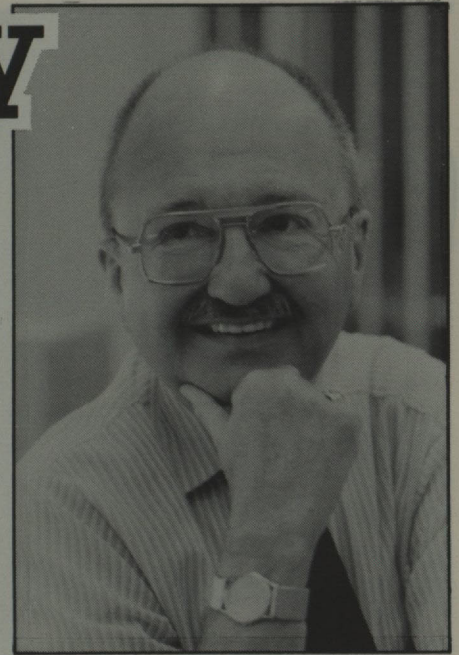


Warren Stookey

"Retires"

by Mildred Arnold



SIUE's first Alumni Services director officially retired August 31 but will remain part-time until June 30, 1986.

When Warren Stookey came to SIUE in March 1961 as assistant director of Alumni Services, there were 145 alumni. When he announced his retirement this summer, there were more than 34,000. Stookey's retirement was effective August 31, but he will continue on a part-time basis until June 30, 1986.

His original role at SIUE was a dual one. For five years he served half-time as assistant director of Alumni Services and half-time as assistant director of the SIU Foundation.

In the early days his alumni territory included *all* SIU graduates in the surrounding Illinois counties and St. Louis. Alumni records were kept at Carbondale. Edwardsville campus files comprised a 3x5 card file of alumni living in this area. Other alumni lists were produced and envelopes for mailings were addressed at the Carbondale campus, then sent to Edwardsville for stuffing and mailing. The SIU *Alumnus* magazine and *News* were published and mailed at Carbondale.

"Today, with the help of the SIUE Foundation, we have one of the best computerized records' program of anybody, any place," Stookey claims.

"As the Carbondale and Edwardsville campuses continued

to grow in enrollment, it became obvious there would have to be two universities, under one board of trustees," Stookey noted in an interview following announcement of his retirement. "Long before that, it was apparent graduates of the two campuses had only one thing in common, the same diploma with the signature of the same president."

Alumni Services at Edwardsville and Carbondale became separate entities January 1, 1972. Stookey took charge of the alumni at Edwardsville.

During the summer of 1972 alumni records of SIUE's 12,000 graduates were transferred from Carbondale to Edwardsville. Also that summer, the SIU Alumni Association Board of Directors, on which SIUE was represented, voted to separate. Members of the board at that time included Gail Buenger, '58; Donald Marshall, '69; Donald Kraushaar, '63; and William Bobo, '64. In the fall of 1972, a committee was formed to establish the SIUE Alumni Association, prepare bylaws and to incorporate. The new association began business officially January 1, 1973, and Warren became its executive director.

Concerned that alumni at SIUE were not getting a fair shake in the alumni publications coming out of Carbondale, Stookey asked his

board members and the late President John Rendleman to consider having a newsletter and magazine published at this campus.

"The idea was approved, and President Rendleman appointed Mildred Arnold editor," Stookey recalled. "The first issue of the *Alumni News* was dated April 1972. The first magazine was released in January 1973. Although the *News* is still at its original four-page size, the magazine has increased from 16 to 32 pages, plus cover. At least once a year that number is increased eight to 12 pages to salute the tenth anniversary class."

When Stookey arrived on campus for the first time, he was given some material to work with, but no place to use it, so he went to the library at the Alton Residence Center (now the School of Dental Medicine site) for a couple of days. "Then I was assigned a desk in the Vice President's Office—now the Security Office," he said. Like many another old-time SIUE employee, he has been moved many times since.

Warren spent the first few months of his dual assignment following up on pledges to the Edwardsville campus site fund campaign and getting acquainted. "In those days, I didn't have to worry about records and all the details which come naturally with an increasing number of graduates.

I knew students and graduates better in those days," he said, wistfully.

Stookey likes the title Alumni Services. "I like it because I hope we *are* of service to SIUE alumni, both in keeping them informed about the University and other grads and by helping them with specific problems they may have.

"We don't wait until SIUE students become alumni before getting to know them," he continued. "We try to acquaint them with the Association and its services before they become graduates."

For a number of years Stookey worked with students on the annual Homecoming. He was adviser to Alpha Phi Omega service fraternity, first organization recognized on the Edwardsville campus. The local APO chapter was founded in 1948 at Shurtleff College, which became a teaching center for SIU in the summer of 1957, and Stookey became its adviser in 1955.

"I got a tremendous lift out of working with those young men who were dedicated to serving the University and the community," he said, smiling in retrospect. "Thousands of hours were spent on many projects which were unglamorous but needed to be done."

