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ON THE COVER
At the historic old guardhouse that was once the main entrance to Scott AFB, four current off-campus students proudly wave the SIU banner. From left are Master Sergeant Anthony Clay, Staff Sergeant Rendi Everhart, Staff Sergeant Melanie Olds, and Chief Master Sergeant Samuel Schmitt.

SAVE THE DATE!
The 2008 SIU Homecoming Weekend will be Oct. 10-11 in Carbondale. Plan now to come back and rekindle your memories of Southern Illinois University Carbondale.

CONTENTS

DEPARTMENTS

Enjoy Your Magazine .................. 2
Thanks For Writing ........................ 3
More Value For You .................. 4
Southern Exposure .................. 6
Commencement Speakers .............. 8
Students Making A Difference ........ 10
Southern Memories .................. 11
Super Students ...................... 18
Saluki Sports ....................... 24
Alumni Apparel ..................... 31
Extern 2008 .......................... 32
Outstanding Thesis Award .............. 34
Carnegie Hall Salukis ................. 35
Association News .................... 36
Distinguished Seniors ................. 39
In Memoriam .......................... 40
Calendar of Events .................... 41
Saluki Family Association ............ 42
Class Notes .......................... 43
Then And Now ........................ 48

FEATURES

Off-Campus Salukis
More than 35 years ago, SIU created a new unit, Off-Campus Academic Programs. In the beginning, the focus was entirely on military installation sites. Today with more than 30,000 off-campus alumni and counting, SIU now travels all over the world – both physically and electronically – to bring its academic programs to inner cities, foreign deserts, submarine bases, fire departments, and everything in between.

A Commitment To Public Service
Chicago attorney Roland Burris, who became the first African-American elected to a major political office in Illinois when he began serving the first of three terms as state comptroller in 1978, has never forgotten the lessons he learned in his hometown of Centralia or from years spent at his alma mater. The SIU Alumni Association life member recently announced he is establishing a $100,000 endowment through the SIU Foundation as part of the University’s Project Hope and Opportunity initiative.

A Sports Renaissance In The Big Easy
As one of the youngest play-by-play men in professional sports, Southern’s Sean Kelley has already experienced a great deal on the road that has guided him to the New Orleans Hornets radio booth. Experiencing the challenges left by Hurricane Katrina has left him with a renewed respect on personal perseverance, as the city’s sports fans and the NBA franchise have found a way to feed off one another. "When the daily lives of countless people are focused on simply surviving, it really gets to you," he explains. "I have seen some remarkable things down here.”

Extern 2008 Assists Students
When Pete Jansons was a football player at Southern, he bounced unruly patrons at local bars, worked on a pig farm, dug ditches, and baled hay to earn money. Now as vice president of sales for CareerBuilder.com, headquartered in his hometown of Chicago, he participated for the first time this year in the SIU Extern Program providing eight SIU students with a real taste of the business world.
On July 1, Doris Rottschalk’s second term as president of the SIU Alumni Association will come to a close. To say she has served this organization with pride and distinction is a bold understatement. The Du Quoin native has indeed been the consummate leader, providing guidance by tireless example.

Taking on such a responsibility can at times be a tiring—and frustrating—endeavor. But the personal rewards end up ruling the day, and she would change few things about the experience.

"Being president has been both a privilege and a challenge," Rottschalk says. "I have enjoyed working with our fantastic staff and the Student Alumni Council, and am so proud of what is being done for our 220,000 alumni in every state and in more than 126 countries around the world.

"Membership in the Association is at an all-time high, and those people have helped us do some wonderful things. More than 45 scholarships last year valued at $52,450 were awarded through affiliate chapters, the Roscoe Pulliam Scholarship, the Alongi Legacy Scholarship, Super Student Awards, the Baker Family Pinckneyville Community High School Scholarship, the Keith and Carol Sanders Scholarship, and other offerings from the Association."

That type of support is rewarding to the retired educator. "I am proud to say that at our recent SIU Alumni Association Board of Directors meeting, a proposal was passed to add $1,000,000 to our scholarship fund," she says.

In the 10 years I have worked at the Association, the organization has been blessed with great leadership. That trend will continue when Rottschalk passes the gavel to president-elect Randy Ragan, a certified public accountant and partner with McGladrey & Pullen LLP in Springfield, Ill.

"I have worked with Randy and know him to be just what the Association needs," she says. "He welcomes challenges, thrives on meeting them, and accomplishes things with a wonderful sense of humor."

In a future issue of the magazine, we will offer a more in-depth look at Ragan as well as the new board members who begin their service next month.

