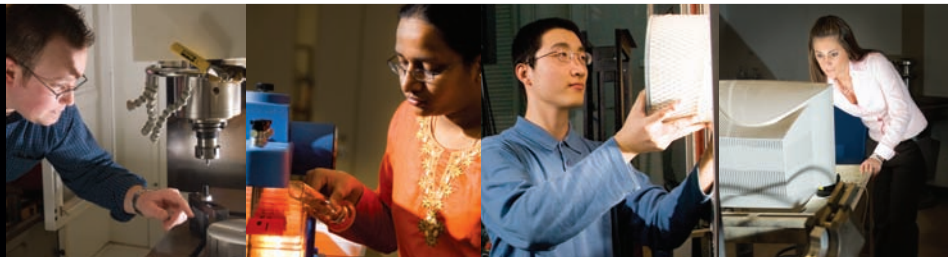
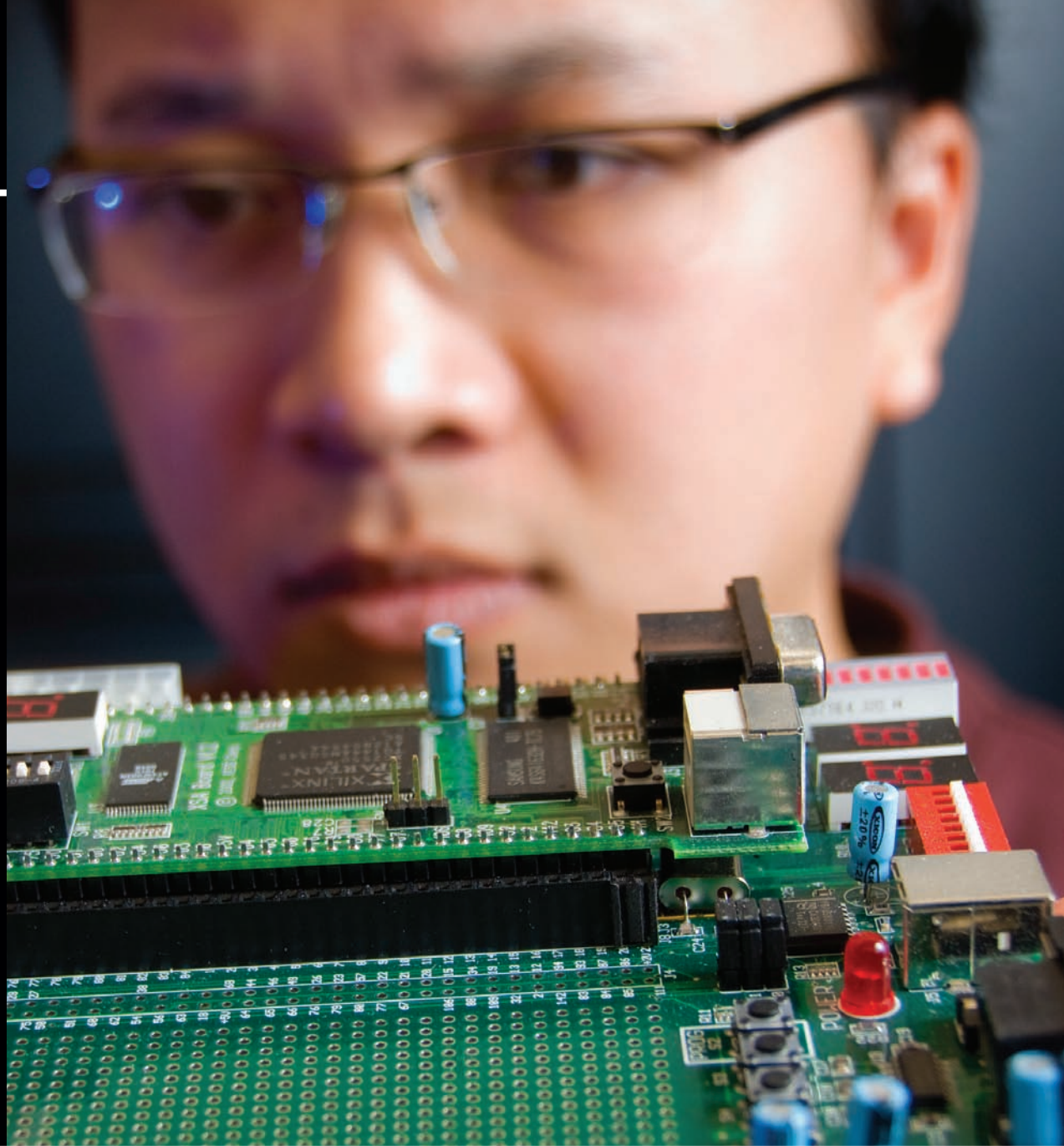


