

# tion **e**connect

*The Magazine for  
Southern Illinois University Edwardsville  
Alumni Association & Friends  
No. 22  
Fall 2017*







Students enjoy a laugh near Cougar Lake on a beautiful fall day.



@siuedwardsville

## In this issue



Alumni Events



Meet Bev George, SIUE Foundation President



Keeping Pace with the Changing Needs of Students

The *eConnection* is published by University Marketing and Communications, in cooperation with the Office of the Vice Chancellor for University Advancement.

We welcome your comments and suggestions. Contact Director Constituent Relations Cathy Taylor: [cattayl@siue.edu](mailto:cattayl@siue.edu) 618-650-5176

The following alumni have contributed to the production of this magazine:

Carol B. Dappert, '81  
Heather V. Kniffel, '95, '13  
Cathy N. Taylor, '15

# 2017 Homecoming Weekend

You are invited back to campus to reconnect during Homecoming Weekend 2017! We hope you'll join us to celebrate the legacy you helped build.

## Alumni Hall of Fame

**Friday, Oct. 6**  
**Reception 6:30 p.m.**  
**Dinner 7:30 p.m.**

Celebrate "A Night Among the Stars" at the annual reception and induction dinner

Tickets: \$50 per/person

*A Night Among the Stars*

## Cougars Unleashed Homecoming Run & Pancake Breakfast

**Saturday, Oct. 7**  
**9 a.m.**  
**Birger Hall**

The second annual 5K/10K/1-mile run will benefit SIUE Alumni Association Scholarships. After the run, stay for entertainment and a world-famous Chris Cakes pancake breakfast.

### Registration

- 5K: \$30
- 10K: \$40
- \$5 off for SIUE alumni; Free for SIUE students

Register by September 16 and receive a commemorative race pint glass

Register by September 23 and be guaranteed a race shirt



## Alumni Pre-Game Tailgate

**Saturday, Oct. 7**  
**4-7 p.m.**  
**Korte Stadium Lawn**

**SIUE Men's Soccer vs Bowling Green**  
**7 p.m. Kick Off**

Get fired up for the game while enjoying **free** food, adult beverages, live music, games, giveaways and more!

Special seating for Classes of '67, '72, '77, '82, '87, '92, '97, '02, '07, '12

**Free** Homecoming pint glass for the first 200 alumni!

Register at  
[siue.edu/homecoming](http://siue.edu/homecoming)





# A Greeting from the Chancellor

## Dear Alumni and Friends of SIUE,

I hope summer 2017 provided wonderful experiences for you and your families. It did for me, and many of those experiences resulted from the opportunity to serve as your Chancellor. After one year, I can honestly say this time has been one of the most exciting of my life because of the vitality of the institution. Our alma mater is even more dynamic and progressive than it was during my years as a student. It has been energizing to be a part of the momentum.

The 2016-2017 academic year was one of collaboration and relationship building as SIUE connected in more significant ways to local and regional governmental agencies and added to an already impressive list of corporate partnerships that yielded creative and responsive programming. For example, SIUE maintains its designation as a military friendly university and has enhanced its relationships with leaders at Scott Air Force Base—especially exciting during this year as the base celebrates its centennial. This is just one of several mutually beneficial collaborations that will continue to be a focus in the coming years.

In addition to critical partnerships with our local and regional constituents, continuing support from our alumni located around the globe remains of great importance, as well. All of these relationships offer SIUE the chance to gain valuable input on what we offer, and enhance our programming and facilities. For example, SIUE is currently expanding the Engineering Building, and alumni support has been instrumental in the completion of phase one. The second phase is now in fundraising mode, and we are confident alumni will see the importance of investing in the quality education of engineers who will go on to develop innovative solutions to complex societal challenges.

All of this bears witness to the fact that, despite the budgetary logjam at the state level, SIUE is very much in motion. Here are some additional and exciting updates from recent months:

- Work continues on the Science East Building. The Science Complex is perhaps the most impactful construction on campus since SIUE’s residence halls. Almost all renovations should be completed by fall 2018.
- The School of Dental Medicine opened a new Edwardsville clinic in University Park in February.
- Corporate partnerships are expanding, with recent additions including BJC HealthCare and Anderson Hospital.
- Spring 2017 enrollment was the second largest spring enrollment total in the history of the institution.
- SIUE received top 10 recognition in several areas:
  - The School of Education, Health and Human Behavior school psychology program ranked among the Top 10 nationally for scholarly productivity.
  - The School of Nursing online master’s in healthcare informatics is ranked sixth in the nation by [affordablecolleges.com](#).
  - The School of Business graduate program in economics and finance is ranked seventh nationally by *The Financial Engineer Times*.
- SIUE continues to be among the Top 25 Safest College Towns in America, according to the Safewise Report.
- SIUE is ranked 80th nationally for the “Best Risk-Reward for College Students” at public institutions, according to Lendedu.com.
- *U.S. News & World Report* listed the School of Nursing in its “2017 Best Online Graduate Nursing Programs Top 100.”
- For the last 11 straight years, spanning 22 consecutive semesters, SIUE student-athletes have finished with a departmental GPA of better than 3.0. SIUE’s post-season Division I success is also very impressive with the University ranked 94<sup>th</sup> out of a field of 351 eligible Division I institutions nationwide in the Learfield Directors’ Cup standings.

Through sound fiscal management, enrollment growth and deliberate program development, SIUE is in a place of relative stability and is maximizing that opportunity by investing in the future of our region. We invite you to join us in that effort. Consider giving back as a way to recognize, honor and promote an institution that has profoundly impacted the citizens of Southwestern Illinois and has offered so many individuals a chance to succeed.

