

The Magazine of
Southern Illinois University Edwardsville
Alumni Association
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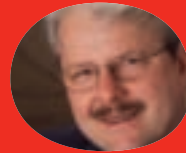
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On the Cover: Bryan King, '04 BS in management information systems, is part of the family responsible for producing 13 SIUE alumni. *See their story on page 10.*

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Dear SIUE Alumni,

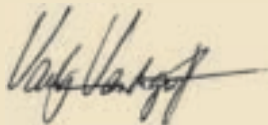
For more than 50 years, SIUE has enjoyed a cast of thousands who have worked on behalf of the citizens of Southwestern Illinois for the greater good and the benefit of future generations. This long-standing commitment to our region has brought us to the exciting news of this special commemorative year:

- For the first time, *U.S. News & World Report* placed SIUE among the top ten public master's level universities in the Midwest.
- For the third consecutive year, *U.S. News* recognized SIUE for top performance in the senior assignment program. The University was cited among only 13 elite institutions, including Harvard, MIT, Brown, Duke and Princeton, and is one of only two public institutions on the list.
- SIUE is featured among the top "150 Illinois Great Places" by the American Institute of Architects Illinois Council.
- SIUE is profiled in the December 2007 issue of *St. Louis Commerce Magazine* as one of the "2007 Greater St. Louis Top 50" award recipients. The award winners represent the best in their fields and a commitment to making the region strong economically and civically.

Even more important than awards and accolades is the living legacy SIUE has in you and your nearly 80,000 fellow alumni. Not only are your present-day achievements of considerable significance, your continued support of SIUE promises to enrich the lives of countless future students so that they may, in turn, reach their potential for excellence.

Thank you for a wonderful first half-century. We look forward to a continuation of the excitement and momentum that has characterized Southern Illinois University Edwardsville.

Go Cougars!



Vaughn Vandegrift, Ph.D.
SIUE Chancellor



SIUE Today



The SIUE **School of Nursing** was named part of a national study funded by the National Institutes of Health. Louise Flick, SIUE professor of family health/community health nursing, was awarded a \$4 million, five-year grant to participate in the National Children's Study, which is a joint project with Washington University, Saint Louis University and the SIU School of Medicine. The award is the single largest grant in SIUE's history.

Accounting graduates through the **School of Business** ranked second among Illinois state universities for CPA exam scores. SIUE, with nearly 40 percent of its test takers passing all parts of the exam, placed under Illinois State University, which boasted a nearly 41 percent passing rate, while ranking just above the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, which reported a total passing rate of just over 36 percent. The National Association of State Boards of Accountancy publishes a summary of CPA exam results annually which reflect the previous year's results.



The **School of Engineering** robotics team—*Fishtank Assassin*—took first place at an International Beyond Botball competition in Honolulu. The competition draws a diverse array of participants, including robot hobbyists, college teams and professional engineers. *Fishtank Assassin* members include Ross Mead, a senior computer science major, Jeff Croxell, electrical and computer engineering graduate student, and Jerry Weinberg, associate professor of computer science.

Josephine Barnes, director of the **Office of Research and Projects in the Graduate School**, was named as recipient of the Distinguished Service Award from the National Council of University Research Administrators in October. Barnes was recognized for "sustained and distinctive contributions to the organization." At SIUE she directs, manages and coordinates post award financial and nonfinancial activities.

SIUE is in the news!

Find out why SIUE has been featured more than 1,850 times during the first half of the '07-'08 academic year. Visit www.siu.edu/news.



In July the **School of Pharmacy** reached another milestone on its journey to accreditation status, with the affirmation of candidate accreditation status for the Doctor of Pharmacy program. The School achieved "candidate status" in 2006. The final part of the process happens when the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE) considers the School for full accreditation. That occurs when the program is found to have met all ACPE standards for accreditation and has graduated its first class in May 2009.

The **School of Education** was awarded \$194,251 to further expand the Teaching with Primary Sources Program, formerly Adventure of the American Mind. Supported by U.S. Senator Dick Durbin (D-Springfield) and funded through the Library of Congress, this project has trained and mentored over 500 educators from K-12 schools in 16 counties to date and has awarded approximately \$250,000 in technology awards to area schools and teachers for educational use.



A \$250,000 gift over the next five years from a company that offers one of implant dentistry's most comprehensive lines of implants and abutments will allow the SIU **School of Dental Medicine** to enhance its postdoctoral implant program and expand its teaching curriculum for its predoctoral students. BIOMET 3i, one of the leading companies in the oral reconstruction market, also has promised in-kind support of instruments, equipment and education worth an estimated \$250,000.

A group of SIUE students recently traveled to China to learn about the country's cultures, views and language. The trip was sponsored in part by SIUE's Study Abroad Programs and the **College of Arts and Sciences**. While spending nearly a month in China, the group of 15 undergraduate and graduate students toured historic sites, listened to lectures from Chinese professors, and became versed in political and social practices, traditions and changes in the country with the formation of the People's Republic of China.

Individuals to be Honored at Spring Commencement

SIUE will recognize one of its own and a tireless community volunteer at Spring Commencement ceremonies.

Honorary Degree Recipient



SIUE Professor Emeritus Eugene Redmond is a nationally-known poet who founded the popular multicultural literary journal *Drumvoices Revue* which has featured some of the most important literary voices of the 20th and 21st centuries. Now its founder will be recognized with an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters.

Redmond, who is an SIUE graduate, recently retired from the SIUE Department of English Language and Literature after 19 years of service. He was named poet laureate of East St. Louis in 1976. He provided a platform for hundreds of SIUE students and aspiring writers, including several from the Eugene B. Redmond Writers Club, which was founded in his name. Redmond also shared his creativity through the visual art of photography, producing thousands of images that chronicle a generation of writers, civic leaders, performers and families on the SIUE campus and from around the world.

During his career, Redmond has won numerous awards including fellowships, a lifetime achievement award from Pan-African Movement USA, an American Book Award for Excellence in Multicultural Literature, and induction into both the Illinois Senior Hall of Fame and the National Hall of Fame for Writers of African Descent.

Distinguished Service Award



Carol Wetzel is known for her significant contributions as a teacher in Collinsville and Edwardsville schools and as a dedicated community volunteer. A portion of her 15-year teaching career was spent as a Homebound Teacher, instructing children who were too ill to attend school. She has also taught special education and international students, some of whom arrived with little or no English language skills.