"Since I care so much about SIU, taking an active role with the Association was a privilege," Rottschalk notes, "and being a volunteer for the organization is the least I can do for an institution that gave me so much and continues to serve this region in countless ways."

People have various management styles, and Rottschalk proved to be a hands-on leader who saw little reason to mask her fervor for the University. Her involvement on any project provided valuable counsel, as the 1969 Southern grad’s heart and soul were always along for the ride.

Thanks Doris. Your passion for SIU will long be remembered.
Column On Bayler Appreciated

I enjoyed Gene Green's column on John Bayler in the March edition of Southern Alumni. What a pleasure it was to see a young man featured who is giving so much for his country and ours. Thank you, Gene, for the article, and thank you, John, for your service.

Barbara Valenzuela, Ph.D, B.S. '82, M.A. '86
Life Member
Erie, Penn.

A Lecture Only Fuller Could Give

I am not an alumnus of SIU, but I did teach in the University's Government Department from 1955-59.

One of my emeritus colleagues at SUNY at Fredonia is a Ph.D. in psychology from Southern and he always passes on his copies of Southern Alumni to me. I fully enjoyed your March issue on "The Fuller Legacy."

Permit me to make a slight addition to your story, which said that Fuller began his professorship at SIU in 1960. I left in the summer of 1959, and I vividly recall going to one of the most extraordinary public "lectures" he ever gave in the spring or early summer of 1959 at Shryock Auditorium. Calling it a lecture is both a misnomer and understatement.

He began around 7 p.m. and simply walked back and forth talking incessantly with an unbroken series of ideas and past experiences and occasionally going to a blackboard on stage to illustrate. At around 9 p.m., Fuller gave us a few minutes to get a drink or a breath of fresh air (it was a hot night), and he resumed and continued until around 11 p.m., when the crowd had dwindled to a few stalwarts who took another break, and came back for a third round that continued until around 12:30 a.m.

Despite Southern's small size at the time (I recall there were 4,500 students in 1955 and 12,000 when I left there), we attracted all kinds of emeritus stars such as composer Roy Harris, philosopher Henry Nelson Wieman, the great conductor Nadia Boulanger, and many others. But R. Buckminster Fuller was unlike almost any of them. He was a phenomenon, and I am glad that you paid tribute to the enormous impact of his personality and ideas on the life of the school.

Julius Paul
Fredonia, N.Y.

Alumnus Recalls Fuller's 'Solution'

I was a student at SIU from 1956-62 and worked for University Photographic Services as a photographer. I remember photographing Bucky Fuller numerous times at some of the many events his presence inspired. On one particular occasion, I was in the SIU Design Department when Fuller began discussing the Cold War with some faculty members, eventually describing an unusual solution to a situation.

Fuller explained that everyone in the United States should get in his/her car and drive west. At a predetermined time, they would all apply their brakes. The centrifugal force precipitated by the simultaneous braking would shift the polar ice cap, effectively covering the USSR! Everyone in the room laughed at his solution, but Bucky may have been serious!

Donald Anderson '60
Annual Member
Carmel Valley, Calif.

Dear Readers...

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

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

You can e-mail your letters to alumni@siu.edu. Letters are sometimes edited for length and style.

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

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

Thanks For Getting Involved

I wanted to thank Bonnie Marx for doing a story on me in the March edition of Saluki Pride. Had she decided not to get involved with this mystery, I would never have had the audiotape from my days in the service returned to me. I appreciate the extra efforts of the SIU Alumni Association. It is an understatement for me to say that I was surprised this all happened.

Thank you very much!

Walt Sipple
Marion, Ill.

Editor's Note: To see the story Sipple refers to, please go to siualumni.com for an online version of the Saluki Pride newsletter.
The Gambit Offers Discounts To Association Members

The Gambit Golf Club in Vienna, Ill., is a golfer's haven, offering discounts to SIU Alumni Association members. From the par 71 Richard Osborne–designed course to the Steakhouse and Inn, The Gambit offers a superb championship layout routed through the rolling meadows and woodlands in southernmost Illinois. Members showing their membership cards receive a 10 percent discount on greens fees, lessons, simulator use, meals, and accommodations.

Located off Exit 16 of Interstate 24 between Marion and Paducah, the course is easily accessible from all directions. It is two hours north of Nashville, two hours south of St. Louis, and only 20 minutes from the gaming boats in Metropolis.

The Gambit Golf Club Practice and Learning Facility is the only true indoor practice center in the area. The facility holds two state-of-the-art golf simulators used for practice, playing, and lessons. The simulators show a number of important details in the swing such as club path, face angle and head speed, ball speed, smash factor, and spin rates. Golf lessons are available using the simulator and include video analysis through instructors Bob McBride and Bruce Dowell.

