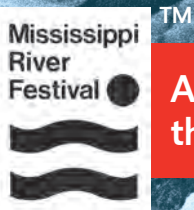


Fall 2019

econnection

The Magazine for Southern Illinois University Edwardsville Alumni Association & Friends



**A Night in the Stacks: Celebrating
the 50th Anniversary of the MRF**



On the cover: Can you believe it's been 50 years? Turn to the back of this magazine for more historic photos of the Mississippi River Festival. We hope you'll join us as we celebrate the iconic MRF.

In this issue



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SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
EDWARDSVILLE
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

 @siuedwardsville
@siue_alumni_association

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 • 618-650-5176

The following alumni have contributed to the production of this magazine:
Carol B. Dappert, '81 • Heather V. Kniffel, '95, '13
Nick Niemerg, '15 • Cathy N. Taylor, '15
Jen Teske, content contributor, "Honoring Dr. Sondra Naegler"



2019 Homecoming Weekend

We hope you'll join us. It won't be the same without you!

For more information on all homecoming activities, visit siue.edu/homecoming 

Alumni Hall of Fame

Friday, Sept. 27

Reception 5:30 p.m.

Dinner 6:15 p.m.

Awards Presentation 7:15 p.m.

Meridian Ballroom

Morris University Center

Tickets: \$50 per person

Register: siue.edu/alumni/hall-of-fame 

Eight extraordinary alumni will be honored at the 2019 SIUE Alumni Hall of Fame reception and ceremony. These alumni have succeeded in their respective field, and are role models and testaments to SIUE's educational excellence. Join us in celebrating *A Night Among the Stars*.

Turn to page 14 to read about this year's Alumni Hall of Fame honorees.



Cougars Unleashed Homecoming Run and Pancake Breakfast

Saturday, Sept. 28

9 a.m.

Outside Birger Hall

Be part of the fourth annual 5K/10K/1-mile run benefiting SIUE Alumni Association scholarships. After the run, enjoy a delicious pancake breakfast provided by Chris Cakes.

Registration

- 5K: \$30
- 10K: \$40
- \$5 off for SIUE alumni
- 1-mile run: \$5

Registration includes race t-shirt (if registered by September 3), pancake breakfast and family entertainment. Prices increase \$5 after September 14.



Register: runsignup.com/cougarsunleashed 

Cougar Fan Zone

Saturday, Sept. 28

4-7 p.m.

Korte Stadium East Parking Lot

7 p.m.

SIUE Men's Soccer vs. University of Central Arkansas

Join us at the Alumni Tent in the newly renovated Korte Stadium Lot and get fired up for the game while enjoying free food, adult beverages from Recess Brewing, live music from regional favorite Dirty Mugs, yard games, giveaways and more.

No cost to attend, but pre-registration is strongly encouraged!



Register: siue.edu/alumni/fan-zone 

A Greeting from the Chancellor

Dear Alumni and Friends of SIUE,

I hope this finds you with wonderful memories of summer 2019 and an excitement for the promise that every fall season brings. At SIUE, we have begun the new academic calendar and are in full swing, offering unique and impactful courses that develop the leaders of tomorrow. We are “shaping a changing world” and can point to this in many distinctive ways:

- SIUE is the largest producer of bachelor’s degrees in the St. Louis Metropolitan Statistical Area.
- The University’s Successful Communities Collaborative (involving Highland, Godfrey, Alton and Edwardsville, with more to come) has utilized the expertise of multiple divisions (Arts and Sciences; Engineering; Business; Education, Health, and Human Behavior; Nursing; and the Graduate School) to provide a wide range of services to area communities.
- SIUE has received the Higher Education Excellence in Diversity (HEED) Award from *INSIGHT Into Diversity* for the 5th consecutive year, and is one of only 30 institutions so recognized.
- SIUE is 1st in Illinois and among the Top 30 in the nation for green power usage, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.
- SIUE professors and students from the Schools of Dental Medicine; Engineering; Nursing; Pharmacy; and Education, Health and Human Behavior continue to impact the world by providing clinical experiences, health education and health care in settings such as Guatemala, Uganda and Costa Rica.

Please see the following pages for additional and exciting points of pride!

And yet, while we are excited to look toward the future we are helping to create, we are also very aware of the pride that comes from honoring traditions and reconnecting with SIUE alumni and friends.

One of the best ways to do that is for you to join us for SIUE’s Homecoming (September 23-28). A schedule of events can be found at siue.edu/homecoming. The 14th annual SIUE Community Day celebration will be held October 10, followed by our second annual Diversity Day on October 15 and a celebration of the MRF’s 50th anniversary on October 19. We hope you’ll be able to join us for all of these events where we celebrate traditions and build on relationships, both old and new!

As SIUE continues to excel in providing innovative and responsive programming, we invite you to be part of shaping the future by contacting the SIUE Foundation. Learn more about opportunities to support SIUE students in areas that are of particular interest to you. We would be thrilled to have you as a partner in education!

e SHAPING THE FUTURE TOGETHER,
Randall G. Pembroke, ’78, ’79, ’80
SIUE Chancellor



SIUE Today

Successful Communities Collaborative

Students enrolled in academic courses as part of the SIUE Successful Communities Collaborative (SSCC) completed a year of real-life community development projects in partnership with the City of Alton.

Projects in Alton were focused on small business development, accessibility and livability.

Highlights of SSCC’s accomplishments this first program year:

- Sociology students identified existing and perceived barriers to business development to aid new business growth. These students also took part in a pop-up event where they painted the street green to demonstrate plans for new bicycle lanes.
- Civil engineering students, in consultation with engineers at Sheppard, Morgan & Schwaab, created a street improvement plan, including alternative intersections and ADA-accessible curb ramps. Students also developed a storm water management plan for the city.
- Computer management and information systems students developed a mobile app to promote Alton’s small businesses and retail centers.

**SIUE Successful Communities Collaborative
2019 Innovative Initiative Award Recipient
Illinois Council on Continuing Higher Education**



A “pop-up” event in downtown Alton demonstrated the new bicycle lanes

SIUE Successful Communities Collaborative
Connecting communities with SIUE students and faculty

- Cross-disciplinary program supports one-year partnerships between the University and communities in Illinois
- Advancing local resilience and sustainability based on community-identified environmental, social, and economic needs and issues



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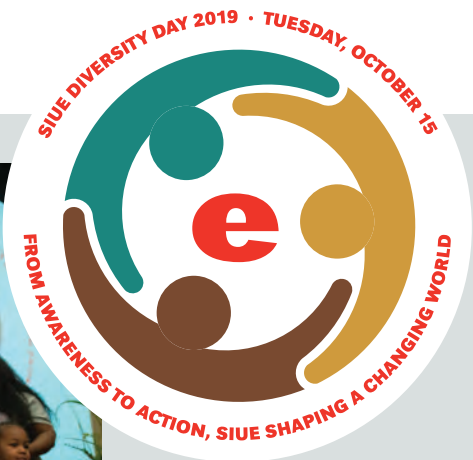
From Awareness to Action: SIUE Shaping a Changing World

Hundreds of students, faculty, staff and community members of varying ethnicities, ideologies, gender identification and sexual orientation took part in SIUE’s Inaugural Diversity Day last October on the University’s Edwardsville, East St. Louis and Alton campuses. Notably, the Illinois Department of Human Rights (IDHR) Fairness and Equality Campaign endorsed SIUE Diversity Day.