There are several opportunities to get involved with the University this year, beginning with our Homecoming activities, October 2-7, followed by the 12th annual SIUE Community Day celebration to be held October 12 from 7:30-9 a.m. Please join us for these exciting events to learn more about all that is being accomplished at SIUE. We hope to see you there and guarantee you will be amazed!

**e** **ENGAGING FOR THE FUTURE,**  
Randall G. Pembroke, '78, '79, '80  
Alumnus and SIUE Chancellor



## SIUE Today School of Business Graduate Program Ranked 7th Nationally



#7 economics and finance

The national reputation of the School of Business continues to grow. The School’s economics and finance graduate program was ranked 7th in *The Financial Engineer’s* 2017 Financial Economics Rankings. The program climbed five slots from its initial #12 ranking in 2014, and overall scores are based on the program’s acceptance rate, incoming students undergraduate GMA and GMAT scores, employment after graduation and starting salary.

## Cougar Baja Team Cruises Through Nationwide Competitions

In its 11th year, the Cougar Baja team showed off its latest off-road vehicle for nationwide competitions held in spring 2017. The team, comprised mostly of engineering students, designed, funded, built and tested their vehicle in preparation for two collegiate competitions held in Pittsburg, Kan., and Peoria. The students worked on the vehicle’s design throughout the fall semester and began the process of bringing their Baja to life in January.



## Garcia to be AEDA Scholar in Residence

Nathalia Garcia, DDS, assistant professor in the School of Dental Medicine, will participate in the American Dental Education Association’s Enid A. Neidle Scholar-in-Residence program. Garcia obtained the award by proposing a research project related to women’s issues in a dental academic career. She spent time in Washington, D.C., in July and will return in March and June 2018 to conduct more research and explore issues facing women faculty, including advancement and tenure policies, child care and elder care, work patterns, advanced education and research opportunities, and other gender-related issues.

## Kindergarten Readiness Camp Helps Young Students Thrive

The East St. Louis Center’s pilot Kindergarten Readiness Camp marked significant positive outcomes in its 2016 class. At the camp, 80 incoming kindergartners had the opportunity to learn and practice skills they would be expected to master in kindergarten. Over the course of the camp, an increase in positive social behaviors, improved developmental skills among toddlers and favorable parental support occurred. In its second year, the camp teaches students socialization and communication skills, early reading skills, fine motor skills, math skills and a love of learning.





# SIUE Today

## “Alton Mathletes” Achieve National Success at Math Games Competition

Understanding mathematical concepts may not come naturally to some students, but treating the learning and problem-solving process as a game has helped several local students thrive. The “Alton Mathletes,” led by College of Arts and Sciences Dean Greg Budzban, PhD, was named the national champions at the National Math Festival held in April in Washington, D.C. The “Mathletes” are but a small segment of the entire Alton Math Games League, which is comprised of approximately 40 fifth grade students in the Alton School District. The team is coached by Alton High School students, and two SIUE graduate students served as the league’s “athletic directors.”



## Students Research Effectiveness of Steady State vs. Interval Training

As the finale of their undergraduate studies in the School of Education, Health and Human Behavior, five students in the Department of Applied Health worked to determine which style of aerobic exercise, steady state or interval training, was more effective among untrained adults. The team of exercise science majors worked with 16 participants who maintained sedentary lifestyles. The team found that, for the most part, both aerobic programs were equivalent.



## Shaping a Changing World

Chancellor Randy Pembroke is bringing Central American Mission Projects (CAMP) to SIUE as an active element of his focus on community service and the University’s mission to shape a changing world. SIUE has finalized a partnership agreement with CAMP to provide faculty-led travel study programs for SIUE students. During Pembroke’s January 2017 trip, which was his 12th consecutive year participating in service work in Costa Rica, he brought along Dr. Bruce Rotter, SIU School of Dental Medicine dean, for an introduction to the experience. They spent approximately one week in San Jose and outlying communities volunteering time for the betterment of local citizens.



## Morris University Center Celebrates 50th Anniversary

For half a century, the Morris University Center (MUC) has been the hub for student life and community engagement on campus. In celebration of its 50th anniversary, a slew of engaging events, such as the Decade’s Dash 5K Run and a special birthday party, were held on campus in honor of the MUC’s rich social, recreational, cultural, educational and developmental impact.



## NASA Astronaut Speaks to Sold-Out Crowd

NASA Astronaut Dr. Mae C. Jemison, the first woman of color to travel in space, spoke to an audience of nearly 1,000 people in March at the MUC’s Meridian Ballroom as part of the University’s Arts & Issues series. Jemison, an engineer and physician, travels across the country and speaks about such issues as health care, social responsibility, technology and motivation.



## Students Use Robot to Teach Children About Social-Emotional Skills

A humanoid robot joined students at the SIUE Head Start/Early Head Start program at the Jackie Joyner-Kersey Center in East St. Louis for a special lesson. As part of an ongoing research project that combines the disciplines of robotic programming, education and child psychology, the robot helps teach children about social-emotional skills within educational curriculum. Jerry Weinberg, PhD, associate provost for research and dean of the Graduate School, leads the collaborative effort. His team includes Stephen Hupp, PhD, professor of psychology; Ehren Wolfe, who is pursuing a master’s in computer science; and Madison Schoen, who is pursuing a master’s in clinical child and school psychology.





# Cougar Athletics

## A New Conference Awaits Wrestling and Men’s Soccer

SIUE has accepted an invitation to join the Mid-American Conference (MAC) as affiliate members in the sports of men’s soccer beginning with the 2017 season and wrestling beginning with the 2018-2019 academic year. “Our decision to accept the MAC's invitation is based on many factors, including increased national branding, cost containment, augmentation of existing rivalries, the development of new regional rivalries and SIUE’s general student recruitment focus in major metropolitan areas,” said Brad Hewitt, PhD, director of athletics.