Carol has devoted much of her volunteerism on behalf of SIUE. She has served on the SIUE Foundation Board of Directors, the Friends of Lovejoy Library, the Friends of Music and as past president of the Friends of Art. She and her husband, Bob, have endowed SIUE Chancellor's Scholarship in support of academic excellence and have contributed to more than 30 funds throughout the University.

Carol is also dedicated to her community. She champions such causes as the Edwardsville Children's Museum, Riverbend Head Start & Family Services, the Greater Edwardsville Community Foundation and the Benjamin Stephenson House. She was the 2003 recipient of the Edwardsville-Glen Carbon Chamber of Commerce Athena Award.

Spring 2008 Commencement

Saturday, May 10, Vadalabene Center
9 a.m. College of Arts and Sciences
1 p.m. Schools of Education and Nursing
5 p.m. Schools of Business and Engineering



From Your Director.

Greetings Fellow Cougars,

James Baldwin is quoted as saying “Know from whence you came. If you know whence you came, there are absolutely no limitations to where you can go.” Activities through the month of April will mark the end of the nearly yearlong celebration of the first fifty years of our university. It was during that celebration that we took stock of from “whence we came.” Few were better able to capsize our journey than Emeritus Chancellor David Werner in his 50th Anniversary Convocation Address delivered last September 24th. I encourage all of you who did not get the opportunity to hear his speech in person to visit www.siu.edu/50/mediacenter for a video presentation, or www.siu.edu/news/mediapacket/ConvocationSpeech for a printable transcript.

In that speech, the man who had served in a variety of capacities at this university over a period of almost forty years, described SIUE as a “fount of opportunity.” In its fifty years of existence, SIUE has seen almost 80,000 students become alumni, earning more than 90,000 degrees. The value of those degrees improves with each passing year, as the university grows in stature and our alumni move forward in their careers. In fact, figures from the Office of Institutional Research show that nine years after earning their bachelor’s, sixty-seven percent of the alumni surveyed say their SIUE degree well prepared them for their job or career path.

With our first 50 years as a foundation, we believe there are no limitations to what we can accomplish in our next 50 years. We ask that each of you partner with us on that journey as we reach out to students with a student alumni association, enhance all levels and types of communication, and build a model for service to each other, our university, our community, our country, and our global neighbors. I invite you to share your views, provide some time as a volunteer and make the SIUE Alumni Association part of your life.

Steve Jankowski '74 BS
Director, Alumni Affairs

The mission of the SIUE Alumni Association is to enhance the personal and professional advancement of SIUE alumni through the establishment and nurturing of mutually beneficial relationships which support the mission of SIUE.

SIUE Mission

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville is a public comprehensive university dedicated to the communication, expansion and integration of knowledge through excellent undergraduate education as its first priority and complementary excellent graduate and professional academic programs; through the scholarly, creative and research activity of its faculty, staff and students; and through public service and cultural and arts programming in its region.

SIUE Vision

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, as a premier Metropolitan University, will be recognized nationally for the excellence of its programs and development of professional and community leaders.





From your SIUE Alumni Association Board President

Thirty-three years ago, I graduated from SIUE with my bachelor of science in mass communications. It was a time of learning and growing for me and the University. So many memorable experiences come to mind from days spent on campus at the television studio and WSIE Radio. Many who joined me in front of or behind the microphone continue to be my friends and mentors to this day.

When I walked across the stage to shake hands and receive my diploma, little did I know that, at the turn of the century, I would become a member of the SIUE Alumni Association board and would become president of the Alumni Association in 2006. This was my chance to give back for the education received at SIUE and to congratulate the efforts of today's graduates while wondering what their futures hold.

This summer, the gavel will pass to Ajay Kansal, president elect. He will be charged with continuing so many exciting projects. My thanks to all of the board members and support staff for helping achieve increased membership and expanded benefits and creating an Association for which we can all be proud. While helping to celebrate SIUE's 50th Anniversary tops my list, there are so many highlights from the past few years that it is difficult to list them all.

If you are a member of the Alumni Association, thank you for your interest and contribution of time and effort to support SIUE. To those of you who have not joined, please consider this your chance to stay involved, thank those who guided you on your path and keep the dream alive for all future generations. Thank you for the privilege of serving as your Southern Illinois University Edwardsville Alumni Association President.

With Cougar Pride,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Larry Lexow". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Larry Lexow '75 BS

Connections.



The SIUE Alumni Association is constantly looking for new ways to connect and communicate with graduates and current SIUE students. Our upcoming projects focus on the latest technology, a new student organization and opportunities to give back to the community.

cougar



tracks

alumni online community

Cougar Tracks

Log on now and join Cougar Tracks, the new online networking community. Connect with alumni, current students, faculty and staff; share messages; post photos; and search for job openings at SIUE-friendly companies.

To join the community, visit www.siu.edu/alumni and click on Cougar Tracks. Update your profile with contact information, personal achievements, job history—whatever you want to share with your fellow Cougars. Start connecting with your favorite professors and former classmates.

We want to be your friend! Don't forget to add the SIUE Alumni Association to your MySpace and FaceBook friends lists. Find us at www.myspace.com/siuealumni and by searching SIUE on www.facebook.com.

Students Today, Alumni Tomorrow

Beginning in August, the Alumni Association will introduce our new student alumni association—Students Today, Alumni Tomorrow (STAT). The organization will be registered through the Kimmel Leadership Center. Students will pay a membership fee to join and receive access to Alumni Association membership benefits. By joining STAT, students will learn what it means to be an alumna/alumnus before graduation and receive valuable networking opportunities with alumni at events. Alumni will have more opportunities to interact with current students through mentoring opportunities and social activities.

Humanitarian Projects/Volunteer Opportunities

We have received feedback that you want to do more than attend social events—you want to give back. The Alumni Association is focusing on providing an assortment of new volunteer opportunities, not only at the University, but also in local communities. For the complete list of volunteer opportunities, visit www.siu.edu/alumni. If you work with a local organization and would like to offer new volunteer opportunities, e-mail your volunteer needs to kabenne@siue.edu.

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.

August 2007

The SIUE Alumni Association participated in Freshman Welcome activities by hosting a legacy breakfast in the Vadalabene Center on Aug. 18. Parents who graduated from SIUE enjoyed a free breakfast buffet with their incoming student before participating in the full day of activities.



