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## About SIUE

Beautifully situated on 2,660 acres, SIUE is a public institution offering a broad choice of degrees and programs ranging from liberal arts to professional studies. Undergraduate and graduate degrees are offered in the arts and sciences, business, education, engineering, and nursing. Professional degrees are available in dentistry and pharmacy. Nearly 13,500 students choose SIUE for the enlightening programs, engaging faculty, and convenient location just 25 miles from St. Louis.

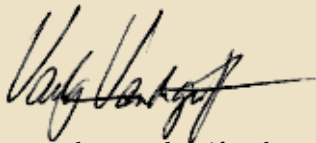
# Dear SIUE Alumni,

It is with great pride that we introduce this first edition of *eConnection*. It's a new format, a new look, and a new name for our alumni publication. This seems fitting, as a common thread in SIUE's history has been the power to reinvent itself. We are not the same university that we were five, ten, or fifteen years ago, and we won't be the same university five, ten, or fifteen years from now. At SIUE, we embrace change, and an entrepreneurial spirit runs strong on campus, as it always has.

As you read through this edition, you will notice that SIUE is alive with excitement. We are experiencing positive momentum in many different areas. People are noticing and the local, regional, and national media are responding. Take a look at a few of our recent national accomplishments:

- For the second consecutive year, *U.S. News and World Report* named SIUE among America's Best Colleges for our Senior Assignment Program, an integrative learning experience required of all seniors prior to graduation. Other institutions listed along with SIUE in this category include Duke University, Harvard University, MIT, Princeton, and the University of Chicago. SIUE also continues to move up in the rankings among the top tier master's level universities in the Midwest region.
- The production of ethanol is a national priority and receiving national attention. The National Corn-To-Ethanol Research Center in our University Park is the only facility in the world that fully emulates both a corn wet- and dry-mill commercial fuel ethanol production center to test laboratory research for commercial viability.
- With fantastic finishes in every season, the SIUE Intercollegiate Athletics Program finished fourth nationally in the U.S. Sports Academy Directors' Cup among NCAA Division II schools. The Directors' Cup ranks teams based on NCAA Championship finishes.

These are just a few of our many accomplishments. As more recognition follows from SIUE's accomplishments, we all benefit. You benefit by having the value of your SIUE degree increase as people become more familiar with where you obtained your education. SIUE benefits by continuing to achieve our enrollment and fundraising goals, and the region benefits from increased exposure and enhanced economic development. If you haven't been on campus in a while, and even if you have, I encourage you to visit soon and visit often. There's always something new and exciting happening at SIUE.



Vaughn Vandegrift, Ph.D.

*SIUE Chancellor*



*“The purposes of higher education lie in the fulfillment of human potential. We add value to people’s lives.”*

— *SIUE Chancellor Vaughn Vandegrift*

# The A to Z G



SIUE celebrates its 50<sup>th</sup> **A**nniversary in 2007. Since 1957, the University has grown from 1,776 students to nearly 13,500 students today. Mark your calendar for Founders' Day activities on September 24, 2007, which will kick off a year-long celebration.

SIUE leads the development of **B**iototechnology in Southern Illinois. University Park, an applied research and technology park located on the SIUE campus, offers leading-edge research and technology-based businesses the resources to gain a competitive advantage. SIUE partners with industry leaders to offer Professional Science Master's degree programs to prepare science and mathematics students for work in fields such as research management and technology transfer.

Bring the **C**ougar Home! The SIUE School Spirit and Pride Committee is raising money to erect a bronze sculpture of a cougar, the University's mascot, on campus. The statue will be a student rallying point and serve as a monument to the live cougars, Chimega and Kyna, who lived on campus between 1968 and 1987.

SIUE received its largest single cash **D**onation in the University's history in 2005. Mark and Carol Mestemacher, SIUE Friends of Wrestling members, gave a \$2 million lead gift to help build a 56,000-square-foot world-class wrestling complex.

The SIUE **E**ast St. Louis Center has had a major impact in the rejuvenation of the city and the Southwestern Illinois region. For the past 45 years, the East St. Louis Center, working with a myriad of partners, offers education, childcare services, family counseling and community outreach programs. It serves as a national model for keeping kids in school.

Now it's easier to **F**ind your way around the SIUE campus. Through a \$1.25 million Wayfinding Replacement and Enhancement Project, the core buildings at SIUE have been fitted with highly visible cast letters identifying each of the structures, and directional and informational signs throughout campus have been replaced and enhanced.



The **G**ardens at SIUE is a 36-acre multi-year project to significantly expand the current Myer Arboretum. The Gardens project is the result of community interest and a relationship with the Shaw's Garden East initiative. Watch for development over the years to come, led by Doug Conley, Director of The Gardens at SIUE.

# Guide to SIUE

Evergreen **H**all, the fourth residence hall on the SIUE campus, is slated to open in August 2007. More than 26 percent of our undergraduate students live on campus, which according to the Carnegie Commission on Higher Education, classifies SIUE as a primarily residential university.

The SIUE Economic **I**mpact Study was published in April 2006. For every state tax dollar spent on the University, SIUE generates \$5 total spending in the local economy.

**J**amming to live music, enjoying great local food, and playing carnival games. More than 1,500 SIUE students and community members celebrate the start of the school year at the annual Welcome Back Block Party. Held every August in downtown Edwardsville, the Block Party is a great way to welcome students and acquaint them with the downtown Edwardsville business district.



**K**eep in touch! The SIUE Alumni Association is always looking for alumni to return to campus and visit with current students about their work experiences after graduation.

SIUE is one of the **L**argest employers in Southern Illinois with over 2,000 full-time faculty and staff. More than 2,000 additional jobs are generated in the area due to SIUE's presence.

The SIUE **M**inority Recruitment Initiative was formed in Fall 2004 to explore ways to improve diversity among entering SIUE students.

The **N**umber of freshmen – more than 6,000 – who applied to attend SIUE in fall 2006 was at an all-time high. The number of students applying for top academic scholarships at SIUE has doubled over the past few years. Our commitment to quality instruction remains strong. The University continues to ensure small classes and a low student/faculty ratio.

SIUE **O**pens its doors to over 3,200 visitors each year at PREVIEW SIUE, an annual campus visit opportunity for prospective students and their parents. Visitors tour the campus, visit faculty, and learn about the admission process.



The SIUE School of **P**harmacy, the only pharmacy school in downstate Illinois, admitted its first class of 83 students. By 2008, the School is expected to be at capacity with 300 students.

SIUE is a member of the Academic **Q**uality Improvement Program (AQIP), an innovative method for maintaining our regional accreditation. The University is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association.

SIUE is committed to **R**egional Economic Development. Jim Pennekamp, a leader in Southwestern Illinois economic development for more than 20 years, joined SIUE as Special Assistant to the Chancellor for Regional Economic Development and Executive Director, University Park.

