

The Magazine of
Southern Illinois University Edwardsville
Alumni Association
No. 2
Spring 2007

A photograph of a man with short dark hair and glasses, wearing a grey blazer over a black shirt. He is smiling slightly and looking towards the camera while his hands are positioned over a piano keyboard. The background is dark and textured.

tion **e**connect



A Message from
the Chancellor

1



SIUE Today

2



Connecting with Students

5



SIUE Alumni Association

6



Alumni Profiles

10



Love Connection

16



Class Notes

18



Cougar Athletics

20



SIUE 50th Anniversary

22



Traditions

24



Alumni Membership
Inside
Back Cover

SIUE Alumni Association Board of Directors

Larry R. Lexow
President
'75 BS Mass Communications

Elzora P. Douglas
Immediate Past President
'76 BA Sociology

Ajay K. Kansal
President Elect
'89 MS Business

Rita Adkins
'94 BS Sociology
'95 MPA Public Administration

Veronica Felton Armouti
'86 BS Psychology
'88 MS Policy Analysis

Barry Delassus
'00 BS Biological Science
'01 MS Biological Science

Bev George
'75 BA English
'79 MEd Secondary Education

Bill Graebe, Jr.
'64 BS Business Administration

Kay Guse
'88 BSE Industrial Engineering

Dr. Karen Kelly
'72 BS Nursing
'77 MS Nursing
'83 EdD Instructional Process

Tom McRae
'82 BS Organizational Behavior

SJ Morrison
'02 BA Mass Communication

Debra O'Neill
'79 BS Mass Comm/Psychology
'82 MBA Bus Admin/General

Chuck Rathert
'74 BS Mass Communication

John Simmons
'91 BS Political Science

Christopher Slusser
Vice-President Finance
'03 BS Speech Communication

Janet Sprehe
'88 BS Nursing
'94 MS Nursing

G. Michael Stewart
'92 BS Political Science

Marcia Wickenhauser
Vice-President
'79 BS Human Services
'87 MSED Counselor Ed/Comm.

Dr. Scott M. Wolter
'90 DMD Dental Medicine

Steve Jankowski
Director Alumni Affairs
'74 BS Mass Communications

Anna Pugh-Dunham
Assistant Director Alumni Affairs
'99 BS Speech Communication
'04 MA Speech Communication

Dear SIUE Alumni,

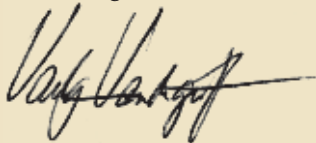
Whether you're around the corner, across the river or across the country, you are making an impact where you live and work. Many alumni are making an impact right here at SIUE. More than 500 alumni (about 20 percent of our faculty and staff) have chosen to work at their *alma mater*. This issue of *eConnection* features the stories of several alumni who embody the values of SIUE: citizenship, excellence, integrity, openness and wisdom.

As we prepare to celebrate our 50th Anniversary starting in September 2007, we continue to make progress toward achieving our vision to be recognized nationally for the excellence of our programs and the development of professional and community leaders. Here are a few examples of our progress since the last *eConnection*:

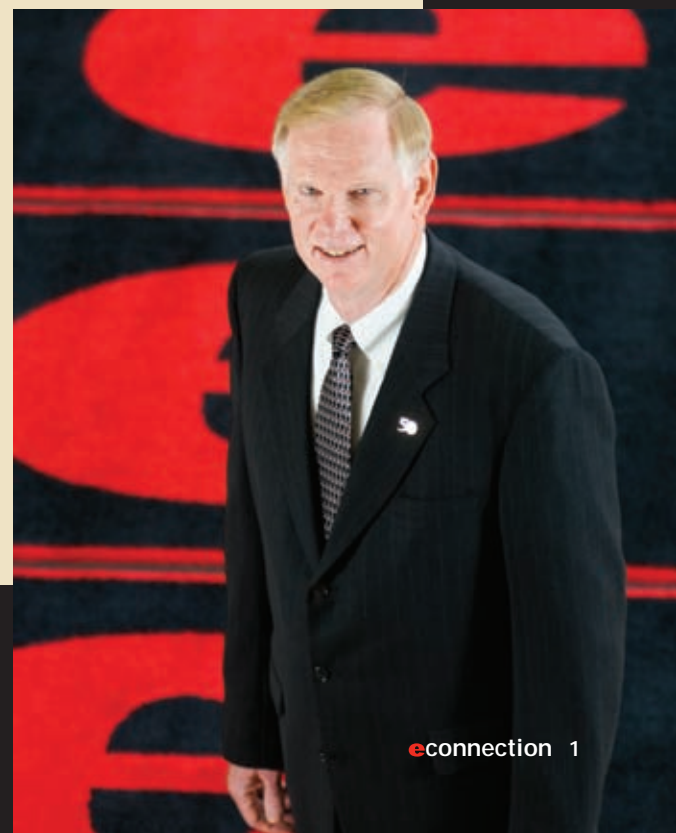
- On February 28, the SIU Board of Trustees approved our intention to pursue NCAA Division I status for Intercollegiate Athletics. I am excited about the future of SIUE's athletics programs and the opportunities this move will offer our students, alumni and the community. Our academic programs compete at the highest level, as is evident by faculty and student scholarship, grants and accreditations, and the thousands of successful alumni who are making an impact in Illinois and across the United States. Now, too, our athletics programs will compete at the highest level. I encourage you to visit campus and join us at an athletics event.
- We've been recognized along with Duke, Harvard, MIT, Princeton, Stanford and Yale for our Senior Assignment Program. On the heels of celebrating our second consecutive year of recognition by *U.S. News & World Report*, we again have been noticed for this comprehensive learning experience, which is required for all students prior to graduation. In January, Senior Assignment was again recognized as a national model, along with 16 other top universities, by the Association of American Colleges & Universities. That's pretty good company!

SIUE is almost 50. We are transitioning and much of our success is due to you. It's an exciting time to be part of the SIUE community! We are a bold university with a bold vision, and we are realizing that vision step-by-step. As members of the Alumni Association, thank you for your efforts on behalf of SIUE.

Go Cougars!



Vaughn Vandegrift, Ph.D.
SIUE Chancellor



SIUE Today

College of Arts & Sciences political science student Andrew J. Givens spent part of his summer interning at the Potomac Institute's International Center for Terrorism Studies in the Washington, D.C., area. As an intern, his responsibilities included data collection and analyzing threats of terrorism and weapon proliferation. "It is really comforting and encouraging that the education I have received at SIUE to this point is directly affecting my effectiveness in the workforce," said the Johnetta Haley Scholar.



