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Southern Alumni

SIU Alumni Association

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03/05

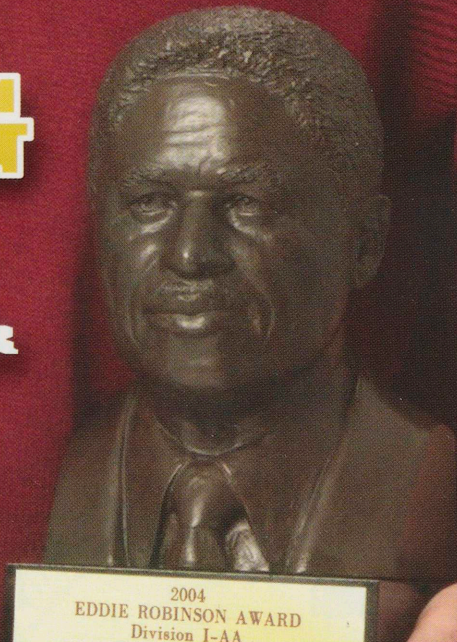
SOUTHERN LUMNI

SIU Alumni

TOP DAWG

**SIU'S JERRY KILL
NAMED NCAA-1AA
COACH OF THE YEAR**

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS
FOOTBALL



Inside: Southern Exposure, Hall Of Fame, Class Notes, and more...

SASF Helping Students Succeed On And Off The Field

*T*he Saluki Athletic Scholarship Fund (SASF) is making sure SIU athletes excel academically as well as on the playing fields.

In preparation for an event that will be launched this spring, fund administrators point to the 67 percent increase experienced from its initial launch in 2002. Funds grew from a base of \$195,500 to \$326,000 in 2004, a figure that far exceeded original expectations.

However, other numbers reveal a sizable gap between the \$1.4 million needed to meet the scholarship costs and the \$500,000 provided by SASF and endowment funds.

"The Saluki Athletic Scholarship Fund is absolutely essential to the well-being of Saluki Athletics," says Paul Kowalczyk, SIU Athletics Director. "By helping defray our scholarship costs – which are significant and growing – the SASF allows us to maximize our use of resources and concentrate our efforts on giving our student-athletes the best experience possible, academically as well as athletically.

"We are winning in the classroom and on the playing fields in part because our alumni, fans and friends have been supportive of the Scholarship Fund and what it represents. And while we are truly grateful, we need to continue to increase and strengthen both the amount donated and the number of donors," adds Kowalczyk.

Plans for the spring include using volunteer teams made up of friends and alumni who are SASF supporters, to help meet the \$500,000 goal by June, 2005.

The SIU Foundation provides numerous ways to support this effort, including cash gifts, matching gifts through employers, planned and estate gifts, stock or securities gifts and electronic fund transfers.

SASF donors earn numerous benefits such as priority parking and seat location, as well as special invitations and recognition. Saluki Athletics has instituted a systematic point system where points are earned in a variety of ways, including contributions in one of the eight donation levels and through membership in the SIU Alumni Association.

"We believe our academic achievements, including a cumulative student-athlete grade-point-average of 2.96 and four-year average graduation rate of 60 percent, are as impressive as our well-publicized competitive achievements," says Kowalczyk. "This is something in which all alumni can take great pride."

For more information on the program go to the SASF link at www.siusalukis.collegesports.com or contact the Athletic Development Office at 618-453-3148.



"Receiving a scholarship has afforded me the opportunity for many experiences, including the chance to attend a top-notch business school and to play NCAA Division I baseball."

Adam Snyder, Saluki Baseball
Junior majoring in marketing at SIU

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ON THE COVER

SIU's Jerry Kill poses with the 2004 Eddie Robinson Award, named after the legendary Grambling coach. Presented annually to the top head football coach in the NCAA 1-AA, Kill earned the award after having the Salukis ranked first in the national polls most of the season. (Photo by Jeff Garner)



C O N T E N T S

DEPARTMENTS

Enjoy Your Magazine	2	Athletic Hall of Fame	26
Thanks For Writing.	3	Saluki Family Association	28
More Value For You	4	SIU Alumni Apparel	29
Southern Exposure	6	Association News.	34
Students Making A Difference	8	Returning To Campus	38
Dawgzooka	16	In Memoriam	44
Alumni Affinity Partners	17	Calendar of Events	45
A Rising Star	18	Class Notes	46
SIU's Gambling Initiative.	25	Step Back In Time	48
Saluki Sports	24		

FEATURES

10

A Part Of Something Special

When Jerry Kill became head football coach at SIU four years ago, he faced the daunting task of rebuilding Southern's struggling program. In a timeframe that has surprised even him, Kill has led the Salukis to two straight Gateway Conference titles and added NCAA 1-AA National Coach of the Year honors to his trophy case.



Rebounding From Death's Door

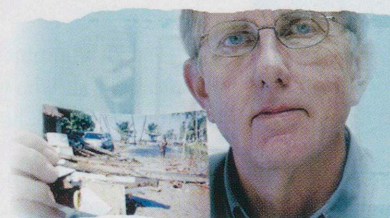
SIU alumnus Jeff Elliott shares a remarkable story of his son's triumphant recovery from a life-threatening brain tumor. The 1983 Southern grad was inspired to write a book that chronicles Eric Elliott's successful journey through drastic surgery, residual double vision, and loss of depth perception, balance and coordination.

20

30

Surviving The Tsunami Disaster

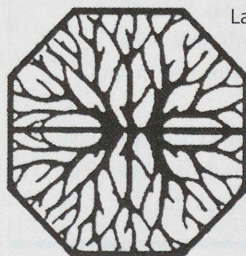
Southern Illinois University journalist-in-residence and former *Chicago Tribune* reporter William Recktenwald put his journalism skills to work again recently – but this time it was a story he wished had never occurred. Recktenwald was one of a handful of western journalists to be caught in – and survive – the deadly tsunami that killed an estimated 300,000 people Dec. 26.

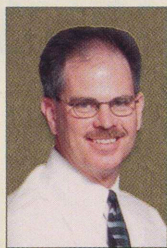


Art In The Desert

After earning a master's in fine arts from Southern, Amy Kline-Alley moved to Las Vegas, Nev., aspiring to teach in her first love – the arts. However, a rude awakening loomed on the horizon when she realized that the area revered for gaming and entertainment was a difficult location for an aspiring artist. Since her arrival, however, Kline-Alley has helped the arts thrive in this desert location.

40





by Gene Green

Saluki head football coach Jerry Kill is profiled in this issue of *Southern Alumni* in honor of his selection as NCAA 1-AA National Coach of the Year. Being selected nationally as your sport's top coach is a rare enough achievement, but accomplishing the feat in the timeline he has established borders on the impossible.

When the Kansas native arrived in Carbondale four years ago, using "SIU Football" and "NCAA Coach of the Year" in the same sentence seemed far-fetched. Only two winning teams had been fielded in the past 17 years, making a plus-.500 season a more realistic goal. Instead, Kill quickly elevated SIU Football back into the national spotlight and transformed a moribund program into a Gateway Conference power.

"It's been amazing what has happened here," Kill says as he reflects on his second consecutive 10-2 season. "But it has been a total team effort – this national award is shared by our players, staff, administration, and fans. I was proud to accept the Eddie Robinson Award, and did it with many people in mind."

And alumni can take Saluki Pride in knowing Kill has done it the right way. SIU players are class individuals who take care of business on the field *and* in the classroom. Not only did the Salukis win the 2004 Gateway Conference title, but they had more players on the Academic All-Conference Team than any program in the league.

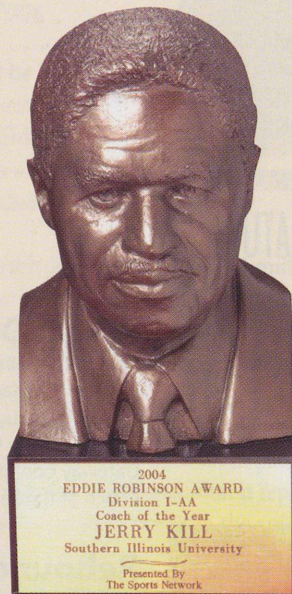
"Those academic honors mean a great deal to me," Kill says with a smile. "We make that a priority and it shows. It is wonderful to win the league crown, but if you aren't doing it the right way *with good people*, there really isn't much point to the whole thing."

I hope you enjoy our look at the man who has made football fun again at Southern.

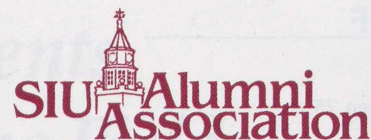
The SIU Alumni Association sends its congratulations to 2004 graduate Patrick Novak, who was recently presented the Congressional Gold Medal Award for the good work he has done for the betterment of his community and for the goals he has set for his own personal development. U.S. Congressman Jerry Costello presented the Carbondale resident with the award.

The Congressional Award was established in 1979 by the Congressional Award Act and is open to all young people ages 14-23. To earn the award, participants must set and achieve both personal and community goals. Since the award program started, more than 6,500 Congressional Awards have been earned, representing well over 1.5 million volunteer hours performed in community service across the nation.

Among Novak's many accomplishments, the SIU product earned his Gold Medal while serving active duty in the United States Air Force in Kadena, Japan. Novak volunteered his service to raise funds for Okinawa's Misata Children's Home.



Kill is proud to have his name associated with Eddie Robinson – one of the most respected coaches in the history of college football.



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Fellow Alum Pleased Southern Honored Johnson

I am so pleased to see Charles Johnson honored by his alma mater as an SIU Distinguished Alumni. Although we did not know each other (he was a year ahead of me), we both had the privilege of being instructed by the late John Gardner, and I have followed Johnson's career ever since.

He is a great talent and someone who has embraced the goal of doing well through writing that Gardner advocated in his classes and in the book, *On Moral Fiction*.

As a white alum, I am very happy to have been associated with a University that has long ranked among the highest traditionally white institutions in the country in the number of degrees awarded to African-American students. This is proud heritage that I hope we can find additional ways to honor.

I am sure there are other Charles Johnsons out there, and I would love to see more of them recognized by their alma mater.

Stuart Vyse '72
Professor and Chair
Department of Psychology
Connecticut College
New London, Conn.

Bryson Congratulated By Former Student

I would like to congratulate Dr. Seymour Bryson for the Higher Education Distinguished Service Award recently received by him from the Illinois Committee on Black Concerns in Higher Education.

Dr. Bryson served on my thesis and dissertation committees while I matriculated through graduate school at SIU, and it was nice to see mention of his accomplishments in the December issue of *Southern Alumni*.

Bryson is a great educator and a resourceful individual. Most of all, he has done a tremendous job in helping to diversify the SIU campus over the past 30 years.

Bernita Patterson, M.A. '77,
Ph. D. '81
Director of Counseling/Testing
University of Arkansas
Pine Bluff, Ark.

Keeping Him In Touch With SIU

Your magazine keeps me in touch with my alma mater, and makes me sense SIU's continued support years after my graduation.

I wish you well in continuing to produce a great magazine.

Thomas Woods '88, M.A. '91
Champaign, Ill.

Co-worker Remembers Dr. C

I was asked by the family of Achieve Program founder Barbara Cordoni-Kupiec to write to *Southern Alumni* so that alumni and others are aware of her many contributions to the University. Sadly "Dr. C" (as we all called her) passed away on Sept. 4, but her passing is an opportunity for everyone to think about the contribution he/she is making and to renewing his/her efforts to do more.

Her legacy is expansive. She helped a teacher like me find a wonderful population of students with which to interact, teach, and learn from. She gave hope and instilled patience in many parents who had given up on the educational system as a means to help their children with learning disabilities. She encouraged all the Achieve students to follow their dreams, as appropriately discussed in the fall 1999 *Southern Alumni* article, "The Right to Dream."

Foremost and always, Dr. C was a teacher. When someone would challenge the "fairness" of going the extra mile for an Achieve student, she would comment that there was nothing extraordinary about what Achieve was doing—it was just good teaching to help students learn using many modalities. I took that phrase—"it is just good teaching"—to heart in my own professional development, and I hold it as the premise of what I do each day.

Dr. C influenced so many of us to be better teachers and better people, especially when we were interacting with her students. She always wanted the best for all of them.

In closing, I would like to dedicate the following poem I wrote that I know Dr. C appreciated; it reflects who she was and all she did for so many of us.

TEACH, LEARN, RESPECT, LOVE

Teaching kids to be strong,
Realizing their dreams,
Realizing their goals,
Learning their roles,
I LOVE teaching.

Caring for students' hearts,
Holding their spirits high,
Guiding their minds to find,
Helping them to be kind,
I LOVE teaching.

Motivating young voracious minds,
Learning new ideas,
Respecting each eager thought,
Capturing the moment to be taught,
I LOVE teaching.

Diann Gordon M.S. '82
SIU Achieve Program
Carbondale, Ill.



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. Letters are sometimes edited for length and style.

Thanks!

The SIU Alumni Association would like to thank its members for making alumni events successful during the past year.

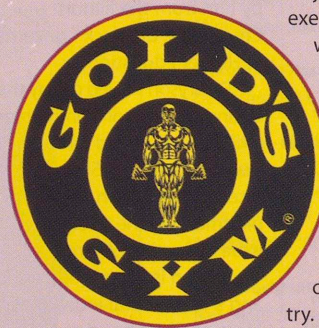
Alumni gatherings such as football tailgates, pictured here, were attended in record numbers and allowed alumni and friends the opportunity to show their Saluki Pride.



Gold's Gym

Shane Smith '01, owner of Gold's Gym of Marion, Ill., is offering his fellow SIU alums the chance to get fit as an SIU Alumni Association Benefit Partner.

Smith will waive the \$109 enrollment fee for any association member who joins the Marion gym located at 2500 Williamson County Parkway. The facility offers a full range of



exercise equipment, group classes with workout routines for cardio and strength training, nutrition coaches, child care and a juice bar.

Smith explains that any SIU Alumni Association member who brings in their current membership card will receive the benefit, pointing out that the membership in his gym can be used in all other 650 locations across the country.

The Marion facility is open from 5 a.m. to 11 p.m. seven days a week. For more information on the Gold's Gym network log on to www.goldsgym.com.

Garfield's Restaurant and Pub

Susan Browning '95, owner-operator of Garfield's Restaurant and Pub at University Mall in Carbondale is inviting local and visiting SIU alums to bring their membership card and enjoy a 20 percent discount on meals.

"As an SIU graduate from the hotel and restaurant program, I know the added benefit of the SIU community. Our store is active with the university and we appreciate the 12 years of loyal patronage we have had from the university and

Carbondale community," says Browning. She adds, "Keep using the 20 percent. We appreciate it!"

The Restaurant's full menu includes appetizers, soups, salads, sandwiches, burgers and entrees featuring steaks, ribs, chicken and fish in addition to several Tex-Mex specialties.

Garfield's is open Sunday from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m., Monday through Thursday from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. and Friday and Saturday from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.

Visit the Garfield's Web site at www.eats-inc.com.

Contact us on-line at
www.sialumni.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.sualumni.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

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.

Mayberry Consulting: 10% on purses, call 618-233-7455

SIU Alumni Association Online Store: 15% off merchandise (account number required)

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-Rhodes: 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

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

Mastercuts Salon: Carbondale, University Mall - \$1 off all cuts

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%

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

Red Hawk Country Club: Du Quoin - 20% off greens fees

Ruby Tuesdays Restaurant: Marion - 10%

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

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

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

Mc Leod 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

Tough 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.

EACH MEMBER ALSO RECEIVES:

- *Southern Alumni* magazine
- Nationwide Alumni chapters and clubs
- Special events & ceremonies
- SIU Alumni Association decal
- *Saluki Pride* newsletter

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
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Carbondale, Illinois 62901
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www.sualumni.com

New SIU Alumni Association Life Members

NEW LIFE MEMBERS

Between 11/1/04 and 1/31/05

Mr. Gregory A. Aman
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Mr. H. Leon Bagley
Ms. Jeannine Ceferin
Ms. Ellen Chabala
Mr. Daniel S. and
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Dr. Walter V. and
Mrs. Mary L. Wendler
Mr. Erik J. Wiatr
Ms. Melissa Nicole Zipfel

Joint Effort To Rebuild Afghanistan's Agricultural Sector

SIU Signs Pact With Pakistani University

A pact signed recently by representatives of Southern Illinois University and Northwest Frontier Province Agricultural University of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan in Peshawar will commit those two institutions (along with the University of Illinois) to a five-year collaboration aimed at rebuilding Afghanistan's agricultural sector through teaching, research and outreach activities.

"We're pleased to have this opportunity to renew and enhance our participation in an important international undertaking," says SIUC Chancellor Walter Wendler, who signed the Memorandum of Understanding on behalf of the University. SIU Dean of Agricultural Sciences Gary L. Minish, NFFPAU Field Office Director Abdul Qayyun Khan, representing NFFPAU Vice Chancellor Iqbal Shah, and Oval Myers, a retired Southern professor of plant, soil and agricultural systems with current and longstanding ties to the Pakistani university, also attended the signing ceremony.

"The Memorandum of Understanding serves as a vehicle for cooperating in activities and collecting resources to support those activities," Myers says. "It gives everyone involved more clout when they go to donor agencies." Myers and UI counterpart, John Santas first began working with Northwest Frontier Province Agricultural University in 1983 as part of a U.S. Agency for International Development project that focused on transforming NFFPAU from a small, provincial university into one of regional scope.

In the decade that followed, project team members helped the university bring its curriculum up to date, provide graduate education for scores of faculty members, build new facilities, bring



Participating in the ceremony were, from left, Gary Minish, dean of the College of Agricultural Sciences; Abdul Qayyun Khan, field office director for the Northwest Frontier Province Agricultural University of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan; Oval Myers, retired SIU professor of plant, soil and agricultural systems; and Chancellor Walter Wendler.

existing research stations into its fold and develop outreach services for farmers.

The project ended in 1994 when the U.S. government withdrew aid from Pakistan, but a new political climate

has resulted in increased U.S. interest in that part of the world. The federal development agency is once again funding training projects in South and West Asia. ■

Institute Now Bears Simon's Name

Southern Illinois University officials and members of the late U.S. Sen. Paul Simon's family honored him recently by announcing the Public Policy Institute he founded will now bear his name.

Chancellor Walter Wendler noted that in 1996, the University and the Illinois Board of Higher Education approved the establishment of the Paul Simon Public Policy Institute. However, Simon preferred it being known simply as the Public Policy Institute.

"As we all know, Paul was a modest man," Wendler says. "He believed the institute should be identified by its contributions, not as the work of one individual. But it is only fitting that we honor his legacy."

Institute director Mike Lawrence says the organization's staff "is delighted with our new name, and we will do everything in our power to live up to it."

SIU Board of Trustees Chair Glenn Poshard says that since it opened its doors in 1997, the institute has launched initiatives that have made significant impacts in Illinois and beyond.

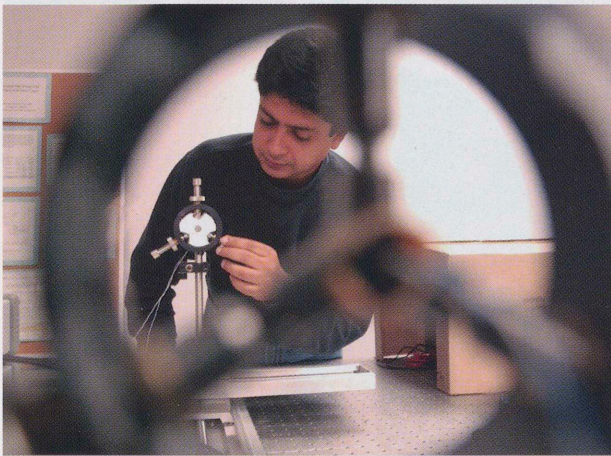
"This institute's programs and speakers have looked at significant issues and we are pleased that it will now remind our students, faculty, staff and others of the contributions Paul made through a lifetime of public service," Poshard stresses. ■

Helping Navigate Through The Brain

A GPS-like system being developed at Southern could help surgeons navigate through the brain to find and remove everything from tumors to bullet fragments easily, cheaply and with hardly any cutting at all.

"I believe this project could save lives," says SIU mechanical engineer Ajay Mahajan of an ultrasonic-based locational system devised in partnership with former Carbondale neurosurgeon Sumeer Lal.