A new **S**cience Building is on the horizon. Governor Rod Blagojevich visited the SIUE campus last fall to announce \$3 million in funding for planning and design. The overall project includes plans for renovation of the existing Science Building, constructed in 1966, and construction of an 80,000-square-foot Science Laboratory Building.

At SIUE, **T**echnology is integrated into teaching and student learning. Smart classrooms are a growing part of the classroom infrastructure and the campus is soon to be 100% wireless.



For the second consecutive year, **U**.S. News & World Report named SIUE among America's Best Colleges for our Senior Assignment Program, an integrative learning experience required of all seniors prior to graduation. SIUE continues to move up in the rankings among the top tier master's level universities in the Midwest region.

On April 8, 2005, Vaughn **V**andegrift was installed as the seventh chancellor of SIUE. "I'm very excited to be here at SIUE," said Vandegrift. "Our alumni are living proof of our quality graduates."



Have you checked out the new **W**eb site? It focuses on the quality of SIUE programs and students. It also won a national award in the 21st Annual Admissions Advertising Awards competition. Visit our award-winning Web site at [www.siu.edu](http://www.siu.edu).

SIUE **X**cellence. SIUE's advertising campaign positions SIUE as a Metropolitan University offering high quality academics, as well as a beautiful, convenient location.  
**e** = Engaging. **e** = Enriching. **e** = Exciting.

The SIUE Foundation is **Y**our partner in philanthropy. Your donated dollars directly impact the quality of the education SIUE offers.

SIUE students represent nearly every **Z**ipcode in the state of Illinois. The fall 2005 student population included students from 99 of Illinois' 102 counties.



## Considering getting a graduate degree?

Today's work environment is more competitive than ever. More and more alumni are coming back to SIUE to get graduate degrees. It's a great way to give your career a boost and improve your chances of success. Plus, a graduate degree from SIUE is interesting, convenient, and fun. There are 64 graduate and professional programs to choose from. For a complete copy of the Graduate Catalog, visit [www.siu.edu/graduate](http://www.siu.edu/graduate).

## Measuring SIUE's Economic Impact

As a state-supported university, SIUE's economic impact is critical, and you are part of our impact. Over 70,000 SIUE alumni are making their mark on the world, and over 37,000 alumni live and work in the St. Louis region. You have jobs, you add to the economy, and you provide the expertise needed for continued economic development. A FY05 economic impact study estimates the impact of SIUE at more than \$356 million.

The study, which was coordinated by members of the SIUE Economics and Finance faculty, shows the impact of SIUE on the region stemming from the varied activities of the University, such as expenditures with area vendors. The analysis also considers the effect of SIUE on local government revenues.

"This economic impact study shows we are doing our job," said SIUE Chancellor Vaughn Vandegriff. "But, perhaps, more importantly, it shows our energy, our excitement, and our passion for adding to the vitality of the region."

## Economic Impact Study Highlights

- Some 8,600 SIUE students would not be in the area if it were not for the University
- Visitors coming to campus spent more than \$27 million in FY05
- More than 4,000 full-time jobs can be attributed to SIUE's presence
- SIUE generated nearly \$19 million in state and local tax revenues
- More than 50 percent of SIUE graduates stay in the area
- More than 37,000 SIUE alumni live in the St. Louis region
- More than 12,000 alums hold advanced degrees

A PDF version of the study is available online at [www.siu.edu](http://www.siu.edu). Click on Community & Business.



## SIUE is...over the hill! And you are invited to our 50th birthday party!

Save the date! Founders' Day events are currently being planned to kick off a year-long anniversary celebration on September 24, 2007. Anniversary celebrations will continue through summer 2008. Watch for details and make plans to attend!

# SIUE students at a glance

(as of Fall 2005)

Total Students: 13,460

Undergraduate: 10,945

Graduate: 2,232

Professional: 283

Total Alumni: 72,000+

Degrees: 2,669

Female Students: 7,584

Male Students: 5,876

ACT Scores  
SIUE Fall 2005

Average Age: 24

Ethnic Minorities: 16

freshman class: 22.5

National average: 20.9

Illinois average: 20.3

Geographic origin  
of students:

99 Illinois Counties,  
43 States & 48 Nations



# Go Greek!

Fraternities and sororities have been a part of SIUE since 1961. The first chapter, Sigma Gamma Rho, was founded at the East St. Louis Center. Since then, Greek life has grown to 16 chapters, including nine fraternities, and seven sororities. Fraternity and sorority involvement on the SIUE campus is growing as more chapters are sponsoring campus-wide events, charitable activities, and community service projects.



In the early 1990s, a task force evaluated SIUE Greek life and offered recommendations for its improvement and success. Several enhancements were initiated as a result of the task force:

- Coordinator of Greek Life was hired in 1995.
- The Order of Omega, a national Greek honor society, was chartered at SIUE in 1997.
- The Greek Life Advisory Committee, which consists of faculty, students, staff, and alumni, formed in 2001. The committee examines issues and makes recommendations impacting SIUE Greek life including expansion, programming, housing, and recruitment.
- An annual accreditation for all chapters began in 2003.

Although SIUE Greek life is continually evolving and changing to meet the needs of today's students, there are still those traditions that time hasn't changed. The Greeks still paint the rock. (Now it's a new, larger rock that was placed in the Quad a few years ago.) The football rivalry between Sigma Pi and Sigma Phi Epsilon still exists. For more than 25 years, the two fraternities have competed in the "Toilet Bowl" on Super Bowl Sunday! And you can still hear the calls of the NPHC fraternities and sororities while walking to class.

"Greek life really enhanced my SIUE experience. I began spending more time on campus, participated in intramural activities, overcame my shyness as I recruited new members, learned to speak publicly, participated in the democratic process, and discovered the importance of philanthropy," said Cliff Kinnunen, 1981, B.S., Business Administration. "I also met my wonderful wife Tammy, an Alpha Phi."

"Through the years, I have learned a lot and grown a lot from being a SigEp. My life is enriched with fraternity brothers across the generations." Cliff is a Senior Engineer and Software Engineer at MasterCard Worldwide in St. Louis. He currently serves as President of Sigma Phi Epsilon Alumni Volunteer Corporation.

Alumni are welcome to participate in all Greek events. To find out more, contact John Davenport, coordinator of Greek Life, 618-650-3396.



## Welcome from your SIUE Alumni Association Board President

Welcome to the first edition of *eConnection*, the newly redesigned alumni publication. With your help, we've created an exciting magazine packed with news and information about SIUE and its graduates. Thank you for participating in surveys and focus groups. Your feedback has made this a publication we can all be proud of.

The SIUE Alumni Association has a lot to offer. Take a look at the list of membership benefits and services on page 13. As your board president, I look forward to expanding these offerings. As you read this magazine, keep in mind that the services and benefits, including scholarships and events, are funded by alumni association membership fees.

