

The Magazine of
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Alumni Association
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A Message from the Chancellor

1



SIUE Today

2



SIUE Alumni Association

6



Alumni Events

7



Alumni Hall of Fame

10



Alumni Profiles

12



STAT

18



Love Connection

19



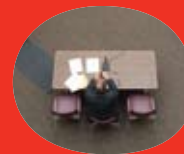
Provost Ferguson

20



Class and Faculty Notes

22



Traditions

24



SIUE Foundation
Inside
Back Cover

On the Cover: The Honorable Milton Wharton, '69 BS business administration, has been on the bench in St. Clair County for more than 33 years. *See his story on page 13.*

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Katie Bennett
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Dear Alumni and Friends of SIUE,

Greetings from our beautiful campus where the Spring semester is well under way! Enrollment numbers continue to climb with 13,602 students enrolled this fall, the highest number since 1975. The quality of our academic programs is being nationally recognized, and SIUE student life offers a choice of more than 200 clubs and organizations. Add to that our transition to NCAA Division I athletics and recent induction into the Ohio Valley Conference, and it's easy to see why SIUE is considered a "hot" school.



SIUE has taken a leading role in higher education for our region. The University increasingly provides a wealth of resources for not only area business, but state and national interests as well. So much of what we do as a University revolves around our value of Citizenship—our social, civic and political responsibility often demonstrated through active partnerships.

Following are examples of our commitment to leadership in higher education:

- For the second consecutive year, SIUE has been named one of the Greater St. Louis Top 50 Award recipients by St. Louis Commerce magazine. This award recognizes companies and organizations in all areas of business for significant contributions to the economic and civic welfare of the region.
- SIUE is part of a groundbreaking initiative in higher education to provide students and parents with online information (www.collegeportraits.org) regarding the quality and value of an SIUE education. The Voluntary System of Accountability Project offers transparency in overall student profile, costs and learning outcomes for the University.
- Faculty from SIUE, Saint Louis University and the University of Missouri Columbia have joined forces to study issues surrounding substance abuse and mental health within a specific ethnic population of Metropolitan St. Louis. The information generated by the study will be shared with local healthcare providers and agencies for the development of culturally appropriate interventions.
- Early in 2009, SIUE, Washington University, Saint Louis University and the University of Missouri-St. Louis hosted the second biennial Midwest Regional Outreach, Science and Scholarship Summit: Leadership in Interdisciplinarity, Networking and Collaboration. Aimed at supporting junior faculty and promoting collaboration in interdisciplinary scholarship, the event included participation by the National Science Foundation, the U.S. Department of Energy, the National Institutes of Health and the Illinois Humanities Council.

Taking the lead in identifying opportunities for expanding distribution in overseas markets, the SIUE International Trade Center (ITC) has invited regional businesses to participate in a 12-day trade mission to South America in March.

SIUE has long provided excellent civic leadership to the Southwestern Illinois region. Now more than ever, it is incumbent upon leaders to offer sound and responsive guidance to those they serve. In this issue, we offer alumni profiles showcasing civic leadership within our region. These leaders have worked diligently to advance the growth and development of their communities and beyond. We are proud to highlight their efforts and to partner with them in serving the residents of Southern Illinois.

Please join us in celebrating the successes of SIUE as a leader in higher education. We hope you'll visit us in the very near future to learn more about our exciting progress.

Go Cougars!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Vaughn Vandegrift". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a light-colored background.

Vaughn Vandegrift, Ph.D.

SIUE Chancellor

SIUE Today



Carla Lopez del Puerto, an instructor for the Department of Construction in the **School of Engineering**, recently won the American Society of Civil Engineering 2008 Journal of Management in Engineering—Best Peer Reviewed Paper Award. The paper, “Comparative Analysis of Owner Goals for Design/Build Projects,” explores industry attitudes about design/build project delivery and compares those with owners’ design/build project success attitudes.

College of Arts and Sciences student Lindsey L. Lester-Brutscher was named SIUE’s 2008 Student Laureate of the Lincoln Academy of Illinois. A political science major, Lester-Brutscher already has a bachelor’s and a master’s in Russian area studies. The retired Navy commander is pursuing the coursework and certification needed to teach middle school and secondary education classes in the state of Illinois.

The **School of Business** has been ranked as a Best 296 Business School in the 2009 edition of the *Princeton Review*. Results are based on student surveys and institutional data from 2008. Students reported they were drawn to the School because of its reputation and Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) International accreditation.

A \$500,000 pledge from Delta Dental of Illinois will allow the **School of Dental Medicine** to double the capacity of its Oral Surgery Clinic, increase its operating spaces and pay for a specially equipped Oral Surgery Suite with conscious-sedation capability. During fiscal year 2008, the dental school provided care to 8,300 patients and managed nearly 35,000 appointments.

The **School of Nursing** faculty and students have been instrumental in the development and sustainability of a county-wide health and fitness promotion campaign. Get Up & Go! has now evolved into a not-for-profit organization with a mission that promotes getting active and involving others. The campaign’s success in the first year attracted 23,000 individuals and 119 organizations.

The **School of Education** hosted visitors from Pakistan in December. University and government delegates from the Middle Eastern country toured the School and discussed the development of a teacher accreditation system with SIUE leaders. The foreign dignitaries, sponsored by UNESCO, also visited the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education in Washington, D.C.



The School of Pharmacy and the American Diabetes Association hosted an education program on campus in January. The event drew 215 attendees, more than doubling last year’s attendance. Phyllis Shulman, a nationally recognized comedian who travels the country, provided a comical take on weight management and diabetes. Free screenings, foot exams, blood pressure checks, testing and a vendor fair were offered to attendees.

SIUE was featured more than 3,000 times in the local, regional and national media for the first half of FY09, marking a 45-percent increase in coverage from the same time period in FY08.

www.siu.edu/news

Spring Commencement Honorees

Honorary Degree Recipient



Based on her excellent reputation as both a researcher and administrator, Jane E. Henney was appointed by President Clinton to her groundbreaking post as the first woman to serve as commissioner of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in 1998, a role she held until 2001. As FDA Commissioner, Henney led the agency responsible for safeguarding the public health by regulating human and veterinary

drugs, the nation's food supply, medical devices and cosmetics, among other products.

Following her tenure with the FDA, Henney was a senior scholar in residence at the Association of Academic Health Centers from 2001 to 2003. In 2003, Henney became the senior vice president and provost for Health Affairs at the University of Cincinnati until last year, where she remains on the faculty of UC's College of Medicine.

Henney will serve as Keynote Speaker for the inaugural SIUE School of Pharmacy hooding ceremony in May 2009.

Distinguished Service Award

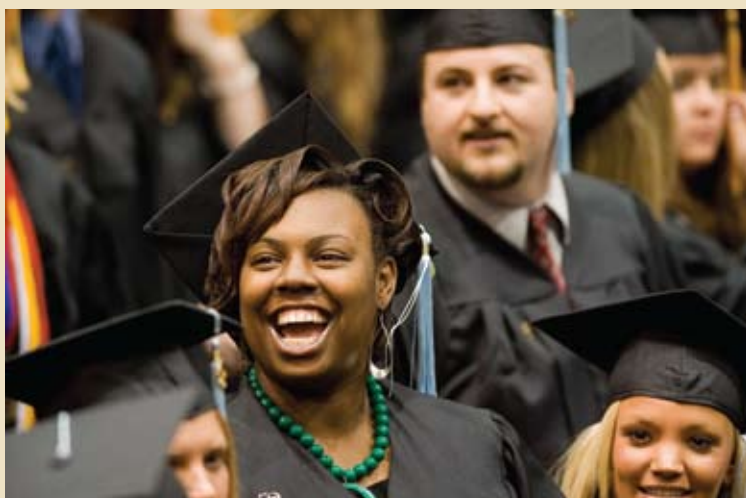


David M. Oates has directed numerous transportation and building projects that have benefited the University and the surrounding community. On the SIUE campus, Oates Associates has been instrumental in several major projects.