September 2007

The Flashback to the MRF on Sept. 27 and 28 was a huge success! Everyone had a wonderful time reconnecting with old friends, watching the MRF movies and listening to Rich Dalton and the Classics Band. Lyle Ward and Bob Heil shared their memories of the event onstage and Lyle provided a wall of memorabilia including concert posters and photographs.



October 2007

The Alumni Association welcomed alumni back to campus for Homecoming 2007 on Oct. 6. The day started with a free book reading with Clifford the Big Red Dog in the Goshen Lounge. The Alumni, Friends & Family Picnic followed outside of the Morris University Center. Attendees enjoyed great food, giveaways, inflatable games, the Classic Car Show and a live concert from Sh-Boom.



The SIUE Alumni Association presented Ghost Tour on Oct. 24. Attendees boarded a bus at Birger Hall for a ride through St. Louis' haunted pass. We enjoyed a delicious buffet dinner at the Feasting Fox Restaurant, a historical tour of several St. Louis destinations and a moonlight stroll through an old cemetery.



Keep checking www.siu.edu/alumni for the complete schedule of our upcoming events, activities and opportunities to reconnect with fellow alumni and SIUE!

November 2007

The Alumni Association hosted a Baltimore/D.C. area alumni dinner on Nov. 27 at the Philips Harborside Restaurant in Baltimore. Attendees enjoyed a seafood dinner buffet, drinks and dessert as well as the chance to reconnect with some of the 700 alumni living in the area.



January 2008

SIUE alumni attended the final performance of *Wicked* at the Fabulous Fox Theater in St. Louis on Jan. 6. Sixty guests started the day with the Alumni Association for a brunch buffet at Jazz at the Bistro before heading over for the matinee performance of Broadway's biggest blockbuster.



Upcoming Events

2008 Outdoor Recreation Trips

From weekend biking or caving to backpacking to the bottom of the Grand Canyon, the SIUE outdoor recreation program offers the University community a variety of exciting opportunities to experience the great outdoors. To find out how you can take part in any of these exciting trips, visit campus recreation at www.siu.edu/crec/outdoors.



Summer Showbiz 2008

Thursday-Saturday 7:30 p.m.
Sunday 2 p.m.
Dunham Hall Theater
on the SIUE campus

Tomfoolery June 5-8 and 12-15
The Boyfriend June 19-22 and 26-29
Honk! July 17-20 and 24-27

Performance and ticket information is available online 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).

Alumni Travel Program

The SIUE Alumni Association partners with Collette Vacations to offer discount travel opportunities for Alumni Association members. Take advantage of our upcoming adventures by visiting www.siu.edu/alumni/collettevacations.

Featured Trip: New Orleans Getaway
November 3-7, 2008

Deposit Deadline - July 3, 2008

Rates: Double \$999 per person; Single \$1,299 per person; Triple \$979 per person
Enjoy the ultimate getaway to New Orleans, the "Jazz Capital of the World!" Highlights include the French Quarter, Court of Two Sisters, Steamboat Natchez and mask making.



SIUE

Family Legacies

All in the Family

The Stahlschmidt Family Legacy

The ten Stahlschmidt children grew up on the family farm in West Alton, Mo. When they moved to Madison County, Ill. in the early 60's, their parents' philosophy and the construction of a new university intersected.



Stahlschmidt Family Reunion 2007: *Front Row (Left to Right):* Pat Stahlschmidt, Nancy Stahlschmidt Tsupros, Grace Stahlschmidt, Helen Stahlschmidt King
Second Row (Left to Right): Agnes Stahlschmidt, Judy Stahlschmidt Klein, Mary “Marge” Stahlschmidt Ford, Janet Stahlschmidt Hohenstein
Last Row: Kenny Stahlschmidt *Not Pictured:* Alice Stahlschmidt Delahanty

Their mother had always stressed the value of a college education, but as Agnes Stahlschmidt Delahanty put it, “It wasn’t until SIUE was built on our doorstep that higher education became a real possibility for us.” She enrolled at SIUE, receiving her bachelor of science in nursing in 1969. Alice now lives and works in Cary, N.C.

“SIUE opened up the world to me,” Alice said. Seven of her sisters echo that sentiment.

Mary “Marge” Stahlschmidt Ford was the first of the Stahlschmidt girls to graduate from SIUE, earning her bachelor of arts in 1966. She went on to earn a master’s at Texas A&M and her Ph.D. from SIU Carbondale in 1997. She works with a contract research organization in Cincinnati.

Janet Stahlschmidt Hohenstein received her bachelor of science in elementary education in 1967, and her master’s in early childhood education twenty years later. Janet has retired from her teaching position with the Roxana School District and makes her home in Moro.

“Because of SIUE, I became a more educated and well-rounded individual,” said Helen Stahlschmidt King, who received her bachelor’s in nursing in 1970. She believes her experience at SIUE made her a better parent. “I was able to make my children’s world bigger because my own world had been expanded.”

Alumni Profiles

Helen's son, Bryan, spent seven years in the Air Force before coming to SIUE, earning his degree in management information services in 2004. Bryan, an IT systems analyst at Scott Air Force Base and father of two, is now working on his MBA at SIUE. Helen's daughter, Patty, earned a bachelor of science in special education from SIUE in 2002. Patty took that "bigger world" concept to heart, moving to England after graduation, where she taught and met her husband. Patty and her husband now live in Hawaii, where she teaches special education classes.

Agnes Stahlschmidt earned her bachelor's in elementary education in 1972. Agnes went on to receive a master's in library science and a Ph.D. in education from the University of Illinois. She fulfilled her mother's wish to expand her horizons by traveling to more than 20 countries. In 2005, Agnes retired after 33 years as an educator. She now lives in Tucson where she serves as a volunteer naturalist at a nearby national park.

"SIUE opened doors for us that we would have never dreamed were available," said Patricia Stahlschmidt, who graduated in 1973 with a bachelor's in English and American studies. She stayed at SIUE for her master's in city and regional planning, which she earned in 1976. Patricia earned another master's in national resource strategy at the National Defense University-Industrial College of Armed Forces. She now works as the director of strategic planning for FEMA. She and her husband live in Arlington, Va. "As we near retirement, SIUE may well be the magnet that draws us back to family and friends in Edwardsville," she said.

