtell became interested in teaching.

"I started teaching after they broke up our unit in Japan," said Axtell. "I was teaching earth sciences to the troops. By the time I got my PhD, it felt natural to keep teaching."

As Axtell continued to teach, his career and research advanced. He served as chairman of the Department of Biological Sciences from 1965-67 and has published approximately 100 illustrations, maps and peer-reviewed papers describing eight new species or subspecies. He even has a lizard native to Texas and Mexico, the *Sceloporus poinsettii axtellii*, named in his honor.

More than 50 years after joining SIUE, Axtell continues to teach and be active in campus growth and development. He recently created a \$100,000 endowment for his department, which will support teaching and research activities in ecology and organismal biology.

"In particular, it will enhance teaching collections for our labs. Our wide range of biological materials is stored in various locations and with varying levels of quality," said Associate Professor Paul Brunkow, immediate past chair of the Department of Biological Sciences.

"In addition to the endowment enhancing, formalizing and maintaining the pedagogical and research value of our collections, we now will have a central location for the collection with proper environmental controls and housing.

"As a result, students will benefit through enhanced learning of evolutionary biology, comparative anatomy, plant and animal systematics and behavior, and physiology."

Because of this contribution and his dedication and service to the University, Axtell has a laboratory in the new Science Building named in his honor.

"I'm glad to be helping out the department in the move to a new building," said Axtell. "The lab will be a teaching lab, not a private lab, so it will be for both faculty and students to use."

WATCH A VIDEO OF
DR. AXTELL'S CHECK
PRESENTATION AT
[YOUTUBE.COM/SIUWEB](https://www.youtube.com/SIUWEB)

(SEARCH FOR RALPH AXTELL)



Campus Growth

BUILDING UP THE SCIENCES

The eagerly awaited new Science Building is now complete and being utilized by SIUE students and faculty. The Departments of Biological Sciences and Chemistry and the Environmental Sciences program have benefited from new teaching labs and research laboratories featuring state-of-the-art technology and resources. Since lab classes started in the new building during the Fall 2013 semester, students are gaining valuable experience for future employment by working with equipment found in professional research labs.

The original Science Building will still be home to the Departments of Mathematics and Statistics, Physics, and the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) program. The building will be undergoing a complete overhaul, and these programs are relocating to temporary quarters until the \$30 million renovation is complete. The project is expected to get underway in early 2014.



Science Teaching Workshops

CULTIVATING CLASSROOMS AND CAREERS

“You never stop learning when you’re a teacher,” said SIUE alumna Amy Heath, department chair and chemistry teacher at Granite City (Ill.) High School. As a firm believer in this statement, Heath has consistently attended workshops at SIUE for the past 20 years to learn new teaching methods, use new technology and perform laboratory demonstrations.

Since 1992, science instructors from as many as 70 high schools and middle schools in Illinois have attended two-week workshops led by Drs. Sadegh Khazaeli and Eric Voss, professors in SIUE’s Department of Chemistry.

Khazaeli and Voss have secured more than \$3 million in grants from the Department of Education, through the Illinois Board of Higher Education, to support these workshops, despite increasing competition for funding. The SIUE Graduate School and College of Arts and Sciences have also dedicated funds for the workshops. Khazaeli, who has taught at SIUE for nearly 30 years, believes these workshops help stimulate dedicated teachers.

“Teachers strive to absorb the content and training during the workshops,” said Khazaeli. “Holding these workshops has allowed me to work with educators who are very interested in what they do and who really care for their students.”

Voss joined the endeavor with Khazaeli in 2003. Both professors write proposals, organize the workshops, and provide instruction to the teachers.

