Welcome to *Embracing Diversity and Inclusion*, a Newsletter celebrating diversity at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville. This newsletter aims to showcase the diversity and inclusion initiatives in our community. It features everything from national data on diversity to coverage of campus sponsored events and activities.

“Southern Illinois University Edwardsville is a student-centered educational community dedicated to communicating, expanding and integrating knowledge. In a spirit of collaboration enriched by diverse ideas, our comprehensive and unique array of undergraduate and graduate programs develops professionals, scholars and leaders who shape a changing world.”

If you would like to contribute or have any questions about the *Embracing Diversity and Inclusion* Newsletter, please contact Dr. Venessa A. Brown at 618-650-5867 or vbrown@siue.edu.
SIUE December Graduate Derric Roberts is Beating the Odds and Passing it On

To incoming freshmen, Roberts’ message is this: “Make your college experience the best one you can. Nobody can control your fate or destiny but you. No matter how hard you get knocked down, it’s about how many times you get back up that counts.”

Click Here to Read More.

Students Learning from Students is an Advantage of SIUE’s Partnership with South Korea’s Tongmyong University

For students and faculty of the School of Engineering at Tongmyong University (TU) in Busan, South Korea, studies and culture were seen through dual lenses after a visit to SIUE. The exchange afforded SIUE and TU to benefit from learning about the direction and focus of engineering studies at both schools.

Click Here to Read More.

SIUE’s Student Finance Board Approves Funds

Representatives from the African Student Association, the Wildlife and Conservation Biology Club, the International Student Council and the SIUE Dance Marathon were approved for funding to support their upcoming events during the Finance Board meeting. The finance board also approved funding for various travel requests.

Click Here to Read More.

SIU and SIUE Faculty Association Reach Agreement

SIU President Randy Dunn, on behalf of the SIU Board of Trustees, approved an initial Collective Bargaining Agreement between SIU and the SIUE Faculty Association. Faculty seeking more information can contact Kim Archer at (618) 792-3590 or kim.archer@siue-fa.org.

Click Here to Read More.

SIUE Head Start/Early Head Start Parents Learn the Crucial Skills of Money Matters

SIUE partnered in offering a 10-week Financial Literacy course to SIUE Head Start/Early Head Start parents. “This class is about teaching parents the skills they need to survive, thrive and to pass onto their children,” said Marcia Oliver, Jackie Joyner-Kersee Head Start/Early Head Start Center coordinator. At the graduation, Head Start parents were surprised to receive $800 for completing the course. The check presented to each graduate was to start a savings account and a savings plan for their children.

Click Here to Read More.

SIUE Police Team Up with Brother 2 Brother for Friendly Basketball Game

Brother 2 Brother is an organization that brings together men of color who live in University Housing with the focus of allowing students to connect with peers, and discuss opportunities and challenges that come with being a man of color in college. For more information regarding Brother 2 Brother, contact Bluff Hall Assistant Community Director Iván Solis Cruz at (618) 650-0579 or jsolisc@siue.edu.

Click Here to Read More.
SIUE’s Olivares Earns Scholarship from ILLCF

“I am beyond grateful for this opportunity, which will help further my studies,” Olivares said. “I chose to major in psychology and minor in Spanish, because I aspire to support and guide minority communities that may be less fortunate than others.” Click Here to Read More.

SIUE Introduces Bias Incident Response Protocol

Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Jeffrey Waple, PhD, is introducing the Bias Incident Response Protocol beginning this semester. “After considering feedback from faculty, staff and students, we determined that a more rapid response was necessary for campus incidents involving bias,” Waple said. “This is an additional step to underline the University’s commitment to maintaining a safe, secure and inclusive campus environment for all.” Click Here to Read More.

SIUE’s Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration Emphasizes Education and Character

“The 35th Birthday Celebration is a time to honor the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., who dedicated his efforts to bring hope and healing to America,” said Chancellor Randy Pembrook. “In his 1947 letter, the Purpose of Education, Dr. King described two of its functions – utility and culture. He stated, ‘education must enable one to sift and weigh evidence to discern the truth from the false, the real from the unreal, and the facts from the fiction.’” Click Here to Read More.

MONTHLY OBSERVANCES

January

National Mentoring Month: Focuses national attention on the need for mentors and how the community can work together to increase the number of mentors to help ensure positive outcomes for our young people. Learn More.

• January 17th, 2018 is SIUE’s Mentoring Day, where Women’s Basketball players recognize their mentors.
• January 20th - 22nd, 2018 is SIUE Men’s Basketball Mentoring Weekend.

