

9-1-2007

## Southern Alumni

SIU Alumni Association

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# SOUTHERN ALUMNI

SIU Alumni Association

## YOUNG GUINS

*Digitalsmiths is  
poised to become the  
"Google of video ads."*

Inside: Southern Exposure, Homecoming Schedule, Class Notes, and more...

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# IRA Charitable Rollover Gift Supports Education Scholarship

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**B**ettye Lauderdale was touched during her 80th birthday party last November when Julia Orzeske, one of her four daughters, informed the gathering, "Everything that is right with us should be blamed on my Mom." The Golconda native was further moved by another gesture orchestrated by her children.

Julia, a 1985 SIU Law School graduate who is an attorney in Indianapolis, announced that the family worked with SIU Foundation officials to establish the Bettye and Gene Lauderdale Scholarship in honor of their parents' devotion and years of service to education. Julia and her sisters – Jean Ann McBride of Memphis, Marybeth Lauderdale of Jacksonville, and Alice Green of Collinsville – sprung the surprise on their mother during the birthday celebration.

A \$500 scholarship will be presented annually to a Pope County or Meridian High student with a grade point average of 3.5 or higher. The recipient must enroll in Southern's College of Education and Human Services and pursue a teaching career.

Equally important to Lauderdale is that the scholarship honors her late husband, Gene Lauderdale, a former educator who died in 1994. "It was quite a shock. I knew about the party, but had no idea they were establishing a scholarship," she says. "My girls have surprised me on a number of occasions over the years. They *delight* in it."

Lauderdale received her degree in education from Southern Illinois Normal University in 1948. Shortly thereafter, she commenced her teaching career at Pope County in southern Illinois. Her 35-year teaching career also included stops in Olmsted, Titus, and Meridian, before retiring in 1983.

"I wouldn't trade it for anyone's life. A number of my former students tell me how much they appreciated me hassling them to study and graduate," she says. "Students need to know that you care. Of course, at SIU I was told that a teacher loses 10 years of her life upon entering the classroom. Some of my students thought I was a personal companion of Abraham Lincoln."

Lauderdale cares about SIU students who are following in her footsteps to pursue a teaching career. She has contributed additional funds to the Bettye and Gene Lauderdale Scholarship via the IRA Charitable Rollover Act passed by Congress. The legislation, only in effect for 2006 and 2007, allows individuals at least 70.5 years old to donate up to \$100,000 within a calendar year directly from their traditional IRA or Roth IRA to a charity of their choice without claiming the withdrawal as income, making the gift nontaxable.

Lauderdale says the IRA Rollover provides an excellent option to support SIU. "I asked my girls what they thought of supporting the University in this fashion and they said 'Go for it, Mom.' I absolutely would encourage others to do it."

Lauderdale is involved in several community organizations and enjoys spending time in retirement with 10 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

"I have been blessed beyond measure."



Bettye Lauderdale shares a moment with Sarah Kivett of Golconda, Ill., the first recipient of the Bettye and Gene Lauderdale Scholarship.

For more information on making a gift to the Southern Illinois University Foundation via the IRA Charitable Rollover option, please contact the Foundation at 618-453-4900 or via e-mail: [siuf@siu.edu](mailto:siuf@siu.edu); or Yvonne M. Spencer, J.D., Director of Planned Giving, at 618-453-4907 or via e-mail: [yvonnem@siu.edu](mailto:yvonnem@siu.edu). For more information on the Bettye and Gene Lauderdale Scholarship, please contact Kevin Lister at 618-453-4934 or via e-mail at [klister@siu.edu](mailto:klister@siu.edu).

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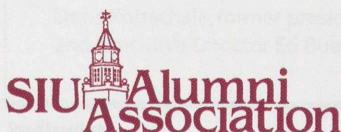
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## ON THE COVER

SIU Alumni Association Life Members Matt Berry (left) and Ben Weinberger are shown in front of the *DigitalSmiths* offices in Raleigh-Durham, N.C. The SIU grads, who owned and managed their own businesses while still students at Southern, are now partners in an enterprise to provide data for advertisers who utilize video content on the Internet.



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### Young Guns

With \$6 million in venture capital in place, and some of the brightest technical minds in the country on board, *DigitalSmiths* is poised to be a major player on the Internet. The company's target is to become the "Google for video ads," and it plans to make a giant splash in the entertainment industry. This enterprise is the result of the professional union of Salukis Ben Weinberger and Matt Berry, who first met when they were running their own businesses as students at SIU.



### The Place Of Caring

More than 85 SIU alumni are members of a small army of counselors, therapists, psychiatrists, nurses, prevention specialists, and others who make a daily impact on people's lives. Their work at Southern Illinois Regional Social Services helps many citizens cope with a wide array of challenges. "It is time for us to get as comfortable talking about our mental health challenges as we are about our physical health challenges," says SIRSS Director – and Association Life Member – Karen Freitag.

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### Dave Eckert – Uncorked

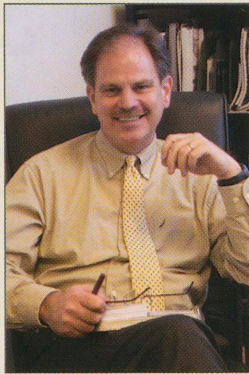
Southern alumnus Dave Eckert has been combining skills as a reporter with a passion for food and wine for the past 25 years. He is the host of "Culinary Travels with Dave Eckert," an Emmy-winning program airing on more than 160 Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) affiliates. This multi-talented Saluki travels the world to help his viewers vicariously taste, see, and experience the world's various cuisines.



### The Rathole Gang

The Rathole (more formally known as the Rathskeller) was once a basement bar on the corner of Main and Illinois streets in Carbondale. "The Rathole Gang," comprised of assorted friends and Southern alumni who frequented the spot, have been meeting each Memorial Day weekend in Carbondale for the past 45 years to keep memories and friendships alive. For this group, traveling countless miles to roast pigs, drink beer, and play horseshoes with old college buddies is not just a possibility – it's a must.

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by Gene Green

**A**lthough it's been more than 30 years since I attended SIU, at the time I vividly recall feeling overwhelmed with work and assignments. I suppose that is a universal feeling for most college students.

Since time management is one of the hardest skills for some students to master, it makes Ben Weinberger and Matt Berry's days at Southern look even more remarkable. Each ran a successful business as undergraduates, taking focus and determination to new levels.

"Running *DigitalSmiths* out of a dorm room wasn't an easy thing to pull off, but it was exciting," Weinberger says of his days in Carbondale. "You have to put a lot of thought into how you are going to use your

time and stay focused on things – but I'm proof that it can be done."

In this issue of *Southern Alumni*, we show how their paths crossed at SIU, and how the pair has since collaborated on a major project involving the Internet, the television industry, and film studios. Thanks to \$6 million in venture capital and a collection of some of the top technical minds in the country, *DigitalSmiths* is poised to become "the Google of video ads."

Weinberger and Berry, who at one time ran separate companies out of Southern's Dunn-Richmond Center, say the hands-on experience they were afforded as students is still paying off.

"I don't think that happens everywhere," Weinberger notes. "If you are a student at SIU in virtually any discipline – and are willing to put in the time – there are opportunities for you to get your hands dirty doing actual work in your major."

Berry adds: "Being a student and a businessman at the same time is not for everyone, but it certainly allowed me to get a head start into the real world. I wouldn't trade that experience for anything."

I hope you enjoy retracing the path these two Salukis have traveled, and take great pride in knowing that it all began in Carbondale.

After almost a decade, I've decided to alter the item that appears each edition on the last page of the magazine. Instead of featuring an old photograph in "Step Back In Time," we're introducing something new.

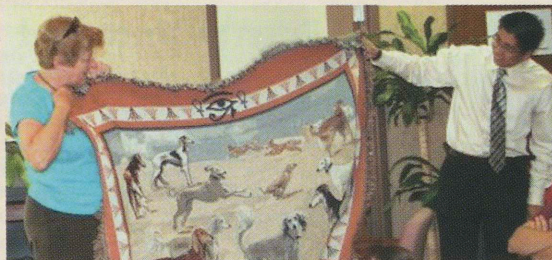
With the assistance of the talented staff at University Communications, page 48 of *Southern Alumni* is now called "Then And Now." Each issue will showcase a historic photograph presented in tandem with an image depicting the location as it looks today. I hope you enjoy this dose of nostalgia and we continue to embrace the long legacy of Southern.

The SIU Alumni Association salutes Jeannie Caldwell, who recently retired after 20 years of service to the University. Jeannie, who was an administrative clerk at our Colyer Hall location,

was a popular and visible presence in the front office. If you ever registered for or attended an Association event, chances are great that you encountered her working diligently to make sure things were running smoothly.

As loyal Salukis, Jeannie and her husband, Dave, will support the Association in any way they can. While that continued dedication is appreciated, I know her co-workers will still miss the daily contact they had with this classy lady who *always* seemed to have a smile on her face.

Thanks Jeannie – you sincerely enjoyed serving alumni, and it showed!



With some help from fellow staff member Argus Tong, Jeannie Caldwell admires a Saluki rug presented to her as a gift from friends, Don and Karen Magee.

## SIU Alumni Association

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

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## Association President Enjoys Evening With Chancellor

One of the most enjoyable evenings I experienced this summer as president of the SIU Alumni Association was on Aug. 1. I had the pleasure of dining with our SIU Chancellor Fernando Trevino, Association Executive Director Ed Buerger, and area Association Executive Board members (and Past Presidents) J.C. Garavalia and Sheri Hunter.

Knowing Dr. Trevino had just arrived in Carbondale, we tried to share some history and traditions of our dear alma mater, and discussed the goals established in the SIU Alumni Association's Long Range Plan.

Let me assure our alumni that Dr. Trevino was the right choice for the Chancellor position. Although he is not a

graduate of Southern, he certainly identifies with us. He understands our needs and will work with us to make our dreams a reality.

On behalf of the 220,000 alumni in every state and more than 125 countries throughout the world, we welcome Chancellor Trevino. With his leadership and our support, Southern *will* move forward.

With Saluki Pride,  
**Doris Rottschalk '69**  
*Life Member*  
**DuQuoin, Ill.**

## They Like Salukis, Not Dawgs

This summer an article appeared in *The Rocky Mountain News* that reminded us of the proud heritage of the Saluki – the mascot of Southern Illinois University. (The article featured a dog named Sally, a three-legged Saluki found wandering in the Kuwait desert and res-

cued by the Progressive Animal Welfare Society).

As alumni, we have followed the growth of SIU and its various teams where the mascot is usually in high profile. It would seem that somewhere in our plus-40 years since graduation, the mascot has more often been referenced as the Dawgs instead of the Saluki. Our students cheer for their Dawgs, and signs read "Go Dawgs."

Sometimes sports announcers will have no information on what a Saluki is or why this breed has any relevance to the University and the region. In our opinion, this is most unfortunate as SIU loses the opportunity to educate the public about the Saluki and its connection to southern Illinois.

That part of the state is beautiful and a well-kept secret. Our students hopefully are aware of the geographical connection to the region and why it is referred to as Little Egypt. Our annual is the *Obelisk* and our newspaper is the *Daily Egyptian* for

a reason! It is also appropriate that our proud mascot be called a Saluki.

With many of our young people in the Middle East, the Saluki dog provides an associative pride in their college experience. It would be wonderful if SIU could provide a home for Sally, the injured Saluki in *The Rocky Mountain News* story. And it would be even better if the University would return to referencing their proud mascot as the Saluki and remind the public that they are *not* just Dawgs!

**Thomas '62, M.S. '63 and Penelope '64, M.H.R.'93**  
*Moulton*  
*Life Members*  
**Littleton, Co.**

*Editor's Note: To read about Sally the rescued Saluki and the rare prosthesis that is planned to help the dog, go to: [www.rockymountainnews.com/drmn/local/article/0,1299,DRMN\\_15\\_5605761,00.html](http://www.rockymountainnews.com/drmn/local/article/0,1299,DRMN_15_5605761,00.html)*

## Proud Of NASA Salukis

As a former student at Southern Illinois University, I felt proud to hear that one of my fellow collegians recently conquered space. Joan Higginbotham's vocation is an ultimate goal and no doubt a dream shared by many.

I shared the pride and joy of other Salukis around the world who celebrated her return to earth after the completion of her mission. It was truly an historic event!

**Ricky Ganang '84**  
*Sabah, Malaysia*



From left, Chancellor Fernando Trevino enjoys an evening with SIU Alumni Association President Doris Rottschalk, former presidents and current board members Sheri Hunter and J.C. Garavalia, and Executive Director Ed Buerger.

# More Value For You

## Try Old Main Restaurant For Lunch

Old Main Restaurant, located on the 2nd floor of the SIU Student Center, is open from 11:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. The all-you-can-eat lunch buffet includes a soup and salad bar, freshly cooked vegetables, and hand-carved entrees for just \$6.75. For a lighter option, try the soup and salad bar for \$4.99 or order one of the many new items features on the menu. SIU Alumni Association members receive 10 percent off when they show their membership card. Call 618-453-5277 for reservations.

*Old Main*  
restaurant

## A Petal Patch Florist Delivers For Alums

If you need flowers delivered anywhere in southern Illinois, A Petal Patch Florist can help. Located at 216 S. Illinois Avenue in Carbondale, the business is known for beautiful fresh flower arrangements and plants. SIU Alumni Association members receive a 10 percent discount on all orders. Give them a call at 618-549-9223 for special SIU-themed bouquets or corsages for homecoming.

*A Petal Patch Florist*

## 710 Bookstore Is Your Source For School Supplies

For over 30 years, 710 Bookstore has been your source for SIU textbooks, apparel, and school and office supplies. Family-owned and operated, 710 Bookstore has the largest art and engineering department in Carbondale. SIU Alumni Association annual members receive 15 percent off of any SIU imprinted item, and lifetime members receive a 20 percent discount. Visit them on the strip in Carbondale or on-line at [www.seventen.com](http://www.seventen.com).

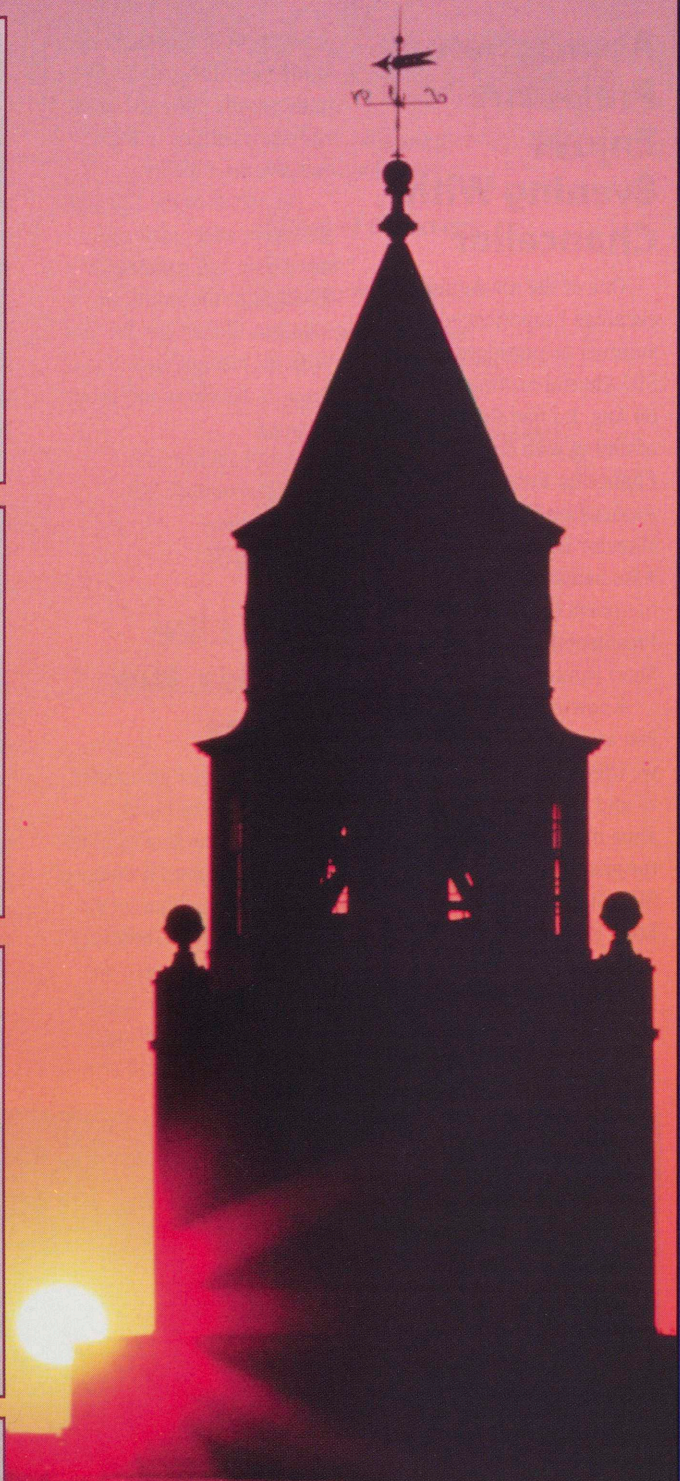
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# Check Out Our Benefit Program

As a special thanks, the following businesses offer SIU Alumni Association members discounts on products and/or services. Show your card to receive your savings!  
Have questions? Please call us at 618-453-2408 or e-mail at alumni@siu.edu.

## INTERNATIONAL

**Choice Hotels:** (at participating) Clarion Inn, Comfort Inn, Quality Inn, Friendship Inn, Econo Lodge, Rodeway Inn, Sleep Inn (up to 20%)

**European Auto and Hotel** via destination Europe

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

## NATIONWIDE

**Allied Van Lines/Federal Companies:** 63% off on interstate moves

**BeautifulDisplays.com:** 15% off list prices of trade show exhibit kits and graphics, call 800-697-4670

**Boyer's Coffee:** 10% off. Call Alumni Association for account number.

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

**CORD North American:** Up to 63% off on interstate moves

**Cruise One:** 10-60% savings on leading cruise lines. Also waive \$14.95 service fee.

**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.

**Drury Hotels:** \$10 off double occupancy, 3rd and 4th persons stay free. Please call the SIU Alumni Association office at 618-453-2408 for promotional code.

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

**KickBike America:** 10% off all online purchases for annual members; 20% for life members; 5% off purchase at Phoenix Cycles in Carbondale

**Mayberry Consulting:** 10% off grant writing/evaluation service, call 618-233-7455

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

**RE/MAX Realty** - Dennis Sluga: 20% off fees when buying or selling a house anywhere in the continental United States

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

**Ticketmaster:** Opportunity for savings on event tickets on-line.

**Working Advantage:** Discounts on theme parks, sporting events, online shopping, ski tickets, gift certificates, and more. Please call the SIU Alumni Association office at 618-453-2408 for the promotional code.

## SOUTHERN ILLINOIS

**A Petal Patch Florist:** Carbondale - 10% off

**Alongi's Italian Restaurant:** Carbondale/DuQuoin - Free dessert with purchase of entrée (excludes banquet room & other coupons)

**Applebee's:** Marion - Free soft drink with entrée

**Balance Pilates & Fitness Studio:** Carbondale - 10% off all services

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

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

**Bike Surgeon:** Carbondale - 10% off new parts and accessories  
**Carlson Wagonlit Travel Agency:** Herrin/ Marion, 5% off all preferred cruises & vacations

**Coleman-Rhoades Furniture:** West Frankfort - 15% off accessories

**Common Grounds Coffee Shop:** Carbondale - 10% off

**Days Inn:** Carbondale - 10% off

**Du Quoin Red Hawk Country Club:** \$25 for 18 holes with cart

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

**Fazoli's:** Carbondale - Free soft drink with entrée

**Fish Net Pet Shop:** Carbondale - 10% off

**Furniture King:** Carbondale - 15% off accessories

**Garfield's Restaurant:** Carbondale - 20% off (not available on lunch specials)

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

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

**Harbaugh's Restaurant:** Carbondale - Buy one entrée, get the second for half price (equal or lesser value)

**Houlihan's:** Carbondale - Free appetizer with purchase of two entrées (excludes sampler/combo)

**Huck's:** Carbondale - (\$ .51 location only) - 3¢ discount per gallon of gas

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

**Mane Attractions Hair Studio:** Carbondale - 15% off services for annual members (\$15 or more). 20% off services for life members (\$15 or more)

**Marion Econolodge:** Marion - 15% off room rate

**Marion Ford Lincoln Mercury Hyundai:** Marion - 10% off auto parts and service (including Quicklane)

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

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

**Motel 6:** Carbondale - 20% off

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

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

**Neon Internet, Inc.:** Carbondale - 1 full month free with first year contract.

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

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

**Reppert's Office Supplies-Furniture-Machines:** Anna - 10% off regular priced items

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

**Saluki Central:** Carbondale - 15% off SIU apparel

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

**Spinoni's Pizza & Pasta House:** Carbondale - \$2 off any food purchase of \$10 or more (not valid on specials or with other offers)

**The Sports Performance Store:** Marion - 10% off services, 10% off equipment. Call 618-694-3455

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

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

**Uncorked Tours:** Carbondale - 10% off tickets

**Universitees:** Carbondale - 20% off

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

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

## OTHER

**Appraisal Matters:** Malibu, Calif. - 10% off appraisal report

**Best Western River North Hotel:** Chicago, Lake Shore Drive - Sun-Thur. \$119 per night; Fri-Sat. \$129 per night

**Cold Stone Creamery:** Richmond Heights, Mo. (across from the Galleria Shopping Center) - 10% off

**DPR Realty, LLC:** Glendale, Ariz. - discounted real estate listing - call 866-496-8377 for list of services

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

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

**Myers O'Donnell Banners and Signs:** Serious Saluki discounts for alumni events and SIU sports outings

## CAMPUS

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

**Morris Library privileges** - visit siualumni.com for details

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

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

**SIU Career Services:** Free access to eRecruiting (job search system) and complimentary resume critiques

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

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

**University Bookstore:** Student Center - 20% off SIU apparel

**University Press Publications:** 20% off

This list is subject to change.

Present your membership card to receive your discount.

## Thank You For Your Consideration!

As a member, you'll receive:

- The *Southern Alumni* magazine quarterly
- *Saluki Pride* newsletter twice yearly
- Access to member-only areas of Online Community
- 15% discount at the SIU Alumni Online Store
- Opportunity to attend events at member rates

## New SIU Alumni Association Life Members

Between 5/16/07 and 8/6/07

Mr. Carl P. Alexander  
Mrs. Christina J. Allbright  
Mr. Dale J. Aschemann and  
Mrs. Stacey A. Aschemann  
Mrs. Cynthia L. Bartelsmeyer  
and Mr. David L. Bartelsmeyer  
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and Ms. Mary E. Blossom  
Ms. Jill L. Davis and Craig Davis, M.D.  
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Roy C. Heidinger, Ph.D.,  
and Mrs. Bonnie Heidinger  
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Mr. Rodney P. Kelly  
and Mrs. Mary A. Kelly  
Mr. Scott Kelly  
Mr. and Mrs. Charles E. Levy Jr.  
Mr. Joel D. Livengood  
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and Mrs. Linda B. Miles  
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and Mr. Lawrence J. O'Neill  
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Ms. Augusta Price  
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and Mrs. Carol S. Rankin  
Mr. Steven W. and Mrs. Cynthia L. Rich  
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Ms. Tanna Robinson  
Ms. Stephanie P. Sallman  
Ratna Sinha, Ph.D.  
Mr. Gabriel Smith and Ms. Kelly J. Smith  
Mr. Sean R. Smith  
Mr. Steven R. Smith  
Mr. John P. Sterrenberg  
Mrs. Kathryn B. Surman  
Mr. Phillip E. Thompson  
Mr. Woody Thorne  
Mr. Jeremy R. Walker  
Ms. Jayne A. Wright  
Thomas M. Zabiega, M.D.  
Mr. and Mrs. James R. Zimmer  
Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth R. Zingrebe



## Saluki Pride Committee Is Making Tracks

Finding your way to the Southern Illinois University campus is a bit easier thanks to the Saluki Pride Committee, a subcommittee of the Carbondale Chamber of Commerce. Saluki Paw prints painted on the streets lead visitors to campus via a number of different routes. Plans to add prints are currently under way.