His system, adapted from one he developed some years ago at Tulane University to track robots, gets rid of the cameras. It replaces them with a head restraint from which ultrasonic sensors branch off like tree limbs; he also added a couple of sensors to the surgeon's probe. Those two sensors act as transmitters, while those on the head restraint serve as receivers, allowing the equipment to map the probe's movement through the brain in three dimensions.



Ajay Mahajan demonstrates an ultrasonic-based locational system that could pave the way for the development of a better brain-surgery tool.

Neuro-navigation is nothing new. More than a decade ago, surgeons began harnessing computers to cameras to create high-tech guides that could help them "see" what they were doing in the brain. Such precision allows them to make smaller incisions and remove only what needs to go, lessening the risk of complications and speeding healing.

But these vision-based systems are pricey and hard to maintain. The cameras take up a lot of space, and if someone moves into their sightlines or worse, bumps them, they can lose track of where they are or shut down altogether. "When they stop working, calibrating them again is difficult," Mahajan says.

Hospitals can pay as much as \$500,000 to \$750,000 for standard image-guided neurosurgery equipment; Mahajan estimates the cost of this system to be significantly less – perhaps in the neighborhood of \$50,000-\$75,000 after adding in the costs of the patent, development, hardware, overhead and so forth.

While Mahajan received a provisional patent on the process last year, it will take some time before the system shows up in operating rooms.

"This project is still in its infancy. We don't even have a prototype yet," he notes, "but there has been a considerable amount of interest, and the word has gotten out." ■

On The Side

Governor Appoints SIU Alum Sanders To Board Of Trustees

K eith Sanders, former executive director of the Illinois Board of Higher Education, was recently appointed by Governor Rod Blagojevich to serve as a member of the Southern Illinois University Board of Trustees. The two-degree SIU product was president of the SIU Alumni Association in 1977-78.



"I am grateful that Gov. Blagojevich has given me the opportunity to serve my alma mater and the state of Illinois in this important role," Sanders says.

Sanders, who has had a distinguished career in higher education spanning four decades as a professor, dean, chancellor and state higher education executive in Wisconsin and Illinois, will fill the unexpired term of former longtime SIU Trustee Harris Rowe of Jacksonville, who resigned.

Sanders, who lives in Spring Grove, will serve in a temporary capacity until his appointment is confirmed by the Illinois State Senate. The Benton, Ill., native holds two degrees from SIU and spent much of his career working for the campus and the SIU system. He holds a doctorate in communication from the University of Pittsburgh.

Glenn Poshard, chair of the SIU Board of Trustees, hails the decision. "Governor Blagojevich made an outstanding selection. I can't imagine a better appointment. Keith Sanders understands the work that lies ahead for this Board and will be an important part of moving the University forward."

The SIU Alumni Association Life Member served as a faculty member at SIU from 1967 to 1989, including a three-year stint as governmental relations officer from 1980 to 1983 and then as dean of the College of Communications and Fine Arts from 1983 to 1989.

He served as a chancellor and subsequently as a senior vice president for administration and chief operating officer in the University of Wisconsin system from 1989 to 1997 before accepting the post of executive director of the Illinois Board of Higher Education in 1998. He served as IBHE executive director until his retirement in 2002.

While executive director for IBHE, Sanders was widely credited for the development of a compelling statewide agenda for higher education, having a close working relationship with pre-K through 12 education interests and providing strong leadership in the area of technology and the development of the Illinois Century Network, which has increased access to higher education for students across Illinois.

In 2001, Sanders was appointed by SIU President James Walker to serve on the "2020 Vision Committee," a strategic planning committee created to plan SIU's next two decades.

Walker says he believes Sanders' understanding of higher education in Illinois and the SIU system will provide an excellent foundation for his new role on the Board.

"Dr. Sanders will be an outstanding trustee. His service, experience and lifelong interest in SIU make him an excellent choice for our Board, and I look forward to working with him," Walker says.

Sanders is married to SIU graduate Carol (Dial) Sanders. They have a son, Mark, and two grandchildren. ■

Mom Balanced Family, School And Business To Earn SIU Degree

by K.C. Jaehnic

Mornings, 30-year-old Jennifer Hart was a Southern Illinois University student, studying such subjects as organic chemistry, soil microbiology and plant physiology. Afternoons, she turned into a teacher, home schooling two little boys who learn best when swinging upside down or turning somersaults. And Dec. 18, she became an SIU alum, with a shiny new bachelor's degree in plant and soil science and a 4.0 grade point average.

"I'd been saying, 'When Mommy's done with school, it will all get better,' but then Leif (her 8-year-old son) would say, 'Oh, no – when you're home it means I can't play as much,'" Hart now says with a laugh.

Up at 6:15 a.m., in bed by 9 p.m., Hart also managed to cram into her busy schedule housework, cooking, garden care, some work in the family business, University laboratory responsibilities, and a daily jog.

"I caught myself telling a friend on the phone, 'But doing dishes is my alone time—you can't hear anything over the water,'" she says. "You do what you have to do."

For Hart, the road to this degree was bumpy and full of detours. She started out, at the conventional age of 18, as a physics major at Carleton College, a highly competitive, private school in Minnesota, where she not only took a heavy academic load but did volunteer work and held down a campus job. It was too much even for this overachiever.

When she began to suffer panic attacks, a school official from whom she sought help told her, "Well, honey, everybody here has one or two break-



Jennifer Hart, a recent plant and soil science graduate at SIU, visits the University's greenhouse with her sons, Eric (left) and Leif. The 30-year-old full-time student graduated Dec. 18 with a 4.0 grade point average.

downs a year; that's just the way our college runs."

Hart dropped out two weeks before the academic year ended. Because her departure stemmed from emotional stress, school rules required her to sit out for two quarters—bad news for a physics major whose degree program followed a strict, quarter-by-quarter structure.

So she transferred to Hillsdale College in her home state of Michigan, a school that emphasized the humanities.

"I thought, 'If I'm at a college that's good at the humanities, I should major in the humanities,' so I switched to histo-

ry, but hated it. It was just reading textbooks," she remembers.

Nonetheless, she stuck it out for two years and might have gone on to finish that degree had she not suddenly—and with no warning—fallen in love with a man she'd known since she was 14.

David Hart, whom she'd first met when they both had summer jobs at a cherry orchard near her home in Clear Lake, Mich., had come back to see family before he started running his newly purchased business, Egyptian Photo, in Carbondale.

They'd kept in touch on and off over

SIU Students Participate In Design-Build Competition

the years, but a nine-year age difference kept it from being anything serious. Now, however, they were both in their 20s. She came over to pay a neighborly call, they went for a walk in the woods, and something clicked. After a two-week engagement, they were married.

Arriving in Carbondale in 1995 just after fall classes started, Hart got a job at a local garden center and began looking into changing her major to plant and soil science. She enrolled for spring semester and, six days before it started, learned she was pregnant.

"I thought I had the flu," she says. "It was a complete surprise. We were never supposed to have children; my husband had had cancer and was 'sterile.'"

Leif Hart was born Sept. 11, 1996, bringing Hart's schooling to a screeching stop. Eric, her second "miracle baby," followed two years later. Hart began home schooling almost as soon as Leif could talk, driven by his constant questions about how things worked and why.

She came back to school in January 2003 when her sons were ages 6 and 4.

While she thought when she started that she might want to run a garden center after she graduated, she's since shifted to an emphasis on the soil science side of her degree. In the short term, that might translate into a job doing soil surveys, developing farm management plans or working in soil conservation or waste control. Long term, she has a different dream.

"I'd like to go to Africa because their soils are so poor," she says. "I don't know if I'd ever be able to do that, but I would like to be able to help people."

But no matter what she chooses, she'll apply to her life a lesson she learned while gardening in the asphalt parking lot behind her husband's business: "You have to make yourself grow whatever will fit in that particular spot." ■

While the city of Carbondale recently prepared to convert R. Buckminster Fuller's original dome home to a temporary post office for a day to issue a commemorative Fuller stamp, a group of Southern Illinois University students was creating a tribute to Fuller deep in the heart of Texas.

The architecture students – all sophomores – and one of their professors got the challenge last summer at the Construction Specification Institute's annual design-build competition in San Antonio. Each of the 14 teams was to follow the theme "Remembering" by comparing or contrasting San Antonio to their home institution's region in one-inch ceramic tiles.

One of Southern's two teams in the competition chose to replicate a Fuller-inspired dome they had just toured in Fort Worth. Casa Manana is the nation's first permanent theater designed for the production of musicals-in-the-round. No one in the group was aware that the Fuller stamp was being unveiled July 13, 2004 in Carbondale,

two days after they would return to Carbondale. The second group did an abstract depiction of the San Antonio River and the Mississippi River.

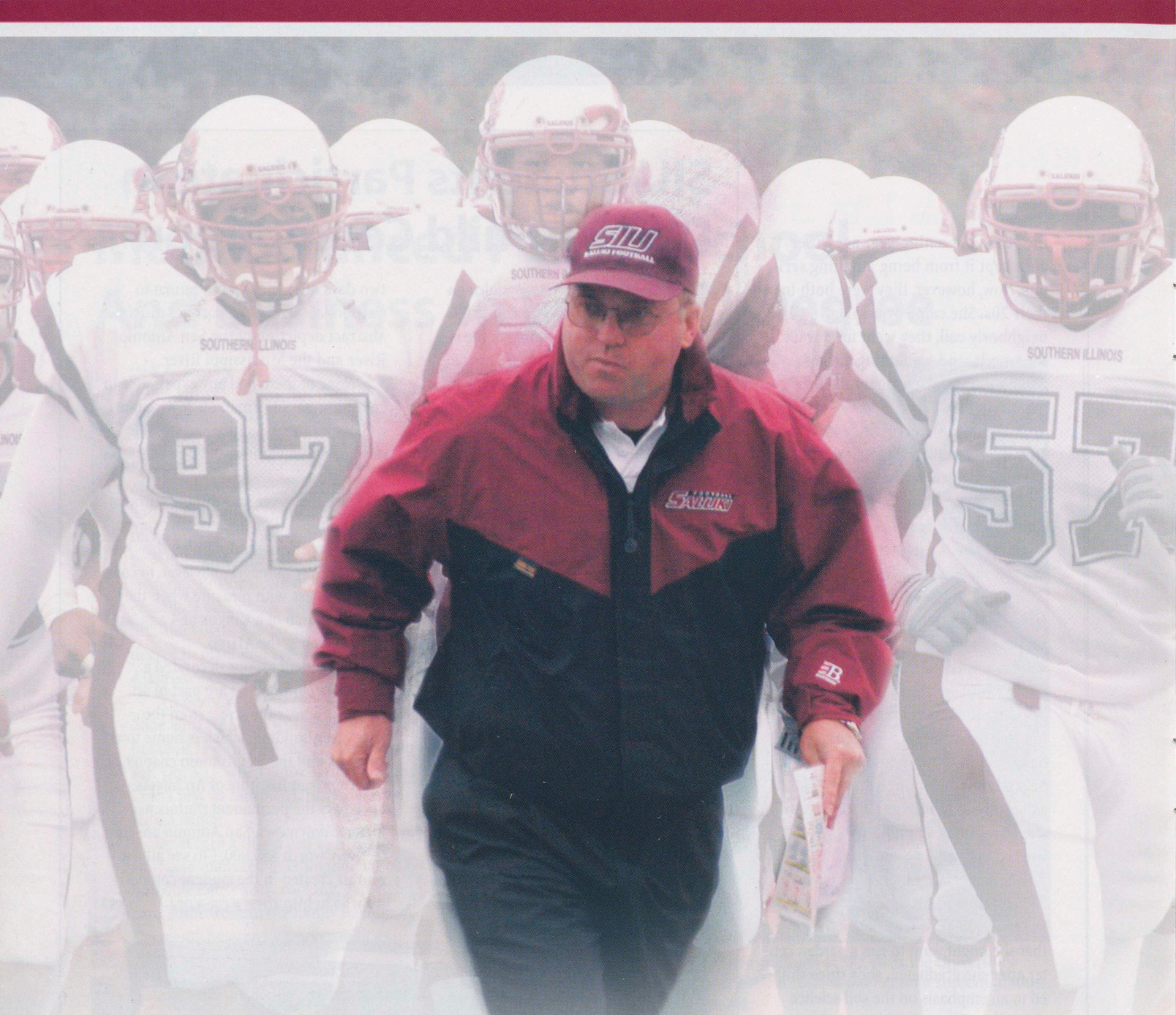
"None of them had any experience in ceramics," says Norman Lach, assistant professor of architecture and interior design. "I thought it would be a mess, but it was great."

Since they were last-minute entrants in the competition, the students stayed up most of the night designing the murals. They managed, however, to combine business with pleasure when they went in search of a Kinko's at 4 a.m. and made a stop at the Alamo.

The student groups decorated a group of columns that are part of an overpass across the street from the FineSilver Building, which is home to art galleries and the San Antonio chapter of the American Institute of Architects. Lach says the permanent murals near historic downtown San Antonio are collectively worth \$50,000. (To see all the murals created in the student competition, go to <http://www.csi-s.org>.) ■



SIU architecture students and an instructor participated in the Construction Specification Institute's annual design-build competition in San Antonio, Texas. Those involved were, from left: (back row) Nick Lach, Jill Kirchherr, and Ryan Murphy; (middle row) Carrie Momeni, Lilia Angel and Matt Hupe; (front row) Dan Finholt and Mark Dorsey.



A PART OF SOMETHING SPECIAL

With two straight conference titles and the 1-AA National Coach of the Year Award safely tucked away, SIU's Jerry Kill has reason to smile about the state of Saluki football.

BY GENE GREEN

Kill is shown leading his team onto the field en route to another Gateway Championship – and the ring that went with it.



The notes are tucked away inside a credenza behind his desk. As the 2004 recipient of the “Eddie Robinson Award” (presented annually to the top head football coach in NCAA 1-AA), Jerry Kill can now grin when he reflects on the box of cards, letters and e-mails collected during his early days on the Southern Illinois University campus.

“Friends, coaches and total strangers asked me why I would take this job,” the Saluki head coach admits. “They told me football here was a coaching death sentence and that it couldn’t be done; some basically questioned my mental state. I saved *every* note, and still pull them out every so often if I need to be reminded of just how far we have come in such a short time.”

Kill says only one person was adamant that he accept the challenge.

“Coach Dennis Franchionne (currently head coach at Texas A & M and Kill’s former boss at Pittsburg State University) felt I had nothing to lose,” he recalls. “He reminded me that my reputation was good enough in the coaching ranks that if this *didn’t* work out, I would land another job somewhere.”

And then his mentor turned from cheerleader to prognosticator. “Jerry, if you *can* find a way to turn it around,” Franchionne stressed, “you could be a part of something pretty darn special!”

THE ROAD TO 'SPECIAL'

When Kill walked in the door on Dec. 6, 2000, he became the 19th head coach to lead the University's football program. While there had certainly been highlights during the past 90 years—the 1983 National Championship the most notable—little evidence remained that pointed to success in the near future. Southern had won only five Gateway Conference games in former coach Jan Quarless' four years at the helm, and the strong league appeared to be getting even stronger.

In fact, in the past 17 seasons, SIU football had recorded a winning overall record only twice: 7-4 during both the 1986 and 1991 campaigns. This sobering fact, sprinkled with a decaying stadium and a dash of apathy, might have scared off a few suitors, but not Kill.

He had a couple of things going for him that no other applicant could match. SIU Athletics Director Paul Kowalczyk was intrigued by Kill's successful rebuilding efforts at NCAA Division II schools Saginaw Valley State and Emporia State. In each instance, in a span of seven years, his teams had *always* shown improvement. The other ingredient Kill brought to the table was a loyal staff that had been with him almost every step of the way.

After a national search, Kowalczyk knew he had his man.

“Jerry had a reputation as a program builder, a good public relations person, and a coach who elicited extreme loyalty from his players,” Kowalczyk says. “But most impressive was his value system. He had always been a winner, but it was obvious that he wasn't winning at all costs; that was a real important component as well.”



Win, lose, or draw, Rebecca Kill makes her way down to greet her husband as he leaves the field. Often joined by daughters Krystal and Tasha, the Kills head for the Dairy Queen in Carterville, where Jerry orders his trademark chocolate chip cookie dough Blizzard – a tradition he follows after each game.

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

Kill and his assistants soon realized there was much to do if they were to plant the seeds of success. “When we first arrived, we were working crazy 16-18 hour days to try and get things going,” he recalls. “Since it was the middle of the school year, our families were not here yet, and we all decided to live *together* for five months.”

Only a cohesive staff could have survived such an arrangement.

“We had four coaches in one apartment, and four in another,” he says with a wide grin. “It was a unique experience, with different people cooking on different days, sharing certain chores, and all getting to know one another even better with our families far away.”

When Kill's wife, Rebecca, did finally

come to Carbondale to visit, the trip was not exactly a calming experience.

“She was back in Emporia with the kids and was still extremely nervous about everything,” Kill recalls. “We went to the 2001 MVC Basketball Tournament together, sat down at a game, and a gentleman turned around and asked her: “Isn't your husband the new football coach at SIU?” She proudly said yes. “Boy, oh boy,” the fan said, “why in the world would you let him come here? This is a burial ground for football coaches!”

Following her first-ever conversation with a Saluki, Rebecca nudged her husband and whispered, “Do you think we should keep the house in Emporia for awhile?” He just laughed and assured her that everything would be fine.

PUTTING THINGS IN MOTION

Despite a woefully late start, Kill and his staff pieced together a solid first-year recruiting class which included record-setting quarterback Joel Sambursky. With spring practice 2001 quickly approaching, the first task was to mesh the new Salukis with the holdovers from the Quarless teams.

"That was the toughest thing we faced in those days," Kill recalls. "We had to *change* the culture around here, and the kids we brought in knew they were assembled to fit our needs and our personality. The group that was already here was from a different culture and a different system.

"The culture we brought in slowly changed the older guys; it didn't change them all, and those are the players who left. Those who did change learned how to do things a different way, and Tom Koutsos was the greatest example of that. I told everyone—new players and holdovers alike—to buy into a dream. If they did, they would be rewarded."

The first season produced a 1-10 record, and Kill realized the dream remained a blur to most. The second year got clearer at 4-8, and included the game that perhaps made believers out of the players, SIU's administration and the region's fans. When the Salukis shocked Western Illinois 54-52 to break a winless streak of almost two decades against the Leathernecks, a light went on.

"That's the game where the players bought in," he says. "That's the game where people realized things were starting to change for SIU football. After that—in many ways—we never looked back."

QUICKER THAN EXPECTED

When Kill took over SIU's moribund program, he confided it would probably take five or six years to turn things around. That was the track record for coaches he admired like Frank Beamer

at Virginia Tech and Joe Novak at Northern Illinois. There were few magical shortcuts out there; he had been in the profession long enough to know that.

But now just four years later, following another 10-2 season when SIU was ranked first in the nation for most of the year, Kill shakes his head in borderline disbelief when considering this timetable of success.

"What has happened already is like a dream," he says, "and I just hope nobody wakes us up. I preach the team approach to our players, and there is a big team involved that shares what has happened. From local unions helping us light McAndrew Stadium, to the countless fans of this region supporting us every step of the way, it has been a group effort making Saluki Football win again."

But winning isn't everything. *How* you win is what matters to Kill.

"Not only have we won, but we've done it the right way with good kids who care about academics," he stresses. "Yes, we won another Gateway Conference title, but people also need to know that we had *more players* on the league's All-Academic Team than any other school. Eight of the 32 honorees were Salukis—think about that—one quarter of the academic awards went to **our team!**"

"When you recruit good *people*—and not just good players—they produce on and off the field. We are not out there throwing darts when we recruit. Our coaching staff knows as much about potential players as we can, and we know if they are the kind of young men we want representing SIU.

"This football program might not always have the best players in the Gateway Conference, but we sure do have the best people. That is usually going to translate into the best team when the dust clears."

A LOOK AHEAD

With eight starters returning from a defense which led the nation in fewest



THE EDDIE ROBINSON AWARD

When Jerry Kill traveled to Chattanooga, Tenn., a few months ago to accept the 2004 Eddie Robinson Award, he did so with many people on his mind. Honored as the top head coach in the NCAA 1-AA, the fourth-year Southern coach proudly shared the prize.

"It was a tremendous honor to receive this award, but I accepted on behalf of my assistant coaches, our administration and our University," Kill recalls. "All have worked hard to put Southern Illinois University football back on the map. It's an award we *all* share."

