SIUE PRESENTS HONORARY DEGREE TO CIVIL RIGHTS LEGEND FRANKIE MUSE FREEMAN

Civil Rights legend, Frankie Muse Freeman will be receiving an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree from Southern Illinois University Edwardsville at its May 2017 commencement. In her career as an attorney, Freeman has advocated for civil rights issues in the St. Louis area, regionally and nationally. In 1954, Freeman was the lead attorney on the historic NAACP court case, Davis et al. vs. the St. Louis Housing Authority that ended legal racial discrimination in public housing in St. Louis.

Freeman has received numerous honors for her work, including being inducted into the International Civil Rights Walk of Fame and receiving the National NAACP’s highest honor, the Spingarn Medal for outstanding achievement by an African American. She has been inducted into the National Bar Association’s Hall of Fame, the Civil Rights Hall of Fame and is a recipient of a St. Louis Walk of Fame star.

The SIUE News noted that in 1964, Freeman was “nominated by President Lyndon Johnson as the first woman member of the United States Commission on Civil Rights, a bipartisan commission with the responsibility of investigating, reporting and making recommendations on civil rights issues. She served for 16 years for four presidents. President Barack Obama appointed her as Commissioner of the Commission on Presidential Scholars in 2015.”

Click Here To Learn More

UNDERGRAD EARS HONORS FOR LATINA & HISPANIC WOMEN IN FILM RESEARCH

An SIUE undergraduate student is receiving regional attention for her research on the representation of Latina and Hispanic Women in film. Ellie Vondohlen is a junior at SIUE pursuing a degree in Spanish and secondary education, with an endorsement in teaching English as a Second Language (ESL). Vondohlen presented her research on representations of Latina and Hispanic women in recent films, particularly focusing on how they are able to transform their role in society through immigration, at the Foreign Language and Culture Symposium at Saint Louis University on April 1, 2017. Her work received the Rhonda Nicol Memorial Book Award. She was also invited to present at the 22nd Annual Women’s and Gender Studies Symposium at Illinois State University. In her interview with The Telegraph Vondohlen shared, “My findings indicate that Latina women face tremendous pressure to carry on their heritage culture by transmitting those values through marriage and instilling them in their children. Through immigration, however, Latinas are in a new society that forces them and give them the opportunity to redefine who they are, whether that be traditional, less traditional or independent.” Click Here To Learn More
MONTH IN REVIEW
APRIL 2017
SIUE Recognizes Sexual Assault Awareness Month

This April, SIUE recognized Sexual Assault Awareness Month with an event series open to the campus community. This included a silent protest held on April 18th in the Stratton Quadrangle, aimed at starting conversations about sexual violence and prevention. The event was organized by SIUE’s Counseling Services and Prevention Education and Advocacy Center (PEACE), in partnership with Call for Help, Inc. When interviewed by SIUE News, PEACE coordinator Samantha Dickens reported, “We gathered at the center of campus to capture attention and engage people. We wanted to show a strong, diverse group of allies and supporters who are willing to work to end sexual violence.”

Click Here to Learn More Information about Sexual Assault Awareness Initiatives On Campus

Click Here to Learn More about SIUE Resources for Survivors of Sexual Violence

BLUE RIBBON CAMPAIGN: RAISING AWARENESS ABOUT CHILD ABUSE & NEGLECT

The Office of Institutional Diversity and Inclusion hosted a Blue Ribbon Campaign event on April 6, 2017 in the MUC Goshen Lounge. This event aimed to educate members of the SIUE community about identifying child abuse and neglect, and ways in which to prevent it. Information was also given about services provided in the area to child survivors of violence.

AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH

The Office of Institutional Diversity and Inclusion hosted an Autism Awareness event on April 11, 2017 in the MUC Goshen Lounge, with the theme “Great Minds Think Alike-Differently.” The purpose of this event was to: promote autism awareness, inclusion and self-determination for all individuals including those with autism; and to encourage the SIUE campus community members to become partners in the movement toward acceptance and hope.

SIUE CELEBRATES PRIDE WEEK

The SIUE Gay-Straight Alliance and Delta Lambda Phi celebrated Pride Week from April 10-14, 2017. Events included a movie screening, panels, LGBTQAI history, and a drag show. Rex Jackson, associate director for Residence Life and SafeZone member, discussed the event with The Alestle, stating, “Hopefully it spreads a positive representation of the LGBTQ community to individuals who might not understand what it’s like to be gay, lesbian, bisexual or trans, and hopefully [generated] interest in becoming an ally.”

