

The Magazine for
Southern Illinois University Edwardsville
Alumni Association & Friends
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Playing softball brought Sandy Montgomery to SIUE as a student. Coaching it has kept her here almost 30 years.



The blooming of Bradford Pears signals the arrival of Spring on the SIUE Quad.

On the Cover: SIUE

alumna and women's softball coach, Sandy Montgomery sets the bar high for athletic competition and academic success. Read her story on page 26.

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We welcome your comments and suggestions. Contact Managing Editor Steve Jankowski via email at sjankow@siue.edu or by calling 618-650-2346.

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Honoring Chancellor Vandegrift

As the seventh chancellor of SIUE, Chancellor Vaughn Vandegrift has been instrumental in guiding the University toward fulfillment of its vision to be recognized nationally as a premier Metropolitan University for the excellence of its programs and development of professional and community leaders.

e=excellence

Under Chancellor Vandegrift's leadership, SIUE has achieved an impressive list of accolades.

- SIUE has been recognized by *U.S. News & World Report* as an "up-and-coming school" for three consecutive years. SIUE has also been recognized seven times by *U.S. News* for its Senior Assignment program, a culminating experience required of all graduating seniors. SIUE has been ranked by *U.S. News* for eight consecutive years among the top 15 public universities in the best Regional Universities Midwest (master's granting) category.
- For the second consecutive year, *Washington Monthly* ranks SIUE among the Top 50 master's granting colleges and universities in the nation for its commitment to the public good.
- The Corporation for National and Community Service named SIUE to the annual *President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll* for the second consecutive year.
- The *Daily Beast* ranks SIUE 21st in the nation among its Top 50 Safest Colleges.
- *GI Jobs* named SIUE a Military Friendly School for the third consecutive year.

e=enrollment

In Fall 2011, SIUE reached the largest overall enrollment in the history of the school at 14,235. It is the seventh consecutive year of growth in the size of the freshman class, which has increased by 20 percent since fall 2004.

e=engagement

Following Vandegrift's recommendation to transition the University to NCAA Division I Athletics, the SIU Board of Trustees approved SIUE's NCAA reclassification efforts in 2007. SIUE is a member of the Ohio Valley Conference and an affiliate member of the Missouri Valley Conference in men's soccer and the Southern Conference in wrestling.

e=expansion

SIUE is undergoing unprecedented growth in its physical facilities. Since 2006, current and completed construction totals \$236 million toward a goal of nearly \$300 million in improvements and expansion.

e=economic impact

Despite the challenging economy, SIUE's total economic impact is increasing. For fiscal year 2010, SIUE had a total economic impact of \$471 million on the region. The current impact is more than 32 percent greater than the University's estimated impact in fiscal year 2005 of \$356 million.

Vandegrift announced his retirement (July 1, 2012) at his annual Report to the University. The University community is grateful for his leadership and tireless campaign for SIUE to "do the right things, and do them well."

"The purpose of higher education lies in the fulfillment of human potential."

—Vaughn Vandegrift, Ph.D.
SIUE Chancellor, 2004-2012



Dear Alumni and Friends of SIUE,

Some might think it would get monotonous recounting all of the accomplishments of the University since the last issue of *eConnection*, but good news is always in style. In education, as in life, it's important to note where you've been and to celebrate the momentum and progress gained in the pursuit of your goals. SIUE continues to make impressive strides and I never tire of sharing with you the many achievements of this great institution.



Here are just a few of our most recent accomplishments:

- For the second consecutive year, *Washington Monthly*, a national magazine, has listed SIUE among the Top 50 (13th among the public institutions) of the 553 master's universities in America. *Washington Monthly* evaluates "contributions to the public good in three broad categories: Social Mobility (recruiting and graduating low-income students), Research (producing cutting-edge scholarship and PhDs), and Service (encouraging students to give something back to their country)." For the third consecutive year, SIUE also has been cited by its peers and reported in *U.S. News & World Report* as one of 46 "up-and-coming" schools for making "innovative changes in the areas of academics, faculty, student life, campus life and facilities."
- A record enrollment of 14,235 students was established for Fall 2011, reflecting a one percent increase over the previous year. SIUE received a record 16,501 total applications for the fall term, including 10,300 for the freshman class and 3,723 for new transfers. Undergraduate enrollment was supported by a record freshman class of 2,070. Interestingly, one-third of the class indicated an interest in pre-professional health (pre-medicine, pre-dental, pre-veterinarian, pre-pharmacy) or nursing.
- SIUE is undergoing unprecedented growth in its physical facilities. Since 2006, current and completed construction totals \$236 million toward a goal of nearly \$300 million in improvements and expansion. To complete the goal, projects currently under construction include the new Science Building, the Art & Design Building, the Vadalabene Center Lukas Athletics Annex, and the Engineering Building expansion. Upcoming projects include the Science Building renovation, the Art & Design Building renovation, and the construction of a simulation laboratory at the School of Dental Medicine on the Alton campus.
- For the first time in SIUE's history, ESPN sports television visited campus for a live broadcast of the Cougars vs. Murray State NCAA Division I Ohio Valley Conference men's basketball game on January 21, 2012. The event was sold out well in advance and the atmosphere was electric! Although the final score of the contest was not in SIUE's favor, the University made a giant leap forward in our quest for national recognition.

The past eight years have been the most exciting and rewarding of my professional life. As chancellor of this very special institution, I have had the privilege of working with a number of talented and dedicated individuals in taking SIUE to a new level. I want to thank all of the alumni and friends of the University for your support and enthusiasm over the years. As July 1, 2012, begins the next phase in my life, I look forward to the continuing progress that I know is to come for our university. My very best wishes to you all!

Go Cougars! Go Big **e**!

Vaughn Vandegrift, Ph.D.
SIUE Chancellor

SIUE Today

Green Star for SIUE Grounds



The beautiful, lush and well-designed landscaping and grounds of the SIUE campus won a Green Star award in the 39th Annual Professional Grounds Management Society (PGMS) Awards. The goal of the PGMS program is to bring national recognition to grounds manicured with a high degree of excellence, recognize individual professional efforts leading to high maintenance standards and high-quality appearance of the landscape, and challenge those responsible for maintenance of grounds throughout the country to achieve a higher level of excellence. "I believe our beautiful, well-kept grounds help recruit and retain students. We're also helping the environment and being good caretakers of what has been given to us," said Steve Brandenburg, assistant director of SIUE facilities management.

SIUE Recognized as StormReady

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) National Weather Service recognized SIUE for completing a set of rigorous warning criteria necessary to earn the distinction of being a StormReady® University. NOAA, through the U.S. Department of Commerce, promotes nationwide community preparedness programs, using a grassroots approach to help them develop plans to handle local severe weather and flooding threats. Jim Kramper, warning coordination meteorologist at the National Weather Service forecast office in St. Charles, Mo. said, "StormReady arms communities and businesses with improved communications and safety skills needed to save lives and property before and during the event." SIUE joined more than 1,600 communities across the country in this voluntary program.

State-of-the-Art Resource Center is in Business

The SIUE School of Business dedicated its latest addition, the Cougar Business Resource Center (CBRC), in November. The 3,700 square-foot, state-of-the-art facility is an interactive working environment for students unlike any other on campus. It is composed of online learning technologies, conference rooms for practicing presentations, communication technology for students to interact with faculty and teammates from any location, shared office space for student organizations and Executive-in-Residence offices. School of Business Dean Gary Giamartino acknowledges that the generosity of donors made this facility a reality. "The strong support of our business alumni has ensured that we have made this facility the best possible hands-on learning environment for our students."



Student Named Young Ambassador to Germany

For the first time ever, an SIUE student received the honor of being selected as a Young Ambassador for the German Academic Exchange Service (GAES). Hannah White, a German education major, was one of only 39 students chosen in the United States to represent the GAES program, which strives to build ties between higher education institutions around the world in support of international academic collaboration. This selection is a major accomplishment for White and for the University, illustrating the core value of excellence that SIUE is always working toward.

SIUE Today



Assistant Professor Receives Innovation Award

Andreas Stefik, assistant professor of computer science in the School of Engineering, received the prestigious 2011 Java Innovation Award which recognizes extreme innovation in the world of Java technology and is granted to the most innovative projects using the Java platform. Stefik and his team of researchers were recognized for working to make the NetBeans development environment accessible to the blind and visually impaired. NetBeans is a specialized computer program that facilitates software development. With support from the National Science Foundation's Broadening Participation in Computing program, Stefik's research team aims to empower blind and visually impaired individuals to overcome the barriers of programming and ultimately obtain careers in the computing profession.

SIUE Named Military Friendly

For the third consecutive year, *G.I. Jobs*, a magazine dedicated to people transitioning out of the U.S. military, named SIUE to its 2012 list of Military Friendly Schools®. According to the publication, those named on the list are among the top 20 percent of colleges, universities and trade schools nationally offering programs that support veterans and active duty military personnel. This list is based on the results of a survey of student veterans conducted by *G.I. Jobs*. "The Military Friendly Schools list is the go-to resource for prospective student veterans searching for schools that provide the right overall experience," said Michael Dakduk, executive director for the Student Veterans of America. "Nothing is more compelling than actual feedback from current student veterans."



SIUE Receives Collaborative \$900,000 NSF Grant

A team of researchers headed by Gary Mayer, assistant professor of computer science in the School of Engineering, was awarded a \$900,000 National Science Foundation Innovative Technology Experiences for Students and Teachers grant to study the effects of mentoring related to student interest in pursuing science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) careers. The effort is a collaborative enterprise between SIUE and the University of Southern California, with support from the KISS Institute for Practical Robotics. The team plans to devise a framework that can positively influence students' interest in STEM activities – both for robotics and in a broader, more general context.



Assistant Professor Featured in *Wall Street Journal*

Dr. Shrikant Jategaonker, assistant professor in the School of Business and an alumnus of the School, studied the relationship

between share repurchases, insider buying and stock performance between 1991 and 2006. His working paper entitled, "If it's good for the firm, it's good for me: insider trading and repurchases motivated by undervaluation," was highlighted in a *Wall Street Journal* article written by SmartMoney.com columnist Jack Hough on January 21, 2012. Hough explored share buybacks and the possible implications of this activity for investors citing a variety of reasons why managers choose to repurchase their stock and how in some cases this can be a signal to invest in that company.

Nursing Professor Elected INA President

Dr. Karen Kelly, associate professor of primary care and health systems nursing in the School of Nursing, was elected president of the Illinois Nurses Association (INA) at the group's 81st Biennial convention in October. Kelly is a triple alumna of SIUE, earning a bachelor's and master's in nursing and a doctorate in instructional processes. She joined the INA in 1972 after receiving an Illinois nursing license, and since then has served the INA as a director-at-large, first and second vice president and has been a member of the INA Commission on Continuing Education. Kelly also has served as a peer reviewer for the INA continuing education program since 1982 and as a delegate to the American Nurses Association's House of Delegates.

Giving Back to Campus Community

More than 80 members of the SIUE Housing staff spent a morning volunteering at The Gardens at SIUE as part of their fall training schedule. The single largest group to volunteer at one time at The Gardens included 74 resident assistants, six community directors, five assistant community directors and the associate director of residence life. Kyle Rice, assistant director of training and development, said the decision to incorporate this event into the training schedule was to provide an opportunity for their staff to give back to the larger campus community.



NCERC Receives Donated Equipment



Legislators, local dignitaries, Southern Illinois University and SIUE administrators, and industry leaders witnessed the unveiling of nearly \$3.5 million in equipment at the National Corn-to-Ethanol Research Center (NCERC) in SIUE's University Park on Nov. 3. The corn fractionation system, made possible through the generous support of Cereal Process Technologies LLC (CPT) of Overland Park, Kansas, and the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, represents an advanced technology NCERC will utilize to expand upon the career training programs and advanced ethanol research currently taking place at the country's only pilot-scale ethanol facility. According to NCERC Director John Caupert, "This system opens up new opportunities for industry, government and academic researchers, along with trade and policy in developing new fuels, chemicals and food products from corn."

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Plans Moving Along With SIUE Construction Projects

Despite challenges presented by the economic downturn, SIUE has progressed in its efforts to update existing structures, reallocate and create space to accommodate growth, and enhance infrastructure.

Since 2006, SIUE has been in the process of investing nearly \$300 million in campus construction projects.