- Provided engineering for SIUE's state-of-the-art Engineering Building, which also included improvements to surrounding roads and parking areas.

- Oversaw the addition of the SIUE Student Fitness Center as part of SIUE's Vadalabene Center
- Played a key role in the development of the track and field facility at Korte Stadium, which, in addition to hosting Cougar events, was used for the 1994 U.S. Olympic Festival.

As a staunch supporter of the University, Oates is currently a member of the SIUE Foundation Board, having previously served as its President and Chairman, and is a steering committee member for SIUE's "Defining Excellence" comprehensive campaign. He and his employees support two scholarship funds for SIUE Civil Engineering students.



Spring 2009 Commencement

Friday, May 8, Vadalabene Center
7 p.m. Schools of Business and Nursing

Saturday, May 9, Vadalabene Center
9 a.m. School of Education
1 p.m. College of Arts and Sciences undergraduate students
5 p.m. Schools of Engineering and Pharmacy,
College of Arts of Sciences graduate students

Academic Milestones

The SIUE Cougars continue to put up impressive numbers—in the classroom. Student-athletes combined for a 2008 fall semester grade point average (GPA) of 3.132, marking the fifth consecutive semester SIUE student-athletes have earned a combined GPA of 3.0 or better.

Academic excellence has remained a top priority as the University continues the NCAA Division I reclassification process. SIUE is in year one of reclassification and is an active member of the Ohio Valley Conference.

“The student-athletes’ academic performance is especially notable due to the extensive travel and preparation that has come with making the transition to Division I,” said SIUE Director of Intercollegiate Athletics Brad Hewitt.

During the fall semester, SIUE student-athletes met nearly 90 percent of their opponents on the road.

Missouri Valley Conference



SIUE joined the Missouri Valley Conference (MVC) as a men’s soccer affiliate member in December 2008. The MVC, the nation’s second oldest NCAA Division I conference, continues to be a

leader in collegiate athletics.

Current MVC men’s soccer league members

Bradley University: Peoria, Ill.

University of Central Arkansas: Conway, Ark.

Creighton University: Omaha, Neb.

Drake University: Des Moines, Iowa

Eastern Illinois University: Charleston, Ill.

University of Evansville: Evansville, Ind.

Missouri State University: Springfield, Mo.

The New Home of DI Basketball



More than 1,500 fans celebrated the grand re-opening of the newly renovated Sam M. Vadalabene Center on Feb. 7. The renovated facility features a new gymnasium floor, bleacher system, athletics office space, two kinesiology classrooms and expanded teaching space. The event included tours of the renovated areas and a rededication ceremony prior to the SIUE Men’s Basketball game. Members of the Sam Vadalabene family, the 1967-68 inaugural SIUE Men’s Basketball team and Coach Harry Gallatin (pictured) were honored during the ceremony. More than 50 SIUE alumni filled the Alumni Zone, a special section reserved for the occasion. The evening ended on a high note as the men’s basketball team rallied from 17 points down to beat South Dakota 73-68.



Cougars Conquer Three DIs



SIUE celebrated its first NCAA Division I men's basketball victory on live TV. The Cougars defeated Western Michigan, 83-72, in the consolation game of the Charleston Classic on Sunday, Nov. 16. The tip-off tournament was televised live on ESPN Regional Television College Sports Southeast. Head Coach Lennox Forrester said the Cougars did not hang their heads after two losses by a total of nine points to College of Charleston and East Tennessee State. "If you bring the effort, good things are going to happen," said Forrester.

Aaron Garriott, a freshman from Bloomington, Ill., scored a career-high 24 points as SIUE earned its second Division I victory this season. The Cougars defeated the University of Missouri-Kansas City 77-71 on Dec. 28.

Aamir McCleary, a junior from Philadelphia, hit a three-pointer with 2.9 seconds left as the Cougars defeated Southeast Missouri State 70-69. The New Year's Eve victory was SIUE's third Division I win and their only game against an Ohio Valley Conference opponent this season.

GLVC Hall of Famer

Former SIUE baseball player Mark Bugger, who had one of the most decorated careers in NCAA Division II baseball, was inducted into the Great Lakes Valley Conference (GLVC) Hall of Fame. The two-time All-American led the Cougars to the 2001 NCAA Division II College World Series and compiled a school-record 110 hits, while batting .409 with 70 RBI and seven home runs. Mark holds school career records in games played, at-bats, hits, RBI, home runs and intentional walks. Mark earned a bachelor's in psychology in 2002 and currently works for Ameren UE.

Cougar Radio Network

St. Louis Sports Leader 590 KFNS "The Fan" is broadcasting Cougar Men's Basketball games this season. "We are excited to be a part of such a big step in SIUE Athletics and in the SIUE community," said KFNS Director of Operations/Programming Chris "Hoss" Neupert. KFNS has been broadcasting Cougars games live throughout the St. Louis media market and online.

Cougar Athletics will continue to use campus radio station WSIE FM 88.7 as its flagship station for broadcasts.

Voice of the Cougars



Joe Pott, assistant to the athletics director for broadcasting is the new play-by-play voice for Cougar basketball. Pott has been the radio play-by-play voice for the Gateway Grizzlies, a member of the Frontier League from Sauget, since 2002. The 2005 and 2006 Frontier League Broadcaster of the Year, Pott has served

as guest speaker and emcee at a number of public events promoting the baseball Grizzlies.



From Your SIUE Alumni Association Board President

SIUE is committed to the development of community and professional leaders. Many of whom have made their skills and dedication available to the SIUE Alumni Association through membership on the Board of Directors. We are extremely grateful for their service. Others have gone on to serve the broader community through public service in our state and national legislatures, our courts and our city governments.

The SIUE Alumni Association has the opportunity to play a critical role as the University achieves its goal of becoming a leader in educational innovation through its commitment to excellence. The Association has the unique capability of rallying our nearly 80,000 fellow alumni to ensure the success of SIUE in its current and future endeavors.

While SIUE continues to enrich the lives of our fellow citizens via excellence and leadership in the provision of higher education, the SIUE Alumni Association remains committed to providing excellent service to the alumni community, locally and globally. The interests of our alumni are of utmost importance, and we have demonstrated our commitment, in part, by offering opportunities for our alumni ranging from continuing education to networking and social interactions.

Fellow alumni, I encourage you to reach out to any of the Board members to share your thoughts, concerns or vision for the future of our organization and our alma mater.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ajay Kansal', with a long horizontal flourish underneath.