Parental support and being named an Illinois State Scholar brought Nancy Stahlschmidt Tsupros to SIUE, where she earned a degree in biology in 1975. "We were always aware that a college education could forever change our lives," she said. SIUE started the process which led her to a master's in medical technology from Sangamon State in 1977, and a master's in teaching from California University. She is currently the director of the Center for STEM Education in Pennsylvania.

"If books were a window into other worlds and experiences, SIUE was the doorway," said Grace, the youngest of the Stahlschmidt girls, who was in grade school when the campus opened.

"The newness of the campus had an impact on me," she said. "It seemed like it sprang up overnight where fields used to be and began producing a new crop of students every year." Grace was in the crop that graduated in 1976, earning a bachelor's in physical geography. She specialized in expanding digital communications services from urban to rural areas of several western states including Colorado, where she now resides. She recently retired as a public policy director for U.S. West.

Although Kenneth, the oldest and the only male sibling, did not attend college, his two children followed the family tradition and earned a college degree at SIUE. Annette Stahlschmidt Hartlieb graduated from SIUE in 1997 with a bachelor's in elementary education, and Beth Stahlschmidt Potthast graduated from SIUE in 2002 with a bachelor's in actuary science.

Judy Stahlschmidt Klein, the third oldest, did not attend SIUE, but the oldest of her five children did. Kathy Klein Kunz graduated from SIUE in 1987 with a bachelor's in marketing and speech communication.

The Stahlschmidt sisters stress that SIUE has truly shaped the lives of their family. They say the University's location, its affordability and excellent reputation have greatly impacted what they have been able to do. The sisters add that they are proud of the way SIUE has grown, and are amazed at the diversity it offers.

They are quick to point out however, that the work ethic and expectations instilled by their parents were also instrumental in ensuring their success. "My education has been a lifesaver," Nancy Stahlschmidt Tsupros said. "While I think it's difficult to get a college degree with limited finances, the most difficult obstacle would be to come from a family that doesn't value education."

"SIUE opened doors for us that we would have never dreamed were available."

A Commitment Written in Stone

The Jatcko Family Legacy

Legacies can be described in a variety of ways. For the Jatcko Family, the relationship with SIUE is etched in stone. Three of the four Jatcko children graduated from the university they literally watched grow up in their backyard. The fourth has made a lasting impression on the University.

Kathy was the first to graduate, earning a bachelor's in business administration in 1977. She now makes her home in Waterloo.

John Jatcko, III, worked at the campus radio station as a student. Following his graduation in 1979, he got a job doing the morning show at WSMI in Litchfield. Today, he's a partner with Edward Jones. Still involved with the University, John is in his second term as president of the Friends of Music. He invites fellow alumni to reconnect with SIUE. "It's an incredible place," he said.

John's son Nathan will graduate from SIUE in May 2008. The talented pianist performs routinely thanks to his own abilities and what his father calls the good reputation of the music faculty.

Jim came to SIUE to study business administration and graduated in 1984. Jim and his family live in Connecticut, and he is the director of marketing for Opal Financial Group in Manhattan.

When Chimega, SIUE's beloved cougar mascot died in 1985, John Jatcko, Jr., donated the head stone for Chimega's grave. He ran a monument company at the time and had previously conducted business with the University. Mt. Olive Monument Company made the benches that grace the walking path through a portion of The Gardens at SIUE, one of them bearing the Jatcko name.

According to John, the headstone was cut out of red granite from the Canadian Rockies because that is the only place where cougars still live free." He still comes to SIUE on a regular basis. The 80-year-old is a regular participant in the Dialogue with Senior Citizens Program offered through SIUE's Office of Educational Outreach.



Chimega's Grave. This red granite marker, donated by John Jatcko Jr., marks the final resting place of Cougar mascot Chimega. Chimega's gravesite is located along the small lake near Founders Hall.



Seated: Mr. Charles Collins

First Row (Left to Right): Mrs. Burnett Butler, Mrs. Pamela Muhammad, Mr. Ralph Muhammad, Mrs. Delores Covington, Mrs. Laura Jones, Mrs. Edna Farmer

Last Row: Dr. Gregory Collins, Mrs. Jo Ann Collins, Mr. Wendell Covington, Mr. Vernon Collins.

Making Dreams Come True

The Collins Family Legacy

Charles and the late Susie Collins raised seven children, instilling in them a life of excellence, integrity, good work, moral ethics and the placing of God first. They also served as role models, inspiring their children through a life of example. Although they never attended college themselves, the couple from Centerville encouraged their children to achieve their dreams. That included taking advantage of the nearby university known as Southern Illinois University Edwardsville.

Edna Collins Farmer was the first college graduate on both sides of her family, beginning at SIUE when it was housed in the old East St. Louis Senior High School building. When she made the switch to the Edwardsville campus in 1965, only the Peck Building and the Lovejoy Library were open.

Edna graduated in 1966 with a bachelor of arts in English. She would soon realize the dream she'd had since first grade, teaching English at Lincoln High School in East St. Louis. Edna spent the next 35 years teaching in the District, earning a master's at SIUE in the process. She has been an adjunct professor of English at Southwestern Illinois College since 2001. She is a lifetime member of the SIUE Alumni Association and has served as a member of the board of directors.

Delores Collins Covington also wanted to be a teacher and chose to attend SIUE. Delores completed her bachelor of science in elementary education in three years, graduating in 1971. She retired from teaching in 2003 after spending 33 years serving the Cahokia School District and Belleville School District 118. Delores' daughter Michelle Covington Williams graduated from the SIU School of Dental Medicine in 1987, and now practices in Dallas.

SIUE was also the path chosen by Laura Collins Jones, who earned her bachelor of science in psychology and education in 1969. Laura completed work on her master's in school psychology at SIUE in 1976. She spent six years as an elementary school teacher and 31 years as a school psychologist for the East St. Louis School District before retiring in 2006. Her late husband, William Jones graduated from SIUE with a bachelor's in elementary education in 1970 and master's in 1975.

Burnett Collins Butler followed her sisters to SIUE and also followed their career path in education, graduating with a bachelor of science in special education in 1970. Three years later she received her master's in education administration. Burnett served the Cahokia Unit School District for 33 years, working in special education and lastly as an elementary school principal before retiring in 2003.