- The \$39.3 million, 190,000-square-foot **Evergreen Hall** opened in fall 2007 and is home to 500 students each semester, offering a variety of “green” features.
- The state-of-the-art \$16.1 million **Student Success Center** opened in fall 2009 and allowed for the centralization of academic and personal support services, optimizing the academic, service and social components of the student experience.
- A \$9.1 million **Student Fitness Center** renovation and expansion project was completed in fall 2009 and included the addition of two multi-purpose rooms for exercise and student activities, a 30,500-square-foot gymnasium, a food and juice bar, and offices.

Other completed projects that are part of the University’s \$300 million expenditures include the following improvements:

- Environmental Resource Training Center
- Early Childhood Center
- Korte Stadium
- Cougar Village
- SIU School of Dental Medicine
- SIUE School of Pharmacy
- University Bookstore

University signage and entrance-ways were enhanced to allow easier campus navigation, and landscaping, sidewalk and roadway improvements were made to ease traffic flow.

Art & Design Expansion



Vadalabene Center Lukas Athletics Annex

“Each and every one of our projects is meant to improve services and enhance educational offerings for students, as well as support and encourage faculty in teaching and research opportunities at SIUE,” said Rich Walker, assistant vice chancellor for administration. “We are particularly proud of the fact that the majority of our projects are completed within the specified timeframe and under the projected budget.”



The University expects to introduce another round of projects during the next fiscal year. Future projects, some of which have begun, include the following:

- The completion of the long-awaited new **Science Building**, expected in fall 2012, which is estimated to cost about \$53 million
- Renovation of the existing **Science Building**, which will be connected to the new facility, at an estimated cost of \$30 million
- A roughly \$15.3 million **Art & Design Building** addition and renovation will include approximately 29,000-square-feet of space for classrooms, offices and a gallery.
- The projected \$14.2 million expansion and renovation of the **Engineering Building**, which currently is underway and will include the construction of a new roughly 32,000-square-foot annex that will be connected to the existing building through an enclosed bridge
- The creation of the **Vadalabene Center Lukas Athletics Annex** at a projected cost of \$4.5 million. A total of \$4.2 million for the project was provided by a gift from the estate of Charles S. and Mary L. Lukas. The project will include the creation of approximately 29,100-square-feet of space for offices. A planned future project will involve the renovation of the vacated space for use by kinesiology and allied health education.

“The University has a strong commitment to enhancing the quality of life for our students, and we work closely with the community and the region to make that happen,” Vandegrift said. “Being good stewards of taxpayer dollars is critical to our continued success as an institution.”

Science Building Complex

Three departments, including chemistry, biological sciences and environmental sciences, will move into the new structure upon its completion. Physics, mathematics and statistics will stay in the existing structure, which will be completely gutted and remodeled.

Engineering Building Annex



All Eyes on Edwardsville



January 21, 2012, proved to be a red-letter day in the history of SIUE Athletics. A “Red-**e**” letter day, if you will. It was on that Saturday night that nationally-ranked Murray State brought its unblemished record to Edwardsville. With the Racers came the first-ever national television broadcast of a basketball game from SIUE and the second-largest crowd to see a basketball game at SIUE’s Vadalabene Center. ESPNU televised the game as part of the Ohio Valley Conference’s television package, and the SIUE community responded with 4,157 fans packing the building. In the end, the box score showed a Murray State win, keeping the Racers as the lone unbeaten team in college basketball. Yet, ask just about anyone and they’ll tell you it may very well have been a win for SIUE Athletics and the entire University.



“I really thought it would be three years or so down the road before we got our first nationally-televised game. This brought us to our future about three years in advance.”

—SIUE Director of Athletics Brad Hewitt

Student-Athletes Post Best Semester GPA Mark

For the fall 2011 semester, SIUE student-athletes recorded a combined 3.194 grade point average (GPA), an all-time high for the Athletics Department. It marked the 11th consecutive semester that SIUE student-athletes have posted a combined GPA of better than 3.0.

Of SIUE’s 16 athletics programs, 13 finished with a GPA of 3.0 or better, including men’s golf, women’s soccer, baseball, women’s track and field, men’s cross country, women’s cross country, men’s soccer, softball, men’s tennis, women’s tennis, volleyball, wrestling and women’s golf.



Men’s golf earned the highest GPA of any SIUE athletics program for the second straight semester at 3.510.

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More than two-thirds of all student-athletes finished with a fall GPA of better than 3.0. More than one-third of all student-athletes were named to the Dean’s List with a fall GPA of better than 3.5.

“Timely graduation is a focal point of the mission for SIUE Athletics,” Hewitt said. “The University’s support structure continues to reinforce the exceptional achievements of our student-athletes in the classroom.”



Women’s soccer recorded the top GPA among women’s programs with a 3.502. This is the fourth consecutive semester that the women’s soccer team has captured this honor.

Inaugural Ohio Valley Conference Season

SIUE men's and women's basketball opened their inaugural run through OVC basketball with a pair of home wins. The men defeated Tennessee Tech, which was picked to finish second in the preseason poll, 83-68, December 29. The Cougars followed that up with a 66-61 victory over Jacksonville State on New Year's Eve. After a setback against Eastern Illinois, SIUE traveled to UT Martin where they defeated the Skyhawks 69-61. The women also knocked off Jacksonville State with a lopsided 79-39 win earlier in the day December 31. The Cougars then took down OVC preseason-favorite Tennessee Tech 62-54 on January 2. The women followed with a pair of losses, on the road at UT Martin, and at home against Eastern Illinois. The Cougars then won back-to-back road games at Tennessee State and Southeast Missouri to improve to 4-2 in the OVC. It was the first time SIUE had reeled off three consecutive road wins in the Division I era.

By press time, both teams had outplayed expectations in the OVC. The women, who were tabbed to finish eighth during the preseason, sat all alone in third place with a 12-4 OVC record, while the men, who were picked to finish at the bottom of the 11-team conference, were tied for ninth in the league with a 5-9 mark.

OVC Coach of the Year

Amanda Levens, in her fourth year as head coach for the SIUE women's basketball team, was named the Ohio Valley Conference (OVC) Coach of the Year at the conclusion of the 2011-2012 season. Coach Levens led her team to a 12-4 record in OVC play, which included a 7-1 road record. The Cougars have improved their Conference record each season under Coach Levens with 11 wins (2010-11), 8 wins (2009-10) and 5 wins (2008-09). The Cougars will be eligible for NCAA-sponsored postseason play beginning with the 2012-13 season.



Softball Debuts Indoor Facility



Softball kicked off the preseason with the opening of a new indoor training facility. Head Softball Coach Sandy Montgomery said the facility makes practices moving forward more manageable.

The 110-by-110 feet, all-turf space will have something for every aspect of practice:

- Full infield and bases
- Three pitching mounds with catching areas
- Two 80-foot cages that can be divided to accommodate up to four hitters at a time
- Space for conditioning and other practice variables
- An area for umpires to prepare for and rest between games

Having the space enables the team to practice game situations, such as bunt coverage and defensive strategies. "It will enable us to get more done than we've ever been able to in preparation for our season," Montgomery said. "It's going to put us light years ahead in practice compared to where we have been."

A gift from SIUE supporter Cheri Fulginiti helped propel the groundbreaking for the new facility. Montgomery also lauded the leadership of Vice Chancellor for Administration Kenn Neher and Director of Athletics Brad Hewitt for helping make the facility a reality.





From Your SIUE Alumni Association Board President

"All good things must come to an end," the saying goes. Dr. Vaughn Vandegrift is retiring as our Chancellor, effective this summer. Coincidentally, my term as SIUE Alumni Association Board of Directors President also comes to an end.

Chancellor Vandegrift has, undoubtedly, been the shining beacon of light for this University since he came here. The prestige he's earned, the honors bestowed on the University under his direction and the record enrollment numbers we've seen may explain why he has a parking spot and I don't.

Dr. Vandegrift has raised the academic level of this University to national recognition, including *U.S. News & World Report* listing us as one of the top up-and-coming universities and giving high honors for the senior assignment program, as well as accolades for our master's programs in engineering, fine arts, and recognition as a top tier, nationally ranked research university. OK, for that he gets an office with a window.

There's also that NCAA Division I thing. Well, that was pretty cool. While my husband, John, and I watched a sold out basketball game—SIUE vs. Murray State—I was certainly reminded of the Chancellor's words at the last graduation ceremony, "We've grown up."

However, I bet a few alumni can remember watching Robert Seguso play tennis in the early '80s at SIUE before going on to win the Gold medal at the 1988 Olympics in Seoul with doubles partner Ken Flach.

And then, again, there are all those new buildings: the fourth residence hall, the School of Pharmacy, the Student Success Center and many other additions throughout Dr. Vandegrift's tenure. Gosh, had he not retired, we might have run out of acreage.

Most importantly, in my opinion, are the five values of SIUE which Vaughn has instilled in us from day one: Wisdom, Openness, Integrity, Citizenship and Excellence. I'm excited to say that even after my "retirement," I'll be found at all the alumni, sporting, cultural and intellectual events I can find at SIUE. Something tells me we just might find Vaughn and Sue returning now and again, as well. Dr. Vandegrift is fond of saying, "We're doing the right things and doing them well." I'd always give up my seat to the Chancellor.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bev Henderson-George".

Bev Henderson-George, '75 BA, '79 MSED
SIUE Alumni Association President





We Are Cougars!



About the SIUE Alumni Association

Our Mission

Be a valued partner of SIUE through the advancement and promotion of SIUE alumni, the University and its friends.

Our Vision

Foster a lifelong, mutually beneficial relationship among SIUE alumni, the University and its friends.

Our Aspiration

Become known by every Cougar as the gateway to SIUE and the alumni community, and to meaningfully engage more alumni in memberships, programs and services each year.

Simply put, we are working to engage, educate and empower Cougars for Life. How do we go about achieving those goals?

Engage

The Alumni Association Board of Directors and its committees strive to schedule a series of on-campus and off-campus events designed to reacquaint you with your *alma mater*, fellow graduates and current SIUE students. These events range from social activities to opportunities to network. Many of these opportunities provide Association members with exclusive discounts and experiences. Alumni can also serve as volunteer mentors to SIUE students, helping those students build a network of their own and learn from your experiences and wisdom. The Alumni Association also sponsors STAT—Students Today, Alumni Tomorrow. STAT members serve the University and broader community through volunteer activities, mentoring programs and signature events like the Nearly Naked Mile.

Educate

The Alumni Association works in collaboration with other departments and facets of the University to provide you with opportunities for lifelong learning. This includes access to the Lovejoy Library, discounts to the *Arts & Issues* series and learning opportunities that deal with issues each of us face in our daily lives, from seeking a new career, starting our own business or building greater financial security for our families.

Empower

The Alumni Association serves as the conduit between alumni and the University. The Association works within

the SIUE community to gain alumni input and perspective through service on advisory boards, university related committees and service projects. As the University grows in stature, so does the value of your degree. As we collaborate with the University, we assist in this process of enhancing the reputation of our *alma mater*.

Membership also provides you access to a wealth of benefits which cover everything from discounts at local and regional businesses to major on-line retailers and services.* The Alumni Association also works with the Career Development Center to provide a wide range of career building and job finding services. The Cougars for Life include those of us who have already graduated as well as those who are still completing their degree. Your membership in the SIUE Alumni Association funds scholarships which assist deserving students who will become alumni.



Joining is Easy

Call 618-650-2760

Visit us in Birger Hall on the SIUE Campus.

Download the form at siue.edu/alumni.

Join online at siue.edu/alumni.**

The Association also provides opportunities for alumni who have shared a unique educational experience. Please consider participation in the Black Alumni Association, the School of Dental Medicine Alumni Association, and/or the School of Pharmacy Alumni Association.***

*The benefits do change and are enhanced regularly. For the current list, visit siue.edu/alumni.

**Joining online requires your scrambled ID code. Please call 618-650-2760 to receive your ID.

***Membership in these Associations requires membership in the SIUE Alumni Association.

Networking. Connecting. Fun!

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

July 2011

SIUE Hometown Party

The Alumni Association, Office of Admissions and the Cougar Parent & Family Association hosted the SIUE Hometown Party program this July. Incoming freshmen and transfer students from four areas had the chance to meet area alumni and ask staff last-minute questions before school started in August. This year's events took place in Chicago, St. Louis, Springfield and Effingham.



August 2011

SIUE Alumni Happy Hour at McGurk's

SIUE alumni and friends enjoyed a gorgeous night on the patio of McGurk's Irish Pub in Souland on Aug. 18. The event gave attendees the opportunity to network with fellow alumni in a relaxed and entertaining environment. Alumni event ambassadors were Sam Loring, '07 BS and Mark Learman, '98 BS.



