

9-1-2004

## Southern Alumni

SIU Alumni Association

Follow this and additional works at: [https://opensiuc.lib.siu.edu/alumni\\_mag](https://opensiuc.lib.siu.edu/alumni_mag)

---

### Recommended Citation

, . "Southern Alumni." (Sep 2004).

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the SIU Alumni Association at OpenSIUC. It has been accepted for inclusion in SIU Alumni Magazine by an authorized administrator of OpenSIUC. For more information, please contact [opensiuc@lib.siu.edu](mailto:opensiuc@lib.siu.edu).

# SOUTHERN

SIU Alumni Association

# A L U M N I

## ON THE WINGS OF HISTORY

TO HONOR THE FABLED TUSKEGEE AIRMEN,  
LEE OWENS HOPES TO MAKE AVIATION HISTORY.

LEE OWENS  
PILOT

Inside: Homecoming Information, Saluki Sports, Class Notes, and more...

---

# Charter Law School Class Meets Goal

---

The 1976 charter class of Southern Illinois University Law School has reached its goal to create the school's first fully endowed scholarship.

The inaugural class of 74 students established "The Charter Class: Campaign for Excellence Endowment" in 1996, its 20th anniversary. A recent gift of stock from alumna Gayl Pyatt and her husband, Richard, pushed the endowment over the \$250,000 needed to provide enough annual income for a full year's tuition for one student.

"Our class was close and supportive and proud to be the pioneer class," explains Pyatt. "We felt a first-year scholarship

awarded solely on the basis of academic excellence would benefit the law school by attracting some top-notch students." Pyatt has a general law practice and is city attorney for Pinckneyville, Ill. She and her husband are life members of the SIU Alumni Association.

Rickey McCurry, vice chancellor for institutional advancement and SIU Foundation CEO, says the gift is deeply appreciated. "This provides us with an extremely valuable tool for recruiting students." McCurry points out that recruiting and retaining the best students for graduate and professional programs is among the goals in *Southern at 150: Building Excellence Through Commitment*, a blueprint for the University's development.

Law School Dean Peter Alexander adds, "We are excited that this scholarship is now possible for incoming students year after year. I hope it can serve as a model for other classes."

Scholarships are generally awarded to first-year students with academic potential determined through test scores and undergraduate achievement. The recipient of the first full scholarship will be awarded this fall, and will be announced in an April awards ceremony.



Gayl Pyatt took some time recently to visit with Law School Dean Peter Alexander and two students who are recipients of the Charter Class Scholarship her class of 1976 makes possible. From left are Alexander, Pyatt, Meagan Gullberg, a second year law student from Stronghurst, Ill., who received her partial scholarship in 2003 and third-year student Jason Johnson of Watseka, Ill., who has had the scholarship benefit since 2002.

## STAFF

### Editor

Gene Green '75

### Art Director

Todd Freeman '90,  
Noteworthy Communication  
Carbondale, Illinois

### Graphic Designer

Greg Baker

### Photography

Dean Baker  
Paul Brinker '74, M.S. '96  
Ashley Lowery  
Sean Smith '03  
Media and Communication  
Resources

### Contributors

Jeannie Caldwell  
Paula Davenport '75, M.S. '02  
Benjamin Hochman  
Peg Kowalczyk  
Marianne Lawrence  
Greg Scott '91, M.S. '99  
Tina Shingleton  
Burke Wasson '04  
Les Winkler '76  
Media and Communication  
Resources  
Athletic Media Services

### Volume 66, No. 3 September 2004

*Southern Alumni* (ISSN 1526-4238) is published quarterly by the SIU Alumni Association, Colyer Hall, SIU, Carbondale, IL 62901-6809 for members of the SIU Alumni Association.

Association membership dues, \$40 annually, include a magazine subscription. Periodicals postage paid at Carbondale, Ill., and at additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: *Southern Alumni*, SIU Alumni Association, Colyer Hall, Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, IL 62901-6809.

## ON THE COVER

SIU alum Lee Owens, shown in front of one of the replica airplanes owned by Hans Laurdison at Glendale Aviation in Phoenix, Ariz., will soon try to become the first African-American to pilot a single-engine aircraft solo around the world.

# CONTENTS

## DEPARTMENTS

Enjoy Your Magazine.....	2	Guest Column.....	27
Thanks For Writing.....	3	Homecoming Events Schedule.....	28
More Value For You.....	4	Celebrate The Strip.....	29
Southern Exposure.....	6	An Advocate's Story.....	31
Remembering Tut.....	8	Association News.....	34
SIU Apparel Online.....	9	In Memoriam.....	37
Changes On Campus.....	19	Liberty Mutual.....	44
Whatever Happened To.....	23	Calendar of Events.....	45
Saluki Sports.....	24	Class Notes.....	46
Salukis Helping Others.....	26	Step Back In Time.....	48

## FEATURES

10

### On The Wings Of History

When Lee Owens '84 was a little boy, he dreamed of someday becoming a pilot. Now that the 21-year Air Force veteran is firmly entrenched in the aviation field, he is seeking to honor those who have gone before him. To honor the fabled Tuskegee Airmen of World War II, Owens will soon try to become the first African-American to fly a single-engine aircraft solo around the world.



### Stalking A Killer

Prostate cancer is second only to lung cancer as the most common killer of American men who die of any type of the disease. At Southern, scientists have joined forces to combat this killer, and the SIU research team has initiated communication and collaboration with groups to seek funding for testing that could make a difference in this fight.

16

### Piano Prodigy Finds A Home At SIU

Kheli Fiadjoe played Beethoven's First Piano Concerto by the age of 9, won a scholarship to the Brevard Music Festival by 12, and garnered attention from national news organizations by 15. Now a college student, this renowned pianist has found a home at Southern. Recruited by top music conservatories in the United States, he instead found greater support at the University, when residents, including the late U.S. Sen. Paul Simon, rallied to bring him to SIU.



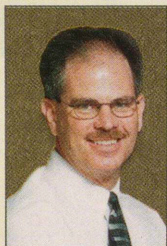
20

### A Northwest Saluki

With 12 Emmy Awards safely tucked away, Seattle television anchor Dan Lewis '73 has earned a large fan base in Washington. He rarely misses a chance to educate his viewers as to what a Saluki is, and often makes note of items that concern SIU. When the Saluki Basketball Team played in Seattle in the first round of the NCAA Tournament last year, Lewis was more than ready to let his television audience know where he went to college.

38





by Gene Green

The glass is *always* half full for Lee Owens. His engaging laugh and positive demeanor dominate any conversation, as he talks about making a difference for those he encounters each day. Whether speaking to youth groups, working in the aviation field, or tackling a challenging project, this SIU alumnus makes sure one message resonates with his listeners: "Let nothing stand in the way of your dreams."

Owens is seeking to become the first African-American to pilot a single engine aircraft solo around the world. He wants to accomplish this feat next year to focus attention on – and honor the memory of – the fabled Tuskegee Airman from World War II. Honoring this group of historic black airmen has become a passion for Owens, 54, who now lives in Phoenix, Ariz., and is chief pilot at Glendale Aviation.

During World War II, when many areas of society were still segregated, the U.S. Air Force created this special squadron and trained them at Tuskegee, Ala. Their job as fighter pilots was to protect the larger, slower flying bombers during their missions against the German Air Force.

To say the Tuskegee Airmen did their job well is a vast understatement – they never lost a single plane under their protection. "These men are my heroes, and this is a way to help honor them and keep their memory alive," Owens says. "They gave us so much, and now it is time to give something back."

This challenge, and the countless hours he has spent planning and financing the journey, is simply the latest dream he has sought to turn into reality.

As you will read in this issue's cover story, Owens has never let challenges deter him. The son of a Mississippi plantation laborer and domestic, he dreamed as a child of becoming a pilot. By eventually utilizing his years in the Air Force as his means to an education, Owens earned a college degree at Southern through an off-campus military program offered at George Air Force Base in Victorville, Calif.

And although the 1984 SIU graduate has actually stepped foot on campus only *once* in his life, he exhibits more pride in Southern than most people you meet.

"Southern Illinois University's great reputation in aviation, coupled with its willingness to work with military personnel around the country, made the University a natural fit for me and probably provided the one chance I had to earn a college diploma," he says. "When I am on this historic flight, I will take not only the legacy of the Tuskegee Airmen in that cockpit with me, but also a real sense of pride in SIU as well."

And I hope in turn you will feel proud knowing one of Southern's own continues to try to make a difference in the world around him.

Enjoy your magazine.



SIU's cooperation with the military allowed Owens to get his degree in aviation management.

## SIU Alumni Association

(618) 453-2408 Fax: (618) 453-2586  
www.sialumni.com

### Board of Directors

#### President

Mimi (Rosenblum) Wallace '62, Beverly Hills, Calif.

#### Immediate Past President

Don Magee '63, Springfield, Ill.

#### President-Elect

Sheri Hunter '76, M.S.'88, Marion, Ill.

#### Vice President

J.C. Garavalia '56, Carbondale, Ill.

#### Vice President

Ray Serati '59, Springfield, Ill.

#### Treasurer

Randy Ragan '67, M.S.'68, Springfield, Ill.

#### Executive Committee At-Large

Jeannette Fromm '60, '64, '72, Rockford, Ill.

Howard Spiegel '75, Buffalo Grove, Ill.

#### Executive Director

Edward Buerger '70

#### Members

Mattie Chamness '92, '98, Carbondale, Ill.

Beverly Coleman '61, Silver Spring, Md.

Ed Edelman '71, Pleasant Hill, Calif.

Steve Falat '87, Murphysboro, Ill.

Larry Fischer '68, Quincy, Ill.

Terry Gannon '68, St. Petersburg Beach, Fla.

Jim Greenwood '65, '68, Venice, Fla.

Cleveland Hammonds '58, St. Louis, Mo.

Larry Henry '64, Goreville, Ill.

Christine Heins '76, J.D.'92, Murphysboro, Ill.

Tequia Hicks, student representative

Dede Ittner '61, Carbondale, Ill.

Julius Johnson '57, Washington, D.C.

Lowell Keel '66, Tullahoma, Tenn.

Robert Kraatz '58, Calabasas, Calif.

Robert McGlenn '76, Carbondale, Ill.

Mike Munge '01, Pekin, Ill.

Dan O'Brien '91, Madison, Wis.

Mary Roe '65, '66, Pinckneyville, Ill.

Doris Rottschalk '69, Du Quoin, Ill.

Howard Schlechte '58, Strasburg, Ill.

Ricky Schumacher, student representative

Amy Sileven, student representative

Sandra Smith '72, Chicago, Ill.

Leonard Surina '60, O'Fallon, Ill.

Darla Treece '86, Carbondale, Ill.

Wesley Wilkins '77, Cobden, Ill.

George Williams '69, '70, '76, Marion, Ill.

## A Long Association With SIU Continues

**Editor's Note:** Florence Crim Robinson, who was featured in *Southern Alumni* in 1998, recently contacted our office for additional copies of that issue. When Robinson received the material, she dropped the Association the following letter.

Thank you for your kindness and efficiency regarding my request. My grandmother and her sister attended the University around the turn of the century, and numerous other relatives went on to become SIU alumni, including my parents and my brother. My children attended another university, but they were students at University School during the years that I was a faculty member in the SIU School of Music.

One of the high points of my career was receiving the Distinguished Alumni Award in 1982, and I was also honored to be on the cover of your magazine. Both symbolized how far I, the University, and our society had come since I was a freshman at SIU.

Sincerely,

**Florence Crim Robinson '49, Ph.D. '63 Tallahassee, Fla.**

## Article On Mitchell Appreciated

Thank you for the outstanding article by Marianne Lawrence in the April issue of *Saluki Pride* on Lt. Col. Clay Mitchell. Our son recently returned from Iraq as a member of the Homewood, Ill., 308th Civil Affairs Brigade – we know there are so many stories like Lt. Col. Mitchell's.

We continue to search the

## Dear Readers...

Your SIU Alumni Association is always eager to hear your opinions of *Southern Alumni*. As with all alumni magazines, we can only improve if we are being responsive to you, our readers. Therefore, we encourage you to take some time after you've read this issue of *Southern Alumni* to let us know what you're thinking. **Please mail your letters to:**

*Southern Alumni*  
Colyer Hall  
Mailcode 6809  
Southern Illinois University  
Carbondale, Ill. 62901

You can e-mail your letters to [alumni@siu.edu](mailto:alumni@siu.edu). Letters are sometimes edited for length and style.

We also invite you to send items and photographs of interest for the class notes section as well as submissions for *Southern Memories*. You can mail this information or send it by e-mail to the above addresses.

We are looking forward to hearing from you! Thank you for your continued support of the SIU Alumni Association.

mainstream media for more positive news coming from Iraq, but finding some is often difficult.

Thanks again for a fine article.  
**Gus '72 and Sandy Wall Life Member Gridley, Ill.**

## SIU's Impact In Ireland Noted By Alum On Research Trip

I attended SIU years ago, graduating with a master's in 1969 and a Ph.D. in sociology in 1974. During my time at the University, I was privileged to have several colleagues from Ireland. I recently returned from a research trip where I attended the Sociological Association of Ireland's annual meeting to present a paper co-authored with two former SIU students.

During the conference, there was a luncheon and meeting for the heads of sociology departments at major Irish universities. I was impressed by the fact that out of the seven departments represented, four were people who had been SIU graduate students. They were Tom Inglis, head of sociology at University College Dublin; Donal Igoe from the political science and sociology department at National University of Ireland at Galway; Brian Keary, head of sociology at University of Limerick; and Liam O'Dowd from the school of sociology and social work at Queens University in Belfast. (Another former student, Tony Varley from NUIG, was scheduled to be at the meeting but was unable to attend.)



Obviously the impact of the SIU graduates on Irish sociology has been—and will continue to be—enormous.

Best regards!

**Rudy Ray Seward M.S. '69, Ph.D. '74 Professor of Sociology, Graduate Advisor & Associate Chair Department of Sociology University of North Texas Denton, Texas**

Salukis meet again! From left in a photo taken recently in Ireland: Donal Igoe, Rudy Ray Seward and Tony Varley.

## Members Can Enjoy Football Tailgates

Members of the SIU Alumni Association are invited to gather at tailgates prior to each Saluki home football game. Association members will be hosted under its alumni tailgate tent, located on Saluki Row, north of the SIU Arena.

Saluki Row will be the site for all tailgates, with the exception of the Homecoming Alumni "Big Tent" celebration, which, as always, will take place east of McAndrew Stadium. Members can gather three hours prior to game time and enjoy complimentary food, beverages and music.

"Our members provide support for our many alumni programs on and off campus. Therefore, we strive to enhance the value of their investment in our organization," says Ed Buerger, executive director. "These tailgates serve as a means of bringing our alumni, students and friends together in support of the SIU Alumni Association and SIU football."



### Specialty Business Is New Benefit Partner

The SIU Alumni Association's newest benefit partner is a specialty business that offers personalized care. For 11 years Rivi Meltzer has owned and operated Intimate Foundations out of her Carbondale home.

She offers a 10 percent discount on bras and body shapers and specializes in women who have had breast surgery, are dealing with physical difficulties such as arthritis, or who simply have problems finding the right fit. She works with a home inventory, but often special orders are needed. Fittings are free and she rarely charges for special orders.

Another large part of Meltzer's business deals with garments for people suffering from edemas that can occur after surgery and for people with other medical problems such as obesity or diabetes. She works with patients and their doctors to provide compression support hose and sleeves that help alleviate swelling and discomfort.

"I like to say I offer more solutions that you can get elsewhere," says Meltzer, who works by appointment only. She uses a variety of vendors to make sure her clients are satisfied. For more information or to make an appointment call 618-457-7788.

*Intimate Foundations*

### Heartland Gifts – Something For Everyone

Heartland Gifts of Anna, Ill., provides its customers with creative, customized and convenient gifts for all occasions and is now offering a 10 percent discount on a single gift order for SIU Alumni Association members.

**Heartland Gifts**

As a new benefit partner of the Association, owner Mindy Carter is anxious for alumni to visit her Web site – [www.heartlandgifts.net](http://www.heartlandgifts.net) – and see how easy it is to shop for a perfect gift that can be hand delivered locally or shipped anywhere in the country.

Her Web site features packages for any occasion that requires a gift – from birthdays to weddings and from congratulations to a simple thank you. In addition there is a link that will feature SIU alumni specialty gift items.

Another option on the site are student care packages that include a welcome basket, something for the "Finals Stretch" and a "Cookie Craze" gift package suited for any occasion. "We offer a price range for any budget," stresses Carter.

The Web site also features many options for businesses and corporations. Carter explains that, "We are a relationship marketing company for business accounts and provide packages that can be used as door prizes and company giveaways in addition to retirement, promotion and employee appreciation gifts.

Carter and her husband, Larry M.S.'80 are life members of the SIU Alumni Association. One of their children is currently attending SIU and another is a recent graduate and new alumni member.

Contact us online at [www.siualumni.com](http://www.siualumni.com)  
or call 618-453-2408.

# Check Out Our Benefit Partners

The following businesses are graciously offering our members a variety of discounts.

For contact information, links, and questions please visit [www.siualumni.com](http://www.siualumni.com) or call 618-453-2408

## INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS

**Sherwin - Williams Paints:** 20% on regular priced items, 5% on sale items, Call the Alumni Office for account number.

**European Auto and Hotel** via destination Europe

## NATIONWIDE PARTNERS

**Boyers Coffee:** 10% off all coffee, call the Alumni Association for account number

**Car Rental:** Alamo, Avis, Budget, Hertz, and National

**Choice Hotels** (at participating): Clarion Inn, Comfort Inn, Quality Inn, Friendship Inn, Econo Lodge, Rhodeway Inn, Sleep Inn (up to 15%)

**DELL Computers:** 2-13% savings on DELL computers and products. Please call the SIU Alumni Association office at 618-453-2408 for the promotional code.

**Heartland Gifts:** 10% on a single gift per order

**Pro Golf of Newnan, Georgia:** 10% on any purchase

## REGIONAL PARTNERS

**Six Flags Amusement Park,** St. Louis Mo.

## SOUTHERN ILLINOIS PARTNERS

**Barton House Bed & Breakfast:** Carbondale - advanced registration required for 10% discount. Call 618-457-7717

**Big Boys Q'n Restaurant:** Carbondale - 10%

**Carlson Wagonlit Travel Agency:** Herrin/ Marion, 5% off all preferred cruises & vacations

**Coleman-Rhoads:** West Frankfort - 15% off accessories

**Days Inn:** Carbondale - 15% off Sun.-Thur.; 10% off Fri.-Sat.

**El Bajio Restaurant:** Carbondale - 10%

**Enterprise Rent-a-Car:** Carbondale - 10%

**Fernwood Gardens:** Cobden - 10% off purchases

**Garfield's Restaurant:** Carbondale, University Mall - 20%

**Gold's Gym:** Marion - \$109 enrollment fee waived

**Hampton Inn:** Carbondale - 10% off standard room rate

**Harboughs:** Carbondale - 10% off your meal

**Hawk Ridge Bed & Breakfast:** Cobden - 10% off T-Th.

**Intimate Foundations:** Carbondale - 10% off Norvell custom fit bras and body shapers

**Italian Village:** Carbondale - 10% off your meal

**Mastercuts Salon:** University Mall - \$1 off all cuts M-Th.

**Melange Coffee Shop:** Carbondale - 10%

**Merle Norman Cosmetics:** Carbondale - 10%

**Miss Patty's Inn & Suite:** Marion - 15% off room rate

**Motel 6:** Carbondale - 20%

**Mugsy McGuire's Restaurant:** Carbondale - 10%

**Murdale True Value:** Carbondale - 20% reg. paint; 5% sale paint

**Papa Mike's:** Olney - 10% dine in only

**Ponderosa:** Carbondale - 10% regular priced items

**Quatro's Pizza:** Carbondale - free pitcher of soda with medium or large pizza

**Red Hawk Country Club:** Du Quoin - 18 Holes with Cart for \$25

**Saluki Bookstore:** Carbondale - 20% for life members, 15% off for annual members on SIU apparel

**Saluki Central:** Carbondale - 10% off SIU apparel

**710 Bookstore:** Carbondale - Illinois Ave. location only, 20% for life members, 15% for annual members discount on SIU Imprinted items

**Stiles Corporate Express** - 10%

**Super 8:** Carbondale - 15% off standard room rate

**Tres Hombres:** Carbondale - \$1 off dinner entrée; .50 off lunch entrée

**Vogler Ford:** Carbondale - 10% off any car rental

**Walt's Pizza:** Marion - 10%

## OTHER PARTNERS

**Best Western River North Hotel:** Chicago, Lake Shore Drive - Sun-Thur. \$115 per night; Fri.-Sat. \$125 per night.

**Davis Manor Bed & Breakfast:** Bloomington, Ill. - 20%

**Four Peaks Property Evaluations (Home Inspections):** Peoria, Ariz. - \$20 off home inspections.

**Keller Williams Realty:** Austin, Tex. - ask for Steve or Judy Scott

**Mehta Motors:** Elmhurst, Ill. - 10% off oil change and safety check

## CAMPUS PARTNERS

**McLeod Theater:** Communications Building - 20% adult/senior citizen tickets

**Morris Library privileges**

**Old Main Restaurant:** Student Center - 10%

**Shryock Auditorium:** \$3 off Celebrity Series tickets

**Student Center: Bowling & Billiards:** members receive SIU student rates; *Craft Shop:* 10% off Saluki merchandise

**Student Recreation Center:** eligible to join

**Touch of Nature:** 20% off lodging, 15% off programs

**University Bookstore:** Student Center - \$20 discount off textbooks when \$300 or more is purchased in textbooks per semester; and 20% for life members

**University Press Publications:** 20%

This list is subject to change.

Present your membership card to receive your discount.

## Maroon denotes newest business partners

For Web site information and phone numbers of above businesses, see the benefit partner page at [siualumni.com](http://siualumni.com).