### Men’s Soccer

SIUE men’s soccer is coming off its most successful season since its return to NCAA Division I competition in 2008.

The team:

- Won their second Missouri Valley Conference tournament championship
- Advanced to the Sweet 16 of the NCAA College Cup during the 2016 season
- Finished the year with a 10-5-7 record, marking the second consecutive year SIUE finished with at least 10 wins and the third double-digit win season in the past five years
- Enjoyed a 14-game unbeaten streak from September 28 until a loss to Wake Forest at the Sweet 16
- Finished at No. 5 in the NCAA in save percentage (.845) and 16th nationally in goals against average (0.71)

- Led the MVC in attendance and were 41st nationally with an average of 846 fans per contest

The 2016 College Cup appearance marked the SIUE men’s soccer team’s 15th appearance in the NCAA Division I championship and the 23rd NCAA tournament appearance overall. They won an NCAA Division I National Championship in 1979 and were national runners-up in 1975. They finished third in 1977 and were national semifinalists in 1982. SIUE also captured the College Division National Title in 1972, was runner-up at the Division II level in 2004 and a semifinalist in 2005.

“When we began to look at the direction we wanted to take the program, we realized what kind of an opportunity the



*“Conference affiliations are always evolving, and institutions are constantly pursuing the best academic, social and competitive opportunities for their student-athletes.”*

— Brad Hewitt, PhD  
Director of Athletics

MAC provides,” said Mario Sanchez, head coach. “The move will help the program to advance on a regional and national level. We are excited to join and compete in one of the top men’s soccer conferences in the country.”

The MAC now consists of six men’s soccer programs: four with full MAC membership (Akron, Bowling Green, Northern Illinois and Western Michigan) and two affiliate members (SIUE and West Virginia).



Follow us on  
Twitter

@SIUECougars for  
general news

@SIUEGameday for  
game day updates

siuecougars.com



### Wrestling

SIUE will remain in the Southern Conference in wrestling for the 2017-18 season, where the Cougars have competed since 2013. The 2016-17 season was one of the team’s best since the move to Division I.

- Three SIUE wrestlers won their respective weight classes at the Southern Conference championship and advanced to the NCAA championships in St. Louis
- Senior Jake Residori finished in eighth place, becoming SIUE’s first All-American in 30 years
- The team had its most successful season in the Southern Conference, collecting 69.5 points to finish third at the 2017 championship
- Wrestling had its best-ever regular season finish at 4-3

“The MAC is an extremely strong conference across all sports, and in wrestling it’s one of the top three or four conferences,” said Jeremy Spates, head coach. “You have some big-time teams like Missouri and Central Michigan, and teams that are placing and bringing home All-Americans every year. It’s great for us, because it is so centrally located.”

SIUE wrestling owns a rich history. The Cougars have three NCAA Division II team national championships and have earned nine other top-four finishes. SIUE also claims 19 NCAA Division II individual national champions. Residori’s eighth-place finish in 2017 gave SIUE 12 NCAA Division I All-Americans, while the University boasts more than 110 Division II All-Americans.

The MAC will consist of nine wrestling programs: six with full MAC membership (Buffalo, Central Michigan, Eastern Michigan, Kent State, Northern Illinois and Ohio) and three affiliate members (SIUE, Missouri and Old Dominion).

## Volleyball Coach Moves to Illinois State

Leah Johnson, the 2016 Ohio Valley Conference Volleyball Coach of the Year, announced she is leaving SIUE to become the head coach at Illinois State University. Johnson spent six seasons at the helm of SIUE volleyball, pushing the program to new heights in the Ohio Valley Conference. The Cougars were the runner-up at the 2016 OVC Tournament.

Johnson’s squad set a school record with 22 victories, the most by an SIUE team in the Division I era. The Cougars also advanced to the OVC Tournament championship match for the second time in program history, finishing the season No. 100 in the RPI.



Assistant coaches Kendall Paulus and Luke Young will remain with SIUE’s volleyball program this season. Paulus, who has the greatest tenure with the Cougars, will serve as the acting head coach, and Young will serve as the associate head coach during the 2017 season. A national search will start during the fall with the hopes of having a permanent head coach in place by the conclusion of the 2017 season.



Kendall Paulus



Luke Young





### Dear Alumni and Friends,

Happy autumn! I am pleased to share with you that this has been a very good year for the SIUE Foundation in terms of alumni engagement, student engagement, endowment management and fundraising. All of these are accomplishing what we call “creating a culture of philanthropy” at SIUE.

Why do we need philanthropy? Why do we need our alumni and friends to support us? We need volunteers, mentors, recruiters and donors so our students can achieve the best education possible. If we could engage just 20 percent of our alumni, we could provide students with more scholarships and undergraduate research, host more nationally recognized speakers, and engage in more national competitions.

Why is this important to you? This is your alma mater. Others gave so that you could benefit. Now it is your turn to focus on the continued growth of this great university. Think carefully about what your SIUE experience meant to you. Has SIUE positively affected your life’s journey through your exposure to learning, research, faculty, relationships and experiences?

If you feel SIUE has had a strong positive influence on you, then please join us. SIUE is growing quickly, and we need you to continue your journey with us.


Best regards,

**Rachel Stack**

Vice Chancellor for University Advancement and  
CEO of the SIUE Foundation

## 2017 Alumni Association Scholarship Recipients

The SIUE Alumni Association proudly supports SIUE by providing scholarship opportunities. Each year, the Alumni Association awards more than \$30,000 in scholarships to incoming and current SIUE students.