Engineering

STUDENT SUCCESS

Dean's Report
2007



Message from the Dean

The SIUE School of Engineering has focused its efforts this past year on building an engineering community. The numerous achievements of our students, faculty and programs are helping us live this vision.

The groundwork was laid for the cooperative doctoral program between the SIUE School of Engineering and the College of Engineering at SIU Carbondale; the program began in January 2008. With this agreement, our students will be able to complete their entire doctoral studies on the SIUE campus. The doctoral program will allow our faculty to engage in more externally-funded research, and doctoral students will provide greater continuity in research.

I am particularly proud of our 2007 student project teams. In every collegiate contest they participated, they represented the School with poise, confidence and professionalism; they brought back five first-place and two second-place trophies that are proudly displayed in the atrium of the Engineering building. Our students put their knowledge to the test, and they did it superbly.

The success of our students stems from the fact that so many of them have teamed up with their professors in research projects or are engaged in internships and co-ops in their respective fields. They practice and enhance the concepts they learn from their professors, in industry and in the research labs. Our successful alumni are great testimony to how our students benefit from the student-faculty partnership tradition that is instilled in the School of Engineering.

We have embarked on an exciting academic year. In 2008, six new faculty members will join the engineering community that we have been building since 2006. I invite alumni, students, faculty, staff, sponsors, employers of our graduates and friends of the School to join us in implementing our vision.

Sincerely,



Hasan Sevim, Ph.D.,
Dean

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Message from the Chancellor

Through a cooperative agreement with SIU Carbondale, the SIUE School of Engineering is offering a Ph.D. program completely accessible on the Edwardsville campus.

Our excellent “community of engineers” is expanding to include the engineering faculty at SIUC. Through this collaboration, the SIUE School of Engineering will have the opportunity to apply for more research grants and enhance the quality and caliber of research initiatives, while actively enriching engineering knowledge at SIUE.

The Ph.D. program is supported by advanced research conducted by our own nationally and internationally recognized engineering faculty members—details of their work are included in this report.

The School of Engineering plays an important role in pursuit of the University’s vision to be recognized nationally for the excellence of its programs and development of professional and community leaders. This cooperative doctoral program is another initiative reflective of the growth of SIUE and its status as a premier Metropolitan University.

Vaughn Vandegrift, Ph.D.,
Chancellor

About SIUE

For 50 years, SIUE has prepared students to become leaders in their community and professionals in their fields of study. Beautifully situated on 2,660 acres, SIUE is a fully accredited public institution offering students a broad choice of degrees and programs ranging from liberal arts to professional studies. Undergraduate and graduate degrees are offered in the arts and sciences, business, education, engineering and nursing. Professional degrees are available in dental medicine and pharmacy. Nearly 13,500 students choose SIUE for the enlightening programs, engaging faculty and convenient locations just 25 miles from St. Louis.



About the School of Engineering

Our vision

The vision of the School of Engineering is to be a partnership of faculty, students, staff, alumni and other professionals who work together to provide the highest quality education and maintain innovative resources that support the technical growth and economic development of the region.

Engineering Science Ph.D.