Kill guided the Salukis to a 10-2 record and a Gateway Conference championship, posting a perfect 7-0 league mark. The Salukis spent 10 weeks atop the I-AA polls and earned a playoff bid for the second year in a row, before being upset in the first round of the playoffs by Eastern Washington.

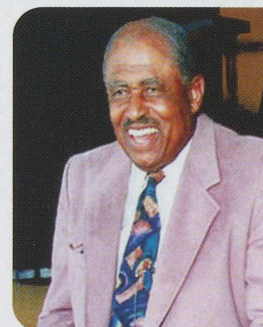
Kill was runner-up for the Eddie Robinson Award in 2003 and is humbled to be linked in any way to the former

Grambling University coach who won eight national championships and retired as the winningest coach in college football history.

"Eddie Robinson was a legend in this game, and to receive this award is the greatest honor of my life," Kill notes. "What makes it even more special is I have met the man and had a chance to talk to him. Coach Robinson is an impressive and amazing person."

Kill is adamant that the award be seen as a compilation of the hard work of his staff and team.

"I have to credit our players and our assistant coaches," he stresses. "Without them, *none* of this would be possible."



Former Grambling
coach Eddie Robinson



Kill keeps a watchful eye as his team walks over to McAndrew Stadium for pre-game activity. Relaxed and congenial away from the field, the Saluki coach displays his intense competitive nature between the lines.

points allowed last season, the Salukis have plenty to build on as they try a “three-peat” in the conference. Replacing offensive standouts like Brandon Jacobs, Terry Jackson and Elmer McDaniel will offer an immediate challenge, but Kill knows the base is firmly in place to keep things headed in the right direction.

“Some people might think we are going to slip a little bit, but I’m confident we still have a good football team,” Kill says. “Losing Jacobs and Jackson is tough, but Arkee Whitlock returns, Craig Turner will be in the backfield more, and Antoine Jackson has been waiting his turn and will be a force for us back there in 2005.”

“Winning three straight league titles would be a tremendous accomplishment, but I think our players look forward to the challenge. Let’s not forget – Sambursky will *always* have our football team ready to play.”

And there remains one ultimate goal for the Gateway Conference and NCAA 1-AA National Coach of the Year: “We’re going to keep climbing that mountain and try to find a way to bring another national championship back to this University,” he says rather bluntly.

“Although we’ve accomplished a lot in a short amount of time, there is still work to be done.”

**“Let’s not forget–
Sambursky will
always have our
football team
ready to play.”**

Should Kill feel the need to free up any office space as that quest continues, he might consider removing a box of notes that remain behind his desk. After all, it’s been a long time since he’s added anything to the collection.

No longer is anyone wondering why he took the job or questioning the Kansas native’s mental state. Instead, this self-proclaimed “hard hat, lunch pail guy” has captivated players, alumni and fans with his honest approach to success.

“Given Jerry’s upbringing, I thought he would be a good fit for Southern Illinois University,” Kowalczyk says of the hire. “But it has obviously turned into more than that: He has struck a chord with this institution and the people of the region.

“What he’s done here is one of the greatest stories in college football.” 🏈



Jerry Kill poses with members of his 2004 Gateway Championship coaching staff: Front row from left – Jason Fairfield (graduate assistant), Rob Reeves, Brian Anderson, Tracy Claeys, Bryce Saia, Jay Sawvel, and Marc Webel (student assistant). Back row – Travis Stepps (graduate assistant), Eric Klein, Matt Limegrover, Kill, Pat Poore, Tom Matukewicz, and Andrew Wynn (student assistant).

“HE TREATS US LIKE HE IS ONE OF US...”

In Jerry Kill’s mind, it is a story directly linked to SIU football’s return to dominance. It is something so rare, there is almost no other program in which to compare. And it is a subject that makes him beam with pride.

An assistant coach’s life is normally a nomadic existence. Opportunities present themselves, or personnel conflicts arise, but the end result is often a lifestyle featuring routine movement.

Not at Southern—SIU’s assistants are putting down roots instead of pulling up stakes.

“When I took this job late in 2000, I had seven assistants who came here with me,” Kill explains. “Most had been with me for quite awhile, and that was the group jammed into the apartment complex together in the early days.”

Guess what? Each coach is *still* a Saluki.

“Coach Kill treats every assistant just like he is one of us,” says defensive coordinator Tracy Claeys, who is entering his 11th year with Kill. “He is the most competitive person I know, and also the most caring – *that’s* a pretty amazing combination.”

Claeys says that Kill allows his assistants to get to know him well, has great respect for their families, and is loyal to a fault.

“Those things add up and allow us all to get along,” he says.

“When we were 1-10 that first year, not *once* did we lose our composure and go after one another. It just doesn’t happen.”

And for his part, Kill is proud to be the head coach *and* just one of the guys.

“I am *not* way up on a pedestal, and they are down here,” he stresses. “We work *together* and respect one another. That doesn’t happen enough in the coaching profession. Most football assistants move on every two or three years, but this group is unique.”

And SIU Athletics Director Paul Kowalczyk knows others take note of this loyalty.

“It would be easy for Jerry’s staff to entertain offers from NCAA I-A programs, but as with his players, his assistants maintain a fierce allegiance,” Kowalczyk points out. “I think that camaraderie—that teamwork—spills over to the players.”

Students Bring 'Dawgzooka' To Life

The Southern Illinois University men's basketball team and its rabid fans weren't the only ones making noise in the SIU Arena this season.

Meet "Dawgzooka."

Similar to a high-powered paintball gun, the radio-controlled Dawgzooka shot T-shirts into the upper reaches of the Arena during home basketball games, much to the delight of thousands of Saluki fans. Students in a microcontroller programming class did all of the wiring, embedding of the microprocessor, and programming of Dawgzooka, assistant professor Martin Hebel says.

Dawgzooka was one of several class projects considered to start the fall semester. Part of the inspiration for Dawgzooka came from the experience of Hebel and several students who competed in the DIY television networks *Robot Rivals* series. A three-member team from SIU defeated teams from several other universities before losing in the semifinals of the 2003 competition.

Tim Byrnes, a senior in electronic systems technology from Red Bud, played a major role in designing the launch system, and Jason Hartle, also a

Dawgzooka is fully adjustable and can shoot up to 280 pounds per square inch. At games, however, it shot at 150 pounds per square inch to a distance

of about 65 to 75 yards.

But while shooting prizes into the Arena stands is fun, the educational aspect of the project is also important, says associate professor William Devenport, chair of the School of Information Systems and Applied Technologies in the College of Applied Sciences and Arts.

"A lot of the principles they learned in this novelty are now being put to good use as we work with one of our quadriplegic instructors in upgrading one of his wheelchairs," he

notes. "What we have learned here has been fun, and now we can take these new skills and apply them to something that is a real need."

Dawgzooka's sponsors and contributors include the Southern Illinois University Carbondale Department of Public Safety, Jimmy John's Subs, Garner Paintball, SIU Arena and Saluki Central.



Nathan Donovan (left) and Kurt Eickelberg get an SIU Arena crowd pumped up at the Dec. 11 Saluki men's basketball game against Murray State for "Dawgzooka," which shot T-shirts into the stands.

senior in electronic systems technology from Champaign, the control system of Dawgzooka. But all seven class members had a part in development and construction, including artwork design and locating sponsors. The chassis came from a decommissioned bomb squad robot belonging to SIU's Department of Public Safety.



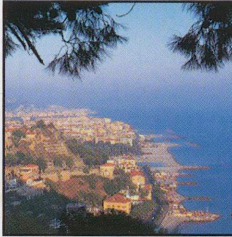
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UNLV Professor/SIU Grad Is A Rising Star

by Marianne Lawrence

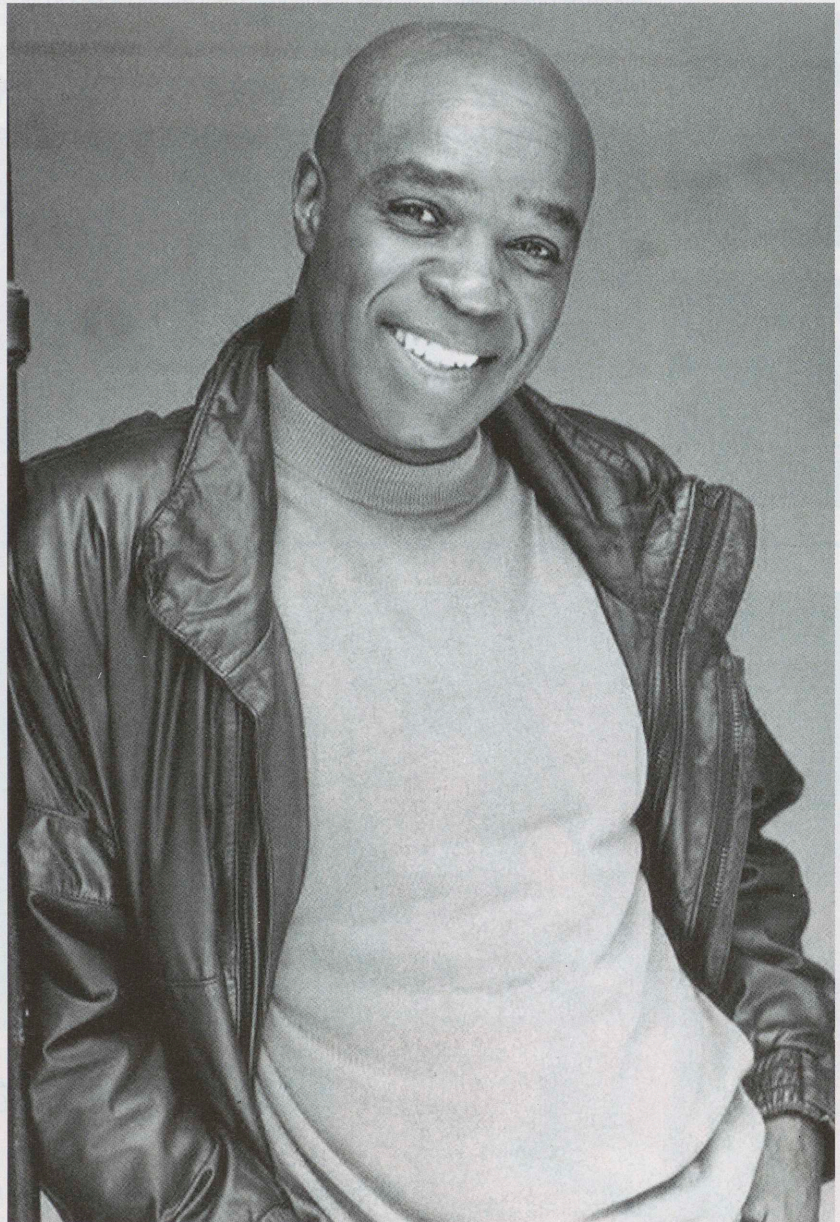
Nate Bynum's acting career has been kicked up a notch with his latest role in *Benji: Off The Leash!*

The 1988 graduate of SIU's Theatre Department, a tenured teaching professor at the University of Nevada at Las Vegas, is developing a lengthy and impressive list of credits in movies, television, live theatre, commercials and screen writing.

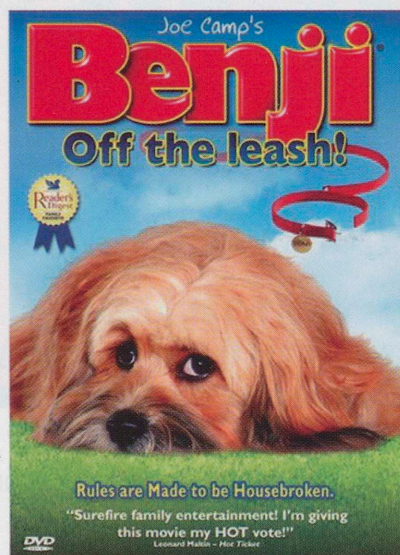
His fourth-place billing in the *Benji* film has allowed him to get a different manager and agent. "I'm happy to be able to move up to that level," says Bynum, who recently signed with Studio Talent Group Management in Hollywood.

His character, Sheriff Ozzie, required that Bynum gain some weight and polish his Mississippi dialect before he began location shooting last summer in Utah. The timing was perfect for Bynum since it didn't interfere with his UNLV teaching commitment.

Having taught as a graduate assistant and Dean's Graduate Fellow while



Using skills honed as a graduate of SIU's Theatre Department, Bynum is now a multi-talented performer who also finds time to teach at UNLV. He gained teaching experience at Southern as a graduate assistant and a Dean's Graduate Fellow.



at SIU, Bynum continued in classrooms at the University of Arkansas in Pine Bluff and Mississippi State University

in Starkville before moving to UNLV. All along the way he was building a body of work in film and television

with shows like the *CSI* series, *Walker, Texas Ranger*, *Touched by an Angel*, *Everwood* and *Frasier*.

“My career sort of goes in spurts,” explains Bynum. “Some years I do more national commercials, some years more television, and in the last couple of years there has been more film work.” His most recent film, *Miss Congeniality 2* starring Sandra Bullock, is due to be released soon. Bynum plays a reporter in the film sequel.

Bynum explains that the roles he plays are considered the professional research he is required to complete as a full-time tenured professor, and thus far Bynum’s teaching has been the backdrop for those roles.

He is in his fifth year at UNLV, where he was recruited to develop a program for the theater department. His Acting for the Camera curriculum is a comprehensive degree program



Bynum strikes a pose as Sheriff Ozzie on *Benji: Off The Leash!*

an actor needs to know and then gives him or her the practical skills to work on camera.”

Not surprising with all his practical experience in the business, Professor Bynum recently received the College of Fine Arts’ Creative Teacher of the Year Award for 2004.

area imaginable, but I loved it. It made me a better artist. It made me a smart artist and more worldly in my outlook. I remember being busy with no time for myself.”

Bynum also recalls one winter in the early 1980s as being unusually harsh. “I was told we would not have harsh winters, but that year I had snow up to my knees,” he laughs.

The actor/professor has returned to campus twice since graduating and hopes to return for a planned reunion with the theater department. Not

unaccustomed to travel, Bynum is devoted to his two daughters, Tierra Angelica, 14, and Brianna Danielle, 8, who live in Mississippi and travels to see them at least once a month. He calls them his “greatest production to date.”

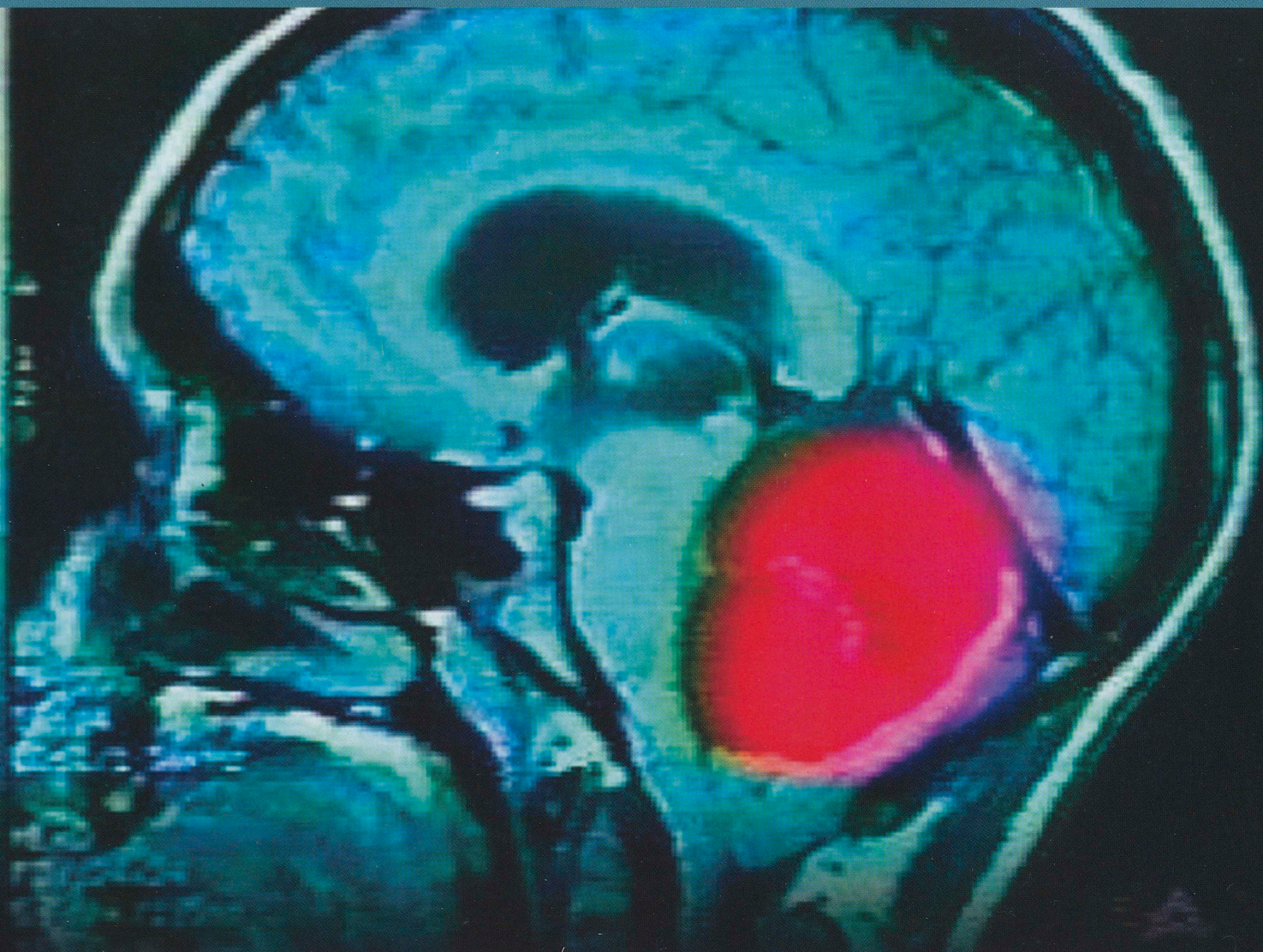
Bynum’s star has been rising since he won best actor awards in his junior and

“I remember SIU as a totally different experience. I was challenged in every area imaginable, but I loved it.”

with foundation courses in basic stage acting before students move into film and television training. Bynum explains, “It provides the basics of what

The courses he teaches at UNLV may well reflect his classroom experiences at SIU. “I remember SIU as a totally different experience. I was challenged in every

senior year of high school in Columbia, S.C., and if it continues to rise, it won’t be long before his career will be “off the leash” as well. ■



REBOUNDED

From Death's Door

SIU alumnus Jeff Elliott shares the story of his son's triumphant recovery from a life-threatening brain tumor.

by Marianne Lawrence

Jeff Elliott '83 was in the stands at the Carl Sandberg College gym in Galesburg, Ill., when his son, Eric, hit the first three-point basket of his college career. When he sank the next trey a few minutes later, Elliott and his wife, Ruth, were engulfed in a sea of emotional memories.

They knew just how far their son had come to make those baskets.