Keep us updated on your whereabouts and what's happening in your life. We want to hear from you! An alumni information form is available online at [www.siu.edu/ALUMNI](http://www.siu.edu/ALUMNI). If you are looking for volunteer opportunities, let us know. There are many great volunteer opportunities for alumni through Admissions, at Commencement, and at various events. And, we are always accepting résumés for potential board members. Stop by the Alumni office in Birger Hall and say hello the next time you're on campus. We look forward to seeing you!

With Cougar Pride,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Larry Lexow". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "L" and "L".

Larry Lexow '75 BS



The Alumni publication has evolved and matured along with the University. The first edition, titled *Alumnus*, was published in 1971. Then the format changed to an 8 1/2" x 11" style in 1979. In 1990, it became a slicker, magazine-style format. In 1997, the name changed to *SIUE* and the format changed to that of a tab-size newspaper. Now, in 2006, the new publication, *eConnection*, celebrates the SIUE spirit. The name was voted on by SIUE alumni. Thank you for participating in the survey! Enjoy your new publication.



# Enjoy the Privileges of Membership

As an SIUE alumna/us, you are eligible for numerous benefits. Details are available online at [www.siu.edu/ALUMNI](http://www.siu.edu/ALUMNI).

### Legacy Program

SIUE Alumni Association Legacy Scholarship

Legacy Breakfast

### Connect with SIUE

Parking pass (free parking in red lots on SIUE's campus, restrictions apply)

Alumni Association Events

Lovejoy Library (membership card serves as library card)

Discounts available:

- University Theater and *Summer ShowBiz* (see page 22 for schedule)
- Arts & Issues Events (see page 22 for schedule)
- Student Fitness Center
- Cougar Lake Pool
- SIUE Bookstore



### Get a Break

Discounts available:

- Six Flags St. Louis
- USA Florist
- Alumni Travel Program
- Hotel and Rental Car discounts



### Invest Wisely

MBNA SIUE Alumni Association Credit Card

SIUE Credit Union

Student Loan Consolidation Program

Alumni Insurance Program

GradMed short-term health insurance

### Move Ahead

SIUE Career Development Center

SIUE Job Fair

## Check out the Alumni Association Web site

Find fellow alumni. Get up-to-date information about your *alma mater*. Nominate your favorite professor for the Great Teacher Award. View and submit class notes. See what books your fellow alumni have written. Catch up on recent events and see a listing of the newest benefits. It's all waiting for you at the SIUE Alumni Web site: [www.siu.edu/ALUMNI](http://www.siu.edu/ALUMNI).

## Show Your Support and Your SIUE Pride



When you buy an SIUE Illinois license plate, you help put a student on the road to success. Twenty-five dollars from each plate purchased benefits the SIUE Alumni Association Legacy Scholarship fund. For more information, contact the Illinois Secretary of State's office, special plates division, 217-785-5215, or your local Secretary of State facility.

## Become an Alumni Ambassador

Did you have a great experience at SIUE? Join fellow graduates as a volunteer Alumni Ambassador and spread the word. Alumni Ambassadors talk with prospective and newly accepted students about how SIUE can help them achieve their goals.

Firsthand accounts of what it's like to be an SIUE student, as well as important advice about life after college, personalize the admissions process and encourage interest in an SIUE education.

It doesn't matter how long ago you earned your degree or in what area. Your involvement, from participating in an online chat to spending an evening assisting an admissions counselor at a local college fair, will benefit not only prospective students, but yourself as well. The Alumni Ambassadors program is a great way to reconnect with SIUE and fellow alumni.

This volunteer program is still in the development stages, and your patience is appreciated as we determine how to best utilize your valuable alumni insights and experiences.

The Alumni Ambassadors program is jointly sponsored by the SIUE Office of Admissions and the Alumni Association. For more information or to sign up as an Alumni Ambassador, visit the Web site at [www.siu.edu/ALUMNI/ambassador](http://www.siu.edu/ALUMNI/ambassador) or contact Traci Forys, Alumni Ambassadors coordinator, [tforys@siue.edu](mailto:tforys@siue.edu).

## Do you have an SIUE love story that you would like to share?

Did you meet some enchanted evening in the parking lot behind the Dunham Hall Theater after a Summer Showbiz production? Or perhaps you were at Lovejoy Library when both of you reached for the same book?

Whether you met your sweetheart while enjoying part of the giant sundae out on the Quad during Springfest, or you found your special someone in chemistry class, we want to hear your story.

Jot down your memories and tell us about your relationship since leaving SIUE. We might feature your romantic tale in an upcoming issue. Email us at [adunham@siue.edu](mailto:adunham@siue.edu).

# A Year in Review

Here is a sampling of alumni events that were held this past year.  
We look forward to seeing you at upcoming events!

## June 2005

Erato's Wine Bar Reception, St. Louis



## July 2005

Oklahoma! Reception, SIUE

SIUE Day at Busch Stadium, St. Louis

## August 2005

Legacy Breakfast, New Student Orientation



Block Party, Downtown Edwardsville

School of Business Day with the Grizzlies, Sauget, Ill.

## October 2005

Homecoming Alumni Reception

SIUE Athletics Hall of Fame Ceremony

Schools of Education and Business Reception, Chicago

Hortica Alumni Lunch, Edwardsville

## November 2005

Crushed Grapes Reception, Edwardsville

Preview SIUE

## December 2005

Soccer Reception, Wichita Falls, TX

SIUE Night at Savvis Center, St. Louis

## January 2006

Boeing Alumni Reception, SIUE

## February 2006

Regions Bank Alumni Reception, SIUE

School of Dental Medicine Midwinter Reception, Chicago

## March 2006

Evansville Alumni/Basketball Reception,  
Evansville, IN

Mass Communications Night, SIUE

## April 2006

SIUE Alumni Women's Soccer Game

SIUE Alumni Baseball Game

## June 2006

SIUE Day at Busch Stadium,  
St. Louis

Boeing Alumni Reception,  
Boeing Headquarters,  
St. Louis

## August 2006

Legacy Breakfast, New Student Orientation

Block Party, Downtown Edwardsville



# SIUE Alumni Association Awards Two Full Legacy Scholarships

As part of the SIUE Alumni Association Legacy program, the Alumni Association's Board of Directors awards two full scholarships each year – one to a current undergraduate student and one to an incoming freshman – in addition to five \$100 scholarships. Legacy Scholarships are funded through fundraisers, events and membership dues that are raised each year.

To learn more about the Legacy program or apply for the scholarship, visit [www.siu.edu/ALUMNI](http://www.siu.edu/ALUMNI) and click on the awards link.