Ajay Kansal, '89 MS
President
SIUE Alumni Association





From Your Director

Greetings Fellow Cougars,

Our country recently experienced what Illinois Congressman and SIUE alumnus John Shimkus describes as a “phenomenal statement on our republic.” Shimkus refers to the election of Barack Obama as the 44th president of the United States. President Obama has asked all Americans to help usher in a new era of responsibility.

For more than 50 years, SIUE has taken on the responsibility of producing future generations of individuals who, like President Obama, aspire to public service. The vision statement of the University states: Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, as a premier Metropolitan University, will be recognized nationally for the excellence of its programs and the development of professional and community leaders.

You need not look far to see just how successful our University has been in realizing that vision. From local government to the halls of Congress, SIUE graduates are proudly and selflessly serving their fellow man. As Cougars, we can all share the sense of pride that is generated by the service of these individuals who dedicate their lives to making our lives better.

It is with great pleasure and pride that we honor five of these individuals in our alumni profile section. As you read them, I invite you to celebrate their dedication and accomplishments. I also encourage you to share the stories of other SIUE alumni who have chosen public service as their life’s path.

Always a Cougar,

Steve Jankowski '74 BS
Director, Alumni Affairs
Executive Director, SIUE Alumni Association

The mission of the SIUE Alumni Association is to enhance the personal and professional advancement of SIUE alumni through the establishment and nurturing of mutually beneficial relationships which support the mission of SIUE.

SIUE Mission

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville is a public comprehensive university dedicated to the communication, expansion and integration of knowledge through excellent undergraduate education as its first priority and complementary excellent graduate and professional academic programs; through the scholarly, creative and research activity of its faculty, staff and students; and through public service and cultural and arts programming in its region.

SIUE Vision

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, as a premier Metropolitan University, will be recognized nationally for the excellence of its programs and development of professional and community leaders.



Katie Bennett '03 BS
Assistant Director,
Alumni Affairs

Networking. Connecting. Fun!

Alumni events are all about you connecting with fellow alumni for business and pleasure! We look forward to seeing you at upcoming events.

August 2008

The Alumni Association and STAT welcomed the newest class of future Cougar grads during the New Freshman Welcome on Aug. 23. The day started with the Welcome Convocation and the Class of 2009 photo around the cougar statue. Between academic advising sessions and campus tours, the students had their first chance to paint The Rock and sign up for the new student alumni association.



September 2008

The Alumni Association greeted alumni and friends at the Welcome Back Block Party held at the intersection of Second and St. Louis Streets in downtown Edwardsville on Sept. 5. The Association sponsored the beer cups for the event and registered alumni for the chance to win free polo shirts and T-shirts.



SIUE alumni, students and friends helped Habitat for Humanity at one of their 27 build sites in the Jeff-Vander-Lou Neighborhood of St. Louis during the SIUE Alumni Volunteer Day on Sept. 20. The volunteers helped with interior and exterior work of the building phase including flooring, cabinets, doors, molding and siding.



October 2008

The Alumni Association celebrated Homecoming weekend with the Young Alumni & STAT Tailgate on Oct. 11 at the SIUE RecPlex. The event offered food, free Homecoming T-shirts, prizes, live music and more. Alumni enjoyed a hospitality tent from 11 a.m. through half time. Attendees cheered for the SIUE Club Football team when the Cougars took on Miami University.



SIUE alumni, family and friends joined the Alumni Association for food, drinks and fun at the SIUE Alumni Night at Fast Eddie's in Alton on Oct. 22. Attendees enjoyed live music and the opportunity to reconnect with fellow Cougars.

Visit www.siu.edu/alumni for the complete schedule of upcoming events, activities and opportunities to reconnect with fellow alumni and SIUE!

The Alumni Association, in conjunction with the Office of Educational Outreach and the Career Development Center, hosted the SIUE Alumni Career Workshop, “Making a Career Change” on Oct. 28. A panel of speakers discussed what it means to choose a new career path either by choice or because of economic changes. Speakers included SIUE alumna Terry Pruitt Lucas, BSA ’91, as well as representatives from Boeing and Monsanto.



December 2009

Forty alumni, staff, family and friends attended the SIUE Alumni Holiday Reception at the Illinois Governor’s Mansion on Dec. 9. Attendees networked with alumni living in the Springfield area, as well as SIUE Chancellor Vaughn Vandegrift and the Alumni Association staff.



February 2009

The SIUE Alumni Association, in conjunction with the Office of Educational Outreach and the Career Development Center, hosted the second SIUE Alumni Career Workshop, “Starting Your Own Business,” on Feb. 17. The workshop featured a panel of speakers who discussed what it takes to start your own business. Speakers included: Bev George, ’75 BA, ’79 MSED; Laura Suria, ’93 BS, ’98 MSED; Matt Kulig, ’90 BS, ’00 MBA; and STAT member Bryan Kress, a senior accounting major in the School of Business.

SIUE alumni cheered the Cougars to victory when the Men’s Basketball team defeated the University of South Dakota on Feb. 7. Attendees participated in alumni activities before and during the game, including a pre-game networking reception and family photos with Corey the Cougar.



Upcoming Events

SIUE Alumni Day at Busch Stadium

April 25, 2009

Don’t miss the return of the Alumni Association’s most popular event when the Cardinals take on the Cubs Saturday, April 25. Enjoy a pre-game lunch at the Hilton St. Louis at the Ballpark and then cheer for your favorite team with 400 SIUE alumni, family and friends. We’ll be in the Infield Terrace Reserved section of Busch Stadium.

SIUE Alumni Speed Networking

April 30, 2009

The Alumni Association will host a Speed Networking event Thursday, April 30, in the SIUE Morris University Center. Speed networking is similar to speed dating but with a professional focus. Meet a new person every five minutes. Make connections fast and efficiently while having fun!

SIUE Alumni Dinner in Springfield

May 2, 2009

Enjoy an elegant dinner and private access to the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum with SIUE alumni, faculty, staff and friends on Saturday, May 2. Network with fellow SIUE graduates, Chancellor Vaughn Vandegrift and other key University administrators.

SIUE Alumni Hall of Fame

The SIUE Alumni Hall of Fame recognizes and honors SIUE alumni who, through leadership, character and dedication, have made exceptional contributions to their profession, community or service to their alma mater.

Inaugural Class



The Alumni Association, along with the deans of the College and Schools of SIUE, honored the inaugural class of the SIUE Alumni Hall of Fame on Oct. 10 at Crystal Garden Banquet Center in Edwardsville. The evening included a cocktail reception, dinner and awards presentation.

School of Business



Timothy Keenan, MBA '85, is founder and CEO of HPTi Inc., a mid-sized high-technology firm based in Reston, Va. Tim and his company, which supports federal government mission critical agencies, have been widely recognized for innovation, entrepreneurship, productivity and

community service. Tim is an accomplished speaker and author on management.



Ralph Korte, BS business '68, serves as chairman of the board of the Korte Co., a nationally-recognized firm he established in 1958. Ralph is a dedicated servant and proponent of the University, serving on the Foundation Board and other advisory committees. He launched the SIUE

Construction Leadership Institute in 2004, and the Cougar soccer stadium bears his name. Ralph is a lifetime member of the SIUE Alumni Association.

College of Arts & Sciences



Scott Alspach, BS mathematics '88, BS music performance '89, is the founding member of The Matrix, a California-based seven-time Grammy nominated songwriting/production team.