If local alumni would like a paw print of their very own, they may have a print painted on their driveways for \$100. The proceeds of the sales will benefit the Community Cares Scholarship, Saluki Way, and the Saluki Pride Committee to support future public relations endeavors.

Contact Meredith Rhoads at the Carbondale Chamber of Commerce for more information. She may be reached by calling 618-549-2146 or by e-mail at [meredith@carbondalechamber.com](mailto:meredith@carbondalechamber.com).

The Saluki Pride Committee is comprised of businesses and SIU departments who make it their mission to work in tandem to further recruitment and retention efforts for Southern. Volunteer representatives of the following businesses and University departments serve on the committee:



Members of the Saluki Pride Committee are shown painting the first paw print this summer. The team started painting prints in late July, leading up to the start of the new school year.

*AmerenCIPS  
Common Grounds Coffee House  
Forbes Financial Group  
Furniture King  
Murdale True Value  
SchoolCenter  
Regions Bank*

*Old National Bank  
SIU Alumni Association  
SIU Foundation  
SIU International Programs  
SIU Intercollegiate Athletics  
SIU President's Office*

The Saluki Pride Committee wishes to thank the following organizations and businesses. Without their assistance, this program would not have been possible:

*Brad Cole, Mayor of Carbondale  
Jeff Doherty, Carbondale City Manager  
City of Carbondale  
Carbondale Chamber of Commerce  
E. T. Simonds Construction Company  
Mike Bost, State Representative  
David Phelps, Former US Representative  
Illinois Department of Transportation  
SIUC Plant and Service Operations  
Glenn Poshard, SIU President  
Straight Line Striping, LLC*

## Carbondale Sales Tax Hike To Help Fund Saluki Way

Just before *Southern Alumni* went to press, a vote to increase the city of Carbondale's home rule sales tax by one-half percent was passed by the Carbondale City Council. The tax increase will provide \$2.3 million annual additional income, with \$1 million per year earmarked for Southern's Saluki Way project over the next 20 years.

The initiative passed on a 4-3 vote, with Carbondale Mayor Brad Cole casting the deciding vote. In addition to assisting SIU, the proposal will finance the construction of various civic projects such as a new public safety facility to house the city's police, fire, administration, and emergency management services.

Various members of the audience spoke in the four-hour-plus meeting, including SIU President Glenn Poshard, who said the partnership between the city and the University is one where many benefit. "We believe we've been a good neighbor and friend," he told the council members.

Beginning next year, Carbondale citizens will pay the higher sales tax of 7.75 percent, and the half-percent increase will help contribute to the construction of a new Saluki football stadium and the renovation of the SIU Arena. The tax will not be levied on items such as medicine, food, or vehicles.

We will take an in-depth look at the impact of this initiative in the December issue of *Southern Alumni* magazine.

## SIU Opens First System Service Centers

Southern Illinois University, in conjunction with Southeastern Illinois College and Southwestern Illinois College, recently opened its first SIU System Service Centers. The centers, operating on the SIC campus in Harrisburg and the SWIC campus in Red Bud, will better integrate and expand education opportunities for area students by streamlining cooperation between those colleges and the SIU system.

These two sites are the first of seven planned for various local colleges in southern Illinois and mark an innovative partnership between the University and area colleges that will help students pursue their educational goals in several ways.

"The centers, and the others that will follow, exemplify our long-standing commitment to serving the needs of our entire region," says SIU President Glenn Poshard. "I like to use myself as an example of how education can transform a life, and this innovative approach is yet another tool Southeastern, Southwestern, and SIU can use to help our students achieve their educational and career dreams."

Workers at the SIU System Service Center will advocate for the University, the colleges, and students. They will broker student services and act as ombudsmen and liaisons between the schools for both students and faculty. They also will create innovative new approaches to help students and the schools work together for common good.

The service centers also will assist with the existing "2 plus 2" program, designed to help students make efficient use of their community college education so that credits easily transfer to SIU. Under the program, SIU counselors monitor such students and provide ongoing feedback on their transcripts to facilitate their continuing education at the University.

Service center workers will help students who want bachelor's degrees to easily make the transition to the SIU system. They also will assist students with dual enrollment and taking classes at SIC, SWIC, and SIU at the same time, if necessary. Officials also are exploring giving dual-enrollment students the option to use SIU facilities and participate in SIU programs on a fee basis prior to their arrivals on campus.

SIU officials hope the service centers also will increase the University's visibility within the region, encouraging local students to consider its programs in conjunction with local community colleges. It also will help the University identify students who express an interest in attending SIU early in their higher education careers, allowing SIU counselors to help them achieve their goals.

The SIC center is located in the Harry W. Abell Administration Building in Harrisburg and is open 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday and at other times by appointment. Call 618-252-5400, ext. 2123, for more information. The SWIC center is located in the Success Center on the Red Bud campus, 500 W. South Fourth St. It will be open 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Thursday. Call 618-282-6682, ext. 8174, for more information. ■

## On The Side

### Life Members Playing Key Roles In SIU's Recruitment Efforts

A life member of the SIU Alumni Association has been named director of New Student Programs for Southern Illinois University Carbondale. Angela Royal '96, M.S. '06 will head the program, one of the four components that make up "enrollment management" at Southern.



Angela Royal

A Sparta native and a resident of Marissa since high school, Royal returned to the area to teach high school in Chester from 1998 until 2003, when she came to work at SIU in undergraduate admissions as an admissions counselor and the special events and group visit coordinator. In 2006, she became coordinator of recruitment and retention for the College of Applied Sciences and Arts.

"I envision New Student Programs welcoming students to the Saluki family, supporting students as they transition from high school or community college to SIU, assisting with their social and academic integration to our campus, and offering guidance and support to the families of these students," she says.

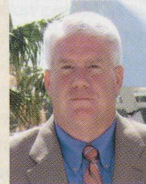


Katharine Johnson Suski

While Royal is focusing on keeping students committed to Southern, another SIU Alumni Association life member is doing her best to bring students here. Katharine Johnson Suski '98, M.P.A.D. '04 recently was promoted to associate director of undergraduate admissions. Suski will oversee the activities of all the office's admissions counselors and their recruitment efforts, including campus visits, programs, open houses, and previews. She began working in admissions at SIU in 1999 as a researcher, later becoming an admissions coordinator. ■

### Ehling New Rec Center Director

Willie Ehling is the new director of Southern's Recreational Sports and Services. He comes to Southern after serving as director of recreation and wellness at the University of Central Florida.



Willie Ehling

"The reputation of SIU Student Affairs and specifically the Recreational Sports and Services facilities and programs, are well known and respected among the National Intramural and Recreational Sports Association network," Ehling says. "I am inheriting a qualified, dedicated, and productive staff."

He also says he is cognizant of the high standards set by his predecessor, Bill McMinn, who retired last December after serving as director for the last 13 of his 26 years at the Student Recreation Center.

Ehling's experience in the field of recreation is extensive. The University of Central Florida experienced significant storm damage in 2004 to its Recreation and Wellness Center, and under Ehling's guidance, major repairs, renovations, and expansions have been ongoing. In the position since 2004, he led a department with 30 full-time and 300 student staff members and an annual budget exceeding \$3 million. ■

# A Message To Alumni From SIUC President Glenn Poshard:

Recently, in a letter to the editor, my dear friend and former SIUC professor Randy Dunn extolled the virtues of Murray State University by citing recognition received in rankings of, among others, the *U.S. News and World Report* and the *Princeton Review*, apparently in response to a speech I made pointing out the excellent quality of higher education at SIUC as well as the regional contribution our University makes to southern Illinois. I'm very sorry if my remarks offended President Dunn or Murray State University. MSU is an excellent university and deserves the positive recognition it receives.

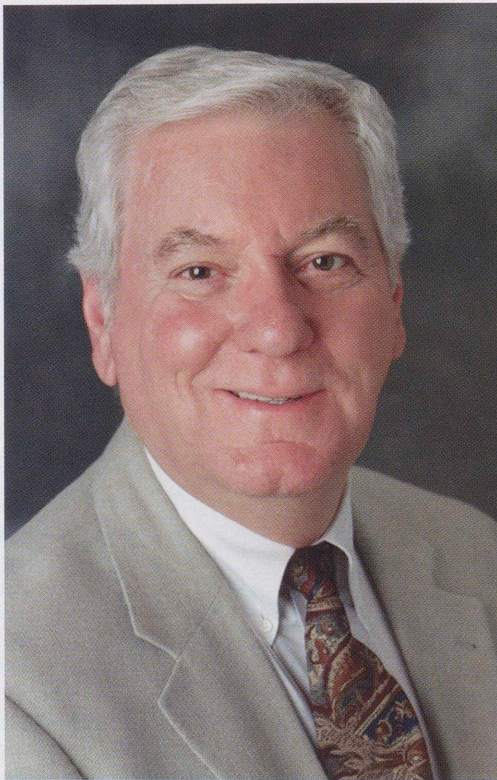
The *U.S. News and World Report* rankings are divided into two categories. One is the regional universities that offer master's degrees and below. These are ranked within four geographic areas: North, South, Midwest, and West. Murray State is ranked in the South Region along with other fine universities such as Rollins College (Fla.), Sanford University (Ala.), Mercer University (Ga.) and Appalachian State (N.C.).

SIUC, on the other hand, is ranked as a doctoral granting, research-intensive, national public university. SIUC is ranked in the *U.S. News and World Report* among the Top 100 National Research Universities, which include, among others, Michigan, Illinois, Kentucky, Harvard, and UCLA.

Other national rankings for SIUC include the *Princeton Review*, which reports that our University is one of the Best Midwestern Universities and one of the Best Valued Colleges in the nation. *U.S. News* ranked SIUC alongside Princeton, West Virginia, and North Carolina State as one of the top schools in the nation for graduating students with the least amount of debt. Due to our excellent student work and financial assistance programs (we give out more than \$203 million per year to our students), only 39 percent of our students graduate with debt, ranking us ninth among national universities in America.

Our College of Business ranks among the best in America, with our Finance Department in the top 5 percent.

The Automotive Industry Planning Council ranks our Automotive Technology Program as No. 1 in the nation.



SIUC President Glenn Poshard

Our Aviation Technology Program has been one of the best nationally for many years, with our young pilots winning the Collegiate National Team Award five of the last six years.

*U.S. News* ranks our Rehabilitation Institute counseling program sixth in the nation, receiving the 2006 Commissioner's Award for Excellence in Education and Training from the Federal Rehabilitation Services Administration.

Our Department of Workforce Education is among the Top 10 in the country, joining Ohio State, Wisconsin, and Penn State in that category.

Our School of Law's Legal Research and Writing program tied Rutgers University for 22nd in the nation among 184 law schools.

SIUC is ranked 30th in the nation for economic diversity (enrolling undergraduates with family incomes under \$40,000 per year), joining UCLA, Kentucky, Brigham Young, and others in this category.

Our University joins such outstanding universities as Washington University in St. Louis, Oklahoma, North Carolina, and Vanderbilt in being among the nation's leaders in ethnic diversity.

SIUC is recognized in America's Best Colleges 2007 as one of the nation's leaders in the highest percentage of classes under 20 students joining such great universities as Colorado, Virginia, and Iowa.

Morris Library ranks in the top 20 percent, 74th among top research libraries at public universities in America.

Whether it is journalism and radio-TV in our College of Mass Communication, genomic research in soybeans in our College of Agriculture with its 2,000-acre farms, advanced friction studies in the College of Engineering, poetry, music, and several of the fine arts in our College of Liberal Arts, teacher preparation and the School of Social Services in the College of Education, or ecology and nanomaterials science in the College of Science, our University consistently receives national recognition for its outstanding undergraduate and graduate programs.

Our medical school is one of the finest in the Midwest in preparing doctors to practice in medically underserved areas. A \$20 million Cancer Research Center will be opening next year.

Our beginning freshmen ACT scores are well above the state and national averages.

Less than one year after graduation, 80 percent of our graduates are full-time employees. One hundred percent of our Mining Engineering undergraduates and graduates are employed immediately upon graduation.

Ninety-three percent of our alumni have either a positive or strongly positive attitude toward SIUC.

SIUC's academic qualifications are excellent and respected nationwide.

Our athletic programs, both men's and women's, are some of the best in the nation. Our men's basketball team has advanced to the NCAA Tournament six straight seasons, including two trips to the Sweet 16. Our women's team was Missouri

Valley Conference champions in 2007. Football has been ranked in the top 10 in the Football Championship Subdivision for the past four years. Softball has been ranked in the top 25 in the nation for the past two years and has advanced to the NCAA Tournament five straight seasons. This past year, we had the University's first female National Champion in track athlete Brittany Riley, who owns the world record in the weight throw.

Baseball, golf, and swimming all had an excellent year in 2007. Our student athletes lead our conference in overall grade point average.

SIUC's economic impact in southern Illinois is critical to the welfare of this region.

We employ more than 7,100 faculty, staff, and graduate assistants, and have more than 4,000 student employees. We have a \$495 million operating budget with a \$288 million payroll. If you combined the 10 largest industries in southern Illinois counties, including Southern Illinois Healthcare in Jackson, Aisin in Williamson, American Coal in Saline, Crown Line in Franklin, DuQuoin and Pinckneyville Hospitals in Perry, Continental Tire in Jefferson, Dynablen in Union, and Shawnee and Vienna prisons in Johnson, the number of employees combined does not equal that of SIUC.

SIUC has 20,000 students and 7,000 employees from every county in southern Illinois who have full health care benefits, making us, by far, the largest contributor to the stability and welfare of the southern Illinois health care system.

The combination of our payroll and purchasing power contributes more than \$313 million per year to the southern Illinois economy. We have students from every state and 107 countries, all of whom bring additional thousands of visitors to our area who spend millions of more dollars on the local economy.

We will be undergoing more than \$200 million of new construction in the next few years, including new academic buildings, a student service building, and a new football stadium, creating thousands of more jobs.

Aside from our educational, athletic and economic value to southern Illinois, our service to the area continues to be a major priority.

Last year through our outreach programs, in partnership with the Department

of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, we were able to assist more than 90 businesses to start or expand in southern Illinois, which amounted to more than \$15 million in new investment. We were there when Maytag closed with more than 10 different departments of our University assisting the city of Herrin. We are actively involved with our community colleges and MAN-TRA-CON to train these workers. For any laid-off workers attending John A. Logan College, we are offering access to our health services at SIUC because they can't afford expensive health insurance policies while attending school.

We are leading an effort to expand broadband Internet access across southern Illinois through the Connect SI project.

We have established a new Entrepreneurship Center in Centralia to assist start-up small businesses.

Thousands of southern Illinoisans enjoy our theater and music productions year-round at SIUC. Every summer our SIUC School of Music presents a Summer Music Festival in communities all across the area, highlighting our outstanding Symphony Orchestra.

We run medical and dental clinics to serve those who cannot access health care and mobile health care vans to provide health services to high school students.

Our Center for Environmental Health and Safety is leading the Southern Illinois Clean Up Litter campaign.

Our Saluki Kids Academy provides summer programs and year-round mentoring for underprivileged kids. Last year, SIUC students contributed more than 32,000 hours of community service to charity projects all across southern Illinois.

I have only scratched the surface of the hundreds of contributions we make to our area on a yearly basis.

What this demonstrates to me, and I hope to you, is that SIUC serves as the principal economic engine for our region and its viability and success depend on students and their families to sustain it. Too many of our local students leave the area for their education. Research tells us that of those who go out of state for their education, only half return. SIU and southern Illinois cannot sustain themselves without this critical human resource. Our economic sustainability depends upon their education in southern Illinois and their continued presence after graduation.

We, the University, and we, the region, depend on current and future students to sustain both.

Admittedly, we have not always done as good a job as we could in marketing the excellent qualities of SIUC. At times, we have allowed everybody to define us but us, and we have stood silently, not correcting the negative assertions with facts.

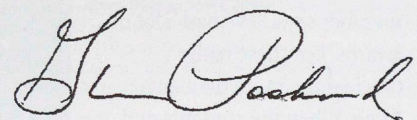
We have on occasion taken our families and their students for granted and we have sometimes done a poor job of communicating with our high schools and their guidance counselors about the multitude of opportunities available at SIUC.

We haven't taken enough of our education degrees off campus, nor have we worked closely enough with our community colleges. But that is changing. Today, SIUC operates at 21 off-campus sites in Illinois, including the University Center of Lake County where we are currently serving more than 2,600 students. Locally, we have opened offices on the campuses of John A. Logan, Southeastern, Rend Lake, Olney Central, Red Bud, and Shawnee College as a means of enhancing our partnerships with community colleges in the education of students.

SIUC is also making a critical contribution to meeting the educational needs of our military forces, offering programs at 31 military bases and 14 civilian sites in 20 states, serving a total of 1,589 students.

We believe SIUC is a great university with its best years still ahead. We are grateful to the people of southern Illinois for allowing us to serve you and we trust that, working together, we can meet the challenges before us.

This university, as no other university, has a total educational, economic, and social commitment to southern Illinois. As president of SIU, I intend to tell the story of this great university. I do believe, by virtue of the contribution SIUC makes to southern Illinois, we have an obligation to ask the region we serve so well for its support.



**Glenn Poshard**  
**President**  
**Southern Illinois University**

# National Association Honors Herman Williams

Southern Illinois University Carbondale students always seemed to flock to Herman Williams, asking advice, sharing a laugh. It was easy to see the natural rapport that made the former assistant director of intramural sports for Recreational Sports and Services so popular. Now he has earned national recognition for his efforts.

The National Intramural Recreational Sports Association (NIRSA) recently honored Williams for his devotion and hard work on behalf of students with two major honors at the association's Annual Conference and Recreational Sports Exposition in Minneapolis.

The NIRSA People of Color Distinguished Leadership Award honored him for his work on behalf of students, recreational sports, and increasing minority involvement. In addition, Williams is now the namesake for the Herman Williams Emerging Recreational Sports Leaders Founders Outstanding Service Award, given annually since 2003.

The award recognizes an individual for creating an atmosphere of open exchange and for being at the forefront of social change. Williams' family surprised him by appearing at the award's presentation.

"I'm just happy that I've helped somebody along the way, and they've told me with these awards that I have," the SIU Alumni Association life member says. "I've had a lot of awards, but these really touched me more than anything. When the students and your colleagues tell you something, it makes it feel that much

better. What makes this so special is that it's truly a service award and that's what it's all about. It's about the students. The kids make it worthwhile."

Set to retire from the University in September, Williams is winding down a long career of service to Southern. After playing basketball, football, and baseball in high school at Dillard University, he received his bachelor's degree there and later a master's at South Alabama. The Birmingham, Ala., native coached the basketball team of his alma mater, A.H. Parker High School, to two state titles and a third-place finish while also serving as assistant football coach.

He arrived at SIU in 1974 and was

assistant basketball coach until 1978 when he followed head coach Paul Lambert to Auburn University in Auburn, Ala. Tragically, a hotel fire killed Lambert before he ever coached an Auburn game. Williams stayed until 1981, at which time he says he was thrilled to get the opportunity to return to Carbondale.

An assistant basketball coach for the Salukis until 1986, Williams then went to work for Recreational Sports and Services, where he's been ever since.

"My experience at the recreation center has been great," Williams notes. "I've worked with some great people like Mike Dunn, Bill McMinn, Anthony Daniels, and Sally Wright. I've had many great graduate assistants and intramural sports officials, too."

Williams' connection to SIU is quite strong. Wife Yvonne, who he proclaims is "my backbone," is associate director of the Center for Academic Success. Their children, Kesha Williams and Herman Williams II, both graduated from the University. Kesha now works in the financial aid office, while Herman II is with Bank of America.

The University community is equally as pleased that Williams remains a vital part of the University. He might be retiring, but he insists he isn't going away.

"I will still be involved with the students who are here, who have left here, and who will be here in the future," he says. "I want to be there for them." ■

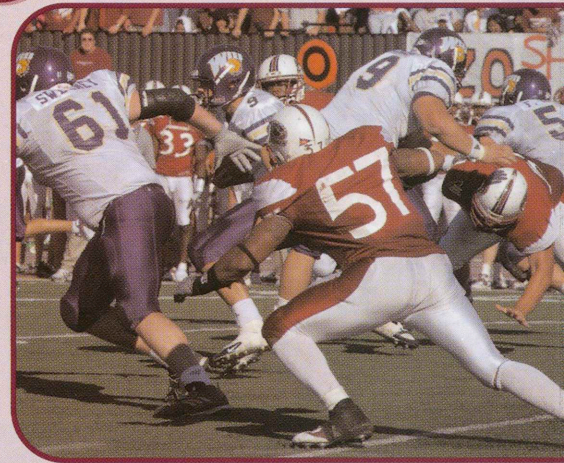


Herman Williams is all smiles as he encounters students at the SIU Rec Center.

# Homecoming 2007

## Maroon Fever

... It's Contagious!



### Monday, October 1

11:30 a.m. – Homecoming Kick-Off, *Student Center Roman Room*  
1:30 p.m.

### Tuesday, October 2

10 a.m. – King and Queen Elections, *Student Center first floor*  
7 p.m. King and Queen Elections, *Student Recreation Center*  
3 p.m. –  
7 p.m.

### Wednesday, October 3

7 p.m. Homecoming Comedy Jam, *Student Center Ballrooms*

### Thursday, October 4

1 p.m. Joint SIU Foundation/SIU Alumni Association board meeting; SIU Alumni Association executive board meeting follows immediately. *Student Health Center Auditorium (374 E. Grand Ave.)*  
7 p.m. Lecture by Astronaut Joan Higginbotham, *Student Center Ballrooms*  
7 p.m. Movie, "Ocean's 13," *Student Center Auditorium*  
7:30 p.m. Neil Simon play, "Biloxi Blues," *McLeod Theater*. Tickets are \$15 adult, \$12 senior, \$6 student, 20 percent discount with Alumni Association membership card.