The Collins brothers also opted for an education at SIUE, with Ralph Collins Muhammed completing his work for a bachelor of science in geography and urban planning in 1976. He received

his master's in public administration and policy analysis in 1988. Ralph worked for a variety of government agencies in St. Clair County, Ill., as well as such businesses as TWA, Transtate Airlines and GOJET Airlines. Ralph, who changed his last name to Muhammed after graduation, lives in Belleville.

Dr. Gregory Collins really wanted to attend the University of Illinois. When his scholarship only covered tuition, his parents told him they couldn't afford it, so SIUE became second choice. Greg calls that "the best decision I could have made." He graduated in 1975 with a bachelor of arts in biological sciences. He credits Professor Art Zahalsky with guiding him and other minority students through the science program.

A master's in molecular biology from Atlanta University and an M.D. from the SIU Carbondale School of Medicine followed. Greg is now on the staff at Anderson Hospital in Maryville and serves as a clinical instructor for SIUE School of Nursing nurse anesthesia students. His wife, Jo Ann, is active with the SIUE Friends of Music.

When Vernon Collins considered his future, he was faced with a choice of serving in the military or attending college. The fighting in Vietnam was winding down, but the draft was still in place, and with SIUE now a tradition in the family, the youngest of the Collins children enrolled at what he considered the best university in the area.

Vernon credits the faculty of the School of Engineering with providing him the direction and inspiration to complete the program. "I'll never forget Professor Leonard Jones who gave me the insight in becoming a successful computer programmer," he said. Vernon graduated in 1984 with a BSE in electrical engineering. He currently works as a consultant with a land development company.

The importance placed on education by Charles and the late Susie Collins stayed with the family. All of the children of the seven Collins siblings graduated from college, following the lead established by the hard-working couple from Centerville who encouraged their children to achieve their dreams.

"SIUE...the best decision I could have made."

There are doctors in the house!

Dental School Legacies

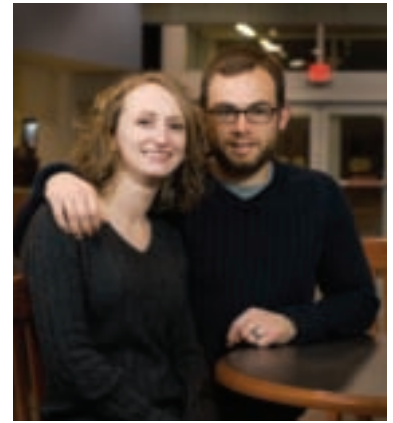
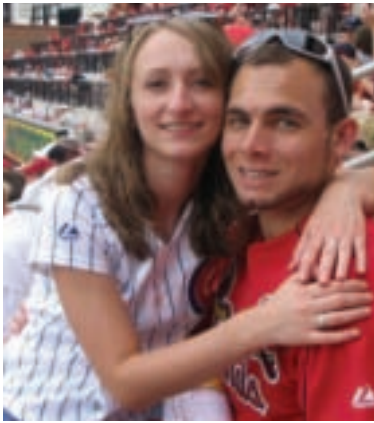
The SIU School of Dental Medicine in Alton has a strong history of producing legacies. The Markarian family sent three brothers through the program. John was awarded his DMD in 1977. He maintains his practice in Belleville and serves as a clinical assistant professor at the School. John and his wife Debra, a 1998 SIUE graduate, live in Belleville. Ronald received his DMD in 1986, now lives in O'Fallon and maintains his practice in Swansea. Randall graduated from the School in 1992 and lives in University City, Mo.



Dr. James Davis celebrates with his son Ryan Davis at the May 2007 commencement.

The Littlefield family could fall into the “Love Connection” category. Dr. Kim Littlefield graduated from the School in 1976, and his wife Cynthia is a 1984 graduate. They make their home in Belleville. Kim’s practice is in Swansea and Cynthia’s practice is in St. Louis. Their daughter Amanda received her DMD in 2006. She married 2003 School of Dental Medicine graduate Mark Kucharczyk and they live in Belleville. Amanda’s practice is in O’Fallon, while Mark practices dental medicine in Arnold, Mo.

Two fathers, who happen to be trailblazers for the School, watched their children follow in their footsteps. Dr. Brent Wohlford was in the SIU School of Dental Medicine’s first graduating class in 1975. His daughter Christine will graduate in June 2008. Dr. James Davis was also in that first graduating class. His son Ryan graduated in May 2007 and is in his first year of residency at St. Louis University.



SIUE Love Connection

For many students, playing a role in student government is an opportunity to get involved, gain valuable experience and give back to the University. For Cindy and Justin Allen, it was also a chance at love.

Throughout most of their college career, Cindy Holesko and Justin Allen worked around each other. During her junior year, Cindy worked as the student accountant in the Morris University Center business office and Justin worked as a student supervisor in the building. Even though they were both seeing other people at the time, they stayed in contact through mutual friends.

They both ran for student government positions during the 2004-05 school year. Cindy ran for vice president and Justin ran for senator on the same "ticket." They were both elected and served on many committees together throughout their terms. While Cindy was involved in student government, she participated in many exciting projects including obtaining funding for the new cougar statue and updating the signage on campus.

At the end of that year, Cindy ran for student body president and Justin received a graduate assistantship with university housing. Over the summer, they served on the planning committee for Evergreen Hall, SIUE's newest residence hall.

Cindy was asked to give a speech at a student affairs breakfast early in the 2005 fall semester. She chatted with Justin afterward and admitted that things were a little rough because she had just broken off her long-term relationship.

Visit the new "SIUE Love Connection" section on our Web site to read about other Cougar couples and share your own story!

Later that day, Justin e-mailed Cindy asking her to write an article as student body president for the welcome back edition of the Prairie Hall newsletter. When Cindy sent Justin her article, he replied asking if they could go to dinner sometime. One of the last sentences in the e-mail read, "Whenever you feel like getting a boyfriend again or having some guy buy you dinner, give me a call."

The e-mail worked. On October 8, 2005, Cindy and Justin went on their first date to Cicero's in the St. Louis loop district. They returned to Cicero's on October 8, 2006, and Justin proposed later that evening in Forest Park. They were married on July 28, 2007, nine days after moving into Evergreen Hall.

Cindy received her BSA in accountancy in December 2004 and her MBA in 2006. She is working as an accountant for Maritz in Fenton, Mo. Justin received his BS in philosophy and psychology in 2005 and his MSED in 2007. He is the hall director at Evergreen Hall.