## A Larger SIU Alumni Association Means A Greater Voice

Can you remember the feeling the day you graduated? As you look back on your college days and reminisce about some of the best years of your life, you realize how important it is to keep those memories alive. That is why the SIU Alumni Association is here. We help keep those memories alive.

Stay connected through the pages of the *Southern Alumni* magazine, *Saluki Pride* newsletter, and with events such as reunions, homecomings, alumni events, and programs. If you would like a friend or relative to experience those same feelings, please consider purchasing an SIU Alumni Association membership as a gift. Share your love for Southern with others.

For more information contact: SIU Alumni Association  
Colyer Hall 2nd Floor  
Southern Illinois University  
Carbondale, Illinois 62901  
(618) 453-2408  
(618) 453-ALUM (fax)  
[www.siualumni.com](http://www.siualumni.com)

# New SIU Alumni Association Life Members

## NEW LIFE MEMBERS

Between 5/1/04 and 7/30/04

Mr. John R. and Mrs. Cara M. Alongi III

Mrs. Devita E. Andrews

Robert P. Bates, Ph.D., and

Mrs. Kathleen A. Bates

Mr. Robert E. Bradley

Mr. James E. Brecks

Mr. Robert L. Brumley, Ph.D.

Ms. Lori Crenshaw Bryant

Mr. Brian H. Buth

Mrs. Nancy A. Carter

Mr. Patrick G. and Mrs. Laurel L. Casey

Ms. Julie K. Castens

Mr. V. John Caupert Jr.

Mrs. Janet M. Church

Mrs. Eleanor R. Coleman

Mr. Jeffrey Cross

Mrs. Cheryl A. Diedrick

Mr. John T. Davenport

Mrs. Carol J. Decker

Mrs. Michelle A. Ellowitz

Mr. Drew A. Emery

Mr. Shawn M. Eubanks

Mr. Brian C. and Mrs. Jennifer L. Flath

Mr. Mitchell R. Garrett

Mrs. Rebecca A. Garrison

Mr. Wesley J. and Linda R. Gibson, M.D.

Mr. Bradley D. and Mrs. Jane Giles

Mr. Victor R. Gilpin

Mrs. Mary L. Goodman

Mr. Daniel T. Green

Mr. Gator J. Greenwill

Mr. Eric W. Harke

Mr. David W. Holly

Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert L. Holmes

Ms. Robin D. Hood

Ms. Laura L. Israel-Kantor

Ms. Valerie M. Johnson

Dr. Demetrius N. and

Patricia H. Karathanos, Ph.D.

Mr. John E. Kavanaugh

Mr. Heath A. Keller

Mr. and Mrs. Kevin G. Klaine

Mrs. Sue A. Knapp

Mrs. Patty L. Koenig

Mr. Wade M. and

Mrs. Deana L. Koester

Mr. John A. and

Mrs. Loretta Ott Ledbetter

Mr. David R. and Mrs. Karla J. Lee

Mrs. Maxine Lelivelt

Mrs. Angela Loughridge-Chien

Layne T. Lovell, M.D.

Mr. Kevin D. Mahaney

Dr. and Mrs. L. Neal McCain

Dr. Karen S. McClusky

Mr. Fred G. McCoy Jr.

Mr. William P. McMinn

Mr. Allan W. McVicker

Mr. Charles F. and Mrs. Rita G.

Monroe

Mr. Chad G. Morsch

Mr. Restituto M. Mose

Mr. James J. Mulholland

Mr. and Mrs. Peter M. Orphanos

Mr. Michael S. Price

Mr. Alva L. Rathman

Mr. Donald R. Rizzas

Mr. Norman D. Rose

Mrs. Lisa and Mr. William Schemonia

Mr. Richard W. Schule

Mr. Michael L. and

Mrs. Nancy E. Smith

Mr. Charles L. and

Mrs. Carolyn B. Smoot, J.D.

Ms. Penelope A. Spearance

Mr. Brian W. Stock

Mr. Ray C. Tholen

Mrs. Melinda R. Veller

Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth R. Wake

Mr. Barton W. Welker

Mr. Michael G. and

Mrs. Eileen B. Wilimzig

Mr. Christopher A. Williams

Ms. Nicole M. Wilson

Ms. Melissa L. Wolf



## Happy Birthday, Wheeler Hall

# Southern Landmark Turns 100

by Paula Davenport

Over the past century, she “witnessed” former U.S. President William Howard Taft’s visit to neighboring Shryock Auditorium in 1918, the fiery destruction of the second Old Main Hall in 1969 and throngs of outdoor concert-goers who annually flock to the popular summer Sunset Concert series.

She’d tell you all about it if she could. But she’s just a building – the stately Wheeler Hall.

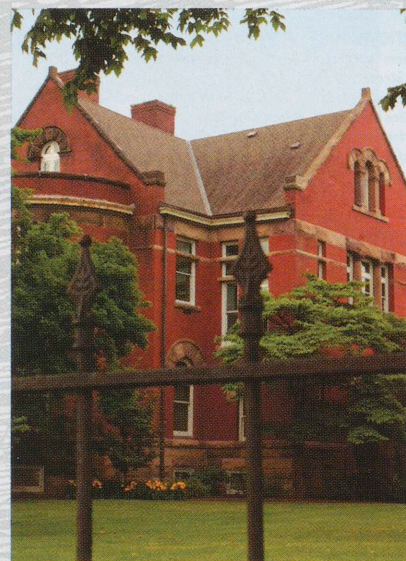
The third structure added to Southern Illinois University’s campus – at an approximate cost of \$30,000 in June 1904 – Wheeler Hall became the first stand-alone library on a campus of its kind in Illinois. The University was a teacher’s college at the time.

Romanesque in style, Wheeler Hall’s three-story exterior combines deep red brick, lighter stone adornments, arched entrances and columns. Inside, visitors marvel at ornate handcrafted moldings, carved newel posts, a granite-floored foyer and views of central campus’ sweeping lawns and gardens.

“It’s the nicest building on campus,” says Rhonda Seeber, assistant to the associate provost of the University’s School of Medicine and a tenant since 1978. “It’s spacious, open and airy – and it has character.” She so loves the building that she volunteered to help oversee its 1992 renovation, which pays homage to the building’s original architectural style.

University officials dedicated the building on June 7, 1904, in conjunction with the school’s 29th commencement program. Then-Gov. Richard Yates sent a proxy. Springfield judge S.P. Wheeler, also president of the college’s Board of Trustees, officiated. Upon Wheeler’s retirement a year later, the trustees named the building in his honor.

Along with a financial report of project costs, the audience, the glee club and the University quartet lightened things up



Historic Wheeler Hall.

with songs – all of which led to a formal “acceptance of the building and transfer of keys.”

Wheeler was the first building on campus to bear the name of a benefactor. Judge Wheeler lobbied diligently for the initial \$25,000 state appropriation necessary to build the facility. Wheeler Library housed 18,000 books, a reserve reading room, a periodical room, a cataloging room, a delivery area and a librarian’s office.

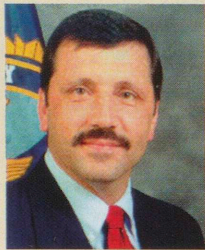
The library served as headquarters for several student groups, including the Zetetic Literary Society, the Socratic Society, the Young Women’s and the Young Men’s Christian Associations. By 1956, the turn-of-the-century quarters were too small for the burgeoning collection of books, magazines and other materials, and the first section of Morris Library became home to the collection.

Today, administrative offices for the University’s medical school and its Med-Prep program occupy the building. ■

## Alumnus Named New Carbondale Police Chief

After serving nearly nine months as Carbondale Police Interim Chief, Steve Odum ‘83, M.S. ‘95 was appointed recently to the position of permanent police chief. The 27-year-veteran of the department was one of three final candidates.

“Steve is a solid administrator with strong managerial skills,” says City Manager Jeff Doherty ‘75, M.S. ‘82. “He’s a proven leader in the police department and is committed to building relationships within the community.”



Odum had served as interim police chief since November 2003, when former police chief R.T. Finney left Carbondale to head Champaign’s police department.

“I respect and admire the work of all members of the police department, and it is truly an honor to represent them as the police chief,” the 48-year-old Odum says. “I look forward to strengthening the department’s existing community relationships and building new ones.

Carbondale is a great community, and I am excited to be leading its police department.”

Odum earned an associate’s degree of science in law enforcement in 1981, a bachelor’s degree of science in technical careers majoring in law enforcement in 1983 and a master’s degree of public administration degree in 1995. In addition to his Southern degrees, he is a 1994 graduate of the Illinois Executive Management Institute and a 1999 graduate of the FBI National Academy. ■

## SIU Moves Up In Annual U.S. News Rankings

**S**outhern Illinois University Carbondale has made a significant advance in national rankings in the annual survey of the America's colleges and universities released last month by *U.S. News & World Report*.

SIU moved into the third tier of national public and private universities, putting the University in the top 75 percent of national universities offering doctoral degrees. Southern was in the fourth tier in last year's survey.

SIUC Chancellor Walter Wendler says the jump in rankings is noteworthy, and again shows the University provides excellence in its degree programs. SIU also placed high in the academic reputation category with a score of 2.6, on a scale where 5.0 is the highest mark possible. Among Illinois institutions in the third tier, DePaul University scored a 2.8 and Illinois State University scored a 2.4. Northern Illinois University ranked in the 4th tier.

"We are pleased with this move in how we are viewed nationally," Wendler says. "It is particularly gratifying that our academic reputation continues to remain solid, as we continue to promote excellence in all of our academic programs."



SIU ranked 14th nationally in graduates who leave school with the least amount of debt. Thirty-seven percent of the University's grads are in debt when they graduate, with the average amount being \$12,413. Southern also ranked 38th in the nation for schools that enrolled the most transfer students. The University took in 1,963 transfer students in fall 2003.

Key elements that are part of the academic reputation score include data on faculty and class size:

Some 93 percent of Southern's faculty are full time;

Nearly half (46 percent) of SIU classes have fewer than 20 students; and

Only 8 percent of classes have more than 50 students in a section.

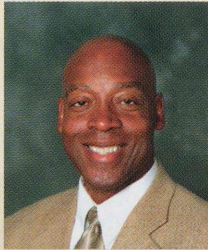
"The survey shows the University continues to be an excellent value, which is an important consideration for many students and their families," says Southern Provost and Vice Chancellor John Dunn. "Our tuition rates are lower than any other research-centered university in the state."

The rankings are available at the *U.S. News and World Report* Web site at <http://www.usnews.com>.

## On The Side

### Ed Jones Honored By National Housing Association

**E**d Jones, director of housing at Southern Illinois University, received the Association of College and University Housing Officers-International James A. Hurd Award recently during the group's annual conference in Montreal.



The award recognizes outstanding contributions by a person of color to both the association and the profession. The association, founded in 1951, has 5,800 members from 900 colleges and universities.

"Ed is providing terrific leadership in housing here and in the community and has for many years," says SIU Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs & Enrollment Management Larry Dietz. "He brings not only a strong local perspective to housing issues and needs, but because he serves on the association's national board, he brings a national perspective as well."

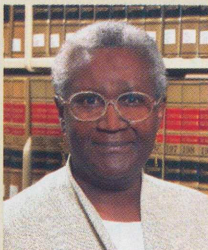
Jones, who came to Southern in 1987, manages residence hall facilities for 4,700 undergraduates and 250 graduates as well as 563 apartments for married students and single parents. In addition, he oversees residential life activities, food and conference services, and maintenance and custodial operations. University Housing employs 200 full-time staff and 600 students.

### Whitfield Named Associate Dean Of SIU Law School

**W**enona Whitfield, an associate law professor at Southern Illinois University, is the law school's new associate dean for academic affairs. Dean Peter Alexander appointed Whitfield to the post effective July 2.

"She has a wealth of experience as a law teacher and a member of the law school community," says Alexander, "and has high integrity and is well-respected by faculty, staff and students."

Whitfield received her law degree from SIU in 1977 and has taught at the law school since 1981. She is a two-time Fulbright grant recipient, spending time as a visiting law professor in 1991-92 at the University of Ghana, and in 2001 at Tsinghua University in Beijing, People's Republic of China.



Whitfield will oversee the law school's academic program, dealing primarily with student academic issues and curricular matters. She will also revamp the school's adjunct professor recruitment, supervision and review policies. The part-time professors are "such an integral part of our curricular offerings," she says.

She wants to devote much of her energy to faculty development, making sure younger faculty "have everything they need to be successful in teaching, research and service."

Whitfield emphasizes that regardless of advances in technology, the key component is faculty involvement. "It comes down to the faculty and their dedication to teaching, and dedication to preparing the next generation of lawyers," she notes. "That is what I see as the real strength of this law school; it always has been. And looking back, I'm very pleased it is going to continue."

Whitfield replaces associate law professor Mary Rudasill as associate dean. Rudasill served in the position since 1999, and is also the long-time director of the school's clinical program.

Whitfield's appointment means SIU is one of only four of 187 accredited law schools in the United States and Puerto Rico where the dean and an associate dean are African-American. The other three law schools are Howard University School of Law in Washington, D.C., the University of Baltimore School of Law, and the John Marshall Law School in Chicago. Southern is one of six law schools nationally where the dean and associate dean are minorities, according to the Association of American Law Schools.

"It shows a commitment to diversity at all levels of administration," stresses Alexander. "It makes a statement to say that we believe diversity is important, but it makes a totally different statement to look at the dean and associate dean and see that they are people of color themselves."

## Tut, SIU's Mascot, Dies From Cancer

Whether he was participating in parades, social gatherings or athletic events at Southern Illinois University, TUT II SIU, or simply, Tut, was a model of grace and dignity.

Tut, the long-time official Southern mascot, was humanely put to sleep on June 26, 2004.

Owners and SIU alums John and Linda Saunders of Chester, Ill., learned in April that the 13-year-old suffered from hemangiosarcoma, a malignant cancer of the blood vessels.

The SIU Alumni Association Life Members had supplied the University with Saluki mascots since 1986. Tut was the last of five Salukis for which the Saunders cared. The other Salukis were Shabaka, Taharqa, Farrah and Tasha. The couple also cared for Thunder and Khalid, the last two University-owned dogs.

"Tut was our last," John says. "That is one of the reasons it was so hard to lose him." The University is exploring its options for another Saluki.

John recalls parades where Tut would go side-to-side along the street as adoring children and fans affectionately greeted him. By the end of the

parade route, that might mean Tut's ears were a mess from hands made sticky by popcorn and candy, but Tut didn't mind.

"Without question, his favorite activity was going to the University where he received a lot of attention and affection –

Special Olympics. Tut also appeared on countless calendars, posters and athletic media guides.

Tut was known not only throughout the region, but statewide and nationally. His image graced the first Saluki fan given away at the SIU tent at the Illinois

and Du Quoin state fairs in 2001, the same year he was Homecoming parade marshal, honoring 50 years of the Saluki as the University's mascot.

Away from Southern, Tut was an accomplished show dog. He finished his American Kennel Club Confirmation championship quickly. He capped his show career by winning the Saluki Club of America National Specialty in the senior division in Lexington, Ky., in June 2003.

"Certainly his show career was a big plus for us," John notes. "He was considered one of



Tut was a frequent participant at SIU events over the years. The animal was also an accomplished show dog.

and often a couple of hot dogs," John laughs. "I know he loved representing such a wonderful University, and did so with grace and dignity."

For alumni and fans, a treat was seeing Tut gracefully run across McAndrew Stadium leading the football Salukis onto the field. The dog also regularly appeared at athletic events, alumni functions, fund-raisers and Southern Illinois

the better dogs around."

John graduated from SIU in 1963 with a bachelor's degree in recreation, while Linda earned a degree at Southern in 1965 in education. Four generations of their family also graduated from SIU. Now both retired, the couple is planning to spend time traveling.

"It has been a labor of love for us; we will miss it," John says. ■

# **ONLINE STORE NOW OPEN!!!**

## **LIVE & RUNNING!!!**

[www.siu alumni.com](http://www.siu alumni.com)

**Purchase The Latest in  
SIU Alumni Apparel & Accessories Today!**

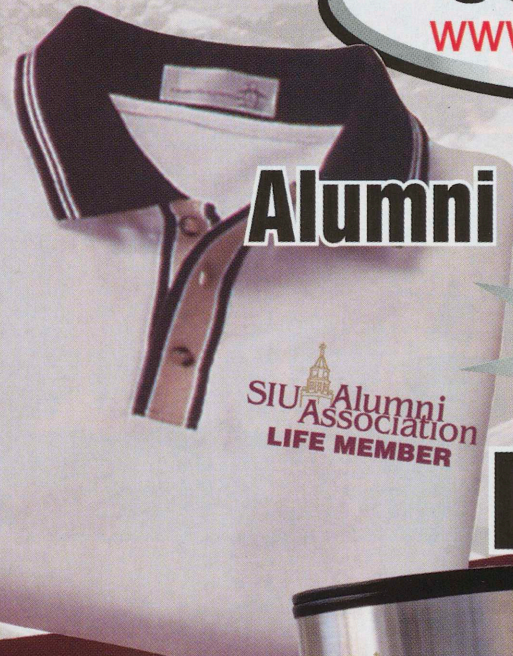
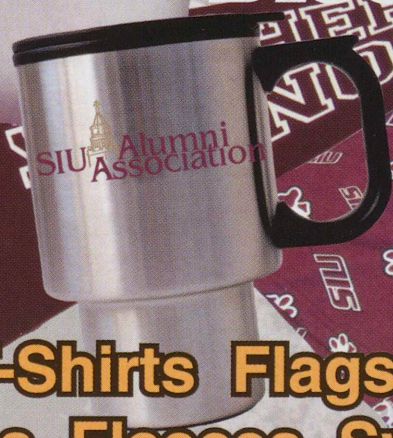
*Not A Member?*

**JOIN NOW**  
[www.siu alumni.com](http://www.siu alumni.com)

**Alumni Members Enjoy A**

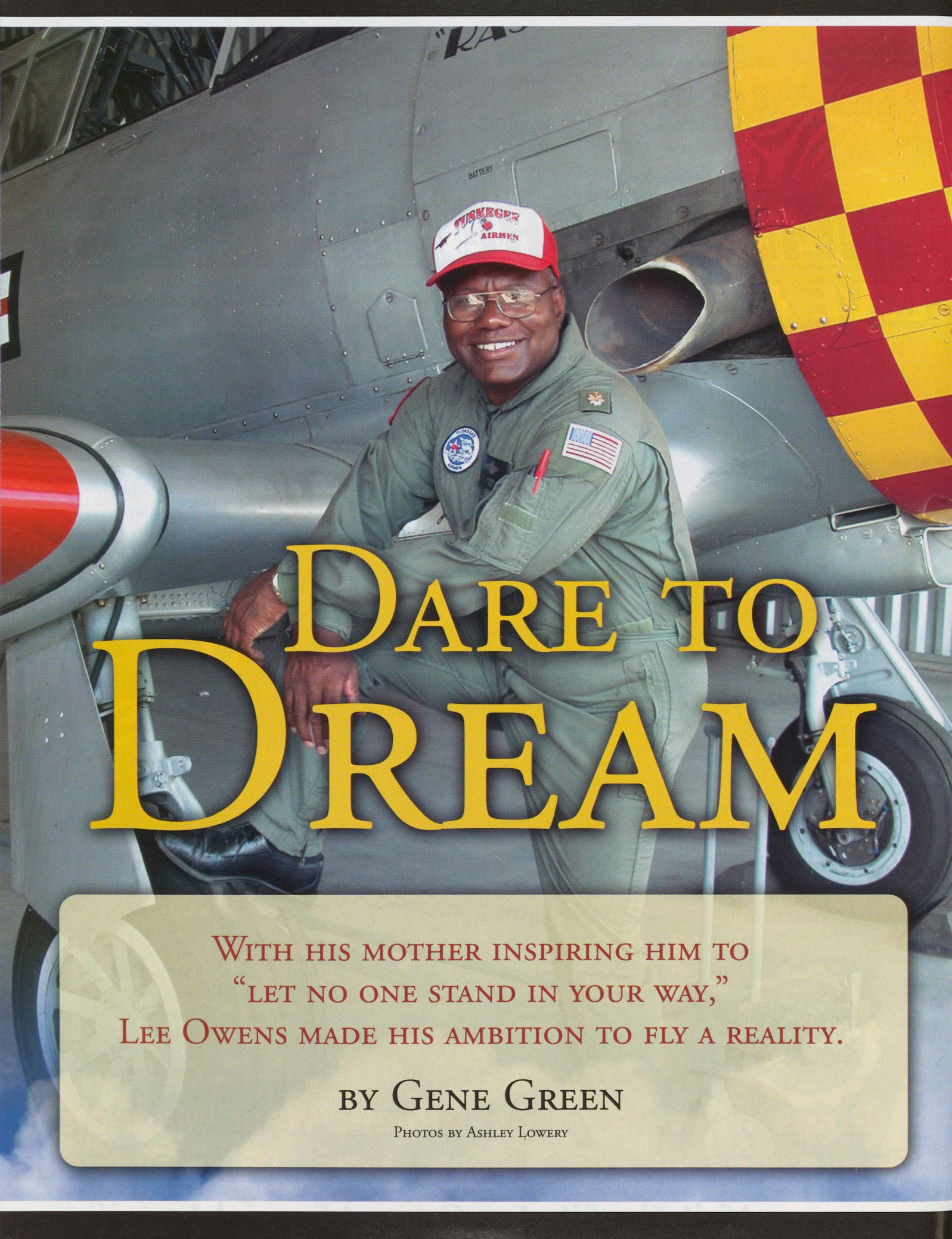
**15%**

**Discount**



**Polos T-Shirts Flags Athletic Wear Magnets  
Mugs Caps Fleece Sweatshirts Jackets Decals**

**Visit The Site For Current Specials!**

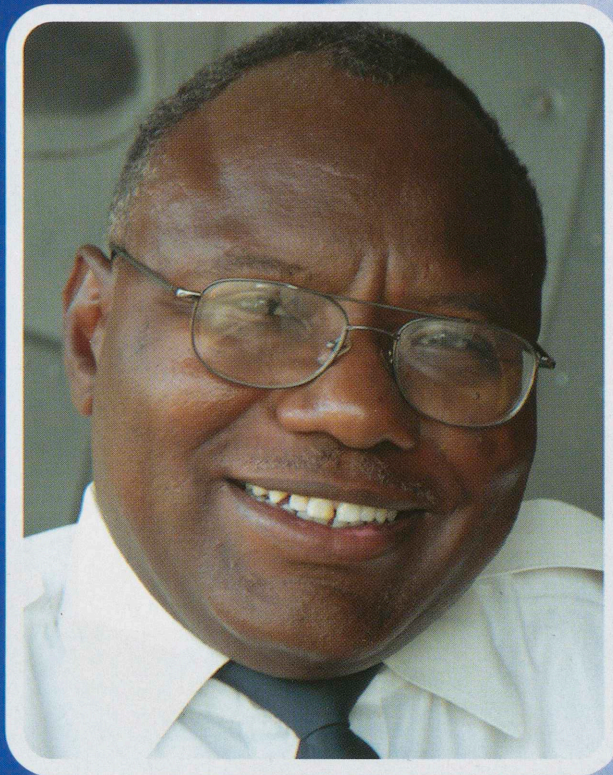
A man, Lee Owens, is sitting on the engine of a military aircraft. He is wearing a green flight suit with patches, including an American flag and a circular emblem. He is also wearing a red and white baseball cap with "TUSKGGP AIRMEN" written on it. The aircraft is grey with a red and yellow checkered pattern on the tail. The text "DARE TO DREAM" is overlaid in large yellow letters.