More than 90 alumni, faculty and friends of the **School of Dental Medicine** raised more than \$625,000 to invest in the School's future by giving it room to grow. An Advanced Care Wing on the SDM's Main Clinic allows general dentistry and specialty disciplines, including periodontics and endodontics, to be taught in one place. Delta Dental of Illinois made a generous contribution of \$250,000 for equipment for the structure. The wing has been named the Delta Dental of Illinois Advanced Care Wing in the company's honor.



Victoria Scott, an associate professor of special education and communication disorders in the **School of Education** and the 2006 recipient of the SIUE Teaching Excellence Award, has been selected as a 2006 Emerson Excellence in Teaching Award recipient. Scott is among 100 teachers who are being recognized by Emerson as "an example of outstanding teaching excellence." The Emerson recognition program is in its 17th year and is a noteworthy achievement among St. Louis area teachers.

Dana Hamann of Winthrop Harbor, a graduate student of the **College of Arts & Sciences** psychology department, won a gold ribbon for her poster presentation, *Abuse and the Effects on Eating Disorder Symptomatology and Body Image: Does Treatment for the Abuse Influence This Relationship*, at the Sigma Xi Annual Meeting and Student Research Conference in Detroit. Sigma Xi is an international, multidisciplinary research honor society. Its programs and activities promote the health of scientific enterprise and honor scientific achievement.

Did you know?

*Last year, SIUE was in the news over 2,500 times in 48 states!
Stay up-to-date with SIUE news. Visit www.siu.edu/news.*



Using a robot with color-camera tracking, a five-degree freedom arm, and four-wheel drive, **School of Engineering** students Ross Mead and Jeff Croxell and associate professor Jerry Weinberg clinched second place at the finals of the national Beyond Botball competition at the University of Oklahoma, Norman. The competition requires building and programming autonomous robots for the removal of items representing toxic waste and saving the mascot of the Botball competition.

In its second semester, the **School of Nursing's** mentor program offers inspiration and motivation for future nurses. "Mentors guide students down many different pathways of nursing, opening doors that otherwise may not have been opened," said James Gauen, a senior nursing major from Pontoon Beach. Faculty members who act as mentors work closely with students within the program and act as professional advisors, grooming students to enter the professional world with a greater sense of confidence and ability, according to School of Nursing Dean Marcia Maurer.



Four **School of Pharmacy** students presented what they learned from a service learning project at a national conference in Anaheim, Calif. The students were supported by a \$3,000 grant from Pfizer Pharmaceuticals. Led by Bill Wuller, a clinical assistant professor of pharmacy practice and director of experiential education, first-year pharmacy students A.J. Roseboom of East Alton, Jarod Schaltenbrand of Smithton, Jordan Bills of O'Fallon and Ryan Hanewinkel of Edwardsville set out to educate area senior citizens and individuals living with disabilities about Medicare Part D. The students worked with the University's Kimmel Leadership Center and the Area Agency on Aging of Southwestern Illinois.

The **School of Business** Master of Marketing Research (MMR) program celebrated its 20th anniversary in October. When SIUE's MMR Program was first established in 1986, it was the second such innovative and specialized program in the nation. Today it is recognized as one of only four such focused programs in the country, highly respected in both academic and professional communities.

SIUE Alumni Honored at Spring Commencement

Robert McClellan, president and CEO of Hortica Inc. who holds a bachelor's in math and business and an MBA from SIUE, will receive the **Distinguished Service Award** during the 5:00 p.m. ceremony.

Robert was an adjunct faculty member at SIUE from 1978-1985 in the SIUE School of Business and also held the Management Information Services director position at SIUE until 1987. He joined Hortica Inc. in 1987 and has served as company president and CEO since 1994. McClellan has served, or is currently serving, on The Alliance of Edwardsville & Glen Carbon board, the board of directors of Home Nursery Inc., the governing board of Economics America, the executive board of the Boy Scouts of America, Trails West Council, the SIUE Foundation Board, the Lewis & Clark Community College Foundation Board, the SIUE School of Engineering IPAC Board, the Leadership Council Southwestern Illinois Board, and the University Park Board. Robert was instrumental in coordinating Hortica's most recent gift to The Gardens at SIUE.



Robert McClellan will speak at the Spring Commencement ceremony at 5:00 p.m.

An **honorary Doctor of Humane Letters** will be presented to CBS Radio News White House correspondent **Peter Maer** during the 9:00 a.m. ceremony.

Peter is a member of the 1970 SIUE graduation class which included the first graduates of the Mass Communications program. He has covered the White House for more than 20 years—first for the NBC/Mutual Radio network and since 1998 for CBS Radio News. He has reported on every political convention, campaign and election since 1980, encompassing five presidents. His assignments have taken him throughout the country and to nearly 40 countries. Maer was at the White House when the terrorist attacks occurred Sept. 11, 2001. Still at the White House, Peter now specializes in reporting on matters of Homeland Security.



Peter Maer will speak at the Spring Commencement ceremonies at 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.

Spring 2007 Commencement

Saturday, May 5, 2007, Vadalabene Center

9:00 a.m. College of Arts and Sciences

1:00 p.m. Schools of Education and Nursing

5:00 p.m. Schools of Business and Engineering

Look what we're up to now!

If you've been to campus lately, you'll agree that the look and feel of SIUE is changing. The number of student organizations and campus programs is growing. Participation in club sports is increasing. The Morris University Center has extended hours. Students are no longer on campus just for class. They are choosing to study on campus, meet friends for coffee, and attend events sponsored by the Campus Activities Board (formerly University Center Board).

"The environment at SIUE is so welcoming," said Carolina Beltran, a junior School of Business major from Colombia, South America. "I want to spend time on campus, even when I don't have to be here for a class."

And more students are choosing to live on campus. In fact, SIUE is now classified as a residential campus. As a result, a fourth residence hall is under construction and scheduled to open in fall 2007.

Evergreen Hall will accommodate 511 students and will bring the total of students living on campus to more than 3,500. The hall will contain mostly apartment-style units, housing upperclassmen and graduate students who want to continue to live near the campus core. Upperclassmen and graduate students will continue to live at Cougar Village Apartments, as well.



The project includes construction of a three-story student residence encompassing 190,000 square feet to be located just south of SIUE's Bluff Hall near the southwest corner of Circle Drive and Whiteside Road. Plans for the new residence hall were drawn from committee recommendations and a survey of current students who live off-campus.