Known professionally as Scott Spock, he has worked with artists such as Christina Aguilera, Korn and David Bowie. Songs produced through

The Matrix have sold more than 28 million records. Scott is a lifetime member of the SIUE Alumni Association.



Col. John "Jay" Flournoy Jr., BA political science '86, is a highly decorated U.S. Air Force officer and commander of the 932nd Airlift Wing at Scott Air Force Base. Since joining the Air Force in 1986, Jay has served as a B-52 pilot, a T-37 instructor pilot, and director of operations for the 22nd Air Force.

He has also been deployed in support of Operations Southern Watch, Provide Comfort, Northern Watch, Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. Jay is a lifetime member of the SIUE Alumni Association.



Patricia Mercurio, BA philosophy '72, currently serves as the president of Bank of America in Missouri and is the senior banking executive for community and civic activities in the market. Patricia also lends her time and expertise to numerous boards including the Girl Scouts, Urban League, St. Louis Zoo,

United Way and Civic Progress. Patricia is a member of the SIUE Alumni Association Hall of Fame.



Mark Showers, BA mathematics and chemistry '77, recently retired from Monsanto Corp., where he served as CIO. He has been recognized by *St. Louis Commerce Magazine* as one of the top CIOs in the St. Louis region, and *Computerworld Magazine* named him one of the Premier 100 Leaders in Information

Technology. Mark serves on several boards, including the SIUE Foundation Board.

School of Dental Medicine



Valerie Murrah, DMD '80, is professor and chair of the Department of Diagnostic Sciences and Dentistry at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill. She is currently president of the American Academy of Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology and was the first woman elected to that position.

Valerie has received awards for teaching excellence at multiple universities and is an internationally-recognized speaker on oral cancer.

School of Education



Maureen Black, BA speech pathology and audiology '82, MS speech pathology '89, is the founder, executive director and owner of Clinical Assist Ltd. and its companion company, Black Bear Academy, both in Chicago. Both companies provide therapeutic services for adults and children with communication disorders. She is active

in several state and national associations focused on speech, language, hearing and the education of young children.



Francis Karanovich, BS elementary education '71, MS elementary education '74, is an assistant professor in the Department of Educational Leadership at SIUE. She has more than 30 years of teaching and administrative experience ranging from elementary school to college. Fran has received numerous awards including

the 2000 Break the Mold Award for vision and leadership in educational excellence from the Illinois State Board of Education. She is a lifetime member of the SIUE Alumni Association.

Nominations are being accepted for the Alumni Hall of Fame 2009 Class. Forms are available online at www.siu.edu/alumni.

School of Engineering



Paul Galeski, BS electrical engineering '83, is chairman and CEO of MAVERICK Technologies, one of two engineering firms he founded and grew into major global service providers. Paul has received numerous award for his entrepreneurial efforts. He serves as the advisory director for the SIUE School of Engineering and

established the MAVERICK Technologies LLC Scholarship in Engineering at SIUE. Paul is a lifetime member of the SIUE Alumni Association.



Richard Oller, BS environmental systems '76, is chief executive and president of Oller Engineering Inc., a civil and environmental consulting firm based in Lubbock, Texas. Richard designed units used in the removal of arsenic from municipal water supplies. He also has designed and completed some 20 wastewater treatment facilities throughout

Texas. Richard is a lifetime member of the SIUE Alumni Association.

School of Nursing




Crystal Lask, BS nursing '04, is the patient safety/quality improvement coordinator at Barnes-Jewish St. Peters Hospital. After just two years on staff, Crystal's manager described her as "a true leader, inspiring others with her positive attitude and compassion, mentoring new staff and demonstrating outgoing problem solving

abilities." Crystal's efforts to share evidence-based practice information with key physicians and nurse leaders resulted in an improvement in system-wide scores for the hospital from seventh in the BJC system to second.



Nancy Weston, BS nursing '77, MS medical and surgical nursing '93, is vice president of nursing services at Memorial Hospital in Belleville. Nancy has made significant contributions to the nursing profession and has exhibited excellence in nursing administration. At Memorial Hospital, she created a Nurse Recognition Program which

has helped raise levels of patient service. Nancy serves on the boards of the United Way and the YMCA.



CIVIC LEADERSHIP

SIU **e** Alumni

Milton Wharton

Milton Wharton said it best: “The power of education to change a life is limitless.” A 1969 SIUE graduate, who earned a bachelor of science in business administration, Wharton was not a traditional student. In 1965, the East St. Louis native was working as a welder at the A.O. Smith plant in Granite City, when rumors of possible layoffs proved true.



Becoming frustrated with limited prospects in the workforce, he enrolled at the SIUE East St. Louis Center. “I was struck by the optimism,” Wharton said. “There was a belief that the students had the power to make a difference.”

He moved to the Edwardsville campus in 1967, and recalls an event that left an indelible impression on him. During a campus luncheon, Wharton sat between then Illinois State Sen. Charles Percy and then SIUE President Delyte Morris; something that stood out in a positive way for the young man, who was the first member of his household to graduate from high school.

Upon graduation, Wharton worked at AT&T for two years and then resigned and enrolled in the DePaul University College of Law in Chicago. He worked part-time at a veterans affairs hospital to cover the cost of room and board. Graduating in 1974, the next phase of his life began. He returned to St. Clair County and became an assistant public defender. Wharton said it was important for him to make the law more responsive to the people he represented.

“The SIUE experience, and the opportunities the University provided, profoundly influenced my decision to enter public service,” he said.

In 1976, Wharton was appointed an associate judge in the St. Clair County Circuit Court; a position he held until 1988 when he was elected a circuit judge in the 20th Judicial Circuit of Illinois, which includes St. Clair, Monroe, Perry, Randolph and Washington counties.

Wharton thanked the University’s faculty, who he said are “training the leaders of tomorrow,” for preparing him to embrace his positions of authority: “The public has placed in my hands a position of tremendous influence.”

While Wharton could have retired years ago at full salary, the judge, who has been on the bench for more than 33 years, still handles a regular caseload every day, without pay. He said he’ll continue his service until his wife convinces him to do otherwise.

Wharton is a lifetime member of the Alumni Association, and a past Association board president.

Amy Hamilton

Faced with a choice between going to Chicago or Edwardsville for her college education, Amy Hamilton fell in love with the beauty of SIUE's campus. "I thought it was very welcoming," said Hamilton, a Fairview Heights native. "SIUE didn't have that harsh, big city university feel."



While studying at the University, she said she enjoyed the small class sizes, as well as the fact that professors—not graduate assistants—taught her classes. Hamilton also took part in Greek life on campus, joining the Alpha Sigma Tau sorority.

Hamilton's love of literature led her to declare a major in English and a deep interest in political science secured that as her minor. By her senior year, she considered pursuing a career in law. She enrolled in public administration classes and secured an internship with the Chief Judge at the Madison County Circuit Court.

"I enjoyed the environment of public service, but discovered I did not want to be an attorney," Hamilton said. She learned about the government component of SIUE's master of public administration and policy analysis (PAPA) program. She decided to earn the master's in conjunction with her bachelor's and finished with her BA in Spring 1998 and her MPA in fall 1999.

During her time in the PAPA program, Hamilton obtained an internship with Southwestern Illinois College—then Belleville Area College—and helped the organization become Y2K compliant. She then started an internship with the city of Collinsville's Office of the City Manager, solidifying her position on public service.