The SIUE School of Engineering participates in a cooperative doctoral program offered by the College of Engineering at Southern Illinois University Carbondale. Learning from a combined, highly qualified SIUE and SIUC engineering faculty of 100, students can earn a Ph.D. in engineering science from SIUC while attending all courses on the Edwardsville campus.

Engineering Science Ph.D. Specializations

- Mechanical engineering
- Electrical and Computer engineering
- Civil engineering

Engineering Degrees

The SIUE School of Engineering offers a comprehensive collection of professionally accredited engineering programs:

Civil Engineering – BS, MS
Computer Engineering – BS, Minor
Computer Science –BA, BS, MS, Minor
Construction Management –BS, Minor
Electrical Engineering –BS, MS, Minor
Industrial Engineering –BS, Minor
Manufacturing Engineering –BS, Minor
Mechanical Engineering –BS, MS, Minor



“We have outstanding research that goes on right now in the SIUE School of Engineering, and the collaborative Ph.D. program opens the door to enhanced research capabilities and innovative research ideas,” said SIUE School of Engineering Dean Hasan Sevim.

“Highly capable doctoral students with advanced knowledge and ability can develop dynamic research partnerships with SIUE faculty to create knowledge and enhance the quality, caliber and national recognition of our research programs in the SIUE School of Engineering.”



New faculty

Serdar Celik, assistant professor, is the newest member of the Department of Mechanical Engineering. He received a Ph.D. from SIU Carbondale in 2007. He earned a master's at Istanbul Technical University and a bachelor's at Yildiz Technical University, both in Turkey. Celik's research focuses on developing alternative cooling technologies and heat transfer enhancement.

Student Competitions

Putting knowledge to the test

Mini *baja* and solar car races...bridge building and robotics competitions. SIUE School of Engineering students are continually putting their knowledge – and competitive spirit – to the test.

Collegiate competitions give students the opportunity to apply their classroom learning in a team environment while gaining valuable communication and leadership skills which can benefit their current studies and their future careers.

“These competitions are extremely beneficial,” said Vic Reznack, BS’77, MBA’89. “Students work as part of an integrated team, often comprised of several different engineering disciplines.”

“There are specific requirements and deadlines which must be met, which is exactly how it works in the real world.” Reznack is chair of the School of Engineering Industrial Advisory Board and has worked as an engineer in the high-tech defense industry for 30 years.

School of Engineering advisory board members recently had the opportunity to review all of the student competitions in display format. Each team made a brief presentation about their project which gave students the chance to develop their presentation skills.

“Every engineer has to be able to sell his or her work – not only through the written word, but with verbal communication,” said Reznack.

“They’re doing fabulous things,” said Reznack. “SIUE students are competing with some of the top engineering schools in the country. They’re competing—and placing—nationally and internationally.”



“SIUE students are competing with some of the top engineering schools in the country.”

Vic Reznack

Under School of Engineering Dean Hasan Sevım's leadership, emphasis on and support of student competitions has increased. In 2007, engineering students spent the total equivalent of 17,570 hours preparing for and competing in various competitions.

Recent awards

American Society of Civil Engineers Concrete Canoe Competition

2nd place: Overall

1st place: Oral Presentation and Design Paper

2nd place: Final Product and Paddling

American Society of Civil Engineers Steel Bridge Competition

1st place: Lightness

International Beyond Botball Robotics Competition

1st place

American Concrete Institute Fiber Reinforced Polymer (FRP) Competition

1st place: Highest Ultimate Load-to-Weight Ratio

Associated Schools of Construction Design/Build Competition

2nd place

Industrial Engineering – Unigraphics Solutions 3D Modeling Competition

1st place



Student Leaders

Representing SIUE excellence

SIUE senior computer science student Ross Mead was named SIUE Student Laureate of the 2007 Lincoln Academy of Illinois. This award recognizes him as the top senior at SIUE for excellence in curricular and extracurricular activities. Each of the state of Illinois' four-year public universities selects one Student Lincoln Laureate each year.