The Diversity Day theme was “From Awareness to Action, SIUE Shaping a Changing World.” The daylong event was jam-packed with speakers from the Metro East, open classroom and panel discussions, dance, art, presentations, cuisine representing varying ethnic roots,

and a special performance by preschoolers at the SIUE Helen Davis Head Start/Early Head Start Center.

“Diversity Day is a celebration of our institution’s past, present and future as it relates to advances in cultural-responsiveness and inclusion,” said Venessa Brown, associate chancellor and chief diversity officer. “Diversity and inclusion are something that we not only embrace at SIUE, but through efforts like Diversity Day, we also demonstrate our commitment to a campus environment that has a sense of belonging for all people.”



**Diversity Day 2019
Tuesday, Oct. 15
siue.edu/diversity-day**



SIUE Today

Integrative Studies Degree Programs Gain in Popularity

The integrative studies undergraduate program launched in 2015 with a target of 50 majors by its fifth year. Four years later, the program supports 102 integrative studies majors with focus areas in sociology and psychology, mass communications and business, sociology and black studies, and history and psychology. In addition to the integrative studies undergraduate program, SIUE offers master’s degrees in integrative studies, with such curricula as cultural heritage and resources management, engineering management, marketing communications, media management and more. Post-baccalaureate certificates are available in environmental management, marketing and public relations, sustainability, and transportation engineering and construction management.

Learn more about integrative studies: siue.edu/degrees 

Springfest 2019

SIUE’s longest running annual event offered students an upbeat opportunity to get involved and celebrate camaraderie as the spring semester draws to a close. This year’s theme was Under the Big Top, and featured camel rides, a fortune teller, juggling competitions, trivia night, cotton candy and more. The traditional giant banana split in a canoe was sponsored by TheBANK of Edwardsville. Springfest headliner Michael Che, co-anchor of Saturday Night Live’s iconic “Weekend Update” and co-writer of the show, offered a hilarious finale to this year’s events. Che (pictured at right) took time for photos with SIUE students prior to his show.



WSIE FM Provides the Soundtrack for Jazz Musician’s Hospital Recovery

Lying flat on his back, not able to move and with a drain in his head, jazz musician Lee Roth, of St. Louis, asked the hospital chaplain for what he believed would assist in his healing. Upon receiving the boom box, Roth tuned the dial to SIUE’s WSIE 88.7 FM The Sound.

“When you’re sick and in the intensive care unit, it’s extremely stressful,” recalled Roth, who had surgery to alleviate a brain bleed. “I was in the ICU for four days and could not move. I wanted to listen to music, which I do almost all of my waking hours. I listen to WSIE in the car and when I’m at home. I love the station. Listening to WSIE in the ICU improved my attitude and demeanor significantly.”

Roth, who plays the vibes and has played in jazz bands across the country, moved back to his native city of St. Louis in 2016. His life and music career had taken him across the world to such places as Chicago, New York, Paris, London and New Zealand. During Roth’s travels, he also crossed paths with such jazz greats as Duke Ellington, Dave Brubeck and Paul Desmond. Roth also met the widow of “The Father of the Blues” W.C. Handy.



Improving Food Safety



Kamran Shavezipur, PhD, assistant professor of mechanical engineering in the School of Engineering, was awarded the Graduate School’s Concept Commercialization Award for 2019. The award provides \$15,000 through May 1, 2020. Shavezipur’s proposal was entitled “Pathogen Transport Modeled Biomimetic Sensor, Sensing Method and Produce Sanitization.” The

technology relates to food safety and is intended to address two issues:

- Creating a laboratory platform to investigate pathogen-produce interaction in real time and under different ambient conditions
- Providing a measurable metric for sanitization of fresh produce, such that the process qualitatively and quantitatively can be monitored

The Concept Commercialization Award is designed to stimulate interest in and involvement with intellectual property development and commercialization to promote public health, safety, welfare of the community and the economic welfare of the University. It supports the work of SIUE discoverers and inventors, and supports the surrounding community by encouraging industry investment.

SIU System Technology and Innovation Expo

Health, Wellness and Innovation
Thursday, Oct. 10
Chicago

Keynote: “Transforming Healthcare with Machine Learning,” Sarah Robinson, Developer Advocate, Google

Learn more and register at tie.siu.edu 

\$3 Million in Grants will Expand Care for Pediatric Dental Patients

The School of Dental Medicine will build a medical operating suite with general anesthesia capabilities for children with special dental care needs within a new Graduate Programs Patient Clinic. Funded largely by a \$2 million grant from the Illinois Children’s Healthcare Foundation (ILCHF) and a \$1 million grant from the Delta Dental of Illinois Foundation (DDILF), the new operating suite will allow the School to annually serve an additional 550 pediatric patients requiring oral health services performed under general anesthesia. The project is in response to the need identified in the ILCHF, DDILF and Michael Reese Health Trust commissioned report, “Oral Health in Illinois” (Dec. 2016). Tooth decay is the most common childhood disease in the U.S., disproportionately affecting minority children, the poor, the disabled, and those with special healthcare needs and medical problems.



Cougar Athletics



Director of Intercollegiate Athletics Retires



Brad Hewitt, PhD, retired on June 30 after 30 years of service to the University. He spent the last nearly 17 years as director of intercollegiate athletics.

“April marked 30 years since I first stepped onto the SIUE campus,” Hewitt said. “I could not have known then the impact this institution would have on me both personally and professionally.”

Hewitt started his SIUE career as assistant director of intercollegiate athletics in July of 1989. He served in several roles outside athletics from 1995-2002, including interim vice chancellor for development and public affairs, as well as two stints as interim director of alumni services before returning to Intercollegiate Athletics in 2002.

“Brad has served SIUE Athletics exceedingly well. Under his guidance, SIUE student-athletes have posted 26 consecutive semesters with a cumulative grade point average better than 3.0 and the University also finished 94th in the Learfield Cup (2017).”

— Randy Pembrook
SIUE Chancellor

Notable accomplishments include:

- Helped secure funding and led the SIUE Foundation in the construction of Birger Hall
- Guided SIUE through the transition to Division I athletics under Chancellor Vaughn Vandegrift
- Orchestrated the expansion and development of seven facilities on the SIUE campus to assure the program’s competitiveness and the eventual move to Division I

“Brad has served SIUE Athletics exceedingly well,” said Chancellor Randy Pembrook. “Under his guidance, SIUE student-athletes have posted 26 consecutive semesters with a cumulative grade point average better than 3.0 and the University also finished 94th in the Learfield Cup (2017).”