"This was definitely the path I wanted to take," she said.

Upon completing her master's, the city of Collinsville hired Hamilton full time. Within a few months, she was offered the position of assistant city manager for the city of Richmond Heights, Mo. The city manager there at the time, also an SIUE PAPA graduate, "had great confidence in the program," Hamilton said. "The doors of opportunity just opened wide because of the Cougar connection."

In 2004, her boss left, and after completing a formal search process, the city council offered her the position of city manager. "All I know right now is that I love what I do," she said. "I have a passion for it and plan to keep on doing it."

Dan Beiser

An alumnus from the SIUE Department of Mass Communications and the School of Education, State Rep. Dan Beiser, (D-Alton) said his time at the University played a critical role in his success.



Dan's experiences allowed him to "have more confidence when tackling a situation that I wasn't used to," he said. Those experiences include studying under the late faculty member Kamil Winter, who stressed the importance of professionalism, and working at the University's radio station, WSIE, interviewing the likes of legendary Lou Brock.

At the time Beiser began his studies at the University, he said, "I wanted to be the next Jack Buck." The desire to follow in the legendary sports broadcaster's footsteps, and Beiser's love of baseball, inspired him to pursue a double major: mass communications, with an emphasis in TV/radio, and recreational administration.

Beiser graduated in 1978 and left the area to pursue his career and returned in the early '80s with his family and shifted gears. Beiser came back to his alma mater and earned a master's in special education in 1986.

During his first stint at the University, Beiser worked for the campaign of then State Rep. Jim McPike, which planted a seed for his future career path. While teaching, he was elected to a seat on the Alton City Council in 1987. Two years later, Beiser was elected as Alton's city treasurer, a post he held for 16 years. He then was asked in 2004 by the Madison County Democratic chairman to fill a vacancy left by State Rep. Steve Davis. He formally ran for and was elected to the position in 2006, and still fills the post today.

"People trust me to conduct myself in a way that will make them proud of me as an elected official," Beiser said. "If you are elected to an office, you are given a sacred trust. If you violate that trust, it's like violating the trust in a marriage."

Today Beiser serves as chairman of the state house's transportation-roads and bridges committee, and is also a member of the committee on aging, the business/occupational licenses committee and the higher education-appropriations committee. About his tenure in public service, he said, "I will stay and serve as long as the voters will have me."

David Herndon

It was while working at his college job at an area law firm, delivering some documents to a federal court judge in East St. Louis in the early 1970s, that David Herndon had a revelation.



“Something about the majesty of the federal court struck me,” said the SIUE alumnus, who graduated with a bachelor’s in government in 1974. “I made up my mind that day I wanted to be a federal judge.”

Herndon chose to attend SIUE because he was able to work and pay his way through school, while attending his classes. Following his graduation, he entered the SIU Carbondale School of Law, where he earned a juris doctorate in 1977. He then

joined a law firm representing railroad workers handling issues ranging from injured workers to union negotiations. At the time, he wasn’t politically active and traveled most of the week.

While traveling, he developed a unique view of a judge’s role: “I formed my judicial philosophy from a lot of different courts,” he said. “No one wants to be in court, but if they’re here, they need to be treated with rights and respect.”

His traveling days ended when in 1991 he was appointed to the post of associate judge in the Madison County Third Circuit Court. Herndon described holding that position as the best training he could have received for a federal judgeship.

About a quarter of a century after his initial epiphany, Herndon’s dream of being a federal judge became a reality. In 1998, U.S. Sen. Dick Durbin, (D-Ill.) and then U.S. Sen. Carol Moseley Braun, (D-Ill.) forwarded his name to then President Bill Clinton for consideration as a possible judicial nominee. After what Herndon describes as “a surreal and hard-fought process,” he received a call from the Clinton White House indicating his nomination would be submitted to Congress. Upon receiving word that the U.S. Senate approved his nomination, Herndon said he felt “total elation.”

In October 2007, Herndon became the chief judge of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Illinois. He will fill that leadership role, which is assigned on a rotational basis, until 2014.

Herndon is a lifetime member of the SIUE Alumni Association and a past Association board member. His father, mother and brother are graduates of the University.

John Shimkus

U.S. Rep. John Shimkus (R-Collinsville) has a word of advice to anyone considering a life of public service:

“A democratic society will only survive when good people answer the call to serve.”

The Collinsville native and SIUE alumnus, who graduated in 1997 with an MBA, has spent his life in the sector government; starting out as a Congressional appointee to West Point, and then spending five years on active duty in the U.S. Army, teaching at Metro East Lutheran High School in Edwardsville and then entering the political arena.

His journey into politics began while he was teaching. Shimkus said he took a close look at the government in Madison County: “It seemed like a one-party system.” Being a Republican and a “proponent of competition in the public policy debate,” Shimkus ran for a seat on the county board in 1988, but lost the election. A year later he was elected to the position of Collinsville Township Trustee. Election to Madison County Treasurer followed in 1990.

Shimkus then decided to challenge then U.S. Rep. Dick Durbin (D-Springfield) in 1992, while working on his MBA at SIUE. He lost the battle against Durbin, but stayed in politics, winning re-election to County Treasurer in 1994.

His level of service would grow when he successfully campaigned for U.S. Congress in 1996. A year later, Shimkus would graduate from SIUE and serve as the commencement speaker.

“I used a reference from Star Trek,” Shimkus said, as he describes his commencement address. “I told my fellow graduates to boldly go where no one had gone before.” Shimkus credited instruction he received at SIUE for part of his success as a legislator. “SIUE gave me the ability to speak more forcefully on issues dealing with business.”

Shimkus, now in his 13th year in the U.S. House of Representatives, serves the 19th District, which includes



30 Southern Illinois counties. He has supported Congressional legislation focusing on a variety of issues, including the use of bio-fuels and ensuring the safety of children using the Internet.

He retired as an Army reservist with the rank of lieutenant colonel in 2008, following 28 years of service. He also serves as the ranking Republican on the U.S. delegation to the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, as well as on the assembly’s defense and security committee.

Humble about his accomplishments, Shimkus gives credit to a higher power: “I have been tremendously blessed. God makes this happen.”

Connecting with Students

SIUE's student alumni association gives current undergraduate and graduate students the opportunity to interact with alumni prior to graduation through mentoring opportunities and social activities.



STAT Alumni Mentor Program

The Alumni Mentor Program was launched in February to provide an opportunity for students and alumni to connect in positive, one-on-one mentoring relationships. Through the program, alumni can enhance the quality of a current student's experience by interacting, exchanging ideas and sharing experiences and knowledge with future SIUE graduates. Alumni mentors give back to their alma mater by serving as role models and leaders as they help today's generation of students reach their goals.

At the time of publication, 25 alumni and students have started mentoring sessions. Participants are encouraged to contact each other at least once a month through e-mail, phone calls, letters and face-to-face visits. STAT will host social events to support the program throughout the school year.

We still need alumni volunteers for the program. If you are interested in participating, please visit www.siue.edu/alumni for more information.

Past STAT Events

September 2008



Party at the Lake, held at the Cougar Lake Pavilion on Sept. 17, was STAT's first social event. Current students enjoyed free food, live music and outdoor games; learned about

STAT and interacted with alumni.