Beyond on-campus living space, Evergreen Hall will feature a 4,800-square-foot multifunction room, two classrooms, a fitness facility, four student organization offices, a conference room, and a 24-hour computer lab. The building will be wireless and have Ethernet-based computer connectivity.

More details about Evergreen Hall and a construction Webcam are available online: www.siue.edu/housing—click on Evergreen Hall.



Welcome from our new director.

Greetings Fellow Alumni,

For more than 30 years, I worked telling stories to radio and television audiences. Those stories ran the gamut from the tragic to the uplifting, the controversial to the mundane. That successful career was launched thanks, in part, to my studies in the SIUE College of Arts & Sciences Department of Mass Communications.

Having returned to campus to continue my life as a storyteller, the stories I hope to relay now are your stories as SIUE alumni. They are part of the very fabric of this institution, now resting on the verge of its 50th anniversary. We have shaped the foundation and set the course for the future for a great university.

SIUE Alumni Affairs is working on improving the benefits of your membership, creating ways which will enable you to reconnect with fellow alumni and SIUE as a volunteer, mentor, event participant and contributor.

Your involvement will help shape the stories that have yet to be written, written in the lives of students who are discovering what we all know to be true. SIUE delivers the highest quality educational experience, empowering students to reach their potential, on one of the most beautiful campuses in the country.

I appreciate the stories many of you have already shared with me, and I encourage you to continue to contact me with your ideas, your questions, your concerns and your stories, as we move forward together to realize our vision: SIUE, as a premier Metropolitan University, will be recognized for the excellence of its programs and development of professional and community leaders.

I look forward to seeing you at an upcoming alumni event!

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Steve Jankowski".

Director of Alumni Affairs
sjankow@siue.edu

Steve Jankowski (left) was a reporter at KSDK Channel 5 before returning to SIUE as Director of Alumni Affairs. Steve and Larry Lexow, President of the SIUE Alumni Association Board, were classmates at SIUE in the '70s.



Networking. Connecting. Fun!

Alumni events are all about you connecting with fellow alumni for business and pleasure! We look forward to seeing you at upcoming events!

October 2006

Alumni were invited back to campus for the Homecoming games, Chili Cook-off, Car Show and Concert, Alumni Reception and Athletics Hall of Fame Ceremony.

February 2007

Alumni in St. Clair County enjoyed dinner with Steve Jankowski, the new director of Alumni Affairs, at Mariachi's in Belleville.

Alumni had a stomping good time at Crushed Grapes in Edwardsville on Feb. 9. Over 35 alumni and their guests enjoyed good food, wine and meeting with fellow alumni.



SIUE Alumni Affairs staff visited Chicago Feb. 23-25. They met with alumni in the greater Chicago area to discuss future events.

March 2007

SIUE Alumni Affairs started a new SIUE tradition called "Croppin' for Cougars" on March 23. Alumni, students and friends gathered in Birger Hall to preserve their memories in scrapbooks and share their stories with others.

April 2007

Alumni traveled to San Francisco to watch the St. Louis Cardinals take on the Giants on April 18.

SIUE Day at Busch Stadium was held April 28. More than 300 alumni and friends enjoyed food, fun and bowling at the pre-game party at the Cardinals/Bowling Hall of Fame. Then the group headed to Busch Stadium to watch the Cardinals vs. Cubs.

Upcoming Events

Sunday, July 1

Join us for the 1:00 p.m. performance of *Disney's The Lion King* at the Fox Theater in downtown St. Louis. We have secured a select number of orchestra tickets for the performance and packaged this dynamic musical performance with a private brunch at the Bistro at Grand Station. The Bistro is across the street from the Fox Theater so you only have to park once! Brunch is from 10:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m.



Tickets are \$90 for members of the Alumni Association and their guests, \$100 for nonmembers. Tickets are available online at www.siu.edu/ALUMNI or by calling 618-650-2760.

October (Date TBA)

St. Louis Ghost Tours: Dinner, transportation, wine, cheese and a haunting good time! Watch for details.





From your SIUE Alumni Association Board President

One of my goals as President of the SIUE Alumni Association Board is to increase membership by 20 percent. I am pleased to present the highlights of an online survey conducted in October 2006 to collect feedback on the inaugural issue of *eConnection*. It appears we are on our way to exceeding my expectations. Thanks to all of you.

– Larry Lexow '75 BS

Survey Highlights

- 82% of respondents were satisfied/extremely satisfied with the first issue of *eConnection*.
- 56% of respondents are members of the SIUE Alumni Association.
- **Of the 44% who were not members, 14% plan to join and 60% might join.**

*What do you think?
We want to hear from you.
Email us at alumni@siue.edu.*

Survey Comments

"The magazine was a great way to remind alumni that even though we've graduated, we're still a part of SIUE. Awesome launch issue – thanks for mailing it to everyone. I'll be joining the alumni association and I look forward to seeing future issues of your publication."

"The new publication is very catchy and unique. I plan to show it to the development officer and alumni association staff at the university where I am currently employed as an example of an innovative communication vehicle."

"I thought the newsletter was fabulous. It made me feel reconnected and 'in the loop' with the excitement going on at SIUE, and it made me very proud to have graduated from SIUE."

"Thank you for the publication. It is grand!"

Chimega Returns

A cougar will dwell on the SIUE campus once again! A nine-foot bronze cougar statue will be unveiled during Homecoming 2007. The bronze cougar is a monument to Chimega and Kyna who lived on campus between 1968 and 1987.

The statue celebrates a proud SIUE tradition and keeps the Cougar physically on campus and in our hearts. Thanks to the SIUE Student Government and the School Spirit and Pride committee for coordinating the "Bring the Cougar Home" campaign.

Commemorative bricks will be used in the pedestal and surrounding plaza of the statue. There are still a few bricks left. Order your commemorative brick online at www.siue.edu/ALUMNI. The bricks are only \$50 and can be personalized with three lines of text.



Join us! Big Red Homecoming 2007!

Homecoming 2007 is going to be so big that we've called in additional help! That's right, Clifford the Big Red Dog will be helping celebrate Homecoming this year.

Friday, October 5

Chili Cook Off

5:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
Korte Stadium

Homecoming Soccer Game vs. UMSL

5:00 p.m. Women's Game
7:30 p.m. Men's Game
Korte Stadium

Saturday, October 6

Campus Recreation 5K Poker Run

8:30 a.m.