Lunch, dinner, and Sunday brunch is served in the Gambit Steakhouse. The Banquet and Event Center can accommodate parties of up to 300 people, and smaller rooms are available to make it a great location to host your next business meeting or luncheon.

After a long day on the course, the Gambit Inn offers golfers the comforts of home with king and double rooms available. Visit www.siualumni.com for more details.

Contact us online at www.siualumni.com or call 618-453-2408.
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 email 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

Boyar’s Coffee: 10% off. Call Alumni Account for association number.

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

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

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

Heartland Gifts: 10% off gift card per purchase

Huck’s: 10% off gift card per purchase

Houlihan’s: 10% off gift card per purchase

Hampton Inn: 10% off standard room rate

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Melange Coffee Shop: 10% off

Merle Norman Cosmetics: 10% off

Motel & Car Rental: 20% off

Mugsy McGuire’s Restaurant: 10% off

Murdare True Value: 20% off reg. paint, 5% off sale paint

Niehmanning, Inc: 10% off regular priced gift items

Papa Mike’s: 10% off dine in only

Quatro’s Pizza: Free pitcher of soda with medium or large pizza

Repper’s Office Supplies Furniture Machines: 10% off regular priced items

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

Saluki Central: 15% off for SIU apparel

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

Spinosa’s Pizza & Pasta House: Carbondale - 20% off any food purchase of $10 or more (not on special orders or other offers)

Sports Performance Store: Marion - 10% off sports equipment. Call 618-694-3455 for promotional code.

Super & Carbondale: 15% off standard room rate

Tres Hombres: Carbondale - $1 off dinner entrée, $5.50 off lunch entrée.

Uncorked Tours: Carbondale - 10% off tickets

Universites: 20% off

Vogler Ford: Carbondale - 10% off any car rental

Waltz’s Pizza: Marion - 10% off

OTHER

Appraisal Matters: Carbondale - 10% off appraisal report

Buy’s Auto: $2 off any food purchase of $10 or more (not on special orders)

CAMPUS

Morris Library privileges - visit siualumni.com for details

Old Main Restaurant: Student Center - 10% off

CAMPUS University Services: Free access to eRecruiting (job search system) and complimentary resume critiques

Student Center: Bowling & Billiards: members receive SIU student discounts. 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 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
Retired professor and longtime Carbondale community leader Samuel Goldman has been appointed by Southern Illinois University President Glenn Poshard to serve as interim chancellor for the University’s Carbondale campus.

Goldman, who stepped down from his current seat on the University’s Board of Trustees, has been associated with Southern in various teaching and administrative capacities for the last 28 years.

The appointment is the result of a recent decision by Poshard to reassign Chancellor Fernando Treviño to a tenured faculty position pending binding arbitration dispute resolution proceedings between Treviño and the University.

Treviño was placed on administrative leave in March for failing to perform basic job requirements outlined in his employment contract. No further comment regarding the Treviño personnel matter will be offered through the duration of the arbitration proceedings.

SIU Board of Trustees Chairman Roger Tedrick issued the following comment regarding the appointment of Goldman.

“Dr. Goldman has served with great distinction and his direct contributions to this board will be sorely missed, but Sam’s passion and commitment to academic excellence, and his devotion to the faculty, students, and staff at Southern Illinois University will serve us all well in this important endeavor.”

In 1980, Goldman left Ohio University to become dean of the former College of Human Resources at SIU. He subsequently joined former President Albert Somit’s staff, focusing on regional research and service. Goldman then served as a professor in the Department of Educational Administration and Higher Education in the College of Education and Human Services.

In addition to his research, administrative, and classroom work, the new chancellor served on the Faculty Senate’s Judicial Review Board and was a member of the committee that drafted SIUC’s strategic plan, Southern at 150: Building Excellence Through Commitment.

Goldman retired in 2003 and has remained active in the southern Illinois community. He has worked separately with Hospice of Southern Illinois and with Southern Illinois Regional Social Services in both fund raising and marketing.

Goldman told the Daily Egyptian shortly after his appointment that the projected length of his tenure will have no effect on the way he does his job. He says he will take on long-term and short-term initiatives regardless of when a new chancellor might take over.

“It’s really quite immaterial to me,” he told Southern’s student newspaper. “I’m ready to go in 10 minutes, or I’m ready to stay 10 minutes longer.”
Southern Illinois University awarded a degree posthumously to a senior photojournalism student Ryan Rendleman, who died from injuries received in a car accident during the spring semester. Nick Rendleman accepted the diploma on behalf of his brother during commencement exercises for the College of Mass Communication and Media Arts on May 10.