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September 2011

Chicago Alumni Reception at the Art Institute

SIUE hosted a private alumni reception at the Art Institute of Chicago on Sept. 15. Attendees enjoyed appetizers and a host bar along with private gallery viewings.

SIUE Men's Soccer vs. UIC

The Alumni Association co-hosted a pregame alumni reception at Morgan's on Maxwell on Sept. 16. Attendees enjoyed complimentary appetizers before heading over to the men's soccer game at University of Illinois at Chicago.



SIUE Alumni Networking Breakfast in Clayton

The Alumni Association hosted a free networking breakfast at Armstrong Teasdale in Clayton on Sept. 27. The featured speaker was Hal Gentry, an '81 graduate of the SIUE School of Engineering and the Founder/CEO of Gridlogix and Gentry Systems. The Alumni event ambassadors were Sara Colvin, '98 BS, '05 MA; Melissa Glauber, '03 BS; and Charlotte Petty, '98 BS, '05 MA. Armstrong Teasdale LLP graciously sponsored the event.



Looking for an old
friend or classmate?
We can help. Contact
us at alumni@siue.edu

October 2011

STAT Alumni Mentor Mixer

Students Today, Alumni Tomorrow (STAT) hosted its first mixer event for the Alumni Mentor Program and the Buddy Program. The group enjoyed "SIUE Bingo" and other board games on Oct. 17. The event gave students the opportunity to meet their new alumni mentors.

Chemistry Alumni Reception

The Alumni Association joined the Department of Chemistry in hosting a reunion for all chemistry alumni at Pujols 5 at Westport Plaza on Oct. 19.

3rd Annual SIUE Alumni Day at the Grafton Winery

The Alumni Association hosted a day of wine tasting at the Grafton Winery on Oct. 22. Attendees enjoyed a complimentary drink and the beautiful view of the river road from the balcony.

November 2011



Board Development Workshop

The Alumni Association co-hosted a continuing education workshop with the Office of Educational Outreach and the Edwardsville/Glen Carbon Chamber of Commerce on Nov. 9.

The panel of speakers focused on the basics and expectations of serving on a board of directors, the potential issues between the executive director and board president relationship and the methods of evaluating board participation.

3rd Annual SIUE Alumni Trivia Night

The Alumni Association hosted its 3rd Annual Alumni Trivia Night on Nov. 12 at the Edwardsville Knights of Columbus Hall. Attendees enjoyed trivia, a silent auction and a chance to win door prizes. The event raised more than \$3,000 for student scholarships and future alumni programs.



Chicago Alumni Breakfast at the Triple I Conference

Dr. Fran Karanovich and the School of Education hosted a free networking breakfast during the Triple I Conference in Chicago. SIUE alumni who were attending the conference were invited to the event which was co-sponsored by Robbins, Schwartz, Nicholas, Lifton & Taylor LTD.



Staying Connected

There are so many ways to connect—and stay connected—with your fellow alumni

Online — siue.edu/alumni

- Learn about membership benefits
- Check out upcoming events
- Facebook • LinkedIn • Twitter
- Cougar Tracks (your online community)
- Stay connected with SIUE at siue.edu/media

In person

- Social events
- Volunteering
- Lifelong learning opportunities
- Mentor a current student

October 2011

SIUE Homecoming 2011



The SIUE Alumni Association inducted 15 honorees into the 2011 SIUE Alumni Hall of Fame. The awards dinner was held on Friday, Oct. 7, and honorees had the opportunity to speak to the crowd about their induction after receiving their plaques. Two of the honorees, Dick Goodwin and Dr. Cleveland Hammonds Jr., were awarded posthumously. Family representatives received plaques on their behalf.

The SIUE Concert Chorale Alumni hosted a reunion event on Saturday, Oct. 8. As part of the event, they performed the National Anthem before the SIUE men's soccer game against University of Evansville at Korte Stadium.



The Alumni Association hosted a reunion lunch for 1961, 1971, 1981, 1991 and 2001 graduates on Saturday, Oct. 8 in the Morris University Center. Attendees had the chance to share their memories of their time at SIUE and reconnect with former classmates. The event included step show performances from the Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity and Zeta Phi Beta sorority, welcome remarks from Chancellor Vaughn Vandegrift and a special address from SIUE Men's Soccer Coach Kevin Kalish.

The 10th Annual Chili Cook-Off took place at Korte Stadium before the SIUE men's soccer game. Student organizations entered their best recipes in the Best Tasting, Hottest and Most Unusual categories. The winners were announced at half-time of the game.

SIUE Athletics and the Red Storm hosted a bags tournament before the start of the men's soccer game. The winning team received their own SIUE bags sets! The event included free food from Red Storm and Student Government.

The Arts & Issues Homecoming Concert featuring Three Dog Night took place on Saturday, Oct. 8 in the Vadalabene Center gymnasium. Nearly 800 people flashed back to the Mississippi River Festival and grooved to the music of these legendary musical icons.



Upcoming Events

SIUE Alumni Association

UNIVERSITY

*Theater
and
Dance*

Cinderella

A new adaptation by Sean Graney

April 18-21 at 7:30 p.m.

April 22 at 2:00 p.m.

Dunham Hall Theater

SIUE Fine Arts Box Office

618-650-2774

Dunham Hall, Room 1042

Special rates for organized groups of 10 +

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

2012 Summer ShowBiz

25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee

June 20-23, 7:30 p.m.

June 24, 2 p.m.

Big River

July 11-14, 7:30 p.m.

July 14-15, 2 p.m.

Cougar Theater Company Productions

A Theater for Young Audiences Company presenting plays written for children and teens

Tales of the Arabian Mice

May 26, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.

The Big Bad Musical

June 16, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.

All performances will take place in the Dunham Hall Theater.

X FEST 3.0

June 6-9

Mark your calendars! SIUE's Department of Theater and Dance is celebrating the third annual festival of experimental theater performances and workshops, **June 6-9, 2012**.

What do you get when you mix puppets, dance, drama, comedy and a large dose of the unexpected? Xfest 3.0 of course! The four-day festival has something for everyone.

Edwardsville: The Opera

Squonk Opera

June 6, 7:30 p.m.



Violators Will be Violated

Casey Smith

June 7, 7:30 p.m.

Grim and Fischer

Wonderheads

June 8, 7:30 p.m.

X-hibitions

Theatre 310b

June 9, 3:30 p.m.

Would You Still Be You?

Luis Tentindo Puppet Theatre

June 9, 8 p.m.

siue.edu/xfest



Defining Excellence

THE CAMPAIGN FOR SIUE

Celebrating reaching 60 percent of our \$50 million goal

As of January 31, 2012, more than \$30 million has been received toward the \$50 million goal. On behalf of the entire SIUE community, we are very grateful to alumni, parents, friends and businesses for generously supporting SIUE. Your gifts to **Defining Excellence – The Campaign for SIUE** make a difference in the education and future of our students and the quality of life and work in this region and nation.

Your gifts directly benefit SIUE in the following ways:

- **Students:** keeping tuition affordable and scholarships available
- **Education:** supplying outstanding faculty and dynamic, technology-driven programs and experiences
- **Environment:** expanding our 21st century teaching and learning facilities and equipment

Your gifts impact the quality of life and economy in the region in the following ways:

- **Access to Education:** continuing to offer a high-quality higher education option for current residents and future generations
- **Leadership:** supplying the next generation of civic, healthcare and business leaders who will serve the region
- **Workforce:** developing the talents and skills to advance the economy and enhance the success of businesses and organizations

Thank you for saying “Yes” to affordable education, academic excellence and improving our region. Together we will continue to advance the quality of life in the region and nation — today, tomorrow and in the years to come.

Campaign Funding Priorities

Support for Students: 30%

Your gifts create scholarships for talented and deserving students, and provide support for the Honors Program, study abroad opportunities, research funding, instructional technology and our nationally recognized senior capstone program.

Support for Faculty: 20%

Your gifts grow the number of endowed professorships and support SIUE’s teacher-scholar program.

Ideal Environment for Teaching Science: 20%

Your gifts fuel the demand for scientifically prepared graduates in the fields of nursing, dental medicine, pharmacy, and engineering, as well as biological and physical sciences, through 21st century programs, classrooms and labs.

Student Success Center: 10%

Your gifts provide one central location to meet student needs for academic support, learning resources and student activities that inspire and nurture academic success and retention.

Cultivating The Gardens at SIUE: 10%

Your gifts foster cross-disciplinary research and implementation of green technologies in the living laboratory for scientific discovery at this Missouri Botanical Garden’s Signature Garden.

Defining Athletics Excellence: 10%

Your gifts help endow scholarships for deserving student-athletes and provide facilities to compete at the highest level of intercollegiate competition.



Campaign Success Stories



Beautiful Garden Honors Loved One

Merle Inman recently made a special contribution to The Gardens at SIUE that funded the creation of an intimate garden space honoring his beloved late wife, Teddi, MS '73. The newly completed space takes the form of a 'Council Ring' made of large

stones arranged in a circle. Inspired by Native American tradition, the circle is designed to promote equality among individuals within it.

"Some of the rocks used in the structure came from the quarry located on the land where we lived for many years," Merle said. "I think she would really love the garden—after 50 years together, I developed a good idea of what she liked."

First Charitable Gift Annuity at Dental School

The SIU School of Dental Medicine recently established its first Charitable Gift Annuity through the generosity of Rev. Dr. Richard Ellerbrake and Mrs. Johann Ellerbrake. Rev. Dr. Ellerbrake is one of the longest-serving members of the SIU School of Dental Medicine Dean's Advisory Board. He has been offering sound advice and perceptive insight as a member of the Board for nearly 15 years.

Life income gifts, such as a Charitable Gift Annuity, are mutually beneficial, providing current income to the donor and future funding for the School.

SIUE Alumnus Donates Building

The gift of a building valued at \$815,000 was made possible through the generosity of Ralph Korte, founder of the successful Korte Company of Highland, alumnus and longtime University advocate. The exact use of the building, an existing structure located in SIUE's University Park, has not yet been determined, but it is expected to be used for economic development in University Park.

"I feel very good about my business degree from SIUE and without my degree, I don't think my company would be nearly as successful," said Korte, who earned his bachelor's from the School of Business in 1968.

"My love for SIUE and my dedication to make it a better place prompted my decision. SIUE will be here for a long time after I'm gone. I hope my gift will help set an example for others to give."

High-Tec Resource Center

The Cougar Business Resource Center (CBRC), a 3,700-square-foot complex designed to support the new curricula, is the latest addition to the School of Business. The CBRC is a work environment for students unlike any other on campus. The modern surroundings integrate technology into a collaborative space that would easily lend itself to the office of a Fortune 500 company rather than a university.

"Only the generosity of private donors made the CBRC a reality," said School of Business Dean Gary Giamartino.

New STEM Classroom in East St. Louis



The SIUE East St. Louis Charter High School is home to a nearly \$1 million cutting-edge science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) classroom. The new state-of-the-art facility, named the William Frederick Graebe Sr. STEM Learning Center, is the result of a special donation from Robert H. Graebe, an East St. Louis native, and his wife, Norma J. Graebe.

"The STEM Learning Center will ensure that our students are stronger in math, science and technology," said Dr. Venessa Brown, SIUE Associate Provost for Institutional Diversity and Inclusion and Executive Director of the East St. Louis Center. "This is their key to academic access and success."

Endowed Scholarship Honors Retiree

Dr. Jacquelyn Clement, who retired from SIUE in 2010, was an integral part of the School of Nursing faculty and administration for more than 30 years. The Dr. Jacquelyn M. Clement Scholarship for Nursing was formally established in 2011 by Steve and Jackie Clement to honor her legacy. Due to the generosity of Steve, Jackie and some very good friends, this endowed scholarship is the largest one to be housed in the School of Nursing.

You can help define excellence

Together we are defining excellence for our students, our region and our world. Your gifts to **Defining Excellence-The Campaign for SIUE** continue SIUE's legacy of success, providing high quality, affordable and accessible educational opportunities for the residents of the Metro-East region. SIUE's graduates enter the workforce with the knowledge base, technology and leadership skills to drive the next generation of economic and cultural success in our community, nation and world.

Support for Students

Scholarships

Several academic units are raising annual and endowed funds for both need-based and merit-based scholarships for use in recruiting deserving students and providing the opportunity for them to reach their full potential.

College of Arts and Sciences: \$1.5 million

School of Business: \$1 million

School of Dental Medicine: \$700,000

School of Education: \$1 million

School of Engineering: \$2 million

School of Nursing: \$1 million

School of Pharmacy: \$125,000

Student Life

A growing student population requires expanded support services and opportunities to learn and grow in a dynamic campus environment.