Mead is no stranger to receiving recognition for his accomplishments. He already has six publications and 11 presentations to his credit. He received the Technical Innovation Award for Multi-Robot Coordination at the National Conference on Artificial Intelligence, First Place in the International Beyond Botball Robotic Competition and SIUE Best Senior Project in Engineering—all while maintaining outstanding grades.

He has excelled in his study of computer science; research in robotics; and presentations and lectures at the local, regional and national levels while pursuing his degree at SIUE. Not one to keep his knowledge or enthusiasm to himself, Mead has participated and instructed in multiple outreach programs for K-12 robotics workshops.

“Ross is genuinely interested in learning and looking at how what he learns can be applied to life.” said Jerry Weinberg, associate professor of computer science and chair of that department. “He certainly exemplifies the academic spirit.”

“I would like to thank SIUE for considering me for such a prestigious award,” said Mead. “I am particularly grateful to the SIUE School of Engineering faculty and staff, without whose guidance I would be nowhere.”

**“It is motivating to
know that hard work
really does pay off!”
Ross Mead**





"I'm gaining the type of knowledge that can't be offered in a classroom."

Miles Musick

The value of leadership

A senior mechanical engineering major, Miles Musick has gained more than an engineering education during his studies at SIUE. He has learned how to be an advocate, a manager and an effective leader.

"I recently accepted a position as a quality engineer for John Deere. I look forward to using my engineering and analytical skills, as well as my leadership and communications skills," he said.

Musick said he understands education is more than what is learned in the classroom, noting his involvement in extracurricular activities. He serves as president of the Joint Engineering Student Council, which oversees School of Engineering student groups, as well as captain and business manager of *Cougar Baja*, a group

of students who compete internationally in an off-road dune buggy competition.

Musick was one of 10 students who expressed interest in *Cougar Baja* two years ago. On a \$6,000 budget, the team competed and finished 89th against 141 teams from around the world. Some of the other teams had budgets between \$35,000 and \$40,000. Today, the SIUE team boasts 25 members and its operating budget has grown by 30 percent. The group will compete with an amphibious vehicle this May at Tennessee Tech University in Cookeville, Tenn.

"I'm gaining the type of knowledge that can't be offered in a classroom," Musick said. "It's something you have to experience and be involved in."

Student/Faculty Partnerships

"I teach my students to generate crazy ideas to solve problems."
Albert Luo



Developing ideas

Brandon Rapp graduated from the SIUE School of Engineering in December 2007 with a master's in mechanical engineering. Rapp is a stress analysis engineer, helping to develop the new space shuttle at NASA's Marshall Flight Center in Huntsville, Ala.

While a student at SIUE, Rapp worked closely with Albert Luo, associate professor of mechanical and industrial engineering, on various research projects. Luo, who has been studying the theory and application of nonlinear dynamics and mechanics for more than 20 years, was recently named a Fellow of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME). He is internationally recognized in the area of nonlinear vibration.

According to Rapp, the experience he gained while studying with Luo helped him land the job at NASA. "During my job interview I was told that my research activity was equivalent to the five years of previous work experience the job required," said Rapp.

Brandon Gegg earned both a bachelor of science and a master's in mechanical engineering at SIUE. Gegg studied discontinuous systems with Luo for nearly three years. "My time with Professor Luo was incredibly valuable. He trained me to think carefully and intuitively before jumping into research," said Gegg. "Luo encourages all of his students to develop their critical thinking skills as much as possible."

Gegg is currently a Ph.D. candidate at Texas A&M. "Sixty people took the Ph.D. qualification exams. Brandon was one of only four students to pass both exams on the first attempt," Luo said.

"I teach my students to generate crazy ideas to solve problems," explains Luo. "Anyone can follow standards that have already been established and apply knowledge that already exists. The ability to develop new ideas opens so many doors for my students."

Working together

Jerry Weinberg, associate professor of computer science, is usually working on two or three research projects simultaneously; he's committed to involving students in his work.

“Conducting research allows students to solve problems and gain technical knowledge that goes beyond the classroom,” said Weinberg. “They are building their research résumés, which helps them go on to work for great companies or continue their studies in graduate programs.”