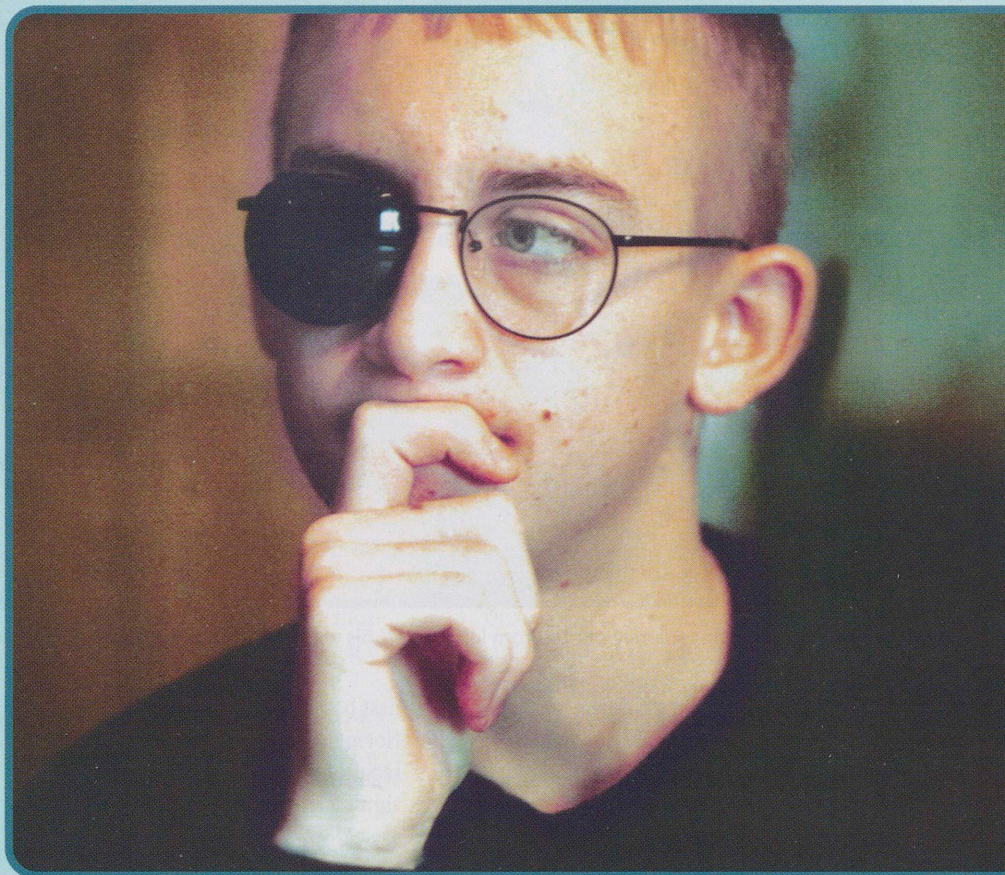
For nearly two years they had watched Eric struggle tirelessly to overcome the effects of surgery he had needed to remove a life-threatening brain tumor when he was just 13. Watching him fulfill his childhood dream of playing college basketball inspired the SIU alumnus almost immediately to write a book that would tell his son's story.

Rebounding From Death's Door chronicles Eric Elliott's journey to recover first from the drastic surgery and then from the residual double vision, loss of depth perception, balance and coordination.

The story begins in January of 1999 when a blizzard swept through central Illinois. After helping his dad shovel snow from the driveway of their home in Shirley, Ill., a small rural community near Bloomington, Eric complained of seeing double. A call to the family doctor resulted in a trip to the hospital. The Elliotts believe in miracles, and two occurred that day.

The first was that Eric and his Dad were able to negotiate the mountainous snow drifts to reach the emergency room of BroMenn Hospital in Bloomington. The second occurred when Dr. Keith Kattner, world-renowned brain surgeon, was by chance in the hospital that snowy day and noticed Eric's MRI as he walked through the radiology department.

The family was soon face-to-face with the seriousness of Eric's condition. A tumor the size of a tennis ball was lodged at the base of his skull, putting pressure on the part of the brain that controls heart rate, respiration, balance and eye mobility. Dr. Kattner, director of cerebrovascular and skull base surgery at Central Illinois



Eric Elliott was left with double vision, no balance or depth perception and little coordination after surgery to remove a brain tumor. On the facing page is the actual MRI of the tumor, shown in red.

Neuroscience Foundation, performed surgery the next day, and Eric began the long road back to pick up his dream.

No sooner had he begun his recovery at home when the family was dealt another blow when their daughter, Jennifer, was diagnosed with bacterial meningitis. After a two-week stay in the hospital she came home, also suffering from double vision and having trouble comprehending simple words.

Elliott recalls how Eric and Jennifer teamed up to help each other through their respective therapies. "They fit together like a puzzle," says Elliott. "They became very close during that time."

Jennifer has now fully recovered, is a nursing student at Heartland Community College and works as a nursing technician at BroMenn Hospital. "It's ironic she is working in the very

hospital that saved both our kids' lives," exclaims Ruth Elliott.

Elliott's book documents the long and difficult recovery for Eric, who dealt with the double vision for six months and was unable to walk a straight line for more than a year. He would fall repeatedly trying to walk a strip of toilet paper spread on the floor, which was part of his therapy. He studied with huge blowups of his class work.

As he progressed, his doctors recommended he become involved in a sports-related activity, so Elliott and his fellow firefighters built a basketball hoop on the family's driveway. "He would shoot baskets for hours, wearing his corrective glasses and a patch covering one eye. Each shot would sail about four feet wide of the backboard, yet he never seemed discouraged. Eric just didn't give up."



The Elliotts pose for a family photo. From left are Jeff, his wife, Ruth, daughter, Jennifer and son Eric.

Whenever Eric did get down, which was rare, the Elliotts would pull out the 1993 movie *Rudy* for inspiration. The true story of walk-on Rudy Ruettiger's determined quest to play football for Notre Dame would usually do the trick and get Eric back on track.

After hours of determined effort, Eric had gained weight, experienced a growth spurt and with clearance from his doctors was able to start for his team at Olympia High School. Next he earned a full tuition scholarship to Sandburg and his first year there averaged 10.5 points, 4.8 rebounds, and shot 36 percent from three-point range. In addition, he won the 2004 Arrowhead Athletic Conference Academic Excellence Award.

It took Elliott seven months to write the book, which features a reproduction of Eric's MRI on the cover. Published by AuthorHouse, the venture has kept Elliott busy with book signings in addition to acting as a media spokesman. The story has been featured in many newspaper articles, as well as on television and radio. "Our

first book signing at Border's Books in Normal, Ill., last October broke the record for the most books sold at a signing since the store has been open," says Elliott.



Eric puts up a shot for his Carl Sandburg College basketball team during a game last year. (Photo courtesy of Ray Mendez.)

A full-time firefighter for the past nine years, Elliott doesn't mind all the activity surrounding his book. "I work on this every day that I am not at the fire department. So it has become a passion of mine and I never grow tired of talking about it."

A passage in the book describes Elliott's feelings after Eric's first college game: "To the fans who watched him or the opponents he faced on the court, he was just one of many good college basketball players. To me, however, he was the boy who overcame double vision. He was the boy who couldn't run without falling, yet now performed aerial acrobatics while driving to the basket.

"He was the boy who shot the basketball four feet to the right of the rim, who now swished three-pointers with consistency. He was the boy who had become a man, who had overcome all obstacles in his path to achieve what all of his doctors said he would never do again."

For more information visit, www.reboundingfromdeathdoor.com. Elliott's book is also available from Border's Book Stores.

SIU Initiative Studies Problem Gamblers

by Pete Rosenbery

Southern Illinois University researchers who study the psychology of gambling recently began offering a treatment program for problem gamblers. Statistics show that 3 percent of the country's population is pathological or problem gamblers—a sharp rise from 1 percent nationally just 20 years ago.

According to Mark Dixon, associate professor and coordinator of the SIU Rehabilitation Institute's Behavior Analysis and Therapy program, the treatment program addressed the gambling addiction and explored the reasons clients started to gamble. The eight-week program also examined the role alcohol and drugs play in gambling addiction.

However, the treatment program did not put clients in the position of believing that they are failures if they continue to gamble.

"Rather, it's a lifelong process of dealing with it and also trying to gradually reduce rather than just stop cold-



Mairi McAllister, (foreground) and Zachery Sneed are two of the graduate and doctoral students who served as therapists and intake coordinators for the new treatment program.

turkey, continue to fail, and have those kinds of ramifications that go along with repeated failures," Dixon says.

Dixon notes the following statistics related to gambling:

- National losses from gambling have increased 4,200 percent in 30 years.
- The gambling industry, including state lotteries and Las Vegas casinos, annually brings in more money than the combined revenues of the recording and movie industries, theme parks, professional sports and cruise ship industries.
- Only two states offered legalized gambling 20 years ago. Today, all but two states, Hawaii and Utah, allow legalized gambling, and online gambling is legal in all 50 states.
- Research, including stud-

ies done at SIU, continues to show that members of lower socio-economic groups tend to spend more disposable income on smaller and more immediate economic opportunities such as gambling.

Behavioral issues involving gambling, alcohol and drugs are similar, says Professor John Benschoff, who coordinates the University's nationally recognized Rehabilitation Counselor Training Program. People who report significant gambling disorder issues also report significant disorder issues involving drugs and alcohol, he notes.

Dixon expects to see some initial research results at the end of the eight-week treatment program and at three- and six-month intervals. "It's going to be interesting because we know there is a problem out there."

Mark Dixon, associate professor and coordinator of SIU's Rehabilitation Institute Behavior Analysis and Therapy Program, and John Benschoff, coordinator of the University's nationally recognized Rehabilitation Counselor Training Program, combined efforts to start a treatment program for pathological gamblers.



Baseball Dawgs Hope 3rd Time's A Charm

Third time's a charm might be something SIU baseball embraces after falling one win shy of making the NCAA Tournament in each of the last two seasons.

SIU opened last season 0-12, before going on to finish fourth in the Missouri Valley Conference with an overall record of 27-32-1 and 15-16-1 mark in league play. Despite the rough start, the Salukis heated up at the end of May, winning five straight en route to its second MVC Championship appearance. The Dawgs, however, dropped two games to Wichita State for the second year in a row.

Now with a season underway featuring four NCAA Tournament teams, the Salukis hope to continue their climb in the Valley and find that elusive spot in the national tournament. SIU returns five position starters and three starting pitchers to a young roster consisting of 11 freshmen and only 12 returning lettermen.

After a challenging non-league slate, the Dawgs are scheduled to open Missouri Valley action March 23-25 hosting Northern Iowa. This season the Valley switches to a three-game series format for the first time since 1994 after playing four-game sets for the last 10 years.

Head Coach *Dan Callahan* says the scheduling change has its advantages.

"What's interesting about the three-game format is that there will always be a series winner," says Callahan. "In the past, it's always been the goal to win three of four games or sweep, which can be quite difficult in the MVC."

Probably the top returning position player is senior shortstop/pitcher *P.J. Finigan*, a solid two-way threat who produced at the plate and on the mound. In 57 starts, he hit .265 and ranked among the Salukis' top-three in triples (1st; 5), doubles (2nd; 13), runs batted in (3rd; 33), hits (3rd; 56) and runs scored (3rd; 34).

Another key returnee is super utility-man *Nathan Emrick*, a first-team all-MVC pick last year. Emrick hit a team-leading .353, while topping the Dawgs in several other categories, including games started (60), at-bats (238), runs (36) and hits (84). He also ranked second in RBIs (34), total bases (97) and stolen bases (15). The outfield returns starters *Kevin Koski*, *Matt Brewer*, and *Grant Gerard*, a

returnee who battled injury last year but who should be a key offensive contributor in 2005.

Despite ace

junior left-hander *Eric Haberer* being drafted in the third round by the St. Louis Cardinals, the Saluki staff looks promising. Senior closer *Andrew Weber* established himself as one of the league's top relievers last season, going 5-1 with a conference-best 11 saves. Weber, who was named first-team all-MVC, returns for his final season at needing only eight saves to become the program's all-time leader with 20. (*Al Levine* currently leads with 19).

The starting corps will be paced by seniors *Bryan Rueger* and *Jason Chavez*. Rueger, solid as a sophomore, was bothered by a sore shoulder in 2004. Chavez was named honorable mention all-MVC after going 5-4 with a 2.44 ERA—the best of any Saluki starting pitcher.

With the return of junior *Brendan Lutz* and the addition of junior transfer *Hunter Harrigan*, SIU's depth at catcher should improve.

Among the 15 newcomers on the team, none comes as highly touted as *Dean Cademartori*, the National High School Baseball Coaches Association District 4 Player-of-the-Year. Also, a second-team NHSBCA All-American, he garnered first-team *Chicago Tribune* all-state and Louisville Slugger Player-of-the-Year (Illinois) honors.

For the remainder of the team's schedule, go to Calendar of Events on page 45, or to <http://siusalukis.com>. ■

Senior shortstop P.J. Finigan gives the Salukis solid defense up the middle again in 2005.



Softball Tries To Repeat As Valley Champions

Fresh from another dominating season and a school-record 45 wins, the 2005 Softball Salukis look to again be a force in the Missouri Valley Conference. After winning the league last year with an 18-6 record, the Dawgs enjoyed a second consecutive 3-2 performance at an NCAA Regional, resulting in an NFCA 24th-place ranking in the final poll.

The pressure to continue the winning ways does not bother head coach *Kerri Blaylock*, despite the loss of five seniors and potentially one of the toughest schedules her squad has faced.

"I'm pleased with the way the junior and senior classes have stepped up regarding leadership and the way the freshmen have played," she says. "And we do have three of our four pitchers back."

The Salukis return 12 athletes, including seven who started on a regular basis, and pitchers *Amy Harre*, *Cassidy Scoggins*, and *Ashley Hamby*. Harre, who earned a gold medal as a member of the USA Elite team last October, entered this season as Southern's career leader in ERA and shutouts.

Returnees are led by career home run leader *Katie Jordan*, who is joined by fellow outfielder *Maria Damico*, and catcher *Amanda Clifton*. All earned all-league honors. Infield starters *Katie Louis* (1B/3B), *Samantha Carter* (2B), and *Kelly Creek* (1B) return as does utility standout *Lauren Roney*.

Blaylock hopes these returning starters, coupled with other returnees and a talented recruiting class, can handle a challenging schedule. The Salukis face two teams that were in the College World Series last year (Michigan and California), and seven other squads that were in the tournament.

"The players love the challenge," Blaylock says. "With our pitching staff, we can compete well, and these games help our RPI at the beginning of the year. And when the conference action begins,

we will be focused on winning another league championship as we try and get back to the NCAA Regional."

Southern opens Missouri Valley Conference action March 19 hosting

Drake. For the remainder of the team's schedule, go to Calendar of Events on page 45, or see the SIU Softball Web page at <http://siusalukis.com> for the full schedule. ■

Viefhaus Twins To Play Pro Softball

Twin sisters Adie and Haley Viefhaus spent four years as starters in the Saluki softball program, and now they move six hours north to Chicago to fulfill a dream by playing professional softball together.

The Viefhaus sisters will be playing for the expansion Chicago Bandits of the National Pro Fastpitch League this summer, as they join action in the 2-year-old league.

"This opportunity is something I thought we would never get to do," says Haley. "It's something we've done our entire lives, and now we'll get paid to play softball and travel the country."

Both players credit the success of the SIU softball program and their recent 2003 and 2004 NCAA Tournament experiences for putting them in this position and preparing them to play at the professional level.

"I think playing at SIU helped give us this chance," says Adie. "We've also been lucky that being twins brought us attention others may not get; people enjoy watching twins play."

The Viefhaus sisters played in an exhibition game against the U.S. Olympic team last summer and now will have to get used to having U.S. Olympians *Jenny Finch* and *Leah O'Brien-Amico*, U.S. Olympic alternate *Jaime Clark*, and Canadian Olympian *Lauren Bay* as teammates.

Spring training opens May 18 at Benedictine University in Lisle, Ill., and the season runs June 1 to Aug. 30. The league teams are looking to play a 48-game league schedule as well as games against national teams from the U.S. and other countries.

The National Pro Fastpitch League features teams from Tucson, Ariz. (Arizona Heat), Stockton, Calif. (California Sunbirds), Houston, Texas (Texas Thunder), Akron, Ohio (Akron Racers), Lowell, Mass. (New England Riptide), Montclair, N.J. (NY/NJ Juggernaut) and Chicago.

For more information on the Chicago Bandits, go to www.chicagobandits.com.



Haley and Adie Viefhaus as Chicago Bandits

Seven Enter Athletics Hall Of Fame

The Southern Illinois University Athletic Department recently added seven members to its 2005 Hall of Fame class during induction ceremonies held Jan. 28 on campus. The newest members are Francisco “Pacho” Castillo (Men’s Tennis, 1962-1964), Donnell Daniel (Football, 1982-83), Terry Finn (Wrestling, 1962-64), Bill Hancock (Men’s Track, 1972-75), Kasia McClendon (Women’s Basketball, 1994-97), Mike Reis (Voice of the Salukis, 1978-present) and Gary Wilson (Men’s Basketball, 1975-79).

Here is a closer look at this year’s class:

- **Castillo** helped lead the Salukis to the College Division National Championship in 1964 and runner-up finish in 1963. He was named All-



American in 1964 as the Salukis posted a perfect 16-0 record, winning their last three matches against Indiana, Northwestern

and Notre Dame. Castillo, a native of Bogota, Columbia, played primarily at #2 singles and compiled a 39-10 career record. The left-hander was the IIAC Conference Singles Champion at #1 in 1962. Currently, Castillo lives in Miami, Fla., where he helps design and construct tennis courts.

- **Daniel** was a star cornerback for the Salukis’ 1983 I-AA National Championship team. He was an Associated Press All-American in 1983 and the Missouri Valley Conference “Defensive Player of the Year.” In 1983, he had seven interceptions and returned three of them for touchdowns. A dynamic athlete, he also returned a punt 85



yards for a touchdown in 1983. Daniel ranks fourth in career interceptions at SIU with 11. After his career with the Salukis,

Daniel played two years in the United States Football League (USFL) with New Jersey and Los Angeles. When his playing career ended, he spent three years in the United States Air Force. Currently, he is the athletic director at the U.S. Naval Base in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

- **Finn** was a three-time national champion wrestler back in an era when fans packed Davies Gym to see the Saluki grapplers. Finn won the NCAA



College Division championship in the 123-pound weight class in 1963, the NCAA College Division championship in the 115-

pound weight class in 1964, and the NCAA University Division championship in the 115-pound weight class in 1964. Finn was a member of SIU’s IIAC championship team in 1962 and finished sixth in the University Division meet. Finn currently resides in Tustin, Calif., where he owns and manages a mail and packing store. He was unable to attend the induction ceremony.

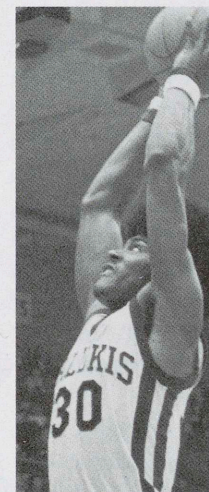
- **Hancock** was a star decathlete for the Salukis in the 1970s. He made world history by becoming the first decathlete to clear 7’0” in the high jump. He earned All-American status in 1975 by finishing fifth at nationals in the indoor high jump with a mark of 6’11”. A testament to his



enduring legacy, many of Hancock’s marks from 30 years ago still rank among the best in school history. He ranks fifth in

the indoor high jump (7’1” in 1975), fifth in the outdoor high jump (7’2” in 1975) and eighth in the outdoor 110m high hurdles (14.34 in 1975). Hancock currently lives in Canton, Ill., where he is a safety inspector for the U.S. Department of Labor.

- **Wilson** was a key member of the Salukis’ first NCAA Tournament team, which advanced to the Sweet 16 in 1977. Wilson was a First-Team All-MVC pick



in 1978 and a Second-Team All-MVC selection in 1979. His career statistics are remarkable. He ranks eighth in career scoring with 1,513 points, sixth in career rebounding with 841, and fifth in career blocks with 99. He led the team in

rebounds all four years he played. During his career, he averaged 14.0 ppg and led the team in scoring in 1977-78 with 19.0 ppg. He was drafted by the Kansas City Kings in the 10th round in 1979, though he did not play in the National Basketball Association. Sadly, the Columbus, Ga., native passed away in September at age 47 after a heart attack. He was represented at the induction ceremony by his

brother-in-law and longtime friend, Oscar Dixon, who is the pro basketball editor at *USA Today*.

• **McClendon** is perhaps the finest defensive player in school history. She was a three-time MVC Defensive Player of the Year (1995, 1996, and

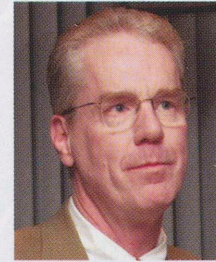


1997) and ranks first in career steals in the MVC with 366. In 1997, she led the

nation in steals. McClendon was a First Team All-MVC selection in 1996 and 1997, and honorable mention All-MVC in 1995. She ranks 11th in career scoring at SIU with 1,167 points and third in career 3-pointers with 103. McClendon lives in Merrillville, Ind., and works as a job and family specialist.

• **Reis** has described the action of many of the greatest sports moments in school history as the Salukis' play-by-play announcer for the last 26 years. A 1978 graduate of SIU's radio and television program, Reis calls the action for

Saluki football, men's basketball and baseball. He also serves as host of radio call-in shows and is a frequent emcee at



Saluki athletic functions. His distinctive delivery, impressive insight and passion for Saluki sports make listening

to a game a rich experience. A resident of Carbondale, Reis is a sports icon in southern Illinois. ■

SIU Second In MVC Championship/Invitational

Southern Illinois University finished second in both men and women's MVC swimming and diving competition recently, as Southwest Missouri State edged the Salukis in each instance.