Follow us on
Twitter

@SIUECougars for
general news

@SIUEGameday for
game day updates

siuecougars.com



At SIUE, Student-Athlete = Academic Success

At the close of the spring 2019 semester, SIUE student-athletes recorded a departmental cumulative GPA above 3.0 for the 26th consecutive semester.

That’s a 13-year stretch of excellence.

Spring 2019	
3.303 Departmental cumulative GPA	64% of SIUE’s student-athletes earned a 3.0 GPA or above
40 Number of student-athletes who completed the spring semester with a 4.0 GPA	
5 Freshmen finished the year with a 4.0 GPA	9 Returning student-athletes continue to maintain a 4.0 GPA
Team GPAs • Softball: 3.703 • Volleyball: 3.528 • Women’s basketball: 3.442 • Men’s soccer: 3.433 • Women’s tennis: 3.389 • Women’s cross country: 3.323 • Women’s track and field: 3.291 • Men’s golf: 3.288 • Women’s soccer: 3.259 • Men’s track and field: 3.190 • Men’s cross country: 3.149	

NCAA Academic Progress Rates

Four SIUE Athletics programs were honored by the NCAA for earning multi-year Academic Progress Rates (APR) in the top 10 percent of all squads in each sport. The APR is an annual scorecard of academic achievement calculated for all Division I sports teams.

Teams listed among the nation’s best for their high marks academically:

- Women’s cross country
- Men’s golf
- Women’s tennis
- Volleyball

Don’t miss the SIUE Homecoming Game!

**Saturday, Sept. 28
7 p.m.
Korte Stadium
SIUE Men’s Soccer vs. University of
Central Arkansas**



2019 Red and Black Benefit Breaks Records

The fourth annual Red & Black Benefit raised a record-setting \$160,000.

More than 350 tickets were purchased for the event. Between live auction, silent auction and fund the need donations, more than \$86,750 was raised. Ticket sales and the generous sponsorships accounted for the rest of the incoming funds.

The Red & Black Benefit, presented by Simmons Hanly Conroy, a National Law Firm, is a yearly fundraising event for SIUE Athletics. The proceeds will go directly to support student-athlete scholarships.

From your Alumni Association Board President

Fellow Alumni,

There is a familiar, yet distinctive, feeling about starting a new academic year in the fall. Aside from the general excitement amongst students and staff, the SIUE campus is simply beautiful. I invite you back to campus to not only take in the views, but to reacquaint yourself with the campus. A lot may have changed since you last visited, but I promise you will still feel at home.

While I have been inspired many times on this campus, the Alumni Association’s Board of Directors continues to inspire me to stay engaged in the SIUE community, both locally and nationally. These fantastic individuals are continuously working hard to orchestrate ways to reconnect with our alumni. Remember, all graduates are part of the SIUE Alumni Association. There are countless ways to get involved in the Alumni Association—from service projects and mentoring current students, to planning exciting social events.

Serving the SIUE Alumni Association has provided me the great privilege of meeting extraordinary alumni spanning across generations. No matter where your life’s adventures have taken you, remember to stay connected with SIUE.

We look forward to seeing you at Homecoming.

Eileen Martindale, BS Sociology ’08
SIUE Alumni Association Board President



Group photo L-R: Dr. Andrew Ravanelli, Eileen Martindale, Alan Kehrer, Dr. Maggie Krumwiede, Evan Mowen. Separate headshot: Victor Hicks

Eileen Martindale, BS Sociology ’08
Counselor, SIUE Career Development Center
President, SIUE Alumni Association Board of Directors

What’s your favorite campus memory?

I saw President Bill Clinton and then Senator Barack Obama speak on campus. No matter your political beliefs, that was a pretty awesome experience!

Why are you involved with the Alumni Association?

There’s something incredible about sharing unique SIUE memories with fellow alumni. There is just something special about SIUE!

Alan Kehrer, BS Business Administration ’92, MBA ’12
Regional Human Resource Leader,
Whelan Security Company, St. Louis
Immediate-Past President,
SIUE Alumni Association Board of Directors

Why did you choose SIUE?

The proximity to home and work made SIUE the ideal choice. When I decided to pursue my MBA, the School of Business’s accreditation, credentials and significant value made SIUE a clear choice.

Why are you involved with the Alumni Association?

Serving as a board member, executive officer and mentor to current students has provided so many opportunities to be involved and support SIUE. This is a very rewarding experience.

Thanks, Alumni Recruitment Ambassadors!

Lawrence Lett, BS Biological Sciences ’18

Lawrence attended a college fair at Kenwood Academy High School in Chicago. He is pictured here, left, with former SIUE student Derric Roberts.

“Volunteering allowed me to share my SIUE experiences and helped to prepare students for what to expect during their college years.”
—Lawrence Lett

Jenny Carrato, BS Business Administration ’06, MBA ’09

Jenny attended a college fair with SIUE Chicago Regional Admission Counselor Christina Rojas in Arlington Heights.

“I had a great time talking with the students and parents. Learning from Christina made it that much easier for me to jump in and help.”
—Jenny Carrato

Thank you to everyone who submitted student referrals for the 2018-2019 academic year. We appreciate you!

Kelley Brooks, Assistant Director of Admissions, BS Sociology ’99

Help Us Recruit Students!

- Be an Alumni Recruitment Ambassador!
- Refer a student and we’ll waive their \$40 application fee!

siue.edu/alumni/stay-involved

Dr. Andrew Ravanelli, BS Biological Sciences ’04
PhD, Cell Biology, Duke University
Senior R&D Scientist, Gene Editing and Novel Modalities,
MilliporeSigma, St. Louis
President-Elect, SIUE Alumni Association Board of Directors

Why did you choose SIUE?

It offered me a personalized education with an affordable price, and there were so many opportunities to get involved, including Student Government, Student Leadership Development Program, Student Tour Ambassadors and Springboard Student Leaders.

Why are you involved with the Alumni Association?

I joined to give back what I can for everything SIUE gave me. I am so happy to be able to come back and welcome fellow alumni home to campus.

Dr. Maggie Krumwiede, BS Business Administration ’05,
PharmD ’09
Staff Pharmacist, Watsons Drug Store, Greenville, Ill.
Vice President, SIUE Alumni Association Board of Directors

What made your SIUE experience unique?

I was a member of the School of Pharmacy’s inaugural graduating class. It was exciting to be part of paving the way for the future of the program.

Why are you involved with the Alumni Association?

Being on the board allows me to continue my involvement on a campus that I love and give back to the SIUE community.

Evan Mowen, BS Business Administration ’10
Wealth Management Advisor and Business Manager,
Visionary Wealth Advisors, Edwardsville
Vice President-Finance, SIUE Alumni Association Board of Directors

Why did you choose SIUE?

My love for SIUE started after visiting my sister on campus. I fell in love with the campus, and the rest is history.

What’s your favorite campus memory?