Corey Meyer

*“...I have worked very hard over the past two years to be a model student and excel academically...This scholarship will help me reach my ultimate goal of becoming the best nurse that I can be. It is truly going to impact my life in many ways.”*

Corey Meyer, SIUE Nursing Student,  
Alumni Association Scholarship Recipient



Jamie Carl

*“I greatly appreciate the financial help that this scholarship will provide me and am looking forward to the many opportunities that await me at SIUE.”*

Jamie Carl, Incoming Freshman,  
Alumni Association Scholarship Recipient

# Alumni Honor Fellow Alumnus and Outstanding Professor

The Distinguished Alumni Award honors SIUE graduates who have achieved distinction in their chosen field and have served the University. The award has been given by the SIUE Alumni Association each year since 1974. The Great Teacher Award honors an SIUE instructor/professor who has significantly impacted students through dedicated and innovative teaching.

## Distinguished Alumni Award



John Simmons

John Simmons, founder of what later became the SimmonsCooper Law Firm, was the 2006 recipient of the SIUE Alumni Association Distinguished Alumni Award.

John graduated in 1991 with a bachelor of science in Political Science. While at SIUE, he was elected Student Body president and earned a position in the Dean's College Honor Society.

From SIUE, Simmons entered Southern Methodist University School of Law, earning a *juris doctor* in 1994. He practiced law for two years in Atlanta, Ga., and in 1996 returned home to establish his own firm. A year later he was invited to join a local firm where he was soon appointed head of major litigation.

In 1999 Simmons again established his own firm, which began with two attorneys and six staff. The firm, now known as SimmonsCooper LLC, boasts 55 attorneys and 315 staff members, with offices locally and in Chicago, Archer City, Texas, and New York City.

John serves on the SIUE Alumni Association board and on the SIU Board of Trustees, and is a donor to SIUE.

## Great Teacher Award



Robert Phillips

For Robert Phillips, receiving the 2006 SIUE Alumni Association Great Teacher Award is an honor and a testament to what his experience means to his students.

"It's very exciting," said Phillips, who is an instructor of Economics and Finance in the School of Business. "It's a great honor. I was rather overwhelmed that I received it, but

I'm humbled and profoundly grateful to the Alumni Association and my supporters."

Phillips, who joined the University faculty in 1997, says he has always been attracted to teaching and the world of ideas. Managerial and research positions for numerous high-profile companies, including IBM Corp. and Mars Inc., and his own private firm, have given him the experience necessary to help his students in many different ways.

"My industrial experience has made teaching a lot easier," Phillips said. "When you're a former practitioner of the skills taught in the classroom, you are able to bring a different perspective to the lessons. That's helped me better understand the needs of the students and establish a rapport with them."

Phillips' students heralded his commitment to education, his degree of knowledge and his genuine nature, leading to his nomination and receipt of the prestigious award.

# An interview with Ralph Korte **1968 B.S.**

Chairman of the Board, Korte Co.; Celebrated Philanthropist  
and Accomplished Community Leader

RALPH KORTE



The name Ralph Korte is a familiar one at SIUE. It should be. Over the past 30 years, Ralph has contributed over \$1 million to the SIUE School of Business and to the University as a whole. He led fundraising efforts for Ralph Korte Stadium, an Olympic-quality track and field facility at SIUE; created the Ralph and Donna Korte Alumni Wing at Birger Hall; was instrumental in implementing the School of Engineering Construction Management Degree; and he has served on boards and committees providing leadership and inspiration as SIUE has grown. He currently serves as Chair of the School of Business Advisory Board and is an active member of the SIUE Foundation Board.

Ralph's latest interest is in leading the fundraising efforts for The Gardens at SIUE, a 36-acre public garden which will include formal and naturalistic gardens. We recently sat down to discuss The Gardens at SIUE project.

**e:** Ralph, you have been very generous to SIUE over the years, what inspires you to continue to give?

**Ralph Korte:** My degree in business from SIUE. In 2005, my company had gross revenue of \$270 million. We would not be where we are today without my SIUE degree. The planning, organizing, directing, and controlling that I learned while taking night classes has made our company what it is today. Along the way, I've seen many competitors go out of business because of a lack of management skills. I learned all of this through SIUE and am an unabashed supporter of the business school.

**e:** What do you hope to accomplish with your latest project, The Gardens at SIUE?

**Ralph Korte:** I want to create an awareness, a notoriety and acclaim for SIUE. The Gardens at SIUE is affiliated with the Missouri Botanical Garden (one of the top three botanical gardens in the world) and is officially noted as a "Shaw's Garden East" site. This partnership with the Missouri Botanical Garden will help us leave a legacy of lasting beauty right here at SIUE. When you get to be my age, you get more attuned to beauty and want to leave lasting things. The Gardens will last for years to come and get more beautiful every year as they are developed.

**e:** How do people get involved with you and The Gardens project?

**Ralph Korte:** We're always looking for volunteers and partners! Have them call Doug Conley, the director of The Gardens at (618) 650-3788. People can also e-mail me directly with any ideas at [ralph.korte@korteco.com](mailto:ralph.korte@korteco.com)

**e:** Of all the things you have done for SIUE, of which are you most proud and why?

**Ralph Korte:** It would have to be leading the effort to implement the new Construction Management Degree in the School of Engineering in 1979. It took three years to develop and get approved. Now it's known nationwide in the construction industry.

**e:** You have been so instrumental in economic development for the region...what's next on your horizon?

**Ralph Korte:** I look for opportunities every day. I'm always asking, what can I do to make the region better? Most of my ideas are serendipitous. I enjoy putting people together, forming alliances to make things better. You never know where the next big idea will come from.



Ralph Korte and Doug Conley, Director of the Gardens at SIUE, review the progress of the new Gardens with Bob McClellan (center photo) of Hortica on location at SIUE.

# Steve McCann

1978, B.S.B.A.

Accountancy, School of Business

Executive Vice President, CFO, Treasurer, Longs Drugs,  
Walnut Creek, Cali.



*“Anyone can rise to the top. You are only limited by your imagination and how hard you work.”*

Steve McCann began his career at Touche Ross and Company, a national CPA firm which, at the time, was one of the largest accounting firms in the world. “They hired graduates from across the nation,” said Steve. “I was well prepared for my first job, as well as subsequent career advances, thanks to the solid education I received at SIUE.”

Steve spent the next several years moving into positions of increasing authority and responsibility with different organizations around the country. “My goal was to get into management,” he said. “I knew I wanted to manage people and move processes and strategy forward.”

In 2000, Steve settled on the West Coast and joined Longs Drugs as senior vice president and chief financial officer. Today, he holds the position of executive vice president, CFO, and treasurer of Longs Drugs.

Gary Giamartino, dean of the SIUE School of Business, connected with Steve on a recent trip to California. The Dean invited him to visit the SIUE campus and speak to School of Business students and faculty as part of the School’s Power Breakfast Series. Steve accepted the invitation and spoke to nearly 100 attendees about his accounting and finance experiences in retail companies throughout the United States.

“I remember the campus was always so beautiful. It’s incredible to me that the campus has remained so pristine,” said Steve when asked his first impressions of his return visit. “I was blown away by the changes and growth that have occurred on campus – it’s spectacular.”