Rendleman, 22, died from injuries sustained in an automobile accident Tuesday, April 29. He was on his way to a photo shoot for The Daily Egyptian when the accident occurred. The Batavia, Ill., resident was scheduled to participate in commencement ceremonies and was planning to work in a summer internship to earn the final credits for his degree.

Interim Chancellor Sam Goldman approved a request by Gary Kolb, interim dean of the College of Mass Communication and Media Arts, to award his degree posthumously. "We are all deeply saddened by the tragic loss of this gifted, warm, and much-beloved young man," Goldman says. "Presenting Ryan's degree to his family is a well-deserved tribute."

William Recktenwald, a senior lecturer and journalist-in-residence, had Rendleman in several classes, including a current class. He says he is proud to call Rendleman a friend. "Ryan was a fine student and a delight to have in the classroom," he notes. "He was first and foremost a devoted Christian; he would read his Bible daily and attended church regularly. For those who will never have a chance to meet Ryan, no words can describe this extraordinary young man. For those of us who were blessed to have known him, no words are necessary."

The School of Journalism announced that the Ryan M. Rendleman Photojournalism Scholarship will honor his memory. Four members of the School of Journalism faculty pledged the initial $2,000 for the scholarship, and the University hopes to collect the $25,000 necessary to create the endowed scholarship, which will go to a deserving Southern photojournalism student.

Ryan Rendleman was a talented photographer for the Daily Egyptian who will long be remembered. "No words can describe this extraordinary young man," says SIU journalist-in-residence William Recktenwald, who taught Rendleman in several classes. (Photo courtesy of the Daily Egyptian.)
Spring Commencement Ceremonies Held At Southern

Southern Illinois University Carbondale's spring commencement exercises were May 9 and 10, with 2,919 candidates for bachelor's degrees, 527 candidates for master's degrees, 87 doctoral degree candidates, 101 law degree candidates, and 23 candidates for associate degrees.

Hedayat Amin-Arsala, a Southern alumnus and a senior minister of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, received an honorary doctorate of humane letters during commencement ceremonies for the College of Liberal Arts. The SIU Alumni Association named him a Distinguished Alumnus in 2006.

Amin-Arsala served in several economic and senior operational posts for the World Bank before leaving in 1987 to join the Afghan resistance against Soviet occupation. He has held several positions within the Afghan government, including appointment as vice president during the country's transitional government in June 2002. He met his wife, Betsy Thomas Amin-Arsala, an SIU graduate, when she was serving in the Peace Corps.

Former SIU professor David Briscoe received the SIU Distinguished Service Award for his work as a scholar and with the community during graduate school commencement ceremonies.

Briscoe earned his doctorate in sociology in 1993 at the University and was a graduate dean fellow, won a dissertation research award, and also served as an instructor and lecturer in the Black American Studies Program. The College of Liberal Arts in 2003 named Briscoe a Distinguished Alumnus.

At the University of Arkansas Little Rock, Briscoe became the first African-American man to achieve the rank of full professor. He has published numerous research articles and papers, served on 70 doctoral dissertation committees, and teaches a variety of graduate and undergraduate courses in sociology.

Nine alumni received Alumni Achievement Awards as part of individual college and school ceremonies. The award is the highest honor presented by the SIU Alumni Association.

Commencement speakers for the ceremonies were as follows:

College of Liberal Arts – Motivational speaker, author, and Marion native Danny Cox gave the address and received the Alumni Achievement Award.

The California resident is president of Acceleration Unlimited. He earned a bachelor's degree in geography from SIU in 1956 and received a commission with the U.S. Air Force through SIU's ROTC program after graduation and entered pilot training. The test pilot and air show pilot served in the military for 10 years and broke the sound barrier nearly 2,000 times, becoming internationally known as "The Sonic Boom Salesman."

Cox went to work for one of the nation’s largest sales companies after leaving the military, where sales records were broken. Cox opted to share his success. Sixteen of his clients have been on Fortune magazine’s “100 Best Places to Work” list. His books include Leadership When the Heat’s On, Seize the Day: 7 Steps to Achieving the Extraordinary in an Ordinary World and There Are No Limits: Breaking the Barriers in Personal High Performance.

College of Agricultural Sciences – Tim Southey, vice president of landscape operations for Green View Companies of Bloomington-Normal, gave the address and received the Alumni Achievement Award.