On the last day of freshman year, my friends and I were waiting on another buddy to join us for breakfast. We ended up going into his room, grabbing the corners of his bed sheet, and carrying him to the lobby in his pajamas!

Victor Hicks, BS History ’09, MA History ’12
Special School District Educator,
St. Louis County and St. Louis University
Secretary, SIUE Alumni Association Board of Directors

What made your SIUE experience unique?

I had the opportunity to work as the managing editor of a book published by Andrew Theising, PhD, professor of political science.

Why are you involved with the Alumni Association?

The stellar faculty who provided me a top-notch educational experience motivated me to serve on the Board of Directors. I want to give back to the community that has given me an amazing university experience.





Dear Alumni and Friends,

Thank you for having confidence in SIUE. These have been interesting times in higher education, but we have a shared mission to educate the next generation of Cougars!

I am pleased to share with you that this has been a very good year for the SIUE Foundation in terms of increased alumni and student engagement, strong endowment management, and record fundraising. We have engaged more students in philanthropy with the STAT organization, had more than 50 Golden Graduates at commencement and have had generous donors create more endowed scholarships than any year in the past five.

Your gifts are helping SIUE accomplish amazing things:

- The School of Dental Medicine's new Graduate Programs Patient Clinic has received a \$2 million commitment from the Illinois Children's Healthcare Foundation and a \$1 million commitment from the Delta Dental of Illinois Foundation.
- A generous bequest of over \$1 million was donated by the late SIUE champion and emeritus SIUE Foundation board member Merle Inman.

The culture of philanthropy we are working toward is gaining momentum. Thanks to our leadership team, faculty, staff, alumni and friends, we are making SIUE stronger in so many ways. If you are not currently involved but would like to be, please reach out. We will be happy to help.

I personally invite you to visit our beautiful campus to see how we are growing. Thank you for being part of our vibrant SIUE community!

Best regards,

Rachel Stack

Vice Chancellor for University Advancement and CEO of the SIUE Foundation

2019 Alumni Association Scholarship Recipients

Thanks to the generosity of our alumni and friends, the Alumni Association is proud to offer scholarship opportunities to deserving SIUE students in recognition of their campus and community involvement, academic achievement, and outstanding potential. Current and incoming students are encouraged to apply each year using our online scholarship system: siue.academicworks.com. Applications are accepted September 1- January 31.

SIUE Alumni Association Board of Directors Scholarship Recipients



Mica Coleman
Collinsville, IL
College of Arts and Sciences

"I am overwhelmed with joy and appreciation for the donors who made this scholarship possible."



Jullianne Faye Bigueras
Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands
College of Arts and Sciences

"Thank you for this amazing honor."

Kristin Engelhardt
Lincoln, IL
School of Pharmacy

Heather Martin
Hartford, IL
School of Education Health and Human Behavior

SIUE License Plate Scholarship Recipient

Emily Holmes
Godfrey, IL
School of Nursing

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SIUE Alumni Association Legacy Scholarship Recipients



Natalie Landreth
Bunker Hill, IL
College of Arts and Sciences

"I am beyond thankful to receive the Alumni Legacy Scholarship."



Collin Sheehan
Mascoutah, IL
College of Arts and Sciences

"This gracious gift will help me pursue a nursing career where I can care for those in need."

Alexis Reinders
East Peoria, IL
College of Arts and Sciences

Haley Inyart
Belleville, IL
College of Arts and Sciences

Heather Martin
Hartford, IL
School of Education Health and Human Behavior

Bailey Jarman
Benld, IL
School of Nursing

Sydney Martin
Roxana, IL
College of Arts and Sciences

Upcoming Events

2019 SIUE Homecoming Weekend

September 27-28

Turn back to page 1 for details!

SIUE Day 2019 Community Breakfast

Thursday, Oct. 3

8-9:30 a.m.

SIUE Korte Stadium

We have big plans for Korte Stadium, and we want to share them with you! Join us for SIUE Day to strengthen your relationship with the University and network with fellow community members.

Reserve your spot today! RSVP by Thursday, Sept. 26 to siue_day@siue.edu or call Julie Babington 618-650-2378.



School of Engineering Mentor Mixer

Wednesday, Oct. 16, 4:30 p.m.

**Morris University Center
2nd Floor Conference Center**

The Mentorship Committee, in partnership with the School of Engineering and Career Development Center, is excited to continue its work to connect current students in the School of Engineering with alumni professionals. Students will be matched in small groups with alumni based on professional interests and disciplines, who will then share their career stories and expertise with their matched student. Heavy hors d'oeuvres will be provided!

If you are interested in participating as an alumni mentor, contact us at siuealumni@siue.edu.

Men's Basketball Pre-game Reception

Sunday, Dec. 15, 2020

**Northwestern University, Evanston, IL
More details to come!**

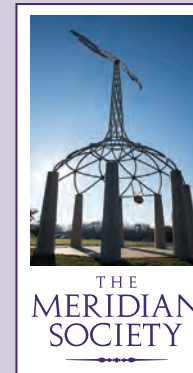
Meridian Scholars Day

Friday, Feb. 14, 2020

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 Scholar or an SIUE Honors Program alumnus, and you would like to volunteer for an interview team or discussion panel, contact us at siuealumni@siue.edu

Join the Meridian Society



As an auxiliary organization of the SIUE Foundation, the Meridian Society promotes women's leadership and invests in SIUE community-based projects. The Meridian Society gives annual awards each spring to fund SIUE projects that provide direct services in the community. Since 2003, the Meridian Society has distributed more than \$290,000 in awards to more than 100 projects.

Visit siue.edu/meridian-society to learn more and join us!



The new Beet Box Mobile Farmers Market, partially funded by the SIUE Meridian Society, offers affordable fresh vegetables to individuals who live in areas considered food deserts, where grocery stores are not available within a one-mile radius.

Past Events

Tons of Fun

In collaboration and partnership with the Campus Activities Board and Department of Campus Recreation, we helped host the annual Tons of Fun event on campus at the Student Activities Center gymnasium. This campus tradition provided an evening of face-painting, snacks, inflatables, games and more to hundreds of families of SIUE students, faculty, staff and alumni.



SIUE/SIUC Men’s Basketball Pre-game Reception

In partnership with SIUE Athletics, we hosted an alumni and fan pre-game reception on campus before Men’s Basketball faced off against SIU Carbondale in December. Over 120 alumni and friends attended the reception to reconnect and network before enjoying a great basketball game in the Vadalabene Center.



Cannabusiness: A Discussion of Marijuana Law and Enterprise

The Chicago Chapter hosted more than 70 Chicago-area alumni and friends at the amazing University Club for an evening of networking and discussion about the emerging cannabis industry. The discussion included a group of four panelists from all facets of this growing enterprise, including SIUE alumna Mitch Meyers ’78 ’81, and was moderated by Alumni Association board member Dr. Alyx Mark ’08.

Interested in getting involved with the Chicago Chapter? Email us at siuealumni@siue.edu.