# DARE TO DREAM

WITH HIS MOTHER INSPIRING HIM TO  
"LET NO ONE STAND IN YOUR WAY,"  
LEE OWENS MADE HIS AMBITION TO FLY A REALITY.

BY GENE GREEN

PHOTOS BY ASHLEY LOWERY



Owens, the chief pilot at Glendale Aviation, is also a qualified mission pilot who has participated in disaster relief and special-operations assignments.

**T**he little boy could hear the buzzing in the distance, a churning noise slowly growing into a deafening roar. He paused for a moment and looked to the sky, watching a crop duster fly so low he could actually gaze inside the cockpit.

“Why couldn’t *I* do that someday?” the youngster quietly thought to himself. The aircraft slowly disappeared across the horizon, and a grinning 10-year-old Lee Owens went back to the task at hand: picking cotton in the sweltering heat of a Mississippi field.

Growing up in the 1950s in Greenville, Miss., as the son of a plantation laborer and a domestic, Owens was encouraged by his parents to dream. With his rural upbringing cemented around a strong influence from the church, he was taught that faith could make amazing things happen.

Faith and perseverance would prove a dynamic combination in his life.

“The owner of the plantation flew the crop dusters, and he noticed how interested I was in them,” Owens recalls. “Eventually one of my responsibilities was helping load the airplane,



Owens enjoyed a 21-plus year career in the U.S. Air Force. He began his stint in the service training as a jet engine mechanic, and eventually received his license to fly in 1977 following tenure as an Aero Club pilot in Germany.

which I thought was really great. The pilot was an Englishman who would tell me stories about World War II and his experiences flying the Spitfires. I may have just been a little kid, but he certainly got me interested in imagining myself doing those things.”

Little did Owens realize that 40 years later he would be on a mission to do something no other African-American had ever done: pilot a single-engine air-

craft solo around the world (see accompanying story).

### **A CHANGE IN PLANS**

Like many things in life, the road to his dream was not paved in a straight line. When Owens was 14 years old, athletic interest made him think more about the playing field than the airfield.

“I was a pretty good running back, even though I was only about 5’5” at the

time,” he says. “My high school years were really good as far as my football accomplishments were concerned, so I was excited about going on to college and continuing to play sports.”

After graduating from O’Bannon High School in 1968, Owens attended Mississippi Delta Junior College and Coahoma Junior College, struggling at times to balance the rigors of sports, academics, and the prejudices of the times.

In 1970, Owens decided it was time to take a major step in getting on with "the rest of my life. The NFL wasn't knocking on my door, and my parents didn't have the money to pay for college." He joined the United States Air Force and began training as a jet engine mechanic, starting what would be a 21-plus year career in the military. It was during his early years in the service that an old love for flying resurfaced.

"I started flying in 1975 and received my license in 1977 – but did it through the back door," he explains. "I never did fly for the Air Force, but instead joined an Aero Club at the base where I was stationed in Germany. I took two lessons the first day, got sick as a dog, and initially wondered if maybe this flying dream of mine wasn't such a grand idea."


But Owens quickly conquered the weak stomach and embraced the rigorous training it took to become a pilot. "I had never quit anything in my life," he now laughs – 6,000 flight hours later, "and I sure as heck wasn't going to start then."

### SOMETHING STILL MISSING

By the early 1980s, Owens was established in the Air Force and had more than a decade of service. But something was missing, and he knew it was time to take care of a goal. Although his mother and father had never made it to junior high school, he dreamed of being the first person in his family to graduate from college.

Owens started to research collegiate aviation offerings, and soon found out that Southern Illinois University had one of the top programs in the nation. He also was pleased to see that the University had developed a tremendous working relationship with military bases around the world.

"It was wonderful," Owens recalls of his SIU degree. "Southern brought the professors to us and gave us great training, and the Air Force paid for my education."



## SOLO FLIGHT WILL HONOR LEGACY OF THOSE BEFORE HIM

To honor the legacy and achievements of the Tuskegee Airmen of World War II, Lee Owens plans to fly a 3/4-scale P-51D Mustang replica around the world. Depending on funding and weather obstacles, the "On the Wings of History" flight will take place sometime in 2005.

"The Tuskegee Airmen are my heroes," Owens says. "This project honors their legacy and helps educate our young people about the accomplishments these aviators made at a time in our history where not many felt they could succeed.

"They did succeed, however, with dignity and grace. I want to get youngsters interested in things other than shooting hoops and rap music, and teaching them about men like the Tuskegee Airmen is a good place to start."

If he succeeds, Owens would be the first African-American pilot to fly around the world solo in a light plane. He plans to fly from Glendale to Moton Field in Tuskegee, Ala., where the Tuskegee Airmen learned to fly. The second leg will be to Republic Airport in Farmingdale, N.Y. From there, Owens wants to follow the same 3,610-mile route across the Atlantic that Charles Lindbergh flew in 1927.

(Whether he will make the crossing nonstop or in two legs is still to be decided.)

In Europe, Owens plans to fly into Sigonella Air Base in Sicily, where the Tuskegee Airmen were based in WWII. In Berlin, he plans to drop roses in memory of the Germans shot down by the Tuskegee Airmen on their first mission, covering U.S. troops landing at Anzio Beach. After a stop in Moscow, he will cross Siberia, re-enter U.S. airspace via Nome, Alaska, then fly home via Seattle and Reno. The 25,000-mile flight qualifies under Federation Aeronautique International rules as an official round-the-world flight.

Titan Aircraft of Austinburg, Ohio, is one of the chief sponsors of "On the Wings of History." Best known for its Tornado ultra lights, Titan also makes the all-metal, two-place, retractable-gear T-51 kit Owens will fly. Titan Aircraft President John Williams built and is modifying Owens' T-51. Owens plans to paint it as one of the red-tailed Mustangs flown by the Tuskegee Airmen.

"Safety is our main concern," adds flight coordinator Marty Fitzpatrick. "Captain Owens and our advisors from the Tuskegee Group are just as determined to make this mis-

sion a success as they were in 1941. The Tuskegee Airmen were successful because they listened to great ground crew staff and technical people. We have one crack at getting this right, and Owens' safety comes first."

Although he realizes the mission is potentially dangerous, Owens says, "I believe in this project so strongly that I'm willing to put my life on the line to do it. I had this dream for 10 years but didn't get it in the planning stages until about three years ago, and now we are about half-way home to our fund-raising goal of the \$350,000 it will cost to make this event a reality."

The flight has been endorsed by dignitaries such as Sen. John McCain, Sen. John Kyl, and Voyager inventor Dick Rutan. To assist Owens with this project or to find out more about the mission, visit his Web site at [leeowensflight2004.org](http://leeowensflight2004.org), or e-mail him at [mfitz@glendaleaviation.com](mailto:mfitz@glendaleaviation.com).

The Lee Owens Foundation is a not-for-profit 501(c) 3 organization, and all donations are tax deductible. You may also mail any donations to the Lee Owens Foundation at 6841 North Glen Harbor Boulevard, Glendale, AZ 85307.





The SIU alumnus is proudly flanked by two Tuskegee Airmen who live in the Phoenix area. Posing with Owens is Lt. Col. Asa Herring, Jr. (left) and Lt. Col. Robert Ashby.

While stationed at George Air Force Base in Victorville, Calif., Owens did his regular job five days a week before immersing himself in SIU classes each weekend. "Getting your degree in that manner is tough – there is *no* free time – but it is also *so* rewarding."

The Saluki earned a degree in Aviation Management in 1984 without ever stepping foot on the SIU campus.

Owens says he was never prouder than when he accepted the diploma with his mother, C'Ellar, looking on.

Although he has since journeyed to see Carbondale in person, he nonetheless has *always* felt great pride as an alumnus.

"I love the University and what is has done for me," the Arizona resident says. "I hear people here in Phoenix boasting about their alma mater, and I can't help

but jump right in. I love to tell them to stop talking about their school for a moment so I can tell them about SIU.

"I tell them: 'Dennis Franz went to *my school*; Walt Frazier played at *my school*; Jim Hart played and was athletic director at *my school*; my school *won* the 1983 NCAA Football Championship; my school *was in* the Sweet 16 in basketball.'"

## ABOUT THE TUSKEGEE AIRMEN ...

On July 19, 1941, an Army Air Force program began in Alabama to train black Americans as military pilots. Primary flight training was conducted by the Division of Aeronautics of Tuskegee Institute, the famed school of learning founded by Booker T. Washington in 1881.

Once a cadet completed primary training at Tuskegee's Moton Field, he was sent to nearby Tuskegee Army Air Field for completion of flight training and for transition to combat

type aircraft. The first classes of Tuskegee airmen were trained to be fighter pilots for the famous 99th Fighter Squadron, slated for combat duty in North Africa. Additional pilots were assigned to the 332d Fighter Group, which flew combat along with the 99th Squadron from bases in Italy.

In 1943, a twin-engine training program at Tuskegee began to provide bomber pilots. However, World War II ended before these men were able to get into combat. By the

end of the war, 992 men had graduated from pilot training at Tuskegee, 450 of whom went overseas as combat pilots in the European Theater of Operations, North Africa and the Mediterranean.

Flying bomber escort and ground attack on 15,533 sorties between May 1943 and June 1945, the Tuskegee Airmen compiled an enviable record: none of the bombers they escorted was lost to enemy fighters; they destroyed 251 enemy aircraft; and won more

than 850 medals. Their record was not without losses, however, with 66 Tuskegee Airmen killed in action.

Additional men were trained at Tuskegee for aircrew and ground crew duties – flight engineers, gunners, and mechanics. Others were sent to Texas and New Mexico for training as navigators and bombardiers.

– *Some of this information taken from USAF Museum History Web site*

And Owens is more than ready to impart some mascot knowledge on the uneducated. "I can tell them very clearly what a Saluki is – and they best not ask me if it is really a greyhound."

### ONWARD AND UPWARD

When Owens left the Air Force in 1991, the military veteran began to forge a career in the civilian aviation field. A fully qualified mission pilot for

the Civil Air Patrol, he has flown search and rescue missions, participated in disaster relief, counter narcotics flights, and several special-operations assignments. He has also served as a charter pilot, flight instructor, and director of flight operations.

Now 54, Owens is the chief pilot for Glendale Aviation in Phoenix, Ariz. His story is something he loves to share with others – especially minorities who might

have the same dreams he did four decades ago.

"I speak to youth groups all the time, and try to leave them with this message: An airplane doesn't care what color you are, whether you are short, a man, or a woman," he explains. "All an airplane cares about is how talented the person is at the controls. It has no prejudices, no bias – if I can do it, so can you!"



## SIU DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS INSPIRED BY OWENS' ATTEMPT AT HISTORY

**B**ill Norwood, an SIU Distinguished Alumnus and retired United Airlines pilot, has great appreciation for Lee Owens' quest to become the first African-American to fly around the world. Norwood, who made history himself by becoming the first African-American pilot at United and also its first black captain, says Owens' exploits inspire well-deserved attention of the Tuskegee Airmen.

"It would be an outstanding feat," Norwood says of Owens' goal. "In addition, his efforts are in commemoration of the Tuskegee Airmen, who did so much but were often forgotten after World War II. People like Lee Owens are keeping this history alive – otherwise these outstanding men and women will be on the back page again."

Norwood has fond feelings for the Tuskegee Airmen. As a youth growing up in Centralia, Ill., he received inspiration from his elementary school principal, who was a Tuskegee Airman.

"People need to realize that the Tuskegee Airmen mentored many aspiring pilots, and many of us wouldn't be pilots if it weren't for them," he says.

"My elementary school principal mentored me, and his enthusiasm actually rubbed off on me. Role models touch our children in a positive way. They provide hope and inspiration not only in aviation, but all fields. Through the efforts of people like Lee Owens, we keep the history of our Tuskegee Airmen

alive, and continue to influence our young people."

Like Owens, Norwood also keeps this spirit alive by creating opportunities for aspiring pilots. His family has established scholarships for SIU students, and he mentors young pilots through various camps and programs.

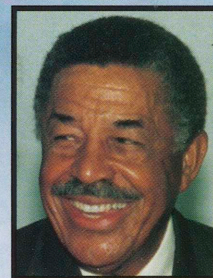
One such camp is the Southern Illinois Wings of Charity Aviation Flight Academy, which has been in existence for two years. Norwood joins fellow SIU alums and aviation professionals in passing their knowledge on to those who wish to follow in their footsteps.

Eric Kidd, a senior at Carbondale High School, who completed a solo flight during the camp this year, says Norwood has been a positive influence.

"He has a wealth of great information and his knowledge rubs off on you. It's helpful because everything he says comes from experience," Kidd says. "Mr. Norwood is a great person to look up to."

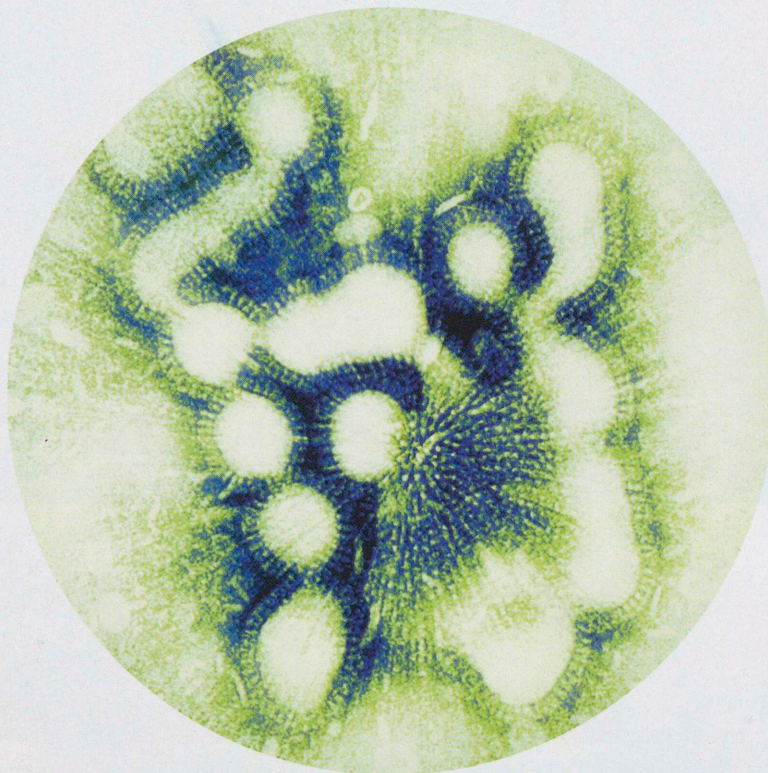
The experience is equally gratifying for Norwood.

"It demonstrates to our youth what can be accomplished through dedication and hard work. Our campers learn how to apply things they learn in school to a profession they have interest in," he says. "It is truly rewarding to work with them."



Bill Norwood also is trying to inspire future pilots.

– Greg Scott



# STALKING A KILLER

Prostate cancer is second only to lung cancer as the most common killer of American men who die of any type of cancer. At Southern, scientists have joined forces in fundamental studies to prepare and characterize families of chemicals they have already identified as being promising for treating prostate disease.

by Greg Scott

The information is distressing to say the least. According to the American Cancer Society, almost 200,000 men in the United States were diagnosed last year with prostate cancer and 40,000 of those may now be dead from the disease.

If that isn't frightening enough, the Prostate Cancer Foundation estimates that one in six men will be diagnosed with the disease at some point in their lives. Other reports state that as much as 25 percent of the male population will develop the disease.

"Unlike other types of cancer, prostate cancer is independent of dramatic lifestyle choice. With lung cancer, you can choose to smoke or not smoke," says Stuart Adler, a molecular biologist at SIU who also treats patients at VA Medical Center in nearby Marion. "But in regard to prostate cancer, you're not afforded such an easy opportunity to alter your risk."

The prostate, a gland of the male reproductive system, is estimated to weigh only about an ounce and is nearly the same

size and shape as a walnut. But if a tumor develops, cancer can spread from the prostate to the surrounding areas, including nearby lymph nodes, bones, or other organs.

Cal Meyers, SIU professor emeritus of chemistry and director of the Meyers Institute for Interdisciplinary Research in Organic and Medicinal Chemistry, is all too familiar with the data. While quoting the National Prostate Cancer Institute of Washington, Meyers, a prostate cancer survivor himself, points out that more men die of prostate cancer than any cancer other than lung cancer.

Adler and Meyers are part of a team of organic chemists and physiologists from SIU's departments of chemistry, physiology, animal science, and food and nutrition, who have patented a nonsteroidal, estrogen-like compound called bisdehydrodoisynolic acid, herein referred to as BDDA. The SIU contingent feels this compound can potentially treat, inhibit, or delay the onset

of prostatic conditions such as prostatitis, benign prostatic hypertrophy (BPH), and prostate cancer without accompanying feminizing effects.

Prostatitis is defined as inflammation of the prostate gland. BPH is a condition related to the enlargement of the prostate, which frequently occurs in men over the age of 50. Enlargement can lead to difficulty in urinating.

The most serious condition, of course, is prostate cancer, which develops when a group of cancerous cells, basically a malignant tumor, forms, most often, in the outer part of the prostate. But SIU's researchers may have devised a solution that not only remedies these conditions, but also staves off unwanted side effects.

"There are some anti-prostate cancer drugs on the market currently, but they cause feminizing effects in men. These drugs shrink the testes and render men impotent," Meyers says. "But BDDA is largely non-feminizing."

The research team is focusing on the effect of estrogen-like compounds in contributing to or treating cancer. Estrogen is the catch-all phrase for any chemical compound that acts like the female hormone estradiol. Women need estradiol, an estrogen produced in the human body, to grow, develop and have children. Men convert testosterone, the male hormone, to estradiol to do some of the same things, such as build bone tissue.

"The interesting fact is that various compounds can have some or all of the effects as estradiol ... but not others," Adler says. "These effects are impossible to predict with any certainty unless you test it in a particular tissue or organ." To demonstrate this point, he points to tamoxifen, a commonly prescribed drug to treat breast cancer.

Tamoxifen, an anti-estrogen, works by competing with the hormone estrogen to bind to estrogen receptors in breast cancer cells. The drug blocks estrogen in the breast, helping slow the growth and reproduction of breast cancer cells. In 1998, tamoxifen became the first drug to be approved by the U.S.



Todd Winters, a faculty member in SIU's department of animal science food and nutrition, conducted studies finding that the BDDA compound shrinks the prostate.

Food and Drug Administration to prevent breast cancer after research showed it reduced the chances of developing breast cancer by 50 percent in women at high risk for the disease.

But in various tissues, Adler says, tamoxifen can either block the effects of



William Banz assisted in writing a funded grant that resulted in SIU's researchers testing BDDA on animals.

estradiol, or act as a mimic of estradiol. "Tamoxifen is used as an anti-breast cancer drug because it blocks the effects of estradiol on breast cancer and growth. At the same time, it is a potent estradiol mimic on bone growth and preserving density," he says. "It also stimulates uterine growth, which is an unwanted side effect if you are treating breast cancer."

In regard to research compounds to treat prostatic conditions, SIU researchers discovered BDDA almost

accidentally. Meyers initiated work with a cleaning agent known as carbon tetrachloride and conducted research on electron transfer during fundamental chemical-reaction studies. This basic research led to the creation of BDDA.

"We had the compound tested and found that it was very estrogenic," he says. BDDA exists in two forms: the plus (+) and minus (-). Scientists have discovered that these compounds exhibit mixed qualities. Therefore, their goal is to find the right combination of these properties, hence enhancing the potential for therapy to prevent and treat diseases.

Adler says the ability to split helpful qualities of estradiol from unwanted properties of the compound presents new possibilities in the world of science. "Some of these compounds look like estradiol, while others block it. For instance, you wouldn't want estradiol for men because it has feminizing effects," he says. "Our (-) is generally more estradiol-like than the (+) in our research. They split activities differently.

"The ability of these various compounds to have a different spectrum of activities in organs provides the possibility of having numerous treatments. This study was an outgrowth of taking this very unusual compound with unusual properties that we could see in tissue

culture and expanding it to test animals such as male and female rats.”