Book Reading with Clifford the Big Red Dog

10:00 a.m., Goshen Lounge, MUC
First 50 children receive free Clifford book
Event Sponsored by the SIUE Alumni
Association

Alumni Picnic

12:00 p.m.
SIUE Campus
Free Family event

Homecoming Classic and Custom Car Show

11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Parking Lot B

"Sh-Boom" – 50s and 60s cover band

12:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Parking Lot B

Sig Ep Four-Person Golf Scramble

2:00 p.m.
Woodlands Golf Course

SIUE Club Football

1:00 p.m.
Campus Recreation Rec Plex

Athletics Hall of Fame Banquet

6:30 p.m.
Vadalabene Center Gymnasium

Sunday, October 8

Sunday Brunch

11:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
MUC Restaurant

SIUE Soccer vs. Rolla

12:00 p.m. – Women's Game
2:30 p.m. – Men's Game
Korte Stadium

Please note that Homecoming events
and times are subject to change. Visit
www.siu.edu/ALUMNI for up-to-date
scheduling information!

Summer Showbiz 2007

Thursday-Saturday 7:30 p.m.

Sunday 2:00 p.m.
Dunham Hall Theater
on the SIUE campus

Guys and Dolls

June 14-17 and 21-24

Disney's High School Musical

July 12-15 and 19-22

Performance and ticket information is
available online. Just click on Theater
& Arts within the Community section at
www.siu.edu/community.

Remember to show your SIUE Alumni
Association membership card to receive
a discount on University Theater
performances (restrictions may apply).

Department of Theater and Dance Reunion

June 21, 8:30 p.m.

Reminisce with friends at the informal
gathering at Neruda's in Edwardsville

Cash bar, Food provided

June 22, 3:00 p.m.

Join us in the Metcalf Theater for speakers
and a presentation highlighting all Theater
and Dance shows since the 1970s, followed
by a barbecue, tours and a performance of
Guys and Dolls.

R.S.V.P. to Peter Cocuzza
pcocuzz@siue.edu or 618-650-2774

Alumni working at SIUE



*61% of SIUE
alumni live within
50 miles of campus.
520 work at SIUE.*

Reggie Thomas

Music Professor and Acting Director of Black Studies

East St. Louis native Reggie Thomas is a graduate of SIUE, a grandfather four times over, and an internationally known jazz pianist. He started playing piano at age 14, participating in



what he calls one of the finest high school jazz programs in the country—Lincoln High School in East St. Louis. The desire to play and learn more took him first to Western Illinois University, where he received his undergraduate degree. Reggie earned a master's in music and music education from SIUE in 1992.

Reggie already had a history with SIUE when he came here to complete his graduate work. His father, Lamar Thomas, was the chief academic advisor in the School of Business. Reggie says initially he wasn't looking for a graduate program. He was already teaching, but would come to SIUE for concerts. "It was a vibrant program," Thomas said.

Rick Haydon and Brett Stamps helped lure him to the SIUE Department of Music where he has taught for the past 15 years. "I am thankful for the way it worked out," Reggie said. "Now I get to do something I love with people I respect."

Reggie also credits the minority recruitment and retention program with opening the door. "I still had to prove myself, but without that program, I wouldn't be here," he said. "SIUE allowed me to grow in directions I wouldn't have thought possible."

As the acting director of Black Studies, Reggie is growing in yet another direction. This role, he says, has given him the chance to apply more administrative skills. He has also helped raise the number of students minoring in Black Studies from four to 20.

What is among his greatest loves, though, is music and performing what he calls "this country's greatest contribution to the world of art." Reggie said he has great respect for the art form of jazz, which he regularly performs at Jazz at the Bistro in St. Louis. He has also performed at the Sheldon Concert Hall, the St. Louis Jazz Festival, and the St. Louis Art Fair. He is a guest artist and clinician at the Lincoln Center in New York, where twice a year he conducts academies, teaching educators how to teach jazz.

"I can't separate performing and teaching," says Reggie. "Both are like breathing. I can't imagine doing one without the other."

Francine “Frankie” Polich-Burns

Food Service Administrator III

Francine “Frankie” Polich-Burns started working at SIUE before she became a student and alumna. The road leading to the University was winding, including a six-year stint in the U.S. Navy. Frankie grew up in the Freeburg/New Athens area, attending Lincoln Trail College in Robinson where she received an associates degree in culinary arts and restaurant management in 1982.

According to Frankie, she graduated to a flat job market and decided to join the Navy, calling it “the best spur of the moment decision I’ve ever made.” At the naval base in San Diego she gained invaluable experience in the food industry and met the man who would be her first husband. When he retired from the navy, they moved back to the St. Louis area.

Frankie began her work at SIUE in 1992 in Dining Services, as manager of the University Center Restaurant. “When I started the cafeteria was all the students had,” she said. “When the first residence hall came in 1994, life began to change.”

It continued to change for Frankie when she enrolled in classes in 1997. She worked full time and attended classes full time, earning a BA in sociology with a minor in anthropology in 2001. She’s now one paper away from a master’s in sociology with an emphasis in employment relations.

Frankie believes the faculty truly provides insight to the students. “I hope other students will cherish that as much as I do,” she said.

Her management skills come into use every day. She is responsible for Starbucks and Auntie Anne’s, places where she helps her student workers bridge the gap from the classroom to the real world. Frankie also oversees training for employees, making sure to share the history of the Morris University Center, which she calls the living room of the campus.



Frankie and her husband love to travel, especially to places with great history, food, and wine. Frankie has done a lot in her 45 years. She even considered leaving SIUE at one time, but couldn’t because “the people here are incredible.”

“When you find something that makes you happy, there’s nothing better,” she said.

Jim Benhoff

Interactive Media Manager

He calls himself an information architect. For 30-year-old Jim Benhoff, that description is manifest everyday in his job as Interactive Media Manager. Jim came to SIUE in 1996 after earning an associates degree from Kaskaskia Community College. He received his BA in studio art with an emphasis in graphic design in 1999. His minor was in drawing, an activity he still loves. “I remember the long nights in the Art and Design Building,” he said. “I would bring my radio, turn it up loud, and draw.”

Jim credits Professor Otis C. Sweezey with not only helping him to better understand and apply his craft, but launching his career at SIUE. “Otis was very positive and really responded to what I did,” said Jim. He was about to graduate when Sweezey recommended him for the position of designer in Web and print design.

That became the stepping stone to his current position of Interactive Media Manager in the office of Marketing and Communications. In this position, Jim has led a campus-wide effort to redesign, restructure and oversee the University Web site, which won a national award for creativity and design in 2006. He is now working to redesign the alumni site.