Alumni Networking Breakfast

We had the pleasure of honoring three SIUE alumni in May with a networking breakfast and panel, thanks to our friends at L. Keeley Construction in St. Louis. These alumni were named to the *St. Louis Business Journal's* Top 30 Under 30 Class of 2018 (Chapple) and Top 40 Under 40 Class of 2019 (Johnson-Lewis and Perryman). Cynthia Chapple ’15, Lissa Johnson-Lewis ’10 and Ryan Perryman ’04 offered insight into their careers and how SIUE helped shape their current success.

Cougars on the Move

Along with the College of Arts and Sciences, we traveled back to the Sunshine State in March for a fun-filled afternoon with alumni and friends. The group enjoyed an alumni pre-game reception and St. Louis Cardinals Spring Training game at the beautiful Roger Dean Chevrolet Stadium in Jupiter, Fla.

Have an idea for the next Cougars on the Move? Contact us at siuealumni@siue.edu.



Connect with us



Golden Graduation Reunion Weekend

SIUE hosted its third annual Golden Graduation Reunion during the May 2019 commencement weekend. This campus tradition celebrates and welcomes back those who graduated 50 or more years ago. Participation continues to grow—90 Golden Graduates and guests enjoyed a tour of campus and special evening reception on Friday night, followed by brunch on Saturday morning. The weekend was topped off with Golden Graduates participating in an afternoon commencement ceremony. Each Golden Graduate was honored with a commemorative medallion as they crossed the stage.



The fourth annual Golden Graduation Reunion is scheduled for May 8-9, 2020! Save the date and visit siue.edu/alumni for more information on next year’s reunion.

A Night Among the Stars

2019 Alumni Hall of Fame Honorees

SIUE will honor eight remarkable alumni on September 27 during the Alumni Hall of Fame Ceremony, A Night Among the Stars. 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/hall-of-fame 



College of Arts and Sciences

Dave Johnson
BA History '66

Dave has been a broadcaster and journalist of thoroughbred and standard bred horseracing for more than 50 years. He has served as track announcer for Hialeah, Santa Anita, Aqueduct, Belmont Park, Saratoga and

The Meadowlands. His voice can be heard on hundreds of national commercials and sitcoms, and his race calls are a staple of Hollywood movies and Broadway. As a member of ABC Sports, Dave called the Triple Crown for more than a quarter of a century. In 2005, Dave joined the sports team at Sirius XM satellite radio as co-host of Down the Stretch. He lives in New York City.



College of Arts and Sciences

Mark Von Nida
BA Government '85

Mark has worked in government for Madison County, Ill., for more than 30 years. While working in the prosecutor's office, he was among a group of leaders who helped create the nation's first locally funded drug court. As county

clerk, Mark gained national recognition as an election official. He was awarded a U.S. patent for developing the means that guaranteed secrecy while voters fed their own ballot into the computerized tabulator. After being elected to four terms as Madison County county clerk, he was elected to two terms as the Madison County circuit clerk. He led efforts to modernize the court system by digitalizing court records, expanding electronic filing of court cases and converting traffic tickets into a time-saving digital process. Mark will be retiring at the end of his term in December 2020.



School of Business

Dion Joannou
BS Business Administration '89

Dion is CEO of Accedian, a private company in the data analytics and service assurance space. He previously was CEO of two privately held companies: one in the consumer segment and the other in the clean

tech industry. He also worked for Nortel Networks for 14 years until his departure in August 2007. During that period, he was president of North America, president of Latin America and chief strategy officer, among other positions. Dion is active in board and advisory work with a variety of private and public companies in primarily technology and software industries. A member of the SIUE men's tennis team from 1985-1989, he was a three-time Division II All-American and was inducted into the SIUE Athletics Hall of Fame in 2013.



School of Dental Medicine

Dr. Randall Markarian
DMD '92

Randall is president of the Illinois State Dental Society and has held leadership roles with the American Dental Association, St. Clair District Dental Society, American Association of

Orthodontists and Midwest Society of Orthodontists. He is a member of the College of Diplomates of the American Board of Orthodontics, American College of Dentists and International College of Dentists. He was chair of the St. Louis area chapter of the Smiles Change Lives charity and earned the Smiles Change Lives Distinguished Service Award in 2017. He also has proudly served as a member of the SIU SDM faculty and the SIU SDM Alumni Council. He completed an orthodontic residency program and earned an MS in orthodontics from St. Louis University. A board-certified orthodontist, Randall has maintained his orthodontic practice for over 25 years.



School of Education, Health and Human Behavior

Jim Herndon
BS Physical Education '72,
MS Education Administration '78,
Specialist Degree Education
Administration '87

Jim has served as an education professional and community leader in the SIUE and Metro East communities for over 40 years. He is an instructor in the SIUE Department of Educational Leadership where he has contributed to the redesign of the principal preparation program and development of a new internship program. Prior to coming to SIUE in 2006, he served as superintendent of schools for Roxana Community Unit School District #1, as well as other administrative roles in the district. Apart from his work in education, Jim had an integral role in a \$4 billion training and development expansion project of the Wood River Refinery, Conoco-Phillips from 2007-2010 as a special projects consultant. He also serves as an educational/business consultant from the Illinois Regional Office of Education #45.



School of Nursing

Dr. Cheryl Killion
BS Nursing '70

A nurse and medical anthropologist, Cheryl has devoted her career to preventing and eliminating health inequities, and has conducted research in urban settings in the U.S., Belize and Haiti. An associate professor of nursing at Case Western Reserve University, she previously was the director of the Center for Minority Health at Hampton University. Cheryl has also served as a faculty member at the University of Michigan and the University of California, Los Angeles, and has taught at Cairo University in Egypt. She was an appointed member of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Minority Health Advisory Committee and is a fellow of the American Academy of Nursing. She served on the board of the National League for Nursing and Changing Lives International Inc. Cheryl earned a PhD in anthropology from the University of California, Los Angeles.



School of Engineering

Ted Pruess
BS Civil Engineering '82,
MS Civil Engineering '86

Ted is a structural design engineer with 40 years of design experience. He started his own firm in 2013 and has been an adjunct faculty member in the SIUE Department of Civil Engineering since 1995. As a volunteer for the Missouri State Emergency Agency, Ted developed a seven-hour training course for the evaluation of buildings damaged by earthquakes and tornados. This program currently has over 1,000 volunteer members in Missouri, and has been used to evaluate buildings damaged by tornados in Joplin, Caruthersville, Branson and Jefferson City. He received the Otto Nuttli Award for lifetime achievement in seismic hazard mitigation, was named a Structural Engineering Institute Fellow, served on the Missouri Seismic Safety Commission, and was an invited speaker at the Tyumen Institute of Architectural and Civil Engineering in Tyumen, Russian Federation.