Consider making the future brighter for future SIUE students by donating to the SIUE Alumni Scholarship fund. Every dollar counts. One-time and reoccurring gifts can be made at [siue.edu/give](http://siue.edu/give). 

Applications are accepted September 1-January 31 for the upcoming academic year. To apply, visit [siue.academicworks.com](http://siue.academicworks.com).

**Kimberly Daum**  
Centralia, Ill.

School of Nursing

**Katelyn Fox**

Staunton, Ill.

School of Business

**Therese Hilbert**

Peoria, Ill.

School of Engineering

**Jayla Jack**

Greenville, Ill.

School of Pharmacy

**Emily Kauffman**

Pontoon Beach, Ill.

School of Nursing

**Conner McClain**

Plainview, Ill.

School of Pharmacy

**Kayla Shanklin**

Belleville, Ill.

College of Arts

and Sciences

**Austin Woodard**

Philo, Ill.

College of Arts

and Sciences



### Board of Directors Scholarship

**Macie Christisen**  
Perryville, Mo.  
School of Nursing

**Katelyn Hardiek**  
Newton, Ill.  
School of Nursing

**Carmen Huddleston**  
Nokomis, Ill.  
School of Nursing

**Jacob Sebok**  
Edwardsville, Ill.  
College of Arts and Sciences

*Front Row:*

*Carmen Huddleston,  
Kimberly Daum*

*Back Row: Alan Kehrer,  
Emily Kauffman, Connor  
McClain, Katelyn Fox,  
Cathy Taylor, Ann Frank*

## Introducing the New Chicago Chapter

The SIUE Alumni Association is thrilled to be establishing a Chicago Chapter! More than 3,700 alumni live and work in the Chicagoland area, making it home to the largest constituency of SIUE alumni outside the St. Louis area. The Chicago Chapter will host local events year-round, offering many opportunities for alumni to get involved, reconnect with fellow alumni and stay updated on the SIUE community.



Over the summer, the Chicago Chapter hosted several events including a reception at Cindy's Rooftop Restaurant, brunch at the Langham and a happy hour at Boleo. Mark your calendar for October 2 when we will be hosting our next gathering from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Ovie Bar & Grill.

To learn more and become involved with the Chicago Chapter, please contact our Chapter Representatives:

- Elizabeth Frattura, BS '05, Chapter President  
[elizabeth.frattura@morganstanley.com](mailto:elizabeth.frattura@morganstanley.com)
- Mitch Morecraft, BS '15, Chapter Vice President  
[mitch.morecraft@gmail.com](mailto:mitch.morecraft@gmail.com)

Visit [siue.edu/alumni](http://siue.edu/alumni), and check out the 'Events and News' tab for information about upcoming events in Chicago. We're on Facebook! [Facebook.com/siuealumni](https://www.facebook.com/siuealumni)

### Join us in Chicago!

The SIUE Alumni Association serves SIUE graduates for a lifetime, helping alumni stay connected with SIUE, while cultivating a sense of pride and engagement among alumni and the University. We hope that by staying informed and involved, alumni are inspired to support SIUE and ensure its continued excellence. Membership is FREE and events are open to all alumni and friends of SIUE!

### Get involved with the Chicago Chapter so you can:

- Represent SIUE in the local Chicago community
- Expand your local professional network of SIUE alumni and friends
- Attend Chicago Chapter sponsored events, including social happy hours and events hosting SIUE faculty/admin speakers
- Stay engaged and updated on current news at your alma mater
- Mentor current students who are looking for encouragement and guidance with career choices
- Help give back to future generations of students through fundraising events to raise money for our Scholarship Fund
- Serve as an Alumni Ambassador in recruiting the next generation of SIUE students



### Students Today, Alumni Tomorrow

The SIUE Alumni Association's student organization, Students Today, Alumni Tomorrow (STAT) is dedicated to enhancing the connection between students past, present and future while strengthening lifelong loyalty to SIUE. This organization also helps create a culture of philanthropy on campus by encouraging students to participate in programs that inspire a positive culture of volunteering and giving.

February is National Student Engagement and Philanthropy Month, and STAT will be hosting:

- Thank-A-Giver Month–The tangible impact our donors have on campus will be highlighted by tagging items which were purchased with donor funds with TAG (Thank-A-Giver) signs.
- Tanks for Thanks–Students will have an opportunity to say “thank you” to donors.



# Past Events

## Golden Graduation Reunion, May 5-6

SIUE hosted its first annual Golden Graduation Reunion during the spring commencement weekend. More than 40 individuals participated in the weekend’s activities hosted by the SIUE Alumni Association. Activities for the Class of 1967 included a reception, campus bus tour and participation in a commencement ceremony. The Golden Graduates wore golden regalia and received a commemorative medallion as they crossed the commencement stage.



## Attention Class of 1968!

Mark your calendars for May 4-5, 2018

We will be hosting our second Annual Golden Graduation Reunion

## SIUE and SIU Springfield Alumni Reception, July 12

More than 300 alumni and guests attended this co-hosted event to celebrate the great things happening on both campuses.



# Upcoming Events

## Engineering Mentor Mixer with Hyperloop Expert Panel Discussion

Monday, Oct. 16

4:30-6:30 p.m.  
MUC Conference Center, 2nd floor

Hosted by the SIUE Alumni Association and SIUE Career Development Center

The SIUE Mentor Program is excited to connect current students with alumni professionals. Engineering students will be matched in small groups with alumni based on professional interests and disciplines. Alumni will share their career stories and expertise with their matched student. Dinner will be provided, in addition to a panel discussion and prizes for student organizations.