# Liz Bray

2003 B.S., 2005 M.S.

Speech-Language Pathology, School of Education

Speech Therapist, Edwardsville High School, Edwardsville, Ill.



*“At SIUE, I got the education I needed to step into my first job with confidence.”*

Many factors impacted Liz Bray’s decision to attend SIUE. “I knew I wanted a career in education, and the SIUE School of Education has a reputation for quality,” said Liz. “I also wanted to stay close to family and friends, participate in athletics, and get the whole university experience.”

Needless to say, Liz’s family agreed with her school of choice. Her husband, Chris, is a 2006 SIUE graduate with a master’s in sports management. Both Liz’s mom and dad earned master’s degrees from the SIUE School of Education. Liz’s older sister graduated with a business degree, and her younger sister will graduate from SIUE with an engineering degree in 2007.

Liz just completed her first year as a speech therapist at Edwardsville High School. On top of this full-time position, she coaches freshman basketball and JV softball, teaches summer school, and works summer camps hosted by the high school. Four years on the SIUE women’s basketball team helped Liz develop sound time management skills that she uses in her work at the high school.

Despite her busy schedule, Liz hasn’t lost touch with SIUE. “I still speak to several of my professors. I know that I can always connect with them and gain their insight when I need it.”

# School of Pharmacy Julie Feier

2009 Pharm.D.

Doctor of Pharmacy, School of Pharmacy

Future pharmacists, Southern Illinois and beyond



1998 M.P.A.

Public Administration, Graduate Studies and Research

City Manager, University City, Mo.



*“With faculty who never hesitate to help, a diverse student body, and groundbreaking research, SIUE will continue to provide a unique educational experience for years to come.” Jason Tipton, pharmacy student*

*“My SIUE education prepared me to move directly into administrative leadership positions.”*

At 34 years old, Julie Feier’s career in city administration is already quite extensive. Since receiving her master’s degree from SIUE, she has worked in Missouri, Illinois, and Colorado as an interim village administrator, assistant to the city manager, assistant city manager, and city manager. She left the Rocky Mountains in May to take the helm as city manager of University City, Mo.

“I’m thrilled to be back and working in the area. There are so many great communities in St. Louis and the Metro East area,” said Julie. “I look forward to the opportunity to reconnect with the SIUE community.”

Fitting an education into an already busy life can be a challenge. Julie worked three jobs while attending graduate classes at SIUE. “The University really does a good job of helping students balance their education with their work and family life,” she said.

It’s easy for Julie to direct many of her friends and colleagues to the public administration program. “The strong faculty, practical learning experiences, and opportunities to connect with the community are what I tout about the program,” she said.

The SIUE School of Pharmacy welcomed its first class of 82 students in August 2005. By 2008, the School is expected to be at capacity with 300 students.

The School of Pharmacy offers a highly competitive professional program leading to the degree. According to School of Pharmacy Dean Philip Medon, one hundred percent of pharmacy students completed the first year of study successfully. “The national average is 90 to 95 percent,” said Medon. “Our students’ success can be attributed to our faculty’s dedication to student achievement.”

The School’s state-of-the-art 15,000-square-foot facility, located in University Park, features pharmacy laboratories, classrooms and faculty offices. As the only pharmacy school in downstate Illinois, the School collaborates with rural and urban health care institutions to meet the health care needs of Central and Southern Illinois and the St. Louis metropolitan area.

# Class Notes

The Class Notes listed are those of members of the SIUE Alumni Association. A full listing of class notes received from all alumni can be found at [www.siu.edu/ALUMNI](http://www.siu.edu/ALUMNI).

## School of Business

- \*\* **Cheryl Ballard**, '84, BS, Branson, Mo., is Human Resources Manager for Chateau on the Lake Resort, Branson, Mo.
- \*\* **Frank Bures, Jr.**, '74 MBA, Isle of Palms, SC, is retired.
- \* **Nathan Butler**, '00 BSA, Fenton, Mo., is Assistant Controller for Young Dental Mfg., Earth City, Mo.
- \*\* **Kenneth R. Diel**, O'Fallon, Ill., '69 BS, is a managing member of Diel & Forguson LLC in O'Fallon, Ill.
- \* **John L. Dorsey**, '77 BS, has joined the staff of First National Bank as senior vice president, Maryville, Ill.
- \*\* **Donald Emde**, '63 BS, Godfrey, Ill., is the President of Emde's Marketing, Inc., Godfrey, Ill.
- \*\* **Barbara W. Giardina**, '75 BS, MBA '82, was named regional sales vice president for Hortica in Edwardsville.
- \* **John Lyle Kell**, '64 BS, Carrollton, Ill., is retired.
- \*\* **John LeBlanc**, '76 MBA, '74 BS- Business Admin., Springfield, Ohio, recently received tenure at Cedarville University, Cedarville, Ohio
- \*\* **Daniel J. Lowery**, '73 BS, St. Louis, Mo., is president of LSi-Lowery Systems in St. Louis, which recently ranked #71 of the 100 Fast Growth IT companies in the United States, St. Louis County, Mo.
- \* **Richard L. Martini**, '75 BS, Belleville, Ill., is First Vice President for Merrill Lynch, Swansea, Ill.
- \* **Heather Mueller**, '00 BS, Carbondale, Ill., graduated from SIU School of Law with a *Juris Doctor* in May 2005.
- \* **Jim Mullen**, '04 BS, St. Louis, Mo., has recently been hired by Tarlton Corporation as a Project Manager, St. Louis.
- \*\* **John W. Olmstead**, '83 MBA, Godfrey, Ill., is President of Olmstead and Associates, St. Louis.

- \*\* **Carol J. Papenberg**, '77 BS- Marketing, O'Fallon, Ill., is Senior Administrative Assistant for Allsup Inc., Belleville, Ill.
- \* **Virginia Kay Price**, '88 MBA, Mineral Point, Mo., is retired from the US Air Force and is Co-owner of Price Capital Connections, Potosi, Mo.
- \*\* **Steven Springgate**, '83 BS, Godfrey, Ill., is a Business and Planning Analyst for The Boeing Company, St. Louis.
- \* **Jana Wentzel**, '02 BSA, Collinsville, Ill., is an Associate Syndicator for Aon Risk Services of Missouri, Inc., St. Louis.
- \* **Joel S. Wiedermann**, '80 MBA, Blackwood, NJ, is President of Accountant's Assistance, Inc, Blackwood, NJ.