### Friday, October 5

8 a.m. – Noon SIU Alumni Association Board of Directors meeting, *Student Center Ballroom A*  
8 a.m. – 4:45 p.m. Dental Professionals Seminar, focusing on dental care for people with special needs, *Student Center Auditorium*  
10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Class of 1957 registration, *Student Center Old Main Lounge*  
Noon Homecoming Luncheon (via invitation) – SIU Alumni Association, SIU Foundation, Half Century Club, *Student Center Ballroom D*  
1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. Class of 1957 guided tour of campus and Carbondale, meet in front of the *Student Center*  
1:30 p.m. SIU Foundation Board meeting, *Student Center Ballroom A*  
2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. Distinguished SIU Alumni Recognition Reception, *Student Recreation Center Alumni Lounge*  
4 p.m. Ribbon Cutting Ceremony, *Wall and Grand Streets*, followed by an open house at the courtyard  
5:30 p.m. Half Century Club/Class of 1957 reception, *Student Center John Corker Lounge*  
6 p.m. Chemistry alumni picnic, *Touch of Nature*  
6:15 p.m. Half Century Club Banquet, *Student Center Ballroom D*

7 p.m. Saluki Volleyball vs. Drake, *Davies Gym*. Tickets are \$5 for adults; \$3 for high school and younger; and SIU student admission is free with a valid SIU student ID. Tickets are available at the west entrance to Davies Gym one hour before the match begins  
7 p.m. & 9:30 p.m. Movie, "Ocean's 13," *Student Center Auditorium*  
7:30 p.m. Neil Simon play, "Biloxi Blues," *McLeod Theater*. Tickets are \$15 adult, \$12 senior, \$6 student, 20 percent discount with Alumni Association membership card. Alumni Band Group. Marching Saluki alumni invited to attend a reception in the *Student Center Cambria Room*.  
Evening

### Saturday, October 6

8 a.m. – 5 p.m. "Cavatina," an exhibition of melody and lyric, *Dunn-Richmond Economic & Regional Development Center Art Atrium*, 150 East Pleasant Hill Road  
10 a.m. Homecoming Parade, *downtown Carbondale*  
10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Student Center Family Reunion, *Student Center John W. Corker Lounge*. For all former employees, student workers and occupants. Refreshments. SIU Alumni Association Big Tent & Tailgate, east side of *McAndrew Stadium*. Everyone invited. Register at the tent to enjoy a complimentary lunch.  
11 a.m. – 2 p.m. Tour the newly built *Student Health and Counseling Center* connected to the Student Recreation Center.  
Noon Geology Alumni Tailgating Party  
2:30 p.m. Homecoming Football Game: Salukis vs. Youngstown State University, featuring half-time coronation, *McAndrew Stadium*. Tickets are \$19 for all adult seats, \$8 for high school and younger, and are available by calling 866-646-8849 or visiting the ticket window at Lingle Hall or the Student Center.  
4:30 p.m. Black Alumni Group annual business meeting, *Student Center Kaskaskia Room*  
7 p.m. Volleyball Salukis vs. Creighton, *Davies Gym*. Tickets are \$5 for adults; \$3 for high school and younger; and SIU student admission is free with a valid SIU student ID. Tickets are available at the west entrance to Davies Gym one hour before the match begins  
7 p.m. & 9:30 p.m. Movie, "Ocean's 13," *Student Center Auditorium*  
7:30 p.m. 36th Annual Miss Eboness Pageant, *Shryock Auditorium*. For tickets call 619-453-3493.  
7:30 p.m. Neil Simon play, "Biloxi Blues," *McLeod Theater*. Tickets are \$15 adult, \$12 senior, \$6 student, with 20 percent discount with Alumni Association membership card.

10 p.m. – 2 p.m. Miss Eboness After Set/Concert, *SIU Arena*  
All Day SIU Invitational Cross Country

### Sunday, October 7

Noon – 5:30 p.m. Department of Geology annual fall picnic, *Lake Murphysboro State Park*, concession area shelter. All alumni invited.  
2 p.m. Neil Simon play, "Biloxi Blues," *McLeod Theater*. Tickets are \$15 adult, \$12 senior, \$6 student, with 20 percent discount with Alumni Association membership card.

### Radio/TV Celebrating Department's 50th Anniversary

To help celebrate the 50th anniversary of Southern's Radio-Television Department, alumni will be addressing students throughout the week beginning October 1. A special screening of the soon to be released HBO documentary "To Die in Jerusalem," produced and directed by Hilla Medalia '01, '04, can be viewed on Oct. 5 from 1 p.m. – 3 p.m. in the Lesar Auditorium. A reception featuring work from the many award-winning programs of the department will follow in SIU Communications Building Studio A.

Prior to the Homecoming football game, alumni and students are encouraged to attend the SIU Radio and Television tailgate to be held on Saluki Row beginning at 11:00 a.m. For more information on the R&T anniversary activities, please contact Eileen Waldron at 618-453-7587.

### Alumni Can Also Enjoy:

**University Bookstore** – Hours are Friday, 8 a.m. – 6 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. Discounts on SIU apparel with your Alumni Association membership card.

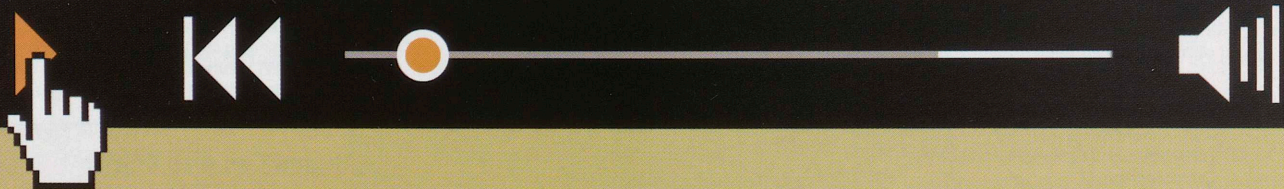
**Student Recreation Center** – Alumni Special! FREE use of facilities. Friday, 7:30 a.m. – 10 p.m.; Saturday, 8 a.m. – 10 p.m.; Sunday, 10 a.m. – 10 p.m. Free boat rental at Campus Boat Dock. For more information: 536-5531 or check out the Web site at [www.siu.edu/rss](http://www.siu.edu/rss).

**Student Center Bowling and Billiards** – Alumni Specials! Bowling for \$1.75 per game, \$1 shoe rental and \$2.75 per hour billiards games Thursday, 9 a.m. – 11 p.m.; Friday, 9 a.m. – 12:30 a.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. – 12:30 a.m., and Sunday, noon – 11 p.m.. For more information: 618-453-2803.



Ben Weinberger is shown in the late 1990s at what was then the "world headquarters" for *Digitalsmiths* – his dorm room at Thompson Point. He founded the company with a roommate in 1998.

# WOWING GREENS



**USING ENTREPRENEURIAL SPIRIT HONED AT SIU,  
DIGITALSMITHS IS POISED TO BECOME A MAJOR PLAYER  
WITH ONLINE VIDEO**

**BY GENE GREEN**



he phone was ringing impatiently in the back of Ben Weinberger's room.

As company president and CEO, the Pennsylvania native was used to wearing many hats in 1998, but none were more important than what he was about to do.

Turning down his stereo, he ran to the door, locked the latch, and *then* reached for the telephone.

"Good afternoon, *Digitalsmiths*," Weinberger answered. "How may I help you?"

Business was soon transacted, and another client was none the wiser that he had actually called a dorm room at Southern Illinois University. The executive who handled his call was a sophomore student, diligently building *Digitalsmiths* while earning his degree in radio-television.

"I lived at 302 Smith Hall for three years," Weinberger now says with a laugh. "Living in the dorms is not the most historically quiet place to live, so I used to have to make sure people weren't fighting in the hallway in front of my room or slamming doors and screaming. Loud noise probably wouldn't have been great for business! Looking back, it was challenging, exciting, and funny – all at the same time."

## **MATCHING ADS WITH VIDEO CONTENT**

Those early entrepreneurial memories at SIU are still easy for Weinberger to appreciate. When he started his business at Southern, the goal was to provide cost-effective Web design and development for groups and companies across the country. In fact, as a student worker for the SIU Alumni Association, he designed and launched the organization's first multifaceted Web site.

A decade later, *Digitalsmiths* is armed with cutting-edge technology and more than \$6 million in venture capital. The evolution



Some of *Digitalsmiths*' top talent was nurtured at SIU. From left, David Kindred '93 (senior software engineer), Ben Weinberger '01 (chief executive officer), Aaron Lauer '06 (information technology engineer), and Matthew Berry '02 (chief technology officer), stand in front of the company's new building in Raleigh-Durham, N.C.

continues as it attempts to do for video advertising what Google has done with searching for text.

The company has focused on this area for the past two years. Previously, it sold technology that allowed TV syndicates and other content suppliers to search thousands of hours of archived material, providing stock footage for promos and other programming.

*Digitalsmiths* explains the current venture this way: Now, when a consumer views online video, there is likely no connection between the advertisement and the content of what one is watching. The company will market proprietary technology to collect data on audio analysis and visual recognition, then provide that information to digital ad firms such as Doubleclick or Atlas. In turn, relevant ads will appear next to what viewers are watching.

Weinberger recently explained the technology in an article published in *The Triangle Business Journal*: "Take an episode of "Sex and the City," he says. "*Digitalsmiths*' technology can figure out what Sarah Jessica Parker is wearing and run an ad for it. It can tell if she's in New York or Paris and run ads for American or French companies. Talk about pastries? That could yield an ad for The Cheesecake Factory."

Furthermore, the company's software, he stresses, is intelligent. If someone is watching a show about a serial killer who puts his victims' body parts in a suitcase, *Digitalsmiths*' software *won't* run an ad for luggage ("Hey," Weinberger says with a smile, "that actually happened!"). A home security ad is much more likely with his technology.

## THE EVOLUTION BEGINS

After three years housed in a dorm room at Thompson Point, Weinberger – and *Digitalsmiths* – moved to an off-campus apartment on Park Street in 2001. He soon earned his undergraduate degree and opened an office at SIU's Dunn-Richmond Economic Development Center's Business Incubator. Hiring an office manager as his first-ever employee, he began to work with Web clients in the television and film industry.

It was also the year he met Matt Berry.

Berry '02, now Weinberger's partner and chief technology officer, was then yet another student entrepreneur who had started a business at Southern. Following a stint in the armed forces, he found his way to SIU from Texas in the mid-1990s and successfully founded technology



companies Arcamax and Shortgrass Technologies.

Berry raised \$2 million as a student from a high-equity private investor to launch Shortgrass Technologies, handling the duties while earning his degree in Electronic Systems at Southern. "Actually I had to leave school for a bit and then returned to classes a year later," he explains with a laugh. "I found it was hard to convince anyone to give a student \$2 million!

"We made GPS Systems and were also based in Dunn-Richmond from 1997-2002," Berry says. During his tenure at the Dunn-Richmond Center, he developed product for some high profile customers such as the U.S. Army and the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency. Prior to the company selling, 25 of his 35 employees were Southern graduates. He says he met Weinberger during his last year at SIU, "and we started sharing business ideas and became friends. We often had conversation about someday partnering together on something."

Weinberger soon moved his business to Beaufort, S.C., in 2002 ("I was following a girl there – to be honest with you – but she *did* become my wife!") and for the next three years ramped up the development of Web platforms for use by television and film studios. This video index and search tool allowed studios to more efficiently locate data within a television show, and he quickly found that the technology was embraced by Southern alumni working in the film industry in Los Angeles.

As he began development of automated video-indexing technology, he shifted the company's focus to concentrate on better ways to index and catalog video content from television and film studios.

That is when Weinberger approached his old friend Berry – who had since relocated back to his home state of Texas – about working with him on the project. A year later he left Austin and joined *DigitalSmiths* as partner and cofounder of the new technology platform that

## DIGITALSMITHS WANTS TO BE THE 'GOOGLE OF VIDEO ADS'

by Dorian Benkoil

**I**magine if someone could do for video advertising what Google AdSense has done for text. A North Carolina company that recently received \$6 million in venture funding claims it can. *DigitalSmiths* says the VideoSense ad-matching technology it introduced this year can recognize pieces of video and audio and then tell an ad server to place contextually relevant ads in, around, or even over the video.

CEO Ben Weinberger explains the technology and what it can do. One of his presentations calls VideoSense "the first platform agnostic broadband video contextual advertising solution to integrate seamlessly with existing online ad networks."

In plainer English, that means the technology recognizes a lot of what's in a video — objects (clothing, furniture, a soda can, a cell phone), scenes, and locales (Paris, New York, Los Angeles, a beach, a ski slope), and even famous faces — as well as speech (which it converts to text for recognition), then plugs that information into its algorithm, accesses a database, and tells an ad server to put in an ad that matches the content.

Weinberger noted one example in which the Thrivent financial company worked with Habitat for Humanity to build homes. When the video showed a Milwaukee Brewers stadium logo, an ad for their ballpark appeared in an ad unit next to the video window. The software recognized builders working with houses and movers carrying boxes, and showed ads for Home Depot and a moving company, respectively.

For a demo episode of "The Office," the *DigitalSmiths* presentation showed ads for Men's Wearhouse next to a character in a nicely cut suit. When someone mentioned watches, an ad for Fossil appeared.

Weinberger's presentations are not true demos, but if the technology works as promised, it could herald a revolution in the way ads are served for video. What if you could, for example, tell an ad network to recognize every image of Tom Cruise at an airport but not in the mountains, or show women's skiwear ads whenever there were women walking in a snowy village, but not in the middle of a city or by a pool?

"There's no doubt in the advertisers' minds that contextual advertising is always better than noncontextual," Weinberger says. "I recently saw a story about animal abuse and the ad was for weight loss. It would have been better targeted to something relevant to animals."

VideoSense will certainly be refined over time. Weinberger says the *DigitalSmiths* software experts, some of them Ph.D.s in video pattern recognition, have built the components from the ground up so the company will have control and be able to continually improve the product. Even the facial recognition software is derived from academic research rather than from any existing product.

"Our company has never taken someone else's technology and tried to bend or meld it into a video engine," he stresses.

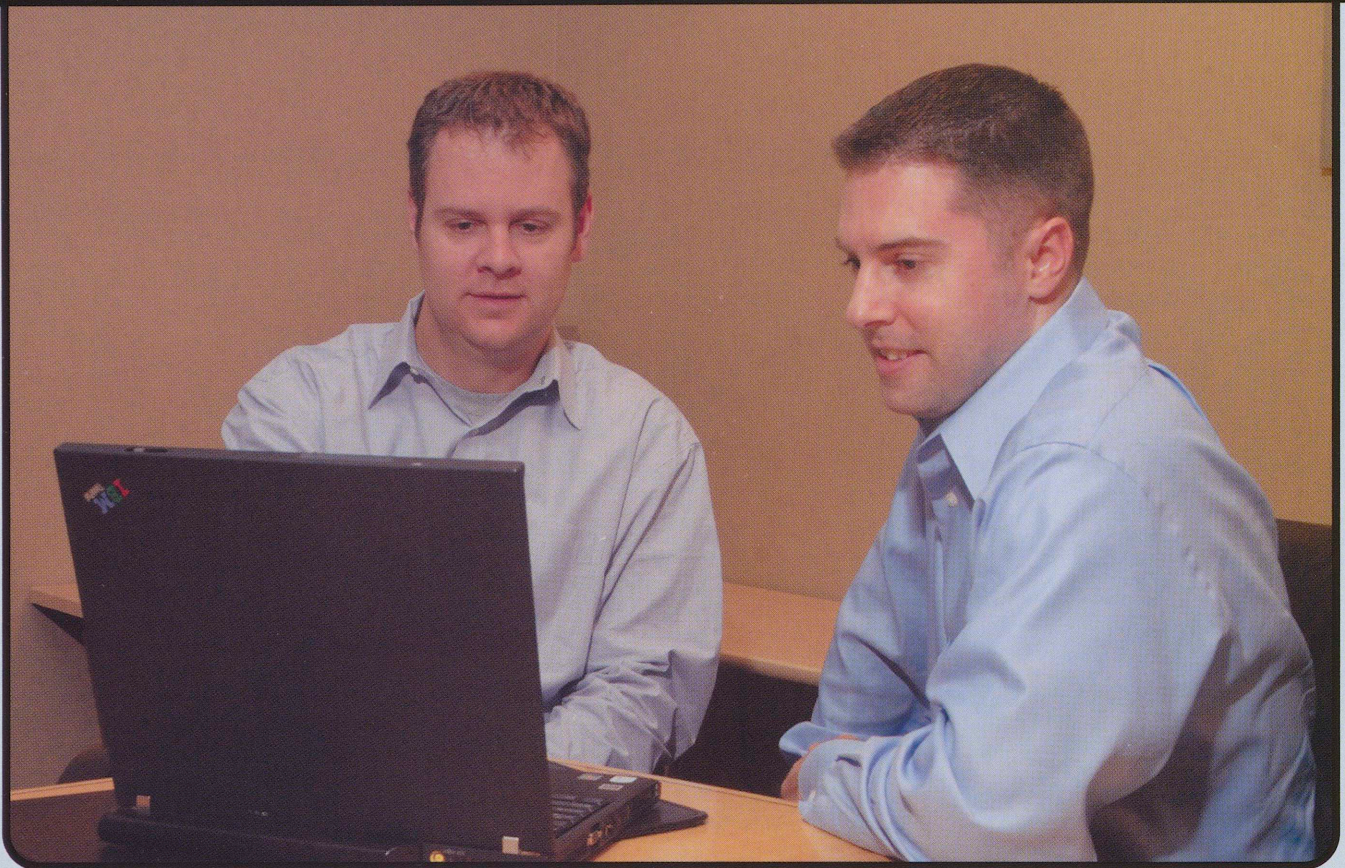
Another key aspect of the technology is its ability to tell ad servers not only what content is playing, but also which kind of ads to serve. VideoSense can call for standard units such as banners or rectangles for ads within a video stream, and even a relatively new ad unit that forms a transparent layer atop the lower third of a Web video.

Weinberger points out that the technology also could be used to provide interactive polls, related "Webisodes" or other items that can be inserted and are relevant to content.

The technology is currently being tested by a TV studio, Web portals, and ad platform networks, but Weinberger won't say by whom because he doesn't want to tip off competitors. *DigitalSmiths* has strong inroads in Hollywood because of a previous technology that helped studios parse and organize archival footage so it could be resold.

Weinberger plans to use the funding *DigitalSmiths* received to almost double its staff to 35 people over the next year or so. That's a long way from 1998, when he started the company in a dorm room at Southern Illinois University.





Berry and Weinberger ran their own businesses while still students at Southern, meeting near the end of their time in Carbondale when each enterprise was housed in the Dunn-Richmond Center.

## A HELPING HAND

Located near the intersection of U.S. 51 and Pleasant Hill Road, the Dunn-Richmond Economic Development Center continues to be an important partner at Southern Illinois University.

In addition to offering fledgling entrepreneurs office space, the center also has organizations like the Office of Economic and Regional Development, the Small Business Development Center, the Illinois Manufacturing Extension Center, and Community and Business Services on site to help guide new businesses.

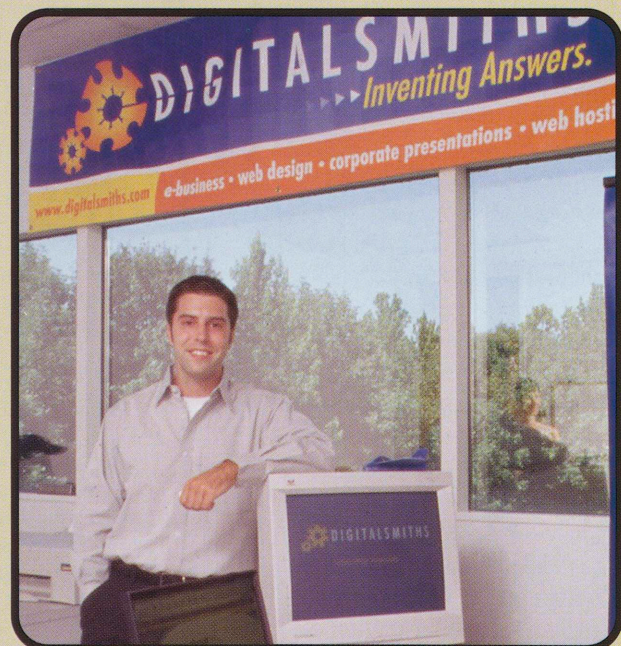
This facility once housed businesses that both Ben Weinberger and Matt Berry ran while students at SIU, and each remain grateful for guidance

received there during those early years.

"I don't think either of us would be where we are today without the Dunn-Richmond Center," Berry says. "Looking back, I give a great deal of credit to the staff there who believed in us and had confidence that we could execute some of the plans and ideas we had at the time."

Weinberger agrees, and notes that the support also helped launch some lasting relationships.

"There are some people I graduated with who also used that facility and are doing some amazing things with their own businesses now," he says. "I'm not sure enough alumni appreciate what the SIU Business Incubator does in helping students realize their dreams."



Weinberger is shown in his office when *DigitalSmiths* was housed in SIU's Dunn-Richmond Center.

would automate video indexing. He hired additional Southern graduates as software engineers, and began to assemble a team of top-flight technologists from around the country.

*Digitalsmiths* was growing rapidly, and changes were about to be made.

## A NEW HOME FOR THE COMPANY

As the company expanded, the need for added space and a more strategic location became apparent. After a move this year, the enterprise is now headquartered at the Research Triangle Park in Raleigh-Durham, N.C.

"We needed to recruit high-quality talent from an engineering perspective," Weinberger says, "and looked at several areas across the country on both coasts. It was finally decided that the Raleigh-Durham area would be a great fit for our business."

When *Digitalsmiths* received a bridge round of funding from angel investors, the company began in earnest to develop a video advertising system that could contextually match video to appropriate advertising.

The breakthrough came when \$6 million poured in from venture capital companies The Aurora Funds and Chrysalis Ventures. This enabled *Digitalsmiths* to launch VideoSense, their product that will enable content owners online to monetize video content through advertising in a meaningful way that is not disruptive to the viewing experience.

"As fast as the Internet is changing, it is a constant battle to stay ahead of what is offered," Berry adds. "You have to be competitive, think outside the box, and not be afraid to take chances."

"There is an analogy that sort of describes what we deal with: You have to run as fast as you can, knowing that you are going to fall off a cliff. But you do so, realizing when you go over the edge that you'll suddenly have wings."

In addition to technical expertise and competitive drive, relationships that Weinberger has formed over the years

## 'WE'RE PRETTY GOOD HERE TOO ...'

**G**rowing up in East Greenville, Pa., Ben

Weinberger was considering several universities as his senior year in high school wound down. He knew he wanted to go into radio-television production, but he was trying to keep an open mind about where he would pursue that training.

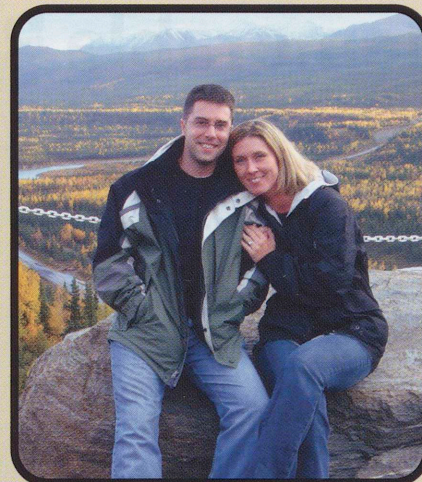
"After a lot of thought, I had really narrowed my choices to Syracuse University and Ithaca College," he says. "My parents were fine with that, but they wanted me to do one more thing before I made up my mind. They had previously met former SIU Mass Communication Dean Joe Foote, and had been impressed with him. They suggested I contact him to hear his thoughts on the schools I had targeted."

Weinberger contacted Foote, who gave him several opinions on the two schools. He then added: "You know Ben, we're pretty good here too – don't forget about us. Why not come out and at least give Southern a look?"

He did, and never looked back.

"I loved the campus as soon as I saw it, and never thought about Syracuse or Ithaca again," he says. "And it also worked out well in other ways – I met my wife in Carbondale."

His wife Jill '99 (Bratland), who was once director of Carbondale Main Street, is now working in the public relations field in Durham, N.C.



Ben and Jill Weinberger met in Carbondale after each had graduated.

—Gene Green

continue to play a key role in *Digital-smiths'* success.

"At the end of the day, you are still dealing with people," he notes. "We have deep studio and media relationships that have helped us be the leaders regarding online video indexing and ad matching."

"I constantly run into Southern graduates in the entertainment industry, and suddenly instead of just talking business, you're reminiscing about what concert you saw one year at Hangar 9 or what kind of pizza you used to like at Quatro's. It certainly makes things more personal."

For now the future of *Digitalsmiths* looks bright, as the company seeks to recruit additional engineers and senior-

level management employees from top companies across the United States.

Weinberger also wants to refine a sales and marketing focus that will help build partnerships and strategic alliances with content owners, advertising agencies, online portals, and any other connections that the company needs to be successful.