His latest project involves developing a computer backpack or “Brain Pack” for two-, four-, and six-legged robots in teaching science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) courses.

“There are easy-to-use wheeled robots for K-12 and undergraduate educators, but there are no legged robot platforms with easy-to-use hardware and software,” Weinberg said. “The brain pack will have plug-and-play sensors with straightforward software modules developed specifically for use in the classroom.”

Electrical engineering graduate student Jeff Croxell is one of the students working with Weinberg on the brain pack project. “Working with Professor Weinberg has taught me how to work through the thought process to develop research ideas and how to see a project through to publication,” said Croxell.

Croxell's master's thesis is an extension of the brain pack. While the brain pack will teach the robot to walk, Croxell will fit the robot with accelerometers which will allow it to sense the slope of a surface and walk across uneven terrain, giving educators even more teaching capabilities.

Weinberg and William Yu, also an associate professor of computer science, in partnership with RoadNarrows LLC, received a \$150,000 grant from the National Science Foundation for the project. RoadNarrows LLC specializes in engineering and marketing robot hardware for educators.



“Working with Professor Weinberg has taught me how to work through the thought process to develop research ideas.”

Jeff Croxell

Sharing knowledge

An environmental engineer said: “A man’s debt to his profession is to help those that follow.” Assistant Professor of Civil Engineering Jianpeng (Jim) Zhou shares this belief.

Before joining the SIUE School of Engineering faculty in 2002, he was a consulting engineer in Canada for more than seven years. “I believe it is my obligation to share what I know with tomorrow’s environmental engineers,” Zhou said. “That is one of the reasons I left the industry for the university setting.”

While Zhou is dedicated to passing on the current body of engineering knowledge to his students, he is equally committed to discovery and contributing to that knowledge base. An environmental engineer, Zhou’s research focus is wastewater treatment and waste management.

Coupled with his own research efforts, Zhou serves as advisor to his graduate students as they work on master’s theses or research papers.

Environmental engineering graduate student Vishnu Kesaraju’s research project involves evaluating evaporation as an option for cost-effective handling of the liquid waste produced at SIUE’s National Corn-to-Ethanol Research Center. “This research opportunity has allowed me to enhance my communication skills and develop the confidence I need for a career back home in Andhra Pradesh, India,” Kesaraju said.

Environmental engineering graduate student Barb Lehan’s master’s thesis is part of a grant funded by the Illinois Waste Management and Research Center (WMRC). “I’m looking for ways to bridge the gap between industry and environmental technology,” Lehan said. “My goal is to develop an effective approach for the WMRC to better engage with industry and assist with waste management, pollution prevention and energy efficiency.”

Lehan would like to enter the consulting field after graduation. “Perhaps I’ll become that bridge between industry and technology.”

“I believe it is my obligation to share what I know with tomorrow’s environmental engineers.”

Jim Zhou





"Innovative, hands-on research experience is an essential part of the learning process."

George Engel

Achieving results

George Engel enjoys working on integrated circuit design and with his students on revolutionary projects.

Engel, a professor of electrical and computer engineering, works closely with four or five students each semester on projects that encompass integrated circuit design. "Innovative, hands-on research experience is an essential part of the learning process," he said.

Professor Engel and his students are developing design techniques which will significantly increase what can be done on a computer and the time in which it can be done. They are also developing a chip to be used in a nuclear physics experiment later this year.

When the time comes for Engel's students to leave SIUE, their research experience often helps them step into lucrative, prestigious careers or continued academic pursuits.

SIUE School of Engineering graduate Michael Hall began a doctoral program at Washington University in St. Louis this spring. He earned his bachelor of science and master of science in electrical engineering from SIUE and worked with Engel throughout his undergraduate and graduate programs. "Professor Engel has always been very encouraging and supportive," Hall said.

Hara Valluru is a graduate student working with Engel in the area of integrated circuit design. He said he came to SIUE from Southern India because of the quality of the program. "I've learned a lot. Working on a real-time chip is really good experience."