Early Childhood Center: \$25,000

International Student Support and Study Abroad: \$500,000

Student Organizations and Sports Clubs: \$500,000

Leadership Development: \$800,000

School of Education

The School of Education continues to serve as a leader in the preparation of teachers and other professionals. Our campaign priorities focus on initiatives that support the academic success of our students and provide outreach to the community.

Speech-Language-Hearing Center: \$300,000

Attention and Behavior Clinic: \$16,000

Cougar Literacy Clinic: \$15,000

Weight Management Clinic: \$1.5 million

SIUE East St. Louis Charter High School: \$1 million

School of Pharmacy

Support for Student Affairs: \$125,000

The School seeks support for student-centered initiatives that foster student development and prepare them to be enlightened, responsible members of diverse communities.

School of Business

Cougar Business Resource Center: \$2 million

A state-of-the-art skills resource center will provide a professional environment in which business students gain access to the technologies and resources they need to foster teamwork and hone their communication skills for course work and co-curricular leadership activities. Features include online learning technologies, presentation practice space and communication technology, allowing student/faculty interaction regardless of location.

Business Transitions Courses: \$1 million

Two new courses prepare students for success in 1) the School of Business and 2) their transition to the world of work. Students will engage in student organization leadership and team building, resumé and business protocol-building activities, and interaction with corporate partners. Course modules on ethics, corporate social responsibility, and global awareness will serve as integrative bridges to curricular themes.

School of Engineering

Support for Student Projects: \$1 million

By working in student design teams, students gain not only relevant technical knowledge, but also invaluable communication, teamwork and leadership skills.

Library and Information Services

Endowment for Collections: \$600,000

An endowment is vital to expanding the current collections and preserving the prized collections that are already held.

Digitization of Special Collections: \$100,000

By electronically converting text, images, video and audio to digital copies, information can be utilized anytime, anywhere. To date, these collections have been largely unavailable to users because of their value and delicate condition.

Library Enhancement: \$400,000

Converting outmoded space into a Learning Commons with group learning rooms is critical to students and faculty as they conduct research and share ideas.

Student Success Center

Program and Equipment Support: \$3 million

Your gift will ensure student success by supporting important students services, technology and programs, including academic advising, disability support, career development, counseling, health service, international programs and more.

Support for Faculty

School of Business: \$1.5 Million

Endowed chairs and professorships will attract and retain the brightest minds and best teacher-scholars. Priority areas are entrepreneurship, marketing, ethics and accounting.

College of Arts and Sciences: \$1 million

A visiting artist-professor program will increase recruitment and retention of gifted faculty and students and enhance cultural opportunities offered to the community-at-large.

School of Dental Medicine: \$2 million

A faculty recruitment and retention endowment will allow the School to supplement salaries and better compete with private practice opportunities and other regional faculty opportunities.

Graduate School: \$1 million

An endowed scholar-in-residence program will bring internationally recognized scholars to SIUE to teach courses, conduct colloquia for faculty and make public presentations.

Ideal Environment for Teaching Science

Science Building Equipment Funding: \$3.5 million

From the most basic equipment needs, from computers and wet labs to the purchase of highly sophisticated scientific equipment, there are many ways to help outfit laboratories and classrooms.

Center for STEM Research, Education and Outreach

The Center provides the experiences, resources and support students, faculty and surrounding communities need to lead and innovate in the areas of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM).

STEM Education Classroom: \$200,000

Endowed Scholar in STEM Education: \$1 million

STEM Resource Center: \$100,000

STEM Outreach Programs: \$150,000

Health Sciences Building, Nursing Wing Equipment Funding: \$2 million

The School of Nursing will be housed in a new Health Sciences Building. This is an exciting opportunity to be a part of preparing future nurses through the use of highly sophisticated equipment, giving them a technological advantage for working in healthcare organizations.

Dental Clinic Simulation Laboratory Equipment

Funding: \$1 million

The primary site of instruction for Year I and Year II dental students will offer a more authentic simulation of patient treatment experiences.

College of Arts and Sciences Technology: \$3 million

A multi-media laboratory will help the mass communications program remain one of the best programs of its kind in the nation. The Physics Observatory will offer students and faculty exciting new astronomical research opportunities and educational outreach programs.

The Center for Drug Design and Discovery: \$250,000

To keep pace with rapid advancements in the pharmacy field, faculty and students need access to the latest technologies, scientific instruments and equipment.

Cultivating The Gardens

The Prairie House featuring Illinois Landscapes: \$750,000

Built of indigenous materials, the Prairie House will serve as an outdoor classroom and a stunning venue for events and celebrations. The landscape will showcase the inherent beauty and restorative qualities of essential Southwestern Illinois ecosystems.

Defining Athletics Excellence

SIUE Indoor Field House: \$8 million

SIUE's soccer, baseball, tennis, golf and track & field programs would benefit greatly from an indoor practice facility, especially during the winter months.

Soccer/Track Stadium Enhancement: \$2 million

Modernized locker room facilities and an improved track surface will help attract promising student-athletes to SIUE and will demonstrate the University's continued commitment to their success.

Scholarship Assistance: \$4 million

Student-athletes would benefit from access to financial resources necessary to help fund their education and enable them to pursue dreams of competing at the collegiate level.

Baseball Complex: \$2 million

Continued enhancement to the Simmons Baseball Complex will support recruitment efforts, enhance Division I competitiveness, and provide a community resource for local and regional teams.

Visit siue.edu/definingexcellence 

To learn more about each of these projects and the impact you can have on student's lives

Alicia DeShasier

Alicia DeShasier is a 2007 graduate of the SIUE Civil Engineering program, a veteran of four years of intercollegiate softball, a surprise addition to the SIUE track and field squad, an international competitor, and quite possibly a member of the U.S. Olympic team headed for the summer games in England. The path that led the Carrollton, Ill., native to this crossroads is marked by personal determination, raw athletic ability, tremendous parental support, and an institution that provided an atmosphere for success. "SIUE had the perfect combination of a great engineering school and athletics program that I was looking for," DeShasier said.

Her desire to become an engineer developed during childhood with summers spent building houses with her father. A love of math and being good with her hands made engineering an easy decision to make. Her father's philosophy and dedication as her first and continuous coach shaped her athletic ability. Alicia says, "Whenever we would practice my dad always told me if you practice the same as everybody else how can you expect to be better than anyone else. Perfect practice makes perfect."

Her skills as a softball player led to a full scholarship at SIUE and a chance at an engineering career. Alicia credits the size of the engineering program with providing her more contact with her teachers. She stresses balancing athletics and academics required good time management skills that she continues to use to this day. Alicia described that it's tough on the players but just as tough on the teachers who have to make up a test or provide additional assistance because of the practice and travel commitments of a team sport. She also credits Coach Sandy Montgomery with providing the direction and support to make it all fit.

When four years of eligibility in softball ended, Alicia was faced with a decision. Athletics Director Brad Hewitt wanted her to use her fifth year of eligibility to play basketball, a sport she loved. But track and field coach Dave Astrauskas asked her to throw the javelin for his team. Alicia admits she was surprised by her ability at the javelin. She set Missouri Relays Record, the SIUE school record and automatically qualified for the NCAA Division II Outdoor Championship with her first throw in competition. Later that year she would throw the nation's longest toss in the javelin heading to those championships. An injury requiring "Tommy John Surgery" would sideline her career for a time. Once again, Alicia relied on her own tenacity, the skills developed at SIUE, and the incredible support of Coach Dave Astrauskas and the staff in the SIUE training room to come back from the surgery.

After graduation, she was hired as a civil engineer at Oates Associates. She spent two and a half years there and underwent shoulder surgery before Coach Astrauskas asked her to join him at the University of Wisconsin to continue her



"SIUE had the perfect combination of a great engineering school and athletics program that I was looking for."

training. Leaving was difficult and Alicia is eternally grateful to her sister, Liz Bray, and Liz's husband, Chris Bray, for helping her through that difficult time. "My whole support system was here in Edwardsville," DeShasier said. Oates Associates had made her schedule flexible so she could train and SIUE had opened its facilities to her, but she took the opportunity and moved to Madison, eventually getting a position with the engineering firm Michael Baker Jr. Inc.

Her training took Alicia to the 2011 Pan American Games as a representative of the United States. Her first throw was good enough to win the gold medal. "It was the craziest feeling, and then when I got to carry the American flag on my shoulders around the stadium, it was almost surreal that I had just represented the USA and now I have a gold medal, an incredible feeling." Her parents were there to watch it happen.

Alicia continues to train with the support of her employer who allows her a 30-hour work week. When asked about her chances of making the U.S. Olympic team she responded, "Considering how training has been going, I feel like I have a good chance of making the team." Alicia stresses she has to stay healthy, stay on the coach's training plan, and throw 61 meters to qualify. Alicia acknowledges that a lot of things will have to go right for her this season, but she thinks London 2012 as a part of Team USA is an attainable goal. Reiterating the importance of the support from her family, DeShasier said, "I think about my dad's advice multiple times a week."

Megan Murphy

Megan Murphy now patrols the halls of the Intensive Care Unit of DePaul Hospital as an ICU nurse, but just a few short months ago, she was walking the halls of SIUE and roving the grass of the Cougar softball complex. Originally from Casey, Ill., Megan began her college career at the University of Illinois focusing on veterinary medicine. After her first semester, Megan realized what she wanted was to play softball while pursuing a nursing career. “I had been recruited by SIUE before I committed anywhere,” said Murphy. “I knew they had the softball program and an outstanding nursing program, so I picked up and made the move.” She described the move as perfect for her. “I got a great athletic experience and I got the career.”

The process was not an easy one, as the softball team was already making the move into Division I competition. The level of competition and expectation made for what Megan described as a challenging situation, but she credits two women with making the achievement of success possible. On the nursing side, Megan was assigned to Mary Mulcahy. “She was my mentor,” said Murphy. “I would say she was vital to my nursing career because of my softball schedule.” That schedule forced Megan to miss 30 percent of her classes, classes in one of the most difficult curriculums on campus. “We communicated non-stop,” Megan says. “We changed things around and got it done. I couldn’t have done it without her.”

On the athletic side, Coach Sandy Montgomery was the key. “She took me in the middle of the season and introduced me to her team,” Murphy explained. “She had 100% faith in me from day one that I would be a good fit for her team, and she was right. I loved my experience there and I could never thank her enough.” Coach Montgomery would also demonstrate her flexibility in dealing with a player who would often run to practice still in her nursing scrubs. “Sometimes I would have to leave practice early and Coach was fine with that because she knew that once I got between the lines, it was all softball.”

Like most successful collegiate student-athletes, Megan Murphy demonstrated the discipline necessary to compete in both arenas. “I think I’ve always been a person who managed their time very well. If I had an hour in between class and lifting weights, I couldn’t just sit for that hour. I had to be in my books.” Megan calls the experience she had at SIUE

“I think we need to go back and thank our alumni from the softball program who won the National Championship. They are the kind of people who helped get us to this point.”

an honor. She also credits those players and alumni who came before her, enabling the University to make the move to Division I athletics. “I think we need to go back and thank our alumni from the softball program who won the National Championship. They are the kind of people who helped get us to this point,” Megan said.

Megan also carries many of the lessons learned in the classroom and softball field into her new job. She says she gained greater time management skills, the ability to prioritize, and that great sense of teamwork which she says is becoming more and more prevalent in the delivery of medical care. “You know you can’t sacrifice a career that you love for athletics, but you can do both,” Megan asserted. Megan also plans to pursue a career as a nurse anesthetist. “I definitely want to be comfortable in what I’m doing, because in ICU you have someone’s life in your hands every day, so maybe in five or six years I’d like to have that nurse anesthetist degree.” Megan added she would definitely come back to SIUE to make that happen.



Pete Delkus



While Pete Delkus was growing up in Collinsville, he saw the anchors he watched on local television having a lot of fun. He thought it would be a great job to get paid to do something interesting and different every day. Something else he already did nearly every day helped make that possible. “The attractive part of SIUE was I got a baseball scholarship,” said Delkus. “SIUE had a very good television and radio department and I knew that was the direction I wanted to go.” He would

end up achieving great success in both athletics and his choice of careers.

That didn’t happen without help. In the Mass Communications Department, one name stands out to Pete. “Barbara Regnell was probably the most significant person in my life on the campus, at that point, other than my Coach Gary “Bo” Collins,” Delkus recalled. “I vividly remember conversations with her about what you need to do to not only get your degree, but what you need to do once you have your degree.” Pete also appreciated the teaching of Riley Maynard because as Pete put it, “I liked him because he wasn’t far removed from the TV business, and what I learned from him wasn’t necessarily in books.” Delkus also credits the late Professor Kamil Winter for instilling in him a thirst for current events across the globe, opening his eyes to the world around him.