National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month: This annual observance aims to raise public awareness of the estimated 40 million victims of modern slavery and human trafficking. Learn More.

• January 11th is recognized as National Human Trafficking Awareness Day.

Mental Wellness Month: A chance to respect our mental well-being as part of our total body health by teaching people to take care of their health before they develop an illness by eating well, exercising and getting enough sleep. Learn More.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (Jan. 15th): A day that pays tribute to Dr. King’s principles and legacy. Today’s commemorative traditions are expanding to offer opportunities for learning, volunteering, and honoring the life and work of MLK Jr. Learn More.

• SIUE held its annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Luncheon on January 17th, 2018 to recognize Dr. King’s legacy.
**CURRENT EVENTS**
**EDWARDSVILLE, ALTON, EAST ST. LOUIS**

MONTHLY OBSERVANCES

February

**Black History Month:** An annual celebration of achievements by African Americans and a time for recognizing the central role of African Americans in U.S. history. [Learn More.]

- **SIUE Black Heritage Month:** A celebration and recognition of achievements by African American students, faculty, and staff within our community at SIUE.

**National Freedom Day (Feb. 1st):** Honors the signing of resolution that later became the 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. [Learn More.]

**Mardi Gras (Fat Tuesday, Feb. 13th):** Events of the Carnival celebrations, beginning on or after the Christian feasts of the Epiphany and culminating on the day before Ash Wednesday [Learn More.]

- **Chinese New Year (Year of the Dog, Feb. 16th):** An annual observance recognized as China’s most important traditional festival, celebrated at the turn of the traditional lunisolar Chinese calendar. [Learn More.]

**UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS**

**Ferguson 365: An Exclusive Screening and Q&A**
(presented by KDHX, ArchCity Defenders, and Maverick Media Group)
Feb. 9th, 2018  6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.  The Stage at KDHX
An exclusive screening of Ferguson 365, and Q&A with filmmaker Chris Phillips and ArchCity’s Executive Director Blake Strode about the underlying and unlawful policies and practices in St. Louis. [More Information]

**NOTE:** This is a FREE event open to the public, but because of limited seating capacity, all admission will be via RSVP only.

**Valentine’s Day a la Flamenca**
(presented by The St. Louis Cultural Flamenco Society)
Feb. 10th, 2018  5 p.m. - 9 p.m.  Sheldon Concert Hall and Art Galleries [Ticket Required]
Beginning with the Jota de Aragón, samples of the classical Spanish dance, the rhythmic beat of the dances of Ida y Vuelta and the fury and passion of Flamenco. [More Information]

**Africa World Documentary Film Festival**
(presented by The University of Missouri- St. Louis)
Feb. 9th to Feb. 11th, 2018  Missouri History Museum
The international festival is committed to the promotion of knowledge, life and culture of the people of Africa worldwide, in a Pan-African context through cinema. It will feature 24 films from 16 different countries, including South Africa, Nigeria, Brazil, Haiti and the USA. The festival is free and open to the public.

For a complete list of the documentary films that will be showing at the Missouri History Museum from February 9-11, 2018, please check the festival website at [www.africaworldfilmfestival.com](http://www.africaworldfilmfestival.com)
SIUE is committed to increasing dialogue regarding diversity and inclusion issues on campus and complex societal issues facing the region and nation, such as the sustained dialogue program, biweekly Friday conversations and town halls already taking place. A core value of the SIUE community is improving upon a campus climate that acknowledges, embraces and celebrates diversity and inclusion.

1. Enhance recruitment for students of underrepresented groups for both undergraduate and graduate programs, and improve retention and graduation rates for underrepresented groups attending SIUE.

2. Increase and retain the number of faculty, staff and administrators from underrepresented groups.

3. Build a community that fosters learning, scholarship, and creative activities that reflect understanding of global diversity and a commitment to inclusion and social justice.

4. Develop and maintain a campus climate that acknowledges, embraces, and celebrates diversity and inclusion as a core value of the SIUE community.

Spring Biweekly Dialogue
(presented by The Office of the Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs)
Feb. 2nd & 16th, 2018 12 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. Peck Hall, Room 2405
Supports critical conversations and understanding around issues of campus climate for Black students, faculty and staff; social justice; and our collective responsibility to build a sustainable campus environment.