Southey earned his bachelor's degree in plant and soil science in 1980 from SIU. Following graduation, he joined Green View Companies, where his positions included landscape design consultant, landscape manager, and division manager. He is president of SIU's Agriculture Alumni Society, a member of the college's advisory board, a member of the SIU Alumni Association's National Board of Directors, and serves on the Illinois Vision for Agriculture Committee.

College of Applied Sciences and Arts – Dale Hall, manager of warranty administration for General Motors Corp. in Flint, Mich., gave the address and received the Alumni Achievement Award.

Hall, a New Athens native, earned his associate of applied science degree in automotive technology in 1986 and his bachelor of science degree in advanced technical studies in 1988, both from SIU. As an undergraduate student, he received the TRW Corporate Academic Scholarship three times and the Delyte W. Morris Academic Scholarship twice. He was a leader in automotive technologies student organizations and interned with the Buick Motor Division of General Motors.

He is the current president of the Greater Detroit SIU Alumni Association, which he helped organize. Hall and his wife, Colleen, established a personal endowment to benefit students in the automotive technology program. He was also instrumental in establishing the General Motors Corporation Service and Parts Scholarship, and the General Motors Corporation SIU Alumni Scholarship.

College of Business and Administration – Greg Lee, senior vice president for human resources for Motorola Inc. in Schaumberg, gave the address and received the Alumni Achievement Award.

Lee earned a bachelor’s degree in marketing in 1972 from SIU. Prior to joining Motorola Inc. in January, he was senior vice president, human resources, at Coca-Cola Enterprises, and led a comprehensive restructuring of the company’s human resources function. His experience also includes leadership positions with Sears, Roebuck and Co., Whirlpool Corp., St. Paul Companies Inc., and PepsiCo Inc.

College of Education and Human Services – Norma Ewing, associate dean for academics in the University's College of Education and Human Services, gave the address, and emeritus professor Louis Vieceli received the Alumni Achievement Award.
Ewing has served Southern in a variety of roles during the last 35 years. A three-degree Southern graduate, she earned a bachelor's degree in health education and English in 1961, a master's of science in elementary education and special education in 1968, and a doctoral degree in special education and educational administration in 1973.

Ewing has served as associate dean for 10 years, and she chaired the Department of Special Education for nine years. She is a 2003 SIU Woman of Distinction.

Vieceli served as a faculty member of SIU's Rehabilitation Institute from 1959 until his retirement in 1993. The Johnston City native earned a bachelor's degree in physical education from SIU in 1948 and a master's degree in educational psychology in 1959.

Prior to joining Southern, Vieceli served as a rehabilitation counselor with the Illinois Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, now the Division of Rehabilitation Services, which is within the Illinois Department of Human Services. He is the recipient of many honors and awards for contributions to the rehabilitation and job placement of blind individuals. He is a 2002 inductee into the American Printing House Hall of Fame for Leaders and Legends of the Blindness Field.

**College of Engineering** – Necip Sayiner, president and CEO of Silicon Laboratories in Austin, Texas, gave the address and received the Alumni Achievement Award.

Sayiner earned his master's degree in electrical engineering from SIU in 1988. He joined Silicon Laboratories in his current position in September 2005. He also previously worked in research and development within Bell Laboratories. He holds several patents related to data detection schemes.

Sayiner earned his bachelor's degree in electrical engineering and physics from Bosphorus University in Turkey, and a doctoral degree in electrical engineering from the University of Pennsylvania.

School of Law – Merri Jo Gillette, director of the Securities and Exchange Commission's Midwest Regional Office in Chicago, gave the address, and Lee Beneze, a legal services developer with the Illinois Department on Aging in Springfield, received the Alumni Achievement Award.

Named to her current post in 2004, Gillette oversees the SEC's second largest regional office, which includes several hundred attorneys and accountants. The region's jurisdiction for enforcement matters and regulatory examinations covers nine Midwestern states. Prior to her current appointment, Gillette served as associate district administrator for enforcement in the SEC's Philadelphia Regional Office. She initially joined the SEC as a staff attorney in 1986.

Beneze earned his law degree from the SIU School of Law in 1985. The second longest-serving state legal services developer in the United States, he has worked in the Illinois Department of Aging's Office of Elder Rights since 1988. He works on senior legal issues, such as elder abuse and neglect, financial exploitation, nursing home resident rights, and guardianship. Beneze worked for the Springfield law firm of Morse, Giganti and Appleton for three years before going to work for the Department of Aging.

**College of Mass Communication and Media Arts** – Mike Reis, the long-time radio personality and play-by-play voice of the Salukis, gave the address and received the Alumni Achievement Award.