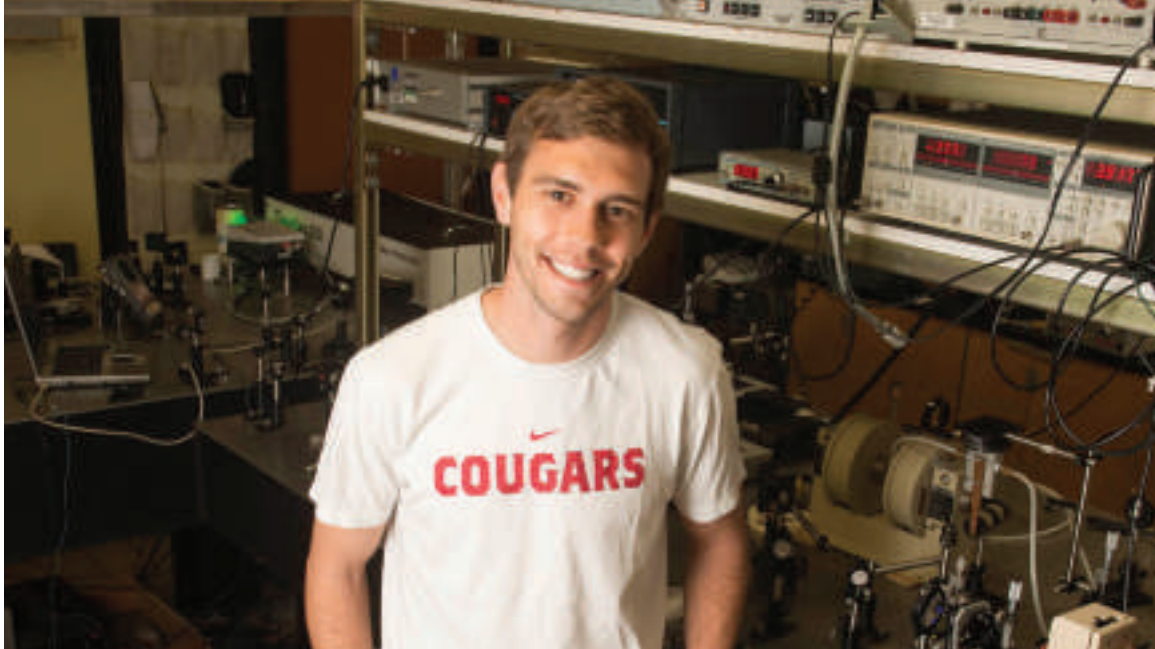
Working with high school science educators has been particularly inspiring for Voss.

“Although I have participated in this project for many years, I continue to learn new things from the teachers who are partners in the project,” said Voss. “Some are first-year teachers, while others have taught longer than me. All have valuable contributions to share.”

The program began exclusively for high school chemistry instructors but has since evolved to include biology and physics educators, as well as middle school science teachers. Educators from schools as far as 60 miles from SIUE attend the workshops to enhance their teaching careers. In 2012, more than 200 Illinois teachers participated in workshops offered at SIUE.

Heath feels that the most valuable aspects of attending the learning sessions has been networking and sharing with other teachers who are from diverse school environments.

“All of the teachers have different challenges and bring varying perspectives to the table,” said Heath. “We help each other identify ways to run our classrooms more effectively.”



Ryan Bauer

PHYSICS GRADUATE, SOCCER PLAYER, ONE-OF-A-KIND SUCCESS STORY

Being a student-athlete while earning a bachelor's in physics is not a feat that many students can handle. Ryan Bauer, however, successfully tackled both areas as an SIUE student, garnering several awards and admission into a doctoral program as evidence of his high achievement.

The O'Fallon, Mo., native has been playing soccer for most of his life. Bauer believes that having the desire to excel, as well as a fondness for physics and soccer, has helped him succeed.

"You can't get through physics and soccer at the Division I level without loving both," said Bauer. "Aside from enjoying what you're doing, to be successful in both areas also requires drive and self-discipline."

Despite the time commitment to practices and games for the SIUE Men's Soccer team, and the demanding coursework required of physics majors, Bauer graduated in May 2013 with a 3.9 grade point average. His interest in physics began in high school, but he says he "fell in love" with the discipline while at SIUE. That love of physics is what drove him to excel academically, even if it meant sacrificing social and free time between soccer games.

Bauer also served as a teaching assistant for various physics faculty members. Both as a student and a teaching assistant, Bauer made a great impression on faculty in the physics department.

"Ryan was one of the best undergraduate physics students I have seen in the past 11 years," said Dr. Abdullatif Hamad, physics professor and department chair. "He was an excellent teaching assistant and has done an outstanding job tutoring many students. He seemed to enjoy explaining physics concepts and working with and helping other students."