October 2008



STAT celebrated Homecoming weekend with the Young Alumni & STAT Tailgate on Oct. 11 at the SIUE RecPlex. The STAT tent offered food, free Homecoming T-shirts, cups, prizes and

more. Students registered for the chance to win a free iPod Shuffle.

February 2009



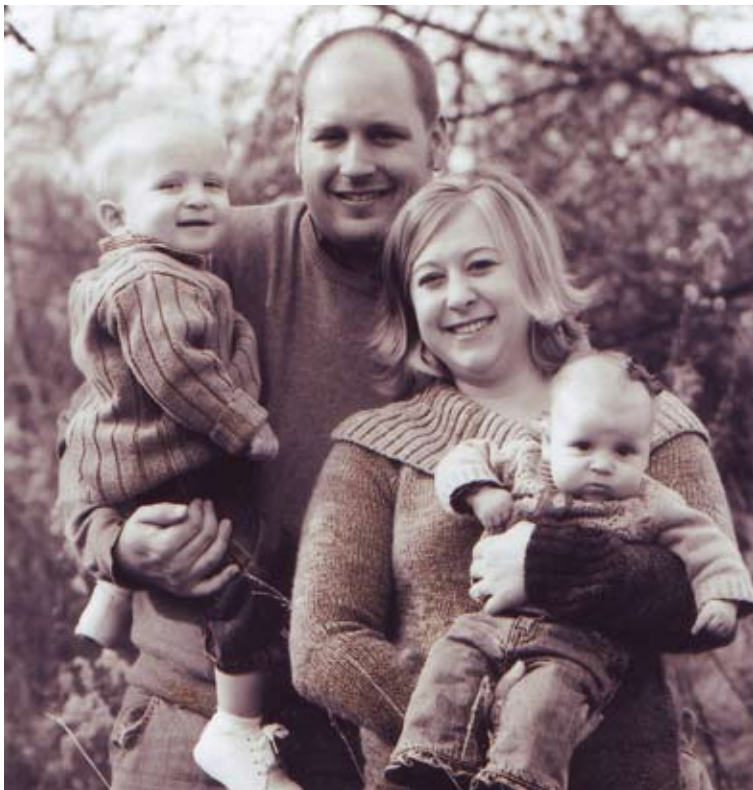
STAT hosted a members-only bowling party at Cougar Lanes on Feb. 2. Attendees enjoyed bowling, free pizza and the chance

to interact with members of the STAT Board of Directors.

*Find out how you can get involved.
www.siue.edu/alumni/stat*

SIUE Love Connection

It was spring semester 2001. Brett Streb, a sophomore engineering major, had just returned to Woodland Hall. He and his friend, Shawn, stopped by the lounge to introduce themselves to Katie Wilson, a fellow Woodland resident who was up late studying. They invited her to Brett's birthday party the following week, and Katie and her roommate accepted the invitation. Katie and Brett started hanging out as friends, since she was dating someone else at the time.



Katie, a freshman nursing major, was interested in labor and delivery. Several weeks after they meet, Brett invited Katie to meet his newborn nephew, along with the rest of his family, at a Springfield hospital. It was on the ride home that they decided to date each other.

Brett took Katie to the Olive Garden in Fairview Heights for their first official date. They often went to Shenanigan's Bar and Grill, Laurie's Place and the movies. Katie knew it was a true love connection the semester Brett helped her memorize all of the 206 bones of the body.

Brett graduated in spring 2004 and Katie graduated the next fall. He proposed to her in June 2005 on the SIUE campus.

"I worked for Guarantee Interiors Inc. in St. Louis at the time, and the owner of the company had a limousine," Brett said. When Brett's boss found out about his plans, he offered the use of his limousine. The limo driver picked Katie up at her apartment and presented her with roses and a card telling her to meet Brett on the bridge in what is now The Gardens at SIUE.

"I was shocked when the limo driver picked me up," Katie said. "I knew we were going out for my birthday, but I was confused when I saw that Brett wasn't in the limo."

"When the driver took me to campus, I knew what was going on," she said. "It was about time!"

Brett proposed to Katie on the bridge on her birthday. They were married on May 6, 2006, at St. Boniface Church in Edwardsville and currently live in St. Charles, Mo. Brett works as a project estimator for Paric Corp. and Katie is a labor nurse at Progress West HealthCare Center. They have two children, Mason and Alyvia.

"We are very thankful for all of the friends we met at SIUE but most of all for meeting each other," they said.



Visit the "SIUE Love Connection" section on our Web site to read about other Cougar couples and share your own story.

Committed to Academic Excellence

A personal conversation with Provost Paul Ferguson

Paul Ferguson was appointed provost and vice chancellor for Academic Affairs at SIUE in 2006. A collegial, inclusive and visionary leader, he is committed to supporting the University's long-term strategic goals. His initiatives have enhanced the progress of SIUE in receiving national recognition for its distinctive academic program portfolio and commitment to continuous quality improvement.

Prior to coming to SIUE, the Los Angeles native spent seven years at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas as vice president for research and graduate studies. Paul and his family are enjoying the Midwest, but are still adjusting to the cold weather.



e: What enticed you to come to SIUE?

Paul Ferguson: I was looking to become a provost at an institution that not only had an academic portfolio consistent with my experience, but also had a real focus on student learning and achievement. SIUE has that combination; clearly a wonderful suite of professional schools with a real strong grounding in arts and sciences.

e: Paul, you've been here almost three years. Do you feel you've been able to accomplish some of the things you wanted to? How so?

Paul Ferguson: The Chancellor's vision is very targeted and efficient, and I have enjoyed being a part of that in a very effective way. The Office of the Provost has identified five academic affairs imperatives, or priorities, for the University and has done very well in achieving those.

The first priority is academic quality and assessment. In other words, does SIUE have the institutional processes in place to assure that we do, in fact, offer quality programs and academic excellence? Many of our programs have gone through accreditation, a form of national peer review for quality, in the last three years, and all have been accredited with distinction. The University received reaccreditation through 2015 by the Higher Learning Commission through our Academic Quality Improvement Plan, or AQIP. SIUE is a pioneer in the AQIP process and serves as a model for other four-year institutions.

Our second priority is student success. Traditionally, SIUE has been known for its commitment to providing access to higher education. The 21st century definition of access focuses on more than just getting students to enroll at the university. We want to see them through to graduation and have established a number of new initiatives to promote student retention and graduation rates.

The third imperative is faculty development. Last year, we invested about \$1 million in faculty development. This investment funded a diverse array of workshops to enhance teaching methods, provided assistance in grant and contract writing, and provided seed money to support faculty scholarship. Since 2006, extramural funding has increased by 23 percent, a direct result of faculty members' efforts.

Our fourth priority is enrollment management. We are an extremely popular campus right now and have to be able to effectively manage our growing enrollment. SIUE has reached its largest overall enrollment—13,602—since 1975. With 1,895 first-time freshmen enrolled in fall 2008, new student enrollment has grown for the fifth consecutive year.

The fifth imperative is educational outreach. When people are constrained by time and place, they often lose the ability to experience the quality and excellence of our programs. We are seeking new ways to extend some of our programs through new educational outreach opportunities.

e: Is the message getting out that SIUE has evolved in the fashion you describe?