Click Here To Learn More
INAUGURAL EDUCATIONAL CULTURAL TOUR TO THE LINCOLN MUSEUM IN SPRINGFIELD, IL

On April 20, 2017 SIUE students, faculty, staff and Chancellor Pembrook visited the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum in Springfield, IL. SIUE Educational Cultural Tour participants had the opportunity to learn about the life and legacy of our 16th president through viewing artifacts and the museum’s story-telling exhibits. Click Here To View Photos From the Trip

STUDENT DIVERSITY COUNCIL HOLDS FIRST MEETING

On April 18, 2017 the recently approved Student Diversity Council held its first meeting of the school year with Student Body President-elect Ramón DeShazer. The Student Diversity Council discussed events for the upcoming academic year focused on diversity and inclusion, including the annual Tunnel of Oppression and Diversity Week. DeShazer told the Alestle, “Diversity is a huge part of our institution here, and we definitely want to continue to promote it.” Click Here To Learn More

SIUE MASS COMM WEEK 2017: DIVERSITY AMIDST ADVERSITY

The SIUE department of Mass Communications presented a four day event series from April 3-6, 2017, with the theme “Diversity Amidst Adversity.” The event series consisted of talks, panel discussions, films, journalistic coverage of minority groups, question and answer sessions, and discussions about refugee issues and emerging trends in media. Dr. Mark Poepsel, SIUE assistant professor in the Department of Mass Communications was quoted by the SIUE News as saying, “Throughout the week, we emphasized that diversity doesn’t just mean a couple of different ethnicities or races in St. Louis...We want our students to be global citizens who are capable of building economies for themselves and for other people.”

Click Here To Learn More
Click Here To View Event Photos
RAINBOW GRADUATION CELEBRATION

Tuesday, April 25, 2017, 4:00 p.m.-5:30 p.m.
Evergreen Hall Multi-Function Room
The annual Rainbow Graduation Celebration is a pre-commencement celebration to honor the achievements of graduating lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, queer, or ally students who have successfully completed an undergraduate or graduate degree from Southern Illinois University Edwardsville. The event is hosted by the Kimmel Student Involvement Center and the Office for the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs. Click Here To Learn More

NON-TRADITIONAL STUDENT GRADUATION CELEBRATION

Friday, April 28, 2017, 5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m., MUC Hickory/Hackberry Room
The Nontraditional Student Graduation Recognition is a pre-commencement celebration to honor nontraditional students who have successfully completed their degree from Southern Illinois University Edwardsville. According to the National Center for Education Statistics, nontraditional students include individuals who: do not begin postsecondary education in the same year as completing high school; attend college part-time; work full time while enrolled in college; are considered financially independent; have dependents other than a spouse, are a single parent; or enters college with a GED rather than a high school diploma. This event is hosted by the SIUE Nontraditional Student Association. Click Here To Learn More

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT GRADUATION CELEBRATION

Monday, May 1, 2017, 4:00 p.m. -5:30 p.m., MUC Meridian Ballroom
The International Student Graduation Celebration is a pre-commencement celebration to honor International students who have successfully completed an undergraduate or graduate degree from Southern Illinois University Edwardsville and to share the event with their families who may not be able to attend graduation. Graduating students who participate will receive a special SIUE International Stole to wear during the official commencement ceremony. The students’ families will be able to watch the program via live streaming. This event is hosted by the Chancellor, Provost and Office of International Affairs. Click Here To Learn More

BLACK GRADUATION CELEBRATION

Tuesday, May 2, 2017, 4:00 p.m.-5:30 p.m., MUC Meridian Ballroom
The Black Graduation Celebration is a pre-commencement celebration to honor African and African American students who, through unyielding determination and academic achievements, have successfully completed an undergraduate or graduate degree from Southern Illinois University Edwardsville. The ceremony acknowledges the sense of scholarly community among students and honors African and African American culture and culminates with a Kente Stole presentation. The event is hosted by the Kimmel Student Involvement Center, the SOAR Office, and, the Office for the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs. Click Here To Learn More
DIVERSITY & INCLUSION ONLINE LEARNING COMMUNITY

The Online Learning Community is available to all members of the SIUE community through SIUE’s Blackboard site, under the “My Organizations” tab.

The Online Learning Community offers:

**COMMUNITY**: This area contains Community Topics on a variety of Diversity & Inclusion subjects, such as LGBTQ Pride, Women’s Rights, and African American History. You’ll also find links to the discussion board, where you can start or continue a conversation related to the topic, or share your thoughts in the Open Mic forum.