Upon realization that these compounds could have diverse effects, Adler, Meyers, fellow SIU chemist Yuqing Hou, and biochemist Walter Dandliker of California, began collaborating with physiologists in the University’s department of animal science. They asked Bill Banz, a nutritional physiologist on campus, reproductive physiologist Todd Winters, and veterinarian Nancy Henry to conduct the animal testing.

Meyers, Banz and Winters wrote a grant to test BDDA in animals and received funding. While most estrogens promote weight gain, Meyers discovered that BDDA led to weight loss in female mice. But upon conducting further tests, the scientists made another interesting discovery.

“These compounds were discovered to shrink the prostate,” Winters says. “So we did additional studies with Nancy Henry



From left, Yuqing Hou, Stuart Adler, and Cal Meyers are three of the masterminds behind the BDDA compound.

to further test these compounds in animal models and human cancer cell lines.”

Meyers says there was a difference in the compounds.

“Yuqing did the chemistry in separating these compounds so we could test them individually,” he says. “He basically separated the plus and minus, which are mirror images of each other. However, one is better for treating prostate conditions.”

The SIU contingent says both forms of the compound shrink prostate tissue and prevent growth in healthy animals, however, the (+) version completed the task with minimal feminizing effects. This led to the group patenting the invention of (+) BDDA as a potential treatment for prostatic conditions or diseases. Henry’s subsequent work found that (+) BDDA also deters growth of human prostate cells in cell culture.

“Cal and I have a mutual interest in estrogenic compounds. This BDDA represented an interesting model compound for our initial studies,” Adler says. “BDDA had great peculiar properties of being a very potent-acting estrogen in animals. But when it was examined in binding studies, it didn’t bind the receptor with high affinity as one might predict from its biological activity. That was the jumping off point for many of our studies. We’re in the process of expanding these initial findings to further animal studies.”

BDDA led to the scientific process of splitting the effects of estradiol and extending treatment to men that was once deemed impossible. While the (+) and (–) are deemed mirror images, the

former version of BDDA isn’t really estrogenic in regard to its activity.

Adler likens the (+) and (–) relationship to the right and left hand. “If you shake hands with someone and use the wrong hand, it doesn’t work. However, if you try to put on a mitten, it will fit either the right or the left hand equally well,” he says. “There are certain things that either hand can do. But if you shake hands, the wrong hand just doesn’t work. These compounds are exploiting that fact because a lot of body chemicals are also *handed* in this matter.”

Meyers says BDDA could become what pharmaceutical companies call a “lead compound” that would lead to making additional “designer” estrogens. He is working with a doctoral student, Songwen Xie, who has developed small compounds comparable to BDDA described by Meyers as “little babies that are very active.”

The SIU group also believes BDDA could be an asset to treating or curing multiple diseases.

“We have a lot of other claims and uses for this pending with the patent examiner. Treatment for prostatic diseases was the first to come up,” says Winters. “We’re also finding that this compound has beneficial effects for treating other conditions and diseases. But the patent examiner only wants to select one patent at a time.”

Meyers already has a patent for weight loss and treatment of obesity derived from the studies completed by the SIU research team. However, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration require human clinical testing to be performed before drugs go on the market. SIU’s research team has initiated communication and some collaboration with major and private pharmaceutical to seek funding for such testing.

“Getting a company on board to spend that kind of money is hard,” Meyers admits. “You often start with a smaller company and a larger company buys it if your data looks good. This is a practical application that can save lives.

“But it won’t save lives if we keep it here – it has to get out one way or the other.” 🏠

## SIU'S RESEARCH TEAM

**Cal Meyers, Ph.D.** –SIU Professor Emeritus of Chemistry and Director of The Meyers Institute for Interdisciplinary Research in Organic and Medicinal Chemistry

**Yuqing Hou, Ph.D.** –Associate Director of the Meyers Institute for Interdisciplinary Research in Organic and Medicinal Chemistry

**Stuart Adler, M.D. – Ph.D.** –Associate Professor of Physiology and of Internal Medicine/Endocrinology

**Todd Winters, Ph.D.** –Associate Professor of Animal Science Food and Nutrition and of Physiology

**William Banz, Ph.D., R.D.** –Associate Professor of Animal Science Food and Nutrition and of Physiology

**Nancy Henry, D.V.M.** –Research Assistant - Animal Science Food and Nutrition

**Walter Dandliker, Ph.D.** –La Jolla, CA

**Songwen Xie, BS** –Graduate student – Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry

## Ground Broken On New Student Health Facility

A new Student Health Programs facility at Southern Illinois University Carbondale will offer students a continuum of care under one roof. SIU officials and student leaders broke ground in July for the 57,000-square-foot building. The event was ceremonial, as construction had begun a month earlier. But the ceremony offered campus leaders the opportunity to emphasize the role of students in pushing for the new facility and willingness to pay for it.

Student health fees will pay off the bulk of the \$9.6 million in bonds issued for the facility, going up adjacent to the Student Recreation Center on the campus' east side. For the past 39 years, Student Health Programs has been housed in two buildings on Greek Row on the far west side of campus.

The new facility will house the medical clinic, pharmacy, Wellness Center, student emergency dental service, Counseling Center, insurance office, immunizations, laboratory, radiology, mental health clinic, sports medicine, Women's Services, and physical therapy from the clinical center, which currently is a component of the College of Applied Sciences and Arts. It also will

house a 120-seat auditorium as well as conference rooms.

Chancellor Walter Wendler says the new building, which will open in fall 2005, will serve as yet another example of Southern's commitment to meeting all the needs of students.

"One of the goals of 'Southern at 150: Building Excellence Through Commitment' is to expand the services offered to meet our students' health-care needs," Wendler notes.

Larry Dietz, vice chancellor for student affairs and enrollment management, emphasizes that the new facility is not an addition to the Student Recreation Center.

"It is planned to be attached to the existing facility, but the symbolism of this is that we really now are able to merge three departments in a continuum of health care," he says. "At one end, we have fun and recreation, which relates to wellness and fitness. This new facility will allow for the physical health needs of our students to be taken care of, and through the Counseling Center, students' behavioral needs can be addressed. There currently are too many opportunities to get lost in the process. Here it will be not only more convenient, but more effective."

### Brick Campaign To Help Project

Student Health Programs is also conducting an engraved brick campaign to help complete the building project. Bricks will be placed in a walkway at the entrance to the building. This is a way to honor a graduate, remember a loved one, or celebrate a time in your life when SIU became part of your personal history.

Engraved brick order forms are available at the Student Health Programs website [www.siu.edu/~shp](http://www.siu.edu/~shp) or by calling 618-453-4485. Brick costs are \$100 for a 4 X 8 and \$200 for an 8 X 8; mini replica bricks may be purchased with your brick order for an additional \$25.

Cheryl Presley, director of Student Health Programs, foresees the new facility serving as a model for other universities.

"It is combining many departments that, typically, are not combined on a large campus," she says. "This is a rare opportunity for us to put all of those aspects of health care under one roof, and it is both environmentally sound and people-friendly."

The 101 full-time Student Health employees are anxiously awaiting completion of their new facility—so much so, in fact, that they have contributed \$25,000 of their own money toward the project.



Campus and community leaders participate in a ceremonial groundbreaking at the site of SIU's new Student Health Programs facility. The 57,000-square-foot building is under construction adjacent to the Student Recreation Center and will open in fall 2005.

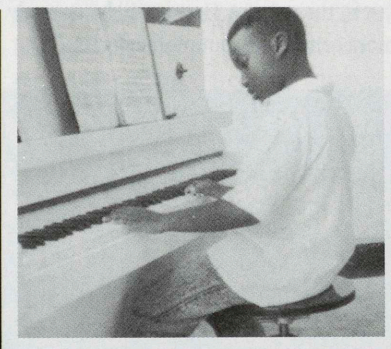


# Piano Prodigy Finds A Home At Southern

by Peg Kowalczyk

**A** child of Togo, West Africa, Kheli Fiadjoe played Beethoven's First Piano Concerto by the age of 9, won a scholarship to the Brevard Music Festival by age 12, and garnered attention from the New York Times and CNN by age 15.

Recruited by top U.S. music conservatories, Fiadjoe instead found greater support in rural Illinois when residents, including the late U.S. Sen. Paul Simon, rallied to bring him to Southern Illinois University.



Young Kheli Fiadjo, practicing on a 15 year-old piano in his West Africa home.

Now, music lovers and SIU officials are rubbing nickels together to keep the 18-year-old piano prodigy in southern Illinois.

Heidi Louise Williams, an assistant professor of music at SIU, learned about the young African who was being wooed by the Peabody Conservatory of Music at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore. Peabody offered Fiadjoe its highest award, a 50 percent scholarship for his first year of undergraduate study, says Williams. But with a \$35,000-plus annual price tag, funding the balance was simply too expensive for Fiadjoe.



SIU School of Music professors Heidi Williams and Wilfred Delphin joined forces to bring Kheli Fiadjo to Southern. Since then he has performed with the Southern Illinois Symphony Orchestra and is scheduled to play with the Cedarhurst Chamber Music Concert Series in Mount Vernon, Ill., this fall.

“Plan B was to secure funding to bring Kheli to SIU,” says Williams, who, along with piano professor Wilfred Delphin, was on a mission.

Williams and Delphin had six weeks to document \$18,000 in first-year funding to satisfy U.S. consular officials in Togo – proof that a student from a Third World country has the financial resources for study. School of Music faculty, six local benefactors and a Carbondale host-family pledged one year of financial support for Fiadjo to receive a student visa three weeks before school began last September.

A family from a local church offered the teenager free room and board for the academic year. And Fiadjo himself works

15 hours a week at a campus job, in addition to his full-time course load and many hours of weekly piano practice.

Born in Lomé, Togo, Fiadjo began playing at age 5 on a piano intended for his older sister, Akofa. Although his parents are physicians – his father, Moses, is a gynecologist; his mother, Jemima, a pediatrician – it took three years to save for the instrument.

“I’m used to bad pianos,” Fiadjo says, referring to the 15-year-old family Yamaha, which took a beating in the relentless West African humidity. With a piano tuner five hours away in Ghana and replacement strings in Europe, Fiadjo adjusted to playing with stuck keys and broken wires.

A country of contrasts, where native tribes and customs exist alongside wealthy European expatriates and Western influences, Togo has been in a cycle of repression and decline under the 37-year-long military dictatorship of General Gnassingbe Eyadema.

In a country where 32 percent of the people live below the poverty level and the gross domestic product per capita is \$1,400 compared with the United States’ \$36,300, owning a piano is a luxury. In fact, in all of Togo there might be 10 grand pianos. Funding a U.S. college education is cost-prohibitive, even for the employed and highly educated Fiadjoes.

“The income of a doctor in Togo simply can’t be compared to physicians’ earn-



ings in the United States,” says Jared Dorn, director of international programs and services at Southern. With an exchange rate of about 700 to 1, the Togolese franc doesn’t go far in this country.

But Fiadjoe’s talent has opened doors. He first came to the United States on a summer scholarship at the Brevard Music Festival in North Carolina. Most of the students were older, but 12-year-old Fiadjoe circumvented the age issue. “I just told them I was 14,” he says with a grin. Competing against college students, young Fiadjoe reached the finals of the prestigious U.S. piano competition the following summer.

Fiadjoe’s success at Brevard put him on the competition circuit and won him a Rotary International scholarship to study at a high school for gifted teenagers – the South Carolina Governor’s School for the Arts and Humanities. There, Fiadjoe, whose native languages are French and Mina, fine-tuned his English, a language he learned at age 7 when his family fled to neighboring Ghana during a Togolese civil war.

At SIU Fiadjoe is getting a liberal arts education, but Williams, a three-degree Peabody alum, says she is holding Fiadjoe to conservatory-level standards and offering him a lineage that can be traced to Beethoven. “We are passing on a great history, a great tradition of conservatory training,” she says of her protégé’s future educational pedigree.

“I studied under Ann Schein, who studied under Mieczyslaw Munz, who studied under Ferruccio Busoni, who studied under Franz Liszt, who studied under Carl Czerny, who studied under Ludwig van Beethoven.”

SIU’s first African piano student has chalked up first prize awards in prestigious young artists’ competitions from South Carolina to the Ivory Coast. Fiadjoe recently shared Top Prize in the 2003 Southern Illinois University Carbondale School of Music Concerto Competition and performed with the Southern Illinois Symphony Orchestra in March.



After completing his music training in the U.S., Fiadjoe wants to share his talent with children in his West Africa home and “open kids to the world through music.”

Fiadjoe performed in Germany this summer and will play at the Cedarhurst Chamber Music Concert Series in Mount Vernon in the fall. When asked about his star status, Fiadjoe says, “I’m told that, compared with the other students, I play as if things were easy.”

“Kheli is obviously gifted – and humble,” says Laurie Bell, assistant director of major scholarships for the University Honors Program at Southern. “And he has a yearning to share his gift with others.”

As Delphin says, “In Carbondale we are somewhat isolated, but Kheli contributes to an international diversity that helps expand the world view of all our students. The more he plays, the more he progresses, the more he will take his –

and SIU’s – good name into the local, regional and international community.”

Fiadjoe is likely the best pianist in Togo. From a country void of a sheet music, let alone a symphony orchestra, the teenager’s journey has been extraordinary.

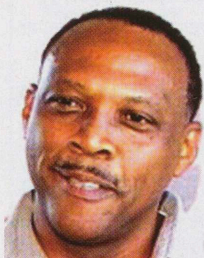
After graduation, Fiadjoe intends to perform, but he also dreams of challenging an entrenched dictatorship by incorporating the arts into Togo’s education system. “I want to give back, to open kids to the world through music.”

*Peg Kowalczyk is a Carbondale-based writer. This feature initially appeared in the April 2004 edition of Illinois Issues magazine. It is reprinted with permission from Illinois Issues.*

# Joe C. Meriweather Enjoying Role As Coach

by Les Winkeler

**H**is credentials were impeccable. Joe C. Meriweather scored 1,536 points at Southern Illinois University – sixth all-time at SIU. He averaged an even 20 points-per-game in his three-year career at Southern and grabbed 1,005 rebounds – third-best in school history. (In addition, the 387 rebounds he garnered as a junior in 1973-74 still stand as the program's single-season record.)



After graduating from SIU, the 6'10" Meriweather embarked on a 10-year National Basketball Association career, playing for Houston, Atlanta, New Orleans, New York and Kansas City. Although his NBA playing days ended following the 1984-85 season, the former Saluki center continued to play two more years in Europe before retiring as a player.

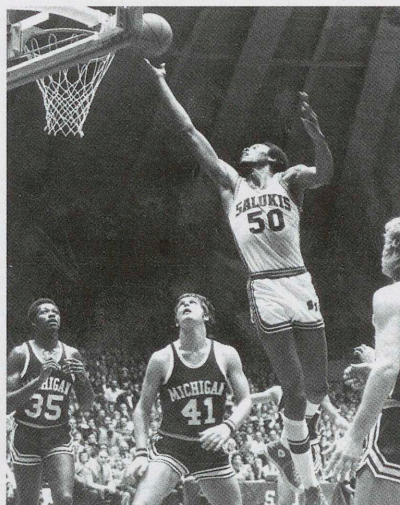
"I think I was ready for it," Meriweather says of retirement. "A lot of people don't realize the wear and tear you put on your body playing 100-plus games a year. The mental stress and strain that you go through – the travel and the other things – people don't look at that. And they don't look at the overall picture, as being away from your family wears on you."

Now the women's basketball coach at Park University, an NAIA school in Kansas City, Mo., Meriweather has been coaching since his playing days ended. The Pirates are 66-135 in his tenure, but were 20-5 last season.

With a business degree and master's in public management, Meriweather didn't really plan on coaching as a career. "It

just kind of happened," he explains, "and I'm teaching and enjoying that part of it."

After retiring as a player, Meriweather coached at Bishop Hogan High School in Kansas City, moved to Penn Valley Community College in Kansas City, and coached the Kansas City Mustangs in the Women's Basketball Association before finding a home at Park University in 1997.



Meriweather is shown with his patented finger roll shot. The center went from Southern to a 10-year career in the NBA.

"I take what I do seriously, but I enjoy it," he says. "It doesn't seem like a job to me. Everything you do, you have your ups and downs, but the good days far outweigh the bad days, and the biggest joy is when the players walk across the stage and graduate – I'm like a proud parent."

Although he has coached boys and girls at various levels, Meriweather is happy at Park College. "I enjoy the college level where I can teach, nurture and watch them grow. Seeing a girl come in as a freshman and grow is really rewarding for me."

And, although his playing career had plenty of bright spots, Meriweather doesn't care to dwell on the past.

"I thought it was pretty good," he says of his career. "I was blessed. But I really don't think about it. That's a phase of my life that I enjoyed, and now I'm doing something I enjoy, which is coaching."

He can also enjoy watching his son, Jonathan, continue the Meriweather hoops tradition. He recently received a scholarship to play basketball at Morgan State in Baltimore, a program coached by Butch Beard, an assistant when Meriweather played for the New York Knicks.

"His game is much better than mine," the elder Meriweather notes. "He's 6'7", can play the 1, 2 or 3 position, and can dribble. I'm not saying that because he's my son, but he *can play*. I'm also proud of his grades, as he is a good student, too."

And even though Meriweather's own playing days are behind him, that's not to say the former SIU star has forgotten his Saluki roots.

"I try to follow the Salukis, too," he notes. "Everybody knows I'm from SIU, and that's something I'm proud of." However, he doesn't pass the hours replaying battles with Michigan, Missouri or Creighton.

"I think of it as a good time in my life that I enjoyed," Meriweather says. "I think it's more the people I met at SIU than the games; when I arrived at SIU they embraced me as part of the community. Men like Seymour Bryson and Harold Bardo took me under their wings and taught me to become a young man."

"I think that's what I try to do with the young ladies I coach right now. I teach them life skills that were taught to us at SIU. *That* carries you a lot farther than basketball." ■

*Les Winkeler is a sports writer for the Southern Illinoian and a 1976 graduate of Southern Illinois University.*

# Salukis Prepare To Defend Gateway Conference Title

A year ago the Saluki Football backfield was nicknamed “Thunder & Lightning” a tribute to two of the best running backs in school history. The punishing duo of *Tom Koutsos* and *Muhammad Abdulqaadir* combined for more than 7,000 career rushing yards and led the team to the 2003 Gateway Championship, an NCAA playoff slot, and a 10-2 overall record.

The graduation of Koutsos and Abdulqaadir *should* mean Gateway Conference opponents can rest easier—right? That is not expected to be the case, as head coach *Jerry Kill* and his staff have assembled a quartet of tailbacks that may develop into the “Perfect Storm” in 2004.

Even with 54 returning lettermen and a host of talented newcomers, Kill knows that defending the league crown will not be easy. “When you win it, everyone is gunning for you,” he says. “This team can’t take any game for granted, as we sure as heck aren’t sneaking up on anyone.”

After four non-league games in September, the Dawgs open the 2004 Gateway slate by hosting Northern Iowa in a Oct. 2 Homecoming contest. (For the rest of the football schedule, see Calendar Of Events, page 45).

## Offense Features New Weapons, Old Standbys

Two of the newcomers—seniors *Brandon Jacobs* and *Terry Jackson*—are well known to college football fans, as well as National Football League scouts. They are also a rea-

son why at least one preseason publication tabbed SIU as the #1 team in I-AA football, while two other polls have the Dawgs second in the nation.

Jacobs transferred from Auburn, where he was stuck behind the nation’s premier tailback, *Carnell “Cadillac” Williams*. Not that the chiseled, 6-4, 260-pound Jacobs didn’t produce for the Tigers when he got the chance. In 2003, he averaged a team-high 6.2 yards per carry and racked up 182 yards against Mississippi State.

Jackson, a Minnesota transfer, tore up the Big Ten for 1,317 yards in 2002, then was relegated to part-time duty in 2003, carrying the ball just 55 times. Both players are still considered prime prospects for the 2005 NFL Draft and hunger for a chance to earn more carries.

The other two tailbacks—*Arkee Whitlock* and *Antione Jackson*—are also keys to team’s chances at defending its league title. Whitlock, a sophomore, comes from the same lineage as Abdulqaadir and Jacobs, who were both star tailbacks at Coffeyville Community

College before making their mark at four-year schools.

Whitlock rushed for 1,383 yards, 17 TDs and a 6.1 yard average last season at CCC. He turned heads in spring practice with his lightning-like quickness, drawing comparisons to Abdulqaadir. Jackson, a junior, was one of the first players Kill recruited when he arrived at SIU in 2000. Although injuries have slowed his progress, he is still a talent the Saluki coach is excited to see walk onto the field

With four elite tailbacks and one football, can Kill keep everyone happy? He is quick to note that there were no complaints a year ago when SIU recorded a school-record 618 rushing attempts. With Southern’s style of run first and ask questions later, Saluki Football is trying to earn the moniker of Tailback U.

The hybrid “superback” position, manned last year by *Brandon Robinson*, calls for running, blocking and receiving skills. *Matt Weishaar*, a rugged blocker who also showed receiving skills, will get a chance there as well as Whitlock.

While the running game is clearly the emphasis on offense, the Salukis do have a proven weapon in junior quarterback *Joel Sambursky* to turn to when defenses stack the line of scrimmage. The fiery leader is the glue that holds the offense together. In two seasons, he has already moved up to eighth in career passing at SIU with nearly 3,000 yards. Sambursky is also a dangerous runner who has racked up 850 yards on the ground in his career.



photo by Dean Baker

Brandon Jacobs gives the Salukis a new look in the backfield.