As he looks around his new 9,000-square-foot building – with 20 current employees and soon another 20 or more on the way – he sees success being measured in ways he never imagined a decade ago.

"This is gratifying," he says looking around *Digitalsmiths* headquarters, "but I must admit that I still have a soft spot in my heart for 302 Smith Hall." 🏠

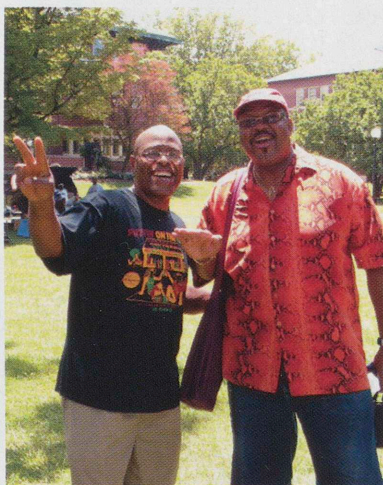
# Black Alumni Enjoy Memorable Reunion

More than 350 alumni and guests attended the 2007 SIU Black Alumni Group reunion July in Carbondale. BAG is a constituent society of the SIU Alumni Association and hosts a reunion every other year. Established in 1988, the group helps maintain professional, social, and educational relationships developed at the University within the African-American community.

Reunion activities included workshops, a wine and cheese social, open market, campus tours, golf and tennis

outings, banquet, brunch, officer elections, and a gala. The theme of this year's reunion was "Reaching Back, Giving Back ... 400 Years in America."

To emphasize the importance of the theme, SIU President Glenn Poshard rolled out his plan to provide \$1 million to create scholarships for minorities and other traditionally under-represented populations. To learn more about Project Hope and Opportunity, call the SIU Foundation at 618-453-4900. ■



These scenes show just some of the fellowship and fun that more than 350 Salukis had this summer when they returned for the biannual SIU Black Alumni Group reunion. The theme for the 2007 event was "Reaching Back, Giving Back ... 400 Years in America."



## Black Undergraduate Education Scholarship Recipients Named

Funds raised through the Black Alumni Group reunion are providing support for two students to receive \$1,500 scholarships in the form of Black Alumni Undergraduate Achievement Awards. This year's recipients are Libra McNeese of Springfield, Ill., and Rashi Kimbrew of Chicago, Ill.



McNeese is a senior majoring in music business with a concentration in marketing with a 3.78 cumulative GPA, has been on the Dean's List for five semesters, and is a member of the SIU Honors Program. She earned University scholastic honors in 2007, and is an accomplished violinist and pianist. She hopes to pursue a career in the music industry and has already performed with the Illinois Symphony Orchestra and as an intern at Walt Disney World.



Kimbrew is a senior majoring in CT/MRI radiologic sciences. He holds a 3.48 GPA and was on the Dean's List last semester. He transferred to SIU from Triton College where he was on the Presidential and Dean's Honors List for seven consecutive semesters. Kimbrew plans to attend the SIU School of Medicine. He is an active member of Third Baptist Church of Chicago and the Young Adult Christians on the Move, a youth role-model ministry whose members volunteer at hospitals, nursing homes, and shelters.

Students who were recognized and received \$500 scholarships for academic achievement and contributions to Southern are:

- Ashley Allen - Country Club Hills, Ill. - Senior - Social Work
- Theresa Ballenger - Carbondale, Ill. - Junior - Education
- Shanika Cleveland - Centreville, Ill. - Junior - Accounting
- Jamel Darling - Chicago, Ill. - Senior - Radio-TV
- Dominique Johnson - Chicago, Ill. - Junior - Radio-TV
- Andrea Norris - Lisle, Ill. - Senior - Business Administration/Finance
- Alena Poe - Olympia Fields, Ill. - Senior - Biology
- Victoria Faith Ritchie - Lawrenceville, Ill. - Junior - Education
- Naketa Ross - Carbondale, Ill. - Senior - Psychology
- Taqi Salaam - Chicago, Ill. - Senior - Nursing
- Lewis Stafford - Chicago, Ill. - Sophomore - Radio-TV
- Ashlee Trotter - Pleasanton, Calif. - Junior - Political Science
- Brittany Walls - Carbondale, Ill. - Junior - Architecture/Interior Design

# Pam Pfeffer New SIU Foundation Board President

In her own words, Pam Pfeffer was born into the Southern Illinois University family. Her grandfather, Lindell Sturgis, served on the SIU Board of Trustees for 30 years and chaired the BOT from 1969 to 1971.

The Metropolis native is following in the footsteps of her late grandfather, who was revered for his public service. She began her term as president of the SIU Foundation Board of Directors on July 1.

As a youngster, Pfeffer often accompanied her grandfather to Springfield when he lobbied support for Southern. She refers to this as her first experience with fund raising.

"That was quite an adventure for a 10-year-old," she recalls. "And when it came time to select a college, I had exactly one choice. My grandfather wouldn't have it any other way. And I met my husband, Phil, at SIU. It turned out pretty good for me."

The Nashville, Tenn., resident began serving on the SIU Foundation board in 1995. She is also a member of the executive, annual nominating, and nominating committees. SIU Vice Chancellor for Institutional Advancement and Foundation CEO Rickey McCurry says the organization is fortunate to have a leader like Pfeffer.

"The Pfeffers have exhibited extraordinary support of this University. Pam has a long standing association with Southern and takes great pride in being one of our graduates," McCurry says. "She has already assumed a leadership role on many fronts, and we are excited to have her guiding our organization for the next year."

Pfeffer also serves on the steering committee for the Opportunity Through Excellence Campaign for Southern. The campaign seeks to raise \$100 million in



New SIU Foundation President Pam Pfeffer is following in the steps of her grandfather, Lindell Sturgis, a man revered for his public service to the University.

support of the people, programs, and places of SIU Carbondale by June 2008. Pfeffer says this is a priority during her first year as president.

"I really look forward to the Foundation completing its first-ever capital fund drive. We are closing in on our goal, and the campaign will have a wonderful impact on our University," she says.

"Public funds are getting more limited, and the cost of education is escalating. The only way to make it more affordable is to supplement this via private donations. Alumni and friends of SIU are stepping up, as this continues to be a major need."

Additionally, Pfeffer says strategic planning initiatives, establishing support of the Saluki Way campaign, and coordi-

nating effort with the SIU Alumni Association and University constituencies to foster progress of various initiatives are primary objectives during her presidency.

Pfeffer says the Foundation must work cohesively with the Association board in advancing the University.

"I've known Doris Rottschalk (SIU Alumni Association president) a long time and look forward to building on the relationship between these two organizations. It is important that we work together to communicate one message as we strive to advance the University," she says.

Pfeffer and her husband, Phil, a former Foundation and Alumni Association board member, are life members of the SIU Alumni Association. She received her bachelor's degree in mathematics from Southern in 1967, and attained a master's degree in teaching mathematics at Vanderbilt University in 1968.

She worked as a university mathematics instructor before commencing a career in the banking industry as a lending officer and branch manager at Nashville National Bank in September 1972.

Pfeffer left the banking industry in December 1978. Shortly thereafter, her husband's career began to flourish as president of Ingram Book Co., a book distribution business that he expanded to include prerecorded videos and computers. Phil built Ingram Distribution Group Inc. into a \$12 billion corporation and guided the microcomputer portion of the company to the New York Stock Exchange before retiring. He went on to become president of Random House.

The Pfeffers have three grown children, John-Lindell, James, and David, and three grandchildren.

# SIU Student Produces Outdoor Hunting Show For National Audience

by Bonnie Marx

Some students walk onto a college campus in search of a passion, a calling, a dream.

Others arrive with a blueprint already in hand, committed to honing and perfecting specific skills they'll need to achieve their goals.

Jake Stocke '07 began charting his career path before his age reached double digits. When it came time for college, he chose Southern Illinois University because he knew it offered a springboard to further success and the promise of opening new portals on the road to becoming an animal documentary filmmaker.

Today Stocke, 22 and a native of Carmi, Ill., holds a bachelor's degree in zoology that's only three months old – and he's *already* hard at work on a second bachelor's in television production.

Stocke doesn't recall the first time he ventured "into the woods" on a hunting trip. He only knows that his dad, Kevin, toted him along "ever since I was old enough to walk." And while other kids



As coproducer of the outdoor hunting show "Adrenaline Outdoors," Jake Stocke '07 puts in a lot of hours at the computer screen editing raw footage from the eight, two-person crews who film their hunting adventures for the show.

may have spent Saturday mornings catching up on cartoons, he was leaping out of bed early to catch hunting shows.

Ask most youngsters what they want to do when they grow up and you'll likely come away with answers that involve superheroes or firefighters. Not this SIU alum. At about age 9, he already knew he wanted to make hunting videos.

One series of hunting videos, "Monster Bucks 5," impressed him so much that he decided it was what he wanted to do with his life. "My ultimate goal as a little kid came from that line of videos," he says.

By age 13 he was "packing a cheap camcorder" on his hunts and sending off letters to hunting video creators asking for tips on techniques and on how to get his foot into the industry's door. He also recalls with a laugh that he took great pains to "act older."

Throughout high school Stocke worked weekends and summers "stashing back money" to buy equipment. He managed to squirrel away enough savings to buy professional equipment for producing a television show by 2003, his senior year of high school. "I thought I



An avid hunter himself, Stocke proudly displays his harvest in this shot taken on one of his own expeditions.

could teach myself how to do it," he says. "So I went out and spent a lot of money and kind of taught myself."

He must have been doing something right.

That year he started freelancing the hunting videos. Not long after that, Stocke met up with Kyle Wieter of Pocahontas, Ill., who would soon become his coproducer. "Kyle was looking for a cameraman and we both had lots of ideas. I had editing equipment, but I needed his experience and know-how," he says.

In 2005, the duo began filming and editing "*Adrenaline Outdoors*," working with eight, two-person crews to document the hunting of deer, bears, and wolves in eight states and two Canadian provinces. And this year, they inked a deal with the Men's Outdoor Recreation and Recreation Channel (MOR); thirteen weekly episodes of the series kicked off in June. MOR will rerun the entire series beginning in September on Dish Network, Direct TV, and some local cable outlets.

"*Adrenaline Outdoors*" has become so popular, Stocke says, that "it's in *our hands* whether we want to renew the contract."

He admits that it's a huge commitment, especially since "none of our guys do this for a living." Like him, the avid hunters and crew all have school, work, and families to occupy their lives. "We don't want to lose what we're out there for. I try not to make it into a job."

That may be a tall order considering that Stocke plows through about 150 hours of raw footage to come up with each half-hour installment. When commercial breaks are added in, there's really only about 17 minutes of hunting footage per show, he says. But he swears he's always so edgy about having enough footage that he keeps a turkey hunting segment stashed away in case he's ever stuck.



Now a seasoned pro at handling a video camera, Stocke recalls the days when he "kind of taught myself" the art of filming.

Hunters know well that the business of hunting usually involves waiting, sometimes for hours, for prey to arrive. But hunting with a camera puts another set of constraints in place. If the lighting isn't right, for instance, the crew will often pass on bagging a particular animal. Stocke sees it as "actual reality TV because you're not guaranteed anything. You can't go back and have the deer reenact it!"

After the first season, new sponsors already are lining up eagerly to be a part of the show and Stocke is looking forward

to traveling to hunting shows, where he hands out DVDs that showcase his work. "It's a matter of getting to know the right people at the right time," he says.

"TV production is always in my head," Stocke explains. "One day I want to produce documentaries for the Discovery Channel or Animal Planet. What better way could I convince them to take a chance on me than with the videos I've already produced?" ■

—For more on "*Adrenaline Outdoors*," go to [www.adrenalineoutdoors.com](http://www.adrenalineoutdoors.com).

## Jackson Sculptures Now Being Featured

# Museum Exhibit Designer Enjoys Creative Challenge

SIU Museum Exhibit Designer Nate Steinbrink had an idea what color he wanted to paint the display stands even before the Preston Jackson sculptures arrived. But it's all right with him if visitors don't notice. In fact, he'd rather they didn't.

"This green is a nice complement to the oranges and reds in the bronzes," he explains. "The eye should go right to the sculpture. Our best work is when people don't remember what color any of the display stands were."

Steinbrink, a 2005 Southern graduate with a master's in fine arts, is the exhibit designer for University Museum. It's his job to make the best use of the space and lighting available to ensure that museum visitors see each exhibit at its maximum advantage.

Museum staff schedules exhibits about a year in advance. They try to incorporate suggestions made by museum visitors and



SIU alumnus Preston Jackson is shown working with one of his sculptures.



Nate Steinbrink, right, works with art student Jason Kehrer to place a bronze sculpture created by alumni artist Preston Jackson for a temporary exhibit in the University Museum. It is scheduled to be on display until Oct. 8.

they make certain to bring in a variety of different mediums and artists. Museum staff includes students from the School of Art and Design, so there are always new opinions and ideas about what the museum should do next.

Steinbrink says artists generally trust his judgment about setting up an exhibit and don't send along instructions. "Creating art can be solitary," Steinbrink, himself an artist, says. "The point of the exhibit is to interact with people and to get that feedback."

"Usually artists are looking to see different ideas about their work, and that includes how it is displayed. You try to work with the themes present in the collection. You start to see a rhythm and a pattern. I want to keep the visitor's interest, taking them from one sculpture to the next."

Steinbrink says the entire staff gets in on scheduling and exhibition display – including the students who work at the

museum. They also welcome comments from the University and area communities.

One display of special interest to alumni is the Preston Jackson exhibit, which will be at SIU until early October. Jackson is 1969 Southern graduate and a nationally known, award-winning sculptor. He is a professor of sculpture and the head of the figurative area of the Institute of Chicago School of Art and the owner of the Raven Gallery, home of the Contemporary Art Center of Peoria. This is his first exhibit at the University.

"Working at the museum been a great experience," says art student Jason Kehrer, a senior from Marion who works as a gallery assistant. "The Preston Jackson exhibit is really special."

Museum hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, and 1 to 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. The museum is not open on Monday. Admission is free and donations are voluntary. The museum store is open when the museum is open. ■



You and your family are invited to Saluki Family Weekend at Southern Illinois University Carbondale. The weekend features many traditional events as well as new ones designed to provide you and your family a fun-filled weekend.

Highlights of the weekend include:

- Exciting Saluki Football
- The Golden Dragon Acrobats
- Saluki Family Association Breakfast
- Saluki Dinner Buffet
- Autumn Harvest Brunch
- Saluki Family Tailgate 2007
- Annual IGC Greek Sing
- Campus Tours

## Calendar of Events

### Friday, Oct. 19

Student Recreation Center  
 University Bookstore  
 Bowling & Billiards  
 Family Weekend Craft Sale  
 Boat Docks  
 SPC Film: *Hairspray*  
 The Golden Dragon Acrobats

Student Recreation Center  
 First Floor, Student Center  
 First Floor, Student Center  
 First Floor, Student Center  
 Campus Lake  
 Student Center Auditorium  
 Shryock Auditorium

7:30 a.m. - 10 p.m.  
 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.  
 9 a.m. - midnight  
 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
 noon - 6 p.m.  
 7 p.m. & 9:30 p.m.  
 7:30 p.m.

### Saturday, Oct. 20

Student Recreation Center  
 Family Weekend Registration Area  
 Saluki Family Association Breakfast  
 Bowling & Billiards  
 Campus Tours  
 Family Weekend Craft Sale  
 Raku Pottery Firing  
 University Bookstore  
 Saluki Family Tailgate 2007  
 Annual IGC Greek Sing  
 Residence Hall Dining  
 Boat Docks  
 Saluki Football  
 Residence Hall Dining  
 Saluki Dinner Buffet  
 SPC Film: *Hairspray*

Student Recreation Center  
 East Entrance, Student Center  
 Student Center Ballroom B  
 First Floor, Student Center  
 East Entrance, Student Center  
 First Floor, Student Center  
 South Patio, Student Center  
 First Floor, Student Center  
 Saluki Row, South of Stadium  
 Steps of Shryock Auditorium  
 Lentz and Trueblood Halls  
 Campus Lake  
 McAndrew Stadium  
 Lentz and Trueblood Halls  
 Student Center Ballrooms  
 Student Center Auditorium

8 a.m. - 10 p.m.  
 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.  
 9 a.m. - 11 a.m.  
 10 a.m. - midnight  
 9, 10 & 11 a.m.  
 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.  
 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.  
 10:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.  
 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.  
 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.  
 noon - 6 p.m.  
 1:30 p.m.  
 4 p.m. - 7 p.m.  
 5 p.m. - 7 p.m.  
 7 p.m. & 9:30 p.m.

### Sunday, Oct. 21

Student Recreation Center  
 Autumn Harvest Brunch  
 University Bookstore  
 Bowling & Billiards

Student Recreation Center  
 Student Center Ballrooms  
 First Floor, Student Center  
 First Floor, Student Center

10 a.m. - 10 p.m.  
 10:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.  
 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.  
 noon - 11 p.m.

**For more information contact:** New Student Programs, 618-453-1000, email at [family@siu.edu](mailto:family@siu.edu) or online at <http://salukifamily.siu.edu/>

Saluki Family Weekend



## Football Salukis Among NCAA's Elite

**D**ynasties are few and far between among the 122 schools that comprise the NCAA's Football Championship Subdivision (formerly known as I-AA). The reason, of course, is the limit of 63 scholarships, which makes winning year in and year out a difficult task.

Under the direction of Head Coach *Jerry Kill*, however, Southern Illinois University has consistently beaten the odds. The Salukis are one of only two FCS teams to make the NCAA Playoffs four-straight years (Montana is the other).

A big reason why the Salukis are consistent winners is the stability within the program. In six years with Kill at the helm, only one assistant coach has left Saluki Football. Also, Kill is a big believer in homegrown talent. He takes in fewer transfers than most, sprinkling in just a handful of key transfers to the roster per year.

While each season presents unique challenges, Kill is confident his program will remain among the FCS elite again in 2007.

The biggest challenge will be finding a replacement for all-American running back *Arkee Whitlock*, who finished third in the voting for the Payton Award last season. Kill says he's optimistic at least one player will emerge from a talented group of backs eager to fill his shoes. Those players include senior *John Randle*, who was Whitlock's understudy last year after transferring from Kansas, and a pair of highly touted junior college runners — *Deji Karim* and *Larry Warner*.

There are relatively few question marks among the rest of the starters on offense. Senior quarterback *Nick Hill* was efficient in his first year as a starter in 2006, throwing 15 touchdowns and just four interceptions. The offensive line fea-

tures four returning starters, including junior guard *Aaron Lockwood*, who rates among the best blockers in the FCS. At wide receiver, senior starters *Alan Turner* and *Phil Goforth* both return. They combined for 41 catches and seven touchdowns last season.

On defense, the Salukis return five starters, including Gateway Freshman-of-the-Year linebacker *Brandin Jordan*. One of the most explosive players in college football is cornerback *Craig Turner*, who earned all-America status as a punt returner last season.

As far as the specialists, the Salukis said goodbye to career scoring leader *Craig Coffin* after the 2006 season and now must replace one of the most dependable place kickers in the country. Look for starting punter *Scott Ravanese* to get first crack at replacing Coffin, although true freshman *Kyle Dougherty* arrived with impressive credentials and has had a solid preseason camp.

Ravanese is expected to lock down the punting job after he averaged 39.1 yards per kick to rank fourth in the league as a true freshman last season.

The Salukis, who despite being ranked high in various polls, were picked fourth in a preseason Gateway poll. Southern, which made four straight NCAA playoff appearances, knows the talent is intact to get the team back to postseason once again.

SIU opens conference play on the road at Indiana State on Sept. 29, followed by home conference games against Youngstown State (Homecoming on Oct. 6), Missouri State (Oct. 20) and Illinois State (Nov. 10). Road conference games will be played at Northern Iowa (Oct. 13) and at Western Illinois (Nov. 3).

To see the full Saluki football schedule, go to [siusalukis.cstv.com/sports/m-footbl/sched/silu-m-footblsched.html](http://siusalukis.cstv.com/sports/m-footbl/sched/silu-m-footblsched.html)



Gateway Freshman of the Year *Brandin Jordan* gets ready to bring down Indiana's *Marcus Thigpin* during Southern's 35-28 win last year over the Hoosiers. The victory served as the first time a Gateway Conference squad had defeated a Big Ten school in football.

# Hartzog To Be Inducted Into Track Coaches Hall Of Fame

When he's not playing golf three or four times a week, former Southern Illinois University Track and Field Coach Lew Hartzog hunts quail near his home in New Mexico's Gila Wilderness area. His life is exactly how he wants it to be.

"I really couldn't ask for more," the Silver City, N.M., resident says.

But the hearty 84-year-old who has everything is about to get more. Hartzog will receive one of the most prestigious honors in an illustrious coaching career when he is inducted into the U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association Hall of Fame on Dec. 18.

The induction ceremony will be held at the USTFCCCA annual convention in Phoenix, Ariz., and the SIU Alumni Association member finds it interesting, though not necessary, that he won't have to travel far to receive the award.

"It wouldn't make any difference it were halfway around the world," Hartzog says. "I'd be there!"

Hartzog was the head coach at Northeast Louisiana (now Louisiana Monroe) from 1958 to 1960 before moving to Southern. From 1961 until his retirement following the 1984 season, Hartzog's Saluki men's track teams won every Missouri Valley Conference championship meet in which they competed. In fact, after his first season at Northeast Louisiana in 1958, Hartzog never lost a conference meet in his career.

His standouts at SIU included Ivory Crockett, David Lee, and Bob Roggy. Crockett set a world record of 9.0 seconds in the 100-yard dash in 1974. Lee won the 400-meter hurdles at the 1980 NCAA Championships, and Roggy won an NCAA javelin title in 1978 and later set several U.S. records. At Northeast Louisiana, Hartzog coached the sprinting

Styron twins, Don and Dave, and pole vaulter John Pennel.

"I really believe that if Northeast Louisiana could have competed in the 1960 NCAA Championships, we could have won the national championship," Hartzog says. "But we couldn't go to the NCAA meet because all of Louisiana had a rule that its teams couldn't compete against black athletes. It was a stupid, stupid thing."

Hartzog went to Texas A&M on a football scholarship, but enlisted in the Marine Corps the day after the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor. While serving four years as a communications specialist in the South Pacific, he contracted elephantiasis and was unable to play football again.

He graduated from Southwest Missouri State and set out to be a football coach. His first high school coaching job was in Independence, Mo.

"I had to take the track job to get the assistant football job," Hartzog says. "I was going to be the world's greatest football coach." Instead, he would go on to become one of the top track coaches in the country and was named the NCAA Division I Coach of the Year in 1982 and 1984.

The success still amazes him.

"It has always been a mystery to me," Hartzog admits. "I guess it was a combination of luck and hard work. I don't think I knew as much as 150 other coaches in the country, but somehow I could get kids to respond." ■



In the early 1960s, a smiling Hartzog is shown being carried off the track on the shoulders of his victorious athletes in front of a huge crowd at McAndrew Stadium.

## Nurse, Patient Find SIU Connection In Boston

by Jeff Curl

There was something familiar in Bob Teasdale's voice. He was talking to one of my colleagues at the oncology clinic where I am a nurse, and he *definitely* wasn't from the Boston area. No, there was something in his accent that took me home to fields of corn and soybeans, stretching as far as the eye can see.

During Bob's second treatment for the blood disorder myelodysplasia, I decided to ask him where he was from. It turned out not only were we both from Illinois – he from Stockton, me from Springfield – but we had graduated two decades apart from Southern Illinois University.

Bob, a 1965 graduate in accounting, would go on to a distinguished career working for various defense contractors, first as an accountant at Honeywell, and last in special business assignments for Lockheed Martin before his 1998 retirement. I graduated in 1985 with a degree in journalism, but decided to search for a job that would allow me the opportunity to explore creative writing in my spare time. I ended up becoming a registered nurse and put journalism on the back burner when I got married and had kids.