The SIU men stayed close throughout the three days of competition, but visiting SMS eventually won its first MVC Invitational title with 746 points. The Salukis were second with 681 points, followed by Evansville with 322.

The SIU women also were edged by SMS, as the Lady Bears tallied 913 points to beat the Salukis (849) in the MVC Championship meet. Illinois State followed in third (768.5), while Evansville (402.5) and Northern Iowa (202) finished fourth and fifth.

Saluki head coach *Rick Walker* was named the MVC Invitational Men's Coach of the Year, while senior *Marcelo Possato* was named the Men's Swimmer of the Year. Possato won three events, broke two invitational records and set two SIU records with provisional qualifying performances.

Possato's 1:45.16 in the 200 back was a provisional cut for the NCAA National Meet, while his 48.61 in the 100 back re-broke his school record set earlier this season. He also swam the lead leg of the first-place 200 medley relay. Possato and his teammates *Bryan Riekema*, *Adam Gangl* and *Stephan Ackerman* posted a 1:31.18 to break the MVC Invitational record.

Ten Saluki women and 11 Saluki men finished in the top three in their respective events to earn All-MVC honors throughout the three-day event.

Senior *Ashley MacCurdy* and junior *Jason Sigler* won two events each for the Salukis. MacCurdy was the MVC Champion in the 400 IM (4:29.24) and the 200 backstroke (2:05.24). She also finished second in the 500 free in a time of 4:59.79.

Sigler won the 500 free (4:28.69) and the 1650 free (15:43.48) and swam the second leg of the second-place 800 free relay

(6:41.82) along with *Antonio Santoro*, *Gareth McGee* and *Ivan Sanchez*. Santoro won the 200 fly (1:48.79) and finished second in the 500 free (4:28.85) and the 200 free (1:38.51).

Nora Bunford was another MVC Champion, defending her 100 breast title in a time of 1:05.52. The sophomore also finished second in the 200 breast in 2:24.06.

Christian Tinajero defended his 400 IM (3:56.66) title, breaking his MVC Invitational record from a year ago. The junior also finished second in the 200 IM (1:51.11) and third in the 200 back (1:51.36).

Other All-MVC Honorees include: *Katie Lowry* (3rd, 500 free), *Igor Sanchez* (3rd, 500 free; 3rd 1650 free), *Ivan Sanchez* (2nd, 1650 free), *Adam Gangl* (3rd, 200 IM; 3rd, 200 fly), *Rachel Green* (2nd, 50 free; 3rd, 100 fly), *Andrea Johnson* (3rd, 1-meter dive), *Bryan Riekema* (3rd, 50 free; 3rd, 100 breast) *Ben Palacios* (3rd, 1-meter dive), *Gabriela Flores* (2nd, 100 fly; 2nd, 200 fly), *Kelsey Kinsella* (3rd, 200 free; 3rd, 100 free), *Melinda Page* (3rd, 100 back; 2nd, 200 back), *Briley Bergen* (2nd, 1650 free), *Liz McGowan* (3rd, 1650 free), and *Gareth McGee* (2nd, 200 back). ■



Christian Tinajero defended his 400 IM title.

Money Management Can Make College Easier On Family Finances

SIU students are not unlike others across the country that will face money management problems at some point in their college careers. Learning to manage money and time are valuable lessons for students to learn and can help establish spending and saving practices that can last a lifetime.

The Saluki Family Association and SIU Alumni



Association would like to offer the following pointers to help manage college finances:

- Determine what your level of assets or income will be for the academic year, adding resources from work, your financial aid package and gifts from family or friends.
- Determine your expenses for the year and budget for tuition, room and board and miscellaneous expenses. These two figures can help you plan.
- Focus on what you truly need and question spending money on things you may want, but don't really have to have. Be careful of sales — half off \$200 still means you will spend \$100.
- Remember that time is money. By spending money on things you don't need you may end up working more to pay for those things, taking time away from studies. Most college graduates are working for between \$15 and \$25 per hour as opposed to college students who work for \$5 to \$10 an hour. It's easy to see that if you study now, you'll be able to earn more and spend more in the future.
- Be careful not to buy on impulse especially with credit cards. Your ability to defer gratification is an important aspect in money management. If you have problems with credit cards, don't carry the card. This will give you some time to reconsider your purchase and avoid impulsive buying. Whenever possible pay the balance on your account immediately. A bad credit rating can be difficult to overcome.
- Keep track of what you spend for items like CDs and other items purchased for entertainment and

think of the money you could save by cutting expenses in these areas. If you are a smoker it may be a good time to quit. And drinking responsibly and reasonably not only helps you be a better student but can help pad your pocket book as well.

- If you have paid for a meal plan be selective about when and where you go out to eat. Spending money in other places for food may be like paying twice.
- Avoid the symbolic level of spending. Money can buy us pleasure, friendships, or give us a feeling of power. Be careful not to let money substitute for emotional needs.

Finally, although it might sound difficult, try to save a little money on a weekly basis. You'll be surprised how quickly just a small amount of money can add up. For more information that may assist you, go to www.salukifamily.siu.edu. ■



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Photo above by Meredith Mercier. Other photos by William Recktenwald.

SIU Journalist Survives **Tsunami Disaster**

by Tim Johnson



At Hotel Club Lanka, William Recktenwald (on opposite page), who moments before was enjoying his breakfast in the hotel's outdoor dining area, snapped this picture of the first torrents of water rushing in. He survived the eventual wall of water by clinging to two of the pillars.

Southern Illinois University journalist-in-residence and former *Chicago Tribune* reporter William Recktenwald got to put his journalism skills to work again recently, but this time, the story he told was his own.

Recktenwald was one of a handful of Western journalists to be caught in—and survive—the deadly tsunami that killed an estimated 200,000 people Dec. 26, including almost 30,000 people in Sri Lanka, where Recktenwald has spent his winter break for the past three years.

Recktenwald saw the first signs of trouble as he sat on the hotel patio eating breakfast about 100 yards inland in Ahangama, Sri Lanka. “All of a sudden I heard this yell down by the shore and saw a splash of water bounce up,” he says. “It was like a rogue wave.”

He didn't think he was in danger. He had seen tidal waves in Hollywood movies that looked like towering walls of water crashing onto the shore. These were merely rolling sheets of seawater making their way farther up the shore than usual. Seconds later,



A beautiful sunset photo of people playing in the surf on Christmas Day was taken by Recktenwald – a day later Georgios Kefalas took the photo at right of water and debris sweeping through the hotel property.

the waves rushed toward the hotel, engulfing the lawn with swirling seawater.

Soon, the water overtook the patio, and Recktenwald was out of his chair and standing on top of a low wall to stay dry as he took photographs of the flooded floor where he had been eating moments before. Two minutes later, he was swimming desperately, at eye level with the hotel's second-floor balcony, as the waves tossed him back and forth.

"It felt like being inside a washing machine," he recalls. "It's like you are sitting in your back yard having a pina colada, and all of the sudden you're in 19 feet of water. I was thinking, 'When does this stop? What's happening?'"

As the guests on the balcony yelled at him to swim toward them, Recktenwald spied a piece of netting that looked attached to a hotel. Should he grab it or swim to the people?

"I never thought about dying," Recktenwald says. "It did occur to me, however, that I was going to have to make one choice, and I'd better not screw it up." He went for the netting, and it held firm. A minute and a half later, his feet were back on the ground and unharmed except for a few cuts, scrapes, and some serious bruising along the insides of his biceps from the pressure of gripping a hotel pillar against the rushing waves.

Then came the task of searching for bodies. Recktenwald and other survivors found one man drowned inside the hotel. They attempted resuscitation but were unable to revive him. They also found a kitchen worker who had been crushed by a concrete wall in the hotel office.

Among the missing was a young British girl named Esther. As Esther's family called for her, Recktenwald and a friend searched the beach to see if they

could spot her. That is when they saw the ocean was *gone*.

"The shore was dry out to the reef, about two football fields," Recktenwald says.

"The power of the tsunami had sucked the water back out to sea, laying the beach bare for several minutes, but the girl wasn't there."

As Recktenwald and the other guests headed out of town in the hotel owner's truck, they heard someone yell, "Esther!" The girl was *alive*. Two hotel workers had seen her when the first waves came in. They had grabbed her and ran until they got to a hospital four miles inland, and now she was reunited with her family.

"There were cheers and tears," Recktenwald says. "It was a touching moment."

After spending a night on the front porch of a bungalow, Recktenwald and his fellow vacationers headed to Colombo, the Sri Lankan capital, on a one-lane road. The 80-mile trip took seven hours. Trucks filled with thousands of young men heading to the



Three-and-a-half-year-old Esther (blond child in center of photo) is held by her older sister as 35 foreign hotel guests are evacuated on a flatbed truck. Recktenwald helped in a search for the child, who was rescued by two hotel employees.

beach to help in the rescue effort headed the opposite way.

Cars had to edge past one another to get through, but Recktenwald says he

Returning To Sri Lanka

It wasn't long after William Recktenwald returned to Carbondale, physically and mentally bruised by the deadly Asian Tsunami, that he decided to return to Sri Lanka.

In an extended Spring break he will go back to the village where he was vacationing over Christmas – and he has an agenda. “I want to talk to the people in the village about the reconstruction and what has happened in the aftermath,” says Recktenwald.

He also plans to spend time with the British couple whose three-year-old daughter, Esther,

came up missing just after the wave struck and was later found alive. He has been in touch with Anne and Nick Wynne-Morgan, and is intrigued with their plans to open an orphanage in the small village of Ahangama.

As he touches bases with people he became friends with he will be making recordings for SIU graduate students Joseph Benso '01 and Joshua Gumiel '03 for a series of public radio reports that will air on WSIU-FM and possibly other venues. The students are working with

Professor Jay Needham on the project.

Recktenwald, who was recently interviewed by the History Channel for a documentary on the disaster, has made a point of learning more about the scientific aspect of the tsunami and hopes to include that as a part of his first person radio report.

He also looks forward to getting together with the Hotel Club Lanka employees he got to know while there and learn about plans for the hotel's rebuilding and reopening. Recktenwald has

praised the hotel's staff for their care and concern for him and other hotel guests and not long ago those feelings were heightened.

He received a sizeable amount of money, his passport, and some rolls of film he had stored in the hotel's safe shortly before the Tsunami struck. Before he left Sri Lanka, the safe had not been found, but apparently it turned up. “I got all my money back,” says an amazed Recktenwald. The former *Chicago Tribune* reporter knows that something like that would not happen just anywhere.

never heard a voice raised in anger. It was a testament, he explains, to the patience and good nature of the Sri Lankan people. “In seven hours, I never saw anybody get out and shake their fist at anybody.”

Recktenwald's story has made him the subject of several print, radio and television interviews after he first filed his own report for the *Chicago Tribune*. He was interviewed by Wolf Blitzer on CNN, Greta van Susteren on Fox News, and on other radio and television programs.

Recktenwald says part of the reason he has done so many interviews is to get his story out on behalf of the Sri Lankan people. He says Americans should do what they can to help tsunami victims.

“It's an important story to tell,” he says. “The people need to know how good these folks were to us and how important it is now to open not only our hearts to them but also our check-books. These people will still be there trying to rebuild their lives for some time to come.”

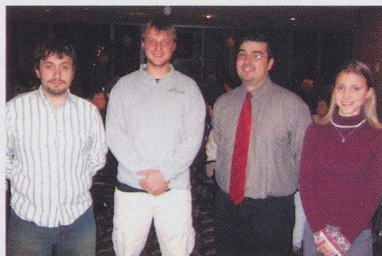
Johnson and Mercier are both on the staff of The Daily Egyptian.



Within an hour of the tsunami striking Sri Lanka, thousands of people were fleeing to higher ground on the only road leading away from the shore.

SIU Alumni Member Night Dinner And Christmas Program

The SIU Alumni Association hosted an Alumni Member Night dinner and Christmas program on campus in December, as 123 alumni members enjoyed a pre-concert dinner in the



SAC members Rawley Greene, Richard Schumacher, Brock Navarro, and Anna Gorges at the Christmas dinner.

Old Main Room of the SIU Student Center.

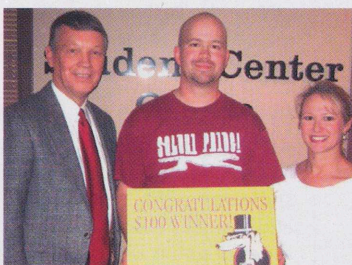
Special guests included SIUC Chancellor Walter Wendler, University Provost and Vice Chancellor John Dunn, and Vice Chancellor for Institutional

Advancement Rickey McCurry. Representing the SIU Alumni Association were national board members Steve Falat and Dede Ittner, along with Greg Scott, director of alumni public relations. Following dinner, everyone walked to Shryock Auditorium and enjoyed a rendition of *A Christmas Carol*.

As part of the member appreciation event, the SIU Alumni Association partnered with Mrs. Linda Dunn in the "Book In Every Home" program, which strives to generate donations of new and used books for southern Illinois-area head-start children, ages 3 to 5 years old. The Alumni Association collected 200 books in its offices at Colyer Hall, and at the Dec. 3 Christmas dinner, received another 75 from alumni members in support of this cause.

Student Member Receives \$100 Debit Dawg Balance

Matthew Purdy, a graduate student from Energy, Ill., pursuing an MBA at Southern, won a \$100 Debit Dawg Card balance in December. The promotion is the result of a partnership



Matthew Purdy '04 poses with Ed Buerger, and Kathy Dillard, marketing director of the SIU Student Center.

between the SIU Alumni Association and SIU Student Center Debit Dawg Office.

Only student members who join the SIU Alumni Association during spring and fall semester are eligible to be entered into the drawings, which are conducted twice per semester. The SIU "Debit Dawg" Account provides a safe alternative to carrying cash.

Saluki Family Picnic in Florida

The Central Florida Chapter of the SIU Alumni Association is hosting its annual Saluki Family Picnic at noon (EST) on April 30 at Ft. Desoto Park in St. Petersburg. SIU alumni living in central Florida are invited to attend this event and mingle with fellow Salukis in the area.

For more information, please contact Terry Gannon, president of the Central Florida Alumni Chapter, at 727-367-2542 or via e-mail at tgannon@tampabay.rr.com.

SIU Alumni Support The Dawgs In Las Vegas Invitational

Sixty-three alumni members and guests traveled to the southwest to watch the Saluki basketball team play in the Las Vegas Invitational in November. Attendees purchased a special package through the SIU Alumni Association, which included



Marc Cohen '91 gives the 'thumbs up' to Saluki guards Tony Young and Jamal Tatum.

lodging, game tickets and ground transportation.

The group witnessed the Salukis win the Invitational, with victories over Vanderbilt University and the University of Texas El Paso. SIU senior guard Darren Brooks, a student member of the SIU Alumni Association, received tournament MVP honors. Senior teammates Stetson Hairston and LaMar Owen joined Brooks on the all-tournament team.

Among those attending was Rickey McCurry, vice chancellor for Institutional Advancement. Representing the SIU Alumni Association were Mimi Wallace, president of the national board of directors, along with board members Ed Edelman and Jeannette Fromm, and Association Public Relations Director Greg Scott.



Mary Beth '96 and Grant Deady '95 demonstrate their Saluki Pride.

Chicagoland Saluki Golf Scramble Set July 28

The 16th Annual Chicagoland Saluki Golf Scramble will be held Thursday, July 28, at Bloomingdale Golf Club in Bloomingdale, Ill. There will be a shotgun start at 9 a.m., with dinner following the event. The entry fee is \$150, and all proceeds benefit Saluki Athletics.

This event has raised more than \$220,000 since 1989, and sponsorships are still available. For additional information, please contact Bryan Vagner at 618-453-4913 or by e-mail at bvagner@siu.edu.



Chancellor Walter Wendler and Vice Chancellor Rickey McCurry (center) pose with a few of the many golfers at last year's event.

Association Families Eligible For Scholarship

The SIU Alumni Association's Roscoe Pulliam Memorial Scholarship Fund awards four scholarships valued at \$1,000 each. Applicants must be closely related to an SIUC alumnus or alumna who is a current member of the SIU Alumni Association. Applicants must either be admitted or currently enrolled undergraduate students who are registered for a minimum of 12 semester hours.

Applicants are available from the Alumni Association and must be postmarked by May 31 to be considered. Applicants must include a copy of the student's financial aid award letter and three letters of recommendation, one from the relative who is an SIU Alumni Association member.

For an application and more information, contact the SIU Alumni Association, Student Center, Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, Ill. 62901-6809, call 618-453-2408 or visit www.sialumni.com/scholarships.

Alumni Member Chili Supper

Alumni members and guests enjoyed a chili supper prior to the Saluki basketball games on January 2 in the SIU Arena. The event was part of the Association's Alumni Member Appreciation activities, and 267 people took advantage of the opportunity. The Student Alumni



David Carlson, Dean of Library Affairs, enjoys a bowl of chili with Chancellor Walter Wendler and his wife, Mary.

Council and Jackson County Alumni Chapter joined the Association in hosting this event.

Alumni members enjoyed a bowl of chili, salad, beverage and dessert. Among those attending were Steve Falat, Sheri Hunter, Don Magee, Doris Rottschalk, and Ray Serati of the national board of direc-

tors. Other dignitaries participating were SIUC Chancellor Walter Wendler and his wife, Mary, Vice Chancellor John Dunn and his wife, Linda, Vice Chancellor for Institutional Advancement Rickey McCurry and his wife, Sondra, and Carbondale Mayor Brad Cole.

Members were also eligible to receive two complimentary tickets to watch the Saluki basketball games on this date. The Association distributed 900 game tickets to alumni members at 31 southern Illinois businesses and banks, compliments of the SIU Alumni Association. The tickets allowed admittance to the men's and women's basketball games against Drake.

As part of the pre-game festivities, the SIU Alumni Association honored sponsors and game hosts who provided support allowing the Association to host pre-game tailgates for home football games in 2004. Sheri Hunter, president-elect of the SIU Alumni Association, emceed the program and presented plaques to each supporter, with assistance from Executive Director Ed Buerger and Argus Tong of the Student Alumni Council.

Among those honored were presenting sponsors Marion Pepsi, Mississippi River Radio Group, and Venegoni-Horrell Distributing in Carbondale. Also recognized were game hosts Herrin Security Bank, The *Southern Illinoisan* newspaper in Carbondale, Tres Hombres Mexican Restaurant in Carbondale, and Union Planters Bank.



Linda Martin, Assistant Dean of the College of Science, and her niece, Mercedes "Sadie" Fernandez, prepare to root on the Dawgs.

'Take Me Out To The Ballgame'

Baseball season is right around the corner. SIU alumni and guests can mark their calendars for several upcoming baseball functions, including SIU Family Day at U.S. Cellular Field in Chicago, and the traditional "SIU Days" at Busch Stadium in St. Louis and Wrigley Field in Chicago.

St. Louis-area alumni are invited to watch **Saluki Baseball** in action against St. Louis University on May 4. The game will be played at GMC Stadium in Sauget, Ill., and once again will serve as a "wood bat" game for the Salukis and Billikens.

Another event offered is **SIU Family Day at U.S. Cellular Field**, which continues to grow in popularity. The 4th annual event will be held Saturday, June 4, in conjunction with the White Sox game against the Cleveland Indians. The price for this year's event will be \$35, which includes the pre-game tailgate

beginning at 1 p.m.; the game begins at 3 p.m. Reserved parking may be purchased for \$17 in a lot to be determined. For more information or registration, please contact Bryan Vagner at 618-453-4913 or bvagner@siu.edu.

Dates for the popular "SIU Days" at Busch



Howard Spiegel '97, a member of the SIU Alumni Association national board of directors, waves during the SIU Family Day at U.S. Cellular Field in Chicago.

Stadium and Wrigley Field have also been set. **The 21st Annual SIU Day at Busch Stadium** will be held Saturday, July 23, in St. Louis. The Cardinals and Cubs play at 2:15 p.m., with alumni and friends meeting prior to the game.

The 28th annual SIU Day at Wrigley Field is Sunday, Aug. 14. Prior to watching the Cardinals-Cubs game at Wrigley Field, alumni and guests will gather at the Cubby Bear Lounge across from Wrigley Field, owned by SIU alumnus and former Saluki football great George Loukas. Game time is yet to be determined.