## Salukis In Preseason Polls

### Gateway Conference

Team (1st place votes) Points

1. Southern Illinois (25) 244
2. Northern Iowa (6) 212
3. Western Kentucky (1) 186
4. Western Illinois 174
5. Illinois State 110
6. Youngstown State 102
7. Southwest Missouri State 81
8. Indiana State 43

### Sport Network

1. Delaware (57) 1,753
2. Southern Illinois (7) 1,569
3. Montana (3) 1,500
4. Wofford (1) 1,406
5. Colgate 1,323

### ESPN/USA Today

1. Delaware (26) 863
2. Southern Illinois (6) 791
3. Montana 702
4. Wofford (1) 685
5. Colgate 664

### Athlon Sports

Southern began the season ranked first in the nation in I-AA in the Athlon Sports poll. This was announced in the June issue of the college sports magazine the company publishes.

The Salukis also have a budding star at wide receiver in *Brent Little*. The junior is a big-play threat who averages nearly 18 yards-per-catch in his career and was on the receiving end of nearly half of Sambursky's touchdown passes in 2003. Veterans *Micah Turner* and *Chris Kupec* give the squad some weapons at tight end.

The veteran offensive line features four seniors and one sophomore slated for the starting lineup, anchored by All-American center *Elmer McDaniel* and *Matt Miller*, who moves to right tackle in 2004. *Brian Akins* (tackle) and *Justin Rich* (guard) also have plenty of game action to bring to the lineup.

## Ten Starters Return On Defense

On defense, the Salukis return 10 starters from a unit that ranked 18th in the nation in yards allowed last year. To

say they are loaded up front would be an understatement. Kill says the team "really has eight starters" on the defensive line, with defensive end *Billy Beard* tied for the team lead in sacks last year, equalling the total of reserve end *James Fields*.

The interior of the line features powerful run stuffers, including 6-foot, 310-pound fireplug *Linton Brown*, while linebacker *Royal Whitaker* has become one of the top tacklers in the Gateway Conference. *Lionel Williams* and *Jeff Jones* are veterans at the tackle slots.

But it is the secondary where SIU has made the most dramatic improvement the last two years. Once considered a weak link, the unit is headlined by two-time All-American free safety *Alexis Moreland*. He ranks among the school's career leaders in tackles and is the heart and soul of the

defense. *Stanley Bryant* provides depth at free safety. Two outside safeties, *Frank Johnson* and *Jamarquis Jordan*, made a huge impact in 2003 and brought a physical presence that the secondary lacked in previous years. Depth is plentiful at the position with *Patrick Jordan*, *Paul Wright*, *Cortez McBerry* and *James Smith* ready to contribute when needed.

A problem spot two years ago, the cornerback position could be a strength this season. *Yemi Akisanya* returns with his physical play, and the staff has high hopes for *Brandon Bruner*, who starred at Northeast Oklahoma A&M last year and was recruited by a host of I-A schools. *Brad Brachear* is also in the mix, a nickel-back type with experience on both sides of the ball.

*continued on next page*

## SIU Student Catches Historic HR Ball



Cincinnati Reds star outfielder Ken Griffey Jr., is shown shaking hands with Mark Crummley (right), a Mt. Carmel, Ill., native and incoming SIU student. The Wabash Valley Junior College transfer student was the fan who caught Griffey's historic 500th career homerun ball on June 20 at Busch Stadium. The Reds' outfielder gave the new Saluki the jersey off his back, a signed bat, and other items in exchange for the baseball. Later the star outfielder showered Crummley with four expense-paid trips to Houston for the All-Star Game. "I didn't expect anything, especially like this," the SIU student says. "He took care of everything and is a great guy." Crummley, who works in a care and rehabilitation center in Mt. Carmel and plans to study in the physician assistant program at Southern, says keeping the cherished baseball never was a real option. "It didn't seem right to sit there and plea bargain over the baseball," Crummley recalls. "It meant a lot more to him than me." (AP Photo/Tom Gannam)

## Sports Charity Raises Research Funds

# SIU Alumnus Uses 'Voices' To Speak On Kids' Behalf

By Benjamin Hochman  
New Orleans Times-Picayune Staff writer

The "Voice of Tulane" was restless. Though Sean Kelley had recently landed his dream job as Tulane University's sports broadcaster, something still gnawed at him. He wanted to do more. He didn't exactly know what, but he wanted – he needed – to do more. So on a sleepless night, he and his wife, Kim, brainstormed.

"We decided that we wanted to be able to give back and be involved with something," says the St. Louis native and 1997 graduate of Southern Illinois University. The father of two "wanted to do something that would benefit kids."

A year later came the birth of "Tulane Voices for Kids." The program raises money for pediatric medical research. Supporters pledge any amount of money, which is multiplied by the total number of Tulane wins in football, baseball and men's and women's basketball. So if someone pledges a dollar, and Tulane wins 90 games this school year, \$90 goes to the charity. His goal was to raise \$4,000 the first year. (**Editor's Note** – Kelley



Sean Kelley

recently told Southern Alumni that he broadcast 67 wins this past year, bringing the total of pledges and one-time donations to \$4,195).

"Tulane's fan base may be smaller than some, but this is a loyal and generous group of people, and they've been generous to help us get this off the ground," Kelley notes. "To say I'm proud of it is kind of an understatement"

"This is just wonderful, and it is unique," says Dr. John Lewy, chairman

of the department of pediatrics at Tulane Hospital. "I've never heard of anyone else doing anything like this anywhere in the country. We hope it will be extremely successful."

Kelley has been like a stump speaker, shouting out the positives of his charitable campaign to anyone who will give him an ear. Sure, it's still in the grass-roots phase. He'd love to have corporate sponsorship. But mostly Kelley wants to make a difference in the Tulane and New Orleans community – not just with his play-by-play.

"It's not unusual for sports teams to come visit our Tulane Hospital for Children to help cheer up the kids, but to actually use the sports program to raise money to help children is wonderful," Lewy says.

"The way I would describe it is the present helping the future. Sports is the present, young people in the prime of life demonstrating their athletic prowess. At the same time, they're concerned enough and care enough that they want to help the future of children."

To learn more about this program or to contribute, contact Kelley at [skelley@ispsports.com](mailto:skelley@ispsports.com).

### FOOTBALL - continued from previous page

As far as the specialists are concerned, a year of seasoning should help the young and talented group. *Craig Coffin* had a solid season as a redshirt freshman a year ago. He made 10-of-15 field goals, including 4-of-7 from beyond 40 yards. *Zach Kettelkamp* performed remarkably well for a true freshman at punter last year, averaging nearly 40 yards per punt. *Kent DeVinney* returns at longsnapper.

Kill, who was Gateway Conference Coach of the Year in 2003, and runner-up as 1-AA National Coach of the Year, knows his team is ahead of schedule when it comes to his rebuilding plan. But now that the Salukis have tasted winning again, he wants to keep them headed in the right direction.

Although going from 1-10 his first season to 10-2 just two years later is a

remarkable achievement, Kill refuses to get caught up in any personal accolades. While appreciative of the awards and publicity, he is always quick to add—with his patented chuckle—that what he has accomplished at Southern is "not too bad for a short, fat, bald guy."

Gateway opponents are not likely to share that laugh anytime soon.

# Daily Egyptian Editor Thanks Southern For 'One More Chance'

by Burke Wasson '04  
Outgoing editor-in-chief, Daily Egyptian

**T**hank you, SIU!

"One more chance," he muttered under his breath while his fingers fidgeted with the pen clamped under his teeth. After a one-semester suspension from SIU, the nervous young man sat in a red padded chair bolted to the floor of a classroom in the bowels of Faner Hall. While his friends were spending their June mornings sleeping off the travails of the night before, he had driven 45 miles to Carbondale to begin life as an SIU student – for the third time.

At the age of 22, when many college students are grabbing their degrees and using them to search for careers, he had spent most of the past few years avoiding school and working the only jobs a high school dropout could get. He simply didn't care – and it showed. It's easy to pack on an extra 40 or 50 pounds when you roll out of bed around 3 p.m. each day and indulge on everything and everyone in sight until going back to sleep at dawn the next day. The phrase "vicious cycle" had never been more true.

But after nearly being swallowed by the cycle, he was now trying to do the right thing – for once – and make something of himself. Of course, his friends and family had their doubts.

Was he setting himself up for failure yet again? Was he really serious about getting his act together? Would he disappoint the ones who loved him one more time and shatter any trust they had in him? Was he destined to be an embarrassment? Or would he finally begin to live up to his potential? These questions and many more danced around his head that morning and for much of the summer. But then a funny thing happened. He actually started to like school.

Sitting through classes and writing papers was much better than asking someone, "Would you like to supersize that?" If he hadn't gone back to school, it would've been years more of jobs like that and a life full of regret. He bulked up his class load in the fall and decided to move to Carbondale. During this time, he took a class that he could not only



Burke Wasson, former Daily Egyptian editor

stay awake through, but also enjoy: journalism. What's this? The guy who was once not even interested in being awake during daylight hours was actually motivated by a class? Largely because of his performance in this class, and because of the fact that it was taught by the *Daily Egyptian's* general manager, he was hired as a reporter for the paper the following spring. Along the way, he moved up the ranks at the newspaper, wrote some stories that got people talking, and kept his grades steady, even made the Dean's List twice. More than that, he met friends of all ages—some he'll keep for the rest of his life.

Whoever thought a guy who once doubted if he could ever go back to school would actually graduate from SIU this summer and serve as editor-in-chief of the *Daily Egyptian* for a semester? Well, I made it happen. And if an idiot like me can go from the unemployed list to the Dean's List, anyone can do it.

For all of the disillusioned students out there, I'm proof that no matter how bad things get, you can always dig yourself out of that hole. I'm not trying to brag about what I've done because I'm not proud of a lot of it. But if you're out

of school now for whatever reason and you are doubting if you can do it, just look at me. I've had stress in my job and in class – but wouldn't you rather be worried about what the city council might think about an editorial than worried about whether someone gets a burger with no onions on it?

My point is this: Going to college places you in situations where things matter and where you can make a change. SIU was the *perfect* place for me to do that, and when I received my diploma, I could honestly say this school made me a better person and opened up a world of opportunity I would have never had if I'd settled for mediocrity. Without SIU, I would have probably stayed in my hometown of Harrisburg and moved from one aimless job to another. I would have been around the same people for years and never really opened myself up to a world outside of Saline County.

I would have been so comfortable with the same lullaby routine that I'd be trapped there forever. It was these fears that brought me to SIU, *and* it was SIU that erased them. I can look back at my life *since* the summer of 2002 and honestly say I've spent it wisely, which is something I can't say for the two years prior to my return to Southern. I know I took some serious missteps along the way, but I guess everything happens for a reason.

I wouldn't have the friends and the future I do now if I hadn't been lost for so long. But if you are lost, too, you can find your way again. I did it, and I'm a better person for it. Now I can move on with the rest of my life and be confident knowing that my college days are behind me.

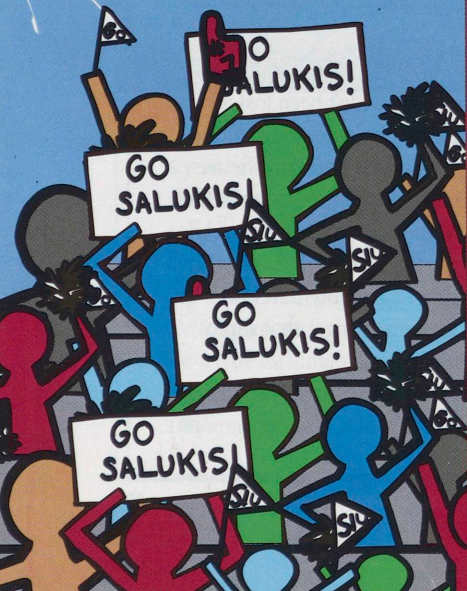
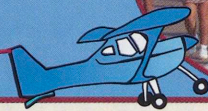
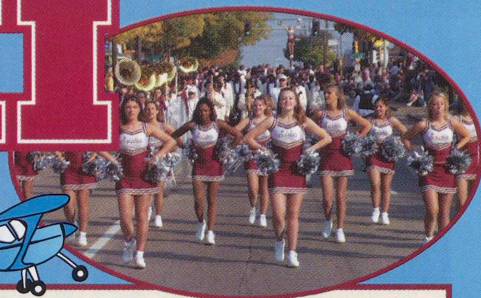
I have a degree, and my parents won't be bugging me to get that diploma anymore.

Not bad for a guy who was once kicked out of here. ■



# SALUKI

## CELEBRATION '04



### Tuesday, September 28

- 10 a.m. – 7 p.m. King and Queen Elections, *Student Center, Hall of Fame*
- 3 p.m. – 7 p.m. King and Queen Elections, *Student Recreation Center*

### Thursday, September 30

- 6:30 p.m. SIU Alumni Association and SIU Foundation Joint Board Reception *Student Center, Old Main Lounge.*
- 7 p.m. SPC Film, "Spider Man 2" *Student Center Auditorium, \$3 and \$4 admission.*
- 7:15 p.m. SIU Alumni Association Executive Committee Meeting *Student Center, Wabash Room.*

### Friday, October 1

- 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. The Dental Hygiene Professional Seminar will be held in the Student Center Auditorium. Dr. Jacob Shiloah, D.M.D., will speak on "Risk Factors in Periodontal Diseases. Contact: SIUC Continuing Education at 536-7751.
- 8 – 9:45 a.m. SIU Alumni Association Board of Directors Meeting *Student Center, Ballroom A.*
- 10 – 11:30 a.m. SIU Alumni Association and SIU Foundation Joint Board Meeting *4th Floor Video Lounge, Student Center.*
- 10 – 11:30 a.m. Class of '54 Registration *Student Center, Ballroom A*
- 12 p.m. SIU Alumni Association/SIU Foundation Board of Directors and Class of 1954 Luncheon *Student Center, Ballroom.*
- 1:45 p.m. Remembering Morris Library: A Historic Campus Photo Event Be a part of history! Join SIU alumni, faculty, staff, students and community members in front of *Morris Library* for an historic photo marking the history of Morris Library over the past 50 years and an expression of commitment to its future in the upcoming renovation.
- 1:30 - 2:30 p.m. Class of 1954 - Guided Tour of Campus and Carbondale
- 2:30 - 3:30 p.m. Distinguished Alumni Recognition and Reception *Alumni Lounge, SIU Recreation Center*
- 4 p.m. Department of Chemistry Seminar, Bogdan Szostek, Senior Research Chemist at DuPont (Ph.D. '96) "Analytical challenges in determination of perfluoroalkyl substances in biological and environmental samples" *Necker, Room 240*
- 5:30 p.m. Half-Century Club/Class of 1954 Reception *Student Center, Gallery Lounge*
- 6:15 p.m. Half-Century Club Dinner, *Student Center, Ballroom D*
- 6:30 p.m. Chemistry Alumni Hall of Fame, dinner and induction ceremonies, *invitation only.*
- 7 & 9:30 p.m. SPC Film, "Spider Man 2," *Student Center Auditorium, \$3 and \$4 admission.*

- 8:30 p.m. **Homecoming Pep Rally, McAndrew Stadium.** Meet the Saluki football team and show your Saluki spirit.
- Evening **Marching Saluki Alumni Reception** *Cambria Room 1st Floor, Student Center.*

### Saturday, October 2

- 9:30 – 11 a.m. Homecoming Parade, *Downtown Carbondale.*
- 10:30 a.m. **Alumni Reunion Activities, SIU Alumni Association Tent.** Register at the tent to enjoy a complimentary lunch provided by the SIU Alumni Association and the SIU colleges. Serving until 1 p.m.
- 1:30 p.m. Homecoming Game — Salukis vs. Northern Iowa, *McAndrew Stadium.*
- 5 p.m. College of Liberal Arts Alumni and Guests Happy Hour. *Home of Dean Shirley Clay Scott.*
- 7 & 9:30 p.m. SPC Film, "Spider Man 2," *Student Center Auditorium, \$3 and \$4 admission.*
- 7 p.m. The 33rd Annual Miss Ebonyess Pageant, *Shryock Auditorium.* Sponsored by Alpha Phi Alpha. Tickets will be available at the Student Center Central Ticket Office. To charge by phone call (618) 453-3493.

### Sunday, October 3

- 12 - 5:30 p.m. Department of Geology will host its annual Fall Picnic, Lake Murphysboro State Park, in the concession area shelter

**VISIT THE SIU ALUMNI ASSOCIATION TENT prior to the football game!**

## You Can Take Advantage Of These Special Opportunities

**Student Recreation Center** – Alumni Special! FREE use of facilities (\$2 fully refundable deposit required.) Friday, 5:30 a.m. - 10 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. - 10 p.m.; Sunday, 10 a.m. - 10 p.m. Free boat rental at Campus Boat Dock. For more information: 536-5531.

**University Bookstore** – Hours are Friday, 8 a.m. – 6 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

**University Museum** – Friday, Oct. 1, 130th Birthday Party from 4 to 7 p.m. with music by "Banjovi" and "Loose Gravel." Exhibits include: **Artistry In Wood**, curated by Jerry Montieth. **Nature Photography** by Gene Moehring. **Carbondale Community Arts' 9th Biennial Art Show. Words, Wood and Wire: The History of Southern Illinois As Told Through Folk Songs and Musical Instruments. Herbert L. Fink Works from the Museum's Permanent Collection of Art.** Hours are Friday, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.; Saturday 1 – 4 p.m.; Sunday, 1 – 4 p.m.

# Celebrate the Strip!

On Homecoming Saturday, SIU alumni are invited to step back into the past as they "Celebrate The Strip" during a special evening in Carbondale. From 6-10 p.m. on Oct. 2, sounds and voices of days gone by will come alive, as music, memorabilia and signage will remind alumni of what various establishments meant to them when they were students.

Interested alumni may purchase tickets for this evening of fun by contacting Carbondale Main Street, 121 South Illinois Avenue, Carbondale, IL 62901 (or call them at 618-529-8040); Carbondale Community Arts, 1115 West Sycamore, Carbondale, IL 62901; or purchase online at [www.siualumni.com](http://www.siualumni.com). Tickets are \$8 for SIU Alumni Association members, which will be a \$4 savings over the cost of a ticket purchased the day of the event.

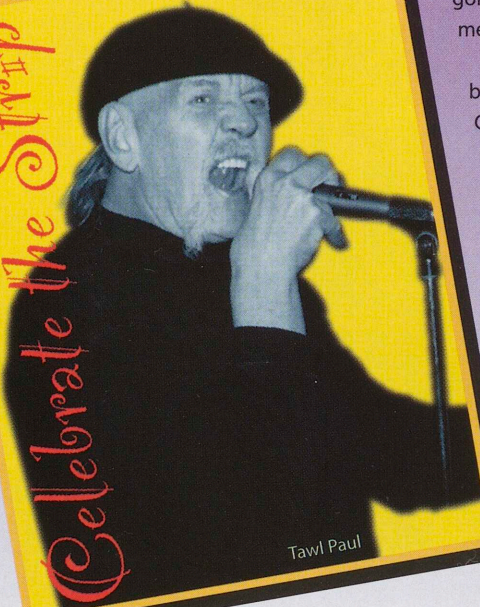
Tickets will later be redeemed for wristbands which will admit the patron into various establishments and allow them to collect commemorative coasters at the participating venues. Alumni can enjoy entertainment at any of the following locations:

Newell House	Pizza King (PK's)
Tres Hombres	Hangar 9
Booby's Beer Garden	Stix
Big Boys Q'n	Melange
Pavilion (town square)	Gatsby's

## Bands Already Scheduled

Four on the Floor  
(1970's to present)  
Big Larry and the Down Home  
Blues Band (1980's to present)  
Loose Gravel  
Night Soil Coolies, Monster Truck,  
Crank, DNS Vibrators and 138  
(1980's - 90's) — all at one location  
in mixed performances.  
Action Man (Early 90's)  
Chicken Foot Gumbo  
Mercy  
Massive Funk  
Tawl Paul

Celebrate the Strip



Tawl Paul

## 'Viva Las Vegas' Cheer The Dawgs



The SIU Alumni Association is promoting an attractive Land Package to see the SIU men's basketball team play in the Las Vegas Invitational Nov. 26-27. Hotel rooms at the Paris Hotel on The Strip, are available for two, three, or four nights.

The SIU Alumni Association offer includes an all-tournament ticket, ground transportation to and from the SIU games, a tournament reception with SIU coaches and players, and hotel accommodations with the team. **Alumni are responsible for scheduling their own air transportation.**

Tournament participants as of press time were SIU, Vanderbilt, Arizona State, University of Texas-El Paso, Jackson State, Delaware State, and Tennessee State. Southern opens against Vanderbilt on Nov. 26 in a game time to be determined. No game tickets are available through the SIU Alumni Association **without** the Land Package. For game tickets **only**, contact Saluki Athletics at 618-453-2000.

The four-night package for SIU Alumni Association members will be \$385 per person (double occupancy), the three-night will be \$330, and a two-night package will be \$285. Cost to non-members will be \$100 more in each instance. SIU Alumni Association memberships are available for \$40.

To purchase your Las Vegas Invitational package online, go to [siualumni.com](http://siualumni.com). You may also call the SIU Alumni Association office at 618-453-2408 to book your trip, or contact us for an event flier. This information is also posted on the SIU Alumni Association's Web site.



# A SPIRIT *of Caring*

VALERI DECASTRIS LEARNED TO BE  
AN EFFECTIVE ADVOCATE FOR OTHERS  
AS AN SIU STUDENT AND SOUTHERN ILLINOIS ACTIVIST



Valeri DeCastris and her husband, David Beccue, are pictured in front of the DeCastris family home on south Rockford's Cunningham Street. Although both are SIU alumni, they didn't meet until they were working in Springfield, Ill.

Valeri DeCastris '79, M.S. '86 is a passionate volunteer and unrelenting community activist – skills she honed during a decade spent with mentors from Southern Illinois University and the community. She has been recognized for her civic activism throughout the state and credits her success to the nurturing environment of southern Illinois.

Now in her hometown of Rockford, Illinois, the SIU Alumni Association Life Member works as the regional sales and operations manager for a Chicago-based environmental consulting firm, Gabriel Environmental Services. Since returning to Rockford in 1995, she has also taught physical science courses at Rock Valley College and was the executive director of a non-profit community development organization.