"The proof is on the wall," said Engel, pointing to pictures of seven students who have graduated from SIUE and gone on to work at Intel.

Gaining experience

There are very few university-based advanced manufacturing centers that fill the same niche as the SIUE School of Engineering's Southwest Illinois Advanced Manufacturing (SIAM) Center.

"The products we develop reach commercialization within a few years, often in as little as six months," said Kevin Hubbard, associate professor of mechanical and industrial engineering, and director of the SIAM Center. "Most centers focus on basic research which may not see commercialization for decades."

With a staff of faculty investigators from each of the School of Engineering disciplines, the SIAM Center assists small- to moderate-sized established and start-up enterprises in activities including prototype design and fabrication, product development, process optimization and new technology development. Collectively, these activities help create and sustain technical and manufacturing enterprises in Southwestern and Central Illinois.

The SIAM Center employs 14 engineering students, ranging from entry-level freshmen through graduate students. "Students gain on-the-job experience which translates into immediate success in the classroom and upon graduation," said Hubbard.

Ashley Robeen, a senior manufacturing engineering student, is project leader on a job for a manufacturer of custom-engineered components for military explosive devices. "We are providing the analysis, design and prototype fabrication for a unique personal protective device," said Robeen.

Sophomore Laura Hemker has been with the SIAM Center since her first day on campus. "I have a better understanding of concepts that are introduced in class because I've worked through them with my SIAM teammates," she said. "I'm learning firsthand that engineering is truly a mesh of concepts and disciplines working together as a team."

"The sooner students start to see these synergies, the better engineers they will become," Hubbard said.

"Students gain on-the-job experience which translates into immediate success in the classroom and upon graduation."

Kevin Hubbard





**"Real projects and
real results really
bring it home for
the students."**

Kerry Slattery

Testing technology

Brandon Egelhoff has been employed at a surveying company the past two summers. A construction management major, he knows he wants a career in land surveying.

As technology advances, a four-year college degree is becoming a common prerequisite. In the state of Illinois, a surveying license requires a bachelor's degree that includes 24 credit hours of surveying coursework. A surveyor-in-training exam is next. After four years' work experience, a second exam is required to become a licensed professional land surveyor.

The SIUE School of Engineering recently added a land surveying specialization for construction management students. This new specialization provides students with the additional credit hours that must be completed before taking the surveyor-in-training test.

Kerry Slattery, associate professor of construction management, has enlisted the help of two land surveying students to conduct research

for the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT). The students are testing the surveying capabilities of a state-of-the-art scanner at the site of a major road extension project in Edwardsville.

"The work of surveyors is changing as a result of advancements in technology," Slattery said. "This cutting-edge technology has the potential to increase both the accuracy and productivity of survey work and construction methods."

"This equipment is the future of surveying," Egelhoff said. "And, this experience is helping me to prepare for my future."

Slattery said he is always looking for opportunities to work with the construction industry in ways that will benefit his students. "I look for ways to gain new skills and bring those experiences to the classroom," he said. "Real projects and real results really bring it home for the students."

Alumni Profiles



Verbal Blakey

“The SIUE School of Engineering has many intelligent professors who truly care about your education.”

Verbal Blakey credits the faculty and staff of the SIUE School of Engineering with preparing her for a successful career. Blakey graduated in 1993 with a bachelor of science in electrical engineering. She earned a master of engineering management from the University of Missouri-Rolla in 1997.

Blakey joined the firm of BHMGE Engineers in St. Louis as a staff engineer after graduating from SIUE. She became a Registered Professional Engineer in 1998 and a principal and vice president of BHMGE Engineers in 1999.

At BHMGE, Blakey is responsible for the preparation of cost of service studies and rate studies for electric and natural gas utilities. She is involved in the design of many of the firm’s projects for electrical facilities, including generating plants, substations, distribution lines, supervisory control and data acquisition systems, and electronic controls. Blakey has primary responsibility for the firm’s work in EPA regulatory compliance.