Reis earned a bachelor's degree in radio-television at SIU in 1978. Considered one of the top announcers in collegiate sports, he started as the Saluki play-by-play announcer after graduating. Reis' broadcasts of Saluki football, basketball, and baseball games cover 29 of the last 30 years, missing only one year when another radio station held broadcast rights.

The first announcer in SIU history to be inducted into the Saluki Hall of Fame, Reis is also a member of the Illinois Basketball Coaches Association Hall of Fame. He is also the 2008 recipient of the Missouri Valley Conference's "John Sanders Spirit of the Valley Award," and was given the SIU Alumni Association Distinguished Service Award in 2007.

**College of Science** – West Frankfort native Robert Gower, former president, CEO, and cofounder of Carbon Nanotechnologies Inc., gave the address and received the Alumni Achievement Award. He earned his bachelor's and master's degrees in chemistry from SIU in 1958 and 1960.

Gower worked with the late Richard Smalley, a Nobel Prize winner and professor at Rice University, in forming CNL. The company merged with Unidym Corp. in 2007, and Gower remains on the company's board of directors. Gower has more than 40 years experience in the chemical industry. In 1985 he took over as president and CEO of Houston-based Lyondell Petrochemical Co., subsequently turning around a company that was losing $200 million a year. Industry Week magazine later named the company one of the 100 Best Managed Companies in the World. He is a 1996 SIU Distinguished Alumni Award recipient.

**Graduate School** – Traditionally, there is no guest speaker for the program. David Goldstein, Department of Anthropology, received the 2007 Outstanding Dissertation Award. Forrest Brem was the recipient of the 2007 Outstanding Thesis Award presented by the SIU Alumni Association.

Two other individuals will receive honorary degrees at a future commencement ceremony. Humanitarian Eunice Kennedy Shriver, long a champion of those with intellectual disabilities and the driving force behind the creation of Special Olympics, will receive an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters. Academy Award-winning and internationally acclaimed film editor and sound designer Walter Murch will receive an Honorary Degree of Fine Arts.
SIU Debate Team Captures National Championship

There is no argument: the Southern Illinois University Carbondale Debate Team is the best in the nation. Its win at the National Parliamentary Tournament of Excellence in March verifies it.

“Our team of Kevin Calderwood and Kyle Dennis dominated the tournament,” says Todd Graham, director of the debate team. “They were better researched and smarter – more intelligent, insightful and held a deeper understanding of world events – than every single team they debated.”

Calderwood is a sophomore in political science from Chesterfield, Mo., and Dennis is a senior in business from Blue Springs, Mo. The duo won back-to-back tournaments in California in March at the prestigious Sunset Cliffs Classic. It was the first time ever the same pair won both tournaments. The duo holds a 50 wins, 4 losses record, so they are far more used to winning than not.

“Winning the national championship, on top of a stellar season this year, is a fabulous accomplishment for our Saluki Debate Team,” says Nathan Stucky, chair of the Department of Speech Communication. “This is something we can all celebrate. We were the underdog up against bigger and better-financed teams, and our Salukis cleared the field.”

Aerobic Team Also Are Top Dawgs!

Southern's aerobic team recently swept the competition out of the sky, winning the International Aerobatic Club's Collegiate Team Award. Andrew Bochnovic, a senior in aviation technologies, won the 2007 IAC Individual Collegiate Trophy as the top scoring aerobic pilot.

In 2001, the IAC introduced a collegiate competition category, and SIU's team, via the aviation technologies department, launched that same year and won the first collegiate competition. Since then, the team has six victories to its credit in the seven years of IAC collegiate competition. The only year the team didn't win, 2003, it placed second. This year, Southern's overall percentage score was 85.68 to win. Second place University of North Dakota had 82.56 percent.

“We consider our success against other teams to be quite significant - especially since the other teams are funded by their universities and we have been privately funded since the inception of the competition in 2001,” says Charles Rodriguez, assistant professor of aviation technologies.

In order to win, he explains, the pilots must commit to perfection, studying video of their own maneuvers with a critical eye to find every flaw, no matter how small. “We aren't daredevils, nor are we foolish. There is a great deal of safety in our flying. Team members, in addition to individual champion Bochnovic, are: Jeremy Brown, Christina Mayberry, Eric Platt, and Akira Tommii.
Former Track Star Enjoys Returning To Carbondale

by John Flamer '65

I recently enjoyed a return to Carbondale, coming back in March to celebrate the 50th anniversary of my arrival on the Southern Illinois University campus. As the state prep cross country and mile champion out of Yonkers, N.Y., in 1958, I arrived at SIU anxious to compete at the collegiate level.