Graduate School

Dr. Shirley Portwood
BA History '70, MA History '73

Shirley began her teaching career in 1972 at St. Louis Community College at Forest Park. She joined the SIUE Department of Historical Studies in 1980 and retired as emerita professor in 2007. As an African-American female professor in a field traditionally male and white, Shirley was called upon to participate in numerous roles at SIUE and professional and public institutions, including the Illinois State Historical Society. She is the recipient of the SIUE Teaching Excellence Award, Sojourner Truth Award, Women of Distinction Award and Martin Luther King, Jr. Humanitarian Award. Since retiring, she has continued to serve with distinction in many capacities, including on the SIU Board of Trustees. Shirley earned a second master's and PhD in history specializing in African Americans, American Women and Modern Russia from Washington University in St. Louis.

Honoring Dr. Sondra Naegler

The year was 1974, and Sondra Naegler was a newly-divorced single mother with 12 years of teaching art under her belt. In November of that year, Sondra read an impactful newspaper article, “Women in Dentistry.” One line in particular stuck with her, “For the woman who chooses a dental career, it means independence, a better-than-average income, prestige and a lifetime of helping people.” Sondra decided it was time to reshape her personal and professional future, and she knew exactly how she would do it.

Sondra was always a woman of action and positivity. She enrolled in SIUE to complete the pre-dental requirements necessary to enroll in a school of dental medicine. She was accepted into several schools, and after careful consideration, Sondra knew where she belonged, the SIU School of Dental Medicine.



“I wanted to honor her and give people who know her the opportunity to donate in her honor now rather than later.”

— Dr. Kristiane Naegler, '94

While this time in her life was full of sacrifice, Sondra was determined to make sure her 8-year-old daughter, Kristiane, experienced a great childhood. “My mom has always been a really positive person,” Kristiane said. “We lived in Cougar Village while she attended school and didn’t have a lot of money. She presented SIUE to me as a resort. There was a beach and bike paths, and we could rent boats and fish. There was even access to piano and art classes. Those were exciting times for us even though we were living with limited finances.”

In 1980, Sondra graduated at the top of her class at the SIU School of Dental Medicine. She then completed an orthodontics residency at Washington University School of Dental Medicine. Within a year, Sondra established her own orthodontics practice in Edwardsville. She grew her practice and became a well-respected orthodontist.

Kristiane closely observed her mother’s successes and love for the dental profession. When it came time to select her career, dentistry was a natural choice. Kristiane respected the education and training her mother received at SIU, and she knew exactly where she would attend dental school. In 1994, Kristiane graduated from the SIU School of Dental Medicine and pursued an advanced residency in general dentistry.

Kristiane has fond memories of her education at SIU. “I learned from some of the same faculty who were teaching when my mom was there. I really connected with them—Dr. Tobin Boyd in particular,” Kristiane said. “I feel very lucky to have gone to this University; it just feels like home.”

Today, the younger Dr. Naegler has three private practices in Missouri and has devoted her career to serving children under the age of 21. She concentrates on full-mouth rehabilitation for underserved children. She is actively involved on both the Edwardsville and Alton campuses. She has served on alumni committees, has been a clinical instructor at the East St. Louis dental clinic, and consistently volunteers for the annual “Give Kids a Smile” event.

While Kristiane was building her practice, Sondra was winding down her practice. After many years of success with a great staff and wonderful patients, it was time to retire. Sondra took control of the end of her career as respectfully as she did the beginning. “Mom never liked the idea of retiring. She was a pillar in the community and a very well-thought-of orthodontist,” Kristiane said. “When it came time to retire, she didn’t sell her practice. She did a phase out and finished treating all of her patients. That is a really commendable and unusual thing to do.”

Since then, Sondra’s life took a different and unexpected turn. The year 2018 brought about a pancreatic cancer diagnosis. She faced this illness as she has faced all of life’s challenges, with strength and positivity. “Her strength reinforced for me that this is the type of person I want to be,” Kristiane said. “I wanted my mother to know how important she was to me. You can go through life and love each other as mother-daughter, but it’s too easy to take each other for granted.”

Support the Dr. Sondra K. Naegler Scholarship Fund

siue.edu/naegler-scholarship 

Contact Stephen Schaus, 618-474-7271, to make a contribution or with questions.



“Mom never liked the idea of retiring. She was a pillar in the community and a very well-thought-of orthodontist.”

— Dr. Kristiane Naegler, '94

Sondra passed on July 2, 2019. Sondra’s time spent at SIUE provided her with a rewarding personal and professional life. To honor her mother and the many successes her education provided, Kristiane has established an endowed scholarship that will help provide a quality dental medicine education and lead to a successful dentistry career for those interested in entering the profession. While it is not a requirement to receive the scholarship, preference will be given to dental students who are parents.

Kristiane is so thankful for the opportunity to establish the scholarship before her mother passed. “It was important for me to set up the scholarship during my mother’s lifetime,” Kristiane explained. “I wanted to honor her and give people who knew her the opportunity to donate in her honor now rather than later.”

A newspaper article in 1974 has given not one, but two women decades of serving patients in successful practices. But the success doesn’t stop there. Sondra has two grandchildren who are working toward honoring what she started many years ago. One grandchild plans on following in the footsteps of her grandfather by attending law school, and the other will follow in the footsteps of his grandmother to become the third generation to attend dental school.

Sondra’s decision many years ago to enroll at SIU/SIUE has paved the way for her family. It is Kristiane’s vision that other families will find the same successes through her mother’s scholarship.



“I feel very lucky to have gone to this University; it just feels like home.”

— Dr. Kristiane Naegler, '94

Raising Expectations

Deborah Hunt’s grandfather, Sylvester Hunt Sr., urged all of his grandchildren to graduate from college, and Deborah was the first to earn a degree. Although he was critically ill at the time, Deborah’s grandfather was able to attend her graduation in 1976. “He was so happy and proud to see me walk across the stage,” she remembers.

“College taught me to be a team player and a leader in all areas of my life,” she said. “Being the only person of color in many of my classes gave me courage, determination and independence to work hard.”

Now retired, Deborah Hunt, BS Special Education ’76, MS Special Education ’80, taught special education to elementary and middle school students in the East St. Louis school district for nearly 35 years. She was passionate about teaching children the basic life skills they would need to negotiate the complex world in which we all live. “I’m happy to say that I see many of my past students and they’re working and doing very well in today’s society.”

Deborah stayed connected with her alma mater after she graduated by attending theater performances, guest speaker events and classes, and eventually joining the SIUE Meridian Society. “I wanted to reconnect with SIUE in a direct, relevant way and give back for all that I received from the university,” she said. “I’ve always been interested in grant writing, helping others and pursuing programs that accomplish community service purposes.”

Deborah also enjoys networking, bringing people together and planning social occasions; interests that made her a perfect fit for the role of membership chair for the Meridian Society. In this role, she makes calls and contacts, and gives speeches to encourage alumni and others to join the Meridian Society and attend workshops and social activities, including the popular Evening of Jazz and Derby Day fundraising events.

“Of course, I love Derby Day and our Evening of Jazz. Both events are always well-attended and so much fun,” she said. “My mother, Marie Williams, loves the work we do through the Meridian Society. She and several of her friends have an annual ‘Golden Girls’ table at the Meridian Derby.”