On the baseball diamond, the driving force was Bo Collins. According to Pete, “Bo was really good about being willing to use his foot when you really needed it.” Natural talent and good coaching led Pete Delkus into the pros in the summer of 1987, a few hours short of what was needed to graduate. He signed with the Minnesota Twins, making appearances in levels from the rookies to the majors. “I was on the major league roster for spring training, but never pitched one inning of a regular season major league game,” Pete said. In 1991 he sensed his career in the majors was coming to a close and he remembered words of wisdom shared at SIUE. Pete believes every collegiate athlete should consider this advice. “No matter how successful you’re going to be in your athletic career, at some point it’s going to end.” Pete came back to SIUE to finish

“Now is when you lay the groundwork for what you’re going to do after that athletic career ends.”

the degree he started. The next summer, he suffered an injury that would end his baseball dream, but not his career.

Pete was doing a TV internship in the sports department of a station in Orlando, Fla., when he was told the weekend weatherman had died. He was asked to do the weather on a Saturday morning and Pete reluctantly agreed. On Monday, the news director offered him a full-time job doing weather five mornings a week. “In my mind I’m thinking I’m this cool sports guy, not the geeky weather guy,” said Delkus. A week later he accepted the position, and the TV station sent him back to school to get certified in meteorology. The “geeky weather guy” from Collinsville is now the chief meteorologist for WFAA-TV in Dallas with 20 years in forecasting and multiple Emmy Awards to his name.

Pete stressed that all of the people he interacted with at SIUE are due the credit for where he is today. “They helped me foster something that I already enjoyed and they helped me down the right path.” That road repeatedly leads back to SIUE. Pete was the first baseball player inducted into the SIUE Athletics Hall of Fame. He comes back to the area about once a year to visit his family, and those visits include a stop at his *alma mater*. “I take a tour around the campus and each time I think, ‘How amazing’. It makes you proud,” said Delkus. He is extremely proud his *alma mater* is moving to Division I athletics, something he calls a great opportunity for student-athletes. “I have no doubt they will excel in Division I, just like we have in Division II.” He added, “You have a great opportunity right now at that university to make those decisions about what you’re going to do. Now is when you lay the groundwork for what you’re going to do after that athletic career ends.”



Portia George-Morrow

She was known then as Portia George, a girl from a small town in South Carolina, recruited to play tennis for Southern Illinois University Edwardsville. “As an incoming freshman, I had no idea of what I wanted to major in, but I felt SIUE provided different programs from which I could choose and be successful,” said George. The beautiful campus was another selling point for Portia. “I liked the fact that it was an opportunity to experience life in a different part of the country.” The final piece needed to make the decision came in recruitment conversations with then coach Bob Meyers. “Coach Meyers shared with me his vision and goals for the women’s program. Listening to him and meeting the other coaches and players, I knew SIUE was the right fit for me.”

Portia calls Bob Meyers instrumental in making the difference in her college career. Portia says Meyers was a firm believer that academics came first, and she credits him with developing her as a collegiate athlete and student. “He gave me the opportunity to have a successful academic and athletic career at SIUE,” said George. “I always remember him for that.” Her indecision about a major became a desire to pursue a degree in business. Here she found the support needed to balance the demands of practice, competition, and travel with the rigors of earning her degree. She stressed, “The whole business department was great about matching me with the right tutor or means of assistance.” It helped that many of her fellow athletes were in the business program, so support and encouragement was readily available.

Portia was teamed with Christina Bokelund, a player recruited from Sweden. The doubles team would make history in 1989, winning the NCAA Division II National Championship in Doubles, while the SIUE squad won the team championship. Portia stresses she and Christina did have great successes, but one of Portia’s most memorable experiences at SIUE was her graduation in 1991 with a bachelor of science degree in business administration. “I came into the University with goals

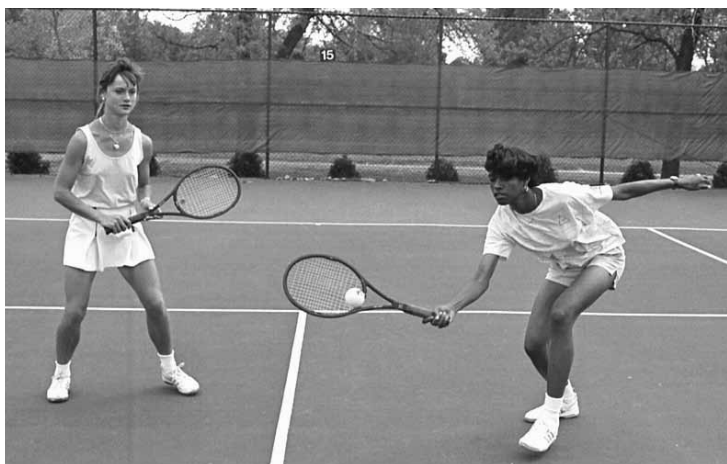


in mind. I wanted a degree and I wanted to develop myself as a collegiate tennis player. I was able to achieve both.”

Portia George-Morrow has not stopped achieving. She is now a regional sales account manager for Abbott Laboratories. She travels a six-state region while enjoying her life as a wife and mother of two daughters. “My experiences at SIUE helped me to be an independent, self-assured, self-motivated competitor,” Portia explained. Portia believes student-athletes who come to SIUE on a scholarship have an edge as they must demonstrate the discipline necessary to achieve recognizable success both academically and athletically. She adds current student-athletes should work closely with their support system on campus. “SIUE is not a big, big university, but it’s a nice size where you can get the assistance and resources needed to be successful.”

Portia also believes the University’s decision to transition to Division I status is a good one. “This will give the University greater visibility, the chance to establish new rivalries, and the chance to be part of a group of universities with common goals. I believe as a university, SIUE will benefit from the attention our sports program will bring.”

“I came into the University with goals in mind. I wanted a degree and I wanted to develop myself as a collegiate tennis player. I was able to achieve both.”



STAT — Students Today, Alumni Tomorrow

STAT offers SIUE students the opportunity to interact with alumni before graduation through social and educational networking events.

STAT Events

August 2011

STAT participated in the Edwardsville Block Party on Aug. 26 in downtown Edwardsville. Students stopped by the STAT table and played the “Junk in the Trunk” game to win free t-shirts.



September 2011

STAT hosted its 2011 Welcome Back BBQ on Sept. 8 in the Goshen Lounge of the Morris University Center. STAT members enjoyed hamburgers and hot dogs, participated in a bags tournament and received free STAT sunglasses.



October 2011

STAT officers and members walked in the Edwardsville Halloween Parade on Oct. 31. The group’s costume theme was “The Flintstones.”



November 2011

STAT, the Office of Student Affairs and the Department of Intercollegiate Athletics hosted the SIUE ROAR T-Shirt Swap on the Quad. Students exchanged shirts from other schools for a new SIUE spirit t-shirt. They also enjoyed free food and live music. The SIUE men’s and women’s basketball players and coaches were on-site to greet attendees and help pass out t-shirts. STAT led a serpentine march through the residence halls to bring students to the event.



STAT hosted the 2nd Annual Nearly Naked Mile on Nov. 11. Participants ran a one-mile fun run starting at 12 p.m. on the Quad. The event collected warm clothing donations for the Glen-Ed Pantry.



STAT All-Member Meetings

September 12

Featured alumni mentor speaker: Dave Heth, ’89 MBA

October 10

Featured alumni mentor speaker: SJ Morrison, ’02 BA

November 14

Featured alumni mentor speaker: Melissa Wesley, ’09 BSW

Mentor a student. Find out how you can get involved.

siue.edu/alumni/STAT



♥ SIUE Love Connection

Lauren and Zach Stead did a lot of walking just to meet for lunch in the MUC.

Lauren and Zach Stead are two SIUE lovebirds whose cougar pride is as strong as their love for each other. The couple met during the summer after their sophomore year at SIUE when they were both working at the Sunset Hills Country Club in Edwardsville. The two barely knew each other then and wouldn't go on their first date until over a year and a half later.

"Our first official date finally happened on January 8, 2009," said Lauren. "We had dinner at Los Tres Amigos and went to a movie. After that we were pretty much inseparable."

Lauren and Zach spent their final semesters at SIUE hand in hand, spending as much time together on campus as possible. Most of Lauren's classes were in the School of Business, while Zach's classes were all the way across campus in the School of Engineering.

"We had to do a lot of walking," Lauren laughed. "But it was worth it just to meet up for lunch in the MUC."

Zach graduated in May 2009 and moved home to Springfield, Ill., to work for City Water Light & Power. Lauren didn't graduate until December and remained in Edwardsville, but made sure she saw Zach every weekend. The long-distance relationship continued for several months until Lauren took a job in Springfield in March of 2010. Less than one month later, Zach was down on one knee asking Lauren to be his wife.

When it came to planning the wedding, the couple knew exactly where they would take their vows. "Edwardsville was our first and only choice," said Lauren. "We love the town where we went to college and taking pictures on campus was a must."

The newlyweds took advantage of the beautiful campus views and added an extra dose of nostalgia to their wedding photos by posing at some of their favorite campus locations. "We were able to take pictures at the baseball field where I played," said Zach. "Some of the best pictures were taken on the tree-lined



"Looking at the pictures now is such a great reminder of the wonderful memories we have, not only of that special day, but also of our time at SIUE. It's the place where our love story began."

paths around campus where we had walked so many times as students."

Red, black and of course white were the colors of Lauren and Zach's big day. Lauren said they chose the colors because they represent so many things that the couple loves together, especially SIUE.

"Looking at the pictures now is such a great reminder of the wonderful memories we have, not only of that special day, but also of our time at SIUE," said Lauren. "It's the place where our love story began."

The Steads currently live in Springfield with their one-year-old Australian shepherd, Tucker. They are active in the SIUE Alumni Association and visit campus as often as they can.

Lauren (Elmore) Stead is a 2009 graduate of the School of Business and Zach Stead is a 2009 graduate of the School of Engineering.

Read Lauren and Zach's full interview at siue.edu/alumni



They Call Her Coach



Sandy Montgomery, '86 BS, admits proximity and softball led to her decision to come to SIUE. She had considered attending Texas A&M, but a full scholarship at a university closer to her home with a highly competitive softball program led to a decision which she says made for a good fit. Now, 30 years after beginning that relationship, Sandy looks back on her career as a student-athlete, coach, associate athletics director and winner.

e: Sandy, as a student-athlete at SIUE, what challenges did you face balancing athletics and academics?

Sandy: That was a different time, obviously. There wasn't nearly as much emphasis placed on academics back then as there is now. That's not a knock on anyone. It's just the way it was during that time. You were still expected to go to class and make good grades, and you still had to remain eligible, but you didn't have the systems in place we have now. It was a different mindset with the same challenges.

e: What motivated you to be successful?

Sandy: I'm a competitor! Competition motivates me and I hate to lose. I also think time management is the secret to anyone's success when you're doing more than one thing at a time. I had a great coach in Cindy Jones and she set the framework for our program. I was pitching in the national championships my freshman year. It was a good place to be!

e: Give me an idea of your records and accomplishments as a student-athlete.

Sandy: I was 30-8 my senior year and that's one thing that really sticks out in my mind because that was a lot of games, but I don't know my records. We had a lot of wins when I was here as a student and made it to the NCAA Tournament.

e: You graduated in 1986 with a bachelor of science in physical education. Did you go right from graduation to the SIUE athletics department?

Sandy: I did. I went from graduation to grad school and was assistant coach under Cindy Jones and she basically let me do everything. So I was coaching at a professional level even though I was a graduate assistant. When Cindy became the athletics director, I was teaching elementary P.E. at St. Boniface School. SIUE

*"Coaching is not something you do.
It's who you are."*



hired me to start the volleyball program and coach softball full-time. I coached volleyball for four years and we actually made it to the NCAA tournament my fourth year and almost won the regional. After those four years, I got into administration, moving from assistant athletics director to senior women's administrator and now associate athletics director.

e: What was it like to win the Division II National Championship in 2007?

Sandy: There's the old adage that says, "There's only one team that gets to win the last game of the year." Well, that was us, and it was awesome! We made it to the NCAA tournament multiple years in a row before we won in 2007. We won with a team that probably wasn't the most talented one that I've ever coached and that made it even more special because that team truly got it. They understood the team concept and understood how much you have to sacrifice to play at that level. It was awesome!

e: Your former students talk about how you helped them strike the balance of academics and athletics. What is your philosophy in making sure student-athletes do what they need to do?