If you are interested in participating as a mentor at the Mentor Mixer, please contact the Office of Alumni Affairs at (618) 650-2760 or [sieualumni@siue.edu](mailto:sieualumni@siue.edu).



## Alumni Legacy Reception

Saturday, Oct. 21

6-7 p.m.  
Mississippi/Illinois Room, MUC

Are there generations of SIUE Cougars in your family tree? If you are an SIUE graduate and have a child, grandchild or sibling attending SIUE this fall, you are invited to attend an exclusive reception hosted by the SIUE Alumni Association and the Kimmel Involvement Center during Family Weekend!

- Connect with fellow legacy families
- Meet SIUE administration and the SIUE Alumni Association Board of Directors
- Enjoy hor d’oeuvres and host bar
- Receive preferred seating for the Magician Mike Super performance following the reception



## THE GARDENS AT SIUE Fall Clean-Up and Family Bonfire

Saturday, Nov. 4

1-5 p.m.  
The Gardens at SIUE

The Gardens at SIUE is one of the most beautiful places on campus, especially during the colorful fall months. The SIUE Alumni Association invites you and your family to join us for a fall clean up followed by a bonfire with s’mores and hot dog roasting.

## Meridian Scholars Day

Friday, Feb. 9

Each year, SIUE awards 20 Meridian Scholarships. This premier opportunity is an eight-semester, renewable scholarship covering tuition, fees, and room and board. During Meridian Scholars Day, the top 160 applicants are interviewed and recruited.

If you are a past Presidential, Chancellor or Meridian Scholarship recipient and would like to volunteer for an interview team or discussion panel, contact Cathy Taylor at [cattayl@siue.edu](mailto:cattayl@siue.edu).





# 2017 Alumni Hall of Fame Honorees

SIUE will honor nine remarkable alumni on October 6 during the Alumni Hall of Fame Ceremony, A Night Among the Stars. The School of Dental Medicine honorees will be recognized at the October 28 Dean’s Scholarship Gala. These impressive alumni who, through their leadership, character and hard work, have made exceptional contributions in their chosen fields, in their communities and at SIUE.

Tickets for the Alumni Hall of Fame reception and dinner can be purchased online: [siue.edu/alumni](http://siue.edu/alumni) 



### College of Arts and Sciences

**Matthew Samsel**  
**MS Mathematics ’00**

As head of trading and a vice president with NRG Energy in Princeton, N.J., Matt supervises the company’s wholesale trading activity in power, fuels and emission markets. Prior to joining NRG, he served in trading and leadership

roles with International Power America, Citigroup Energy, Exelon, and Florida Power & Light. Before working in energy, Matt traded nonferrous metals for Metal Exchange Corporation in St. Louis. Since 2011, he has volunteered as a tutor and as a fundraiser for the Marie Katzenbach School for the Deaf in West Trenton, N.J.



### College of Arts and Sciences

**Thomas Schamberger**  
**BA Mass Communications ’74,**  
**MS Mass Communications ’81**

Thom is the retired executive director of the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award Foundation. He held this position from 2006 until he retired in 2014. He also served as treasurer and chief

financial officer for the Baldrige Foundation, and he continues to advise the foundation when needed. Previous positions held include quality control at Barnes Hospital, numerous human resources positions at McDonnell Douglas/The Boeing Company and vice president of performance excellence for Premier Incorporated in San Diego. Thom came to SIUE after serving in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War. He worked in the broadcast industry as an announcer and news reporter for several small radio stations before transitioning into the human resource management field.



### School of Business

**Robert McClellan Jr.**  
**BS Business Administration ’73,**  
**MBA ’76**

Bob is the retired president and CEO of Hortica. He started his career as director of management information services at SIUE. He was an adjunct faculty member at SIUE and Webster

University and served in senior management with Home Nursery and Automation Facilitators before joining Hortica (then Florists’ Mutual Insurance Company) in 1987. He has been an active member of more than 20 boards and community groups, including the SIUE Foundation, and has received many honors and awards: Albert Cassens Community Service Award, Society of American Florists’ Golden Bouquet Award, Ameren and the Illinois Development Council Business Partnership Award, Rotary International’s Four-Way Test Award for Business Ethics, Illinois Commerce Bank Community Award, and the SIUE Distinguished Service Award.



### School of Dental Medicine

**Dr. Julia Paulson, DMD ’79**  
**Dr. Peter Paulson, DMD ’78**

Drs. Peter and Julie Paulson share a general practice in Mt. Zion, Ill. Peter is a past president of the Illinois State Dental Society (ISDS) and past

regent of the 8th District of the International College of Dentists (ICD). Julie serves as a director on the ISDS Foundation’s board of directors and leadership coordinator for the 8th District of the ICD. Both are active members of the Decatur District Dental Society, the ISDS and the American Dental Association (ADA). Both are Fellows of the ICD and the American College of Dentists. Peter received the SIU SDM’s Outstanding Alumni Award in Leadership in 2000. In that same year, he also earned the ISDS President’s Award.



### School of Education, Health and Human Behavior

**Dr. Greg Moats**  
**BS Physical Education ’76,**  
**MS Educational Administration ’93**

Greg was an educator for 34 years. He retired as the superintendent of schools for Belleville Township High School District 201. Previous positions included

teaching, coaching, assistant principal, director of technology, and assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction. In retirement, Greg furthered his involvement in education as the coordinator of teacher education at Lindenwood University-Belleville and as an assistant coach during the inaugural season for the basketball program. Greg was a member of the State Superintendent’s Advisory Board, and a board member and officer of the Illinois Association of School Administrators, Illinois High School District Organization and Illinois School District Liquid Asset Fund.