Bauer is currently attending Colorado State University in Fort Collins, Colo., to earn his PhD in physics. He says that being a teaching assistant and learning from the physics faculty were the best experiences of his education, and have inspired him to pursue a career as a professor. He credits the high quality of the physics courses and his experiences in the program with allowing him to enter straight into a doctoral program.

He also wants to encourage others to succeed, much like he has. Upon earning his doctoral degree, Bauer hopes to be able to teach physics and coach soccer in order to keep living in what he refers to as "the best of both worlds."

"YOU HAVE TO USE YOUR TIME WELL.
FOR ME, THIS MEANT STUDYING
ON BUSES OR PLANES INSTEAD OF
SLEEPING OR WATCHING A MOVIE."

— RYAN BAUER, BS '13

Master Classes

EXPANDING EXPERIENCES

“Taking a master class is a freeing experience,” said Erin White, a senior dance student at SIUE. “It allows you to enter with one mindset and leave with another.”

At SIUE, students have numerous opportunities to enrich their minds and even change their perspectives. One way to do this is through master classes.

“Master classes provide students opportunities to network with professionals and to experience learning outside of the classroom,” said Grant Andree, coordinator of the *Arts & Issues* series. The *Arts & Issues* series, along with various departmental programs, make these interactions with professionals possible for SIUE students.

During master classes, students may listen to lectures, speak with professionals one-on-one about their work and even participate in dance, theater or writing workshops. They can also learn new techniques from artists and be critiqued by experts in the world of performing and fine arts. Through these experiences, students have had opportunities to work with renowned professionals like Neil deGrasse Tyson, Nikki Giovanni, the Eisenhower Dance Ensemble and Ken Burns.

White, an Alton, Ill. native, benefited from several master classes in her field. She has been able to participate in classes offered by dance companies like Buffalo, N.Y.-based LehrerDance, The Big Muddy Dance Company of St. Louis, Chicago Dance Crash and Mizerany Dance from San Diego.

White believes that participating in dance master classes with these performers has introduced her to “the real world,” or the professional world, of dancing. During each class, White was exposed to new dance forms and gained valuable insight about how to perform and how to “make it” as a professional dancer.

“Participating in master classes has given me the confidence to enter the professional dance world,” said White. “Getting to work with as many dance companies as I have really helps my chances at succeeding in dance upon graduation.”



It was great working with SIUE students. I was pleased with how accepting they were of a new dance form and their eagerness to learn.

– Damon Green
of Chicago-based dance company,
The Seldoms and founder, *TextureDance*



Erin White



Supporting A Legacy

THE EVELYN BOWLES PUBLIC SERVICE SCHOLARSHIP

During the span of her 28-year career, Evelyn Bowles touched countless lives. Serving as the Madison County Clerk and Illinois state senator, Bowles' indomitable determination and dedication to public service led her to achieve many local and statewide political accomplishments.

"When I was starting my political career, I was quite alone, as not many women held office at that time," Bowles, now 92, said. "I depended on the support from the voters, which, fortunately, I received. I know that sometimes you need some help along the way."

Even in retirement, Bowles' dedication to helping others is still strong. She is offering her support to promising students at SIUE through the Evelyn Bowles Public Service Scholarship, which offers support to political science majors.

Bowles, always an avid supporter of the University, established the scholarship to encourage aspiring politicians, especially women, to "make a difference in their communities."

The first recipient of this scholarship is Belleville, Ill., native Gabriela Zamfir, a senior majoring in political science with a double minor in pre-law and business. After graduation, Zamfir plans to attend law school.

"I hope to find a position as an in-house counsel for a company like Google, but running for Congress has always been in the back of my mind," she said. "I've

been told it's harder for a woman to run for Congress, but I have also been told that it's something I should do."

Both in and out of the classroom, Zamfir has shown genuine interest in current events, law and social issues. While at SIUE, she has had the opportunity to work as an intern for the Madison County State Attorney's Office and has gained esteem from political science professors.

"Gabriela embodies many qualities of an excellent student," said Ken Moffett, associate professor of political science. "She holds herself to high standards of achievement in everything she does."

Thanks to the efforts of women such as Bowles, along with her SIUE education, support from others and personal resolve, Zamfir can realistically pursue her goal of running for Congress.