Details for the Busch Stadium and Wrigley Field events are still being determined. Watch sualumni.com and the April edition of *Saluki Pride* for more information on these popular alumni events, including ticket prices and availability.



Board of Directors Ballot

Please place an "x" in the square opposite the name of the candidate for whom you want to vote. If you are the sole member of your household who is an SIU Alumni Association member, use the box marked "A." If there is a second association member in your household, he or she should vote using the box marked "B."

Only the votes of dues-paying members are valid in this election. Ballots must reach the alumni association offices no later than noon on **April 15, 2005.**

Directors for Election (four year term)

- | A | B | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Howard Schlechte '58, Strasburg, Ill. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | George Welborn '75, Anna, Ill. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Jim Hayes '62, Harrisburg, Ill. |

Director for Re-Election (four year term)

- | A | B | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | J.C. Garavalia '56, Carbondale, Ill. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Randy Ragan '67, M.S. '68, Springfield, Ill. |

All candidates are members of the SIU Alumni Association.

Please return your ballot to:

SIU Alumni Association • Attn: Board of Directors Election
Colyer Hall • Southern Illinois University • Carbondale, IL 62901-6809

Name of person(s) voting:

Presidential Scholarship Golf Scramble Set For May 20

The 2005 Presidential Scholarship Golf Scramble will be held on Friday, May 20, at Stone Creek Golf Club in Makanda, Ill. There will be a lunch at 11 a.m. and then a shotgun start at 12:30 p.m.

An entry fee of \$100 will be charged, with all proceeds being used for scholarships to attract Illinois' best and brightest students to Southern Illinois University Carbondale.

Sponsorships are available. For additional information, contact Bryan Vagner at 618-453-4913 or via e-mail at bvagner@siu.edu.



Chancellor Walter Wendler and President James Walker flank Presidential Scholarship recipients (from left) Andrea Wallace, Ruby Weyburg, Mary Ann Boyt, Kaitlin White, Dustin Davis, Alex Pioletto, and Derek Meier.

Tong Joins Alumni Association Staff

A member of the Student Alumni Council at Southern Illinois University has been hired to develop off-campus alumni programming for the SIU Alumni Association.

Argus Tong, who served as special events chair for the Association's student chapter, joined SIU's alumni services office as director for off-campus alumni programs and corporate relations in January. He replaces Dave Ardrey, who resigned to accept a managerial role with the new Alongi's Restaurant in the University Mall.

A native of Singapore, Tong says he can make a smooth transition from being a student volunteer to serving as a staff member for the parent organization.

"My involvement in the Student Alumni Council allowed me to garner knowledge of the SIU Alumni Association. Through this experience, I have embraced this University and take



Argus Tong

great pride in being a 'Saluki,'" Tong says.

"I am thrilled to be an SIU Alumni Association staff member and look forward to serving alumni in the United States and worldwide." A member of the SIU Alumni Association, Tong has already been active in the organization, serving as a volunteer for its Homecoming activities, alumni member appreciation events, extern and class ring ceremonies. Student Alumni Council presented him with the "Best Leader" and "Most Motivated Member."

"Argus Tong is an outstanding young man who promises to be a superb addi-

tion to an already excellent staff," says Ed Buerger, associate vice chancellor and executive director of the SIU Alumni Association. "He is one of the most personable young men our alumni will ever meet and exhibits the passion for SIU and professional attributes that further enhance our staff."

Tong earned a master's degree in business administration from SIU in December. In 2002, he received three bachelor's degrees from the University in business administration, finance, and foreign language and international trade, respectively.

The 28-year-old brings special event-planning and management experience to the Alumni Association. In addition to organizing Student Alumni Council's year-end banquet last spring, Tong served as a graduate assistant for SIU Student Center Special Programs. ■

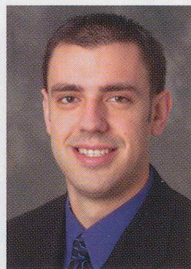
Marlo Named Association Controller

The chief accountant for the Illinois Department of Agriculture has joined the SIU Alumni Association/Alumni Services as controller and director of business and financial services.

Tim Marlo, whose duties with the Department of Agriculture included spearheading a multi-million dollar budget for the Du Quoin State Fair, will oversee the Association's financial operation and investment portfolio, in addition to contractual affinity programs.

A two-degree SIU alumnus and member of the SIU Alumni Association, Marlo replaces Michael Dean, who is now pursuing his doctorate at the University. The Johnston City resident says he embraces the challenges his new position at the Association will afford him.

"I spent four enjoyable years at Southern pursuing two bachelor's degrees. During this time, I came to respect and value this institution," Marlo says. "It is with great pleasure that I am



Tim Marlo

now a part of the alumni team.

"I take pride in the quality of education SIU offers. I'm now looking forward to applying the knowledge I attained at my alma mater."

Marlo's past experience includes serving as an accountant at the Van Horn Accounting Firm, where he gained valuable knowledge under the tutelage of fellow SIU alumnus Tom Van Horn, former treasurer of the SIU Alumni Association.

"Tim Marlo brings tremendous credentials to our organization and we're pleased that he decided to join our staff," says Ed Buerger, associate vice chancellor and executive director of the SIU Alumni Association. "He has compatible experience and knowledge that promise to assist the Association in growing and

thriving for years to come.

A summa cum laude graduate of Southern, Marlo received bachelor's degrees in accounting and finance in 2001.

The 25-year old Marlo brings experience in investments, accounting, and finances to the Association. Immediately after graduating from SIU, he passed the certified public accountant exam and began serving as an accountant and controller for the Illinois Department of Agriculture. A year later, he joined the Van Horn Accounting Firm where he prepared tax returns for clients and assisted in completing various government forms and statements.

While completing his undergraduate degree at Southern, he served as president of the College of Business' newly-created Saluki Student Investment Fund. The Fund, managed solely by SIU students, is a \$225,000 portfolio of private contributions and SIU Foundation money. ■

Air Force Duo Return To Share Knowledge With Cadets

Steve and Katrina Sewell returned to Southern's campus last fall to help prepare ROTC cadets for life in the Air Force. For the couple—both Air Force captains based in Florida—it was a nostalgic event.

The 1995 graduates taught several classes and participated in a leadership laboratory, preparing ROTC students for the transition from campus to military life and for what they can expect from active duty. “We talked to the juniors, who are still uncategorized, about our jobs,” explains Katrina. “This gives them insight into what we do in our jobs and perhaps what they might want to eventually do.”

The Sewells are instructors at Tyndell Air Force Base near Panama City, Fla. Steve teaches air battle management, using a simulator and Star Wars-type technology to instruct stu-

dents who will eventually fly and operate sophisticated control systems.

“Everything we do is in a simulator,” explains Steve, a life member of the SIU Alumni Association. This process is less expensive training and lets the students make mistakes while still on the ground.

As an intelligence chief, Katrina monitors classified news and analyzes enemy weaponry that might be used against the U.S. Her section is responsible for teaching five courses in addition to providing routine intelligence briefings. “We look at the whole world, so being a history major has helped,” she says.

Originally from Los Angeles, Steve enlisted in the military right out of high school and decided he wanted to become an officer. “I had my associate's degree and was looking for schools that offered a degree in avia-

tion with an ROTC program,” he recalls. An uncle who lived in Sparta, Ill., recommended SIU.

One of the first people Steve met at Southern was Chicago native Katrina Jill Hebert, an ROTC cadet and history major. Their relationship developed over mutual interests in ROTC, Undergraduate Student Government and classes, but they didn't marry until 1999.

In military style, they went different directions when activated after they graduated in 1995, but soon decided that the only way to be together full-time was to get married. “There were a couple of years when Southwest Airlines was our best friend,” recalls Steve.

Commissioned as a second lieutenant after graduation, Steve finished air battle manager training at Tyndall and later had assignments in South Korea and



The Sewell teaching team talks to SIU ROTC cadets during training sessions last fall.

Oklahoma. He would accumulate 1,300 flying hours, including 350 combat support sorties in various theaters, including No-Fly Zone enforcement against Iraq. He was awarded two Aerial Achievement Medals and a Commendation Medal before returning to Tyndall as an instructor. Katrina as earned three commendation medals and the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal.

In July of 2002, the couple's son, Elijah, was born, and in January of 2004, Katrina faced surgery for a rare brain disorder known as Arnold Chiari Malformation. The condition exists when the skull fuses too quickly causing a compression of the brain and spinal cord. Neurological problems usually surface when a person is in their late 20s or early 30s, which is what Katrina experienced.

She and Steve feel fortunate to have found the right diagnosis, which is often difficult, and the right neurosurgeon for her surgery, which was a complete success. "Even though I had a month off work, I felt fine after a week," recalls Katrina, adding, "and, when I went back to work, I got promoted."

Both Steve and Katrina have been promoted to the rank of major,



The Sewells are pictured with their former commander, Lt. Col. John Cote.

although, as Steve explains, Congress determines the number of military officers at one time and expects that their promotions will not take effect until later this year. For now their rank is major-select, which, Katrina laughs, "means captain." The Sewells are not only awaiting their promotions but also their second child, due this month.

Their return to campus brought back numerous memories, like their tenures with Undergraduate Student Government where they were able to vote for campus bus service, now the Saluki Express, and push for development of a plan to get financing information to all registered student organizations, making them aware that money was available for their projects.

"We still talk about the Rec Center," says Steve, adding, "I have not seen, even in the military, a fitness center to compare to that awesome facility." On his

short visit last fall Steve participated in two activities he enjoyed during his college years. He made some jumps with the SIU Skydiving Club in Vandalia, participated in the POW/MIA Vigil at the Old Main Flag Pole on Veteran's Day, and visited with his former professor, David NewMeyer, chair of the Aviation Management and Flight program at SIU.

His visit with NewMeyer included some advice for after Steve retires from the Air Force in three years. "I'd love to teach in a college, and Dr. NewMeyer recommended I get a Ph.D." Steve earned his master's in Human Relations from Oklahoma University in 1999 and Katrina earned her's in International Relations from Webster University in 2001.

Katrina, who has 10 years to go before she retires, has something to say about that. "If I stay in, he'll have to follow me, so he'll probably have to wait on his teaching dream." And that seems to be all right with her husband.

The couple will be in Florida for at least another year before the Air Force will move them again. And, when both are retired, they just might return to teach at their alma mater. ■

SIU Alumni Association Seeking Volunteers

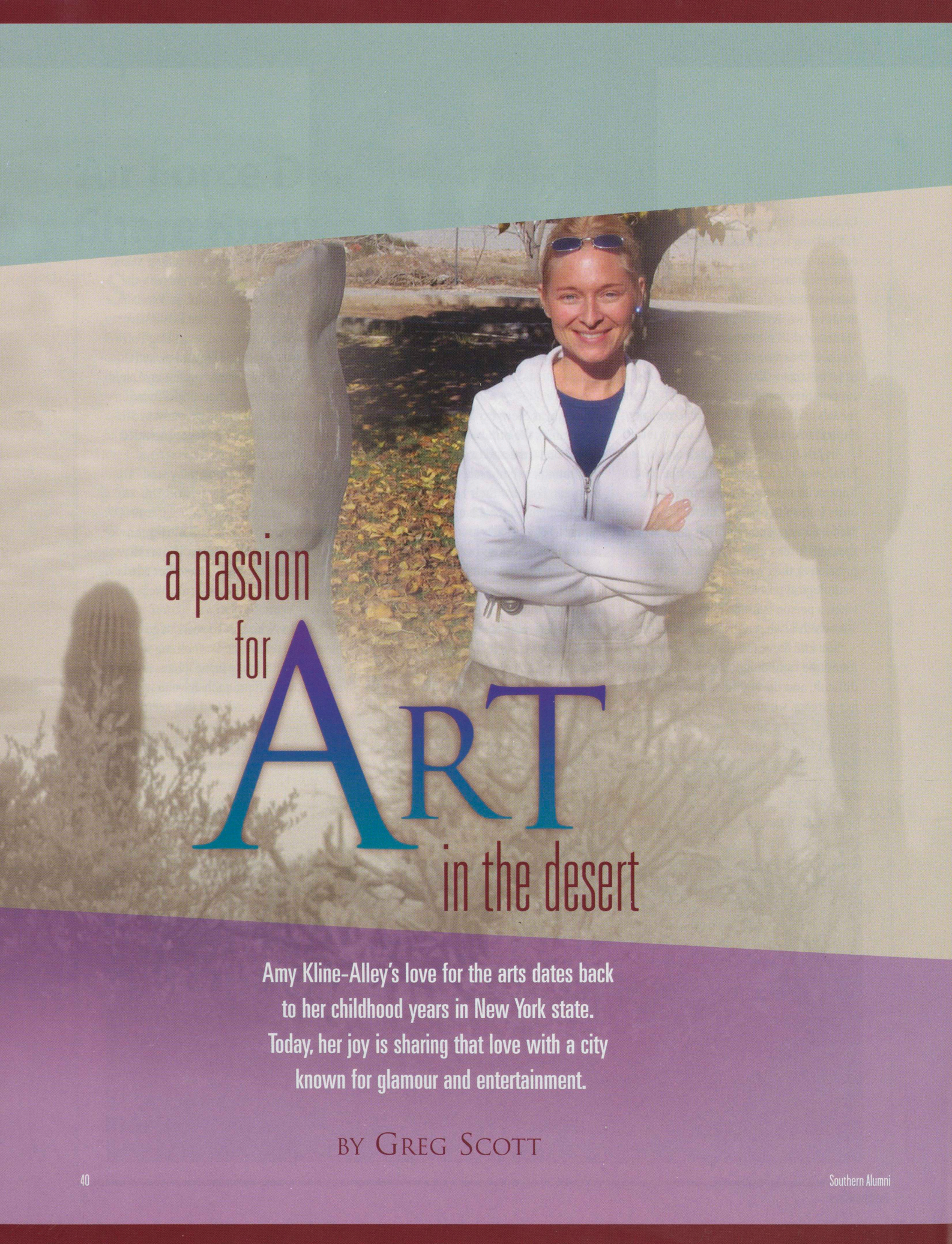
As part of the SIU Alumni Association's mission to reveal to the world the excellence of Southern Illinois University, alumni chapters are essential to maintaining a relationship between SIU alumni and their alma mater. The Association is searching for volunteers to lead our efforts in developing and/or strengthening existing SIU alumni chapters throughout the United States.

If you are an alum living in the metropolitan areas of Atlanta, central Florida, greater Michigan, Los Angeles, San Francisco, St. Louis, Memphis, Nashville or Washington/Baltimore, we encourage you to participate in your local SIU chapter or club.

Also, as part of our outreach efforts in Illinois, we are searching for interested alumni volunteers in the Chicago area, Prairie Capital Chapter in Springfield, and Southern Illinois alumni in Jackson, Perry, Randolph, Union and Williamson counties.

If you are an SIU alum living in one of these areas, please contact Argus Tong, director for off-campus alumni programs and chapter development, at 618-453-1331, or send an e-mail to argus@siu.edu.

For more information on chapters in your area, please visit our Web site, www.siualumni.com, and select the Chapters and Groups link. ■

A woman with blonde hair, wearing a white zip-up hoodie over a dark blue shirt, stands with her arms crossed in a desert setting. She is smiling and has sunglasses perched on her head. The background features a large, abstract sculpture of a human figure in a light, sandy color. The ground is covered with dry, yellowish leaves. The overall scene is bathed in a warm, golden light, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The text 'a passion for ART in the desert' is overlaid on the image. 'a passion' and 'for' are in a dark red, lowercase serif font. 'ART' is in a large, blue, uppercase serif font. 'in the desert' is in a dark red, lowercase serif font.

a passion
for
ART
in the desert

Amy Kline-Alley's love for the arts dates back to her childhood years in New York state. Today, her joy is sharing that love with a city known for glamour and entertainment.

BY GREG SCOTT



After earning a master's in fine arts from Southern Illinois University a decade ago, Amy Kline-Alley moved to Las Vegas, Nev., with aspirations of beginning a teaching career in her first love: the arts. However, a rude awakening loomed on the horizon.

Kline-Alley '94 did garner a position as an adjunct instructor at the Community College of Southern Nevada in 1995, but she left the school four years later when a full-time position was not forthcoming. The Southern graduate wondered if the "City of Lights" was the place for her. Revered for gaming and entertainment, Las Vegas appeared to be a difficult location for an aspiring artist.

"It was disappointing because there was really no fine arts community here," she says. "Several artists were searching for support, but we needed a community vehicle to develop artistic interests over the long haul. And I knew I had committed to being here for at least awhile because my husband had accepted an internship at Spago Restaurant in Las Vegas."

Committed or not, she was confused about her direction until advice from her mother, a former theater instructor, set her on the right path.

IF YOU BUILD IT, THEY WILL COME

"I called my mother and asked her what I needed to do," she says. "Mom said I was just going to have to develop that part of the community myself. She had a feeling that I would be on the ground floor of this movement—something I couldn't *imagine* at the time."

Kline-Alley, who specialized in metal sculpture at Southern, has done exactly that. She joined the Desert Sculptures Group and began serving as vice president of a community arts organization that has grown to more than 100 members. She now owns a.k.a. Studios, a 5,000-square-foot facility she and her husband, David, built and designed for ceramics, metalwork and glass. They built the studio behind an old ranch home they purchased, located on just over an acre of property.

Kline-Alley, shown on opposite page posing with some of her art, continues to make a name for herself in the Las Vegas region.



The SIU alum keeps a watchful eye on some of her ceramic items during the cooling process. She was first introduced to ceramics at a fine arts high school in Michigan.

She says the city's arts movement is progressing.

"The city is coordinating more activities for visual arts, and UNLV is developing its ballet, choir and theater programs. The arts community is starting to grow here."

And Kline-Alley has done her part. She began by teaching ceramics and throwing on a potter's wheel at the studio, a particular passion of hers. With an initial goal of maximizing at 40 students, she admits to being surprised at what occurred next.

Enrollment grew when the local community college began advertising her classes in its course catalog. Within a month, her class of 15 students grew to 85. "The response floored me," she recalls. "I began purchasing bigger kilns and better clay-mixing equipment, and brought in an assistant, Christine Kelly, to help."

ART AS A HOBBY

Kline-Alley's studio classes are geared toward community members interested in art as a hobby, and not aimed at those seeking a degree. She assists students in devising a project after they have attended an introductory ceramics course.

The most gratifying aspect is watching students blossom. She says usually within four to six weeks of starting the class, a noticeable difference is apparent in the students' knowledge of the craft.

Kline-Alley's love for art comes naturally, as she was surrounded by various influences as a youth in Plattsburgh, N.Y. Her parents were both college theater professors, and growing up in that environment exposed her to many forms of art.

She took voice and dance lessons and grew to love being on stage. At the age of four, she played the role of the Bloody Child in "Macbeth," and 17 years later

progressed to playing such roles as Eliza in "My Fair Lady" and Louisa in "The Fantasticks."

Her artistic interests, however, eventually turned to ceramics, which she was introduced to at Interlochen Arts Academy, a fine arts high school in Michigan.

Kline-Alley continued in ceramics at Alfred University in New York, receiving a bachelor in fine arts degree in 1990, followed by some postgraduate work in the university's metal sculpture program the following year.

"One of my professors at Alfred University told me that SIU had a good foundry department," she notes, "and encouraged me to go there."

Kline-Alley began pursuing her master's degree at Southern in 1991, specializing in metal sculpture. She was accompanied by her companion—and eventual

husband—who worked as a chef at the Corner Diner and Cousin's restaurants in Carbondale. Meanwhile, she was receiving some teaching experience in the SIU Craft Shop, SIU Foundry, and in introductory art and design courses.

"My master's program at Southern provided me with the credentials to teach," she stresses. "Tom Walsh (former head of Southern's sculpture department) and professor Alden Addington were extremely helpful to me there."

After completing her master's in 1994, her husband was accepted at the Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park, N.Y. The couple married that same year and moved to the northeast.

A year later, David was offered the internship at the prestigious Spago Restaurant in Las Vegas, sending the young couple back across the country in 1995. While he was serving in his internship, Kline-Alley became a stage technician for the "Siegfried and Roy" show at The Mirage.

After a year at The Mirage, Kline-Alley became a metal fabricator for Zo'calos Custom Furniture, where she built the company's metal shop for steel fabrication. She also taught ceramic classes part time and enrolled in building-inspection courses. Prior to taking her final exam, she was approached by the Community College of Southern Nevada.