“The Meridian Society is important because of all the meaningful projects they help fund, like the Grit program at the SIUE East St. Louis Charter High School,” Deborah continued. “The Grit program teaches students perseverance, so they can stay in high school and hopefully go to college. It’s designed to raise their expectations.”

Just as Deborah’s grandfather raised his expectations for his grandchildren.

“College taught me to be a team player and a leader in all areas of my life. Being the only person of color in many of my classes gave me courage, determination and independence to work hard.”

—Deborah Hunt, BS Special Education ’76, MS Special Education ’80



THE
MERIDIAN
SOCIETY

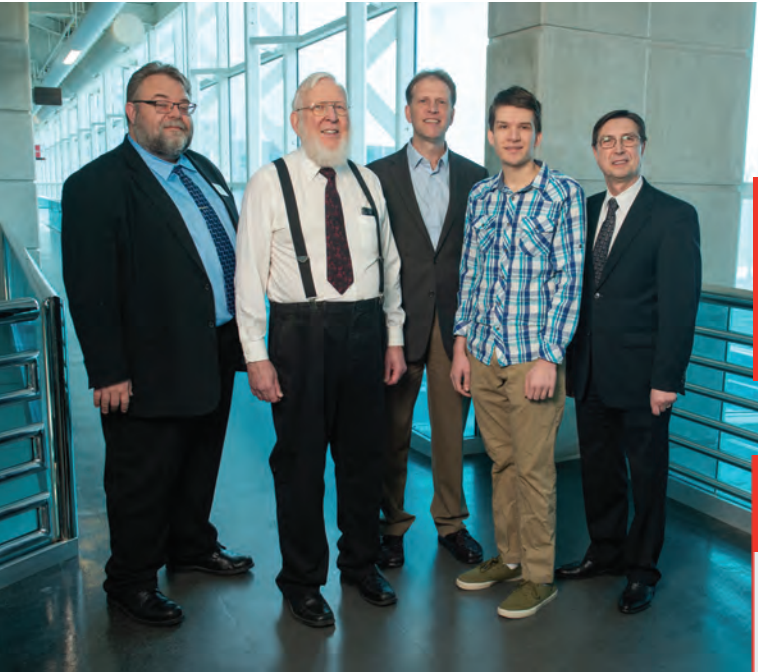
About the SIUE
Meridian Society

- An auxiliary organization of the SIUE Foundation that promotes women’s leadership and invests in SIUE community-based projects.
- The Meridian Society gifts annual awards each spring to fund SIUE projects that provide direct services in the community.
- Since 2003, the Meridian Society has distributed more than \$329,000 in awards to 128 projects.

Learn more: siue.edu/meridian-society

Paying it Forward

The Beetner family’s SIUE roots run deep. Generations of family members have experienced the value of SIUE as students, former and current, and employees. The family recently contributed \$50,000 to the School of Engineering to create an endowment that will provide additional resources for student organizations to participate and excel in student activities and competitions.



Their generous contribution is their way of paying it forward.

“We want to help others reap the benefits of a great education,” said Daryl Beetner, PhD, who earned a bachelor’s in electrical engineering from SIUE in 1990. From 1997-98, he was a visiting professor in SIUE’s Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering. Daryl was inducted into the SIUE School of Engineering Hall of Fame in 2015.

Daryl’s father, Emmet Beetner, also has a long history with SIUE, as an employee and administrator adding value in multiple roles since 1969. He retired in 2001, but remains associated with the University, working part-time as extra help at the SIUE East St. Louis Center.

“I enjoyed my time at SIUE, and am proud of the work we did, especially to advance the educational experience of public school students and preschool students in the East St. Louis area,” Emmet said. “My first college major was engineering, and my interest has continued even though my career path took me in different directions. There is great value in student projects and competitions. Our endowment will aid such opportunities by providing some financing for project materials and travel costs to off-campus competitions.”

The School of Engineering has 35 student organizations, all of which need resources to organize events and community outreach projects, and attend regional and national conferences.

“Student design competitions, like the SIUE solar car, formula race car or robotics team, offer outstanding opportunities to develop both technical and soft skills,” Daryl said. “Students learn many skills that aren’t easily taught in the classroom. They get to do the kind of work that motivated them to become engineers in the first place.”

“We want to help others reap the benefits of a great education.”

—Daryl Beetner, BS Electrical Engineering ’90

Beetner Family Legacy

6 Alumni

1. Emmet’s wife: Lynne Beetner, BS Special Education ’81
2. Daryl Beetner, BS Electrical Engineering ’90 (Daryl’s wife: Valerie Beetner, attended SIUE, ’86-’89)
3. Rhonda Schalk, BS Elementary Education ’93, MSE Instructional Technology ’14
4. Rhonda’s husband: Tom Schalk, Elementary Education ’92
5. Dirk Beetner, BA Political Science ’92