She is on numerous civic committees in Rockford and works tirelessly to preserve her historic neighborhood. Commenting on her award-winning volunteer work, she says “Everything that I have accomplished is a natural extension of things that began in southern Illinois.”

## THE EARLY INSPIRATIONS

The only child of artistic parents – her mother was an Arthur Murray Studios dance instructor and her father is still a performing full-time jazz musician – DeCastris developed an early interest in science and activism. “I was inspired by my eighth grade science teacher, Mrs. Durkee in East Moline and by Clark Franz, a Botany professor at Rock Valley College, who roomed with SIU's Jim Fralisch during their college days.”

After attending community college in Rockford, DeCastris came to Southern and fell in love with the school, the region, and its people. “SIU felt so right to me and it was hard to leave,” she declares. While working on her bachelor's degree in the biological sciences, she was employed at the Pollution Control Laboratory under the tutelage of John Meister. The laboratory was a large environmental teaching facility which served as an extraordinary training ground. “Most of the students who worked there are now environmental professionals in the private or public sector,” she notes.



DeCastris, vice president of the Citizens Utility Board (CUB), and Sen. Dave Syverson of Rockford, recently marked the organization's 20th anniversary at a celebration in the Illinois Capitol Rotunda.

"The Pollution Control facility allowed students to undertake responsible environmental monitoring projects for the University and the city," says DeCastris. "We measured PCBS in the Campus Lake fish, analyzed the Physical Plant's air quality, the University's wastewater and solid waste streams, the city of Carbondale's drinking water and managed the sewage treatment plant at Touch of Nature at Little Grassy Lake."

A Dean's List student and President's Scholar, DeCastris obtained her bachelor's degree in 1979 and began work on her master's degree in geography. She was deeply inspired by the late Dave Arey, who encouraged her to study policy administration and served as her thesis committee chairman. She credits him with giving her the courage to pursue changing public policy from within the

system, as well as from outside as a grass roots activist.

Other SIU mentors she credits were William Hood, retired Geology Department professor and Richard Archer, retired Design/Appropriate Technology Department professor. Her community development skills were honed by observing civic-minded southern Illinoisans like Hugh Muldoon, Susan Mitchell, Mary O'Hara, Steve Banker, Mary Kay Bachmann, Mary Anne Dalzell, Jim Roberts, Dennis Waks, Chris Robertson, Bob Pauls, Willie Holton and Max Aud. She was also deeply influenced by the late Senator Paul Simon and his wife Jeanne and the Church of the Good Shepherd.

For her graduate practicum, DeCastris developed an oil recycling outreach program at SIU and served undergraduate internships in environmental

interpretation at Touch of Nature Environmental Center and Giant City State Park. She was hired by SIU to manage geochemistry and mechanical engineering laboratories, whose students and faculty were researching Illinois coal. DeCastris relished the chance to stay in southern Illinois, saying "I was one of the fortunate students to find work in my field in Carbondale after graduation. I was privileged to live there as an undergraduate and graduate student, University staff person, homeowner, and community activist."

Although her husband, David Beccue '83 is a fellow SIU alumnus, the union actually began in Springfield. He was working on his MBA at Sangamon State University (now the U of I at Springfield). "We met at a poetry lecture by former U.S. Senator Eugene McCarthy that Dave helped arrange," she recalls. They hadn't met in Carbondale, but were equally active, just in different venues.

Beccue, now assistant site superintendent at Rock Cut State Park, was active in agricultural clubs and Alpha Gamma Rho fraternity. He played baritone with the Marching Salukis and was a member of the Southern Singers Swing Choir and participated in the Theta Xi Greek Variety Show. Active in Greek honorary societies and community activities, his idealism and sense of adventure led him to Botswana, South Africa. He lived there for two years, setting up a national foundation and developing economic development projects for village youth.

## YOU CAN GO HOME AGAIN

Since their return to Rockford in 1995, it has been a labor of love to help revitalize the "old Italian" neighborhood where she grew up on the southwest side of the city. She and Beccue restored and now live in her grandparents' home and formed a neighborhood block club in the "Ethnic Village" they are working to promote. The block club has helped to raise nearly \$18,000 in private and public monies for neighborhood revitalization

# THE ROOTS OF CONSUMER ADVOCACY

Valeri DeCastris' experience in consumer advocacy was driven by the poverty she witnessed in southern Illinois and began with her involvement in several area grass roots organizations. As a student, she testified before the Illinois Commerce Commission on behalf of Southern Counties Action Movement (SCAM), which fought for fair utility rates and community bank reinvestment. She also helped Illinois South Project, a farmland preservation group and coal mining advocacy group and Shawnee Solar Project, which showcased solar energy and conservation projects.

Her expertise grew when she helped advocate for Carbondale's energy program and she was appointed by Mayor Hans Fisher to a task force that developed long-term City energy policies. It was a natural progression for DeCastris to move to Springfield in 1986 to work for the Illinois Citizens Assembly, a legislative support services agency of the Illinois General Assembly.

There, she was able to put her knowledge in action by staffing legislative hearings, analyzing energy and economic development issues and helping to craft and pass State

legislation. In this position, she worked closely with southern Illinois legislators, citizens and interest groups on the efficient use of southern Illinois coal.

Her election to the Illinois Citizens Utility Board (CUB) in 1989 enabled her to become an even more effective advocate for Illinois citizens in utility matters. She is the board's vice-president and represents the 16th Congressional District. CUB is observing its 20th anniversary year of representing residential and small business customers of investor-owned utilities. The 100,000-household, non-profit organization is the largest con-

sumer advocacy group in Illinois and has saved Illinois ratepayers billions of dollars that otherwise would have been paid to utility companies.

Martin Cohen, CUB's executive director says, "Valeri has been a longtime activist who has shown her devotion to consumers by fighting for lower utility rates and better service." The organization plays a critical role in the State's energy policies and regulatory affairs, and also has authority in the federal regulatory arena in natural gas, electricity, and telephone services.



projects and works closely with the City, County, and Park District.

According to DeCastris, the neighborhood's deterioration over the past 30 years had caused many people to give up on it, but she made the decision not to abandon an area full of history where five generations of her family had lived and worked. Some notable projects the block club has assisted with have included a historic library restoration and expansion, upgraded city lighting and decorative street lamps, decorative banners on a bridge which honor the five nationalities that settled the area, and a bronze statuary garden at St. Anthony of Padua Church, a 90-year old Catholic church that is regarded by many as the "heart and soul" of Rockford's considerable Italian-American population.

DeCastris says that the move to Rockford was excellent for the couple and they feel they are helping to make a difference there. "I wanted to bring the skills I learned in Carbondale back home and have been so gratified by the results," she

notes. Recently, she received the "Spirit of Caring Award" from Crusader Clinic, a low-income medical clinic with locations throughout northern Illinois. The annual award, honoring people in the community who have demonstrated outstanding efforts in caring for others, is a prestigious one and winners are featured on billboards in the city.

DeCastris was also recognized for her utility work and as a patient advocate for fibromyalgia. In 1994, she helped to significantly increase fibromyalgia research monies from the National Institutes of Health and in 1996, she successfully established the disease as a recognized disability for State of Illinois employees. She also received the Friends' House Award for Community Service, bestowed by a non-profit community education center.

## CARBONDALE YEARS PAVED HER WAY

With years of public service and countless accolades now tucked away, DeCastris knows much of the success is

due to her years in Carbondale. In fact, she and her husband were the first generation of their families to attend college – an experience almost impossible to describe.

"My parents encouraged me to try college for at least one year and I wound up wondering why I stayed so long," she now laughs. But she has long known why, often referring to her mentors in Carbondale as "the wonderful professors and people who helped me to stretch beyond what I dreamed was possible."

They nurtured her creative and humane spirit that began in junior high, when she walked 26 miles to eradicate hunger, and continues today as she embraces various social justice, environmental and political causes.

"So much of what you learn in college does *not* come from a textbook. The lessons you learn there remain throughout your life, with the people you meet pivotal to your future. SIU and southern Illinois made me who I am and for that, I am grateful." ▲

## SIU Family Day At U.S. Cellular Field In Chicago

Over 200 alumni and guests attended SIU Family Day on June 12 at U.S. Cellular Field in Chicago. The group enjoyed a Saluki-style tailgate prior to watching the Chicago White Sox-Atlanta Braves baseball game. The tailgate featured raffle giveaways and the opportunity to interact with fellow Salukis. A festive day at the ballpark, which featured an afternoon of food, fun and baseball, in addition to a fireworks show after the game, was coordinated by a committee of Chicago-area alumni.

The Windy City Salukis went home happy as the hometown White Sox defeated the Braves. This annual event continues to grow in popularity as attendance doubled, increasing by more than 100 participants from a year ago. Among those attending this event were Vice Chancellor for Institutional Advancement Rickey McCurry and his family, Seymour Bryson, associate chancellor for diversity, Harold Bardo, associate professor in the

SIU MEDPREP program, and Sandra Smith, a member of the SIU Alumni Association national board of directors.



Pictured above is SIU Alumni Association Life Member Nick Harkovich, with his son, Tim, and life member Jackie Timmons, who serves as the president of the DuPage/Will County Chapter.

## Roscoe Pulliam Memorial Scholarship Winners Announced

**R**yan Anne Cheperka of Carbondale, Megan Bryce Gabby of Johnston City, Michael McClure II of Chester, and Fahrhan K.J. Robb of Pinckneyville are the recipients of the Roscoe Pulliam Memorial Scholarship.

The Roscoe Pulliam Scholarship Fund annually awards four scholarships valued at \$1,000 each. Recipients must be closely related to an SIU alumnus or alumna who is a current member of the SIU Alumni Association.

Cheperka, a junior, is majoring in psychology at Southern. She has been on the University's Dean's List, the National Dean's List, and received numerous academic honors. Additional accomplishments for Cheperka include receiving the Freshman Engineering Scholarship and Academic Scholarship. She is a member of Gamma Beta Phi Honors Society and participated in the University Honors Program.

A high honor roll student at Carbondale Community High School, Cheperka was a scholar athlete. She received CCHS "Red Rose" Recognition and graduated with a grade point average over 4.0.

Gabby is a marketing major. A junior at Southern, she has been on the University's Dean's List four semesters, and also earned National Dean's List honors while maintaining a 4.0 grade point average. A University Honors Program participant, Gabby is a member of Beta Gamma Sigma Honor Society, Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society, and the College of Business and Administration LINX organization. She is also a former Leadership Council Member.

While attaining valedictorian honors at Johnston City High School in 2002, Gabby was involved in numerous extra-curricular activities. She served as class president and ALPHA Peer Leader four years and reigned as Homecoming queen in 2001. An Illinois State Scholar, Gabby received All-State Academic Team Honorable Mention accolades from the Illinois High School Association in 2002. She was an all-conference performer in basketball (2001, 2002) and softball (2000, 2001 and 2002). The softball team captain also received all-South honors in 2001 and 2002.

McClure is a senior at Southern majoring in mathematics. He is a Dean's List student at the University and has also earned National Dean's List honors. McClure is a member of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society and Pi Mu Epsilon. He won the Outstanding Achievement Award in Mathematics as a sophomore and a service awards for his contributions as a certified tutor in the state of Illinois.

An Illinois State Scholar in high school, McClure was recognized by Who's Who Among American High School Students and National Honor Society. He received the President's Education Award, National Leadership Service Award, SISHA Achievement Award for Academics and Service to his school, and All-American Scholar honors.

Robb is a sophomore majoring in agricultural systems with minors in environmental studies, political science, and speech communication. She is a Dean's List student whose academic accolades include Alpha Lambda Delta National Honor Society, Dean's Certificate of Distinction, and Outstanding Student Honor Society. A University Honors Program participant, she is an active member of "Agbassadors," a student recruitment organization in SIU's College of Agricultural Sciences, serves as a Student Life Advisor and Hall Council President.

In high school, Robb was a recipient of the President's Award for Educational Excellence. An Illinois State Scholar and class valedictorian, she was also recognized by the National Honor Society, National Honor Roll Society, Who's Who Among American High School Students, United States Achievement Academy and Southern Illinois Society for Achievement. She received the Prairie State Achievement Award, Outstanding Student of America Award, International Foreign Language Award, and Presidential Physical Fitness Award. A PCHS Merit Scholar, Robb served as an officer in FFA.

## Jackson County Alumni Chapter Hosts Annual Barbecue Dinner

The Jackson County Chapter of the SIU Alumni Association hosted 40 alumni and guests at its ninth annual barbecue in July.



Larry Dietz visits with SIU Alumni Association Life Members Vera and LeRoy Pittman.

Alumni and guests gathered at the Mississippi Flyway in Carbondale prior to attending a sunset concert at nearby Turley Park. President Kitty Mabus conducted a brief pro-

gram at the Flyway and welcomed guests.

Among those attending were Jay King, a retired assistant director at the SIU Alumni Association, who served the organization for 28 years.

## Chicagoland Saluki Golf Scramble Held

Thirty-one teams featuring more than 120 individuals participated in the 15th annual Chicagoland Saluki Golf Scramble on July 29. The event, co-sponsored by the Chicagoland Golf Committee, SIU Foundation, and SIU Athletics, with support from the SIU Alumni Association, has become a premier event for Chicago-area alumni and supporters of the SIU sports programs. This scramble has raised more than \$225,000 in support of Saluki Athletics over the last 15 years.



Members of the winning team were, from left, Jeff Wood, George Nordstrom, Greg White, and Richard Nordstrom.

Among the University administrators in attendance were SIU President James Walker, SIUC Chancellor Walter Wendler, Vice Chancellor for Institutional Advancement Rickey McCurry, Athletic Director Paul Kowalczyk, SIU Foundation Managing Director Bryan Vagner, and Chief Development Officer for Saluki Athletics Tommy Bell. Howard Spiegel, a member of the SIU Alumni Association national board of directors, was also in attendance.

## Greater Michigan Alumni Picnic

Fifty alumni and guests attended the fifth annual Greater Michigan Alumni Picnic in July at the Island Lake Recreation Park in Brighton, Mich. The group enjoyed lunch along with



Jack Greer (center), chair of the Auto Tech program, visits with alumni at the event.

several recreational games and activities, including volleyball, bocce ball, and mingling with fellow SIU alumni.

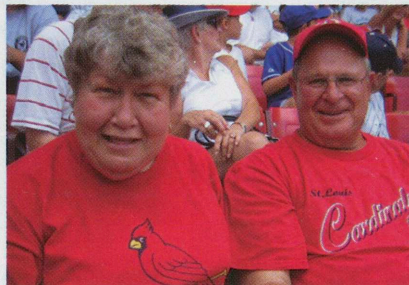
Attendees also viewed a 1966 Chevy Nova drag car, delivered by SIU's Automotive Technology Program.

University officials in attendance included Dr. Paul Sarvela, dean of the College of Applied Sciences and Arts, Jack Greer, chair of the Automotive Technology department, Mike Behrmann, professor in the Automotive Technology program, and Michael Ellis, constituent development officer for the College of Applied Sciences and Arts.

## Alumni Gather In St. Louis For SIU Day At Busch Stadium

Two hundred-fifty alumni and guests attended the 20th annual SIU Day at Busch Stadium in July. The group enjoyed a pregame gathering in the stadium courtyard near Super Smokers BBQ where they visited with fellow Salukis prior to the game. University officials on hand included Rickey McCurry, vice chancellor for Institutional Advancement, Roger Neuhaus, former association vice chancellor for Institutional Advancement, in addition to former SIUC Chancellor John Guyon.

Alumni Association representatives in attendance included national board members Don Magee, Ray Serati and Howard



Two Salukis, decked out in Cardinal red, enjoy the SIU Day event at Busch Stadium.

Spiegel; Ed Buerger, executive director of the SIU Alumni Association; directors Dave Ardrey, Gene Green, Greg Scott and Michelle Suarez, and staff member Angela Spicer.

## SIU 'Night' At Wrigley Field

The 27th annual SIU Night at Wrigley Field was held on July 27 in Chicago. SIU alumni and guests gathered at the Cubby Bear Lounge, owned by SIU alumnus George Loukas '73, prior to the Cardinals-Cubs baseball game. Attendees enjoyed a buffet prepared



The large crowd of Salukis enjoyed the first Wrigley night event.

by Loukas' staff and mingled with each other in the parking lot picnic area. (For more Cubby Bear/Wrigley Field photos, see the back cover of this issue.)

John "Mouse" Garrett '73, former Saluki basketball star and life member of the SIU Alumni Association, represented the Association by tossing out the ceremonial first pitch. Garrett hurled a perfect strike to kick off the ballpark festivities.

University representatives in attendance included SIUC Chancellor Walter Wendler, Vice Chancellor for Institutional Advancement Rickey McCurry, former Associate Vice Chancellor Roger Neuhaus, and former SIUC Chancellor John Guyon. Representing the SIU Alumni Association were national board members Steve Falat, Jeannette Fromm, Christine Heins, Dan O'Brien, Sandra Smith, Howard Spiegel and Darla Treece.

Ed Buerger, executive director of the SIU Alumni Association, directors Dave Ardrey, Gene Green, Greg Scott and Michelle Suarez, along with Institutional Advancement staff member Tanna Morgan, represented the Association.

## Decatur Celebration Features The 'Big' Dawgs

The Central Illinois Chapter of the SIU Alumni Association represented the University at the three-day 2004 Decatur Celebration in August. After a year's hiatus, the chapter hosted its "Dawg Rock Café," selling its entrée, the "Saluki Dawg," a foot-long hot dog. The chapter has coordinated activities around the celebration 15 times.

Thirty-seven SIU alumni, guests and students hosted the week-end affair. Proceeds support the Central Illinois Chapter. Funds support chapter operation, local scholarships to Southern and other University programs. More than 350,000 attendees enjoy the street festival on an annual basis.



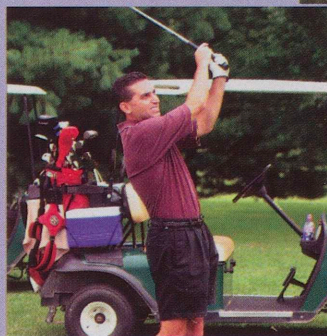
The "Dawg Rock Café" was open for business.

## SIU Alumni Association/Alongi Legacy 8th Annual Scholarship Golf Tournament

Eighteen teams recently participated in the 8th Annual SIU Alumni Association/Alongi Legacy Golf Tournament at the Jackson Country Club. Proceeds from the tournament support scholarships for students living in Perry County to attend SIU, and continues to build the Alongi family endowment through the SIU Alumni Association.

Individuals participating in the four-person scramble enjoyed golf, lunch, and mingling with fellow golfers.

Participants throughout the southern Illinois area were in attendance, with two teams representing the University. The Institutional Advancement team was comprised of Bryan Vagner, Assistant Vice Chancellor, Tommy Bell, chief development officer for athletics, and Mike Murray, associate director of the SIU Foundation. The SIU Alumni Association team featured national board member Howard Spiegel, and Ed Buerger, executive director, teaming with Bob Campbell and Dennis Kortkamp.



Host Guy Alongi hits a drive, while Bob Campbell and Ed Buerger watch Howard Spiegel putt.