In this part of the country, Boston considers itself the "Hub" of intellectualism. Bob quickly helped remind me, however, that the Midwest – and SIU in particular – is a place that opens minds to the world. When I now talk to him about Southern, it makes me even more proud to be a Saluki.



Jeff Curl (left) and Bob Teasdale found common ground – and a lot of Saluki Pride as well – when they discovered they each had graduated from Southern Illinois University.

After transferring from another state school, Bob says his positive experience began as soon as he set foot on the SIU campus. The vivid memories of those early days at the University illustrate why first impressions **are** so important.

"The admissions office made me feel *so welcome*," Bob recalls. "When I went to my first appointment you would have thought I was a Rhodes Scholar by the way I was treated." After that meeting, he was soon captivated by the beauty of the campus.

Although Bob still praises the quality of education he received from his business classes, he says he also enjoyed his electives. "I took a philosophy class and liked it so much I took two more," he notes. He also discovered unexpected interest in subjects like Greek literature and physiology via elective courses at SIU.

"Instead of seeing them as trivial, I used electives to expand my curiosity," he says. "Southern had a curriculum offering whatever I wanted to do, and professors on staff who were excellent teachers."

Bob also applauds former SIU President Delyte Morris for his vision to grow the campus into a major university, and still appreciates how Morris opened doors for international students.

"One of my great memories," he says, "was living in a residential house that included six international students from countries like Iran and Venezuela. I was interested in their views and learned a great deal while just sitting around and shooting the breeze with them – even if their opinions of the U.S. government weren't always positive."

Bob also holds some sports memories close to his heart. His time at the University gave him a proverbial front row seat to watch two of the best athletes ever to wear the maroon and white. Former SIU basketball star Walt Frazier would go on to an acclaimed NBA Hall of Fame career, and former quarterback Jim Hart would become one of the all-time greats for the St. Louis Football Cardinals.

"I was there during their heyday," he says, "and I'll never forget it."

I have come to know Bob during a difficult time in his life. I'm sure he would rather be doing something else than making frequent visits to a cancer center for his blood disorder. Despite the challenges he has faced, however, he has always kept a positive, "take one day at a time" attitude. He has also never lost his sense of humor (whenever he gets a blood transfusion, he accuses us of giving him "used blood"). As proud as Bob is of SIU, the University should be just as proud of him. It has been an honor taking care of such a bright, nice, down-to-earth fellow Saluki. ■

**Editor's Note:** Jeff Curl has been an oncology nurse in the Cancer Center at MetroWest Medical Center in Framingham, Mass., since 1999. Bob Teasdale started coming to the center for treatment in January 2007. At press time, he continues his battle against myelodysplasia.

# Featured Products!

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

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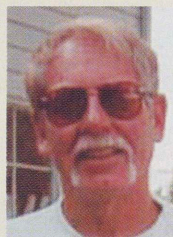
Alumni listed in maroon are SIU Alumni Association members.

## 1960s

### James R. Sanders '64

retired in June from the research department of the Illinois Appellate Court, Fifth District, where he had worked for more than 20 years, the last 19 as research director. He had previously worked for the United States Court of Appeals, Seventh Circuit, and the U.S. Department of Defense. He and his wife, Mary, live in West Frankfort.

In a new book by **Floyd Sandford M.S. '64**, the second is devoted to SIU and Sandford's time at the Cooperative Wildlife Research Laboratory. The book, *African Odyssey: The Adventurous Journeys of a Peace Corps*



*Volunteer in Africa*, is a memoir about teaching secondary school science in Nigeria from

1964-1966, just before the Biafran War. Sandford's book is published by iUniverse; to learn more about the book, go to [www.iuniverse.com](http://www.iuniverse.com).

**Patricia B. Elmore '65, M.S. '67, Ph.D. '70**, interim dean of the College of Education and Human Services, was twice honored by the American Counseling Association. The Extended Research Award for



high-quality research recognized Elmore as a national authority on measurement and evaluation. Elmore also received two leatherbound books containing

the six journal volumes of *Measurement and Evaluation in Counseling and Development*, that she edited for the Association for Assessment in Counseling and Education, a division of the larger counseling association, between 2000 and 2006. That series won the association's annual research award for the year's best article on measurement and evaluation research.

**Beulah A. Lateef '69** has been appointed to serve as a member of the National Advisory Committee for the



Praxis II Education of Exceptional Students and Special Education Teacher Licensure.

Lateef, who is a professor and director of the exceptional needs program in the Department of Education at Western Michigan University, lives in Kalamazoo.

**Roger Laux '69**, a certified public accountant, has been elected president of the Silicon Valley San Jose Chapter of the California Society of Certified Public Accountants. Laux is a consultant for Pinnacle Intertech of San Jose, a management and consulting organization.

## 1970s

**George W. "Bill" Beck '70**, president and CEO of Beck Bus Transportation in Mount Vernon, was named a 2007 "Leaders Among Us" by the *Southern Business Journal*, a sister publication to the *Southern Illinoisian*. Sixteen people received the honor, which is awarded to southern Illinois residents who go beyond their professional duties and careers to make southern Illinois a better place to live and work.

**Allan H. Keith M.S. '71** has written a book, *SIUC's Days of*

*Dissent: A Memoir of Student Protest*, that focuses on the dissent of the late 1960s and early 1970s in Carbondale. It is available for \$18 plus \$2 mailing fee (check or money order) from Allan H. Keith, P.O. Box 882, Mattoon, IL 61938.

**Tom Blomquist '72** has been named assistant professor in film and electronic arts at California State University, Long Beach. An award-winning tele-



vision writer, producer, and director with credits on such hour-long drama

series as "Catherine Marshall's Christy," "Farscape," "Walker Texas Ranger," and "The A-Team," as well as Tom Snyder's late-night talk program, "The Tomorrow Show," Blomquist most recently directed the music videos for singer-songwriter Kellie Coffey's "Walk On" and "I Would Die for That." His move into full-time college teaching follows numerous adjunct lecturer positions that he has held at Los Angeles film schools throughout his industry career, including U.S.C., U.C.L.A., Chapman University, and the American Film Institute Conservatory.

**Adrienne Evans '72, M.S.Ed. '87**, a teacher in Belleville District 118 Public Schools for 32 years, has joined McKendree University in Lebanon, Ill., as an elementary education instructor. Her pri-



mary responsibilities will be teaching language arts and children's litera-

ture. For the past two years, Evans has served as an adjunct professor at McKendree teaching children's literature and methods in elementary education. She and her husband, David, live in Belleville.

**Bill Sherman '73** plans to "work around the house, ride my bike, and spoil my grandson" now that he's retired after 33 1/2 years with the IRS. Sherman worked briefly in Chicago after he earned his degree at SIU, then moved to Springfield, where he spent the rest of his career. He spent 18 years in the exam division before moving into doing direct line computer support for the information systems division in his last three years. Bill and his wife, **Joy (Walker) Sherman '74**, were in Carbondale in June for the



**Beverly J. Warren M.S. '71** has been appointed dean of the Virginia Commonwealth University School of Education. Warren had been interim dean since July 2005 and associate dean for faculty affairs since 2003. She came to the school in 2000 as head of the Division of Health, Physical Education, and Recreation. She is a fellow of the American College of Sports

Medicine and serves on the organization's board of trustees. Previously, Warren has been a professor at Lander University in Greenwood, S.C., Appalachian State University in Boone, N.C., Auburn University, Smith College in Northampton, Mass., and the University of Montevallo in Alabama.

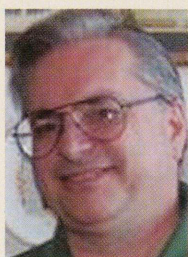
wedding of their son, **Samuel Sherman '06** to **Patricia Pfeiffer '05** at Starview Winery, south of town. Bill and Joy live in Springfield; Samuel and Patricia are in Algonquin, with their son, Walter Lincoln Sherman-Pfeiffer, born Aug. 1, 2006.

**C. Steven Short '73** is the winner of the 2006 feature writing award (broadcast division) from the NorCal (northern California) Chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists for his radio feature, "The Roving Taylor." It is the story of an artist who takes a sewing machine to San Francisco's Tenderloin neighborhood to mend whatever local residents bring to him.

Short also was part of the KALW-FM Radio team in San Francisco that won the society's Explanatory Journalism Award for "The Public Transportation Edition," a program that explores the impact of transportation, funding and policies on the people who need it most: the urban poor.

**Roy J. Mons '74**, a health and driver education teacher at Brighton High School in Rochester, N.Y., has retired after 33 years at Brighton. His wife, Joan (Dixon) Mons, also has retired after 27 years of teaching chemistry at Fairport (N.Y.) High School.

**Jim Ridings '76**, who has written more than a dozen books on Illinois history, won a Studs Terkel Humanities Service Award from the Illinois Humanities Council in 2006,



and a book award from the Illinois State Historical Society in 2007 for his book, *Cardiff, Ghost Town on the Prairie*. The book tells the story of the lost town of Cardiff in northeastern Livingston County

that once had 16 saloons and 2,500 people during its coal-mining heyday. Ridings also led the effort to install an official state historical marker at Cardiff in August 2007.

Among his other books are *County West: A Sesquicentennial History of Western Kankakee County* that won a 2004 book award from the Illinois State Historical Society. The book is available for \$33 per copy from Ridings, P.O. Box 464, Herscher, IL 60941-0464.

**Ronald E. Thomas Ph.D. '76**, president of Dakota County Technical College in Rosemount, Minn., is one of 10 people nationwide selected to receive a 2007 Star of Education award from the National Association of State Directors of Career Technical Education Consortium for extraordinary contributions to career technical education.

Thomas was honored for developing cutting-edge programs that train workers in the emerging field of nanotechnology, for starting a program to address a severe shortage of railroad conductors, and for responding to the needs of business and industry. He lives in Lakeville, Minn.

## 1980s

**Victoria Babu '80**, host of "Body by Babu" on KTRS-AM in St. Louis, has been selected by *Prevention* magazine to participate in Team Prevention, a marathon-walking program. Babu will write a blog for *Prevention.com* and will walk the Fleet Feet Sports Lewis & Clark Half Marathon on Sept. 16 in St. Charles, Mo.

**Duy H. Hua Ph.D. '80** is one of three new university distinguished professors at Kansas State University. Hua, named a distinguished professor of chemistry, has been active as a researcher, teacher, and mentor to undergraduates and graduate students. His research interests include natural product

synthesis, the development of new methodology for chiral induction, studies of bio-based



polymers, and the synthesis of bioactive molecules, including anti-cancer, anti-malarial, and anti-Alzheimer's agents. He has authored or coauthored more than 100 scientific articles; he and his colleagues have been awarded five U.S. patents.

**Mary Mechler '82**, vice president of marketing and sales for SchoolCenter, a Carbondale-based company that provides software for K-12 schools throughout the country, was named a 2007 "Leaders Among Us" by the *Southern Business Journal*, a sister publication to the *Southern Illinoisian*. Sixteen people received the honor, which is awarded to southern Illinois residents who go beyond their professional duties and careers to make southern Illinois a better place to live and work.

**Lyle C. Patterson '82**, a 20-year veteran of the commercial real estate industry,



has been named acquisitions director at Romanek Properties in Northbrook, Ill. Romanek is a private, Chicago-based real estate investment, management, and development firm founded in 1959. Previously, he was vice president of investments at Equity Office Properties Trust, where he negotiated transactions totaling more than \$1 million. Patterson and his wife, Gail, live in Western Springs.

**Susan Mitchell Sommers '82, M.A. '84**, chairperson of

the history department at Saint Vincent College in Latrobe, Pa., was one of three faculty members at the school to be named full professor in May. Sommers has been a faculty member since 1993. Her awards include a Saint Vincent College Faculty Research Grant for work in the United Kingdom, a 2000 Quentin Schaut Faculty Award, and the 2002 Thoburn Award in Teaching Excellence.

She is the public history consultant for the West Overton Museums and the Ligonier Valley Historical Society, as well as serving on the editorial board of the Westmoreland County Historical Society. Sommers is the author of a 2002 book, *Parliamentary Politics of a County and Its Town: General Elections in Suffolk and Ipswich in the Eighteenth Century*, and is working on a new book, *The Society of the Supporters of the Bill of Rights: The Radical Brotherhood*.

**Robert D. Beck '83** won an Edward R. Murrow regional award for best sports story. His news department at Wyoming Public Radio won the public radio news directors award for best news and public affairs program among medium-sized staffs. Beck is the executive producer and co-host of the program.

**Dale R. Black '84**, executive vice president and chief financial officer with Trump Entertainment Resorts in Atlantic City, N.J., returned to southern Illinois in May to talk about his climb up the corporate ladder to business students at John A. Logan College. A native of Jefferson County, Black has been with the company, which operates the Trump Taj Majal, Casino Resort, and Trump Plaza Hotel, for three years. Dale is married to **Sheila D. Black '82**.

**James P. Quisenberry '87, M.S. '89** accepted a position as senior assistant director of housing for information ser-

vices at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. He was formerly senior assistant director of housing information services. He and his wife, **Jill M. '89**, live in Urbana.

**Greg Burd '88** has won the highest award for achievement for his participation in Dale Carnegie Training's Leadership Training for Managers course that he completed in Fargo,



N.D. The award recipient is voted on by class members upon completion

of the course series. The criteria for this award is to exemplify the principles of Dale Carnegie training throughout the course, demonstrate significant and professional development, and demonstrate careful preparation. Burd is local sales manager with WDAY-AM 970 in Fargo. Originally from Carbondale, Burd currently resides in Moorhead with his wife, Ann, and their four children, Zach, Matt, Mariah, and Bennett.

**Chad Ruback '88, M.S.Ed. '94** has been named assistant vice president of external relations for medical affairs at the University of Iowa. He also is a graduate of the executive MBA program at Iowa. Chad and his wife, Beth Ritter-Ruback, live in Coralville, Iowa. He was formerly director of alumni and college relations at the UI College of Medicine.

**David A. Brenningmeyer M.S. '89**, an attorney with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs in Washington, D.C., and his wife, Caryn, announce the birth of their son, William Timothy, who joined brothers Matthew, 4, and Luke, 2, on May 3, 2007. The family lives in Fairfax, Va.

## 1990s

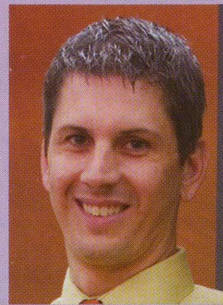
Brad and **Diana Walpole '90**, both 25-year veterans of KMOV-TV, the CBS affiliate in St. Louis, have turned their passion for collecting fine art into a full-time enterprise with their new business, 83 Spring Street Gallery, in Eureka Springs, Mo. The gallery, housed in a landmark 1886 building in the heart of the Eureka Springs Historic District, is known for its collection of Mark Hopkins bronze sculptures and Lee Teter Western and historical paintings.

As the flagship gallery for Hopkins, the gallery includes more than 200 monumental and tabletop limited-edition bronzes and is the most comprehensive collection in the United States. The couple has been visiting Eureka Springs for more than 20 years and say they fell in love with the charm, history, and beauty of the small town and the Arkansas Ozarks. Visit [www.83springstreetexclusive.com](http://www.83springstreetexclusive.com) for details.

**Paul Kartcheske '91** was awarded a master's degree in environmental management and environmental leadership May 13 at Duke University ceremonies. Kartcheske is director of administrative operations for the Sarah P. Duke Gardens, a 55-acre botanical display garden, at Duke University in Durham, N.C.

**John Wondrasek '92** has announced the launch of WebEditor+, a do-it-yourself Web site management tool that makes content management accessible to a broader audience. WebEditor+ pricing is a per-month usage fee, not per edit. Users choose a package based on how many pages of their site they would like to access. Wondrasek lives in Grayslake, Ill.

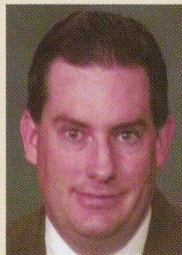
**Michele J. Verebelyi '92** has been named director of learning and development for the American Red Cross in



**Jared Heller '97, '98** has been named associate project manager at Gray Design Group Inc. in St. Louis. In his new position, Heller creates design development drawings and provides support to project architect and construction teams. His major projects at Gray Design include Aeroplex III in Detroit and Missouri Bottom Road Office Warehouse in St. Louis. Founded in 1982, Gray Design ([www.graydesigngroup.com](http://www.graydesigngroup.com)) provides architectural and interior design services. Recent projects include corporate facilities for Delmar Gardens, Rawlings, and APC. Heller and his wife, Sharie, live in Red Bud, Ill.

Washington, D.C. She lives in Alexandria, Va.

**Duane Gulley '93** has joined MidCountry Bank as a retail mortgage sales representative. He is responsible for assisting the branches by processing resi-



dential mortgage loan applications as well as account management

and new business development. MidCountry Bank is a federally chartered savings bank with 30 locations in southern Illinois, northern and central Minnesota, including the Twin Cities. Duane and his wife, Melanie, live in Mount Vernon, Ill.

**Gina J. Paul '94, M.S. '96, Ph.D. '01**, assistant professor of MEDPREP in Carbondale, received a competitive grant to attend the 2007 Central Association of Advisors for Health Professions last spring in Omaha. Travel grants are awarded to members to attend regional meetings to enhance their advising skills through workshops, presentations, and updates from various health professionals.

**Kate Budd M.F.A. '95**, an associate professor of art at Myers School of Art at the

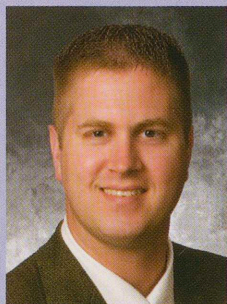
University of Akron, is one of 18 featured Ohio artists in an exhibition called *Celebration of Creativity: AOC Fellowships 1980-2005* at the Ohio Arts Council's Riffe Gallery ([www.riffegallery.org](http://www.riffegallery.org)) in Columbus through Oct. 7.

**Mark Kinsey '95**, a special agent with the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), has been honored by the U.S. Attorney's Office for spearheading a major international investigation into false labeling. It was the first case in a national effort to address the issue of mislabeling of catfish products imported into the U.S. and sold as grouper.

Kinsey and his team discovered a scheme to intentionally mislabel certain frozen, farm-raised catfish fillets that were imported into the U.S. from Vietnam. More than 1.6 million pounds of the imported fillets had been mislabeled in order to evade duties imposed by the U.S. Department of Commerce. Kinsey, who has been with the NOAA since 2001, is currently working on a master's in criminal justice at The Citadel.

**Brent Constant '96** has been named service training manager at Mitsubishi Electric HVAC Advanced Products Division in Suwanee, Ga. He will be responsible for designing and developing service course





**Ryan E. Lovelace '99** has been named associate principal at Civil-Site Design Group PLLC in Nashville, Tenn. Lovelace, who has been with the firm four years, previously was a project engineer at the firm and also worked as a project manager at Carroll & Lange in Denver, Colo. At Civil-Site Design, his work has concentrated on residential projects, including Bear Creek at Burrus Ridge, a Jack Nicklaus golf course community in White House, Tenn., and Providence Community, a master-planned development in Mount Juliet, Tenn. Lovelace and his wife, Terra, live in Franklin, Tenn.

content, managing service functions for all Mitsubishi Electric HVAC Advanced Products Division training centers, and developing and documenting departmental processes and procedures.

Constant has four years of experience in the HVAC industry, 13 years of experience in training and development, and 11 years of experience in instructional design and course development.

**Katheryne Pavey Ph.D. '96** has been chosen as one of 10 Women of Merit, selected by the *Northwest Indiana Times*. The women are recognized for outstanding contributions to the community and in the lives of others among women in northwest Indiana. Pavey is executive director of the Discovery Alliance of Porter County, located in Valparaiso, a group charged with raising literacy rates. She lives in Crown Point.

The Amoeba Art Shop in Philadelphia, owned by **James A. "Jay" Thomson '97**, was selected as a finalist in the 2007 Forbes Enterprise Awards sponsored by Verizon. From thousands of entries, entrants were evaluated in five categories: marketing, customer service, employee relations, community service, and new product/service offerings. Amoeba Art, an independently owned and operated art supply store,

opened in August 2004 in Mount Airy, Pa. Thomson is also an artist.

**Lynne McNamara Ph.D. '98** has been promoted to deputy executive director of the Vietnam Education Foundation (VEF) in Arlington, Va. McNamara, who has been in the field of international education for more than 30 years, has lived and worked in Europe, the Middle East, Asia, and the United States. She's been with VEF since 2004. Among her achievements at VEF are establishing the VEF Alliance, a partnership of more than 100 leading universities in the U.S. that host the VEF fellowship program, and a visiting scholar program that will send top Vietnamese with doctorates to the U.S. for up to one year of professional training.

## 2000s

**Kathleen M. Sanford '00**, volunteer services supervisor for CNS Home Health & Hospice in Carol Stream, was elected president of the Illinois State Chapter for Volunteer Management Administration, a chapter of the Illinois State Hospice and Palliative Care Organization. Sanford leads a team of 110 volunteers. CNS is a nonprofit health agency affiliated with Central DuPage Hospital, serving DuPage and

six other counties. Sanford lives in St. Charles.

**Amanda J. Bleichner '03, M.D. '07** has entered a pediatric residency at Loyola University Medical Center in Maywood after graduating among the 69 new physicians of the Class of 2007 at the SIU School of Medicine.

**Joseph R. Haake '03, M.D. '07** has entered an emergency medicine residency at Michigan State University in Kalamazoo after graduating among the 69 new physicians of the Class of 2007 at the SIU School of Medicine.

**Rachel N. Myers '03, M.D. '07** has entered a family medicine residency at the University of Wyoming and the Wyoming Medical Center in Casper after graduating among the 69 new physicians of the Class of 2007 at the SIU School of Medicine.

**Mary M. Wallace '03**, a real estate practitioner with Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage in Oak Lawn, Ill., was selected by *Realtor* magazine for its "30 under 30" award. The annual award honors 30 outstanding Realtors under 30 years of age. *Realtor* magazine is part of the National Association of Realtors, which represent 1.3 million Realtors nationally.

Wallace also launched her own business, Dream Door Development, to renovate older homes, and is an Oak

Lawn (her hometown) Park District Commissioner. One day a week she is a community counselor at the village's family services center.

**Michael Goss '07**, works for Clayco, a full-service real estate development, design, and construction firm. Goss is serving as an assistant superintendent



in the St. Louis office. Goss, who earned an undergraduate degree

from SIU in technical resource management, was formally an intern at M.A. Mortenson in Spearville, Kan. In his new position, he will assist in the management of scheduling, cost control, quality control, safety protocols, and subcontractor coordination for assigned projects.

**Tracy Mellendorf '07** has received the first George Kapusta endowed graduate assistantship, which will help her pay for graduate study in SIUC's Department of Plant, Soil, and Agriculture Systems this fall. The award honors the University's longtime weed scientist, who retired in 1998. Mellendorf is from Louisville, Ky.



**Russ Eisenstein, '02** who has spent the past two years as the play-by-play man for the Class A Eugene Emeralds and an NBA studio host for the New Orleans/Oklahoma City Hornets, has been named the play-by-play voice for Idaho State University sports. He has previously handled radio duties for sports broadcasts at SIU and Illinois State University, and hosted various radio sport talk programs. At 27 years old, the Southern graduate is the sixth-youngest Division I-FCS play-by-play announcer for football in the country this season.



# A Place Of Caring

In serving more than 3,500 people annually,  
Southern Illinois Regional Social Services  
works to strengthen the health  
of communities in and around SIU.

by Marianne Lawrence

Karen Freitag, a 1975 graduate of Southern, serves as executive director at Southern Illinois Regional Social Services. The SIU Alumni Association life member is one of more than 85 employees at the agency who are alumni of the University. Freitag was inspired by her father, Lou, to serve others. He was a former program coordinator at Touch of Nature.