Jim sees his role at SIUE as building a communication platform for the future. He is also a firm believer in the team concept, working closely with the Faculty Technology Center and the Office of Information Technology. “This cross-departmental team has really made a difference with the Web site.”

Jim not only still loves to draw, he loves to cook, especially exotic foods. That could have something to do with the fact he was born in a U.S. Army hospital in Germany to his Vietnam veteran father and his Thai mother.

Jim equates the construction of new buildings to the most dramatic change he’s seen at SIUE. “I’ve seen SIUE grow,” he said. “It’s growing and people are recognizing SIUE as a leading university in the Metro East.”



Lynda Bowers

Head Women's Soccer Coach

You might ask yourself, what is a girl from Alaska doing in a place like this? Lynda Bowers, head coach of the SIUE women's soccer team, explains it this way. Her high school sweetheart in Alaska was originally from the Edwardsville area and planned a trip back here in spring 1994. Lynda came along and took a tour of SIUE. Her response to what she saw was simply, "Yes, I could go here." The high school soccer star walked onto the SIUE women's soccer team, becoming what the coach at the time described as the easiest recruiting job he ever had.

There were some things Lynda had to adjust to quickly, such as the Mississippi River Valley humidity. But SIUE's friendly environment helped her settle in, as did the direction of Academic Advisor Nancy Parker. Lynda also credits Professor Cathy Santanello as an amazing influence in establishing her direction in biological sciences.

Lynda earned a BA in English in 1998, with a minor in biological sciences. An MSED followed in 2000. Lynda left SIUE to organize the women's soccer program at St. Louis Community College at Forest Park. In 2003, she returned to SIUE as the women's head soccer coach.

She places equal emphasis on three things. "I want to make sure the students' athletic experience is the best it can be," said Lynda. She also wants to make sure her student-athletes perform well academically, something she says is just as important as what happens on the field. Members of the women's soccer team have the highest grade point average (3.466) of any group of student-athletes. Lynda believes the students must have a good social experience. "If they leave here feeling successful in those three areas, they'll be productive citizens."



She married her high school sweetheart while they both were students at SIUE. Lynda and Doug Bowers have been married 11 years.

She describes the growth at SIUE as phenomenal. When asked about the move to Division I as part of that growth, Lynda said, "I totally support the Chancellor's vision and I'm very excited about the possibility."



SIUE Love Connection

SIUE provides a world-class education, and for some, a world-class love connection. Take the story of Susan Levy and Nalin Kulasekara.

Nalin was born in Sri Lanka. His parents moved to Nigeria when he was very young, and he was raised in England by friends of his family. Nalin's older brother had researched engineering schools and discovered that SIUE offered a tremendous electrical engineering program at an enticing price.

Nalin decided to follow his brother to SIUE, and soon found himself following a 20-year-old English major. Susan was working toward a degree in English, spending most of her time on the second floor of the Peck Building. It was in 1987, the fall of her junior year, that she began noticing a man keeping an eye on her.

Eventually, a mutual friend introduced Susan Levy to Nalin Kulasekara. When they met, Nalin admitted to Susan that the only reason he was hanging around the Peck Building was to see her.

Susan said she didn't think too much about it at the time. "He didn't make what I would call a strong first impression," she said. She was, however, attracted to his English accent, so the two began dating in November 1987. When Susan received her BA in English the next year, she decided to enroll at the University of Illinois to pursue her master's in library science, a degree she earned in 1989.

Nalin remained at SIUE working on a BS in business administration, a degree he was awarded in 1990. The couple traveled back and forth in an effort to maintain the relationship.

Susan and Nalin became engaged in 1990 and married in July 1991. Nalin continued his education, completing an MBA in 1992, and a graduate certificate in gerontology in 1994. He is now the Corporate Director of Supply Chain Management for SSM HealthCare. In September 2004, Susan left her job with the Hayner Public Library in Alton to devote full attention to their children, 10-year-old daughter, Michaela, and five-year-old son, Ryan.

Even their wedding had an SIUE connection. The couple exchanged vows in the SIUE Religious Center. During one of their first visits, Nalin noticed Sri Lanka on the Center's dome. "I came half way around the world to meet you," he told Susan.

Their love has lasted, but Nalin's English accent hasn't. "I sometimes accuse him of bait and switch," Susan said.

Do you have an SIUE Love Connection story to share? Email us at alumni@siue.edu.

Robert Dennison

1982 DMD

Doctor of Dental Medicine, SIU School of Dental Medicine

President and CEO, Delta Dental of Illinois, Lisle



“SIUE is an excellent school. I’m proud to be part of it.”

When Dr. Robert Dennison graduated from the SIU School of Dental Medicine, the School was relatively new; Robert was a member of the fifth graduating class, and it was the only dental school in downstate Illinois.

Still the only dental school in Illinois outside Cook County, and the only dental school within 250 miles of the St. Louis Metropolitan Area, the School continues to fill a critical need for oral health care in Central and Southern Illinois.

“SIUE does an excellent job of providing dentists to Southern Illinois,” said Robert. He was one of those dentists, practicing dentistry in a small town in Southern Illinois for 13 years before joining Delta Dental of Illinois. As president and CEO, he is responsible for setting the strategic direction of Delta Dental of Illinois and its subsidiaries.

“I was taught by bright, capable professors. They piqued my interest and had a strong influence on me,” said Robert. “I still hold them and the School in high regard.”

Sherry Hausmann

1987 BSN

Registered Nurse, School of Nursing

President, SSM St. Joseph Hospital of Kirkwood, Missouri

SIUE School of Nursing Alumni Advisory Board Member



“I remain grateful for the education and leadership training I received at SIUE.”

Among her responsibilities as president of the full-service acute care hospital, Sherry Hausmann is managing the development of a new, state-of-the-art medical complex in southwest St. Louis County that will replace St. Joseph Hospital in late 2008.

According to Sherry, nursing was the perfect starting point for a career in hospital administration. “Seeing through the eyes of a nurse, I’m able to understand the total patient care picture,” she said.

Sherry’s SIUE education has been instrumental in her career success. “The SIUE School of Nursing does a wonderful job of exploring the role of the nurse as a professional and a member of the healthcare team,” she said. “Students learn the totality of the healthcare setting, as well as the caring role of the nurse.”

A member of the School of Nursing Alumni Advisory Board, Sherry remains connected to the School. “The School of Nursing is dedicated to trying to help with the nursing shortage,” she said. “Enrollment is up and the School is graduating high quality nurses, which is benefiting St. Joseph Hospital and the community as a whole.”