Former SIU Gymnastics Coach Tom DeCarlo, who had won several state titles in the sport for Gorton High School in Yonkers, introduced me to Southern. I ended up going there and received a four-year scholarship in cross country and track from Saluki Coach Leland “Doc” Lingle.

Competing for both Lingle – and later Lew Hartzog – I was an all-American in cross country and a member of the NAIA Cross Country National Team in 1960 and the NCAA College Division National Team in 1961.

Over the years I took pride in encouraging several individuals to attend SIU. Among those who came to the University and did great things were: Isadore Ramos (wrestler at Southern who went on to earn his master’s and doctorate degrees at Brown University, and was recently elected mayor of East Providence, R.I.), Oscar Moore (a New York native who was an Olympian in the 5,000 meter event), Richard Roundtree (New Rochelle, N.Y., product who tried out for the Saluki football team, but gained stardom in Hollywood as an actor in the movie Shaft), and Lance Clark (came to SIU from Mt. Vernon, N.Y., and is now vice president of Fashion Fair for Ebony magazine).

In 1964 I was employed by SIU as a counselor/coach at the Job Corps Center in Morganfield, Ky. I held this position for three years before returning to Illinois as a seventh- and eighth-grade teacher in Sandusky, and later a teacher/principal at the Youth Correctional Center in Metropolis.

I returned to Southern in 1968 as assistant to Vice President for Business Affairs John Rendleman. SIU alumnus John Holmes and Carbondale Assistant Mayor John Keene were instrumental in this move.

I later worked in the University’s affirmative action and construction compliance offices, before going to the Edwardsville campus with Rendleman when he was appointed chancellor there. At SIUE I became the first black cross country coach in Illinois higher education history and later took over the University’s men and women’s track and cross country programs.

My 32-year affiliation with the SIU system came to a close in 1988 when I joined the Illinois Education Association as a higher education organizer.

I married Mary Holder, a former Carbondale resident, and we enjoy our eight children, 13 grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren. Track still runs in the family, as our son, Tim, coached his nephew, Stephen Pifer, to the Illinois state championship in cross country and the mile in the late 1990s at Edwardsville High School.

Now a senior at the University of Colorado, Stephen is a six-time all-American and a member of the NCAA National Cross Country Championship Team (2004 and 2006). He has qualified for the 1,500 meter race at the Olympic Trials this June in Eugene, Oregon.

Editor's Note: Now retired, Flamer and his wife reside in Glen Carbon, Ill.
FOR MORE THAN 35 YEARS, THOUSANDS OF MILITARY PERSONNEL HAVE BEEN SERVED BY SOUTHERN'S ABILITY TO DELIVER EDUCATION VIRTUALLY ANYWHERE.

BY BONNIE MARX
Jeanne Aguirre, SIU program coordinator at Scott AFB, (left) was proud to represent SIU at the inauguration of Mark Lombardi as president of Maryville University on April 18. Also on hand was Ann Eberlin, president of the St. Louis alumni chapter, and a co-representative of the university.

Military Advanced Education, which is available online, conducted its first competition this past year to select the top colleges and universities. They were looking for “significant players in military education, whether for number of military contracts, number of military students served, availability of financial aid and scholarship, and other ‘military-friendly’ qualities.

SIU placed in the top 30; hundreds of universities were eligible. Southern is one of the more than 1,800 colleges and universities that are members of Servicemembers Opportunity Colleges, a consortium that provides voluntary postsecondary education to members of the military throughout the world.

The face of SIU to the military is Beebe, whose office is the umbrella that covers off-campus programs in industrial technology in the College of Engineering; Workforce Education in the College of Education and Human Services; and several programs in the College of Applied Sciences and Arts. Each of the colleges also has its own coordinator of off-campus programs.

Beebe, a U.S. Navy veteran himself, describes his job as internal and external liaison. His office negotiates memoranda of agreements and handles the licensing with the military, efforts that produce mountains of paperwork, as anyone even faintly aware of the military’s penchant for paperwork will appreciate.

On the day he spoke with Southern Alumni, he was casting a wary eye toward a two-inch thick sheaf of papers that had newly appeared on his desk.

“Missouri just came out with new regulations,” he said wryly.

The military, Beebe says, demands “anywhere, anytime” education and he is the first and most important rung on SIU’s ladder, negotiating new partnerships and program sites, while making sure the existing ones thrive.

Beebe says computers revolutionized off-campus programs everywhere, but nothing affected programs across the nation in such mammoth proportions as the Iraq War. “The war is the biggest impact,” he says. “It’s no mean feat to guarantee a soldier that he or she doesn’t have to stop their education because of being shipped to Iraq.”