Paul Ferguson: I certainly think there's a commitment to do that. We are providing quality education for our students, and we are recognized nationally for the excellence of our programs. For the fourth consecutive year, *U.S. News & World Report* has acknowledged SIUE for our Senior Assignment Program. *U.S. News* lists SIUE among the top 10 public universities in the Midwest Master's category for the second consecutive year. The Association of American Colleges & Universities recognizes our Senior Assignment Program as a national model for learning assessment.

e: How will the University maintain that level of excellence?

Paul Ferguson: We will continue to develop our faculty as teacher-scholars and take a leadership role as a model comprehensive master's institution. We will also look at what comprises our academic portfolio, specifically in the area of health sciences. SIUE is attracting many students who are interested in nursing, pharmacy or dental medicine.

e: Are you happy you came to SIUE?

Paul Ferguson: Yes. SIUE has allowed me to focus on how best to promote student success. The ability to balance a strong research background with a focus on student success has contributed to strong faculty development and student success initiatives.



Class Notes

The Class Notes listed are those of SIUE Alumni Association members. A full listing of Class Notes received from all alumni can be found at www.siue.edu/alumni.

School of Business

Gary Bradstreet, '77 BS professional accounting, has been elected as a member of the United Way of Greater St. Louis for the Southwest Illinois Division.

Steve Campbell, '92 BS business administration, '00 MSED instructional technology, received a 2008 Emerson Excellence in Teaching Award for his work at Lewis and Clark Community College.

Jamie Grapperhaus, '04 BSA, '06 MSA, has been promoted to senior accountant with Scheffel & Co.

Sara Guarino, '04 BS business administration, has joined the law firm of Gori Julian & Associates P.C. She is a member of the Madison County Bar Association, the Illinois Bar Association and the American Bar Association.

LaVerne Isenberg, '64 BS, has been honored by the Rosicrucian Order, AMORC for 50 years of active membership.

Maxine Johnson, '69 Nursing, '83 MBA, is the chief nursing officer at St. Joseph's Hospital in Highland, Ill.

Barry Rhein, '70 BS, has accepted the position of vice president of Global Materials Management for Bausch & Lomb in Rochester, N.Y.

Andrew D. Sanders, '01 BS, '02 MS economics and finance, is celebrating the September 14, 2008, birth of his son, Nolan Elliot.

Gary True, '75 BS business, '81 MBA, has joined Summers ComptonWells PC as a principal. Gary practices in the areas of business law, estate planning and tax law. He was previously a partner with the Hepler Broom law firm and was a certified public accountant.

College of Arts & Sciences

Patrick Graney, '73 BM music performance, '83 MS mass communications, a teacher in the Francis Howell School District, is the author of the recently published book, *The Flying Razor-Toothed Spider*.

Rick Haydon, '82 BM music performance, '87 MM music performance, has released a new CD, *Eastern Central Pacific*. Rick performs with a group of musicians known as Standard Time and is a professor of music at SIUE.

Joseph Ethan Hinton, '02 BA geography and history, earned a master of arts in geography from the University of Illinois in August 2008.

Rebecca (Fines) Hunter, CFRE, '81 mass communications, was recently named the chief development office of the Cancer Wellness Center in Northbrook, Ill. Her career in philanthropy spans 28 years. Rebecca's children's book, *Sherlock the Circus Dog*, was published by Booklocker Press and is available under Rebecca's pen name, Alyssa Angelo.

Darla Knopf, '90 BS English, '96 speech communication, received a 2008 Emerson Excellence in Teaching Award for her work with Roxana High School in Roxana, Ill.

John Meinzen, '93 BS math studies, '99 MS electrical engineering, a teacher at Edwardsville High School, was named the winner of the 2008 Verona Computational Science Teacher Leader Award.

Mel Spall, '74 government, has been chief investigator of the 22nd Circuit of Missouri Family Court–Juvenile Division, supervising the Investigation and Intake Units in the city of St. Louis.

Patrick T. Sullivan '07 BS history and anthropology, spent one year in Mississippi building homes with Americorp in response to Hurricane Katrina. He returned home in July 2008 to pursue other ventures.

School of Education

Richard Benben, '73 physical education, '77 MSED education administration, was inducted into the SIUE 2008 Athletics Hall of Fame.

Steve Campbell, '92 BS business administration, '00 MSED instructional technology, received a 2008 Emerson Excellence in Teaching Award for the work he does at Lewis and Clark Community College.

Mark Cappel, '84 MSED, '93 EDSP, is a newly elected member of the United Way of Greater St. Louis Southwest Illinois Division.

Sharon Frey, '78 physical education, '83 MBA, was inducted into the SIUE 2008 Athletics Hall of Fame.

Robert Meyers, '71 physical education, '72 MSED counselor education, was inducted into the SIUE 2008 Athletics Hall of Fame.

Debra Pitts, '75 BS special education, '83 MSED counselor education, principal at Civic Memorial High School in Bethalto, Ill., was named the 2008 School Employee of the Year.

School of Engineering

John Meinzen, '93 BS math studies, '99 MS electrical engineering, a teacher at Edwardsville High School, was named the winner of the 2008 Verona Computational Science Teacher Leader Award.

School of Nursing

Maxine Johnson, '69 BS nursing, '83 MBA, is the chief nursing officer at St. Joseph's Hospital in Highland, Ill.

Faculty Notes

College of Arts and Sciences

David Kauzlarich, professor of sociology and criminal justice studies and chair of that department, is the recipient of the 2009 Paul Simon Teacher-Scholar Award. He has published four books and more than thirty articles. Kauzlarich is widely regarded as an expert on the causes and victimology of mass governmental violence. He has also received the SIUE Great Teacher Award, and is a past recipient of the American Society of Criminology's Division on Critical Criminology Critical Criminologist of the Year. He is currently the William and Margaret Going Endowed Professor in the SIUE College of Arts and Sciences.

George Pelekanos, associate professor, Department of Mathematics and Statistics, is the 2009 recipient of the Hoppe Research Professor Award. Pelekanos has been at SIUE since 1998. He earned a doctorate in applied mathematics at the University of Delaware. He received the Hoppe Award for his research project in the area of computational electromagnetics: "On the Development of a Fast and Efficient Reconstruction Algorithm in Computational Electromagnetics."

Margaret (Peg) Simons has been named Distinguished Research Professor of Philosophy. She has sustained an extraordinary record of research activities since her promotion to professor in 1990 and brings national and international recognition to her department. Simons has won acclaim as one of the most important scholars writing about the philosophy and life of Simone de Beauvoir. Since 1990, she has given fifteen international, thirty-five national, ten regional and eight local presentations.

Leah O'Brien has been named Distinguished Research Professor of Chemistry. Since her promotion to professor in 2001, she has pursued her independent research activities through both internally and externally funded projects that have earned her national and international recognition. She is highly respected in the international field of gas-phase spectroscopy and her work has relevance to many broader areas of science. Since 2001, she has published 15 articles in preeminent chemistry journals.

Passings

William Dolan Claudson, emeritus professor of music education, died Feb. 3, 2009, at the Siteman Cancer Center of Barnes-Jewish Hospital in St. Louis. He was 76. He joined SIUE in what was then known as the Fine Arts Division in 1970. He was chair of the Department of Music Education from 1986-1993. He also had been president of the SIUE Faculty Senate.