### School of Engineering

**Dr. Robert Mock**  
**BS Industrial Engineering ’90**

Robert became president of Johnson & Wales University-Charlotte in October 2015. His career in higher education began in 1995 as a staff member in continuing education at the University of Arkansas. He was later named associate

vice provost for student affairs. In 2010, he joined the University of Kentucky as the vice president for student affairs. Mock’s undergraduate experience included winning Illinois’ Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc. Brother of the Year Award in 1990, being awarded multiple academic scholarships through student associations and the engineering program, among other accolades. He has since earned a master’s and doctorate, and achieved a wealth of experience in business, the military and higher education.



### School of Nursing

**Dr. Anne Perry**  
**EdD ’91**

Anne, professor emerita and former dean of SIUE School of Nursing, is a highly recognized and esteemed nursing clinician and educator. She is the author and co-author of textbooks and references in topics of nursing

fundamentals and clinical skills. Her textbooks are required reading in nursing schools in 13 countries and have been translated into 10 languages. Anne has received numerous awards throughout her career, including the Missouri Nurses Association Lifetime Achievement Award in 2003, North American Nursing Diagnosis Association International Mentor Award in 2012, Saint Louis University School of Nursing Alumni Merit Award in 2016, and the March of Dimes Legends in Nursing Award in 2016. She is a Fellow in the American Academy of Nursing.



### Graduate School

**Dr. Patricia Rice**  
**BA History/Foreign Languages**  
**and Literature ’86,**  
**MS History ’89**

Patricia is the director of the Division of the Senior Historian at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum’s Mandel Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies.

She oversees and coordinates the extensive research activities of the Center. Patricia specializes in medical crimes and eugenics policies in Nazi Germany. She often works with the American Medical Association to bring the history of the Holocaust and its repercussions for medical ethics to medical faculty throughout the U.S. She has extensively published in her field and has given well over 200 presentations nationally and internationally. Patricia graduated summa cum laude and was valedictorian of her undergraduate class at SIUE.



# Stay Involved!

## From your Alumni Association Board President



### Now is the time to get involved!

**Fellow Alumni,**  
As we embark on another highly successful academic year at SIUE, I encourage you to make this the year you return to visit campus and get involved in the many great things happening at our alma mater.

In my first year serving as your Alumni Association board president, many of you have asked me about the various ways alumni can serve and give back to the University and to students. I often answer this question first by speaking about the opportunities to serve as a mentor to current SIUE students. I have had the honor of mentoring several students and I must share that it is incredibly rewarding when your mentee crosses the stage at commencement and then goes on to land their first position in their career field.

I strongly encourage you to find the way to give back and stay involved that best suits your personality and fits your availability. Visit the alumni website and follow the SIUE Alumni Association on Facebook to stay up-to-date on scheduled events and initiatives.

### See you at Homecoming!

**Alan Kehrer**, BS Business '92, MBA '12  
SIUE Alumni Association Board President

*P.S. There are several meaningful ways to get involved!*


## Mentor Program

In partnership with the SIUE Career Development Center, alumni are encouraged to serve as mentors for students. Mentorship is only as involved and time consuming as you want it to be. Alumni mentor activities include:

- Providing future career advice
- Serving as an inspirational leader
- Being a coach and helping your student remain focused on their goals
- Assisting students in securing their first job upon graduation


We are always in need of additional alumni mentors to help continue the legacy of excellence at SIUE.



To find out how you can get involved in the Mentor Program, visit [siue.edu/cdc](http://siue.edu/cdc) and select the "Alumni" link. 

## Refer a Student

An excellent, no-cost way to give back is by simply referring a student to apply to SIUE. As an alum, when you refer a student to apply to SIUE, their \$40 application fee is automatically waived. There is no limit to the number of prospective students you can refer. Don't be held back by geographical boundaries. SIUE now offers in-state tuition to new undergraduate students from all 50 states. When your referred student chooses to attend SIUE for four years, your referral is comparable to you making a gift of more than \$83,000 to the University!

Visit [siue.edu/alumni](http://siue.edu/alumni)   
and click on the "Stay Involved" tab to refer a student today!

## Alumni Recruitment Ambassador

Near or far, alumni can volunteer to become an Alumni Recruitment Ambassador. Through a partnership with the Office of Admissions, you can represent SIUE and connect with prospective students in your area by:

- Attending college fairs in your area
- Writing letters
- Making phone calls
- Visiting high schools

All recruitment ambassador activities are closely coordinated and supported by the SIUE Admissions staff.

[siue.edu/alumni](http://siue.edu/alumni)   
"Stay Involved" link



## SIUE Alumni Association Committees

As a member of the SIUE Alumni Association, you are invited to serve on an Alumni Association committee:

- Advocacy
- Mentoring
- Alumni Engagement

Members help set the direction of their committee and drive events that engage fellow alumni, support students and promote SIUE.

**Interested in serving on a committee?**  
**Call 618-650-2760**

## Career Development

Career development doesn't stop when you land your first job. The Office of Alumni Affairs is often contacted by alumni seeking assistance with their careers. As SIUE alumni, you have access to the Career Development Center and the career services it provides:

- Career counseling and assessment
- Graduate school application assistance
- Job search resources
- Resume preparation support


You are also invited to utilize the Cougar Jobline and attend on-campus career fairs and mock interview days.

Visit [siue.edu/cdc](http://siue.edu/cdc) to get started. 



## Have you registered for Cougar Tracks?

Cougar Tracks provides an easy and fast way for you to update your contact and profile information and find out about SIUE events. Remember, the eConnection is now distributed via email twice a year. Please share your email address so we can stay connected!