"I believe that women in public service can bring about a great deal of change," Bowles said. "Working in the political realm requires determination and courage. A woman in office equipped with a good education and these two characteristics can accomplish just about anything."

GORDON D. BUSH POLITICAL SCIENCE SCHOLARSHIP

The Gordon D. Bush Political Science Scholarship was created to celebrate Bush's lifelong political involvement and his more than 40 years as a public servant in Southwestern Illinois. Bush served as East St. Louis' elected city commissioner of public property, elected city treasurer and was elected mayor two times. He was also twice elected to St Clair County office. Upon his retirement as a decorated lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, he received special recognition at the White House by President Bill Clinton for 29 years of exceptionally meritorious service in the U.S. and Europe.

Bush was inducted into the SIUE Alumni Hall of Fame in 2009.

Recipients of the scholarship must be full-time junior political science majors who have displayed exemplary academic achievement with a minimum 3.0 grade point average. Applicants are asked to submit an essay on differing urban politics topics that are announced at the beginning of each fall semester.

"I gained great insight into contemporary government from the education I received at SIUE. It helped me immensely, inspired me to achieve and reminded me to reach back and help our wonderful SIUE students."

— Gordon Bush, B.A., Urban Geography '69, M.A. Urban Geography, '71



MIKE D. SCROGGINS MEMORIAL JAZZ SCHOLARSHIP

"Mike had great respect for the jazz program at SIUE and wanted to assist the faculty in recruiting promising musicians. I hope that students who receive this scholarship appreciate the importance of helping other young musicians."

— Dr. Fredna Scroggins



The late musician Mike Scroggins and his wife, Fredna Scroggins, established the Mike D. Scroggins Memorial Jazz Scholarship in 2011 to encourage the development of young jazz musicians. A lifelong trumpeter, Mike had taken courses at SIUE to enhance his 37-year mathematics teaching career and had also been an avid supporter of the music and cultural events at the University. The scholarship provides tuition support for an undergraduate student enrolled or participating in the jazz program within the Department of Music. Initial recipients receive a renewable annual amount of at least \$2,500, and additional recipients may receive up to \$1,000.

KURT ENGBRETSON MUSIC EDUCATION AWARD

The Kurt W. Engbretson Music Education Award was created by Drs. Robert and B. Lucy Engbretson as a memorial for their late son Kurt, a graduate of SIUE and an influential, award-winning music teacher in the Miami, Fla., area. The scholarship is available to both graduate and undergraduate students studying music education. The amount of the scholarship varies, and is selected by a committee of faculty in the Department of Music.

"Kurt's life was filled with music. It was natural for him to transfer that love of music to others through the teaching profession. He inspired many students during his 30 years as a music educator. It is our family's hope that this small award will in some way inspire current students to fill the lives of children with music. We are appreciative of the support we have received and would like to thank all of Kurt's family and friends who have contributed to the endowment."

— Drs. Robert and B. Lucy Engbretson

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT GIVING TO THE COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES, PLEASE CONTACT THE CAS DEVELOPMENT OFFICE AT (618) 650-5048 OR CRSTEIN@SIUE.EDU.



Gonz Jove

THE JOURNEY OF AN ARTIST

“Before coming to SIUE, it never dawned on me that I wanted to be an artist,” said artist Gonz Jove. “Once I came to the University and got exposed to the school, art and history, it was the start of a love affair that continues today.”

Jove's love of art has been the foundation of an inspiring journey. Today, he has several murals and sculptures both publicly displayed and privately owned in St. Louis, Chicago and Bolivia, where he emigrated from as a child. Through dedication and hard work, Jove has seen his dream of being a full-time artist unfold.

Growing up in St. Louis, Jove came to SIUE because he was looking for a renewed perspective and a fresh start. He had previously majored in pre-med at two different universities.

Jove earned a bachelor's in art with a focus in sculpture in 1978. After earning his degree, he plunged into the professional world of art by displaying his works in various exhibits in St. Louis. To support his family, he worked full-time in retail for several years, but art was always a central focus in his life.

“Even while working in retail, art was never far away from me,” Jove said. “I was a husband, a father, an employee, but also still an artist. This often meant going on little sleep to finish projects for shows.”