H. Bruce Brubaker, emeritus professor of educational leadership and an SIUE administrator, died Dec. 3, 2008, at the age of 93. He was considered one of the founding pioneers of SIUE. Brubaker served SIUE for 26 years before retiring in 1985.

William T. Going died Sept. 7, 2008 at the age of 93. Going joined his friend Harold See in generating tremendous support for establishing the Southwestern Campus of SIU during the mid 1950s. Going was hired as the first full professor of English at the old Alton Residence Center in 1957. A year later, he was appointed the first dean of instruction and academic affairs. He retired in 1980 as emeritus professor of English language and literature in what was then known as the School of Humanities.

Valerie Meyer, an emerita professor of curriculum and instruction, died Nov. 7, 2008 from complications following surgery. She was 63 years old. Meyer joined the education faculty in 1980 as an assistant professor. She became a full professor in 1992. Professor Meyer retired from the SIUE School of Education in 2004. She was the wife of Gil Rutman. (see below)

Robert R. Phillips, instructor of economics and finance, died Sept. 5, 2008, following a surgical procedure. Phillips had been employed by several high-profile companies before joining the SIUE faculty in 1997. He quickly made his mark on students, who nominated him for the SIUE Great Teacher Award. The SIUE Alumni Association presented him with that award in 2006.

Gilbert Lionel "Gil" Rutman, emeritus professor of economics, died Dec. 16, 2008, at his Edwardsville home. He was 73. Gil had been chair of the Department of Economics and director of what was then known as the Center for Economic Education. He was a member of the SIUE Foundation Board and the Illinois Board of Higher Education. In 1998, his former students nominated him for the SIUE Great Teacher Award. He was presented the Great Teacher Award by the SIUE Alumni Association that year. He was the spouse of Valerie Meyer. (see above)

Sara Twombly, '86 BS speech communication, 88 MA speech/speech communication, died unexpectedly in October at the age of 46. She had been hospitalized earlier in the week for complications related to diabetes, a condition she had reportedly battled for years.



Mary Robinson, retired director of the Morris University Center, died Nov. 22, 2008, after a brief illness. Mary joined SIUE in 1995, and retired after 13 years of service.

Learn more about Mary from the Spring 2008 eConnection No. 4, Page 20

Adam Zimmer, '08 BS special education, and his wife Lindsey Arnold-Zimmer, '06 BA English, were killed in a three car accident involving a suspected drunk driver. The February 21 crash also claimed the life of the couple's unborn child. Adam was a special education teacher at Wilson Elementary School in Granite City. Lindsey was a finance manager at Daniel Schmitt & Co auto dealership in St. Ann, Mo.



Student Government

Student Government at SIUE always has played an important role in shaping the institution's history.

It was introduced on the Edwardsville campus in fall 1958 and evolved with the times; with students speaking out in protest against the Vietnam War in the '60s and '70s; furthering diversity initiatives through the '80s into present day; and engaging students to become strong community leaders.

Today, SIUE's student government organization is comparatively more conservative in its approach, said the group's current adviser, Steve Sperotto. He added that the group's ability to work with senior administrators has fostered an atmosphere of mutual respect and collaboration.

That harmonious relationship has flourished since 1996, he said, when Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Narbeth Emmanuel joined the University's leadership team.

"His open-door policy, and his openness with students, continues to nurture relationships between members of the Student Senate and the University administration," Sperotto said.

Bryan Kress, vice president of Student Government, said a synergy exists between student leaders and the University's administration. "I think we both have the best interests of students at heart," he said, noting the art of compromise is essential to meeting the needs of a growing institution, while being mindful of how student dollars are spent.

In recent years, the organization has worked to engage students in campus life through supporting athletics events, hosting giveaways to build school spirit and pride, as well as running a successful fundraising campaign for the purchase and placement of the bronze cougar statue on campus, in front of the Morris University Center.

Mike and Judy Woodruff

Judy Blase, BM '77, and Mike Woodruff learned a tough lesson when Judy's parents passed away within two months of each other. "My parents didn't have a will, and it was difficult to know exactly what they wanted to do with their life's savings and accumulations," Judy said.

Mike and Judy realized they must ensure their own assets are directed to the organizations to which they are committed. The fact that the couple has no children made that wish even more important.

As the Woodruffs were preparing for a trip to Germany, they decided it was a good time to draft their will. The Woodruffs named SIUE as a beneficiary.

A percentage of the proceeds from their estate will create a scholarship for a student in the School of Business who is studying entrepreneurship or is interested in starting a business. "My dad was an accountant, and I owned a business earlier in my career," Judy said.

There was something else driving their decision. As director of development for the SIUE School of Business, Judy speaks daily with alumni and prospective donors. She feels it is important to support SIUE, her employer and *alma mater*.

"People do different things in their lives. There is always that need to leave some type of legacy," Judy said. "I received a good education here and wouldn't be where I am today without SIUE, so I'd like our legacy to be here."

Judy Woodruff graduated from SIUE in 1977 with a bachelor of music in voice performance. Her husband Mike attended SIUE for nearly three years, then joined the Navy, a family tradition, where he received an education and hands-on experience in the rapidly growing computer field. Mike is a computer technician with DecisionOne.

Judy and Mike are members of the School of Business Dean's Society, the School's major donor club.

To find out how you can make a lasting contribution and impact the lives of future professional and community leaders, contact Jeff Brown, CFP®, Director of Planned Giving, SIUE Foundation. You may reach him at 618-650-3331 or jefbrow@siue.edu.

Visit www.siue.edu/give for more information on various estate planning techniques.



"Mike and I have been blessed. We want to make sure that our success will directly benefit someone else when we are gone."

Judy Blase Woodruff, BM '77

Planned Giving

Do you dream of making a permanent contribution...leaving a lasting legacy?

There are a variety of planned giving options to help you meet your goals and needs of others; proper estate planning is one of the best ways.

Personal financial planning takes on more importance today than ever before, yet many people do not make the necessary provisions. Every year the vast majority of Americans who pass away do so without having prepared a valid Last Will and Testament.

More people might be inclined to make a will if they thought of this important document as a way to extend their love to their family, as well as supporting a worthy cause—such as SIUE—that can help future generations.

Often, individuals plan to leave gifts to a church, university or other non-profit organization, but don't take the time to provide for these intentions in their wills. If you have a particular charitable organization whose mission you want to support, it is important to properly designate it in your will or include it as a beneficiary of an asset such as an IRA or a life insurance policy.

SIUE is dedicated to fulfilling human potential. Wouldn't this be a wonderful mission to support?



“I teach my students to generate crazy ideas to solve problems.”

“I truly love this University.”

“Students are fun to teach, to talk to and to learn from.”

Albert Luo, Ph.D.

*Associate Professor, Department of Mechanical and Industrial Engineering
School of Engineering*

Debra Dixon, D.M.D.

*Associate Professor,
Section of Diagnostic Sciences,
Department of Radiology
School of Dental Medicine*

Rik Hafer, Ph.D.

*Distinguished Research Professor and Chair,
Department of Economics and Finance
School of Business*

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: 2 tree, **Total energy saved:** 1.5 million BTU's, **Greenhouse gases prevented:** 209 lbs, **Wastewater reduction:** 991 gallons, **Solid waste reduction:** 127 lbs



Edwardsville, IL
62026-1031
(618) 650-2760
alumni@siue.edu
siue.edu/alumni

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