## College of Arts and Sciences

- \* **Jamie Lynn Clark**, '01 BS- Health Education, Macon, Ill., is a Clinical Research Associate/Data Manager for Decatur Memorial Hospital, Oncology Research Department, Decatur, Ill.
- \* **Eric Crony**, '91 BS- Political Science, Edwardsville, was recently awarded as one of the Ten Outstanding Young People in Illinois by the Jaycees.
- \* **Rebecca Gould**, '00 BS- Speech Communication, Memphis, TN, has been promoted to Account Executive with the Memphis Grizzlies of the National Basketball Association (NBA).
- \*\* **Holly Hildebrand**, '73, BA- Mass Communication, Katy, TX, was one of three winners in the 2004 Perishable Theatre Women's Playwriting Contest in Providence, RI. She is a technical writer at Landmark Graphics Corp. in Houston, Texas.
- \*\* **Wei Song Howng**, '82- Environmental Studies, Chino Hills, CA, is President of TNT Co. of California, S. El Monte, CA.
- \*\* **Dr. Norman James**, '68 BA- Psychology, Maple Grove, MN, is Professor Emeritus at the University of St. Thomas, St. Paul, Minn.
- \* **Scott Underwood**, '04 BS- Biological Science, O'Fallon, Ill., has begun studies at Logan College of Chiropractic's Doctor of Chiropractic program, Chesterfield, Mo.
- \* **Jill Williams (Tutt)**, '95 BA- Theater/Dance, St. Charles, Mo., is Senior Education Manager for Junior Achievement, Chesterfield, Mo.
- \*\* **M. Lynne Williams**, '68 BA- Biology, Belleville, Ill., is Environmental Health Practitioner for the Illinois Department of Public Health, Glen Carbon, Ill.
- \*\* **Mark Wilderman**, '78 BS- History, Hecker, Ill., retired from the US Air Force as a Major in July of 1995 and is currently working for Laclede Gas Company as a Customer Service Supervisor, St. Louis.

### School of Dental Medicine

- \*\* **Dr. Ronald Abbott, '89** DMD, Cabot, Ark., is Dental Flight Commander for the US Air Force, Cabot, Ark.
- \*\* **Dr. Brian Balda, '86** DMD, Effingham, Ill., is self employed as a Dentist at Balda Dental Office, Effingham, Ill.
- \* **Dr. Gregory Glade, '79** DMD, Port Byron, Ill., is self employed as a Dentist in Port Byron, Ill.
- \*\* **Dr. Stephen Raney, '84** DMD, Columbia, Ill., is employed as a Dentist at Dr.'s White and Raney P.C., Columbia, Ill.

### School of Education

- \*\* **Mary Bergman, '84** - MSED, Pierron, Ill., is a Media Specialist for Highland C.U. District #5, Highland, Ill.
- \*\* **Rebecca Bunch, '70** MSED, Kissimmee, Fla., is a reading teacher at Osceola City Schools, Celebration, Fla.,
- \* **Kathleen Clark-Eller, '78** BS, Trenton, Ill., is a teacher at Mascoutah School District #19, Mascoutah, Ill.
- \*\* **Edward Crow, '83** MCRP, '75 BS, Chester, Ill., is the Executive Director for Randolph County Progress Committee, Inc.
- \*\* **Elizabeth Dustmann, '65** BS, Dorsey, Ill., is retired.
- \*\* **Judith Fernando, '77** MSED, '74 BS, Glen Carbon, Ill., is Principal for the East St. Louis School District 189.
- \* **Barbara Fleming, '76** MSED, '71 BS- Elementary Education, Centreville, Ill., is a teacher for East St. Louis School District #189, Dovis School
- \* **Melinda S. Foe Pauk, '93** MSED, Edwardsville, is a third grade teacher for Triad School District.
- \*\* **Jeanne Harris, '74** MSED, '68 BS, Florissant, Mo., retired from SBC.
- \* **Amanda Marti-Collins, '93** BS, Maryville, Ill. is Quality Assurance Manager/Intake Coordinator for Development Disability Services of Metro East, Belleville, Ill.

- \*\* **Sandra Morris, '74** MSED, Maryland Heights, Mo., is a librarian for St. Louis Community College at Florissant Valley, Ferguson, Mo.
- \*\* **Gladys Niggli, '66** MSED, Highland, Ill., is a Public Health Nursing Consultant and Maternal and Child Health Nursing Consultant. She is a retired RN of 40 years, 27½ of which were at the Illinois Department of Public Health.
- \*\* **Robert Sanders, '77** BS, Vidalia, La., is a Teacher/Head Boys Basketball Coach for Concordia Parish Schools (Vidalia High). He was 2004 Coach of the Year District 4-2A, Concordia Parish, Natchez Metro Area, Vidalia.
- \* **Donna (Stoner) Blackston, '74** BS- Physical Education, Godfrey, Ill., is a Planning Engineer for Boeing, St. Louis.
- \*\* **Jerome Thompson, '70** BA- Psychology Ed., Springfield, Ill., is a Risk Management Coordinator for The Hope School, Springfield, Ill.
- \* **Richard Timko, MSED, '65** BA- Psychology, Fairview Heights, Ill., is retired from Collinsville Unit #10 and is an Adjunct Counselor at SWIC.

### School of Engineering

- \*\* **Doug Sitton, '92**, MSE- Civil Engineering, Fairview Heights, Ill., has been named director of Woolpert's facility design and management services for Wollpert LLP, Fairview Heights, Ill.
- \* **Mark Wagner, '02** BS- Electrical Engineering, Bloomington, Ill., is an Electrical Designer for Clinton Power Station, Clinton, Ill.

### School of Nursing

- \*\* **Melisa Munie, '82** BS, Collinsville, Ill., is an emergency room RN at Memorial Hospital, Belleville, Ill.
- \*\* **Mary Elizabeth Wuellner-Turvey, '73** BS, Alton, Ill., is a Women's Health Nurse Practitioner for St. Louis County Department of Health, John C. Murphy Center, Berkeley, Mo.
- \* *member of the SIUE Alumni Association*
- \*\* *life member of the SIUE Alumni Association*

*Have you changed your career, gotten married or had a baby? Let us know so you can be listed in the next issue and on the Web site. Photographs are welcome, too!*



# SIUE Finishes Fourth in U.S. Sports Academy Directors' Cup

With fantastic finishes in every season, SIUE Intercollegiate Athletics finished fourth nationally in the U.S. Sports Academy Directors' Cup among NCAA Division II schools. Points are awarded based on a team's national finish in up to seven men's sports and seven women's sports. This is far and above SIUE's best-ever finish in the standings.

## Athletics Accomplishments

- Men's basketball made its first appearance in the Elite Eight, winning the Great Lakes Region as the No. 7 seed. SIUE posted a school-record 25 wins.
- Men's soccer advanced to the national semifinal game with a 16-3-3 record. It was the third time in four years that the Cougars advanced to the national semifinals.
- Softball hoisted the Great Lakes Regional trophy for the first time and advanced to its first NCAA Division II finals appearance in school history. The Cougars broke the school record with 52 victories.
- Men's and women's track and field each placed seventh at the NCAA Division II Outdoor Track and Field Championships and were among the top finishers at the NCAA Division II Indoor Track and Field Championships.
- Volleyball won its first Great Lakes Valley Conference title and advanced to the Great Lakes Regional semifinals. The Cougars broke the school record for consecutive victories with 19 straight wins.
- Women's soccer broke the school record for wins (17), shutouts (12), and consecutive wins (10).
- Baseball was the final GLVC team to be eliminated from the Great Lakes Regional after boasting the No. 1 pitching staff in the country. The pitching staff shattered the NCAA record for shutouts with 21.
- Men's and women's golf advanced to the NCAA Championships. The SIUE men, reinstated as an intercollegiate program this past season, placed third at the Great Lakes Regional. The SIUE women made their fourth straight appearance in the NCAA Championships and finished fifth in the East Regional.