More than 85 Southern Illinois University alumni are members of a small army of counselors, therapists, psychiatrists, nurses, prevention specialists, and others who make a daily impact on people's lives.

Their work at Southern Illinois Regional Social Services — better known as SIRSS — could include a middle-of-the-night crisis with a runaway teen and his parents at the local police station, daily counseling with people struggling with the darkness of mental illness or substance abuse, and helping a homeless person find ways to rejoin the community.

Actually, those are just a few of the services this agency provides in living up to its motto: *You are not alone. We care. We know how to help.*

Led by Karen Freitag '75, who is intimately familiar with statistics that reflect the cost of mental illness and substance abuse in society and the important role her complex agency has in changing those numbers, points out that SIRSS is not a just a single service.

"We offer a large and diverse mix of services housed in 25 different programs. We serve young and old offenders and offer diversion programs to keep kids from getting into the criminal justice system. There are programs for adults with serious and persistent mental illness, who need the ongoing support of psychiatrists, nurses, and medication," she explains.

A Carbondale native, Freitag has been in the field of human services for 30 years and was inspired by her father, Lou, who was a program coordinator at Southern's Touch of Nature. "Every kid in my family worked as a camp counselor out there, so I've been doing something in this area since I was about 16."

In a recent article she urged more public understanding of mental illness. "It is time for us to get as comfortable talking about our mental health challenges as we are about our physical health challenges." She calls her agency a three-pronged program that helps people with mental health, substance abuse, and youth and family programs.

## A Special Emphasis

Although Youth Services Director Jean Alstat and her staff focus on youth, family crises, and intervention services involving a wide range of issues, there is a special emphasis on prevention, especially through the nationally known Big Brothers–Big Sisters program that matches children with adult mentors from the community, and the Amachi program, which deals with young people whose parents are incarcerated.

Two staffers from Youth Services are assigned to 10 local schools to help if intervention is requested by the school and to provide positive youth development for at-risk youth (see sidebar).

Alstat, who earned a bachelor's degree from SIU in 1995 and a master's in 1997, was also a SIRSS intern and praises that program. "SIU interns leave here with true firsthand experience.

## SIRSS Case Study Highlights Success

A Southern Illinois Regional Social Services (SIRSS) counselor is called to a local school to evaluate a student. Ten-year-old Tivo, a tall, lanky, and unusually shy boy is angry and says he wants to die. The agency's youth crisis counselor completes an assessment involving Tivo, his parent, and teacher, and develops a careful plan to support the boy and his family.

During regular counseling sessions, the SIRSS therapist recognizes the need for an additional positive role model for Tivo and refers the family to their Big Brothers–Big Sisters program.

Tivo and his Big Brother begin seeing each other every week. They play basketball, run errands, and enjoy looking at classic cars. The family continues regular counseling, and soon Tivo is on the path to positive youth development.

SIRSS is a vital resource to area schools and is instrumental in meeting the needs of youth, providing professional help and community resources.



Karen Freitag '75, Southern Illinois Regional Social Services (SIRSS) executive director, and members of her staff look over building plans that will provide a new, more efficient home for their agency. From left are Community Recovery Services Manager Heather Austin '00, M.S. '02, Youth Services Director Jean Alstat '95, M.S. '97, Freitag, and Finance Director June Hayes '76, '93. They are among 85 SIU alumni who work at SIRSS.

They don't just make copies. We treat them well because we are happy that they are here," says Alstat. "It is extremely important to have SIU in our back yard," she adds.

Thirty-five students from several SIU programs interned with SIRSS during the past school year in addition to nursing students from nearby community colleges.

Ann Johnson '05, who received her master's degree in May and plans to continue with her doctoral work, has been associated with SIRSS for the past year with a practicum and an internship where she devoted between 35 and 40 hours working in various substance abuse programs.

Johnson first worked with clients who were mainly in for counseling after a DUI, but most recently was involved with an intensive outpatient group dealing

with a wide spectrum of problems. "Not to downplay my coursework, but this has been the most valuable part of my education," she exclaims. "I can't tell you how wonderful this agency is."

### **Acquiring Skills And Offering Hope**

Mary Rosenberg M.S. '81, Ph.D. '85, clinical director and director of Adult Behavioral Health, is passionate about her work with SIRSS. "Providing services to our clients is really a privilege. It is a joy to see people have hope and acquire learning skills that enable them to change their lives for the better."

Rosenberg oversees outpatient counseling for mood disorders like anxiety, depression, and post-traumatic stress syndrome, as well as psychiatric and substance abuse recovery services. The adult crisis services took

care of an astounding 400 adults during the past year, which Rosenberg points out is more than one person every day year-round.

People who call SIRSS because they need help are cared for by screening specialists and assessment and treatment teams. "Frequently these people are dealing with multiple stressful situations and will need to learn skills to tolerate distress, regulate emotions, and develop ways to interact with others," explains Rosenberg. "It's a lot of hard work."

She emphasizes the continuing efforts made by staff to reduce the stigma associated with mental illness, citing statistics that show one in five people in the country experiencing some type of mental disorder during a given year. "These are problems like any other and are worthy of attention and care," says Rosenberg.

For that reason she is excited about the recent opportunity for agency staff to participate as writers of a mental health column that appears weekly in the local newspaper. "Any time we are able to do something to help develop people's understanding around some aspect of mental health, we're grateful."

Heather Austin '00, M.S. '02 manages counselors and therapists in the SIRSS Community Recovery Services division. Her team takes support and resources to clients with a variety of mental disorders to help them thrive in their own homes and communities.

"Our counselors and therapists teach people to take care of themselves," says Austin, explaining that case workers can assess how well clients are functioning through regular visits to their homes to check on things like medications, personal hygiene, and proper nutrition. They also can reinforce social skills, help with job searches, and provide links with community resources.

Austin's unit also provides specialized help through residential services provided at Cornerstone, an affordable apartment complex SIRSS helped to renovate through a unique partnership. On-site support is available at Cornerstone to more than 20 residents at any time, day or night.

In addition, she and her staff reach out to homeless people in remote areas, such as the Shawnee National Forest. She calls this outreach a delicate dance.

"Some people want to be homeless, and it takes time to develop a rapport with them by offering water, a blanket or snack, before we can take the next step," says Austin.

### A Special Place

Remarkably, in the face of stressful and often heartbreaking situations, members of the SIRSS team maintain a positive attitude and energy for their work. According to Rosenberg, this is what makes SIRSS a special place. "There is enormous strength among the agency people. They have great concern for their

clients, but also solidarity and support for each other. They're always ready to offer consultation or support to a colleague."

These SIU alums and interns along with their counterparts at SIRSS are sim-

ply at work and going about the business of helping their fellow human beings.

To learn more about Southern Illinois Regional Social Services, log on to [www.sirss.org](http://www.sirss.org).



## A Better Place To Build Better Lives

**K**aren Freitag, executive director of SIRSS, spends most of her time these days making sure her staff and their clients, who number more than 3,500 annually, will have a new and safer home in the near future.

A plan to build a \$6 million, three-story, 40,000-square-foot building, which will stand on property the agency owns across the street from its present location, is gathering steam. Tom Firestone, M.D., chair of the capital campaign steering committee, emphasizes that "people suffering from mental illness, substance abuse disorders, and family problems need an environment that promotes wellness."

Freitag explains that the building will house a staff of 162 full- and part-time employees, and will have space for a daytime drop-in center, where skill-building and support is available for the people with severe mental illness who visit the agency daily.

Current problems with the existing facility include architectural barriers in the three-story, 47-year-old former dormitory, lack of security, no elevators, flooding, and mold problems, all critical reasons to build the badly needed new building.

Peg Falcone M.A.'69, M.S.W. '97, SIRSS development director, says the old building is simply not conducive to better mental health. "It is oppressive and was not built for the purpose it is currently being used for. We've been talking about this new building for a long time, and now we realize it is getting closer."

Plans feature additional space with a reception area and skills development center, an open design with conference and counseling rooms that will enhance privacy and improved accessibility with elevators, ramps, and closer parking.

Part of the SIRSS mission, to build better lives, has temporarily been modified with the goal to *build a better place to build better lives*.

## Alumni Deaths

Fall 2007

**PHELPS**, Lowell W., '27  
08/03/07, Grantsburg, Ill.

**SMITH**, Ada L., '27  
07/10/07, Belleville, Ill.

**CARLTON**, Rachel W. Stoeber, '29, '55  
05/21/07, Chester, Ill.

**TURNER**, Wavel C., '29, '67  
07/14/07, Herrin, Ill.

**LOUDON**, Arlyne L., '31  
06/12/07, Highland, Ill.

**CHANDLER**, Emery H., '35  
06/04/07, Jacksonville, Fla.

**KEITH**, Mary A., '35, '49, M.S. Ed. '61  
07/18/07, Anna, Ill.

**ARNOLD**, Clyde, '36  
06/06/07, Carbondale, Ill.

**LINDSEY**, Euell W., '37  
06/11/07, Pekin, Ill.

**WALDER**, Phyllis P. Ault, ex '37  
06/29/07, Metropolis, Ill.

**SCHWARTZ**, Robert W., ex '38  
06/02/07, Carbondale, Ill.

**BRYANT Sr.**, Donald L., '40  
05/22/07, Boynton Beach, Fla.

**FERRERO**, Inez F., '41  
05/17/07, Pinckneyville, Ill.

**HAGGARD**, Otto Lavern, ex '41  
05/31/07, Benton, Ill.

**MOSELEY**, Odell, '41  
05/15/07, Alto Pass, Ill.

**HELMKAMP**, Agnes W., '42  
07/16/07, Edwardsville, Ill.

**KING**, M. Loretta, '43  
08/03/07, Mattoon, Ill.

**MIGIELICZ**, Edward Jacob, ex '43  
05/16/07, West Frankfort, Ill.

**RAGSDALE**, Warren F., ex '43  
12/26/06, East Alton, Ill.

**TAYLOR**, Curtis E., ex '43  
06/01/07, Golconda, Ill.

**WEBER**, Lawrence P., ex '45  
11/05/03, Sparta, Ill.

**BILDERBACK**, Maude A., '46  
07/11/07, Ava, Ill.

**STRATTON**, Elaine A., '46, M.S. Ed. '46  
04/12/07, Glen Carbon, Ill.

**SEBASTIAN Jr.**, John T., '47  
04/26/03, Champaign, Ill.

**CASTRALE**, Geneva M., '49  
07/22/07, Herrin, Ill.

**KELLY**, Albert Dean, '49  
04/29/07, Fredericksburg, Texas

**KRATZ**, Dolores H., '49  
07/10/07, Clinton, Ill.

**BOATRIGHT**, Dr. Jean R., '50  
07/09/07, Urbana, Ill.

**CHESTER**, Johnnie Lewis, ex '50  
07/17/07, Clearwater, Fla.

**KELLY**, Marland R., ex '50  
07/09/07, Sparta, Ill.

**PANG**, Walter S., ex '50  
05/20/07, Tamm, Ill.

**PARSONS**, Hannah Lloyd, '50  
07/14/07, Stafford, Va.

**MCOWAN**, John Robert, '51  
07/16/07, Carbondale, Ill.

**TYLER**, Bernard L. "Bernie," '51, M.S. Ed. '58  
07/28/07, Springfield, Ill.

**TRIGG**, John R., ex '51  
05/18/07, Simpson, Ill.

**CRIPPEN**, George H. "Buddy," ex '54  
Ocala, Fla.

**EDWARDS**, Maudie, '54, M.S. Ed. '57  
03/16/06, Urbana, Ill.

**KALLA Jr.**, Joe A., '55, M.S. Ed. '57  
05/30/07, Sioux Falls, S.D.

**FLETCHER**, Eunice M., '55  
06/28/07, Johnston City, Ill.

**EIGENMANN**, Philip A., '56  
05/25/07, Marion, Ill.

**HOUCHIN**, Col. Lloyd K., '56  
07/18/07, Lebanon, Ill.

**WELLS**, Charles R., '56  
06/10/06, Florissant, Mo.

**WILLIAMS**, George H., ex '56  
05/21/07, Shippingport, Penn.

**GULLEY**, Ruth A., '57  
07/10/07, Valier, Ill.

**MARK**, Sylvia F., '58  
05/11/07, Carbondale, Ill.

**SMITH**, James L., '58  
11/30/04, St. Jacob, Ill.

**DILLOW**, Shirley A. (Cullum), '59  
05/08/07, Azle, Texas

**LAUGHLIN**, James L., '59  
05/01/06, Indian Trail, N.C.

**LOBENSTEIN**, DeLaura Vivian Whipple, ex '59  
05/24/07, Columbia, Mo.

**TEICHERT**, Lois R., '60  
07/19/07, Wilsonville, Ore.

**CROSS**, Lena S., '62  
07/18/07, Belle Rive, Ill.

**FUEHNE**, Patricia Lanthrum, '62  
07/20/07, Hillsboro, Ill.

**MANION**, Jerry R., M.S. Ed. '62  
07/17/07, Paradise Valley, Ariz.

**MILBURN**, Norma L., '62  
06/29/07, Fairhope, Ala.

**PATTON**, Roger B., '65, '67  
07/04/07, Round Rock, Texas

**STOELZLE**, Robert W., '65, M.S. Ed. '75  
07/22/07, Anna, Ill.

**DUPREE**, James, '66  
01/29/07, Michigan City, Miss.

**REDA**, Dr. Mario R., '66, M.S. '67  
06/19/07, River Forest, Ill.

**WINGLER**, Donald W., '66  
04/06/07, Elk Grove Village, Ill.

**BEARD**, Bernie, '67  
05/12/07, Springfield, Ill.

**GILSTRAP**, James P., '67  
07/19/07, Corvallis, Ore.

**HALE**, Johnny O., '67  
06/02/07, Fairfield, Ill.

**ROBB**, John A., M.S. Ed. '67  
05/26/07, Mount Vernon, Ind.

**BUNDY**, Arletta M. (Fry), '68  
06/26/07, Salem, Ill.

**DAVIS**, William Q., Ph.D., '68  
05/16/07, Hannawa Falls, N.Y.

**ZODY**, Richard E., Ph.D., '68  
07/20/07, Blacksburg, Vir.

**BUTLER**, Neil D. "Scoop," M.S. Ed. '69  
06/27/07, Mulkeytown, Ill.

**FORE**, Paul L., Ph.D., '69  
07/08/07, Albuquerque, N.M.

**KERNOSKY**, Anthony, '69  
06/04/07, Marion, Ill.

**TOBIN**, Jennifer "Jane" Hensel, M.S. Ed. '69  
02/02/04, Skokie, Ill.

**NIBLOCK**, Jon T., '70  
07/20/07, Pacific, Mo.

**PHAM**, Douglas, '70; M.A. '72  
06/02/07, Tucson, Ariz.

**RICHMOND**, Fred "Bill," M.S. Ed. '70  
07/08/07, Lachine, Mich.

**SHUSTER**, William "Ed," '70  
07/07/07, McLeansboro, Ill.

**STEVERS**, Wayne E., '70, M.S. Ed. '87  
06/09/07, Metropolis, Ill.

**SULLIVAN**, Dennis E., '70  
06/25/07, Buffalo Grove, Ill.

**LEMING**, Stephen L., '71, M.S. '73  
06/10/07, Tulsa, Okla.

**JONES**, Rodney D., '71, '76  
11/20/03, Florissant, Mo.

**WILLIKSEN**, Wayne, '71  
05/16/07, Capitola, Calif.

**BISAGA**, Henry "Richard," '72, M.S. Ed. '75,  
05/11/07, Murphysboro, Ill.

**BOCHANTIN**, James L., '72  
07/08/07, Du Bois, Ill.

**MAROLDO**, Francis T., '72  
04/12/07, Silverdale, Wash.

**TROVILLION**, Jan I., '72  
07/09/07, Golconda, Ill.

**DAUGHERITY**, James Charles, '73, '78  
07/19/07, Goreville, Ill.

**DOERR**, Robert "Bob," '73  
06/23/07, Mt. Vernon, Ill.

**GENTRY**, Cynthia K., '73  
05/11/07, Rockford, Ill.

**MORRAY**, Dr. John Robert Gahan, '74  
07/05/07, Flora, Ill.

**VENTURA**, Richard, '74, M.S. '75  
08/29/06, Hollywood, Fla.

**DIEHL II**, William L. "Skip," '75  
06/07/07, Broken Arrow, Okla.

**RUSTICELLI**, Nancy Louise Stout, '75  
05/04/07, Carbondale, Ill.

**ROY**, Sabrina, M.S. Ed. '77  
06/01/07, Chicago, Ill.

**TOLBERT**, Carlos G., '77, '79  
07/19/07, Pinckneyville, Ill.

**DESPAIN**, John Greg, '79  
06/09/07, Moline, Ill.

**DIXON**, Kevin R., '79  
04/27/07, Summerville, S.C.

**MULLALLY**, Thomas E., '79  
06/04/07, Wheaton, Ill.

**RUSSELL**, Rev. John M., M.A. '79, Ph.D. '82  
11/07/00, Mt. Vernon, Ind.

**TOMKO**, Mary C., '82  
07/25/07, Ada, Mich.

## Ben Gelman, "Byline BG" Author Dies At 86

**B**en Gelman, 86, retired Sunday news editor of *The Southern Illinoisan*, recently died in Carbondale. Known in the region for his long-running weekly newspaper column, "Byline BG" (1969-2007), he often shared his love and knowledge of birds, an interest that began at age 14 in New York City.



His honors for professional work and volunteer activities included the Lindell Sturgis Award from the SIU Board of Trustees, the Service to Southern Award from the Jackson County Chapter of the SIU Alumni Association, the Delta Award from the Friends of Morris Library, and many others.

In November 1956, he and his family moved to Carbondale, where Gelman joined *The Southern Illinoisan* part time as a photographer and enrolled at Southern Illinois University, where he was a student worker in photography. He eventually moved into full-time reporting and during the 1960s was responsible for writing news of the University.

Gelman was named regional editor of the newspaper in 1970 and Sunday news editor in 1976. He retired from *The Southern* in October 1982. He then immediately joined SIU as a public information specialist in University Relations, retiring in 1996.

Memorials may be made to the Southern Illinois Audubon Society, P.O. Box 222, Carbondale, IL 62903 or to The Nature Conservancy in Illinois, 301 Southwest Adams, Suite 107, Peoria, IL 61602, earmarked for projects in the Illinois Ozarks.

## Rolland Bishop, Letterman On 1926 Basketball Team

**R**olland Bishop, a letterman on the 1926 Southern Illinois Normal University basketball team, recently passed away at the age of 102. A resident of Carbondale, he owned several businesses in the city over the years and was co-owner of Italian Village, an establishment that opened in the early 1960s and continues today.

Bishop was one of eight freshmen to earn letters in basketball in 1926, as coach William McAndrew's squad had no upper classmen on the roster that season.

**BOWERS**, Timothy S., '83  
07/29/07, Murphysboro, Ill.

**LOVELY**, Rev. Brenda Brooks, Ph.D. '85  
02/17/07, Durham, N.C.

**CAVITT**, Julie Ann (Julia), ex '85  
07/02/07, Eddison, Ill.

**ROGERS**, Yaphet Kenya Malcolm, ex '89  
07/19/07, Joliet, Ill.

**LAMPLEY**, Brian W., '92, M.S. Ed. '02  
07/13/07, Benton, Ill.

**CLARK**, William "Willie," '95  
06/09/07, Las Vegas, Nev.

**WALLER**, H. Dwayne, '95  
06/20/07, Thompsonville, Ill.

**WINTERS**, John B., '98  
07/28/07, Makanda, Ill.

**GRAY**, Rosie L., '00  
07/09/07, San Diego, Calif.

**MEAD**, James L., '02  
05/13/06, Amboy, Ill.

**DODD**, Justin E., ex '03  
07/16/07, Johnston City, Ill.

**WEIAND II**, William L., '04  
07/28/07, Carbondale, Ill.

**VINZANT**, Joshua D., M.F.A. '05  
07/20/07, Maryville, Mo.

**FINLEY**, Amanda L.  
05/11/07, Carbondale, Ill.

## Faculty & Staff

**ALFORD**, Billie L.  
Emerita Civil Service, Electrician  
07/12/07, Vienna, Ill.

**BIGGS**, Craig  
Assistant Program Coordinator, SIUC Touch of Nature  
07/26/07, Carbondale, Ill.

**DOTY**, Leonard Alexander, Ph.D. '82  
Visiting Assistant Professor  
College of Technical Careers  
05/11/07, Yorkville, Ill.

**FLETCHER**, Patrick L.  
Civil Service, Stationary Engineer  
08/02/07, Thompsonville, Ill.

**HAIMO**, Deborah Tepper  
Former Professor, Mathematics  
05/17/07, Claremont, Calif.

**HARBISON**, James Lowell, '37  
Emeritus Instructor  
School of Technical Careers  
05/09/07, Martin, Tenn.

**HAWTHORNE**, Ethel McKinney  
Emerita Civil Service, University Housing  
06/07/07, De Soto, Ill.

**KING**, Patricia "Pat" McSherry, ex '45  
Civil Service, Personnel Assistant  
06/14/07, Joplin, Ill.

**LARSON**, Ralph A. "Swede"  
Emerita Civil Service, University Housing  
05/21/07, Herrin, Ill.

**RIGGAR**, Theodore F.  
Professor, Rehabilitation Institute  
06/09/07, Carbondale, Ill.

**TREGONING**, Philip "Pete," '56, '69, M.S. Ed. '73,  
Emeritus Assistant Professor  
College of Technical Careers  
05/17/07, Carterville, Ill.

**VASKIE**, Albert L.  
Emerita Civil Service, Building Custodian  
07/12/07, Dowell, Ill.

# Technology Helps Blind Student Pursue His Dream

by Eric Welch

**L**ike most law students, David Benney's work load seems endless: He wades through a sea of books, spends countless hours on his computer, and works for the local state's attorney's office. But there's one key difference between Benney and other law students at Southern Illinois University Carbondale: He's blind.

As if law school isn't demanding enough, imagine not having the ability to go through a stack of papers or see a computer screen. In a profession where long, complex documents are abundant and Braille copies are scarce, Benney, a third-year law student, has found a way to navigate without seeing.

"I'm actually looking at yesterday's court docket that I put in here," the Wheaton native says, as he runs his fingers across the display on his portable Braille note-taker. "It's almost like scrolling down on a computer."

The device acts like a computer screen, but Benney runs his fingertips across the dots that raise and lower to form inter-

changeable Braille characters. When connected to a keyboard, it stores the typed material and the user can read thousands of documents on the tiny machine.

With the help of technology such as his note-taker, Benney can do the same work in the same amount of time as his peers; he just does it differently. He also uses screen-reading software provided by SIU's Disability Support Services, enabling him to control his computer while it verbalizes the content of the screen. He can surf the Web, read documents, and use many other programs on his computer.

This summer, Benney took his technology to the work place, interning at the Jackson County State's Attorney's Office in Murphysboro. His responsibilities included researching, writing, filling out forms, and observing in court.

"They even let me handle a few bench trials. I won one and lost one," Benney notes, "so I'm batting .500."

Michael Whitney, assistant program director of Disability Support Services, says technology brings unprecedented oppor-

tunity to students such as Benney.

"What law firm wants to hire you if you can't read legal documents and need a full-time assistant?" Whitney asks. "This technology gives students equal access and helps employability."

With the help of technology, the job market is expanding for disabled students.

"Graduates previously worked as social workers or disability workers, but now they can be lawyers," says Jeremiah Womick, a graduate assistant at Disability Support Services. "A student can educate a potential employer about the technology and show that the work can be done as fast as anyone else can."