Photos by Paul Brinker

## Alumni Deaths

### Fall '04

**RUSHING**, Bessie (Innis), '26; '28  
07/26/04, Xenia, Ohio

**McMINN**, Ralph H., '27; '29  
06/23/04, Silvis, Ill.

**SAYLOR**, Eva M., '29  
05/11/04, San Antonio, Texas

**SPILLER**, James R., '29  
05/28/04, Sun City Center, Fla.

**LIPE**, Vivian B., ex '30  
05/24/04, DuQuoin, Ill.

**SWANN**, Katie May (Rushing), '31  
05/25/04, Carbondale, Ill.

**TEMPLETON**, Myrtle T., '33; '36;  
M.S.Ed. '56  
06/03/04, Pinckneyville, Ill.

**SCHERRER**, George M., ex '37  
07/13/04, Shawneetown, Ill.

**HOOKER**, Rosalie (Greer), '39  
07/24/04, Carterville, Ill.

**BUSINARO**, Henry, '40  
06/07/04, Harrisburg, Ill.

**SILVANIA**, Kathlyn "Betty," '40;  
M.S.Ed. '52  
05/26/04, Carbondale, Ill.

**MILLIGAN**, Eva J., '41  
05/26/04, Chicago, Ill.

**MONROE**, Jacqueline (Rott), ex '41  
07/03/04, Marion, Ill.

**WILLIAMSON**, Angie (Case), ex '41; '74  
06/09/04, Vienna, Ill.

**BROWN**, June (Deaton), ex '42  
06/28/04, Carbondale, Ill.

**ELLIS**, Ogie E., '42; M.S.Ed. '49  
07/29/04, Largo, Fla.

**OWEN**, Naomi R., ex '42  
07/03/04, Carbondale, Ill.

**PARRAN**, Lena D., ex '42  
07/29/04, Decatur, Ga.

**HILLENBRAND**, Thelma G., ex '43  
12/26/03, Tucson, Ariz.

**SOETEBER**, Lyle P., '43  
07/24/04, Fairview Heights, Ill.

**SCHUTTER**, Marjorie L., ex '44  
07/16/04, Anchorage, Alaska

**HANCOCK**, Loy Curtis, '48  
06/20/04, Mt. Vernon, Ill.

**KENNEY**, Wanda (Carter), '48  
05/25/04, Carbondale, Ill.

**CROWDER**, Harry L., '49; M.S.Ed. '74  
05/14/04, Carrier Mills, Ill.

**STROBEL**, Floyd E., '49  
07/07/04, Marion, Ill.

**McKINNEY**, Marvin Dale, ex '50  
07/15/04, Bluford, Ill.

**PORTER Jr.**, Robert W., ex '50  
07/01/04, Cairo, Ill.

**ANTOLINE Jr.**, Luther, '51  
06/04/04, Harrisburg, Ill.

**LAWLESS**, Emmett T., ex '52  
07/22/04, Murphysboro, Ill.

**GALE**, Lawrence D., ex '53  
05/20/04, Lenzburg, Ill.

**PATTON**, Marilyn S., ex '54  
07/29/04, Makanda, Ill.

**PETERSON**, Juanita S., '54; M.S.Ed. '59  
07/22/04, Carbondale, Ill.

**HART**, Anna M., '55  
05/08/04, DeKalb, Ill.

**PATTON**, James R., '56; M.S.Ed. '60  
05/17/04, Makanda, Ill.

**HAYES**, Edmond L., ex '57  
06/11/04, San Francisco, Calif.

**MOORE**, Guy J., '57; M.S. '65  
03/09/04, Benton, Ill.

**STANKOVICH**, John R., ex '57  
05/19/04, Murphysboro, Ill.

**ADAMS**, James H., '58  
06/15/04, Mt. Vernon, Ill.

**BARGER**, John W., '58  
05/15/04, Crab Orchard, Ill.

**FARELL Jr.**, Vincent Paul, '58;  
M.S.Ed. '64,  
07/07/04, Phoenix, Ariz.

**VanMETER**, Sara S., '58  
07/23/04, Marion, Ill.

**BOGARD**, Richard M., '59  
07/17/04, Carterville, Ill.

**SAUL**, Bill H., '59  
07/20/04, Waterloo, Ill.

**STUBBINS**, James R., '59  
05/30/04, Sesser, Ill.

**DINGRANDO**, Leo Junior, '60  
07/08/04, Marion, Ill.

**HIRSCH**, Mildred K., '60  
05/28/04, Tamaroa, Ill.

**LARNER**, Robert A., '60  
05/19/04, Bradenton, Fla.

**MOREHOUSE**, Emma L., '60  
06/20/04, Cape Girardeau, Mo.

**WAGNER**, Sandra H., '60  
06/07/04, Silver Springs, Md.

**WIGGS**, James M., '60  
07/10/04, Benton, Ill.

**ROSSITER**, Katherine (Kimmel), '61;  
M.S. '62  
06/28/04, Carbondale, Ill.

**DEFILIPPS**, Robert A., M.S. '62; Ph.D. '68  
07/04/04, Washington, D.C.

**SCHORN**, Bobby E., '62  
07/26/04, Ava, Ill.

**ARNOLD**, Nina (Davidson), '63  
06/09/04, Johnston City, Ill.

**BAUERNFEIND**, John H., '63; '64;  
M.S.Ed., '67  
07/02/04, Mt. Vernon, Ill.

**DEMENT**, William D., '63  
05/12/04, Barrington, Ill.

**KONNEKER**, Stanley B., '63  
06/18/04, Carlinville, Ill.

**WETZEL**, Ted R., M.S. '65  
06/23/04, Town of Tonawanda, N.Y.

**PHELPS**, Jane (Tally), '67  
06/17/04, Makanda, Ill.

**TOLER**, George G., '68  
06/10/04, Moweaqua, Ill.

**DAVIE**, Robert J., '69  
07/19/04, Chicago, Ill.

**JANES**, Carol E., '69  
07/24/04, Lake Mattoon, Ill.

**TIPPY**, Frank D., '70  
08/01/04, La Center, Wash.

**WHITTLES**, James P., '70  
08/02/04, Naperville, Ill.

**KENDRIGAN**, Kevin T., '71; M.S.Ed. '74  
06/28/04, Arlington Heights, Ill.

**KERLEY Jr.**, Loren C., M.S.Ed., '71  
05/26/04, Simpson, Ill.

**LANGELLIER**, Jeffery H., '71  
06/22/04, Normal, Ill.

## Charlotte McLeod – A Long Legacy

Charlotte McLeod, wife of the late SIU Theatre Department pioneer Archibald McLeod, died recently in Burlingame, Calif., at the age of 81 from natural causes and maladies brought on by advanced Alzheimer's disease.

The McLeods came to Carbondale in 1947, as her husband started the theater department that would one day name its auditorium after him. Shortly after their arrival, Charlotte earned a master's degree in English from Southern in 1951, writing her thesis on "The Heroines of Jane Austen."

In 1952, the McLeods contributed their writing and directing talents to a special production celebrating Carbondale's Centennial. She taught in the English Department at SIU during the late 1950s and early 1960s and also worked in advisement. For many years she also taught her beloved yoga classes at the park district and at SIU and stayed involved in countless civic causes.

Donations in her honor are suggested to the Women's Center, Inc., 601 Thompson Street, Carbondale, Ill. 62901, or to the Humane Society of Southern Illinois, 95 Humane Road, Murphysboro, Ill. 62966.

## Ted Taylor – Former Board President

Theodore "Ted" Taylor, a member of the SIU Alumni Association's Board of Directors from 1969-77 and the group's president in 1972-73, recently passed away at 94 years of age in Washington, D.C.



A 1944 graduate of Southern Illinois University, Taylor returned to Southern in 1994 to attend the 50th Year Reunion of his graduating class, and to serve as the Grand Marshal of the Homecoming Parade.

Ted Taylor beams to the crowd a decade ago when he was back in town to serve as Homecoming Parade Marshal.

**DURHAM**, Kenneth R., '72  
07/26/04, Mt. Vernon, Ill.

**McKINNIS**, Thomas R., '72; M.S.Ed., '78  
06/27/04, Broughton, Ill.

**NEWMAN**, Geneva C., M.S.Ed. '73  
06/19/04, Cherokee Village, Ark.

**MARTIN**, Christina A., '74  
07/07/04, Carbondale, Ill.

**DORSEY**, Neal R., '75  
07/03/04, Wauconda, Ill.

**REESER**, Donald M., M.A. '75  
06/27/04, Greenville, Ill.

**RODEWALD**, Paul, '75  
06/08/04, Campbell Hill, Ill.

**MOHAMMED**, Hamdan M.S.Ed. '80;  
Ph.D. '81  
07/26/04, Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, Malaysia

**JANSON**, Ivars "Chuck," '81  
07/12/04, St. Petersburg, Fla.

**WESTENBERGER**, Pete D., M.D. '82  
05/16/04, Franktown, Colo.

**TASH**, Abdul Qader, Ph.D. '83  
04/04/04, Saudi Arabia

**WEAVER**, Kevin M., '83  
07/05/04, Cary, Ill.

**ARGETSINGER**, Richard H., '87  
06/11/04, Gretna, La.

**HEGGEMEIER**, Jo Ellen, '94  
06/19/04, Steeleville, Ill.

**MILLAR**, Barbara L., M.A. '94  
06/07/04, Murphysboro, Ill.

**SHEM WELL**, Brett S., '00  
06/27/04, Herrin, Ill.

**HICKMAN**, Camille J., '01  
08/03/04, Elkville, Ill.

**JOHNSON**, Joseph D., student  
07/09/04, Murphysboro, Ill.

### Faculty & Staff

**HAILS**, Marilyn E.  
Emerita Civil Service  
Production Editor, University Press  
05/16/04, Murphysboro, Ill.

**JACOBS**, Robert C.  
Emerita Civil Service, Learning Resources  
Service Department, Morris Library  
06/08/04, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

**MORROW**, Deborah J.  
Executive Secretary, Women's Study  
Program  
07/20/04, Pomona, Ill.

**SCHMIDLEIN**, Edward J.  
Emerita Professor, Dept. of Accounting  
College of Business and Administration  
07/23/04, New Braunfels, Texas

**SLOAN**, Juanita A. (Holmes) Fuson  
Emerita Civil Service, Serial/cataloging  
Dept, Morris Library, 06/23/04, Benton, Ill.



Dan Lewis has won 12 Emmys for his work at KOMO-TV in Seattle.

# **A SALUKI IN THE GREAT NORTHWEST**

**SEATTLE TELEVISION NEWS ANCHOR DAN LEWIS  
SELDOM MISSES A CHANCE TO TELL  
HIS VIEWERS AND COLLEAGUES WHAT A  
SALUKI IS AND WHAT IT MEANS TO BE ONE.**

**BY MARIANNE LAWRENCE**





**W**hen Dan Lewis started screaming at the television set and bouncing off his living room couch in alternate bouts of frustration and excitement, his bride of less than a year moved over a little and gave him some space.

Jenn Lewis had witnessed his enthusiastic support for other Illinois teams – the Bears and the White Sox – but this rooting for the Salukis was different. So she decided it was time to contact her husband’s alma mater and let them know just what a fan they had.

Her e-mail to the SIU Alumni Association not only spoke of Dan’s fierce loyalty, but also noted the enormous success he has enjoyed since leaving Southern in 1973 with a degree in radio and television. “I am writing to tell you a little about Dan in the hopes that his suc-

cess story will encourage other current and former grads to stay motivated and on track with their dreams and careers.”

From his own high school dreams of becoming a play-by-play sports announcer to accepting his 12th Emmy Award last year for best anchor with KOMO-TV in Seattle, Lewis has never lost his fascination with broadcasting. He has traveled the globe covering world events, such as Poland’s fight for solidarity and the Iran hostage crisis, interviewed four presidents, and documented the emotional first anniversary of September 11.

“One of the great things about this business is that you get such a tremendous perspective,” says Lewis. “There are stories I hear about that I think I understand, but when I actually go and talk to the people, either in this country or in other parts of the world, and feel their passion and emotion, I *really* begin to under-



Lewis is pictured with his news team at KOMO-TV in Seattle. The team got together to surprise Lewis with a spoof on his "SIU Days" when the Saluki men's basketball team played in the NCAA Tournament in Seattle last spring.

stand. I've been lucky to be able to do that over the years."

His first job after leaving SIU was with WMRO-AM radio in Aurora, Ill., where he did a little bit of everything, including play-by-play, talk shows, and even sales. "I was lucky to be there with a talented group of young people who were interested in advancing," Lewis recalls.

Three years later he moved to on to a Shreveport, La., radio station and a career-changing opportunity. "I was in the right place at the right time," declares Lewis. The ABC-TV affiliate lost three people at one time – an anchor and two reporters. He recalls wanting to apply for one of the jobs but being concerned

about his lack of television experience. While out on an assignment, he picked up a rumor from a fellow reporter that he was being considered for a spot. "I thought he was joking, but sure enough the news director called me the next day and asked me to audition."

He landed the 10 p.m. anchor job and his career path in television locked in. His next stop was Louisville, Ky., where he worked for three years before spending the next six years at two stations in Milwaukee. He reported and anchored in Washington, D.C., for a couple of years before finding his current job in the Pacific Northwest. "I loved the location, the station and the people who were

running the newsroom," recalls Lewis who, after 17 years, still thinks KOMO-TV is a "phenomenal place to work."

However, the six-year stint in Milwaukee provided some unforgettable experiences for Lewis, especially an assignment in 1982 to interview Lech Walesa, who founded the Solidarity movement in Poland to organize free non-Communist trade unions.

His news team was warned that they could expect to be stopped and questioned by police the minute they left Walesa's apartment in Gdansk. "We interviewed him for an hour and a half," recalls Lewis, "but when we left there were no police, no questions. I remember

as we drove away feeling oddly disappointed at not being challenged by the Polish authorities.”

However, his crew would be more than challenged the next day. After filming an emotional Catholic mass in Warsaw, where the priest once a month dedicated the service to supporting the Solidarity movement and openly defying the Communist government, Lewis and his news crew were arrested and their videotapes confiscated—including the Walesa interview.

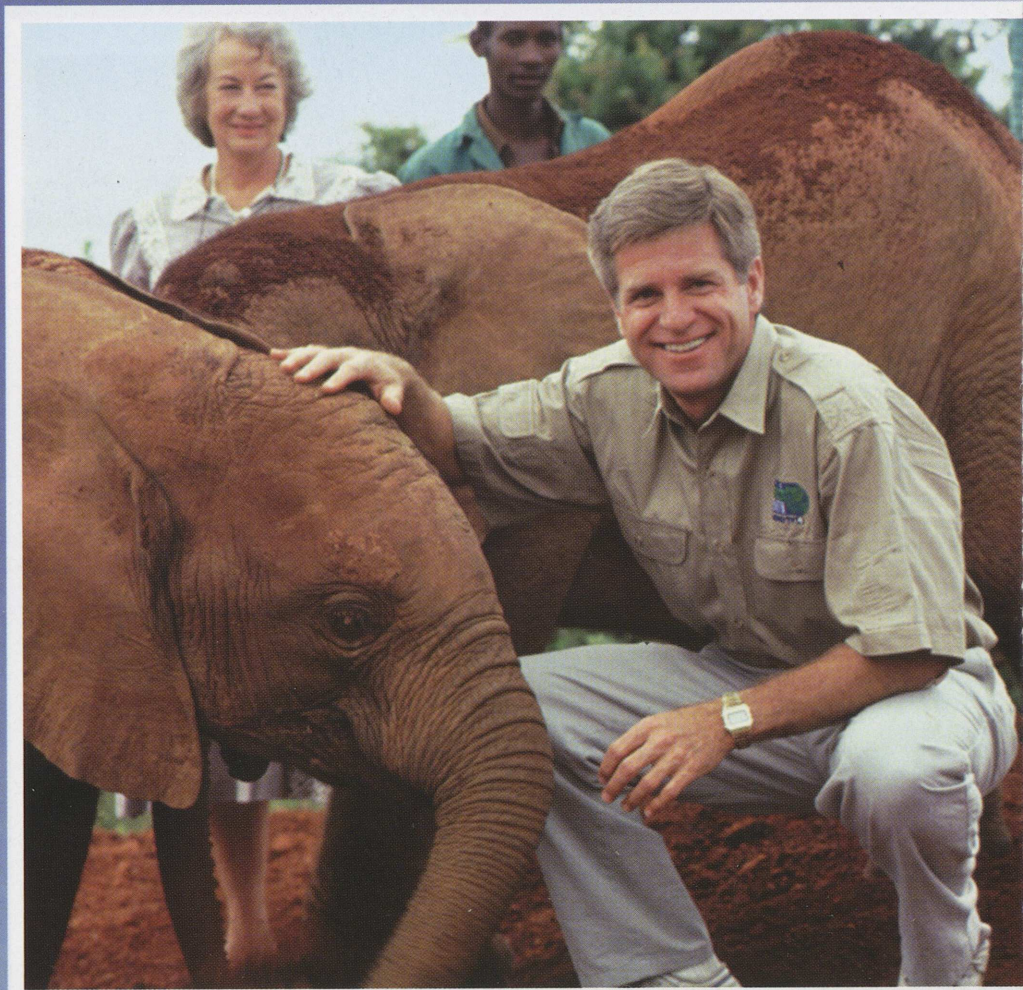
Lewis learned later that Polish officials were trying to build a case against the priest. “We were never locked up but were detained about four hours before being released,” he says.

Eventually the government returned the tapes except for the ones of the mass. Lewis recalls his shock when he discovered on the news wire that the priest had been found bound and beaten to death and that police officers had been arrested and charged with his murder.

Other assignments, including a hair-raising flight into the Ecuadorian jungle to document the emerging cocaine drug problem, had Lewis momentarily questioning his occupation.

After surviving a shootout and dealing with cameras that constantly malfunctioned because of the high humidity, Lewis recalls: “When we left the jungle, it was cloudy and the helicopter would make these dramatic moves like it was turning away from something. Then I saw we were just inches away from a mountainside and as I looked around for some reassurance, noticed the drug enforcement agents flying with us were making the sign of the cross. I suddenly wondered what in the world I was doing there,” Lewis recalls.

Over the last 17 years, Lewis has found a comfortable home in Seattle at KOMO-TV. Kathi Goertzen, his co-anchor for all those 17 years, attests to his fondness and loyalty to Southern. “He’s just very true to his school and when they’re playing, we *all* hear about it,” says Goertzen, who calls Lewis an extraordinary professional.



An award-winning documentary, “Vanishing Giants” was shot by KOMO-TV in Africa, allowing Lewis the opportunity to bond with the baby elephants at the Sheldrick Wildlife Orphanage.

In 1990 the station created an award-winning series called “Vanishing Giants,” giving Lewis perhaps his most memorable assignment. Shot in Africa, the nationally acclaimed documentary focused on the elephants, mountain gorillas and black rhinos marked for extinction.

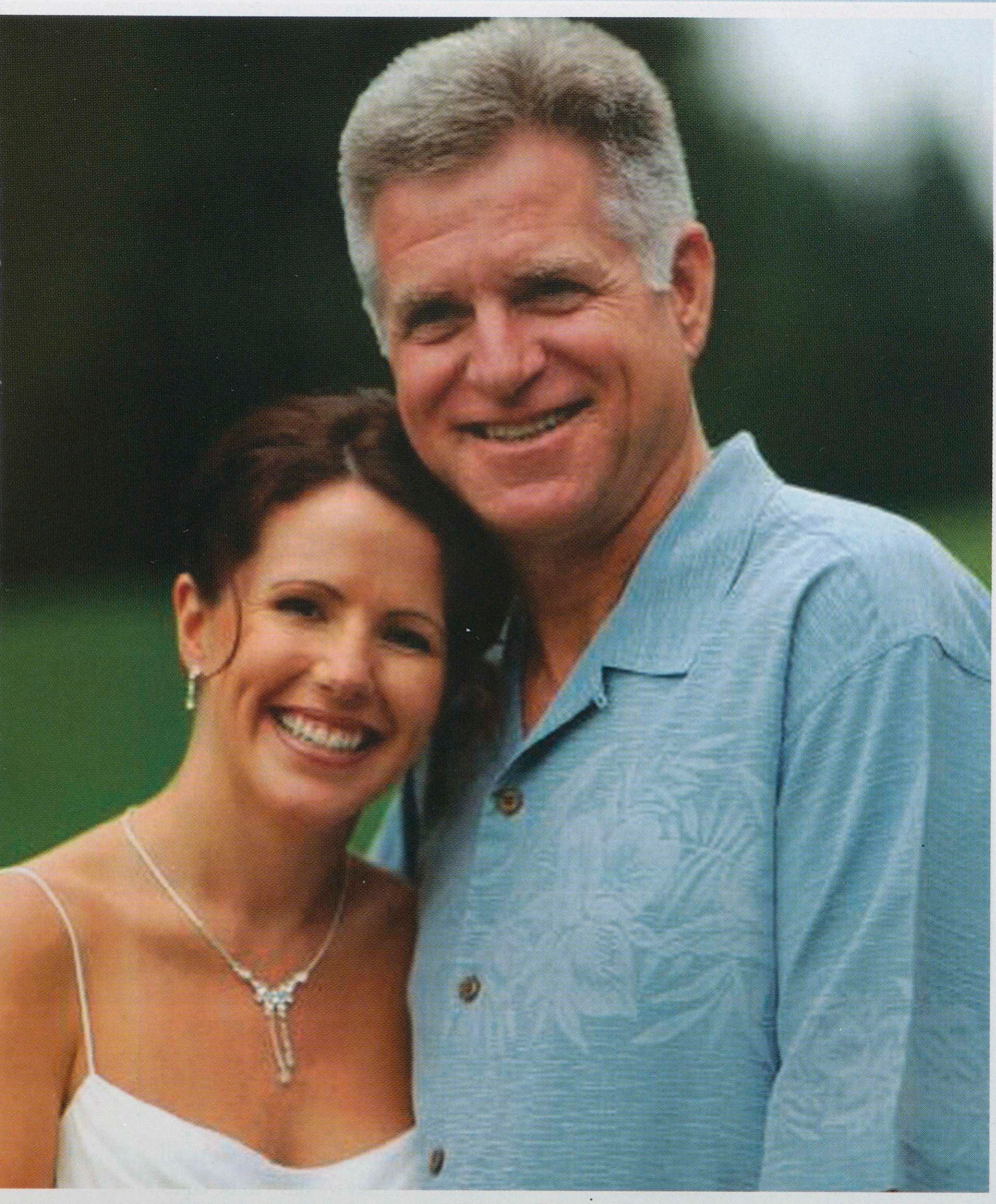
Lewis says he was changed by the tremendous learning experience. “When I took that trip I was not the biggest animal lover in the world. My mindset was that I was going as a journalist, but it was one of those stories where I learned about myself. I learned about wildlife and the importance of saving wildlife.”

Those feelings seemed to be reflected in the remarks that introduced the doc-

umentary he narrated: “What we’re all discovering is that we have to be concerned about more than just our own back yard and that what happens a half a world away really can have an impact on all of us.”

His experience in Nairobi at the Sheldrick Wildlife Trust is a story he enjoys telling and is obviously one that touched him deeply. There he met a baby elephant named Malaika, whose herd had strayed onto a local farm. “The farmers came out with guns blazing and just annihilated the herd,” explains Lewis.

The babies were injured but they survived the attack and were taken to the



Jenn and Dan Lewis were married just a year ago. It didn't take long for her to realize how much his days at the University still meant to him.

Sheldrick orphanage for care. Lewis says Malaika became the self-appointed matriarch of the other young elephants at the orphanage, but sadly, he learned in 2001 that she had died giving birth to her first calf. "They still call her death the greatest tragedy that has befallen the orphan's project."

Twelve years after "Vanishing Giants" aired and was distributed to hundreds of area schools, Lewis still occasionally

hears from people who have seen it. He recently received 25 drawings from third- and fourth-graders who had viewed the program.

Lewis played a role in more award-winning documentaries in his own back yard of Washington state. "River of Bears," and "Return of the Eagle," were part of a series that won the prestigious George Foster Peabody Award in 1996.

Always the sports fan, Lewis relished the opportunity while in Kentucky to cover the Derby and in Milwaukee to cover the Brewers trip to the 1982 World Series against the St. Louis Cardinals. He was able to fly with the team for the seven-game series and although the Brewers lost, he was grateful for the experience. "For a guy who wanted to do sports from the beginning, it was a great thrill."