Visit [siue.edu/alumni](http://siue.edu/alumni)   
Follow us on Facebook  
[@siuealumni](https://www.facebook.com/siuealumni)



# Alumni Profile

Bev George, BA '75, MSED '79, began her two-year term as president of the SIUE Foundation July 1. She joined the Foundation board of directors in 2011. She was president of the SIUE Alumni Association board of directors at the time.



*“Bev’s deep love for SIUE, her entrepreneurial spirit and her intelligent leadership will take the Foundation to the next level. She is adept at working with groups, gaining consensus and making progress toward goals. I am very excited to work with Bev, because I know I will learn a tremendous amount from her.”*

— Rachel Stack, Vice Chancellor for University Advancement and CEO of the Foundation



## What is the most exciting part of being the Foundation board president?

**Bev:** It’s a great honor to be the SIUE Foundation board president. Clearly, when I look at the gallery of past presidents in the board room at Birger Hall, I am reminded of the thousands of hours of planning and executing the vision of the Foundation board to help students at the University, primarily by overseeing the investment strategies of the Foundation funds for University projects and student scholarships. I’m excited every time I walk on campus for a meeting or an event, getting to see firsthand the growth of our campus from my time as a student in the ’70s.

## What elements of your career have led you to this position?

**Bev:** As a real estate broker, my job is to help buyers and sellers make wise decisions based on their needs and expectations. I believe the Foundation board members, collectively, help the board in its entirety to make wise decisions on investments, projects and leadership goals.

## Your early career was in education. Do you think that this has influenced how involved you have been with SIUE?

**Bev:** Yes, I was a high school English teacher. Nearly everything we do as a Foundation revolves around teaching and learning. We get to see what students are doing, the research they provide and the results of that research. We get to learn the reality of running an institution such as ours. We lead our committees to make wise choices in structuring their goals and objectives. It’s all teaching and learning for us.

## What do you want your board legacy to be during your term?

**Bev:** I hope my board legacy will be the involvement of our Foundation members in the various board committees we are

casting. I will ask that each board member pursue the opportunities of philanthropy and leadership through groups such as finance, student engagement, signature events or the mentoring of new members.

## What would you like alumni to know about the Foundation board?

**Bev:** SIUE alumni, now more than 100,000, give our University its strength. The history of this college is seen in the faces of all alums; be they from the ’60s or 2016. The Foundation is here to financially support this university so the next 100,000 alumni have even better programs, buildings and financial support than ever before.

## Do you have any advice for alumni who aspire to volunteer leadership roles at SIUE?

**Bev:** There are so many avenues for alumni to get involved in leadership roles! The best place to start is by connecting with the Alumni Association board of directors, and attending alumni events on campus and around the area.

## Is your family a legacy family? (more than one generation attending SIUE)

**Bev:** Yes, we are a legacy family. I earned a BA in ’75 and an MS in ’79. My daughter, Sara George-Waterfield, earned an MA in ’13. Sarah is a doctoral candidate at UNC, Chapel Hill. My husband, John, graduated from SIUC.

## What excites you most about SIUE and its future?

**Bev:** I am ready to face the challenge of sustaining a high degree of quality in the face of dwindling financial resources so we are able to continue delivering the best possible education to our students.





# Alumni Profiles



*“The atmosphere (at SIUE) was very inspiring, and the professors were so helpful and caring.”*

—Gonz Jove, BA Art/Art Studio '78  
Internationally-known Muralist

## Sharing History Through Art

Gonzalo “Gonz” Jove, BA Art/Art Studio ’78, is a celebrated and internationally-known muralist whose work graces the SIUE Art & Design Building, the St. Louis Art Museum and several locations in Bolivia, where Jove was born.

“I prefer doing murals, because they tell a story,” he said. “I love conducting research and learning more about humanity.”

His most recent project fills the entryway of Better Family Life (BFL) Community Center in St. Louis. The 95-foot-long, five-foot-high painting is Missouri’s largest African American history mural. It depicts the rich cultural heritage of Africa and the Africa Diaspora. Jove spent 2½ years researching and creating the artwork.

“I created a visual timeline beginning with the dawn of humanity to the rise of human civilization, through periods of resistance, oppression and celebration,” Jove said. “The story ends with depictions of great people who helped shape the world we live in today.”

The vibrant mural starts with the face of an African child rising out of the universe and scenes of African life, and ends with the

universe looking down at a futuristic thriving African American community in north St. Louis. In between, the pictorial documentary shows poignant periods of black history such as the Middle Passage, abolitionism and the Underground Railroad, emancipation, East St. Louis race riots, the civil rights era, and the Michael Brown shooting and Ferguson unrest.

Response to the mural has been overwhelming. The local media attended the unveiling last October. Several groups have toured the community center and have shared positive reactions to the content of the mural.

“I felt empowered to do this mural on African American history. I was also humbled,” said the Bolivian born artist from La Paz. “Many people have asked why I was selected, because I’m not black. But I’m human. We’re all the same.”

Jove said he is proud to let the world know he studied art at SIUE. “The atmosphere was very inspiring, and the professors were so helpful and caring. Tom Gipe and David Huntley were very inspirational—they took particular care of the students,” he said. “The summer iron pours also stand out in my mind quite a bit. Those were the good old days.”

# Chasing Your Dreams



Justin Bennett, MBA/MIS ’09, is the founder of Geodata IT, a St. Louis-based company that provides information technology and geographic information systems solutions to its customers. Geodata IT specializes in cybersecurity and risk management, cloud migration and strategy, agile software development, and enterprise content management.

Bennett joined the Air Force after graduating from high school. He was initially stationed at the Travis Air Force Base in California and then moved to Scott Air Force Base near Belleville, Ill. He earned an associate degree in information systems and worked with information technology during his time in the service.