Megan Lynch

1992 BS

Mass Communications, College of Arts and Sciences

Investigative Reporter, Newstalk 1120 KMOX, St. Louis

SIUE Mass Communications Alumni Advisory Board Member



“My job is to give everyone the opportunity to explain what’s going on and give listeners the information they need to make intelligent decisions.”

“My SIUE education really gave me a jump-start in my career,” said Megan Lynch. “Thanks to the practical, hands-on learning style, I was very prepared to start my career as a professional communicator.

“I learned so much from my professors. I still rely on some of the performance tips I learned when I am reporting.”

Megan’s investigative reporting has won awards from the Associated Press, the Missouri Broadcasters Association and the Radio-Television News Director’s Association. Her 2004 series, “Falling Down on Drunk Driving,” won numerous honors including an Excellence in Legal Journalism Award from the Missouri Bar, and a Media Excellence Award from Mothers Against Drunk Driving.

Megan, who is involved in a number of volunteer community efforts, credits the values she felt were reinforced at SIUE. “SIUE is committed to good citizenship and stresses the importance of being actively involved in the community. At KMOX, I feel those values reinforced yet again.”

Paul Galeski

1983 BS

Electrical Engineering, School of Engineering

CEO and Founder, MAVERICK Technologies, St. Louis

SIUE School of Engineering Industrial and Professional Advisory Council Member



“Work hard, be honest, do the right thing, pay attention to what you do, and realize the needs of the overall organization.”

A global leader in operational consulting and systems integration, St. Louis-based MAVERICK Technologies traces its roots to MAGNUM Technologies, which Paul Galeski founded in 1989. Today, MAVERICK is the largest independent systems integrator in North America, servicing numerous Fortune 500 clients.

“There are three qualities that are critical to achieving excellence in any endeavor—discipline, talent and passion,” said Paul. “This is how we respond to the challenges facing our clients.”

Paul is instrumental in managing all aspects of the company. He is involved in strategically investing both intellectual and financial capital, and he specializes in high-level operational consulting and the development of overall automation and integration strategies.

A licensed professional engineer, Certified Automation Professional and recipient of numerous professional awards, Paul says that his SIUE education was an important first step in his path to success. “I feel fortunate to have had the opportunity to earn a degree from an accredited engineering school that was local and affordable.”

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.

School of Business

Douglas Matthews, '92 BSA, retired from the Illinois Army National Guard in 2006. He is currently employed at the Tax Group at LarsonAllen, St. Louis.

** Mitch Meyers, '81 MBA, '78 BS, has started a new business named "Maison de Chanticleer," a home decorating store in Edwardsville that sells eclectic and unique antiques and reproductions.

College of Arts and Sciences

Karen (Ciskowski) Burkart, '82 BA Government, Edwardsville, operates Burkart Law offices in Madison County with her husband. She and her husband have four children. Meredith, the oldest, is an SIUE Presidential Scholar who will graduate next year. Karen enjoyed the beach party (Goshen Ocean) when the university center board filled the "pit" with sand to provide an indoor escape from the winter blues. *SIUE students will relive the Goshen Ocean in February 2008 as part of the 50th anniversary celebration.*

Stephanie (Hartman) Perryman, '03 BS Speech Communication, and her husband, Ryan Perryman, '04 BS Construction Management, had their first child, Grace Elizabeth, on Sept. 27, 2006, in Belleville.

** Thad Leach, '90 BS Political Science, was appointed President and CEO of Hedgewood International, LLC. He was also recently named one of the top 40 under 40 by the *St. Louis Business Journal*.

Anna Pugh-Dunham, '99 BS, '04 MA, and her husband, Tim, had a baby boy, Bailey Alexander, on July 21, 2006.

Debbie Rathert, '75 BS, is a laboratory manager at Christian Northeast Hospital, Special Procedures in St. Louis, where she has worked for 20 years. She has been married to Chuck Rathert, '74 BS Mass Comm, for 31 years. They have lived in the same house in Edwardsville since they were married. Two of their three children graduated from SIUE.

Sara (Stroud) Colvin, '98 BS, '05 MA, and Adam Colvin, '02 BS, '04 MA, were married on February 18, 2006, in Edwardsville. They currently reside in Glen Carbon.

School of Dental Medicine

**Susan Rieken, '95 DMD, '92 BS, has completed two certificate programs through the SIU School of Dental Medicine (a two-year Advanced Education in General Dentistry residency in 1998 and a one-year fellowship in Implant Dentistry in 1999). She is currently Director of Advanced Education in General Dentistry Residency Program at the School of Dental Medicine in Alton.

School of Education

Harry Briggs, '69 EDSP, was recently named Superintendent of the Granite City Schools, Granite City.

** Dr. Linda E. Hurt, '95 MA Psychology and '78 BS Business, Wood River, is an Assistant Professor of Psychology at McKendree College, Lebanon.



Anna Pugh-Dunham, '99, '04, Assistant Director, SIUE Alumni Association and her son, Bailey Alexander

School of Engineering

Cory Giles, '02 BS Mechanical Engineering, is the Lean Manufacturing Coordinator/Chef for Companion Baking Co, St. Louis.

** Melissa Glauber, '03 BS Mechanical Engineering, is a member of Armstrong Teasdale's Intellectual Property Practice Group. She focuses primarily on the preparation and prosecution of patent applications, but has also drafted responses to trademark office actions. She is a past president of the Glen Carbon Kiwanis Club.



Nathan Hart

Nathan Hart, '06 BS Construction Management, is a Project Engineer with the Concrete Group of Tarlton Corporation, St. Louis.

Jeff Johnisee, '05 MS Electrical Engineering, is an RF Engineer for US Cellular in Earth City, Miss.

John Kelly, '99 MS Electrical Engineering, is a Mission System Reliability & Maintainability Team Lead for the P-8A Poseidon Multimission Maritime Aircraft at the Patuxent River Naval Air Test Center, Md.

Ryan Perryman, '04 BS Construction Management, is a Project Engineer for S.M. Wilson & Co at the Anheuser-Busch Field Office. He and his wife Stefanie (Hartman) Perryman ('03 BS Speech Communication) had their first child, Grace Elizabeth, on Sept. 27, 2006.