International Night: Festival of Nations
(presented by the International Student Council)
Feb. 3rd, 2018 5 p.m. - 9 p.m. MUC Meridian Ballroom (Ticket Required)
An event where SIUE’s international community displays their culture through Flag Show, Fashion Show, Cultural Performances, and food. More Information

Reflections on the Shadow of the Sixties: A Lecture with Clarence Lang
professor of African-American Studies, University of Kansas
Feb. 15th, 2018 4:30 p.m. Lovejoy Library, Abbott Auditorium

Lincoln, Race, & Slavery: A Lecture with Professor Edward L. Ayers
(presented by Black Studies, Department of Historical Studies, College of Arts and Sciences)
Feb. 28th, 2018 5:30 p.m. Lovejoy Library, Abbott Auditorium

United We Fall & Divided We Stand?: Unconventional Lessons for Addressing Intractable Conflicts
presented by Michael (Mike) Pratt, O’Connor Family Professor, Boston College
Feb. 28th, 2018 2 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. Art and Design Building 1104 (ADW 1104)
Black Heritage Month Calendar
February 2018

Feb 1st: Opening Ceremony
10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Goshen Lounge
- Learn about the history of Black Heritage Month, network with black faculty, staff, and organizations, and see what the month has in store!

Feb 1st: Black Art Showcase
“The Black Self Image”
7 p.m. - 10 p.m. Meridian Ballroom

Feb 2nd: Black Business Expo
6 p.m. - 9 p.m. Goshen Lounge

Feb 13th: Community Health Event
“It Happened One Night”
10 a.m. - 9 p.m. Goshen Lounge
- Can you beat the clock and escape in the healthiest way?

Feb 15th: Black Girls Rock
“He's Just Not That Into You”
Time TBA Fixins Restaurant

Feb 19th: My Curlfriends
Time TBA Mississippi/Illinois Room (MUC)

Feb 28th: eMMY’s
7 p.m. - 11 p.m. Conference Center (MUC)
- Black Heritage Month's first award show. Be a part of honoring those who have fought to make the black community at SIUE a better place!

Pink Zone 2018 Reception

Please join SIUE Head Coach Paula Buscher at the Pink Zone Fan Reception!

- Pink Zone Fan Reception
  Jan. 31st, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
  MUC Goshen Lounge
  Raffle Goshen Lounge will be available for purchase and raffle baskets will be on display. T-shirts will also be on sale during the event.

- Pink Zone Game
  Feb 3rd, 6 p.m.
  Vadalabene Center, SIUE Campus
  Cougars v Jacksonville State
  Raffle tickets will be available for purchase at the game. Winners will be selected at the conclusion of the women’s game. Breast cancer survivors will be honored during the women’s game.

Call 855-SIUE-TIX to reserve your tickets today!

*Survivors receive free admission to the women’s game, and up to four complimentary tickets.
The Office of Institutional Diversity and Inclusion would like to welcome

Dr. Sasikumar Balasundaram
to SIUE and highlight his efforts to promote sustainability through reclaiming the local food system.

Balasundaram, a native of Sri Lanka, began working at SIUE in Fall 2017. It was his humble beginnings in a small tea-growing community that sits 4,143 feet above sea level, that Balasundaram says has caused him to be a champion of food sustainability.

“For me, sustainable food system involves challenging the growth-oriented capitalist project that undermines the close human and nature relationship over profit.”

While he does not think the food system in the U.S. is as dire as it is in Sri Lanka, Balasundaram believes that there are some serious food concerns in America. For the past three years, Dr. Sasi has been working on establishing a place where youth can come up with innovative ideas and support sustainable food systems. The center will be located on a 10-acre farm in Virginia, where he lived prior to moving to Edwardsville. He hopes to do the same thing in the Metro East Area. Dr. Sasi also has plans to use the community garden plot in The Gardens at SIUE for teaching and community engagement. He will also teach the course, “Anthropology of Sustainability” next year.

“We have to show young people a model of what a healthy, sustainable food system looks like,” he said. “I want to be a part of reclaiming the hijacked food system that is filled with chemicals. I want to engage children and young people in this effort.”

Click Here to Read More.
Visit our website at http://www.siue.edu/diversity where our Institutional Diversity & Inclusion Programming Calendar is always updated with events and MCC hours.

The Multicultural Center is located on the 2nd floor in the Morris University Center (MUC)

HOURS:
Monday 10am - 3:00pm
Tuesday 10am - 2:00pm
Wednesday 10am - 3:00pm
Thursday 10am - 3:00pm
CLOSED FRIDAY

Keep in touch with the Office of Institutional Diversity & Inclusion! Check out news & events on our social media websites:

https://www.facebook.com/siueidi/
@siueidi
@_siueidi

See something missing from this newsletter, that you feel should be acknowledged by the SIUE community to celebrate diversity & inclusion? We want to hear from you! Please contact the Office of Institutional Diversity and Inclusion at siueidi@siue.edu or call (618) 650-5382