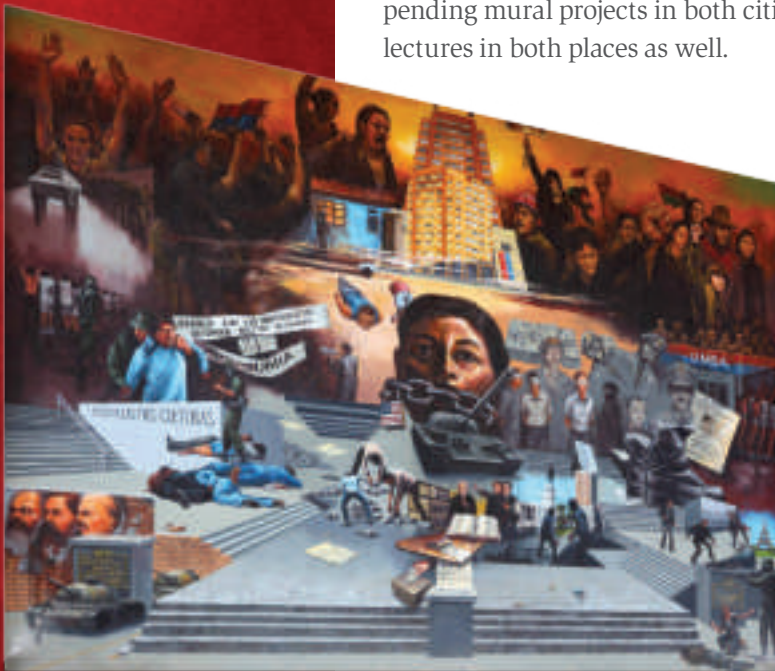
His career took a positive turn in 2007 when he won a mural contest sponsored by the Bolivian government. His mural, “Usurpación del Boliviano” (The Usurpation of the Bolivian), was chosen for display in La Paz, Bolivia, and received worldwide buzz.

Jove lives in St. Louis but also maintains a residence in La Paz. He has pending mural projects in both cities, and often leads seminars and presents lectures in both places as well.



Once I came to the University and got exposed to the school, art and history, it was the start of a love affair that continues today.

– Gonz Jove
Artist – St. Louis
La Paz, Bolivia



TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT GONZ JOVE'S
LIFE, WORK AND PHILOSOPHY,
VISIT GONZJOVE.COM.



Photo credit: SGT Catherine Threat, US Army

Nancy Thurman

OPENING DOORS WITH A MASTER'S

As a member of the United States Air Force, Capt. Nancy Thurman's career continually presents challenges that teach her to strive for excellence and expand her skills. Thurman received her master of arts in English with a specialization in teaching writing from SIUE in 2009, and has taken advantage of opportunities that moved her career in exciting directions.

Thurman, a native of Evansville, Ind., was deployed to Afghanistan from January 2011 to January 2012. In just one year, she not only taught English to Kabul educators, but also coordinated the efforts of other volunteers teaching English at the local girls' school. She found her experiences to be both rewarding and inspiring.

"The exposure to the local community and culture were my favorite aspects of teaching at the girls' school," Thurman said. "I also enjoyed working with the teachers. They are truly remarkable women who were educated during a time when Taliban rule forbid it."

Currently, Thurman serves as an English instructor at the Air Force Academy Prep School in Colorado Springs, Colo., a position she would not be able to hold without her master's.

"What I learned during my master's program made me a more valuable asset during my deployment in Afghanistan," said Thurman. "Because of my studies in the rhetoric of the marginalized groups, I was able to successfully build relationships with the teachers in Kabul."

Equipped with her passion for educating and learning, Thurman is enrolled in an English theory and rhetoric doctoral program at the University of Denver. She planned on stopping her education at the master's level, but was inspired by her colleagues and her SIUE professors to enter a doctoral program.

"The classroom is a comfortable setting for me, and my students seem to respond to my teaching in positive ways," Thurman said. "If I could make the kind of impact on someone that my professors had on me, I would count that as an enormous success."



Capt. Nancy Thurman



Connecting in China

A STUDY ABROAD EXPERIENCE

“We usually don’t think of ourselves as global citizens in our day-to-day lives,” said Dr. Tom Lavallee, associate professor of Chinese in the Department of Foreign Languages and Literature. “Yet when you travel and interact with people on the other side of the world, you really do feel a sense of interconnectedness on a very human level as you negotiate different systems related to business, language and culture.”