After being honorably discharged in 2002, Bennett stayed in the St. Louis area. He went on to earn a BS in management information systems from Park University before coming to SIUE to earn a graduate degree. He worked for several companies, but his dream was to start his own business.

“SIUE has an excellent reputation for providing the necessary ingredients for IT success,” Bennett said. “The knowledge I gained from SIUE gave me the foundation I needed to propel my IT career and successfully start my own company.”

He started Geodata IT in 2012. Things started slowly at first, but that changed when the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA) became a client. The NGA enables the U.S. intelligence community and the Department of Defense to fulfill the country’s national security priorities.

*“The knowledge I gained from SIUE gave me the foundation I needed to propel my IT career and successfully start my own company.”*

—Justin Bennett, MBA/MIS ’09  
Founder, Geodata IT

“It was my honor to have served my country in the United States Air Force. When I was honorably discharged, serving the civilian sector in IT was a fantastic fit. By the time I opened my own company, I had the experience necessary to bid for contracts with the government.”

Some of Geodata IT’s work has included handling large sets of data for clients like the NGA. “Serving the defense and intelligence community is an exciting, but very competitive niche,” he said. “Thus, the biggest challenge has been being a small company that is competing with mega businesses.”

Bennett encourages his fellow alums to chase their dreams, and he shares the lessons he has learned along the way. “If you dream of starting your own company, develop a plan and find mentors who can help you grow. Hire talent that are genuinely interested in investing their career in a startup. Plan on working incredibly hard and embracing failure on a frequent basis.”

*Geodata IT, LLC is an innovative and advanced technology company located in St. Louis. Founded in 2012, it is an 8(a) Certified, Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) and Veteran-Owned Small Business (VOSB).*



**GeodataIT**





# Traditions

## Keeping Pace with the Changing Needs of Students

Lovejoy Library, one of the first buildings on the new Edwardsville campus, opened its doors in 1965. Faculty librarians and staff have embraced the concept of change and recognize that the role of libraries must evolve in order to effectively serve today’s learners. As a result, Lovejoy Library remains an integral part of the University’s learning and research environment. Today, the library is visited more than 450,000 times per year and, unlike national trends in academic librarians, the gate count continues to increase.

Librarians still focus on information literacy skills, including how to locate and evaluate the trustworthiness of information resources, but the means of providing these resources have changed profoundly.

In 1957, academic libraries stressed ownership and custody of vast quantities of paper format books, journals, maps and government documents. Fast forward 60 years, and the contemporary academic library is no longer a huge warehouse of artifacts. Modern academic libraries emphasize 24/7 online access to a universe of digital information resources. With the click of a mouse, users can access thousands of online, full-text journals and research databases relevant to their interests.

Lovejoy Library’s electronic book collection nearly tripled in the last 10 years. Patrons have access to a 3D printer and are able to borrow GoPro cameras, projectors and voice recorders. Much of what is contained in the Louisa H. Bowen University Archives & Special Collections unit has been digitized to better support faculty and student research.

“These noteworthy collections, represented in Digital LIS and SPARK, distinguish us from other libraries and have been relatively unavailable to users outside our region,” said Stephen Kerber, PhD, archivist and special collection librarian. “By electronically converting text, images, video and audio to digital copies, information can be utilized by students, faculty and community members anytime, anywhere.”



The Walking Man, by the French sculptor Auguste Rodin, has graced the lobby of Lovejoy Library since shortly after it opened in 1965.



## Library and Information Services Collection Statistics

- 33,423 eBooks
- 34,724 Full Text eJournals
- 634,933 Government Publications
- 144,098 Maps
- 26,517 Multimedia Items
- 1,700,702 MIL Pieces of Microform
- 328 Print Subscriptions
- 529,918 Titles
- 725,859 Volumes

(Source: Library and Information Services 2016 Information Guide)



Library and Information Services has also expanded the services provided to students. Thanks to Personal Librarians, freshmen start their collegiate career with a strong foundation in information literacy. Faculty librarians, who volunteer to participate in the initiative, contact the students and help them with research, including assistance navigating the often overwhelming digital information resources.

As access to virtual resources continues to grow, Lovejoy Library remains the intellectual center of campus. Students continue to flock to the library to conduct research, read, study and work on group projects.

“As much as the information changes, the role of the librarian will always be to dissect the information and make it usable,” said Regina McBride, PhD, dean of Library and Information Services. “We remain committed to delivering resources to our users in new and inventive ways.”



“We remain committed to delivering resources to our users in new and inventive ways.”

—Regina McBride, PhD  
Dean of Library and Information Services



# GRADUATE STUDIES AT **SIUE**



SIUE is committed to educating a distinguished and diverse cohort of master's and doctoral students. A graduate degree from SIUE offers opportunities for career advancement and opens doors in a variety of career areas. The graduate programs at SIUE are academically rigorous, and the intellectual learning environment emphasizes research and practice. You will be challenged and inspired to hone your skills and develop new ones.

- SIUE offers highly regarded master's programs plus specialist degrees, post-baccalaureate certificates, doctoral degrees and cooperative doctoral programs.
- *Washington Monthly* and *U.S. News & World Report* consistently rank SIUE among the top master's granting colleges and universities in the nation.
- Graduate programs emphasize real-world experience through original research opportunities, student-faculty research collaborations and partnerships with communities, government, industries and other universities.

[siue.edu/graduate-students](http://siue.edu/graduate-students)

[graduateadmissions@siue.edu](mailto:graduateadmissions@siue.edu)

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:** 16 trees, **Total energy saved:** 8 million BTUs, **Greenhouse gases prevented:** 1,405 lbs., **Wastewater reduction:** 7,620 gallons, **Solid waste reduction:** 510 lbs.