"They were aware of my background and wanted me to build a foundry on the West Charleston Campus," she notes. The college hosted a gala celebration upon completion of the project, which included building the foundry and designing a bust of Nevada Senator William Raggio.

DOING IT THEIR WAY

The decision to work independently arrived in 1999, as she and her husband started a.k.a. Designs Inc., a custom metal window design business. The enterprise was first marketed by doing business at flea markets and renting booths around the city.

The window design business grew for almost three years before the husband and wife team switched gears toward a pottery studio. Needing more room for such an endeavor, they moved to a rural farming area while Kline-Alley was seven months pregnant with their son, Zachary. They purchased an old ranch-style home and began building a studio featuring a courtyard gallery in the back.

She says her degree at Southern made this dream a reality.

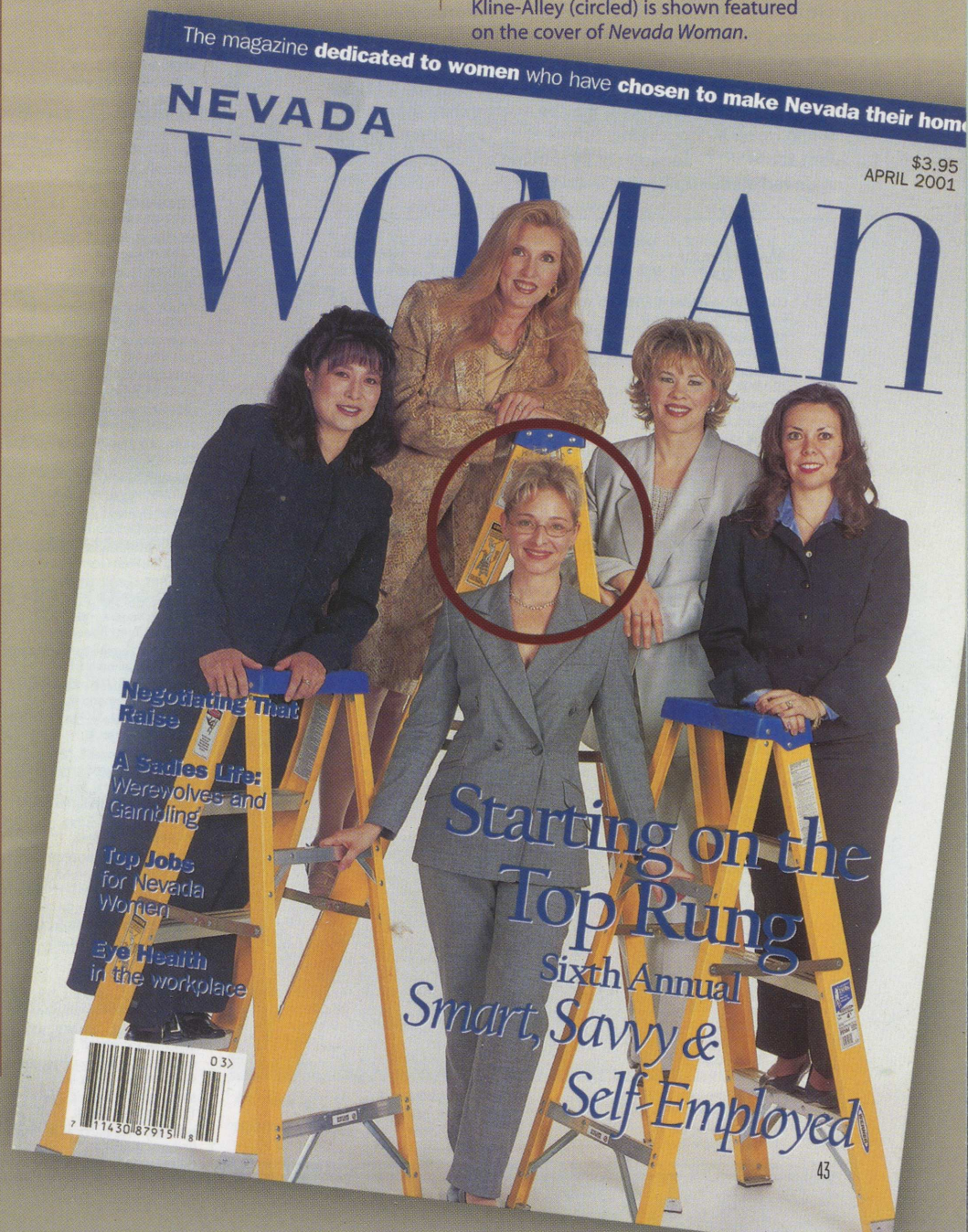
"My degree helped me organize my work and have a vision. It assisted me in having the ability to build this studio,"

she says. "My college experience taught me that ultimately I'm my own teacher."

Kline-Alley continues to have vision for others who share her avocation. This year she and her husband break ground on a new project to add another 3,500 square feet to their business, which will include 12 private artist studios and two more classrooms.

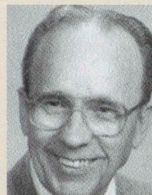
"Maybe one of these days Las Vegas will also be known for its growing fine arts community," she says, "and I know that my family will have some part in that progress."

Kline-Alley (circled) is shown featured on the cover of *Nevada Woman*.



Harry Stonecipher: Leader In SIU School Of Journalism

Harry Stonecipher, a professor emeritus of journalism at Southern Illinois University, recently passed away at age 86. His teaching and research interests during 15 years at Southern included journalism law, legal research, editorial writing, news reporting, and issues dealing with freedom of the press.



The SIU Alumni Association Life Member served as deputy director of the School of Journalism for four years and headed the news-editorial faculty from 1974 until his retirement in 1984.

Stonecipher authored various books and, prior to teaching, published the *Washington (Mo.) Citizen*, and the *Arcola (Ill.) Record-Herald*—both weekly newspapers—with his wife, Helen. He earned a Ph.D. in journalism from SIU in 1971 while teaching as an instructor.

Before his journalistic pursuits, Stonecipher saw combat in the Pacific Theater during World War II, where he received a battlefield commission as second lieutenant in the Philippines and was awarded the Silver Star and Purple Heart medals.

Survived by his wife, memorials may be made to him through the Harry W. and Helen M. Stonecipher Scholarship Fund for scholarships in journalism at the SIU Foundation or by sending a memorial in his name to the First United Methodist Church in Carbondale.

Alumni Deaths Spring '05

LUCIER, Helen (Followell), '26
01/30/05, Murphysboro, Ill.

RENDLEMAN, Ruth R., '26
09/12/04, Carbondale, Ill.

PURDUE, Jessie, ex '27
12/19/04, Kell, Ill.

RICHARDSON, Velma B., '27
12/30/04, Gary, Ind.

STONE, Lena E., '27; '42
06/07/04, Decatur, Ill.

AVAVULT, Ora C., '28
01/13/04, Belleville, Ill.

GRANT, Ruth Ella., '28
12/28/04, Marion, Ill.

HOWE, Lucille L., ex '28
01/03/05, Beaver Dam, Wis.

PETERSON, Ollie M., ex '28
01/03/05, Vienna, Ill.

BLEEKES, Justean, '29
11/04/04, Purvis, Miss.

McDONALD, Olive J., '29
08/13/04, East Alton, Ill.

McELVAIN, Catherine S., '30; '57; M.S.Ed. '63
07/08/04, Cape Coral, Fla.

HURT, Gertrude D., ex '32
11/04/04, Villa Ridge, Ill.

PHEMISTER, Sevah R., '33
11/22/04, Mt. Vernon, Ill.

MILLER, Cornelia Y., '34
11/20/04, Dublin, Ohio

RANDOLPH, Doris H., '34
01/24/05, Carbondale, Ill.

SMITH, Marie, '35; '52
01/05/05, Carbondale, Ill.

FREIVOGEL, Karl W., ex '36
12/01/04, Springfield, Ill.

LAWRENCE, Wilma C., ex '36
01/24/05, Vienna, Ill.

MEDHURST, Merle S., '36
06/01/04, Lexington, S.C.

RILEY, Virginia F., ex '36
12/30/04, Mt. Vernon, Ill.

CRAYER, Eileen, '37
03/15/04, Lawrence, Kan.

DEASON, Glenn E., '37
12/31/04, Collinsville, Ill.

TREIMER, Winifred N., '37
12/27/04, Los Angeles, Calif.

GRAY, M. Maxine, ex '38
11/22/04, Saddle River, N.J.

ROBINSON, William W., '39
12/05/04, Morrison, Ill.

GREMMELS, Evangeline K., ex '40
11/30/04, Sparta, Ill.

BAUER, Harry C., '42
08/08/04, Harlan, Ky.

FERGUSON, Darrell H., '42
11/17/04, Grand Chain, Ill.

LUSCO, Alene M., '43
12/17/04, Terre Haute, Ind.

NOEL, Robert E., '43
01/07/05, Mt. Vernon, Ill.

BANKS, Nelda A., ex '44
12/30/04, Havana, Ill.

ROBB, Nelda E., ex '44
01/06/05, Oakdale, Ill.

EMERSON, Lenora C., '45
12/05/04, Decatur, Ill.

McCORMACK, Dorothy L., ex '46
12/11/04, Murphysboro, Ill.

SOUTH, Margaret M., ex '46
12/25/04, Roswell, Ga.

CHESTER, Wayne, '47; M.S. '53
11/13/04, Simpson, Ill.

STECKENRIDER, Edward L., ex '48
01/07/05, Phoenix, Ariz.

DOERR, Donald L., '49
11/01/04, Sesser, Ill.

GALLICK, Lawrence, '49; M.A. '51
01/27/05, Murphysboro, Ill.

LAUNIUS, Delmer D., '49
12/03/04, St. Jacob, Ill.

MURRIE, C. Paul, '49; M.A. '50
01/23/05, Alton, Ill.

BRUEGGEMANN, Vernon E., ex '50
07/10/04, Mt. Zion, Ill.

HAMMOND, Hugh L., ex '50
01/27/05, Metairie, La.

PELLOCK, Joseph, ex '50
11/03/04, Benld, Ill.

PROCTOR, Mary A., '50
04/25/04, San Francisco, Calif.

SIMMONS, Nellie S., '50; M.S.Ed. '56
11/11/04, Herrin, Ill.

SWISHER, Carl L., '50
01/23/05, Cypress, Ill.

WITTENBORN, Lawrence M., ex '50
12/13/04, Normal, Ill.

CASHEN, Rebecca R., '51
05/13/04, Normal, Ill.

STAUDER, Betty R., '51
01/10/05, Tulsa, Okla.

WOODS, Evelyn M., '51
01/25/05, Murphysboro, Ill.

LAMB, Dorothy, ex '52
10/11/04, Woodburn, Ore.

ANGEL, Lenny L., ex '53
05/24/04, San Antonio, Texas

FRANK, Virdell K., '53
07/01/04, Okawville, Ill.

NETZER, Elizabeth, '53
11/17/04, Highland, Ill.

NICHOLS, Jack D., '53; M.S.Ed. '58
01/21/05, Marion, Ill.

BROWN, Glennora M., ex '54
11/08/04, Everett, Wash.

MARCUM, Roger B., '54
10/16/04, Champaign, Ill.

ARMSTRONG, Dwight Allen, '55
01/07/05, Derby, Kan.

HANKS, Surilda, ex '55
10/10/04, St. Cloud, Fla.

STOFFLER, James A., '55; Ph.D. '67
11/16/04, Greeley, Co.

KIRKPATRICK Sr., Billy L., '57
12/31/04, Mt. Vernon, Ill.

BAKER, Judy Ann G., '59; M.S.Ed. '60
11/12/04, Harrisburg, Ill.

HOMAN, Paul T., '59; M.S.Ed. '64
01/08/05, Oblong, Ill.

SWEDBERG, Janis B., '59
10/18/04, Duluth, Minn.

BECK, Roy A., M.S. '60
05/01/04, Portage, Mich.

LARGE, Jack K., '60
06/03/04, Missoula, Mont.

TOLENTINE, Mary M., M.S. '60; Ph.D. '63
07/12/04, Bridgeton, Mo.

MURPHY, John L., '61
06/29/04, Monmouth, Ill.

LANDMEIER, John W., '62
09/13/04, Tampa, Fla.

MOORE, Clemens T., '62
12/08/04, Duplo, Ill.

TURNER, Lorita M., '62
01/19/05, Christopher, Ill.

TYLER, Deloise E. (Chaney), '63
12/03/04, Las Vegas, Nev.

GRANATO, Leonard A., M.A. '65; Ph.D. '73
11/15/04, Little Rock, Ark.

KINKADE, Sharon S., '65; M.S.Ed. '72; Ph.D. '90
12/29/04, Valdosta, Ga.

LEEPER, Robert W., '65
11/22/04, Urbana, Ill.

FERNEAU, Bonnie K., '67
02/18/04, Palatine, Ill.

REAMES, John A., '67
01/22/05, Fairview Heights, Ill.

AUTRY, Donald C., M.S. '68; Ph.D. '87
01/11/05, De Soto, Ill.

GEISSINGER, Gene E., '68
08/15/04, West Des Moines, Iowa

HUGHES, Donald R., '68
10/20/04, Joliet, Ill.

TAYLOR, Roger E., '68
11/25/04, Toms River, N.J.

TROTTER, Eugene E., '68; M.S. '71
11/01/04, Gainesville, Fla.

NELSON, Dennis C., '69
10/04/04, Richmond, Ill.

SADLER, Rosalie K., '70
12/07/04, Benton, Ill.

MORRISON, Roger E., '71
08/21/04, Elko, Nev.

TURNER, James A., '71
01/21/05, Point Blank, Texas

HILL Jr., Howard W., '72
09/29/04, Pasco, Wash.

POWERS Sr., John F., Ph.D. '72
07/10/04, Owensboro, Ky.

SMITH, David P., '73
10/04/04, Dahlonega, Ga.

CLEVELAND, Violet Gecas M.S.Ed. '74
06/14/04, Santa Rosa, Calif.

SMITH, Susan E., '74
12/05/04, Carlisle, Ill.

FROHING, Frederick J., '75
11/16/04, University City, Mo.

BERTI, David C., '76; M.S. '81
03/02/04, Palmyra, Ill.

RODGERS Jr., James L., '76; J.D. '80
12/24/04, Harrisburg, Ill.

STREITMATTER, Jon L., '76
11/25/04, Litchfield, Ill.

BRYANT, Matthew O., M.M. '79
07/03/04, Miami, Fla.

MARXER, Ellen K., M.S.Ed. '79
07/13/04, Estill Springs, Tenn.

McCARTER, James R., '79; M.S.Ed. '81
11/05/04, Manassas, Va.

SKAGGS, Andy R., '79
11/19/04, Cartersville, Ill.

ERVIN, R. Ferrell, Ph.D. '81
10/22/04, Cape Girardeau, Mo.

PRISOCK, Geraldine C., M.S. '81
10/16/04, LaGrange, Ind.

SWINNEY, Dale E., '81
11/26/04, Du Quoin, Ill.

CHAPMAN, Patricia A., M.A. '82
11/05/04, Cape Girardeau, Mo.

GILLESPIE, Christopher J., '82
10/03/04, Godfrey, Ill.

COMPTON, Jimmie D., '85
10/08/04, Bethany, Okla.

DeSANTIS, Vito A., '86
06/21/04, Bremerton, Wash.

PETERSON, Julie A., '86
11/27/04, Clinton, Tenn.

BOBOWSKI, Vincent M., '87
09/30/04, Huntley, Ill.

WILLIAMS, Hildred M., '87; '88
11/07/04, Augusta, Ga.

HOWLE, Linn K., '89
09/12/04, Herod, Ill.

DODSON, Shawn E., '90
10/31/04, Swansea, Ill.

SCHAEFER, Dan S., '92
01/09/05, McHenry, Ill.

LUNSFORD, Michael S., '94
11/14/04, San Francisco, Calif.

HARGIS, Kenneth L., '97
07/24/04, West Frankfort, Ill.

WORMLEY III, Capp W., '98
08/05/04, Riverside, Calif.

PETRELLA, Nicholas A., '99
12/20/04, Solway, N.Y.

CALLOWAY, Daniel J., '02
12/10/04, Medina, Ohio

JOSEFSON, Todd S., J.D. '03
06/20/04, Galesburg, Ill.

Faculty & Staff

BENNETT, Billie J.
Emeritus Civil Service
Building Custodian
01/27/05, Elkhville, Ill.

BOWLING, Ronald V.
Civil Service, Project Manager
Physical Plant
12/24/04, Cobden, Ill.

BRUNTY, Delman
Emeritus Civil Service, Asst. Chief Plant
Operating Engineer, Physical Plant
01/25/05, Carbondale, Ill.

CAMDEN, Gene R.
Emeritus Civil Service, Physical Plant
01/14/05, Murphysboro, Ill.

GILLESPIE, Nancy S., '49
Emerita Civil Service
Editor, Electronic Communications
01/23/05, Murphysboro, Ill.

HAHN, Lewis E.
Former Research Professor
Director of Graduate Studies
11/23/04, Carbondale, Ill.

HUDGENS, Bill D., '48
Former Civil Service Asst. Director
Physical Plant in charge of Arena
and Business Affairs
12/24/04, Edwardsville, Ill.

LUCK, David J.
Former Chair Marketing Department
01/04/05, Hockessin, Del.

ROBERTSON, Kathleen De Luka
Civil Service Chief Clerk
School of Medicine
11/06/04, Springfield, Ill.

SECHREST, Clyde E.
Emeritus Civil Service
Head of Janitorial Department
10/23/04, San Benito, Texas

SEXSON, James E.
Former Asst. Director, Film Library
01/20/05, Burr Ridge, Ill.

SHERIDAN, Robert O., '79; M.S.Ed. '86
Former Art Professor
11/25/04, Carbondale, Ill.

TYLER, Rebecca A.
Civil Service Secretary, University Housing
11/03/04, Marion, Ill.

WEBB, Martin S.
Dispatcher, School of Medicine
11/28/04, Springfield, Ill.

APRIL

- 1 Saluki Baseball at Creighton, Omaha, Neb., 3 p.m.
- 1 *Forbidden Broadway*, Shryock Auditorium, 7:30 p.m.
- 2 Saluki Baseball at Creighton, Omaha, Neb., 1 p.m.
- 2 Saluki Softball at Illinois State, Normal, Ill., noon (DH)
- 3 Saluki Baseball at Creighton, Omaha, Neb., 1 p.m.
- 3 Saluki Softball at Illinois State, Normal, Ill., noon
- 6 **Saluki Baseball vs. Murray State**, home, 3 p.m.
- 6 Saluki Softball at SE Missouri, Cape Girardeau, Mo., 3 p.m. (DH)
- 8 Saluki Baseball at Bradley, Peoria, Ill., 6 p.m.
- 8 **SIU Official Class Ring Ceremony**, Student Center Ballrooms, 6 p.m.
- 9 Saluki Baseball at Bradley, Peoria, Ill., 1 p.m.
- 9 **Saluki Softball vs. Wichita State**, home, noon (DH)
- 10 Saluki Baseball at Bradley, Peoria, Ill., 1 p.m.
- 10 **Saluki Softball vs. Wichita State**, home, noon
- 11 Saluki Softball at Evansville, Evansville, Ind., 5 p.m. (DH)
- 12 **Saluki Baseball vs. Eastern Illinois**, home, 2 p.m.
- 15 *Steel Magnolias*, Shryock Auditorium, 7:30 p.m.
- 16 **Saluki Baseball vs. SMS**, home, 2 p.m.
- 16 **Saluki Softball vs. SMS**, home, noon (DH)
- 17 **Saluki Baseball vs. SMS**, home, 1 p.m.
- 17 **Saluki Softball vs. SMS**, home, noon
- 19 Saluki Baseball at Tennessee-Martin, Martin, Tenn., 3 p.m.
- 19 *Stars of Altgeld*, Shryock Auditorium, 7:30 p.m.
- 19 **Saluki Softball vs. Evansville**, home, 5 p.m.
- 22 Saluki Baseball at Evansville, Evansville, Ind., 6 p.m.
- 23 Saluki Baseball at Evansville, Evansville, Ind., 1 p.m.
- 23 Saluki Softball at Creighton, Omaha, Neb., noon (DH)
- 24 Saluki Baseball at Evansville, Evansville, Ind., 1 p.m.