# SIUE Athletics Announces Inaugural Hall of Fame Class



1979 Men's Tennis

Established in 2005, the SIUE Athletics Hall of Fame honors top student-athletes, teams, coaches, administrators, and friends of the program who have contributed significantly to the SIUE athletics program.

The Hall of Fame class is inducted at an annual on-campus ceremony held during Homecoming Week.

## 2006 Hall of Fame Class

- Les Agne – Men's Golf
- Jack Blake (Deceased) – Men's Soccer
- Elisabeth Calander – Women's Tennis
- John Carezza – Men's Soccer
- Juan Farrow – Men's Tennis
- Alan Grammer - Wrestling
- Sandy Montgomery – Softball
- Don Stevens - Wrestling
- John "Champ" Summers – Baseball/Basketball
- Wilfred "Bud" Buddell – Athletics Trainer
- Kent DeMars – Men's Tennis Coach
- Cindy Jones – Softball Coach and Director of Athletics
- 1972 Men's Baseball
- 1979 Men's Tennis
- 1979 Men's Soccer
- 1982 Women's Softball

# SIUE Athletics Task Force Assesses Future of Program

Chancellor Vaughn Vandegrift established a task force for Intercollegiate Athletics in September 2005 to consider three possible scenarios for the future of Intercollegiate Athletics at SIUE:

- Strengthen the existing program
- Create a program that would compete at the NCAA Division I level
- Develop a "hybrid" that would include Division I and II teams

The process is guided by specific core values, including student-athlete academic and personal welfare, integrity and ethics, commitment to Title IX guidelines, and preservation of academic and competitive integrity by seeking membership in an appropriate conference.

"The University is very proud of the athletics programs that have contributed to our national recognition and reputation as a premier metropolitan university," said Gary Giamartino, SIUE School of Business Dean and chair of the Task Force. "We will build on that foundation as we explore options for the future."

Task Force updates are available online. Just click on the Cougar Athletics link at [www.siue.edu](http://www.siue.edu).

# Mary's Story...

## Her Gift is Returned to Her Today and for the Rest of Her Life!

Mary is in her golden years. She is 76 years old and living a good life. But, she has developed a special \$10,000 "nest egg" that she has invested in a certificate of deposit earning 3%.

As an early graduate of SIUE, Mary has created a bequest that will go to support need-based scholarships. Recently, she discovered that through the SIUE Foundation's Charitable Gift Annuity Program, she can make her gift now and receive income the rest of her life.

When her CD came due, Mary decided to transfer the \$10,000 to fund a charitable gift annuity. Based on her age and the standard fixed rates that the SIUE Foundation offers (based on the American Council on Gift Annuities), Mary will earn 7.2% or \$720 every year for the rest of her life... more than double what she was receiving from her CD!

Mary's charitable gift annuity also provided some very special tax benefits. A charitable income tax deduction of \$4,865 is available to her, and \$435 of her annual gift annuity income is tax-free.

### More benefits to Mary

- High-yield annual fixed income which is partially tax-free
- Charitable deduction
- Assurance that at her death the charitable gift annuity will be transferred to fund scholarships for students at SIUE
- Heritage Society member benefits including an invitation to the annual Heritage dinner

Would you like to know the benefits you could achieve with a charitable gift annuity for you, or possibly your spouse? Just contact the SIUE Foundation at 618-650-2345 to receive a personalized, confidential report that provides a detailed description of the annual income and tax benefits awaiting you if an SIUE Foundation Charitable Gift Annuity is created for you.

*This is a fictional story representing the use of an SIUE Foundation gift plan. While the tax and other benefits described are based on current tax law, it is important that you review your own tax benefits with your personal tax advisor.*

## Heritage Society

The Heritage Society honors alumni and friends who include Southern Illinois University Edwardsville in their estate plans. These planned gifts for the future will support the SIUE mission, including scholarships, endowments, facilities, programs, and schools of the University.

SIUE Foundation  
Partners in Philanthropy  
(618) 650-2345



Birger Hall

Visit the gift planning Web site at [www.siu.edu/give](http://www.siu.edu/give) and click on GIFT PLANNING. Once you are on the GIFT PLANNING web page, you may order the free weekly eNewsletter, GiftLegacy, by clicking on "Donor eNewsletter."



## Arts & Issues

**Deepak Chopra**, September 28

**Garrison Keillor**, November 7

**Eileen Ivers**, December 9

**Imani Winds**, January 26

**Beausoleil**, February 3

**North Carolina Dance Theatre**, March 23

**Glenn Miller Orchestra**, April 28



*Garrison Keillor*

Performance and ticket information is available online. Just click on the *Arts & Issues* link within the Community section at [www.siu.edu/community](http://www.siu.edu/community).

## University Theater Productions

**Thursday-Saturday 7:30 p.m., Sunday 2 p.m.**

Dunham Hall theater on the SIUE campus

**Twelfth Night**, October 11-15

**Dance in Concert 2006**, Nov 8-12

**Come Back to the 5 & Dime, Jimmy Dean, Jimmy Dean**  
Nov 29 - Dec 3

**The Altruists**, February 21-25

**Big Love**, April 18-22

## A Season for the Child

**Saturdays 7 p.m.**

Dunham Hall Theater on the SIUE campus

**Little Red Riding Hood**, Piwacket Theatre for Children, October 21

**The Velveteen Rabbit**, Imaginary Theatre Company, December 9  
(2 p.m. and 7 p.m.)

**CinderBottom**, Piwacket Theatre for Children, January 27

**Hansel and Gretel: The Next Generation**, Imaginary Theatre Company, March 24

Performance and ticket information is available online. Just click on the Theater & Arts link within the Community section at [www.siu.edu/community](http://www.siu.edu/community).

Remember to show your SIUE Alumni Association membership card to receive a discount on both *Arts & Issues* and University Theater performances (restrictions may apply).

## Travel the World with SIUE

**Travel Opportunities for SIUE Alumni**

**California Coast** - April 15, 2007



Visit the rugged coastline and sandy beaches; the big cities of San Francisco, Los Angeles, and San Diego; and Mother Nature's masterpiece, Yosemite National Park. Per person rates: Double \$1,949, Single \$2,549, Triple \$1,919.