Sandy: I'm as competitive as the next person, and when it comes to the amount of time and energy we spend on softball-related activity, we're right up there with the best of them. But I truly believe in the student-athlete

concept and there is no life after softball for these kids unless they coach. They need to have a well-rounded education and be able to take those skills they've learned through the sport of softball and apply them to their everyday life. We have a team grade point average goal each year of 3.3. I set it high because that's tough to attain. I want them to be good students, good citizens and good players. They can't be one without the other and play for me. (See Academic Progress Rate sidebar.)

e: Your teams are playing a full Division I schedule and you have played the elite of the elite. Has that fact changed how you coach and approach the game?

Sandy: I thought it would. We have this philosophy in our program that our goal is to win the conference championship and then make it into the NCAA tournament. Hopefully by doing that, you give yourself a chance to win the national championship. Now I've changed a bit. It's a stretch for us to win the national championship right now. But you have to show up every day and bring your "A" game, no matter whom you're playing.

e: Do you think SIUE athletics have gained greater respect among our competitors?

Sandy: Absolutely! No question about it. There has been a lot of progress from a competitive standpoint. I also think your university's mentality or philosophy starts at the top. I've gone through several chancellors and the emphasis has always been on academics and probably not quite as much on the athletics department and its success.

Chancellor Vaughn Vandegrift has changed the culture of this institution, positioning athletics as a major, viable entity that makes everything else flourish. Under the leadership of Dr. Vandegrift and Athletics Director Dr. Brad Hewitt, we have the resources, the scholarships, the facilities and the staffing which allow us to bring in quality student-athletes. There were a lot of naysayers who thought our academics would suffer when we went Division I, but so far, they have not.

e: Sandy, you not only devote a great deal of time to your program, you've donated thousands of your own dollars to support it. Why?

Sandy: Because this is my program. This is my team and I want my players to have the resources and tools they need to succeed.

e: How much longer will you keep doing what you're doing?

Sandy: Maybe when I'm not competitive anymore, and I don't know when that's going to be. I still love the game. I love being around the kids. It's a passion that you have to have. Coaching is not something you do. It's who you are. The kids don't call me Sandy. They don't call me Ms. Montgomery. They call me Coach and that becomes who you are, and I think as long as you are a coach, you continue to coach. Coaching is a way of life and if you don't have that mindset, you're doing a disservice to your program and your team.

Academic Progress Rate

The SIUE Department of Intercollegiate Athletics utilizes the Academic Progress Rate to measure the continuing eligibility and retention of SIUE student-athletes. The softball team under Sandy Montgomery's leadership is one of four SIUE athletics teams to achieve the highest score of 1000. That translates into every softball player remaining eligible and graduating from SIUE.



Class Notes

Have you recently gotten married or started a new career? Share news with your fellow Cougars by submitting a class note at siue.edu/alumni.



From Where I Sit **Steve Jankowski's Perspective**

The Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary defines the word "transition" as "a passage from one state, stage, or place to another: change." Or as "a movement, development, or evolution from one form, stage, or style to another." What you find listed and described on the pages of this section are

personal examples of the transition that so many of us have gone through since leaving SIUE. Our transitions are reflections of what our *alma mater* has experienced, especially in recent months.

When I was a student at SIUE, working toward a career in broadcast journalism, the athletics program was as young and basic as our institution. The men's soccer team had just won the National Championship, but the men's basketball team was forced to play its games at the Edwardsville High School gymnasium. They had no official home on campus. The games had relatively poor attendance and would periodically be broadcast on local radio stations to marginal interest. On January 21, 2012, something historic occurred on the SIUE campus. The men's basketball team faced Ohio Valley Conference foe Murray State on the floor of the renovated, refurbished and sold out Vadalabene Center. The game against the then-ranked and unbeaten squad from Murray State was broadcast live on ESPN-U to a nationwide television audience. More than four thousand SIUE students, staff, alumni and fans from the community packed the place with a sea of red. Now that is a transition!

Several years ago Chancellor Vaughn Vandegrift launched an effort to investigate the benefits and risks of moving SIUE to NCAA Division I status. That effort is complete and we should learn soon that we have done everything necessary to become fully certified as a Division I university.

Chancellor Vandegrift is about to make his own transition, retiring after eight years as Chancellor on July 1 of this year. He admits SIUE alumni have not always agreed with him, but have always supported him. There were some who thought the move to Division I was a mistake, but being part of the crowd at that January basketball game would leave no doubt that this transition was laying the foundation for the future of our University.

To my fellow alumni I say support our athletic teams, to all Cougar athletics we say good luck in Division I competition, and to Chancellor Vandegrift, thank you for having the vision to see SIUE as something beyond the way it has always been.

College of Arts and Sciences

1960s

William "Bill" Nunes ('63 BA History) has published a new book entitled *Southern Illinois Illustrated: History and Nostalgia*.

Ed Gray ('67 BSM) has been elected to a two-year term as the regional director for the Illinois Retired Teachers Association.

Dan Kostencki ('68 BA History, '75 MSED, '87 Specialist) who dedicated his life to education for 43 years is retiring. Kostencki has been the principal of Metro East Lutheran High School in Edwardsville for the last 10 years.



1970s

Gregory Huebner ('73 MFA) recently retired from a 37-year teaching career from Wabash College in Crawfordsville, Ind.

Rance Thomas ('73 MA Sociology) has served on IMPACT's board of directors for the last 10 years.



Major General William L. Enyart ('74 BA Mass Communication/Government) has been awarded the Polish Army Gold Medal, the highest-level medal given to a foreigner. Enyart, of Belleville, joins four star generals – retired Army Chief of Staff Gen. George W. Casey Jr., retired Central Command Commander and current CIA Director Gen. David Petraeus, African Command Commander Gen. Carter Ham, and Commander of International Security Assistance Force Marine Gen. John R. Allen – as recipients of the award.



Gerard J. Reis ('74 BA Mass Communications) is senior vice president of government affairs for STERIS Corporation and has recently been welcomed as a Lakeland Community College Board of Trustees board member. Reis was appointed by Ohio Gov. John R. Kasich to serve as a member from September 2011 to October 2012.

Daniel Vallero ('75 BA Geography, '77 MS Community and Regional Planning) is author of *Environmental Biotechnology*. Vallero currently resides in North Carolina.

John J. Dunphy ('76 BA History/Government) has published hundreds of articles and several books. His most recent release is *Abolitionism and the Civil War in Southwestern Illinois*.

Dave Lange ('76 BA Mass Communications) has completed a book on the history of soccer in St. Louis. *Soccer Made in St. Louis*, which includes detailed accounts of soccer at SIUE, was published in August 2011 by Reedy Press in St. Louis.

Kevin C. Kaufhold ('78 BA Government, '10 MS Business) was appointed a Southwestern Illinois Development Authority board member by Gov. Pat Quinn in May 2011.

Arven Howard Saunders ('78 BS Math Studies) was recognized in the Alumni publication for receiving a doctor of philosophy in industrial engineering degree in the August 2011 commencement ceremony. Saunders currently resides in Arlington, Texas.

Eugene (Gene) Schmitt ('78 BA Government) retired as postmaster in Litchfield and went on to travel through all of the lower 48 states, Alaska and almost all of Canada with his wife in their motor home. The two currently reside on Myakka River in Florida.

Ronald S. Motil ('79 BS Government) is a partner with the Glen Carbon law firm of Beatty & Motil. His concentrations are in the specialties of personal injury, worker's compensation and municipal law. Motil has served as president of the Madison County Bar Association and Tri-City Bar Association. He is currently the village attorney for the Villages of Maryville, Pontoon Beach and St. Jacob and has been appointed as a hearing board member of the Attorney Registration & Disciplinary Commission of the Supreme Court of Illinois.

1980s

Patience “Patti” Fleer (’80 BA Music) has been named “Outstanding Music Educator of the Year” by the National Federation of State High School Association.

Deborah Engelsdorfer Kasten (’84 BM Educational Performance) is an accomplished opera singer and music educator. Kasten recently performed a concert at St. Paul United Church of Christ in Belleville as part of the St. Paul Fine Arts Series.

J. Thomas “Tom” Crammond (’85 BM, ’86 MM) officiated the 14th Annual Lewis and Clark Community College (LCCC) USTA Men’s Pro Circuit Tournament. He became a USTA official at the LCCC tournament in 2002.

1990s

Bradley A. Will (’90 BA English, ’92 MA American English Literature) has been appointed assistant dean of the College of Arts & Sciences at Fort Hays State University (FHSU) in Hays, Kan. Will is also an associate professor of English and director of the Center for Interdisciplinary Studies at FHSU. Will resides in Hays with his wife Linda and sons Ryan and Ian.



Elizabeth Kochan-Nolan (’91 BS Mass Communications) is leading Incite, a full-service social impact-marketing firm, launched by Emmis Communication Corporation. Emmis, renowned for media innovation, is the parent company of local radio stations. Nolan has served clients such as National City (PNC) Bank, St. Louis City Department of Health and Anthem BlueCross BlueShield.

John Simmons (’91 BS Political Science) helped raise a record amount of more than \$67,000 for Step Out: Walk to Stop Diabetes with Simmons Law Firm.



Reggie Thomas (’92 MM) accepted a position at Michigan State University in the music dept. Thomas and his wife performed a jazz concert at the Wildey Theater in Edwardsville in July 2011.

Lori Chavez (’94 BS Speech Communication) was recently appointed Local.com’s vice president of marketing. Chavez’s responsibilities involve leading and managing the company’s brand and marketing initiatives, including the company’s recently expanded product suite. The product suite is designed to help local businesses drive online customers to their registers.

Dr. Simon B. Rowe (’95 MM) teaches jazz piano, jazz studies, and serves as the coordinator of the Music Industry Program at MSU Moorhead. Rowe has been active in St. Louis as a member of the Willie Akins Quartet, and in Indianapolis and the Fargo-Moorhead area as the leader of his own trio. Rowe founded the tri-college combo program and “Jazz at Studio 222.” Rowe has recently been appointed the next director of the Brubeck Institute.

Randall Ballard (’96 MS Environmental Studies) is an industrial hygienist at Clark Seif Clark Inc., office in Arizona. Ballard is a U.S. Navy Veteran. He earned a bachelor of arts in anthropology at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, a bachelor of science in geology at Southern Illinois University Carbondale and a master’s at SIUE.

Cynthia Burkhead (’97 MA English) coedited *Joss Whedon: Conversations*, covering the most dynamic years of Whedon’s television career. Burkhead is an English instructor at the University of North Alabama. She is also the author of *Student Companion to John Steinbeck* and the coeditor of *Grace Under Pressure: “Grey’s Anatomy” Uncovered*.

Andy Manar (’97 BS History/Political Science) was a Top 25 Under 45 Macoupin Made Young Leader award recipient. The award recognizes individuals working to make Macoupin County an attractive place by establishing their careers and taking ownership of its economic future.

2000s

Dean Plovich (’01 BLS) was named “Macoupin Made Young Leader of the Year.”

Katie Bennett (’03 BS Mass Communications, ’11 MPA) is director of alumni relations at Colorado State University in Fort Collins, Colo.

Phil Dunlap (’04 BSM, ’07 MM) was recognized in The Class of 30 Under 30 in the 2011 *St. Louis Business Journal*.



Andrea Young (’04 BS History) is a singing artist, working with Kady Malloy Wylde since April 2010. The band, Young and Wylde, has their own brand of country rock. Young resides in Nashville, Tenn.

Sarah Ruffatto (’08 BS Mass Communications/English) appeared at World Series Game 6, where her boyfriend proposed during a TV interview with Ellen DeGeneres. DeGeneres had given the two the tickets to the game and VIP field passes. Later, the couple were flown to L.A. for the Ellen Show and met World Series MVP David Freese.

Brandon Crouch (’09 BS History/Social Science Education) is an instructor at Lincoln’s Challenge Academy in Rantoul, Ill.

Jane Drake (’09 MS Biological Sciences) is the new director of the Gardens at SIUE. Drake becomes the second director of The Gardens, replacing Doug Conley.

Tasia Reed (’09 BA Philosophy) has graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas. Reed earned distinction as an honors graduate. She is now an Air Force Airman First Class.

Angela Sullivan (’09 MPA) is the director of the Jerseyville, Illinois Parks and Recreation Department.



2010s

Sean Gosewisch (’10 BA History) is a graduate student and cross-country and track coach at William Penn University in Iowa.