Class Notes

The Class Notes listed are those of SIUE Alumni Association members. A full listing of Class Notes received from all alumni can be found at www.siu.edu/alumni.

School of Business

Jill Branch, '04 MSA, is a CPA and works at JW Boyle.

Harry Briggs, Jr., '69 BS, '76 MSED, '85 EDSP, is the new superintendent of the Granite City, Ill. schools.

Charles Daily, '73 BS, is president of First Community Bank in Fairview Heights.

Ann Schnelt Ficken, '88 BSA, is the director of internal audit for Edward Jones in St. Louis. She was recently elected to the board of FOCUS St. Louis and serves as an advisory board member to the SIUE School of Business.

Mary Frey, '01 MBA, is the chief nursing officer and vice-president of patient care at SSM St. Joseph Health Center in St. Charles, Mo.

Joseph Gray, '85 MBA, is the new vice-president of administration at Cumberland University in Lebanon, Tenn.

Thomas Harrington, '77 BS, '84 MBA, is a partner with the accounting firm of Kerber F. & Braeckel, LLP in Belleville.

Nathan Hart, '06 BS, is the project engineer with the Concrete Group for Tarlton in St. Louis.

Jane Whorton Louer, '85 MBA, is president and CEO of Louer Facility Planning, Inc. in Edwardsville.

Nancy Dain Thorsen '68 BS in marketing, '75 MS in business education, was named "Member of the Year" by the Women's Council of Realtors for the State of Idaho.

College of Arts and Sciences

Rachel Doyle, '03 BA in mass communications, was promoted to events manager and Web master at KMOX Radio. She lives with her husband Kevin, '01 BA in mass communications, in Highland.

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 the advanced education in general dentistry residency program at the SIU School of Dental Medicine in Alton.

School of Education

Maureen "Mo" Somers, '06 BA in special education, is a special education teacher at Edwardsville High School.

Tessa Somers-Werve, '02 BA in special education, received her master's from Olivet Nazarene University as a reading specialist. She teaches seventh and eighth grade special education in New Lenox.

Kelly Witz, '05 BS in elementary education, is teaching English in Gwangju-si, Gyeonggi-do, South Korea.

School of Nursing

Karen Kelly, BS in Nursing '72, MS in Nursing '77, and PhD in Education '83, has been a faculty member in the School of Nursing since 2002. Karen, who was previously known as Karen Kelly Schutzenhofer, returned to teaching after 14 years in administration and consulting.

Kaci Shashack, '06 BS in Nursing, is employed as an RN in the OB Department at Anderson Hospital in Maryville, Illinois.

Faculty Notes

School of Business

Thomas Douglas and George Watson, Jr., department of management and marketing, presented “Patterned Moral Behavior” at the International Association for Business and Society’s annual meeting last summer in Florence, Italy.

Rick Hafer, department of economics and finance, was promoted to Distinguished Research Professor of Economics and Finance.

Jack Kaikati, retired from the department of management and marketing, has returned to teaching at SIUE as professor emeritus.

Gil Rutman, retired, has been appointed to the Illinois Board of Higher Education. To remember his father and leave a lasting legacy at SIUE, Rutman created the Abraham E. Rutman Forum Fund with the School of Business.

Yuk-Chow “Jacky” So, former chair of the department of economics and finance, is the dean of the Texas A&M International University’s College of Business Administration.

David Werner, Chancellor Emeritus, has been named Interim Provost and Vice-President of Academic Affairs at Indiana University of Pennsylvania.

Laura Wolff, department of economics and finance, has been named to the NASBITE International Board of Governors.

Susan Yager, department of CMIS, has been awarded the Boeing Welliver Faculty Fellowship for the summer of 2007.

College of Arts & Sciences

Ralph Donald, former chair of the department of mass communications, has published the second edition of his textbook, *Fundamentals of Television Production*. Mass communications professor, Riley Maynard, collaborated.

Alice Farley, department of English language and literature, retired with emeritus status after more than 12 years of service.

Lana Hagan, department of theater education, was inducted into the Educational Theater Association Hall of Fame in September 2007 in New York City.

Shirley Portwood, department of historical studies, retired with emeritus status in 2007 after 26 years of service.

Eugene Redmond, department of English language and literature, retired with emeritus status in 2007 after 19 years of service.

Isaiah Smithson, department of English language and literature, retired with emeritus status in 2007 after 23 years of service.

Margaret “Peg” Simons, department of philosophy, received the 2007 William and Margaret Going Professorship.

Brett Stamps, director of jazz activities, has released a new CD entitled “In Your Own Sweet Way.” It was recorded at SIUE and features fellow alumni and faculty members Rick Haydon, Zeb Briskovich and Miles Vandiver.

Gustave “Gus” Wills, broadcast engineer for the department of mass communications, retired in 2007 after 22 years of service.

Robert Wolf, department of philosophy, retired with emeritus status after 37 years of service.

School of Education

Victoria G. Scott began her new position as director of assessment for SIUE in 2007. Scott moved from the department of special education and communication disorders where she served as a professor and program director.

School of Engineering

Brad Cross, department of civil engineering, received the 2006-07 SIUE Paul Simon Outstanding Scholar Award.

Christopher Gordon, department of construction, was awarded the Celebration of Engineering and Technology Innovation Outstanding Mind Award for Fully Integrated and Automated TECHNOlogy.

Steve Klein, department of computer science, received the 2006-07 Teaching Distinction Award.

Albert C.J. Luo, department of mechanical and industrial engineering, was elected as Fellow for 2007 by the Technical Committee of Vibration and Sound at ASME.

Dr. Majid Molki, department of mechanical engineering, received the Omar Khayyan Award for Scientia Iranica, the International Journal of Science and Technology.

Brad Noble, associate dean for the school of engineering, won an Emerson Excellence in Teaching.

Dianne Kay Slattery, department of construction, was elected to a four-year term on the board of trustees of the American Council for Construction Education.

Jacob Van Roekel has stepped down after serving eight years as associate dean for the School of Engineering. He resumed his duties as professor in industrial and manufacturing engineering and plans to retire in May 2008.

Jerry Weinburg and William Yu, department of computer science, received a \$150,000 grant from the National Science Foundation to create a brain pack for walking robots.

School of Nursing

Frank Lyerla, department of primary care/health system, received a \$10,000 competitive Nursing Educator Fellowship Award from the Illinois Board of Higher Education.