**RESOURCES**: This is where you can find resources on diversity and inclusion awards for SIUE students, faculty, and staff; information about SIUE’s Multicultural Center (located in the MUC); details about mentoring programs on campus; and resources for veterans. You can also share resources through Community wikis, or simply use a private journal space for personal reflections.

**TRAININGS**: Anyone can take part in the online training modules in this community. Learn about how to identify and reduce bias and more with these self-paced trainings. You will receive a certificate of completion when you complete the module, which you can add to your personal or professional portfolio. Modules will continue to be added throughout the semesters.

MULTICULTURAL CENTER

The SIUE Multicultural Center, located on the 2nd Floor of the MUC, will be closed during Summer 2017. The Multicultural Center will reopen in August at the start of the Fall 2017 semester. Have a great summer!

FACULTY/STAFF MENTORING STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

The goal of the Faculty/Staff Mentoring Students with Disabilities is to enhance the learning experience for students with disabilities by assigning faculty or staff mentors to any student participating in the Disabilities Support Services. These faculty/staff mentors meet with students on a regular basis and assist students in strategizing about the complexities of university life. Specifically, the faculty or staff mentor will help students deal with curricular and co-curricular access.

[Click Here to Learn More](#)

FACULTY/STAFF MENTORING STUDENT ATHLETES

The Faculty/Staff Mentoring Student Athletes Program is a joint program with the Office of Institutional Diversity and Inclusion and the Basketball Management Team where faculty and staff members serve as Mentors to student athletes. Faculty/Staff support is vital to helping an athlete focus on his/her academic priorities.

[Click Here to Learn More](#)

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.
CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL SIUE GRADUATES!

Rani Cozad
Rani will be graduating with a master’s degree in art therapy counseling this May. After graduation, Rani will be providing mental health services for adult clients at an outpatient psychiatric facility. “Working for SIUE’s Office of Institutional Diversity and Inclusion has been an incredible experience that has helped me grow personally and professionally. It has emphasized the importance of collaborating; being aware of privilege, oppression and biases; and of continually working toward a point when everyone’s voice can be heard and respected. Professionally, this experience will help me become a better advocate for my future clients. Thank you to Dr. Brown and all those working towards making SIUE more inclusive of diversity. You have inspired me to keep learning about the world with an open mind.”

Erika Hall
Erika will be graduating with a master’s degree in Business Administration this May. She plans to find a position in the marketing field using skills she acquired during her graduate assistantship. She has been a part of the Office of Diversity and Inclusion for 2 1/2 years and has helped in the development of the many programs and resources available to the campus community. “The office has allowed me to grow personally and professionally; for that, I will always appreciate the things I’ve learned and the people I’ve met along the way.”

Sarah Walker-Leard
Sarah will be graduating with a master’s degree in art therapy counseling this May. After graduation, Sarah plans to pursue a career as an art therapist in St. Louis and eventually move back to her home in Washington, DC. “I feel really fortunate to have been able to work for the Office of Institutional Diversity and Inclusion at the Multicultural Center during my graduate school career. I grew up in a richly diverse area and have lived and worked abroad. As a result, I generally see myself as a (somewhat) culturally competent person. And still, through working at the MCC, I was constantly reminded how I am (as all of us are) always learning. I learned so much from all of my interactions spent with people through the MCC, and I am grateful for each moment. I would like to extend a special thank you to Dr. Brown for taking me under her wing and trusting me with what I consider to be one of the most important missions of SIUE, diversity and inclusion.”
MEET OUR NEW MULTICULTURAL CENTER STAFF

Tanadja “TJ” Barber
Tanadja has a bachelor’s degree in psychology with a minor in Spanish from Georgia Southwestern State University. She is currently studying art therapy counseling at SIUE. “Diversity and inclusion requires continuous work as our surrounding climate changes constantly. For me, diversity and inclusion are more than end goals. I am here to support the students and staff at SIUE in our ongoing journey of diversity and inclusion.”

Kay Guyer
Kay holds a bachelor’s in Peace Studies with an emphasis in Creative Community Organizing from Manchester University and is a current graduate student in the Art Therapy Counseling Program. Her long-term goal is to support the work of social justice movements through community arts. Some of her experiences include involvement in LGBTQIA campus organizing, disability rights, Black Lives Matter, youth peace education, and studying community development in Gambia. “I look forward to getting to know you and supporting a multicultural SIUE.”

Visit Tanadja and Kay in the SIUE Multicultural Center (located on the 2nd Floor of the MUC) starting in August 2017!

Click Here to Learn More about the SIUE Office of Institutional Diversity & Inclusion!