Carly James (’10 BS Speech Communication) is the director of student affairs at Flagler College in St. Augustine, Fla.

Erin Hilligoss-Volkman (’11 MS Environmental Science) serves as a park ranger at the National Great Rivers Museum at the Melvin Price Lock and Dam and the Riverlands Migratory Birds Sanctuary.

Andrew Ravanelli (’04 BS Biology) graduated from Duke University in December 2010 with a Ph.D. in cell biology and is currently a Postdoctoral Fellow in Pediatrics at the University of Colorado School of Medicine.

School of Business

1960s

Carl Conceller (’68 BS) is a principal with NAI DESCO in St. Louis. Carl represents buyers, sellers, landlords and tenants in acquisition, disposition and leasing of office, industrial and retail transactions.

Ralph Korte (’68 BS), one of SIUE’s biggest benefactors, is gifting a building valued at \$815,000 which will likely be used for economic development purposes in University Park.

Judge Milton S. Wharton (’69 BS) plans to retire at the end of 2012. Wharton has presided over major felony criminal cases, including the Christopher Coleman, Aaron “Chill” Jackson and Jason Smith murder cases. Wharton has worked in every court division in St. Clair County since first becoming a judge in 1976.

1970s

John Fletcher (’73 MBA) has been elected to Marina Biotech Inc. board of directors. Marina Biotech is a leading nucleic acid-based drug discovery and development company. Fletcher is also a founding partner of Fletcher Spaght Ventures, a venture capital firm; chief executive officer of Fletcher Spaght Inc., a management consulting firm, and an independent director for purposes of the Sarbanes Oxley Act of 2002 and NASDAQ stock exchange regulations.

Kevin Holden (’73 BSA) recently retired from Warner Brothers in Burbank, Calif. as vice president of operations of the Warner Home Entertainment division. Holden is a member of the worldwide DVD launch team in the role of director of operations.

Class & Faculty Notes

Edward J. Blake Jr. ('77 MBA) is owner of Blake Law Group, P.C. with offices in Edwardsville, Collinsville, Belleville and Waterloo. His firm concentrates in the areas of real estate, business law, tax, estate planning, trusts and estates, divorce and family matters.

Robert J. McDonough ('77 MBA) of Hill's Marlton, N.J. office, has joined the firm's Project Management Group as vice president. McDonough has more than 23 years experience in the construction industry with a special focus in the pharmaceutical, biotech, industrial/process and energy markets. Prior to joining Hill, he was director of business development with Pathfinder Inc.

Judith Blase Woodruff ('77 BA) is the executive director of the National Foundation for Ectodermal Dysplasias. She is also a member of the Association of Fundraising Professionals, the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education, and serves on the Board of Camp Ondessonk.

Joseph Parlsey ('78 BS) has recently been appointed vice president, business development of QinetiQ North America's engineering and life-cycle management business unit. Parlse's main responsibilities are capturing new business and growing the client and partner relationships already in place for the business unit based in Huntsville. Prior to QinetiQ North America, Parlse worked for Northrop Grumman Electronic Systems.

Terry Davis ('79 BS, '87 MBA) was named to the Madison County Board. Davis is also very active with the St. Louis charity Backstoppers. Backstoppers provides financial and emotional support to the families of public safety workers who have died in the line of duty.

Daniel R. Donohoo ('79 BS) was appointed as a commissioner to the Illinois Workers' Compensation Commission.

1980s

Fernando Aguirre ('80 BS) has been appointed to Aetna's Board of Directors. With the addition of Aguirre, the company's board increases to 13 members.

Grant B. Walsh ('80 MBA) is a chairman, corporate director and a chief executive officer with over 30 years experience in a variety of industries in the United States and Canada. Walsh is the chairman of four companies: Canada Lands Company Ltd., Medifocus Inc., Walsh Delta Group Inc. and MBMI Resources Inc. He also serves as a member of the Board of Cleveland Clinic Canada, Toronto and Yinfu Gold Corporation, Hong Kong.

Dr. John Mosser ('81 BS) is the vice president for the Office of University Advancement at the University of Findlay. He held a similar position at Bentley University in Massachusetts.

Susan C. Bailey ('82 BS, '84 MBA) received designation as a National Professional Housing Provider (NaPHP). The NaPHP designation is a statewide, education-based certification program designed to recognize the highest level of knowledge and professionalism among peers.

Kevin J. Stine ('84 BS) is an attorney specializing in banking law, bankruptcy, real estate law and commercial and civil litigation. He was nominated to serve on the boards of directors of the Federal Home Loan Bank of Chicago. The bank is an \$84 billion wholesale bank, serving the needs of member finance institutions located in Illinois and Wisconsin. He was also appointed to serve on the Illinois Supreme Court's special committee formed to study and formulate proposals to help those facing the loss of their homes and improve the judicial process in mortgage foreclosures.

Charles A. Wentz, Jr. ('85 MBA) has been appointed to the School of Engineering Advisory Board at SIUE.

Ann M. Schaefer ('86 BS) celebrated her 25th wedding anniversary with her husband Tom on August 29, 2011.

Lisa Safarian ('88 BS, '91 MBA) was named one of the most influential businesswomen by *St. Louis Business Journal*. She is vice president in charge of the U.S. commercial seeds and traits business, national brands and licensing. Additionally, she was the co-leader for Monsanto's 2011 United Way campaign, is on the board of Bibles for Honduras and is president of the pastor-parish relations council for Christ United Methodist Church in Fairview Heights.

Sharon K. Trettenero ('88 BSA) is mother of Katie Trettenero, a freshman at SIUE and member of the cross-country team.

1990s

Bradford A. Updike ('90 BS Finance) was awarded the Distinguished Service Award given by Real Estate Investment and Securities Association (REISA). In addition, Updike was elected to the 2012 REISA Board. He is also a 2000 graduate of University of South Dakota Law School and a 2006 graduate of UFL Taxation LLM Program.

Mike Babcock ('91 BS) works as an independent insurance broker in Glen Carbon and announced he is running for the 56th District Senate seat in the state of Illinois.

Brett A. Finley ('91 BSA) is chief internal auditor for the Illinois Department of Corrections.

Kyle Viehl ('93 BS Business Administration) is a financial advisor at Edward Jones. Previously, Viehl worked for U.S. Bank.

David Cisler ('95 BSA) was a Top 25 Under 45 Macoupin Made Young Leader award recipient. The award recognizes individuals working to make Macoupin County an attractive place by establishing their careers and taking ownership of its economic future.

Vern Van Hoy ('95 BS) has been inducted into the Alton High School Wall of Fame.

Grahaeme A. Hesp ('97 BS Business Administration, '99 MBA) received one of only five Sue Kraft Fussell Distinguished Service Awards from the Association of Fraternity/Sorority Advisors (AFA). The award recognizes individuals who have exhibited high professional standards and achievements in fraternity/sorority advising and outstanding achievements in one or more of the following areas: service to AFA; programming and/or service which reaches beyond the recipient's campus; development and research activities; and/or service to the college and fraternity/sorority communities. Hesp's award recognized 15 years of commitment to higher education and student affairs and honored his cutting edge research into sexual orientation within fraternities.

John M. Shimkus ('97 MBA) received the first ever Fueling Growth Award from Growth Energy, a national organization of producers and supporters of ethanol. The award presentation was made at the National Corn-to-Ethanol Research Center at SIUE on October 19, 2011. Shimkus also serves in the U.S. Congress representing Illinois' 19th Congressional District. He has filed petitions to run as a Republican for the seat for the new 15th Congressional District.

John Grizzle ('98 BS Business Administration) completed fifty marathons in all fifty states for runners between the ages of 56 and 62.

Erin M. Phillips ('98 BS) of the law firm Unsell & Schattnik in Wood River has been selected as a 2012 Illinois Super Lawyer Rising Star. Super Lawyers is a rating service of outstanding lawyers from more than 70 practice areas who have attained high peer recognition, meet ethical standards and have demonstrated professional achievement in their practice areas. Rising Stars are attorneys who are 40 or under, or who have been practicing for 10 years or less.

Amy Sholar ('98 BS) works as an attorney in Alton and has recently run for Madison County state's attorney.

2000s

Cale Henke ('00 BS) is the assistant vice president and center manager at TheBANK of Edwardsville's Glen Carbon 157 center. He has also been appointed to the Illinois Bankers Associations 2011-2012 Future Leaders Alliance Board.

Gabriel C. Dubois ('02 BS, '04 MBA) is the NPI project lead at Caterpillar's Unit Rig Brand Product Group in South Milwaukee.

Darryl L. Tyler ('03 BS Business Administration) is the vice president in Business Banking at PNC Bank in Clayton. Tyler also serves as vice chair and board member for the School of Business Alumni Association.

Shrikant Jategaonkar ('04 MS Finance and Economics) had his working paper entitled, *If it's good for the firm, it's good for me: Insider trading and repurchases motivated by undervaluation*, highlighted in the January 21, 2012 edition of the *Wall Street Journal*.

Justin Joiner ('05 BS Economics and Finance) is a Real Time Power Trader within Ameren Missouri's Asset Management and Trading Department.

Christine (Carducci) Taghon ('05 BS) and husband **Brian Taghon** ('07 BS) welcomed their first child, Benjamin Miles Taghon on November 23, 2011.

Jared Siebert ('06 BS) is the center manager of the Glen Carbon 159 Center of TheBANK of Edwardsville. Siebert has been an employee of TheBANK of Edwardsville for five years and recently graduated from the Community Banker's School held in Bloomington at Illinois Wesleyan University. He resides in Edwardsville with his wife Amy.

Travis Vogler ('06 MSA) is the vice president of Wells Fargo and Company's Food and Agribusiness Industry Group. Vogler will be responsible for the central and mid-west divisions of Wells Fargo's Commercial Banking Group.

Sara (Boeker) Hanks ('07 BSA) is employed at Leymore Hardcastle and Company Ltd. in Salem, Ill. Hanks passed the AICPA examination in 2010 and became an Illinois licensed CPA in early 2011. She currently resides in Centralia with her husband.

Pete Visintin ('07 BS, '08 MBA) is the co-founder of Ageless Fitness in Gillespie, Ill. In addition, Visintin is the head personal trainer and general manager.

Brian Getz ('08 BS) is engaged to SIUE alumna Jamie Beal. The couple is planning a June wedding in Peoria.

Mallory Clements ('09 BS, '11 MBA) is the assistant volleyball coach at Western Illinois University. Clements, a former SIUE volleyball player and an assistant coach, holds the SIUE record for service aces (189) and is second on the list for all-time assists (4,311) and digs (1,459).

Lindsey Mulvey ('09 BS) is working at Boeing Corporation in St. Louis and coaching high school track and field.

Hillary Wirth ('09 BS, '11 MBA) is an export trade compliance specialist at Sigma Aldrich in St. Louis.



Visintin

2010s

Brian Loose ('10 BSA) is a member of the audit and tax department of Diel & Ferguson Financial Group.

Ross Hampton & Matt White ('11 BS) won the \$50,000 top prize in the World Series of Beer Pong in Las Vegas. The pair won 22 games to take the title and prize money.

Ashley Walker ('11 BS) has joined Marketing and Communications at SIUE as a graduate assistant and interns at Think Tank Public Relations and Marketing in Glen Carbon. Walker is currently working toward her master's in mass communications.

School of Dental Medicine

Dr. Stephan Doran ('83 DMD) received the President's Award at the Illinois State Dental Society. Dr. Doran currently serves on the Board of Directors of the John M. Scott Health Center in Bloomington, is a past president of the McLean County Dental Society and recipient of the McLean County President's award.

Dr. Walter Osika ('87 SDM) has opened Bin 51 Wine and Spirits in Edwardsville. The business is located directly across the street from City Park on South Buchanan.

Dr. Randall Markarian ('92 DMD) is a recipient of Smiles Change Lives (SCL) 2011 Gini Award, which recognizes outstanding volunteerism and service to children's orthodontic health. Dr. Markarian has served as SCL advisor, recruiter, community advisory board leader, fundraiser and St. Louis-area program champion.

Dr. Keith Evans ('01 DMD) earned the William J. Greek Memorial Leadership Award at the Illinois State Dental Society (ISDS) and is currently the vice president of the McLean County Dental Society. He has also served as both a member and chair of the ISDS New Dentist Committee.

Professor **Poonam Jain** was a Top 25 Under 45 Macoupin Made Young Leader award recipient. The award recognizes individuals working to make Macoupin County an attractive place by establishing their careers and taking ownership of its economic future.