School of Pharmacy

Jessica Kerr, department of pharmacy practice, received the 2007 Distinguished Young Pharmacist Award during the Illinois Pharmacists Association awards conference.

Leaving the Living Room

A personal conversation with MUC Director Mary Robinson

Mary Robinson has run the “living room” of the University since 1995. She will retire in June of this year. Mary operated the Morris University Center (MUC) under a very simple philosophy: “Students first.” Thousands of those students have now made the transition to alumni status, so it is an honor to recognize Mary Robinson as she prepares to leave SIUE.



As director of the MUC, Robinson was instrumental in planning the upcoming expansion of the University Bookstore and the development of the Student Success Center, an addition to the Morris University Center which will bring critical student support services to a convenient, central location.

e: Mary, what brought you to SIUE?

Mary: I was working as the director of the St. Louis University student center and was looking for a new challenge. A colleague told me about a position open at SIUE. I inquired, made the cut, came for a two-day interview and the rest is history.

e: Were you familiar with SIUE before you applied for the job?

Mary: I was born and raised in Alton, but I hadn't kept up too much with SIUE. When I first came to campus, I was consumed by its beauty. It had a wonderful feel and I thought, "Yes, I think this is the place."

e: Once you got here, what was your initial impression of the MUC?

Mary: When I first walked into the Center, I was very concerned. I wondered why the building was so quiet. I didn't see any signs of student life—students talking, studying, sleeping and doing what students do. Bringing the MUC to life was my first challenge.

e: Was it a big challenge?

Mary: (laughter) Lucky for me, my boss, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Narbeth Emmanuel, came on board about six months after I did. After a few meetings, he decided that we needed to change student life on campus and provide residential students with more things to do. He encouraged me to initiate a campaign and get student approval to update and enhance the MUC. And we did that. It was a job for all of student affairs. The directors joined with Nobby and me to go out and sell the

ideas of what our university center could be. A referendum passed in 2000 with overwhelming support and funding was committed to the project. The outcome is an attractive, comfortable place for students to relax and socialize.

e: What do you think now when you step out of your office in the MUC?

Mary: I just love it. I love every minute of it. I've always enjoyed being around students. It helps me stay young and hopefully in tune with what's going on in the world. When I walk out of my office and recognize students that I can smile at, wave to or talk with, it's just the answer to a dream.

e: What do you look back on as your greatest accomplishment?

Mary: Other than my children, I've always enjoyed working with young people. I decided early on that was what I wanted to do. I went from a career in social work to what I'm doing now. The last 13 years, I must say, I've enjoyed most of all.

e: As you leave SIUE, what will be Mary Robinson's legacy?

Mary: The MUC has become a home away from home for our students. Every time I walk through the wide welcoming hallways and see students talking and enjoying themselves, I'm just elated.

e: Will you come back to visit?

Mary: Yes, when I need my student fix, I'll be back.

e: What did you learn during your 13 years at SIUE?

Mary: If you believe enough and work hard enough, you can fulfill a dream. And there are people out there who are willing to help you and support you in your dream.



Two long-time coaches retire



SIUE Men's Soccer Head Coach Ed Huneke, the second coach in the program's history, retired at the end of the 2007 season. Coach Huneke ended his final season with a career record of 251-155-34 (.609 winning percentage), keeping alive the mystique of Cougar soccer built by his predecessor Bob Guelker.

"I've been blessed to have a job that has generated many great memories and relationships," said Huneke.

Huneke's accomplishments are many:

- The Cougars advanced to the NCAA Tournament six times under Huneke.
- SIUE has advanced to the NCAA Division II Great Lakes Regional Championship game in each of the last three seasons. The Cougars were national semifinalists in 2005 and national finalists in 2004.
- Huneke posted 15 seasons of 10 or more victories, including the last eight in a row.
- A total of 11 All-Americans, including a school record of three in the 2003 season, were named under Huneke's watch.
- SIUE has won four Great Lakes Valley Conference championships under Huneke. The first was in 1997, and the latest came in the 2006 season.

Kevin Kalish, SIUE men's soccer assistant coach for eight seasons, was promoted to head coach following Huneke's retirement.

SIUE Women's Basketball Head Coach Wendy Hedberg retired at the end of the 2007-2008 season, after 29 seasons. Coach Hedberg's career at SIUE began in the 1979-1980 season when the Cougars still played at the old Edwardsville High School. Her team moved to the Vadalabene Center during the 1984-1985 season. Her record at the Vadalabene Center is 216-78; her overall record is 436-339.

"It has been my pleasure to serve as the women's basketball coach from the days where we had only a few players and few resources to today where the program has grown to a solid framework," said Hedberg.

Hedberg's accomplishments include:

- Hedberg posted five, 20-win seasons and coached five All-Americans.
- Seventeen of her players scored 1,000 or more points in their respective careers.
- Since joining the Great Lakes Valley Conference in 1994, Hedberg's teams have compiled a record of 131-88. Her teams qualified for the GLVC Tournament in 11 out of the last 12 seasons.
- Five of Hedberg's teams advanced to the NCAA Tournament (1994, 1998, 1999, 2001, 2007).

A national search is being conducted to find Hedberg's successor. The new head coach will be only the fourth in the program's history. Ina Anderson served as the first head coach from 1974 to 1976. Lori Stark followed from 1976 to 1979.

SIUE Athletics Announces 2007 Hall of Fame Class

The SIUE Athletics Hall of Fame honors top student-athletes, teams, coaches, administrators and friends of the program who have contributed significantly to SIUE Athletics. The Hall of Fame class is inducted at an annual on-campus ceremony held during Homecoming Week.

2007 Hall of Fame Class

Mike Allaria – Baseball
Tony Duenas – Baseball
Lilian Almeida – Women’s Tennis
Tom Howe – Men’s Soccer
Keith McFarland – Men’s Basketball
John Stremlau – Men’s Soccer
Tom Twellman – Men’s Soccer
Larry Kristoff – Wrestling
Al Barnes – Sports Information Director
Fernando Aguirre – Baseball
1976 Baseball
1980 Men’s Tennis
1987 Women’s Tennis
1985 Wrestling

Jean McDonald Distinguished Service Award

Jack Whitted – Track and Field Coach/Faculty Member

The Jean McDonald Distinguished Service Award honors individuals who have served SIUE Athletics with commitment and class – much like its namesake, former long-time employee Jean McDonald.