Another opportunity offered Lewis a different experience. When the Seattle Mariners were rumored to be purchased by Nintendo, he asked his news director that if he could get an interview with the head of the company in Kobe, Japan, would they fly him over to do the story. His boss said, 'Absolutely.'

Lewis got the interview and made immediate travel arrangements. However, he recalls, "we made the little mistake of videotaping me as I got on the plane and announced why I was going to Japan. Other area stations protested and so by the time I arrived in Kobe, the interview had been canceled."

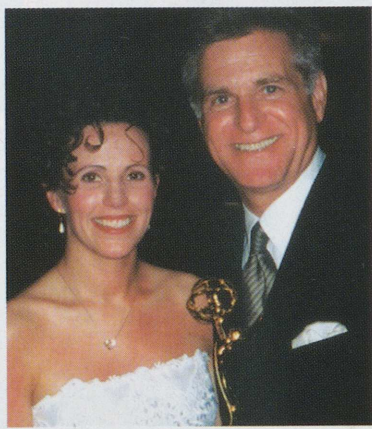
His crew went to work anyway, doing some baseball stories and a piece about a Japanese village where houses were built American-style with lumber from Washington state. "We had plenty of stories when we came back," says Lewis, "just not the one we went for."

However, he did have a memorable experience there. Having trouble with language while conducting an interview, Lewis inquired if anyone nearby spoke English. Two young women stepped forward and helped him translate. While chatting, the trio discovered they had something in common — SIU. "It was fun to meet a Saluki in Japan," laughs Lewis.

His memories of SIU are all positive, remembering his professors' encouragement so that he felt fully prepared to leave the University and start his career. "I did a little work with WSIU-TV and radio and some anchoring before I left," says Lewis, "but not enough. That's one of

the things I tell interns and young people who visit our station. I tell them if they want a career in television that beginning right now, get as involved as you can with the university newspaper, television or radio station and start learning exactly how the business works.”

Lewis’ youngest son, Tim, followed his dad’s footsteps and probably got some of that good advice. “He is a reporter for KEPR-TV in Pasco, Wash., and I dream one day we can work together,” says Lewis, who is proud of his other two children, Dan Jr., who directs



Lewis and his wife celebrate after one of his recent Emmy Awards.

after-school and summer sports camps for kids in Los Angeles, and his daughter, Kristian Prill, who lives in Seattle and had Dan’s first grandchild, Cole, nearly 2 years old.

Lewis acknowledges he has had some great thrills during his career as well as some emotional moments, recalling how New Yorkers touched him with their pain when he covered the first anniversary of September 11. There is no doubt that his capacity for caring and getting involved in a story has ensured his success.

It is also good to hear Lewis say, “I often think of the tremendous start I got with the quality education at Southern Illinois University. I left SIU with great confidence that I had learned a great deal about the business.”



## THE DAWGS CAME TO HIS DOOR

Since it had been 26 years since Dan Lewis '73 had seen an SIU team play in person, it was nice for him that the Salukis played the first round of the 2004 NCAA Basketball Tournament in his own backyard.

Lewis is a solid Saluki fan and has long educated his viewers as well as his co-workers – all graduates of Washington schools – about Southern Illinois University and its mascot.

Ed Buerger, executive director of the SIU Alumni Association, was impressed when he met Lewis for the first time at a reception before the Salukis played Alabama in the first round of the tournament.

“It was truly rewarding for me to travel to Seattle and meet an alum who has been removed from campus for so long, yet is still so passionate about SIU,” says Buerger. “The enthusiasm he has for his alma mater really says something about the quality of our alumni and institution. His passion for the Salukis hasn’t waned at all – in fact the flame still burns.”

Lewis, who describes himself as a huge sports fan, says it was a thrill to be able to see Southern play in Seattle. “To have the Salukis be involved in one of those games that went down to the final second was a big thrill for me. Obviously I wish it had turned out differently. When Alabama went on and beat more teams I thought, ‘Wow, that could have been the Salukis.’”

According to Buerger, Southern got a lot of exposure in Seattle thanks to Lewis. During a newscast before the game, the 1973 graduate’s colleagues surprised him with a spoof that featured his “legendary status” on Southern’s campus.

Players Sylvester Willis and Brad Korn were interviewed in their dressing room about the “Dan Lewis Wing of the Library” and Lewis’ favorite drink – “The Kooky Saluki.” A fan in the crowd played along with the interview. He confirmed that Lewis was indeed somewhat of a legend on campus, explaining how before athletic events SIU players traditionally touch the Dan Lewis statue for good luck.

In a later newscast Lewis gave a detailed definition of a Saluki, making sure Seattle folks would long remember that the “Dawgs” had been in town.



## GROUP SAVINGS PLUS®

### How will you spend your savings?

If you're not a member of our Group Savings Plus program, then you're not taking advantage of the group buying power of the **Southern Illinois University Alumni Association**. So you could be paying too much for auto insurance. \$327.96 too much!\* Just think what you could do with that extra money.



With Group Savings Plus, SIU alumni will enjoy:

- A group discount of up to 10% off our already competitive rates on auto and home insurance\*\*
- Additional savings based on your age, level of education and more\*\*
- Convenient payment plans
- Rates guaranteed for 12 months, not six
- 24-hour claims service and Emergency Roadside Assistance†



Call now and see how much you can save. Then start spending your money on something a bit more exciting than auto insurance!



For a no-obligation quote,  
please call **1.800.461.7607** or  
visit [www.libertymutual.com/lm/siu](http://www.libertymutual.com/lm/siu).



\*Figure based on an April 2003 sample of auto policyholder savings when comparing their former premium with those of the Group Savings Plus program. Individual premiums and savings will vary. \*\*Discounts, credits and program features are available where state laws and regulations allow and may vary by state. Certain discounts apply to specific coverages only. To the extent permitted by law, applicants are individually underwritten; not all applicants may qualify. †Service applies to auto policyholders and is provided by Cross Country Motor Club of Boston, Inc., Boston, MA or through Cross Country Motor Club of California, Inc., Boston, MA. Coverage provided and underwritten by Liberty Mutual Insurance Company and its affiliates, 175 Berkeley Street, Boston, MA. © 2004 Liberty Mutual Insurance Company. All Rights Reserved.

## OCTOBER

- 2 **SIU Alumni Association Homecoming Celebration**, pre-game tailgate east of McAndrew Stadium, **Salukis vs. Northern Iowa**, 1:30 p.m.
- 2 *On the Verge*, McLeod Theater, 7:30 p.m.
- 3 *On the Verge*, McLeod Theater, 2 p.m.
- 5 *Strings of Autumn*, Shryock Auditorium, 7:30 p.m.
- 9 Saluki Football at Youngstown State, 5 p.m.
- 13 *The Capitol Steps*, Shryock Auditorium, 7:30 p.m.
- 16 **Saluki Football vs. Western Kentucky**, 6 p.m.
- 23 Saluki Football at Southwest Missouri State, 1:30 p.m.
- 30 **Saluki Football vs. Western Illinois**, 6 p.m.

## NOVEMBER

- 6 Saluki Football at Illinois State, pre-game tailgate, 1:30 p.m.
- 6 *A Children's Nutcracker Ballet*, Shryock Auditorium, 3 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.
- 10 *The Green Bird*, McLeod Theater, 7:30 p.m.
- 11 *Grease*, Shryock Auditorium, 7:30 p.m.
- 13 **Saluki Football vs. Indiana State**, 6 p.m.
- 14 Jackson County Awards Banquet
- 14 *The Green Bird*, McLeod Theater, 2 p.m.
- 16 *Beethoven and Breznikar*, Shryock Auditorium, 7:30 p.m.

## DECEMBER

- 3 *A Christmas Carol*, Shryock Auditorium, 7:30 p.m.

## Plan To Attend Saluki Family Weekend

As SIU Alumni Association members, there are many ways to stay connected to your alma mater throughout the year. One organization helping assist you is New Student Programs, which is committed to keeping families and friends of Southern Illinois University abreast of current events and issues.

Saluki Family Weekend is one such event, allowing families the opportunity to come together at Southern for a special few days each Fall.

This year, **Saluki Family Weekend** will be held October 29-31. All SIU Alumni Association members are invited to share in the excitement of a variety of activities being planned, including:

- *Saluki Football vs. Western Illinois*
- *Pre-Game Dinner Buffet*
- *Saluki Family Association Breakfast*
- *Autumn Harvest Brunch*
- *Undergraduate Art Show*
- *Hypnotist Rich Ames*
- *The Family Weekend Tailgate*
- *Annual Greek Sing*

• *Campus Tours and Much, Much More.*

New Student Programs is also once again sponsoring the annual "Family of the Weekend" contest. You can participate in the "Family of the Weekend" contest by completing and submitting an online questionnaire found at [siuc-studentcenter.org](http://siuc-studentcenter.org), plus this site will provide you with additional details of events throughout the weekend. Tickets may be purchased in person at the Student Center Ticket Office, or by calling 618-453-3478.



Last year's 2003 "Family of the Weekend" was the Herb Family from Aurora, Ill. From left, Werner, Alex, Jennifer, and Sharon Herb.

Alumni listed in maroon are SIU Alumni Association members.

## 1960s

**Scott Harrington '62** recently retired from Gulf Power Co. in Pensacola, Fla., where he served 25 and a half years in various capacities for the company's public relations/corporate communications department. He previously spent 11 years in broadcasting and served as an officer in the U.S. Air Force.

**Kathleen (Wolak) Kouba '66**, principal of Troy Craughwell Elementary



"James Montgomery

School in Joliet, Ill., was honored with two awards this year. She was given the first

Instructional Leadership Award" by the Illinois Association for Supervision and Curriculum and the "Those Who Excel Recognition Award" from the Illinois State Board of Education. Kouba lives in Naperville.

**Jane White '66, M.S. '71, Ph.D. '81**, associate professor of education at Austin College in



honors 15 faculty statewide for teaching excellence. White joined the Austin College faculty in 1994.

**Jon Carlson '67, M.S. '68** was honored as a "Living Legend of Counseling" at the world conference of the American Counseling Association. He also received the association's "Don

Sherman, Texas, was nominated for the Minnie Stevens Piper Professor Program, which

Dinkmeyer Social Interest Award," given annually to recognize contributions to the development of materials that strengthen couples, families and communities. Carlson is a psychologist at the Lake Geneva, Ill., Wellness Clinic and is the author of numerous books and video programs.

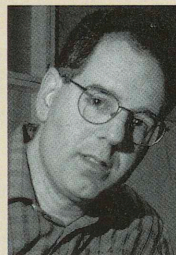
## 1970s

**Thomas Fisher '75**, an audiologist for the past 25 years with Ear, Nose and Throat Associates of North Central Wisconsin, was appointed by Gov. Jim Doyle to a position on the Wisconsin Hearing and Speech Examining Board. The board regulates the practice of audiologists, hearing instrument specialists and speech pathologists.

**Jim Ridings '76**, author of *County West*, a book about the history of western Kankakee County in Illinois, received an award from the Illinois State Historical Society in April.

**Jim Spitler '77** is looking for people who lived on the 4<sup>th</sup> Floor of Mae Smith during 1975-1976. His e-mail is [jim-spitler@cox.net](mailto:jim-spitler@cox.net).

**Thomas Hischak MFA '78** received the Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Scholarship and Creative Activities at the State



University of New York at Cortland. The theater professor, who has been at Cortland

since 1983, has authored numerous books on theatre and film and has published 23 plays, many of which are performed in schools, colleges and community and children's theater in the U.S., Canada and

Australia. He is theatre auditor for the New York State Council on the Arts.

**Debra Moriarty M.S. '78** has been appointed vice president for student affairs at Towson University in Towson, Md. Moriarty, who has



nearly 25 years of experience in student affairs, was most recently associate vice president for student affairs at the University of Maryland Baltimore County.

## 1980s

**Andy Hubbell '81** wants to communicate with 1980, 1981 and 1982 graduates from the Forestry School. He can be reached at [andyhubbell@bell-south.net](mailto:andyhubbell@bell-south.net).

**Julie Williams M.F.A. '83** writes that her first novel, *Escaping Tornado Season, A Story in Poems*, has been published by HarperTempest, the young adult imprint of HarperCollins Children's Books.



"I wanted to share my excitement over this with the university, where I spent

such an enjoyable and rewarding time doing my graduate work." Williams recently retired from California State University in Northridge where she taught performance studies classes.

**Charles Beveridge '86** and wife Kristie welcomed the birth of their twin boys, Noah and Drew in March. Beveridge is a staff attorney

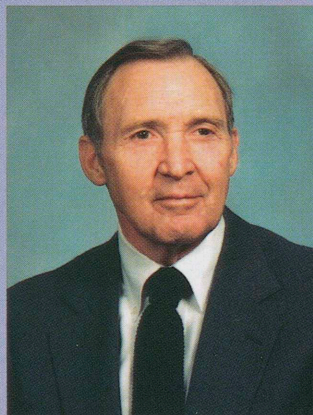
## Ross Inducted Into LSU Hall Of Fame

**Billy Ross Ph.D. '64**, a nationally recognized educator in the field of advertising and journalism education, was inducted into the Manship School of Mass Communication Hall of Fame at Louisiana State University last spring.

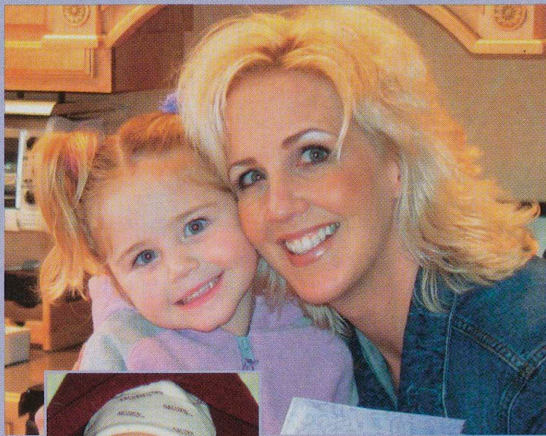
Ross joined LSU as a distinguished professor after stepping down as chair of the Texas Tech University School of Mass Communications in 1987, where he spent 17 years. He was the first chair of the Texas Tech program and is also a member of its Hall of Fame.

He and his wife, Avis, live in Lubbock, Texas, and spend the summer months in Alto, N.M. Ross continues to spend at least one week each semester at LSU.

According to Ross, "Leonard Hooper, a retired professor at the University of Florida, and I were the first to receive Ph.D.s in journalism at SIU in 1964."







**John '93 and Jill '91 Lavieri** live in Lombard, Ill., with their two children, Joli, 3, and their latest little Saluki, Jasen. John is employed by Environmental System Design in Chicago.

for the U.S. Court of Appeals in Chicago.

**Susan Powell M.A. '88, Ph.D.'92** has joined the faculty at McKendree College in



Lebanon, Ill., as an associate professor in psychology and director of the new mas-

ter's program in counseling that will be offered in the spring of 2005. The program will train individuals for careers in professional counseling. Powell maintains a counseling practice in Swansea, Ill., and makes her home in nearby O'Fallon.

**Louis Romain '89** received a juris doctor degree from William Mitchell College of Law in St. Paul, Minn., in June. He is a resident of Apple Valley, Minn., and is employed as a law clerk for the Ramsey County Attorney in St. Paul.

## 1990s

**Rod Hughes '90** and his wife, Shelly, announce the birth of their son, Adam Patrick Hughes, on Dec. 4, 2003. Adam joins siblings Joshua, Sarah and Benjamin. The family lives in Springfield, Ill.

**Craig Barni '91** has joined Cole & Associates, a civil engineering, planning and surveying firm in Sunset Hills, Mo. Barni was formerly with



Patrick Engineering Inc. in Wheaton, Ill. A member of the Illinois Professional Land Surveyors Association, he lives in St. Louis.

**Michael Grey M.S. '91**, assistant professor in the SIU College of Applied Sciences and Arts, has been invited to join the magnetic resonance technologists education committee of the

International Society for Magnetic Resonance in Medicine. Grey is currently working on his second book, *Imaging in Rehabilitation*, which will be published by McGraw-Hill.

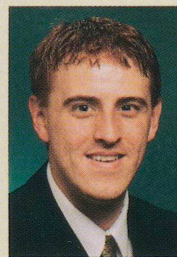
**Steve and Heather Kastien Cook, '92** graduates, announce



the birth of their daughter, Anna Elizabeth Cook (class of 2021) on Sept. 7, 2003. The

family lives in Rochester, Ill.

**Steven Hauck '96, M.S. '99**



graduated from Southern Illinois University School of Medicine and has entered an anes-

thesiology residency at the University of Kentucky Chandler Medical Center in Lexington.

**Walter Mazzei '98** is doing

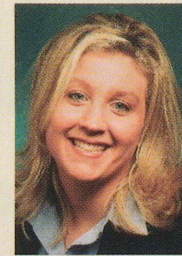


an internal medicine residency at Duke University Medical Center in Durham, N.C. He

recently graduated from Southern Illinois University School of Medicine.

**Amanda Child '99** graduated from Southern Illinois University School of Medicine and has entered a diagnostic radiology residency at the University of Illinois College of Medicine and St. Francis Medical Center in Peoria, Ill.

**Lana (Aileen) Davis Clark '99** will do a preliminary internal medicine residency at Forest Park Hospital in St. Louis,



followed by an anesthesiology residency at St. Louis University Hospital.

She is a graduate of the 2004 class of Southern Illinois University School of Medicine.

## 2000s

**Aaron Brewer '00** has

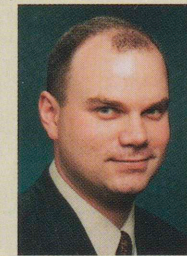


entered a general surgery residency at SIU and its affiliated hospitals in Springfield, Ill. He

graduated from the Southern Illinois University School of Medicine last spring.

**Robert Hanfland '00** graduated from the Southern Illinois University School of Medicine and is in a surgery residency at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics in Iowa City.

**David Kluge '00** *summa cum laude* graduated from the



Southern Illinois University School of Medicine and is an otolaryngology resident

at SIU and its affiliated hospitals in Springfield, Ill.

**Jeremy Hayes M.P.A.D. '03** has been promoted to the newly created position of economic development manager for the city of Carbondale. Hayes, who was formerly a city planner, lives in Carbondale with his wife, Kathleen, and their 2-year-old son, Owen.

# A Step Back In Time



## *90 Years Ago...*

Pictured here as Wheeler Library in 1914, the historic building was constructed during President Parkinson's tenure at a cost of \$30,000. Dedicated in 1904, the building is named in honor of Judge S.P. Wheeler of Springfield, Ill., who was president of the board and was credited with helping secure funding to build the facility. For more on Wheeler Hall's 100th anniversary, see page 6 of this issue.

---

# *Life Member Is Raising Millions For Education*

---

*S*ince leaving SIU with a master's degree in higher education, Brad Choate has helped raise millions of dollars for universities in Minnesota, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and his home state of Illinois.

The Marion, Ill., native graduated from John A. Logan College in nearby Carterville before enrolling at SIU, where he earned bachelor's degrees in political science and history in 1979 followed by a master's in higher education in 1984.

As president and chief executive officer of the Minnesota Medical Foundation, Choate recently received a prestigious award from the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE). The Commonfund

Institutionally Related Foundation Award is given to individuals who have distinguished themselves in the profession.

Choate, whose foundation last year concluded a seven-year campaign that raised a record \$516 million, has won multiple CASE awards, beginning in 1989 as he exceeded fund-raising goals in similar positions at The Pennsylvania State University, The Ohio State University, and at Frontier Community College in Fairfield, Ill.

Named one of the top 100 Most Influential People in Minnesota Health Care by *Minnesota Physician Magazine*, Choate also speaks to not-for-profit groups, has been active in youth athletic programs, and is an avid golfer.

In 1978, Choate married fellow southern Illinoisan Julie Durall in Marion, Ill., and the couple have three children—Brent, a 2nd Lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force and 2004 graduate of the Air Force Academy; Lauren, a junior at the University of Wisconsin-LaCrosse, and Lindsey, a senior at Minnetonka High School.

Choate, a great nephew of the late Clyde Choate, who served 30 years in the Illinois State House and was a good friend of SIU, enjoys returning to his roots in southern Illinois and to campus. "I only have the opportunity to get home once or twice a year, but when I do, I always make a trip to campus. Just walking around campus makes me feel good."

For his loyalty to Southern Illinois University, his contributions to education and to his community, the SIU Alumni Association proudly salutes Brad Choate.



Brad and Julie Choate

*"Attending Southern opened a world to me that I didn't even know existed. I had the opportunity to attend classes with amazing faculty and students from all over the world. I gained a true appreciation for education and have spent most of my career trying to inspire others to help fund education."*


**Brad Choate '79, M.S. '86**  
**President and CEO, Minnesota Medical Foundation**  
**SIU Alumni Association Life Member**



Photos by Sean Smith

## Windy City Scenes...

More than 1,000 SIU alumni and friends attended the SIU Alumni Association's annual event this summer in Chicago at the Cubby Bear and Wrigley Field. Photos, clockwise from upper left: The pregame event was hosted by Southern alumnus – and Cubby Bear owner – George Loukas (pictured with Chancellor Walter Wendler); former Saluki basketball star John "Mouse" Garrett is shown entering Wrigley Field before he threw out the first pitch at the game; SIU Alumni Association Board of Directors Jeannette Fromm and Sandra Smith enjoy the event; Mike Davids and Roger Neuhaus unwind at the Cubby Bear prior to the short stroll to Wrigley Field; and these two Salukis show that on *this* day, even Cardinal and Cub fans can get along just fine. The 27th annual event was held at night for the first time, but again quickly sold out.


**SIU Alumni Association**  
<http://www.sialumni.com>

This issue of *SIU Alumni* is compliments of the  
**SIU Alumni Association.**  
 Members receive this great publication year round!

Become a member today at [www.sialumni.com/join](http://www.sialumni.com/join)  
 or by calling (618) 453.2408.

  
**SIU**  
 SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY  
 Carbondale