Stookey, who has served APO on local, state and national levels, received its highest award December 29, 1974, at the national convention. A member of the national board from 1966 to 1972, he was program chairman of the 1972 national convention and coordinator of the 1974, 1976, 1978 and 1980 biennial conventions.

When Stookey, a Belleville native, was 16, he discovered he had tuberculosis, and he spent the next six years in and out of Pleasant View Sanitarium in St. Clair County. From this experience grew his keen interest in TB. When he was well enough, he took part in health education programs in high schools, urging students to take TB tests. His concern never lagged. For more than 20 years he was associated with the



Warren Stookey (right) and Al Montanaro, '63, visit in 1962 with comedian Dick Gregory (center) following a performance by the comedian at the East St. Louis Residence Center.



Warren Stookey points to a lamp situated in the early days near the Freund home which was razed to make way for the new Edwardsville campus. It is now the site of the Delyte W. Morris Quadrangle.



On August 25, 1985, the soccer alumni of SIUE presented Warren Stookey with a plaque which reads "On behalf of all of the Cougar soccer alumni in appreciation for his dedicated support of Cougar soccer throughout the years." From left are Ed Huneke, '71; soccer coach Bob Guelker; Stookey; Lynn Lashboork, athletic director; and Jim Kersting, '74.

Madison County Tuberculosis Association, as president, treasurer twice and then secretary. "Many persons have the idea TB has been licked and they have let down their guard. That is dangerous," he warns.

After graduation from SIU at Carbondale in 1950, Warren Stookey went to work for the Boy Scout Council in Herrin. In July 1953 he came to this area to work with the Piasa Bird Council in Alton. Stookey has received his share of honors but he says the Silver Beaver Award from BSA is his most cherished. Following his retirement from SIUE, he plans to resume a more active role in Scouting.

Warren met his wife, the former Catherine French of Clintwood, Virginia, in Carbondale while she was doing field work in connection with her master's degree candidacy in social work at Washington University. Catherine is contract administrator, Department of Children and Family Services, East

St. Louis. The Stookeys' two sons, Mark and Matthew, both of whom inherited their father's interest in Scouting, are out of college and successfully employed.

Warren and Catherine live in Wood River where he is a member of the city's Planning Commission and chairman of the Board of Zoning Appeals, active in the Methodist Church and a member of the Rotary Club's board of directors.

"It's been an exciting time at SIUE," Stookey said, pensively. "At first, we held a number of general alumni meetings, then we went the constituent society route."

One of Warren's frustrations has been trying to contend with timing. "When do you send out a notice of a meeting or event? If you send it too early, alumni forget. If you send it too late, they are already booked. We try to strike a happy medium between too early and too late."

One of the alumni director's greatest satisfactions is the number

of graduates who are members of the SIUE Alumni Association. "A state school with a dues program averages 20 percent, which is considered doing well," he said. "We have 23 percent. I feel good about that. This comparison is, of course, among state universities. Private schools are another matter. You can't compare oranges and apples."

Stookey believes a new director of Alumni Services will be healthy for the SIUE program. "A new director will come with a new outlook and lots of enthusiasm. I think we've laid a good groundwork, so the new director can spend his or her time on more programming and getting some of the things done that have fallen between the cracks. The biggest thing, I believe, is to strengthen the constituent society program, then move out to more alumni meetings throughout the country—where we have enough alumni to warrant such meetings." ■

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2 Solving the Crisis in Education

James Comer, elementary early childhood education professor at SIUE, discusses ways to solve the crisis in education.

4 Gentle Rain from Heaven

Through the years of trial and error, graduate student David Daily stepped steadily to the heart of a problem—soil erosion—that seemed to grow with every question asked.

7 A Poet for All Times

Gene Redmond, '64, talks about the old days at the East St. Louis Residence Center and the early days of the Alestle.

10 Inside a Giant

An interview with SIUE artist Steve Gibbs, '84, model for the statue of the "Gentle Giant," Robert Wadlow.



12 A Little Bit of Everything

Diana Barr, '78, explains how her hands-on training at SIUE helped her to be able to "do a little bit of everything" and how this helped her succeed.

14 A Dream Come True

Behind the scenes at the James F. Metcalf Student Experimental Theater.

16 Alumni Director Warren Stookey "Retires"

SIUE's first Alumni Services director talks about the evolution of SIUE's Alumni Association.

19 Salute '75

Letters from and information about members of the Class of 1975.

32 Class Notes

An opportunity to keep up with your classmates and other SIUE alumni.

COVER

The statue of Robert Wadlow, Alton's "Gentle Giant," was dedicated October 20, 1985. It was sculpted by Edward Giberson, master of fine arts' candidate at SIUE. Steve Gibbs, '84, was the model. The statue stands on the campus of the SIU School of Dental Medicine, formerly the site of Shurtleff College, later the Alton Residence Center.