**The Wonders of Iceland** - July 17, 2007



Discover the natural wonders and geological significance of Iceland's glaciers, hot springs, geysers, and waterfalls. Tour the capital city of Reykjavik, a seaside village, and a traditional horse farm. Per person rates: Double \$3,239, Single \$3,689, Triple \$3,209.

**South Pacific Wonders** - September 18, 2007



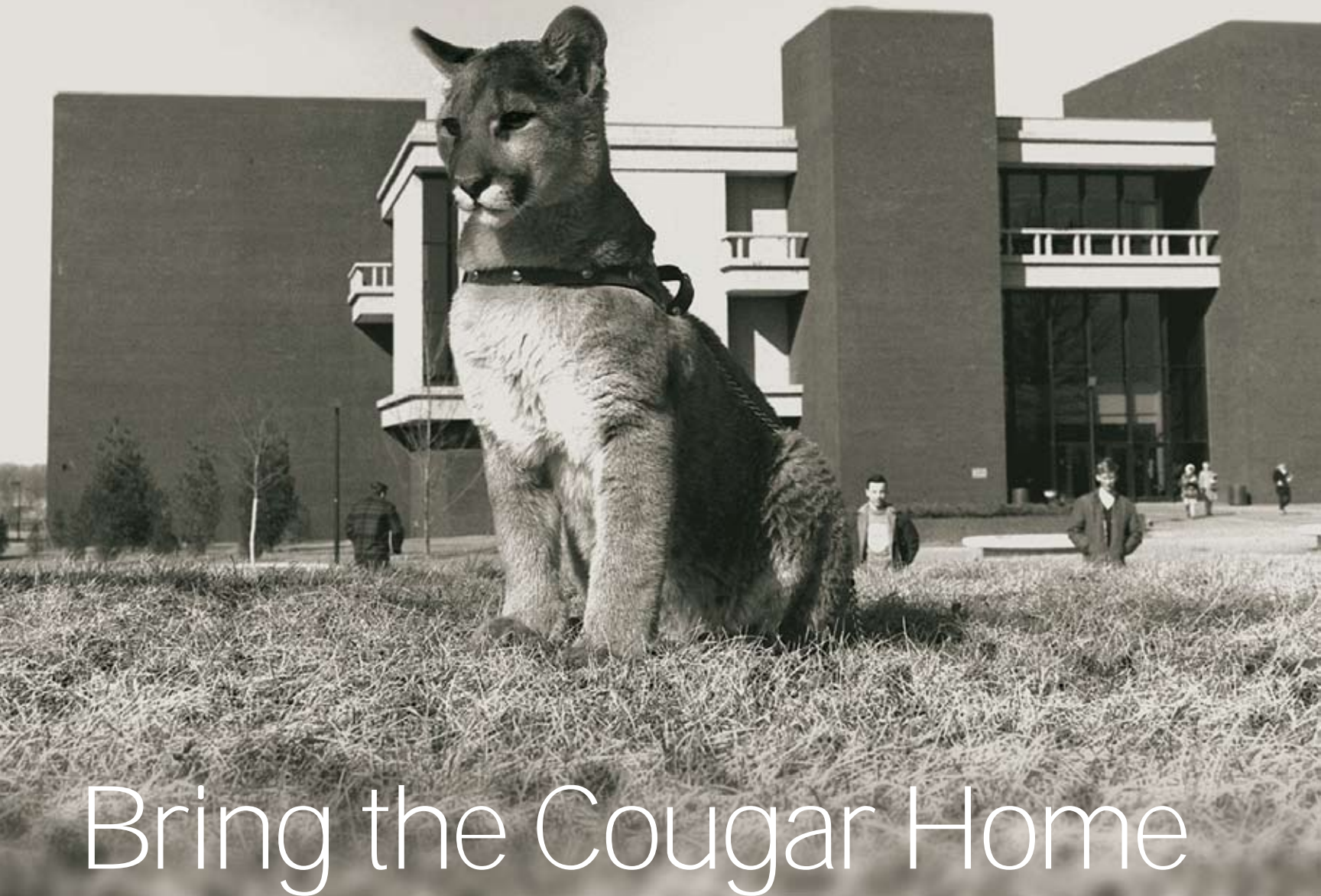
See the sights and experience the unique culture of Australia, the land "Down Under," and enjoy the spectacular natural beauty of New Zealand's South Island. Per person rates: Double \$4,699, Single \$5,699, Triple \$4,599.

**Discover Tuscany** - November 1, 2007



Journey through sprawling vineyards, rolling hills, and charming historic cities and discover the quiet beauty of Tuscany. Per person rates: Double \$2,558, Single \$2,908, Triple \$2,528.

Request more information today! Call Collette Vacations at 1-877-584-7302.



# Bring the Cougar Home

In 1967, the Cougar became the official mascot of Southern Illinois University Edwardsville. In honor of the new mascot, a live cougar named Chimega was brought to campus. SIUE was her home until her death in 1985. A second cougar, Kyna, was brought to campus in 1982 and prowled the grounds until 1987.



Since this time, SIUE has not had a constant image of our beloved mascot on campus. For this reason, Student Government and the School Spirit and Pride committee are resolved to bring a bronze cougar sculpture to campus. This statue will be a monument to Chimega and Kyna and a rallying point for students to show their pride in SIUE.

Commemorative bricks will be used in the pedestal and surrounding plaza of the statue. Each brick is \$50 and is personalized with the message of your choice. A commemorative brick order form is available online at [www.siu.edu/ALUMNI](http://www.siu.edu/ALUMNI).

Show your SIUE Cougar Spirit and help “Bring the Cougar Home” by supporting this effort. Each commemorative brick purchase helps celebrate a proud SIUE tradition and keeps the Cougar physically on campus and in our hearts.

# Have you read your label?



Check the address label on your magazine...if the word member appears under your name, you will continue to receive this publication. If non-member appears, you are not a member of the SIUE Alumni Association and are not receiving membership benefits.

Your membership dues support SIUE Alumni Scholarships and programming. Ten percent of your dues go directly back to your School/College.

*A listing of benefits is available on page 9*

Join us today! Visit us online at [www.siu.edu/ALUMNI](http://www.siu.edu/ALUMNI) or call 618-650-2760 for membership information.



The inaugural edition of *the eConnection* is being sent to all SIUE alumni to mark this exciting new addition to the alumni program. In the future this publication will only be sent to members of the Alumni Association. To ensure that you keep receiving this publication, look on the address label on the front of the magazine. If the word **member** appears under your name, you are a member of the Association; if **non-member** appears under your name, you are not a member. Be sure to receive this publication in the future by joining today using our online convenience pay system at [www.siu.edu/ALUMNI](http://www.siu.edu/ALUMNI).

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY  
**EDWARDSVILLE**

Edwardsville, IL  
62026-1031  
(618) 650-2760  
[alumni@siue.edu](mailto:alumni@siue.edu)  
[siue.edu/ALUMNI](http://siue.edu/ALUMNI)