Grace Elizabeth

**Dustin Riechmann, '01 BS, '05 MS, is a Project Engineer with Crawford, Bunte, Brammeier in Glen Carbon. He manages the majority of the company's traffic studies in Illinois. He also works on a wide variety of traffic studies for private development and public works projects. Projects include the Jacksonville Downtown Revitalization project, a traffic impact study for a large-scale, commercial/residential development at Route 161 and North Green Mount Road in Belleville and a corridor study of Route 130 in Urbana for a 288-acre mixed use development for the Menards Corporation. He and his wife, Bethany ('02 BS Special Education), have a two-year-old son, Braden, and are expecting a second child at the end of April.

Mark Steyer, '77 BS Civil Engineering, is Director of Engineering for Madison County Transit. He is responsible for development and maintenance of more than 80 miles of bike trails in Madison County. He is also involved with the development of the Collinsville, Wood River, and Alton transit stations. He has been married for 25 years and has two daughters.

Mark Wagner, '02 BS Electrical Engineering, is a System Protection Engineer with AmerenUE in St. Louis.

** life member of the SIUE Alumni Association

Have you changed careers, 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!



One on One with Brad Hewitt

In 2005, Chancellor Vaughn Vandegrift charged the Intercollegiate Athletics Task Force (IATF), a committee including students, faculty, staff, community leaders and alumni, to study the future of SIUE's athletics program as it relates to the strategic plan. After thoroughly reviewing the IATF report, Chancellor Vandegrift announced in January 2007 to the Board of Trustees his intention to pursue NCAA Division I status for Intercollegiate Athletics. On February 28, the Board of Trustees approved the move. SIUE Director of Athletics Brad Hewitt will be overseeing the transition to Division I Intercollegiate Athletics.



e: Brad, how does it feel to be leading this effort?

Brad Hewitt: It feels great. I've worked at SIUE for 18 years and in higher education for 26 years. From where I sit, this is one of the best investment decisions SIUE has made since it invested in residence halls. This move will dramatically enhance SIUE's image – maybe not overnight, but definitely in the long haul.

e: What does SIUE gain from going to Division I?

Brad Hewitt: One of the most positive aspects is the increased awareness. The St. Louis media market is ranked 18th in the country. St. Louis University, the only other Division I school in the area, was recently on national television with a basketball game. During the course of the game, they ran five commercials promoting the quality of education received at SLU. Now we'll be able to start generating that kind of attention, too.

e: One of the greatest concerns voiced about the transition has been the price tag. What will it cost?

Brad Hewitt: The task force estimates that an additional \$2 million a year will be needed for the increase in staff, scholarships and travel. This money will be generated through a \$150 increase in student fees spread over a three-year period. That means \$50 a year for each of three years or some similar breakdown. The increase will not begin until the 2008 school year. Private donations will also help.

e: What about travel costs?

Brad Hewitt: Travel costs could actually go down because the price of participation in some Division I conferences is less than the Great Lakes Valley Conference, which is our current conference. The move to Division I could also reduce non-conference traveling expenses. There are 16 Division I schools within a four-hour driving radius of SIUE and only five Division II schools within that same distance.

e: How well will SIUE be able to compete at the Division I level?

Brad Hewitt: Many people don't understand the different levels of Division I. There are about 100 schools in the top of Division I, like the Ohio States, etc. We're not going to be playing those schools on any regular basis. Initially, it's unrealistic to expect us to have a great record in men's basketball. But I do expect us to play hard and be competitive. We've already demonstrated we can hold our own against bigger schools in exhibition games.

e: How will this move impact recruiting?

Brad Hewitt: Being a Division I school will make it easier to recruit better student-athletes. SIUE has already been recruiting against Division I schools in several sports and has been successful.

e: How do our facilities compare to other Division I schools?

Brad Hewitt: Our outdoor facilities – track, soccer, softball and baseball – are as good as, if not better than, venues at other mid-major Division I schools. The facility for basketball is probably the farthest away from where it needs to be. We don't need more space -- it's big enough to handle attendance for the next ten years. We need additional amenities and better access for television.

e: You indicate this could enhance SIUE athletically, what kind of an impact will this have academically?

Brad Hewitt: To use Chancellor Vandegrift's words, we are already Division I academically and it is time for us to be Division I athletically. It's the academic status of SIUE that has enabled this process to move forward. Right now, SIUE has higher academic standards for its student-athletes than most of our competition. That won't change. The move to Division I, combined with our academic standards, will only improve the caliber of our student-athletes.

e: SIUE is filing a Division I application. Could the NCAA say no?

Brad Hewitt: Yes, they could, but that's not likely. In the recent past, more than 30 schools have applied for reclassification and only two were declined. We recently underwent an NCAA Compliance "Blue Print" study and received an excellent rating.

e: Some conferences require this and there are probably alumni who would welcome the addition...will there ever be a Cougar football team?

Brad Hewitt: Maybe someday. Probably not in the near future. There are alternative negotiations to consider even with a football playing conference. We need to explore those options first.

For more details on the Division I move, visit www.siue.edu/ATHLETIC.



Happy Birthday SIUE!

Celebrating 50 Years of Engagement. Enrichment. Excitement.

50th Anniversary Schedule of Events

Make plans now to join the fun!

Capsule Opening Ceremony

(open to the public)

August 23, 2007

Noon – 1:00 p.m.

Stratton Quadrangle, SIUE Campus

No one knows what was buried in the time capsule in 1967. Be there as we open and view the contents in preparation for our big anniversary year!

Founders Day Convocation

(open to the public)

September 24, 2007

10:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Vadalabene Center, SIUE Campus

The Southern Illinois University Edwardsville founders will be recognized in this convocation and luncheon that kicks off the year-long anniversary celebration. Speaker: David Werner, who joined the SIUE School of Business faculty in 1968 and served as dean of the school from 1975-1987, when he became provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs. He served as SIUE Chancellor from 1997-2004.

Birthday Cake

(open to the public)

September 24, 2007

1:30 p.m.

Goshen Lounge, Morris University Center, SIUE Campus

Happy birthday to us! We'll provide the cake and punch. You bring the friendship and memories.

Founders Day in Alton—

A Celebration of Versatility

(open to the public)

September 25, 2007

Noon – 2:00 p.m.

Science Building;
Building 279, Alton Campus

Reminisce about the early days on the Shurtleff College campus. Connect with old friends and new at the SIU School of Dental Medicine.

Founders Day in East St. Louis

(open to the public)

September 26, 2007

1:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Outside Quadrangle, East St. Louis Campus

The celebration begins with an East St. Louis Campus student and alumni parade starting at 1:30 p.m. at the East St. Louis Board of Education office at 1005 State St. A reception will follow in the Quadrangle on the East St. Louis Campus. Join the fun!