“The SIUE School of Engineering has many intelligent, caring professors who truly care about your education,” said Blakey. “Their influence helped direct my career and my desire to continue on to graduate work.”



David Brammeier

“The educational background I received at SIUE, along with the years served in public office, have been instrumental in my career as a consultant in private practice.”

David Brammeier graduated from the SIUE School of Engineering in 1975 with a degree in Urban and Environmental Engineering, a program that is now part of the Department of Civil Engineering. Brammeier recalls, “There were many excellent engineering professors guiding the program, one of which was Steve Hanna.”

By 1975, Brammeier had worked four years for George Crawford and Associates, which at that time was a division of Alan M. Voorhees and Associates, a recognized leader in the field of Transportation and Traffic Engineering. In 1977, Brammeier rejoined George Crawford and Associates, and the firm was reorganized as Crawford, Bunte, Brammeier. Crawford currently serves as chief executive officer. The firm provides transportation and traffic engineering services to private clients and public agencies within the St. Louis Metro Area.

He served the village of Glen Carbon as an elected board member from 1977 to 2005 and as a member of the Village Plan Commission for five years.

“The educational background I received at SIUE, along with the years served in public office, have been instrumental in my career as a consultant in private practice,” Brammeier said.



Paul Galeski

“My SIUE education was an important first step along the path to career success.”

Paul Galeski, president and CEO, Maverick Technologies, graduated from the SIUE School of Engineering with a bachelor's in electrical engineering in 1983. He started his professional career as an engineer with McDonnell-Douglas and Monsanto, and as a consultant for Anheuser-Busch Cos.

St. Louis-based Maverick Technologies Holdings LLC traces its roots to Magnum Technologies, which Paul Galeski founded in 1989. Eight years later, Magnum Technologies Inc. was acquired by General Electric Company in a rollup that included five other businesses. Galeski served as president of GE Magnum Inc. until early 1999.

In 1999, Galeski founded Maverick Technologies. Today, Maverick is a global systems integration company that provides operational consulting, industrial automation and integrated information solutions to manufacturing and distribution clients.

In 2005, Galeski led Maverick in obtaining financing and acquiring GE Automation Services Inc. from GE. This acquisition positions Maverick as the largest independent systems integration company in the United States.

Galeski is a licensed professional engineer, certified automation professional, Fellow Member level of the ISA and recipient of numerous professional awards. He serves on the SIUE School of Engineering Industrial Advisory Board. “My SIUE education was an important first step along the path to career success,” he said.



Jim Heinz

“My construction degree from SIUE formed the foundation of my career and has been the basis of my continued career development.”

Jim Heinz graduated from the SIUE School of Engineering in 1983 with a bachelor's in construction management. Heinz began his career as a project manager with K&S Associates Inc, then moved on to St. Louis-based general contractor Kozeny-Wagner Inc, where he managed various construction projects.

In 1993 Heinz founded Heinz Corp., which grew to become one of the premier wireless telecommunications construction companies in the Midwest. Today, Heinz is one of 12 subsidiaries of WPCS International Inc. WPCS specializes in the design and construction of specialty communication systems and wireless infrastructure. Heinz serves as executive vice president of WPCS, managing Heinz Corp. and three other subsidiaries.

“My construction degree from SIUE formed the foundation of my career and has been the basis of my continued career development,” he said.

Heinz was a founding member and past president of the SIUE Construction Alumni Association. Heinz has served on the Construction Advisory Committee for more than 15 years and served as chair of the committee for seven years. He currently serves as vice president of the School of Engineering Industrial Advisory Board.

School of Engineering Industrial and Professional Advisory Councils (IPAC)

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The mission of the School of Engineering is to provide excellent innovative engineering, computer science and construction education to citizens of Illinois, the greater St. Louis metropolitan area and representatives of the global community. The School focuses on strong undergraduate education and graduate programs that serve the needs of full-time students and employed professionals. The faculty conducts basic and applied research and outreach activities in partnership with others that contribute to technological advancement in our fields.

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