With the unique collaboration of Lavallee and Dr. Jason Yu, assistant professor of mass communications, nine students participated in a study abroad trip immediately following the spring 2013 semester. The group traveled to Hangzhou, China for five weeks to complete a course in international advertising and Chinese language and culture.

Lavallee’s knowledge of Chinese culture and language, as well as Yu’s experience in international advertising, gave students the opportunity to expand many different skill sets. In order to incorporate what they learned in the classroom with what they learned while in Hangzhou, the students were required to complete two projects in addition to other assignments during their course.

“One of the assignments we completed was a research paper on an American brand found in China, such as Disney, Apple and Coca-Cola,” said Ashley Walker, a mass communications graduate student from Waterloo, Ill. “This project required us to do on-the-ground market research and conduct a focus group with Chinese students. Throughout the trip we were also asked to keep a journal of language, culture and general experiences while in the country and provide photos.”

Josh Laurion, a senior mass communications student from Belleville, Ill., has always been drawn to studying in another country. Because China is a leader in emerging international trade, he was especially eager to be a part of this study abroad experience. “This trip made me open to the idea of working internationally,” said Laurion. “I feel more prepared to be able to strengthen American businesses with international trade after being a part of this experience.”

The faculty leaders of this trip strived to help students see their potential as professionals and as global citizens. “I hope this trip added a level of self-confidence for these students,” said Lavallee. “I wanted them to see that they could do what they never imagined possible.”

Archaeology Field School

UNCOVERING ANCIENT CULTURES

In a 35-acre farm field on the west side of the SIUE campus, history is literally unearthed every summer. Amidst the growing corn, anthropology students dig well-defined, carefully smoothed holes in the ground. In these holes, students and faculty have found axes, arrowheads, Hopewell pottery, figurines and more that were left behind by Native Americans as long ago as 10,000 years.

Since 2009, SIUE anthropology professors have worked alongside students during these on-campus digs. This opportunity is part of the field school program, which offers anthropology students the chance to gain hands-on experiences in their areas of study. Because of the importance of their discoveries, the field was taken out of agricultural production and dedicated solely to archaeological digs.

Each summer, 10 students interested in archaeology get the opportunity to excavate the soil in search of Native American artifacts and structure locations. Students spend their time delving into the earth under their professor's direction and supervision, sifting soil through screens, mapping the dug areas and washing artifacts in the lab. Each finding has led them and anthropology faculty to learn more about the culture of people who once inhabited what is now the Metro East.

Anthropology Professor Dr. Julie Holt led the eight-week summer 2013 archaeological dig. "Since we began digging in this area in 2009, we have found more than 30,000 artifacts," said Holt. "We have found items that are common to the period and location, as well as more rare pieces, like mica and a 'Casper the Ghost'-style figurine."

The findings are mostly from the Woodland and Mississippian periods. The Woodland period lasted from 1000 BCE to 1000 CE and involved hunter-gatherer and agricultural Native Americans. Mississippian

culture thrived from 1000 CE to 1400 CE and is centered on mound-building Native Americans, like the Cahokians. Artifacts from earlier periods have also been found - perhaps as much as 10,000 years old.

During the 2013 archaeological dig, anthropology senior and Edwardsville, Ill. native Courtney Reiter found the figurine and mica. Mica is a shiny mineral that Holt believes could have been used for ceremonial objects, and the figurine is a small ceramic idol. Reiter participated in the archaeological dig as part of her undergraduate course requirements but also because she plans to be an archaeologist.

"Finding the figurine was really exciting," Reiter said. "Going on this dig has made me even more enthusiastic about pursuing my career."

What makes both the mica and the figurine especially unique is that they are not common for the southwestern Illinois area. Holt says the figurine is 2,000 years old and that only one other "Casper"-style figurine has been found in the Mississippi River flood plains of Southern Illinois, commonly referred to as the American Bottom. Mica is also not found locally. Holt believes the mineral was brought to the site from the Carolinas.

"These finds tell us that the people who lived here may have migrated," said Holt. "They may have come for a winter hunting trip. However, if they had mica and other 'fancy' pottery or ceremonial objects, they may have stayed here longer."



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