MRF Film Showing

(open to the public)

September 27, 2007

6:30 p.m.

Meridian Ballroom, Morris University Center, SIUE Campus

View the concert that started it all! Join us as we view the inaugural 1969 season and the 1975 season of the classic Mississippi River Festival. We'll be doing much more that night to celebrate the MRF, so join members of the community and SIUE Alumni for a real flashback to some of the happiest times we shared.

Community Anniversary Party

Arts & Issues Tribute to the MRF

(open to the public)

September 29, 2007

8:00 p.m. – 10:30 p.m.

Meridian Ballroom, Morris University Center, SIUE Campus

Join us with an Arts & Issues salute to the MRF concert followed by a spectacular fireworks display over the SIUE campus.

Local Alumni Art Exhibit and Reception

(open to the public)

Month of October 2007

Monday - Friday, 9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Art Gallery, Morris University Center, SIUE Campus

Come and view the work of some of SIUE's nationally-recognized alumni artists.

Coffee Concert Reunion

(open to the public)

October 1, 2007

7:30 p.m.

Morris University Center, Madison Room

Enjoy this Coffee Concert Reunion featuring Stephen Brown's "Seven Songs of Delyte" in honor of Delyte W. Morris, an SIUE distinguished founder. Brown is an emeritus professor, SIUE Department of Music.

50th Anniversary Lecture

(open to the public)

January 16, 2008

7:00 p.m.

Meridian Ballroom, Morris University Center, SIUE Campus

Speaker: Robert Zemsky, Ph.D., Professor of Education, University of Pennsylvania; founding director of the University of Pennsylvania's Institute for Research on Higher Education; chair of The Learning Alliance for Higher Education, an experiment in bringing strategic expertise to university and college presidents.

Goshen Ocean

(open to the public)

February 6, 2008

10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Goshen Lounge, Morris University Center, SIUE Campus

Relive the Goshen Ocean, a popular campus tradition. Beach- and ocean-themed activities will take place in a sand-filled Goshen Lounge!

Town Gown Gala

(by invitation only)

April 5, 2008

6:30 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

Meridian Ballroom, Morris University Center, SIUE Campus

This black-tie celebration will include dinner, live music, and dancing, topped off with a spectacular fireworks display over the SIUE campus.

Time Capsule Burial Ceremony

(open to the public)

April 16, 2008

Noon – 1:00 p.m.

Stratton Quadrangle, SIUE Campus

Be part of this historic event as we bury a time capsule that won't be opened for fifty years!

Paint the Rock

(open to the public)

April 16-17, 2008

10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Stratton Quadrangle, SIUE Campus

For over 30 years, the Rock has been a place for SIUE students to congregate for rallies, meetings, and other gatherings. Join us at Springfest, SIUE's annual spring celebration. View a pictorial history display of the Rock at Springfest, and paint your own piece of the Rock!

50th Anniversary Community Festival

(open to the public)

April 19, 2008

10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Stratton Quadrangle, SIUE Campus

Join us for an exciting day filled with activities, tours and demonstrations celebrating SIUE's broad range of resources and talent. Fun for the entire family!

Schedules are subject to change.

Visit www.siu.edu for up-to-date scheduling information!

Creative Giving

Dr. Clifford Neill spent more than a decade impacting the lives of students at the SIU School of Dental Medicine. Now a unique gift from this adjunct professor and his wife will impact the education of dental students for decades to come.

The Pension Protection Act of 2006 opened the door for Dr. Neill and his wife Virginia to donate \$100,000 via two IRA charitable transfers to the SIU School of Dental Medicine. Their gift created the Dr. Clifford G. & Mrs. Virginia L. Neill Endowment for Excellence through Faculty Development.

The transfer of IRA funds is just one way you can make a difference at SIUE. Other methods include appreciated stocks and gifts of real estate. For more information on ways to give and how you might benefit through your gift contact the SIUE Foundation.



Dr. Clifford G. and Virginia L. Neill

Heritage Society



B. Barnard Birger Hall

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

SIUE Foundation
Partners in Philanthropy
(618) 650-2345

Gift Legacy Newsletter: Be sure to order your free weekly subscription to the eNewsletter *Gift Legacy*. Visit the gift planning Web site at www.siu.edu/give and click on Gift Planning. Once there click on eNewsletter to order your copy.



SIUe Homecoming



SIUE's Homecoming has changed through the years – from a traditional parade and bonfire in the '60s to today's golf cart parade, chili cook off and much-loved recliner races. Some traditions remain the same. We still honor a homecoming court and gather for a pep rally to celebrate and show our school spirit. The bonfire shown on this page is from 1969. For the past few years, the bonfire has been cancelled due to rain and the rally has been held in the Goshen Lounge. You'll find a calendar of events for Homecoming 2007 on page 9. We hope you'll join us in October!



Relive your MRF memories!

In honor of SIUE's 50th Anniversary, the SIUE Alumni Association is offering a free copy of The Mississippi River Festival to new lifetime members of the SIUE Alumni Association.*

If you are already a lifetime member, you can purchase the book for \$10.

Annual members of the Association can purchase the book for \$15.

The Mississippi River Festival is a fascinating pictorial history of the MRF written by Dr. Stephen Kerber, associate professor and SIUE University archivist and special collections librarian for the Louisa H. Bowen Archives at Lovejoy Library, and Amanda Bahr-Evola, senior library specialist in the Archives.

*Get your copy today
and relive the tradition!*

Upgrade your membership
Online: www.siue.edu/ALUMNI
Call: 618-650-2760

The book sells at retail outlets, including the University Bookstore, for \$19.99.

*To receive the book for free you must purchase and pay in full for a lifetime single membership at \$300 or lifetime joint membership at \$350. The free book offer is not valid on lifetime installments or existing memberships. While supplies last.



You might be able to find yourself in this crowd attending one of the Mississippi River Festival concerts at SIUE. We hope you'll find yourself back on campus for the activities and events being planned to mark the 50th anniversary of our *alma mater*. The festivities begin this September and run through May 2008. If you know of any alumni who are not members of the Association but would like to know more about what's going on, have them check out our Web site, www.siue.edu/ALUMNI, for membership and event information. We look forward to seeing you on campus!

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
EDWARDSVILLE

Edwardsville, IL
62026-1031
(618) 650-2760
alumni@siue.edu
siue.edu/ALUMNI

Return Service Requested

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 68
EDWARDSVILLE, IL