School of Education

1960s

Andrew M. White ('62 BS, '84 MS, '00 Ed.D.) is a retired elementary teacher from schools in East St. Louis and Fairview Heights. He is currently an associate professor at Eastern Illinois University in Charleston teaching math-education classes and working with gifted fourth and fifth grade students in the Charleston Public Schools.

1970s



DeCoursey

Greg DeCoursey ('71 BS Physical Education, '88 MSED) has been inducted to the Illinois High School Baseball Coaches Association Hall of Fame.

Daniel Thompson ('72 BS English) has authored his third book, *Borderland War*, published by Father's Press of Lee Summit, Mo.



Thompson

Norman Bohnenstiehl ('73 BS History, '78 MSED) is the 2011 Educational Leadership

Award recipient from the Edwardsville NAACP chapter. Norman, who retired after 37 years in education, has been teacher and principal at several schools in the area, most recently principal of Edwardsville High School (EHS). During his tenure, EHS has been recognized throughout the state and on the national level as a leader in academics, fine arts and athletics.

Sandy Crawford ('74 BA Sociology, '77 MSED Counselor Education) is working with the St. Louis Regional OASIS Intergenerational Tutoring program.

Jane Franko-York ('75 BS Elementary Education) was recently selected as one of 10 finalists in The Great American Teach-Off, sponsored by GOOD and the University of Phoenix. York teaches fifth grade at Wilson Elementary in Granite City.

Vernetta Caffey ('76 MSED) retired from full-time teaching in 2002, but continued as a substitute teacher. Caffey has served as academic coordinator for the Lewis and Clark Community College Upward Bound program for more than 20 years. The program, designed to prepare high school students for college courses, is available for students from low-income households and with parents who have not attended a four-year college. It is federally funded through the U.S. Department of Education's TRIO program.



Cavanaugh

Harry J. Cavanaugh ('76 MSED Counsel Education, '98 Education Specialist) is principal at Sts. Peter and Paul School in Alton. Cavanaugh has more than 30 years experience in the education system.

Sandra Curran ('77 BS Special Education, '84 MSED Counselor Education) was a finalist for Illinois Teacher of the Year. The award is sponsored through Illinois State Board of Education Those Who Excel program. Curran teaches sixth grade at Lincoln Middle School in Edwardsville.

Nancy Aud ('78 BS Education, '91 MBA) is mother of aspiring actress Mazey Aud, who recently appeared on the Ellen DeGeneres Show.

Loren Richard Klahs ('78 BS Sociology) is a clinical psychotherapist who has been working at St. Anthony's Medical Center, Mercy Hospital, the Hopewell Counseling Center and other locations in both St. Louis and Illinois. He is currently participating in a clinical research longitudinal study conducted at Harvard University in Cambridge, Mass. and Harvard Medical School in Boston.

1980s

Susan Sarfaty ('81 BS Elementary Education, '88 MSED) has been promoted to regional superintendent of St. Clair County.

Ed Gray ('87 Specialist Degree) has been elected to a two-year term as a regional director for the Illinois Retired Teachers Association.

Class & Faculty Notes

Rita Jenkins ('87 BS, '99 MSed) recently retired from Edwardsville Community Unit School District #7 and has entered a new career as volunteer advocate for abused and disadvantaged children in Madison County.

Karen Anders ('89 MSed) is a ventriloquist, who performs with her son Timothy, 18, for all ages around the area. They like to perform for and honor veterans. Anders is also a substitute teacher for Collinsville Unit 10 and Edwardsville School District.

1990s

Linda Ames ('90 BS Education/Political Science, '99 MSed) has been recognized by the Illinois State Board of Education in its "Those Who Excel" program. Ames teaches at Granite City High School.

Jon Burnett ('90 BS Physical Education, '04 MSed) was named 2011 Coach of the Year for Boys All Area Cross Country Team by the *Belleville News Democrat*.

Nancy Lochmann ('91 MSed) has been named a recipient of a Peabody Energy Leaders in Education Award. Nancy is a teacher and assistant principal at Holy Cross Lutheran School.

Danita Mumphard ('92 BS Elementary Education, '94 MSed) is an advisor at SIUE and musical performer. Mumphard performs with her dad Harold Thompson's renowned jazz group, Trio Tres Bien, as well as solo.

Al Downing ('93 BS) is a marketing coordinator with Louer Facility Planning.

Catherine Elliott ('93 BS Special Education, '00 MSed) was promoted to assistant principal at Alton High School. Elliott has been a special education self-contained teacher and co-teaching coordinator at the school since 1995.

Melinda Pauk ('93 MSed) is mother of Thomas Pauk, recipient of a medal and certificate from officers of the Gen. George Rogers Clark Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution in recognition of attaining Eagle Scout status. Thomas is studying mechanical engineering at SIUE.

Julie Gorsage ('97 MSed) was awarded a \$700 "Tag, You're a Reader" grant from the Alton Educational Foundation, to help her second-grade students with reading.



Melissa Batchelor ('98 BS Special Education, '01 MSed) is the new volunteer coordinator for First Night River Bend, a New Year's Eve activity that provides as a safe, entertaining and alcohol-free alternative to traditional Dec. 31 celebrations.

Mark Begando ('99 BS Kinesiology, '08 MSed) is the principal at Lewis and Clark Junior High School.

Annie-Marie Foret ('99 BS Elementary Education, '03 MSed Administration) has entered her second year as the assistant superintendent of schools for the

Madison CUSD #12. This is her seventh year as a district administrator with six previous years of classroom teaching experience. Foret and her husband Matthew have been married for nine years and reside in Troy with their daughter Hope, 7, and son Grant, 4.

2000s

Brad Skertich ('01 MSed) was a Top 25 Under 45 Macoupin Made Young Leader award recipient. The award recognizes individuals working to make Macoupin County an attractive place by establishing their careers and taking ownership of its economic future.

Tracy Sashidharan ('03 BS Psychology, '06 MA Psychology) is working to test theories on animal-assisted therapy. Research on animal-assisted therapy has consistently shown benefits for patients' well-being. Sashidharan's dog Dirk is undergoing training to become her co-therapist.

Leslie Murphy ('08 BS Elementary Education) was chosen to attend Educator's Space Academy in Huntsville, Ala. in June of last year.

Kyle Cameron ('09 BS, '11 MSed Kinesiology) is working for Big River Running Company in St. Louis.



School of Engineering

James J. Heinz ('83 BS Construction) is regional vice president of Multiband Corporation. Multiband recently acquired the St. Louis operations of WPCS International Inc.

Lt. Col. William V. Boothman ('87 BS Civil Engineering) has been named commander of the Missouri Air National Guard's 121st Air Control Squadron at Jefferson Barracks. Lt. Col. Boothman took command of the squadron during a ceremony at the post, replacing Col. David W. Newman, Jefferson Barracks base commander.

Jeff Daiber ('92 BS Mechanical Engineering/Math) has accepted a position with General Electric. The position will be a mixture of project engineering, project and warranty management and problem solving.

Michael Marchal ('94 BS Construction) is the president of Holland Construction Services and has been named to the *St. Louis Business Journal's* "40 Under 40" for 2012.

Michelle Gilman Cox ('00 BS Mechanical Engineering) was inducted into the Great Lakes Valley Conference Hall of Fame in 2011. In her four years at SIUE, Cox helped develop the volleyball program into a national power.

Alicia DeShasier ('07 BS Civil Engineering) won the gold medal for Team USA in the javelin at the 2011 Pan American Games from Telemex Athletic Stadium.



Baker

Daniel Baker ('11 BS Civil Engineering) has been hired by Oates Associates as a junior engineer. Baker will begin his career supporting Oates Associates structural group.

School of Nursing

Carla G. Tolbert ('85 BSN) is a new associate at law firm Schrempf, Kelly, Napp and Darr Ltd. Tolbert is a 2010 graduate of St. Louis University School of Law and is licensed to practice in Missouri and Illinois, concentrating in representing victims of medical negligence and nursing home abuse. She is also a registered nurse and veteran of the U.S. Navy Nurse Corps.

Stella E. Wischmeyer ('86 BSN) completed her post-master's adult primary nurse practitioner program at Villanova University in December 2010 and is now a licensed CRNP.

Sherry Hausmann ('87 BSN) is president of Via Christi Hospital St. Francis in Wichita, Kan. Previously, Hausmann was president at SSM St. Joseph Hospital of Kirkwood, leading the operational design for its replacement St. Clare Health Center. Under Hausmann's leadership, St. Clare Health Center won several regional and national awards, including a design award from *Modern Healthcare* magazine for its revolutionary approach to patient care, the American Institute of Architects Merit Award and the Vista Award from the American Hospital Association's American Society of Healthcare Engineering.

In Memoriam

Carlos J. Hawley ('71 BS, '73 MBA) died on July 29, 2011 at Greenville Regional Hospital in Greenville, Ill.

Donald F. Nie ('81 BS) died Sept. 3, 2011. Donald served as assistant principal of Mooresville High School in Mooresville, N.C. and worked as deputy superintendent and assistant superintendent for the Cook County Regional Office of Education in Chicago.

Lenore C. Stengelmeyer ('82 BSA) died October 22, 2011 in Granite City, Ill.

Sandra G. Noe ('93 BSA) of Glen Carbon died on October 8, 2011 at Autumn Leaves in Crystal Lake, Ill.

Michael E. Krupp ('96 MBA) died on Wednesday, Aug. 24, 2011. He was an aeronautical engineer for Flight Safety International in St. Louis. He is survived by his wife Connie, son Aaron, two daughters, Lauren M. Haines (husband Joshua) and Whitney, and four sisters.

Dr. Richard Zaworski ('84 DMD) passed away Friday, July 15, 2011 as a victim of a house fire. He was 54 years of age and formerly resided in Joliet, Ill. A memorial celebration of his life took place on Saturday, August 13, 2011 at the American Legion Harwood Post #5 in Joliet.

A Tradition of Excellent Leadership

Fifty years after admitting its first students, SIUE remains a public university for the people of Southwestern Illinois. As we look back on the achievements of past presidents and chancellors, we also look forward to our next half-century of excellence.

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
EDWARDSVILLE

Delyte W. Morris **1948-1970**

- Delyte W. Morris responded to the local initiative that demanded a public university in Southwestern Illinois.
- The Mississippi River Festival, 1969-1980, was initiated by Morris. The MRF flourished during an era of great turmoil and change in American society.



Earl Lazerson **1979-1993**

- President Earl Lazerson initiated the annual Preview SIUE open house event for high school students and their families in October 1979.
- In the aftermath of television coverage concerning the Rodney King incident in California in May 1992, Lazerson presided over a Unity Convocation gathering in the Communications Building theater.



Vaughn Vandegrift **2004-2012**

- Chancellor Vandegrift's accomplishments are too numerous to list here!
- Please turn back to page 1 for highlights.



1948 —

— 2012

John Rendleman **1968-1976**

- When the SIU Board of Trustees wanted to do away with MRF after its first season, Chancellor John Rendleman was instrumental in making sure it continued, saying "We initiated this as a cultural experience, not a money maker."
- On the day after the shooting of four anti-Vietnam War demonstrators at Kent State University, Rendleman held an open forum in the Goshen Lounge and responded to comments and questions from outraged students.



Kenneth "Buzz" Shaw **1977-1979**

- President Buzz Shaw initiated an institutional tradition by delivering his first comprehensive state-of-the-university address in the Communications Building theater on Sept. 20, 1977.
- In June 1978, Shaw announced the selection of twenty high school seniors with high academic potential as the first group of Presidential Scholars.
- Shaw was named chancellor of the SIU System in 1979.

Nancy Belck **1994-1997**

- Nancy Belck was the first and only woman to be named president of SIUE.
- Belck is remembered for bringing the carillon to campus.
- After her first year, she expanded the Commencement tradition from a May ceremony to May, August and December Commencement ceremonies.



David Werner **1997-2004**

- David Werner joined the SIUE School of Business faculty in 1968 and served as dean of the School and, later, Provost.
- Werner's tenure included significant enrollment growth and a transformation of the campus to a mix of residential and commuter students. The University also undertook seven major building projects.



“SIUE is a place where you can receive a great education and develop as a well-rounded student and person.”

***Dorian Brown, '99, MA History
Assistant Professor, St. Louis Community College***

Defining Excellence

THE CAMPAIGN FOR SIUE

siue.edu/definingexcellence

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: 21 trees, **Total energy saved:** 15 million BTUs, **Greenhouse gases prevented:** 11,284 lbs., **Wastewater reduction:** 8,928 gallons, **Solid waste reduction:** 988 lbs.