Division I Update

In January 2007, Chancellor Vaughn Vandegrift announced that SIUE would pursue NCAA Division I status for Intercollegiate Athletics.

“2007-2008 is an exploratory year for us as we start the transition to NCAA Division I,” said Vandegrift. “It’s a long process—one that will take us until 2012 before we are fully competing with all sports in DI championships.”

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

SIUE Renews its Love Affair with the Cougar Mascot



Just in time for its 50th Anniversary, SIUE created a new University Cougar logo which represents a sharper, edgier cougar image reflective of highly competitive sports teams.

“SIUE is at a point in its history when we are excelling at all levels,” said Barbara O’Malley, executive director of SIUE Marketing and Communications. “We’re moving up in *U.S. News & World Report* rankings, our Senior Assignment program is recognized nationally and we were just ranked No. 1 in nine out of 10 categories when compared with our competition. Now, with the transition to NCAA Division I Athletics, it seemed like a fitting time to update the Cougar.”

“There are close to 30 university cougar mascots in the country,” said Jim Harper, a 1993 graduate of SIUE and director of marketing at 4 Alarm Studio in St. Louis, creators of the new look. “We wanted this cougar to be distinctive and capture the competitive spirit of SIUE.”

The St. Louis-based studio, made up mostly of SIUE alumni, worked with the campus community on the logo project last spring. Focus groups were conducted with faculty, staff and students to determine the new Cougar approach. The new Cougar logo will not take the place of the SIUE wordmark or the marketing wordmark—SIUe—but will be used primarily to support the athletics teams.



The Alestle

During the 50th anniversary celebrations, SIUE has relived some of its most memorable moments – the Mississippi River Festival, political protests during the civil rights movement, Chimega and Kyna, campus streakers and national championships. Through it all, the student newspaper has been there, telling the stories through students' eyes.

The *Alestle* – an acronym for the University's three campuses in Alton, East St. Louis and Edwardsville, has been reporting campus news since the beginning of SIUE. Originally named the Alton Residence Center News, the first edition was published on Oct. 11, 1957. On Nov. 1 of that year, the name of the paper was shortened to ARC. When the Edwardsville core campus opened its doors, the paper changed to its current name, the *Alestle*, and an SIUE tradition was born.

What started as a mimeograph newsletter changed to a daily newspaper in the 1970s. The *Alestle* began its current twice-weekly publications after budget cuts were threatened by student government during the 1978-79 school year. Today's paper is produced by a staff of more than 30 students and has

been recognized in state and national competitions. Constant news updates can now be found online at www.alestlelive.com.

The *Alestle* is fondly remembered not only by former loyal readers but even more by former employees. As Lance Speere, the current publications director, said, "Students who have had the chance to work at a student newspaper tend to have rich memories of their time working. Students forge amazing friendships that they take with them for the rest of their lives."

The *Alestle* has influenced the career paths of former student employees who pursued jobs in the newspaper business after graduation. Bill Platschke, sports editor in 1978-80, works as a sports columnist for the L.A. Times and a panelist on ESPN's "Around the Horn." Alice Noble-Allgire, editor in 1977-78, worked for the Seattle Post-Intelligencer before joining the law faculty full-time at SIUC.

Speere encourages alumni to share, remember and stay in touch with SIUE through the *Alestle*. "Even though you might not have access to the print version anymore, the Web site has everything you need," he said. From the Back to School Survival Guide to the Graduation edition, the *Alestle* stands as the student record of the past, present and future school years.

Creating Your Own Legacy

The families featured in this edition of the *eConnection* created a legacy by their very existence and relationship with SIUE. In August 1995, another family created a legacy to benefit others that would come after them. In the early 1970s, Martha Huckleberry found herself divorced, facing the prospect of raising her seven children alone. She knew to succeed she would need more than a high school diploma and a few job skills. Her college career began at SIUE at the age of 40. After five years of hard work, Martha Huckleberry received a bachelor's in psychology and human services. She was hired by the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services. She then supported, encouraged, and watched as her seven children enrolled at SIUE. Martha Huckleberry died in 1994, the year before the last of her children graduated from SIUE.

In honor of their mother and in recognition of her determination and sacrifices, the Huckleberry children announced the Martha Huckleberry Memorial Grant for Single Parents. A legacy of family support engendered a legacy of assisting others in achieving a goal which would enable deserving students to have a better life.



Photo taken August 1995. Left to right: Tammy Huckleberry Geiger, Debra Huckleberry Scott, Barbara Huckleberry Schneider, Cynthia Huckleberry-Hotchner, Chancellor Nancy Belk, Donald Huckleberry, Victoria Huckleberry Greenberg, Linda Huckleberry Lassen

Bringing the Cougar Home

A student-led effort means another cougar is gracing the grounds of SIUE. More than 190 people, most of them SIUE alumni, paid \$50 each for bricks which cover the stand for "Taking Stalk," the 14-foot-tall sculpture of a cougar now standing at the entrance of the Morris University Center. Additional dollars were raised through food concessions and other fundraisers sponsored by the School Spirit and Pride Committee of Student Government. The statue was dedicated October 3, 2007, in honor of Chimega and Kyna who prowled our campus in the '70s and '80s.

Thanks to all of you who helped make it possible to "Bring the Cougar Home."



There are a variety of ways to leave such a legacy. If you'd like more information, contact the SIUE Foundation at 618-650-2345, or online at www.siu.edu/give/contactus.



SIUE Alumni Affairs Director Steve Jankowski and Assistant Director Katie Bennett are taking the next steps into the future for the Alumni Association. Be a part of the trip to effective networking, engaging events and leaving a lasting impact on the next 50 years of our alma mater. To learn more, call us at 618-650-2760, stop by Birger Hall or visit us on line at www.siu.edu/alumni.

SIUE is proud to support responsible use of forest resources. This magazine is printed with soy-based inks on paper that came from well-managed forests or other controlled sources certified in accordance with the international standards of the Forest Stewardship Council. See below for some interesting statistics based on the selection of materials used in this publication.



Number of trees saved: 2.16 trees, **Total energy saved:** 1.5 million BTU's, **Greenhouse gases prevented:** 200 lbs, **Wastewater reduction:** 919 gallons, **Solid waste reduction:** 102 lbs

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