Emmet and Lynne’s granddaughter

6. Nicole Amsbury, Bachelor of Liberal Studies, Business Administration Minor ’06

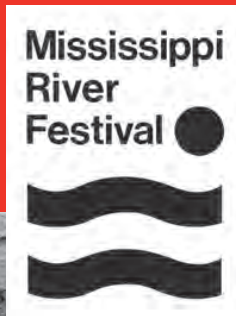
2 Current Students

Emmet and Lynne’s grandsons

1. Andrew Schalk, engineering major
2. Michael School, engineering major

1 Future Alumnus?

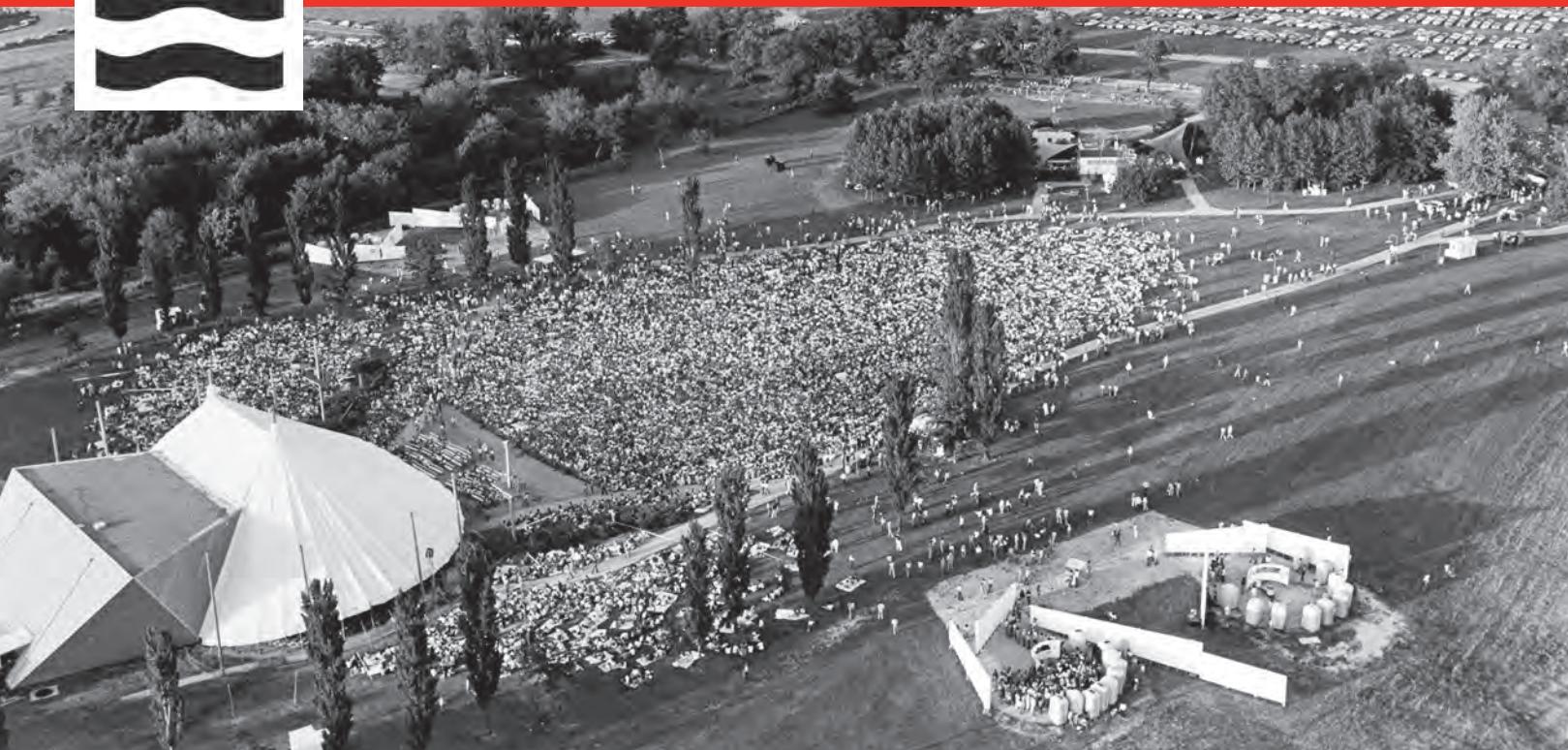
1. Emmet and Lynne’s great-grandson, Keller Amsbury, attends the SIUE Early Childhood Center



TM

Celebrating the MRF

2019 marks the 50th anniversary of the iconic Mississippi River Festival, an outdoor concert series held on campus from 1969-1980 that featured such bands as The Who, Chicago, The Eagles and The Grateful Dead.



William H. Tarwater (left), professor of music and gifted artist specializing in the French horn, served as administrative director of the MRF during the inaugural 1969 season. Legendary tent master Roy "Skip" Manley operated a series of four tents from the 1969 through the 1978 seasons.



20 Fall 2019

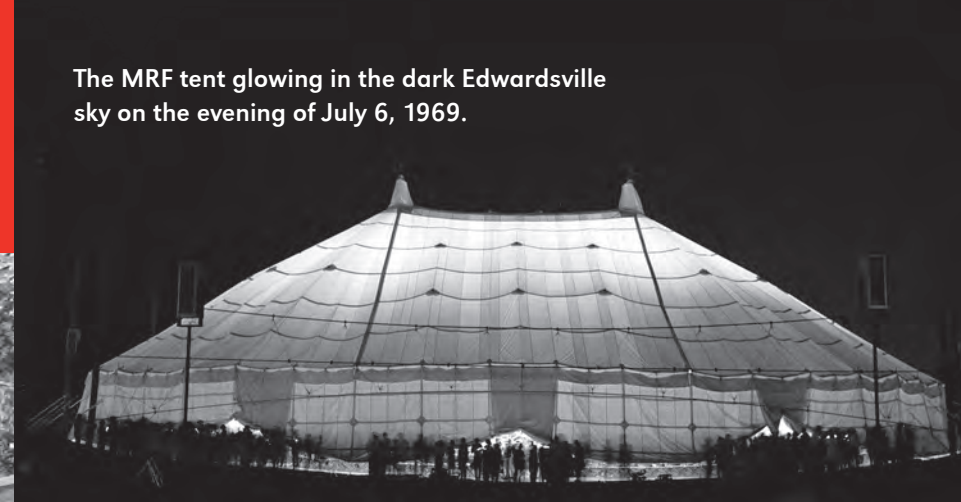
Walter Susskind conducted the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra and piano soloist Gary Graffman on August 4, 1973.



Arlo Guthrie and iconic folk singer Pete Seeger appeared together twice at MRF, first on August 6, 1975.



The MRF tent glowing in the dark Edwardsville sky on the evening of July 6, 1969.



Harry Chapin made the first of his unsurpassed five MRF appearances on July 17, 1973.



Ella Fitzgerald 1973



Joni Mitchell 1969 & 1974



Linda Ronstadt 1976



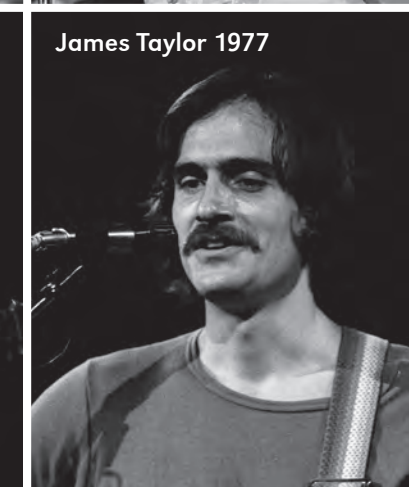
Judy Collins 1970-1976



On August 11, 1978, after being apart for eight years, Peter Yarrow, Mary Travers and Paul Stookey performed together at the MRF on the first stop of their reunion tour.



James Taylor 1977



Janis Joplin 1969



A Night in the Stacks: Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the MRF
Saturday, Oct. 19, 6 p.m.

Lovejoy Library, first floor

Join us for a commemorative reception to honor this historic festival.

- Hors d'oeuvres and a buffet dinner provided by LoRusso's
- Live music from the MRF era by the Ralph Butler Band
- Display of MRF memorabilia
- Auction

Tickets: \$65/person, \$480/table of 8

Call 618-650-2760 to order your tickets today!

For more information: siuealumni@siue.edu



Hosted by Friends of Lovejoy Library, SIUE Foundation and SIUE Alumni Association. Proceeds will benefit future endeavors of Lovejoy Library. Prairie Farms, presenting sponsor.



Come celebrate all things SIUE. We can't wait to see you!

SIUE WELCOMES YOU HOME

siue.edu/homecoming



**SAVE
THE DATE**



**SEPTEMBER
23-28, 2019**

HOMEcoming
COUGARS
Est. 1957



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: 17 trees, **Total energy saved:** 7 million BTUs, **Greenhouse gases prevented:** 10,000 lbs., **Wastewater reduction:** 4,000 gallons, **Solid waste reduction:** 100 lbs.