- 24 Saluki Softball at Creighton, Omaha, Neb., noon
- 26 **Saluki Softball vs. Illinois**, home, 4 p.m. (DH)
- 27 **Saluki Baseball vs. SE Missouri**, home, 3 p.m.
- 27-30 *Dancing at Lughnasa*, McLeod Theater, 7:30 p.m.
- 29 Saluki Baseball at Indiana State, Terre Haute, Ind., 7 p.m.
- 30 Saluki Baseball at Indiana State, Terre Haute, Ind., 2 p.m.
- 30 **Saluki Softball vs. Bradley**, home, noon (DH)

MAY

- 1 Saluki Baseball at Indiana State, Terre Haute, Ind., 1 p.m.
- 1 **Saluki Softball vs. Bradley**, home, noon
- 1 *Dancing at Lughnasa*, McLeod Theater, 2 p.m.
- 3 **Saluki Baseball vs. Illinois**, home, 3 p.m.
- 4 Saluki Baseball vs. St. Louis University (GMC Stadium), Sauget, Ill., 7 p.m.
- 6 **Saluki Baseball vs. Wichita State**, home, 3 p.m.
- 7 **Saluki Baseball vs. Wichita State**, home, 2 p.m.
- 7 Saluki Softball vs. Indiana State, Terre Haute, Ind., noon (DH)
- 8 **Saluki Baseball vs. Wichita State**, home, 1 p.m.
- 8 Saluki Softball at Indiana State, Terre Haute, Ind., noon
- 12-14 State Farm MVC Softball Tournament, Wichita, Kan., TBA
- 13 **Saluki Baseball vs. South Dakota State**, home, 3 p.m.
- 14 **Saluki Baseball vs. South Dakota State**, home, 1 p.m.
- 15 **Saluki Baseball vs. South Dakota State**, home, 1 p.m.
- 17 Saluki Baseball at University of Missouri, O'Fallon, Mo., 7 p.m.
- 19 **Saluki Baseball vs. Illinois State**, home, 3 p.m.
- 20 **Saluki Baseball vs. Illinois State**, home, 2 p.m.
- 21 **Saluki Baseball vs. Illinois State**, home, 1 p.m.
- 25-28 ConAgra Foods MVC Baseball Tournament, Wichita, Kan., TBA

Black Alumni Group Reunion Scheduled For July 14-17

The Black Alumni Group reunion, held every two years, will be held on campus Thursday, July 14, through Sunday, July 17. The Black Alumni Group, a constituent society of the SIU Alumni Association, organizes the reunion.

There will be a market where vendors sell items, and activities will be offered including educational workshops and a gala celebration on Friday evening. Past presidents of the Black Alumni Group will be honored at this affair. A picnic, officer election, and afterset are being planned for Saturday, along with an African Open Market, and opportunities to play golf and tennis. Activities also include tours of campus and a business meeting and Sunday brunch.

The Hampton Inn and Super 8 are providing official lodging for the reunion (only registered reunion participants may reserve rooms at these hotels). All black alumni receive a brochure containing additional information. If you did not receive registration materials, or if you have any additional

questions, call Tuesday Ashner, SIU Alumni Association, at 618-453-2417. Look for late additions to information in the April edition of *Saluki Pride*, and stay abreast of reunion updates on www.siublackalumni.org.



Alumni are shown renewing acquaintances during the 2003 reunion.

Alumni listed in **maroon** are SIU Alumni Association members.

1930s

Marion Harrison '34 of Houston, Texas, writes that she still exercises every day and lifts two-pound weights three days a week. When the instructor is not there, the 92-year-old calls the exercises for her group. "It makes me feel as if I'm back in the Marine Corps," she says. Harrison, a veteran of the Women's Marine Corps and active member of Houston's art and music community, continues to play the piano after dinner at her retirement home. She is a life member of the SIU Alumni Association.

1960s

Donald Knuppel '64 writes that after 17 years as a wholesaler for Texaco, he spent 15

years seeing the country by working for Heath Consultants, checking the natural gas pipeline for leaks. "Retiring from that, I now get to see all of the U.S. as I deliver campers from the manufacturer in northern Indiana to dealers throughout the country." Knuppel makes his home in Van Wert, Ohio.

John McLuckie '68, M.S. '74, Ph.D. '77 retired in December after 16 years with Intel Corp. He was a technical training engineer for the implementation of new 300 mm automation systems that supported computer chip manufacturing at the company's research labs in Oregon.



McLuckie was a faculty member of the occupational education and industrial tech programs at SIU and Colorado State University. He and his wife, Sandra Jean (Harrison) McLuckie '67, live in Ft. Collins, Colo.

2004 Inspiring Women

Jackie Cox '75, M.S. '92, Ph.D.'00, Ethel Holladay '73, M.S. '78 and Jean Ellen Reynolds '66, M.S. '70, Ph.D.'78 were recipients of the "2004 Inspiring Women of Achievement Award" last fall.

The Inspiring Women program, spearheaded by **Doris Rottschalk '69**, teacher and former president of the SIU Alumni Association, honors women from the southern Illinois region who have made significant contributions to their communities.

Cox is supervisor and clinical instructor in the SIU College of Education and Human Services; Holladay is a recognized leader in the field of business and career and technical education in Illinois and the nation, and Reynolds is an educator and a role model for women who wish to return to college but may be hesitant because of age or self doubt.

Dorothy Budell of Anna, Ill., was honored for her volunteer work and as a pioneer woman executive with Prudential Life Insurance Co. In addition, the program provides inspiration by offering scholarships to students attending SIU. Funding for the scholarships was made possible by an anonymous donation in honor of the late **Margaret Steele '59**. For more information concerning the program, visit www.siu.edu/inspiringwomen.



Receiving recognition as "Most Inspiring Women" for 2004 are, from left, Jackie Cox, Dorothy Budell, Ethel Holladay and Jean Ellen Reynolds.

Alum Wins 'Bones' Contest

Scott Miller '73, M.S. '83 won the 2004 National Traditional Country Music Association's Bones Concert, an event considered among leading bones players as the world championship.



Miller explains that rhythm bones are basically a pair of "sticks" you hold in each hand. "They make a clickety-clack sound when you rattle them together. Your grandparents may have seen them played when they were kids," he says.

An avid contra dancer, Miller has been dancing to old-time traditional music for more than 15 years. He learned the Appalachian-style Tennessee walking step years ago and today is one of only a few people who can clog dance and play bones at the same time.

Miller and his wife, Helen Pancella, have two children, Zak and Erica, who are students at the Saint Louis Charter School. The family lives in St. Louis.

1970s

Daniela (Donna) Kuper '71 published her debut novel, *Hunger and Thirst*, through St. Martin's Press. The book chronicles a family in the Chicago



Jewish culture of the 1950s. Author Joyce Carol Oates calls it "... one of the most vividly imagined and moving novels I have read in recent years, and one of the funniest." Kuper may be contacted at www.danielakuper.com. The author makes her home in Brooksville, Maine.

Fred Prassas '73 of Bangor, Wis., is 2005 president-elect of the Institute of Real Estate Management. Prassas, who has been in the real estate business since 1973, is a certified property manager for the PMC



Management Group in Wisconsin and Minnesota. He lives in Bangor, Maine.

Barry Birnbaum '74 is associate professor of special education at Northeastern Illinois University and has completed his third book, titled *Using Assistive Technologies for Instructing Students With Disabilities: A Survey of New Resources*. The book is available from Edwin Mellen Press. Birnbaum, who lives in Chicago,

was named 1991 Florida Gifted Teacher of the Year and 1992 IBM/Technology and Learning Teacher of the Year.

Dean Samet '74 is director of regulatory compliance services for Smith Seckman Reid Inc., Nashville, Tenn., an engineering design and facility consulting firm. Samet, who was formerly with the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations, is working on his master's degree in health services administration at St. Joseph's College.

Bruce Bieber '76 has launched a full service sales promotion and marketing agency, Perpetual Promotion, in Seattle, Wash. With more than 27 years experience in the business, Bieber was formerly an executive with Playboy Enterprises and Pabst Brewing Company and has created national promotions for Nissan Motor Corp., Mattel Electronics and nationally known resorts.

1980s

Duy Hua Ph.D. '80 received the 2004-2005 Commerce Bank Distinguished Graduate Faculty Award from Kansas State University, where he is a chemistry professor. Hua, who joined Kansas State in 1982, is the recipient of nearly 50 research grants and four patents, and is the author of more than 100 papers in

SIU Alum Responsible For Transporting President And Other Dignitaries

Col. James Pavlisin '80 commands the 89th Operations Group, 89th Airlift Wing at Andrews Air Force Base in Maryland, and oversees the daily operations of a five-



squadron group responsible for transporting the president, vice president, cabinet secretaries, members of Congress, foreign heads of state and senior-ranking U.S. and world officials.

Col. Pavlisin was in the SIU ROTC program and entered the Air Force upon graduation. He has served in a variety of positions, including flight examiner and instructor with flying assignments as a C-141B and C-9A pilot and B52G navigator. He served as an aide to the 21st Air Force Commander and as a logistics support squadron commander.

In addition, he has performed duties at Headquarters Air Force, Pentagon in the Directorates of Plans and Programs and Office of the Secretary of the Air Force, Office of Legislative Liaison.

He and his wife, Lt. Col. Pennie Pavlisin, USAF, Nurse Corps, live in North Platte, Neb., with their two daughters, Hannah and Sarah.

professional journals. Last fall Hua received the 2004 SIU Alumni Achievement Award.

Tom Meyer '80 received his 5th Merit Award from Campbell Soup Co. last fall, earning him a



place in the company's Hall of Fame. Tom, his wife, Teresa, and three daughters live in Columbia,

Mo., and writes that he frequently yells "Go Dawgs!"

Ross Leo '81 is director of information systems and chief information security officer at the University of Texas Medical Branch, Managed Care Division in Galveston. Leo has been an information security profes-



sional for nearly 25 years, including work for NASA on the Space Shuttle and International

Space Station programs. He is a published author in the security and healthcare field and is a member of the IT Security Curriculum Development and Advisory Board for Texas State Technical College. He and his family live in Houston.

Mark Toncray '82 writes that he has moved from Chicago to a small town in



southwest Michigan with his significant other, Janet Sullivan. He is a licensed real estate agent with Keller Williams and volunteers at the Krasl Art Center in St. Joseph. He can be reached at mtoncray@earthlink.net.

Jeanne Merkle '84 writes that she and her husband, **Rodney '92**, welcomed their first child, daughter Andria Claire, on Oct. 25, 2004. The couple lives in Ottumwa, Iowa, where they both work at Indian Hills Community College.

Craig Todd '84 is a conceptual estimator for Clayco Construction Co. in the St. Louis area. Todd has more than 10 years experience in the construction business and makes



his home in St. Charles, Mo. **Michael McCarthy '86**, president of McCarthy Radio Enterprises Inc., Woodridge, Ill., has been hired by Newsweb

Corporation as director of engineering, radio group. McCarthy, an 18-year veteran of Chicago radio, will oversee technical operations of all Newsweb radio stations in the Chicago market.

David Steck '87 has accepted a position as practice leader for Hilb, Rogal & Hobbs, a global employee benefits



consultancy. Steck, who works in the company's Tampa and Sarasota, Fla.,

offices, has begun studies to earn his doctorate in health-care administration and was recently elected to public office as a taxing district trustee. Steck and his wife, Nancy, a 1989 SIUE graduate, have three sons, Andrew, Samuel and William. The family lives in Valrico, Fla., near Tampa.

Sue Sinclair '89, M.S.'90 was named to the National Junior College Athletics Association Volleyball Coaches Hall of Fame. Sinclair, head volleyball coach at Illinois Central College, East Peoria, has an overall record of 546-262 for the past 15 years, qualifying for the NJCAA Division I National Championship seven times. She has earned frequent "coach of the year" awards and, during her tenure, 14 players have earned All-American status.

1990s

Todd Ofenbeck '92 has been named director of photojournalism at WBBH/WZVN-TV in Ft. Myers, Fla. The award-winning photojournalist began his career at WSIL-TV in Carterville, Ill., and served as a jet engine mechanic in the Air Force National Guard during the Gulf War. He is married to **Amy Van Patten '92**.

Michele Verebelyi '92 is director of organizational development for Corrections Corporation of America headquartered in Nashville, Tenn.

The corporation manages 65 prisons throughout the U.S.

Alton Garrett '93 has been named Southern California director for U.S.



Senator Barbara Boxer. Garrett, a 27-year veteran of the Air Force, has worked for

Sen. Boxer since 2002. After his retirement from the military, he was development director at California State University, San Bernardino, outreach director for the San Bernardino Job Corps Center, and special projects director for Habitat for Humanity. He lives in San Bernardino.

Oscar Mardis '95 was recently elected vice president of administration for the Washington, D.C., Chapter of the National Black MBA Association. Mardis, an analyst for the U.S. Government Accountability Office, lives in Oxon Hill, Md.

Navy Senior Chief Petty Officer **Ronald Edwards '96** retired from active duty after 26 years of service. He most recently served at Naval Dental Center, Great Lakes, Ill.

Edward Ehret Jr. '98 has rejoined Gray Design Group in St. Louis as a project manager after working three years for an Illinois design firm. He is a resident of Nashville, Ill.

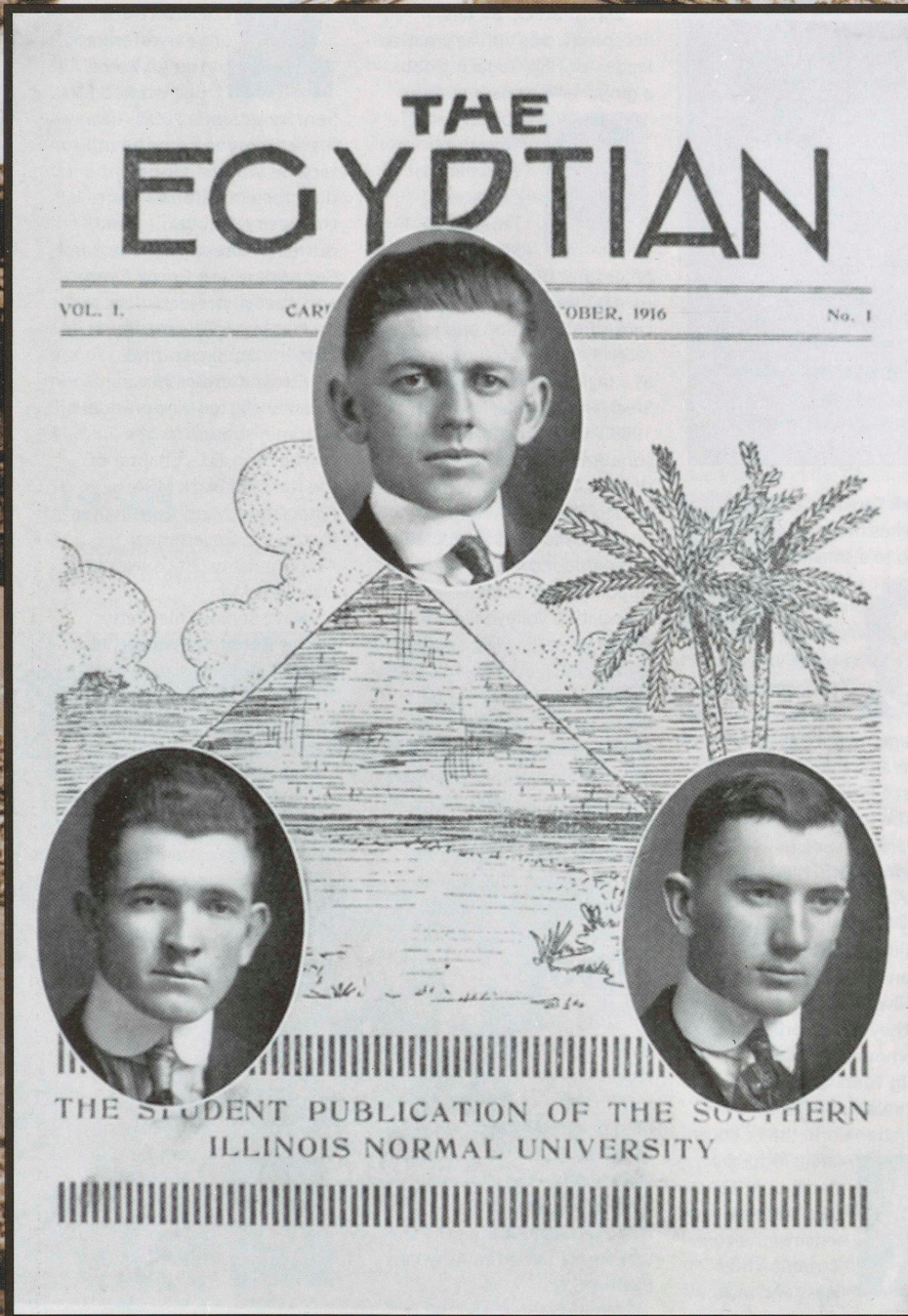


2000s

Landon Jones '01 is a financial planner for Sagemark Consulting, a division of Lincoln Financial Advisors in Cleveland, Ohio. Jones and his wife, Monica, live in Medina, Ohio, where he is a member of the Medina Toastmasters and a volunteer with the Medina Christian Academy.



A Step Back In Time



The Egyptian's Long History...

The award-winning *Daily Egyptian* continues to raise the bar for student newspapers across the nation. And the publication has been producing journalists longer than most alumni are aware. Seeds for the publication were first planted in 1888 when – for only one year – the *Normal Gazette* was published. Seventeen years later, *The Egyptian* (shown at left as it looked in 1916) appeared on campus for the first time, and has remained a staple at the University ever since.

Salukis Through And Through

Bud and Carol Cross are perfect examples of faithful Southern alums who grew up on the University's doorstep and now in retirement enjoy all the campus has to offer.

The Benton, Ill., natives graduated from SIU more than 50 years ago. Bud worked for the University for 29 years, first as management systems director for the University's computer center and later as director of the Industrial Technology Military Programs for the College of Engineering. His



last position allowed the couple to live in England and Germany for short periods of time and to visit many of the program's 26 military bases.

Bud served as president of the Madison County Alumni Chapter when the couple lived in the East St. Louis area and served again as president of the Williamson County Chapter in the 1970s.

Carol, a retired teacher, recalls phoning alumni to raise money for the Williamson County scholarship fund over the years. She would like to encourage younger alumni to take a turn in such a process for their counties and states. "It's a fun way to meet other alumni and stay in touch," she says.

She taught for many years and recently co-authored a book with Jean Ellen Reynolds '66, M.S. '70, Ph.D. '78 called *Kisses From Hanna*, a Dutch-American memoir.

The Crosses also did a good job of raising their three children to be good Salukis. All Life Members, Deanne '76 and her husband, Donald Closson '74, live in Allen, Texas; Jeanette '86 and her husband, Dean Ehrenheim '81, live in Owensboro, Ky.; and Jeffrey '78 and his wife, Christy, are Carterville residents. Carol's late parents, Martha '31 and Goffrey Hughes '27, were also Life Members.

Bud and Carol are active in the Carterville Senior Citizens facility and church activities such as delivering "Meals on Wheels." They love to travel and on their last trip to Florida spotted a young man with an SIU t-shirt. "I called to him, 'Yeah Salukis!'" recalls Carol. He was stationed at Pensacola and was from central Illinois. The couple agrees, "It's fun to watch for grads wherever."

For their support and lifelong contributions to Southern Illinois University, the SIU Alumni Association proudly salutes Bud and Carol Hughes Cross.

"SIU has been good to me, both for my education and also for employment," says Bud. Carol adds, "We are blessed to be close enough to this exciting campus to enjoy all the cultural and sporting activities it has to offer."

Bud Cross '53, M.S. '65 and Carol Hughes Cross '54, M.S. '76
Retired
SIU Alumni Association Life Members


PRIDE.

"I proudly wear my class ring to the SIU Student Orientation and Registration program each spring in Chicago. I also wear my ring while attending classes in pursuit of a music degree at SIU. My wife Kaye and I are life members of the SIU Alumni Association and take great pride in having a family tradition of SIU alumni.

My class ring symbolizes my strong commitment to SIU and our students."

Ken Carr '88, MSEd'91
Publicity Specialist
SIU Student Health Programs

For more information or to purchase a ring, call 1-866-225-3687 or visit sialumni.com to view online.


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


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