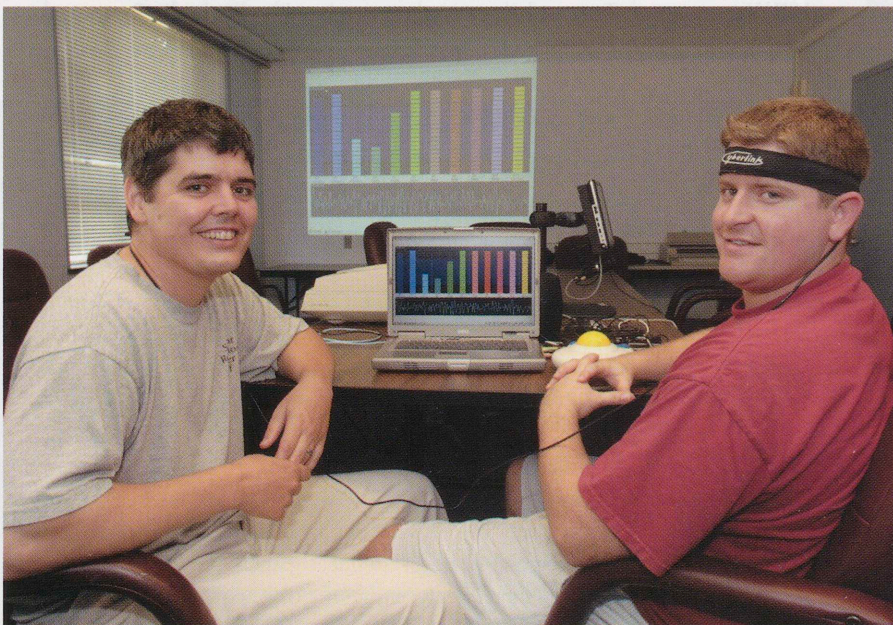
Technological advances continually bring more freedom and open doors for people with disabilities. Disability Support Services works to employ those advances and make them easily accessible for Southern students. For Benney's textbooks, the staff either orders audio versions or scans and converts them into Word documents, which he can then hear with his screen-reading software.

The technology available to students at SIU goes far beyond scanners and screen readers, though. For example, how does a paralyzed or severely disabled student do research on the Web without moving or speaking?

"Watch this," Womick says. As he straps on a black headband to begin his demonstration, several multicolored bars begin to illuminate the screen. Suddenly, the mouse arrow begins to move and click on icons, all while Womick sits in a chair, simply focusing on the screen.

Is this sci-fi? No, it is simply what's available to SIU students in need of assistance. By using sensors in the headband, the program monitors changes in brain waves and facial muscles, which, when coordinated by the user, can move a mouse and make several other commands.

"I can't wait to see what happens in the next few years," Whitney says of the technology. ■



Michael Whitney (left), assistant program director of SIU's Disability Support Services, and Graduate Assistant Jeremiah Womick demonstrate Cyberlink, a program that allows users to navigate and control a computer through brain waves and brow movement.

## Union County Fund-Raiser

The Union County Chapter of the SIU Alumni Association hosted a "Meet the Coaches" fund-raiser recently at the Great Boars of Fire Lodge in Cobden, Ill. Saluki Athletics Director Mario Moccia, SIU Men's Basketball Head Coach Chris Lowery, SIU Football Defensive Coordinator Tracy Claeys, SIU Swimming and Diving Head Coach Rick Walker, and others were present to meet and greet alumni and friends.

Proceeds of more than \$2,000 were raised to benefit the Union County High School Scholarship Fund. The scholarships are awarded to deserving high schools seniors from Union County who will be attending SIU. For more information about the scholarships, please go to [www.siualumni.com](http://www.siualumni.com).



From left, Tracy Claeys, George Welborn, Andy Owen, and Marc Webel are shown at the Union County Chapter "Meet the Coaches" fund-raiser event this summer.

## A Saluki Afternoon Of Theatre

Eighty-one alumni and friends attended a luncheon followed by the matinee Broadway performance of *The Color Purple* at Chicago's Cadillac Palace Theatre. At the luncheon, there was a



short program presented by SIU Alumni Association Director Ed Buerger and SIU Vice Chancellor of Institutional Advancement Rickey McCurry. Representing the SIU Alumni Association was

Director of Off-Campus Programs Argus Tong. Alumni volunteers Jackie and Keith Timmons also assisted with the event.

## Jackson County Social At The Grotto

The Jackson County Chapter of the SIU Alumni Association hosted a social this summer at The Grotto, located in the Newell House in Carbondale. Forty alumni and friends enjoyed an evening of hors d'oeuvres and beverages, as Chapter President Kitty Mabus provided an update on the scholarship dollars pledged for five incoming students from Jackson County who will be attending Southern in the fall. Representing the SIU Alumni Association were Association President Doris Rottschalk, Association Board Member Dede Ittner, and Director of Off-Campus Programs Argus Tong.

## Under The Stars At The MUNY

The third annual "Under the Stars at the MUNY," organized by the St. Louis Chapter of the SIU Alumni Association, drew 34 alumni and friends this year. The attendees were treated to a backstage tour of the MUNY, a buffet dinner at the Bank of America Pavilion, and a riveting performance of *Joseph & the Amazing Technicolor Dream Coat*. Representing the Association were Director of Off-Campus Programs Argus Tong and alumni volunteers Ann Eberlin, Leslie Tepen, and Kimberly Omelson.

## 8th Annual Greater Michigan Picnic

The Greater Michigan Chapter of the SIU Alumni Association hosted alumni and friends at the Kensington Metro Park. The group enjoyed the fun-filled day with lunch and activities such as volleyball, bocce ball, and a drawing for merchandise.

## SIU Day At Coors Field

Twenty-seven alumni and friends attended the SIU Day at Coors Field hosted by the Colorado Club of the SIU Alumni Association. Before watching the St. Louis Cardinals take on the Colorado Rockies, attendees gathered for a pregame picnic at Coors Field. Representing the University were Associate Vice Chancellor for Institutional Advancement Jeff Lorber and Dean for the School of Law Peter Alexander. Colorado club representative Mark Szczesny '96 was instrumental in coordinating the event.

## SIU Day At Turner Field

Forty alumni and friends attended the second annual SIU Day at Turner Field in Atlanta to watch the World Series Champions St. Louis Cardinals take on the Braves. A pregame gathering was held, and Director of Off-Campus Programs Argus Tong greeted the Salukis at the event. Greater Atlanta Club President Jim Dennis was instrumental in coordinating the event.

## New St. Louis Chapter Officers Are Elected

On Aug. 1, the St. Louis Alumni Chapter of the SIU Alumni Association elected a new board. The incoming board consists of President Ann Eberlin '03; Vice President Leslie Tepen '03; and Secretary Kimberly Omelson '93. Some of the goals of the chapter are to continue engaging the 12,000 alumni in the St. Louis and Metro-East area, provide scholarships to incoming students attending SIU, host the pregame reception when the Salukis play at St. Louis University in men's basketball, and assist at a cultural event at the Fox Theatre.

The Association thanks the efforts of the outgoing board consisting of President Loren King '00; Treasurer Tiffany Green '01; and Secretary Jeff Jewett '01. Under their leadership, the chapter was revitalized in 2005 and during these officers' terms provided support to the alumni hospitality during the MVC Conference Tournament and SIU Busch Stadium Day. The group also hosted numerous diverse events such as the MUNY,

## Make Your MVC Hotel Reservations Now

Make your reservations for the State Farm Missouri Valley Conference Men's Basketball Championship March 6-9, 2008. Join the SIU Alumni Association at Hilton at the Ballpark in St. Louis, call today at 1-800-445-8667, and ask for the SIU Alumni Association package which includes:

- Special SIU Alumni Association Group rate
- The SIU Alumni Association Hospitality Suite
- Transportation to/from SIU games (available only to Hilton guests registered under the SIU Alumni Association package)
- Two-night minimum stay and payment required

The SIU Alumni Association cannot guarantee room reservations so please make your reservations early.

Details on pregame and postgame gatherings for alumni and fans will be available after the tournament pairings have been determined. Please check [www.sialumni.com](http://www.sialumni.com) for updated information.

SIU Trivia Night, SIU Day at the Zoo, and Saluki Watch Parties during televised men's basketball games.

For more information or to be involved with the chapter, please contact Director of Chapter Development Argus Tong at 618-453-2408 or via e-mail at [argus@siu.edu](mailto:argus@siu.edu).

## SIU Day With The Southern Illinois Miners

More than 200 alumni and friends attended the inaugural SIU Day With The Miners event hosted by the Williamson County Chapter of the SIU Alumni Association. Attendees enjoyed a pregame meal and watched the minor league baseball game from the picnic area at the ballpark in Marion.



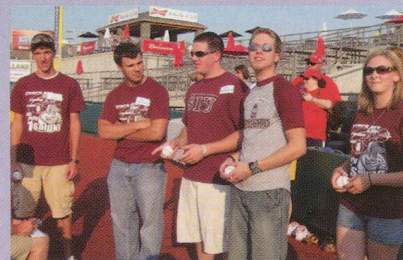
From left, Rich Moser, John Simmons, and Glenn Poshard enjoy "SIU Day with the Southern Illinois Miners" this summer. More than 200 Salukis showed up for the event.

The 2006-07 Williamson County scholarship recipients threw out the first pitch, while Williamson County Chapter President Kari Sanders sang "Take Me Out to the Ballgame" during the seventh-inning stretch.

During the game SIU President Glenn Poshard and SIU Board of

Trustees Member John Simmons came by to meet the attendees.

Representing the SIU Alumni Association were Association President Doris Rottschalk and Association staff members Kathy Dillard, Argus Tong, and Tina Shingleton.

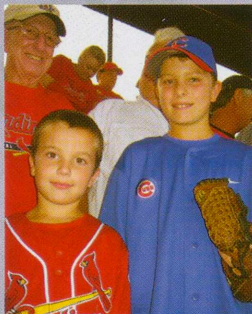


From left, Williamson County Scholarship recipients Ryan McDonald, Todd Marlo, Travis Taylor, Jon Baker, and Danielle Lintzenich are shown before throwing out the first pitch at the Miner game.



## SIU Day At Busch Stadium

Three hundred alumni and friends attended the sold-out 23rd SIU Day at Busch Stadium. The outdoor pregame gathering



Fans of all ages cheered on both the Cardinals and the Cubs at SIU Day at Busch Stadium.

at the Hilton at the Ballpark patio area overlooking Busch Stadium was a hit with both Cardinals and Cubs fans. Representing the University were SIU General Counsel Jerry Blakemore and SIU Associate Vice Chancellor for Institutional Advancement Jeff Lorber. Representing the Alumni Association were Association President Doris Rottschalk, Association Board members Darla Karnes, Mike Kasser, Randy Ragan, Howard Spiegel, and Wes Wilkins, Association Executive Director Ed Buerger, and staff members Kathy Dillard, Gene Green, Argus Tong, and Tina Shingleton. Alumni volunteers Jeff Jewett and Leslie Tepen from the St. Louis Chapter were present to assist with the event. Information and the date for the 24th SIU Day at Busch Stadium will be available in the spring. Check [www.siualumni.com](http://www.siualumni.com) for details.

## Honors Banquets Set

The Williamson County Chapter of the SIU Alumni Association will host its Williamson County Scholarship Awards banquet at the Kokopelli Golf Club on Oct. 14. The banquet will honor the five 2007-08 Williamson County High School scholarship recipients and will feature a guest speaker yet to be determined.

The Jackson County Chapter will host its awards banquet at the SIU Student Center on Nov. 4. The banquet will honor the six 2007-08 Jackson County High School scholarship recipients and the 2007 "Service to Southern Illinois Award" recipient.

For more information on these events, please contact Kitty Mabus, Jackson County Chapter president, at [mabus@siu.edu](mailto:mabus@siu.edu), Kari Sanders, Williamson County Chapter representative, at [kari10sanders@yahoo.com](mailto:kari10sanders@yahoo.com), or the SIU Alumni Association at 618-453-2408.

## Chicagoland Golf Scramble

The Chicagoland Golf Scramble, held at the Chevy Chase Country Club in Wheeling, Ill., this summer, was cosponsored by SIU Athletics and the Chicagoland Saluki Golf Scramble Committee. The event has raised more than \$274,000 since 1989, and this year's committee decided to pledge the majority of receipts — estimated at \$150,000 for the next 10 years — to

help finance Saluki Way. After the 18 holes, the golfers were treated to a dinner, silent auction, and raffle prizes.

## A Thanks To George Welborn

The SIU Alumni Association thanks George Welborn for serving as Union County Chapter president from 2004-07. Under his leadership, the chapter hosted events, participated in the Veteran's Parade, hosted bus trips to SIU men's basketball games, and awarded \$13,000 worth of scholarships to 16 students attending Southern.

## Men's Basketball Thanksgiving Tournament – Anaheim Classic

The Salukis will compete in an eight-team exempt tournament in Anaheim, Calif., during Thanksgiving break. In addition to SIU, the field features Miami (Ohio),



November 22 to 25, 2007  
ANAHEIM CONVENTION CENTER

Mississippi State, San Diego, South Alabama, UC-Irvine, USC, and UT-Chattanooga.

The tournament is being sponsored by ESPN and the Salukis will be playing its first game on Nov.

22 against UT-Chattanooga at 3 p.m. CST. Fans can purchase all-session or single-session tickets online at [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com) or by calling 714-704-2000. Tickets are also available at the Anaheim Convention Center box office

## 'Wicked' Salukis In Los Angeles



More than 80 alumni and friends recently attended the performance of "Wicked: The Untold Story of the Witches of Oz" at the Pantages Theatre in Los Angeles, Calif. At left, former SIU Alumni Association President Mimi Wallace shares a

light moment with fellow alumni, while (below, from left), Larry DeJarnett, Martha Matthes, Mary DeJarnett, Susan Thornhill, Ed Buerger, and Rickey McCurry enjoy the pre-event gathering.



Photos by Sean Smith

located at 800 West Katella Avenue, Anaheim, CA 92802. For travel packages, please visit [www.GETTravel.com](http://www.GETTravel.com).

The Los Angeles and San Francisco Chapters of the SIU Alumni Association will be hosting pregame receptions for the Anaheim Classic.

## SIU Can Be The 'Home' Team

In 2008, the State Farm Missouri Valley Conference Women's Basketball Championship will move to a neutral site for the first time in league history, bringing the championship to The Family Arena in Saint Charles, Mo. We want to fill the Arena with maroon because every team has the opportunity to make the venue into their home court. The tournament will include all 10 teams and is scheduled for March 13-16, one week following the men's basketball tournament in St. Louis. All-session reserved tickets are half price if purchased before Dec. 1. For ticket information, please contact Julie Beck from the Saluki Athletics at 618-453-5153.



Approximately 450 alumni and friends recently attended the 6th Annual SIU Saluki Family Day at U.S. Cellular Field in Chicago. A pregame tailgate featured a silent auction and a visit from Chicago Bears mascot Staley, and Saluki mascot Brown Dawg. The event was coordinated by a committee of Chicago-area alumni. Shown above, from left: Back row: Forrest Fairall, Howard Spiegel, Mike Kochniarczyk, and Rickey McCurry. Middle row: Michele Fairall, Paul Conti, and Adam Vagner. Front row: Staley.

## Alumni Calendar Of Events

### OCTOBER

- 3-6 *Biloxi Blues*, McLeod Theater, 7:30 p.m.
- 6 **SIU Homecoming Celebration**, pregame tailgate east of McAndrew Stadium at 11:30 a.m.  
**Saluki Football vs. Youngstown State**, home, 2:30 p.m.
- 7 *Biloxi Blues*, McLeod Theater, 2 p.m.
- 13 Saluki Football at Northern Iowa, 4:05 p.m.
- 14 Williamson County Scholarship Banquet, TBA
- 20 **Saluki Football vs. Missouri State**, home, 1:30 p.m.  
Family Weekend. Pregame tailgate on Saluki Row at 10:30 a.m.
- 24-27 *Talking With*, McLeod Theater, 7:30 p.m.
- 28 *Talking With*, McLeod Theater, 2 p.m.
- 31 *Halloween Pops*, SIUC School of Music, Shryock Auditorium, 7:30 p.m.

### NOVEMBER

- 1 **Saluki Women's Basketball vs. Harris-Stowe**, home, TBA
- 3 Saluki Football at Western Illinois, 1:05 p.m.  
**Saluki Men's Basketball vs. King**, home, 7:05 p.m.
- 4 **Saluki Women's Basketball vs. Lambuth**, home, TBA  
Jackson County Awards Banquet, TBA
- 9-10 *An Evening With Puccini*, Marjorie Lawrence Opera Theater, Shryock Auditorium, 7:30 p.m.
- 10 **Saluki Football vs. Illinois State**, home, 1:30 p.m.  
Pregame tailgate on Saluki Row at 10:30 a.m.  
**Saluki Women's Basketball vs. DePaul**, home, TBA
- 11 **Saluki Men's Basketball vs. Lincoln Memorial**, home, 2:05 p.m.

- 12 **Saluki Women's Basketball vs. Christian Brothers**, home, TBA
- 17 Saluki Football at Hampton, Va., 1 p.m. ET  
**Saluki Men's Basketball vs. Northern Illinois**, home, TBA
- 18 Saluki Women's Basketball at Illinois, TBA
- 22, 23, & 25 Saluki Men's Basketball – ESPN Tournament, Anaheim, Calif., TBA
- 23, 24 Saluki Women's Basketball – George Washington Thanksgiving Tournament, Washington, D.C., TBA
- 27-30 *New Play Festival*, McLeod Theater, 7:30 p.m.
- 28 Saluki Women's Basketball at Austin Peay, TBA
- 30 *Sing Along Messiah*, Southern Illinois Symphony Orchestra, Shryock Auditorium, 7:30 p.m.

### DECEMBER

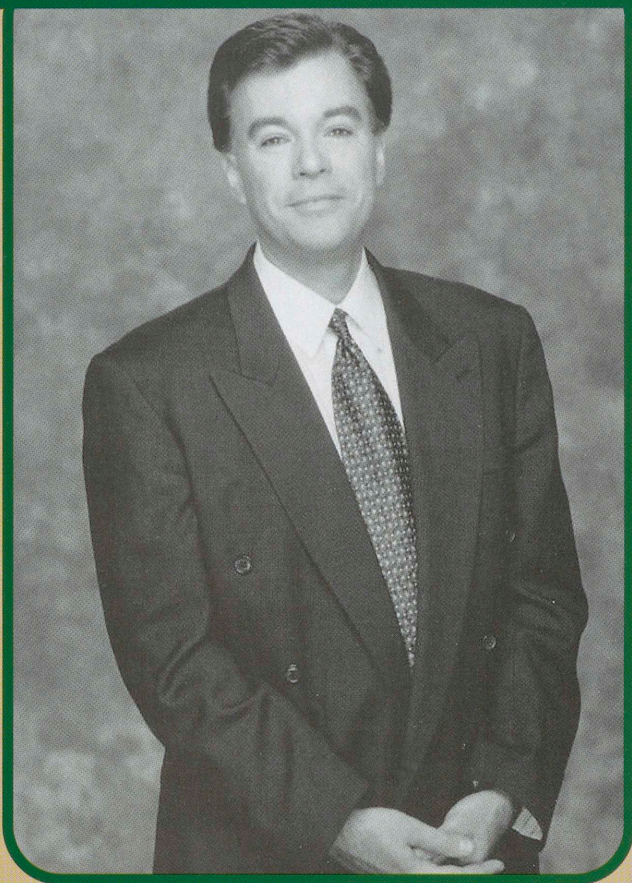
- 1 **Saluki Men's Basketball vs. Indiana**, home, TBA  
*New Play Festival*, McLeod Theater, 7:30 p.m.
- 2 *New Play Festival*, McLeod Theater, 2 p.m.
- 8 Saluki Men's Basketball at Charlotte, TBA  
**Saluki Women's Basketball vs. Central Arkansas**, home, TBA
- 11 **Saluki Men's Basketball vs. Saint Mary's**, home, TBA
- 15 Saluki Men's Basketball at Saint Louis, pregame event with details, TBA
- 17 **Saluki Women's Basketball vs. Chicago State**, home, TBA
- 21 Saluki Women's Basketball at Tennessee Tech, TBA
- 22 **Saluki Men's Basketball vs. Western Kentucky**, home, TBA
- 28 **Saluki Men's Basketball vs. Butler**, home, TBA
- 29 **Saluki Women's Basketball vs. UW-Green Bay**, home, TBA



**DAVE ECKERT...**

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**BY KATHY DILLARD**



Eckert is shown in 1996 while working for WGN-TV in Chicago. The next year would begin his tenure on PBS with "Culinary Travels with Dave Eckert."

**D**ave Eckert hasn't just been "noodling around" for the past 25 years. Instead, he's been combining skills as a reporter with a passion for food and wine to create "Culinary Travels With Dave Eckert," an Emmy-winning program airing on more than 160 Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) affiliates and viewed as on-flight programming on various commercial air carriers.

Eckert won a Gabriel – presented by the Catholic Academy for Communication Arts Professionals – an award given to a media member who serves viewers and listeners through the positive, creative treatment of human concerns. Twice in the past four years he has also been recognized by the Academy of Wine Communications.

The road to such acclaim has been a long one, with the journey beginning in Carbondale.

### USING HIS NOODLE

Eckert graduated with honors from Southern in 1980 with a degree in radio-television. "I enjoyed my first television production class, finding it liberating and educational at the same time," he says. "Former instructors like Ed Brown and Dick Hildreth influenced my career. They were in charge of news and sports when I first started auditioning for broadcasts, and I respected their insights and experiences, which they were so willing to share.

"I was glad Ed was in Florida when I made my weather-casting debut," he recalls with a smile. "I declared that the weather around Carbondale was 'generally pretty crappy.' The cameraman almost fell to the floor he was laughing so hard. If anything could have topped the ridiculous nature of my light brown suit (with matching vest), dark brown shirt, and a tie with a knot as big as my fist, it had to be that wonderful ad lib."

As a student, Eckert worked as an assistant news director and anchor at WSIU-TV and WSIU-FM. While working at WSIU-TV he had the opportunity to interview President Jimmy Carter. "I received incredible hands-on experience. I don't think I would have ever had the guts to produce, host (and fund) my own television show if it weren't for the confidence I gained at SIU," he says.

### Q & A WITH DAVE ECKERT

**Southern Alumni:** Where did you live while attending SIU?

**Dave Eckert:** I lived in Allen Hall as a freshman and another of the lovely brick residences whose name escapes me, as a sophomore. Not all memories of my housing back then were fond memories. It's hot as heck until mid-October and again in May, and I recall some interesting odors in Allen. That was probably due to the recreational habits of neighbors who played Boston music over and over again.

**SA:** You are a food and wine critic now, but what do you recall about the dorm food 25 years ago?

**DE:** I recall it as starch with a side of starch; not a lot of fresh fish and vegetables. I did enjoy saving my pennies for a sandwich from the snack truck parked out front of Mae Smith, as that got me through late-night study sessions. I actually studied, even as a freshman.

**SA:** You did a stint in the dorms, but it sounds like you were more than anxious to experience life off campus as soon as you could.

**DE:** I told my mom that I was going to quit if I didn't get out of the dorms, so I got an apartment on College Street my junior and senior years. That was a lot of fun. Friends always made fun of me for buying Huber Beer (\$4.29 for a case of returnable bottles). I couldn't have imagined that my beverage of choice would one day become Brunello di Montalcino, which goes for more than \$100 a bottle.

**SA:** What were some of the best concerts you attended at SIU?

**DE:** Two stand out in my mind. One was Bruce Springsteen's show right before Christmas break at the SIU Arena. They hung Christmas lights on the speakers on each side of the stage, and when he came back from break his band played "Santa Claus Is Coming to Town." The second show was at Shryock with Southside Johnny and the Asbury Jukes and David Johansen and the New York Dolls. Sitting so close and watching bands with such energy was unbelievable.

**SA:** Do you still follow Saluki sports?

**DE:** Being a Saluki is something I'm proud of. I have fond memories of watching Mike "Stinger" Glenn play basketball, and remember that "Friends of WSIU" had to hold a special telethon to raise the money one year to broadcast SIU's NCAA games. I watched them on television at a place called The Dugout at the end of the strip (now The Cellar). Now, all these years later, my son, Conor (13), and my daughter, Finoa (9), and I enjoy watching Saluki games when they're carried on Fox Sports or ESPN.

## SOME SALUKI-INSPIRED RECIPES

### CUMIN-DUSTED SALUKI SALMON FILETS

#### INGREDIENTS:

- 1 teaspoon ground cumin
- 1 teaspoon paprika
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
- 4 6-ounce salmon filets
- 1 tablespoon extra virgin olive oil

Combine first four ingredients in a small bowl. Sprinkle both sides of fish with mixture. Heat a large pan on high and coat with extra virgin olive oil. When the pan begins to smoke, reduce the heat to medium and add the fish. Cook 4-5 minutes on each side for medium to medium-rare, a minute longer on each side, covered, for more well done.

#### *Wine suggestion:*

Salmon is great with lighter-bodied red wines such as Pinot Noir, but Eckert says make sure you get one with plenty of fruit and not too much earth or tannin. "In other words, New World Pinots are the way to go," he notes, "I like many of the Pinot Noirs being produced in Carneros, which runs across the bottom of Napa and Sonoma."

### DAWG-GONE GOOD LAMB CHOPS WITH CHARRED RED PEPPER

#### INGREDIENTS:

- 4 red bell peppers
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 12 1/2-inch to 3/4-inch lamb rib chops, trimmed

Char peppers over gas flame or in broiler until blackened. Put in paper bag and let stand for 10 minutes. Remove peppers from bag and peel. Halve the peppers lengthwise and remove all seeds. Slice the peppers into strips and place in a pan with 1 tablespoon oil. Preheat broiler or heat grill. Rub lamb with salt and brush with the remaining 1 tablespoon oil. Broil or grill to desired doneness, about three minutes per side for rare. Divide lamb among plates. Bring peppers to simmer. Spoon over lamb.

#### *Wine suggestion:*

The classic match is lamb and Bordeaux, or at least lamb and Cabernet Sauvignon. Having prepared this dish at least 20 times, Eckert says with some certainty that while that may be a good rule overall, it's not the best pairing here. "This is a Spanish recipe, and after trying dozens of wines, I've concluded that a Spanish wine, especially a Rioja, is clearly the way to go," he says. Look for a Reserva (the middle level between Crianza and Gran Reserva) from Muga, Monticello, or Marques de Caceres.

For the more adventuresome, Eckert suggests a Carmenere from Chile. Carmenere is a grape native to Bordeaux that was discovered in the vineyards of Chile about 10 years ago. It's smoky, herbaceous, and medium-bodied. "In other words, perfect for this!"



Eckert joins WSIU Promotions Coordinator Monica Tichenor (right) and MCMA graduate student Beth Spezia at an awards ceremony during the annual conference of the 2007 National Educational Telecommunications Association held in Norfolk, Va. (Photo courtesy of WSIU)

## BRINGIN' HOME THE BACON

After graduating from Southern, Eckert was quickly snatched up by WTHI-TV in Terre Haute, Ind., for a job in which he would wear many hats: news reporter, sportscaster, weatherman, writer, and producer. This first real-world job set the precedent for his future career.

"I think each position I had, each news director I worked under, and each city in which I lived, taught me something that relates to where I am and what I do now. It's not like hosting a PBS-TV program on food, wine, and travel was an actual career goal."

Life, Eckert notes, is never dull when you work in television.

While working as a weekend news anchor at KPLR-TV in St. Louis, Mo. (where he met his wife, Denise), Eckert says the independent station didn't take news seriously. "Our shows were often canceled for kick boxing; they could sell the commercials for more."

The station was attached to the Chase Park Plaza Hotel, which for years hosted "Wrestling at the Chase." The program was taped on Sundays and the Green Room for the

wrestlers was situated just down the hall from the newsroom. One day Eckert arrived just after one of the matches and ran into a winded — and very sweaty — Dick the Bruiser. As he passed him, the Bruiser simply said, "Hi there, newsman!" in a rough, gravelly voice. Eckert became acutely aware that few of his contemporaries in news found their work juxtaposed with wrestlers roaming the halls.

When he left St. Louis in 1985, Eckert began a trek of the industry that found him working at television stations from Boise to Pittsburgh to Kansas City. That last stop showcased his talents as a reporter and anchor at ABC affiliate KMBC-TV, a top-30 market station. During the next five years, he helped to make the Kansas City affiliate the top-rated evening news program and won two regional Emmy Awards for his efforts.

In 1994, Eckert was hired by Chicago superstation WGN-TV, where he would glimpse his future in this assignment. In addition to reporting news, the SIU product developed, produced, reported, and edited "What's Cookin' Chicago." The show allowed him to blend his passion for food and wine with his profes-

sional skills. The path to “Culinary Travels With Dave Eckert” was beginning to take shape.

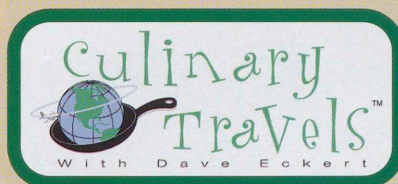
## FRUITS OF HIS LABOR

Eckert travels the world to help his viewers vicariously taste, see, and experience the world of food and wine. Whether the journey is to Tuscany, Shanghai, Ecuador, Turkey, or Las Vegas, he approaches each trip with a completely open mind and a blank palette. Each destination is special for its own culture, cuisine, history, architecture, or wine.

“I’ve been inside the ruins of Pompeii where they planted the same exact varieties of grapes in the same places for more than 2,000 years before Mount Vesuvius buried the city” he notes. “And I’ve been to the highest and oldest vineyard in Europe and halfway up the side of a volcano to pick strawberries. What makes each place special is the people I meet. If they are passionate about what they do and so proud of where they are, it is infectious.”

With countless miles under his belt, Eckert continues to meet and interview notable chefs, vintners, politicians, and celebrities. From food wine mavens such as Bobby Flay and Robert Mondavi to former U.S. Presidents George H. W. Bush and Bill Clinton, he can look back with pride at some remarkable interviews.

His favorite subject, however, was the chat he once had on camera with the late



food and wine expert Julia Child.

“I’ve met plenty of interesting people, but perhaps my favorite interview was the one I was able to do with her,” he says with a laugh. “After we were done, she stared at me and said in that one-of-a-kind voice of hers, ‘You’re very lively!’ That was the *best* compliment ever.”

## THE DAVE ECKERT FILE

**B**orn in Indiana, Penn., Dave Eckert lived in the eastern suburbs of Pittsburgh until he was eight years old. After that, when his mother remarried the future Saluki moved to Arlington Heights, Ill., where he graduated from Prospect High School before heading off to college at Southern Illinois University.

### PROFESSIONAL TIMELINE

1980-1981-WTHI-TV, Terre Haute, Ind.

1981-1982-KARK-TV, Little Rock, Ark.

1982-1985-KPLR-TV, St. Louis, Mo.

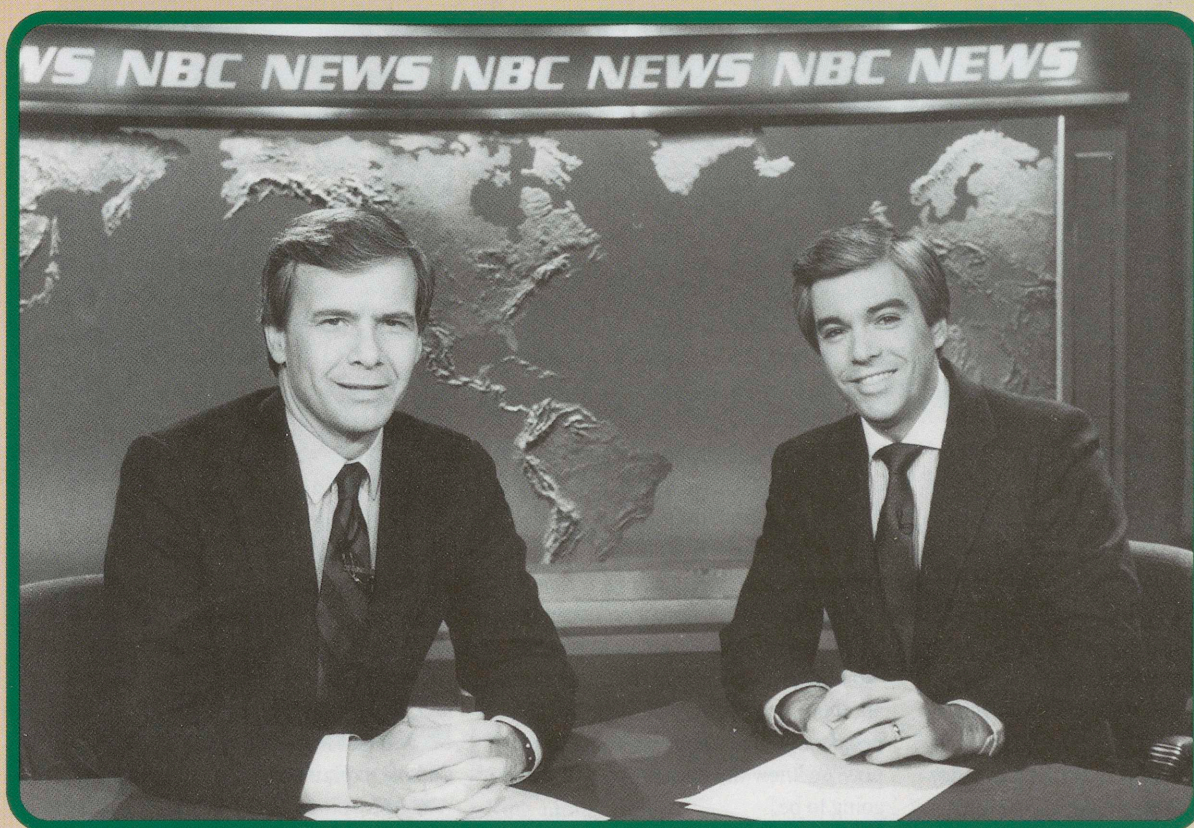
1985-1987-KTVB-TV, Boise, Idaho

1987-1989-WTAE-TV, Pittsburgh, Pa.

1989-1994-KMBC-TV, Kansas City, Mo.

1994-1996, WGN-TV, Chicago, Ill.

1997-present, PBS-TV, *Culinary Travels With Dave Eckert*



While working as a reporter in 1986 for KTVB-TV in Boise, Eckert had the opportunity to interview former NBC News anchor Tom Brokaw. From food and wine mavens such as Bobby Flay and Robert Mondavi, to former U.S. Presidents George H. W. Bush and Bill Clinton, the 1980 Southern grad has had the chance to meet some interesting people during his career.

## 45 Years Of Finding Their Way Home

# The Rathole Gang Still Going Strong

by Ashley Wiehle

Don't ask them if they were beatniks. They *can't* agree on that.

Don't ask them for what is hands-down, definitely, their wildest-ever-can't-top-it story. They can't agree on that either.

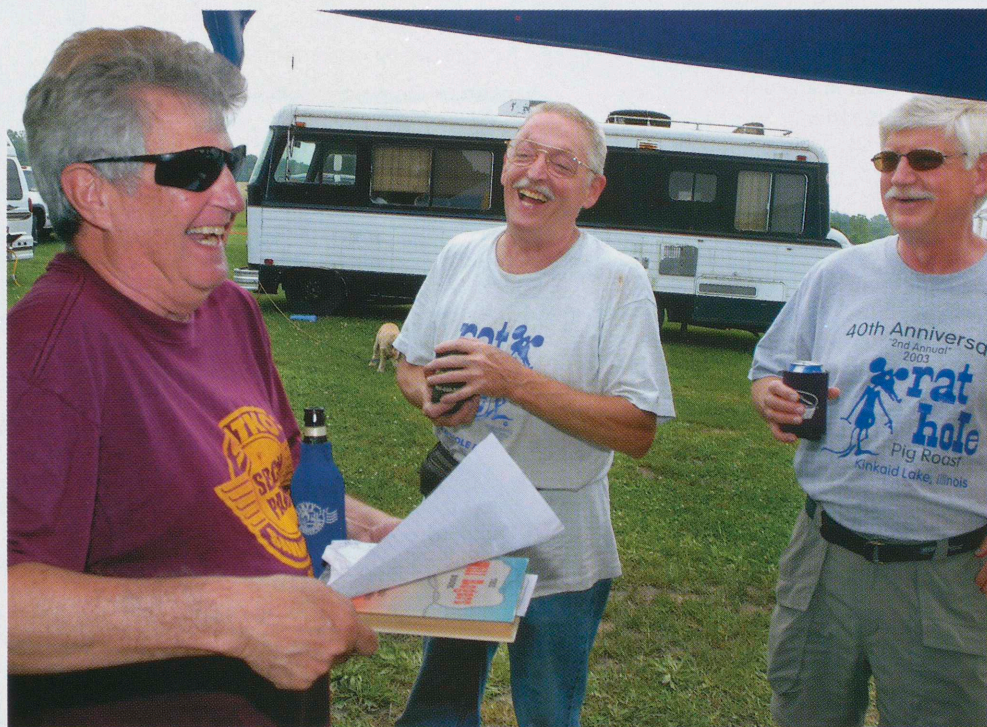
Here's what they can agree on: Traveling more than 1,000 miles each year to roast pigs, drink beer, and play horseshoes with old college buddies is not just a possibility; it's a must.

The Rathole (more formally known as the Rathskeller) used to be a basement bar on the corner of Main and Illinois streets in Carbondale back in the

days when the town boasted fewer such establishments than people have fingers on one hand. "The Rathole Gang" is a group of friends and Southern Illinois University Carbondale alumni who have been meeting back at Southern every Memorial Day weekend for the past 45 years.

"We see people come back from all over the world," says Stephen "Bunny" Howe, a Carbondale native and the man in charge of the kitchen at The Mississippi Flyway.

It is hard to describe how the Rathole Gang manages to stay in contact. They keep each other informed via e-mail and phone calls, but the two-day cookout on Memorial Day weekend is



Photos courtesy of Steve Jahnke, The Southern Illinoisian

Rathole members Gary "Batman" Threw, Stephen "Bunny" Howe, and Gary "Rock" Stonewall share a laugh while recalling a time when they sank a boat.

what really sets the stage for the longevity of their friendship.

That and legendary stories. Like the time the group nearly served rotten pig roast to a Rathole gathering that included former SIU President Delyte Morris. "The guy that was supposed to be minding it got stung by a bee," explains Gary Threw, pointing to his lip where the man was stung.

You can't make this stuff up. The Rathole Gang doesn't need to.

The reunion location shifts from lake to lake – this summer it was at Kinkaid – but the members keep finding one another, says Threw. "It just started and people just showed up," he explains simply. "We know the Rathole pig roast is going to be."

There have been years when a Rathole gathering drew as many as 500 people and a truck full of kegs. The celebrations have dwindled from those mammoth proportions, but two days of socializing and swapping stories remain a standby.

"A lot of people are getting old," Threw says, laughing. "They can't take it for two days anymore."

Despite years under their belts, many continue to plan part of their summer around this annual event. Carole King and Trudy Capelle, for example, wouldn't miss two days with their Rathole buddies.

"We just like being together," Capelle explains. "We're a family not related by blood."

Who needs blood when you have the strong pull of Southern Illinois University? King and her husband, Wally, recently moved back to the area after 30 years of Chicago life.

“My husband thinks it’s God’s country,” King says. “I think it’s humid.”

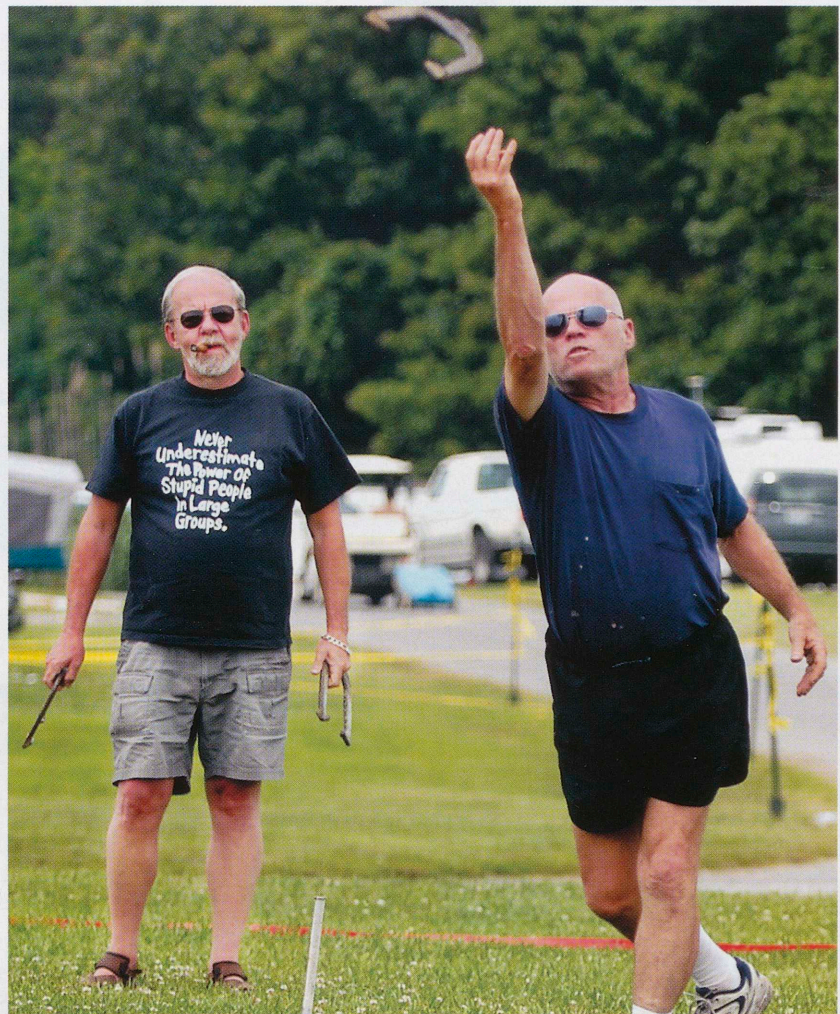
Capelle, who is looking to move back to southern Illinois following her recent retirement as a teacher in Kankakee, wore a black shirt to this year’s pig roast with the mysterious question: “Have you seen Paul Satko?”

Satko, it seems, is a fictional character that the Rathole gang searches for each year. The places of their 26-year search are emblazoned on the back of Capelle’s shirt – New Orleans, Key West.

“We go every year to a different place to search for him en masse,” Capelle says.



Each year Rathole mugs are given to the person with the best joke and to winners of the horseshoe tournament.



Geoff Ryan tosses a horseshoe as his opponent, Wally King, watches during the reunion at Kinkaid Lake. The two are part of a group of friends and patrons who frequented the Rathole bar decades ago, located at what is now Thai Taste in Carbondale.

A dozen search engine results for “Paul Satko” pop up on Google. Satko was allegedly a Virginia machinist who built his family an ark, though historians quibble on whether he actually existed. No one really knows the story about Satko and his connection to the Rathole, King admits.

“There are only five or six of us who know, and we all tell different stories,” she says with a laugh.

Somehow that figures. Once again, they just can’t agree. ■

– Wiehle is a 2005 graduate of SIU and a reporter for *The Southern Illinoisan*.



# SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

*Then*



*...and now*

Fairfield, Illinois native Pat Bruce, the Independent Student Association Sweetheart of 1954, pauses in front of the University School building. Fifty-three years later, Kathleen Kendrick of Carbondale, a graduate student in business, stands in the same place. Although the faces may change over the years, students continue the long, rich legacy of Southern.



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## Giving Back To His Alma Mater

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Few things in life are more important to Bill McGraw '69 than keeping Southern Illinois University vibrant and strong. Although McGraw, a proud life member of the SIU Alumni Association, gives frequently and generously to Southern's programs and people, he's always seeking to convert others to the cause.

"People can become detached when they leave the University," McGraw says. He sees it as his own mission to "get people back on board to help make SIU a better place. We're going to get a lot of people involved – it's so important."

McGraw's latest contribution to his alma mater is on the verge of being official as this issue of *Southern Alumnus* goes to press. A charitable trust, created to honor his parents, the late James and Catherine McGraw, will benefit scholarships and special collections at Morris Library.

Kristine McGuire, development officer at Morris Library, says that Bill and his wife, Gail, "always want to give things that will help." Each issue of the library's newsletter features a section, "The Library is Seeking ...," that asks for private funding of items that could not be otherwise purchased. "Bill and Gail buy something in almost every issue."

This fall the McGraws will be hosting a second series of dinners at their home in Chicago to help raise funds for the library. "Already we've brought alumni on board, many who weren't already involved," he says.

McGraw may be best known, however, as the "bike guy" in Chicago's Rogers Park community. For more than 12 years, he has repaired – at his own time and expense – and given away about 350 bicycles a year, mostly to kids at neighborhood schools and churches.

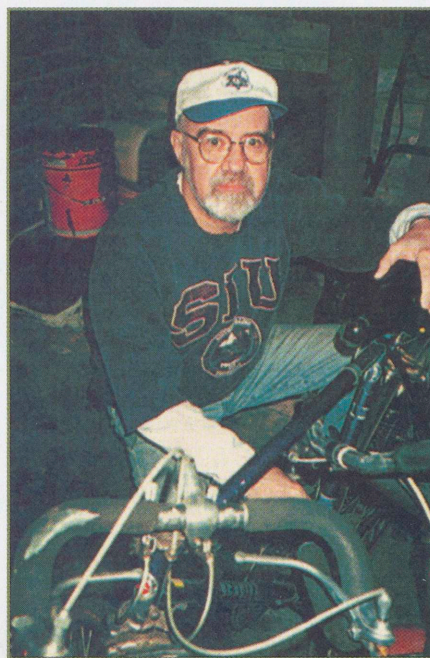
The project is McGraw's own educational project. "This is a tough neighborhood," he says. "I want to give these kids some freedom and some responsibility, a little light in a dark life. Every time I see one go by, I say, 'There goes my bike!'"

For the past 20 years, McGraw has been involved in the meat business; he's currently a sales representative for Stock Yards Packaging in Chicago. Sporting Salukis probably don't realize it, but they've most likely dined on some of his donated products. He has been providing the hamburgers, bratwurst and Italian sausage for Saluki softball and baseball SIU Alumni Association Member Appreciation Days.

"We need more alums like Bill," says SIU Alumni Association Executive Director Ed Buerger. "He's never forgotten SIU or his appreciation for the education he received. He supports the University in so many ways, and is the kind of person the Association and the University depends on."

Giving back is a point of pride to McGraw.

"Everything I do comes out of my own pocket," he says. "People try to give me money, but I just end up giving it to the University. I know how important education is, so I *have* to give back – I wish I'd started 10 years sooner."




Bill McGraw is shown working on one of the many bikes he repairs and gives away to children in the Chicago area each year.



“The Legacy of SIU” campaign honors the contributions of those who came before us, encourages us to be proud of our history, and inspires each of us to continue making our own contributions to the next “chapter.”



[www.siuc.edu/legacy](http://www.siuc.edu/legacy)

  
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