THE PROPER FORMAT

All of Southern’s off-campus programs began in an alternating weekend...
format. Classes meet eight hours on Saturdays and eight hours on Sundays every other weekend. In between, students have homework and class assignments to sandwich in among their 24/7 responsibility to the military, their full-time military jobs, their homes and families, and everything else. At Scott AFB, soldiers are also required to perform community service apart from their usual duties.

In 2008, programs still follow an alternating weekend model, although there are options aplenty for delivering classes to students. The weekend format "has worked very well for us," Beebe notes. It originated because of a Veterans Administration requirement that classes be held every week. Because Saturday was counted as the last day of the week and Sunday the first, it worked like a charm.

In every SIU off-campus program, students must fulfill core course requirements elsewhere. Programs offered are as follows:

**WORKFORCE EDUCATION & DEVELOPMENT, COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES**

With one of the largest education, training, and development departments in the nation, Southern's WED program got a big thumbs-up recently when an external evaluation team named it among the top 10 such departments in the United States. The typical service member in WED programs is 35 years old, has 12 years of military experience, holds an upper enlisted rank, will retire with more than 20 years of service, is in a training and development position with the military, and will become a trainer in the public or private sector as a direct result of participation with the WED program.

**INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY, COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING & TECHNOLOGY**

The Industrial Technology program, designed to prepare management-oriented technical professionals, operates at military bases and industrial sites from coast to coast. Typical job titles of these graduates are control technician, management analyst, production supervisor, shift manager, quality engineer, industrial engineer, and industrial specialist.

**COLLEGE OF APPLIED SCIENCES & ARTS**

*Automotive Technology* provides in-depth automotive technical expertise, written and oral communication skills, and management and supervisory procedures. Curriculum requirements are the same as the on-campus requirements. To date, this program is available only to graduates of Harry S. Truman College and Kennedy-King Colleges in Chicago. It is taught at Truman College.

*Aviation Management* is designed to build on technical training in aviation maintenance, flight, avionics technology,
## SIU Bachelor Degree Programs Being Offered at Military Bases

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State Offered</th>
<th>Base</th>
<th>Program</th>
<th>First</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arkansas</td>
<td>Little Rock AFB</td>
<td>Industrial Technology</td>
<td>May 1975</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>California</td>
<td>Edwards AFB</td>
<td>Health Care Management</td>
<td>Jan. 1996</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>North Island NAS</td>
<td>Workforce Education</td>
<td>Jan. 1990</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>San Diego NMC</td>
<td>Workforce Education</td>
<td>Dec. 1975</td>
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<td></td>
<td>San Diego NS</td>
<td>Industrial Technology</td>
<td>Aug. 1975</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Travis AFB</td>
<td>Health Care Management</td>
<td>Mar. 1975</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Connecticut</td>
<td>Groton NNSB</td>
<td>Workforce Education</td>
<td>June 1978</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delaware</td>
<td>Dover AFB</td>
<td>Industrial Technology</td>
<td>Aug. 1977</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florida</td>
<td>Eglin AFB</td>
<td>Health Care Management</td>
<td>Aug. 2001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hurlburt Field</td>
<td>Industrial Technology</td>
<td>Nov. 2000</td>
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<td>Mayport NS</td>
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<td>Georgia</td>
<td>Fort Gordon</td>
<td>Workforce Education</td>
<td>Dec. 1982</td>
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<td>Illinois</td>
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<td>Scott AFB</td>
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<td>Apr. 1975</td>
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<td>Maryland</td>
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<td>Apr. 1973</td>
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<td>New Mexico</td>
<td>Kirtland AFB</td>
<td>Workforce Education</td>
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<td>North Carolina</td>
<td>Camp Lejeune MCB</td>
<td>Health Care Management</td>
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<td>Cherry Point MCAS</td>
<td>Aviation Management</td>
<td>Oct. 1976</td>
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<td>South Carolina</td>
<td>Charleston AFB</td>
<td>Workforce Education</td>
<td>Oct. 1975</td>
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<td>Tennessee</td>
<td>NSA Memphis</td>
<td>Workforce Education</td>
<td>Aug. 1976</td>
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<td>Texas</td>
<td>Goodfellow AFB</td>
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<td>Virginia</td>
<td>FCTCL Dam Neck</td>
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<td>NBK Bangor</td>
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<td>McChord AFB</td>
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## Programs Offered at Places Other Than Military Bases

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<td>California</td>
<td>Mount San Antonio College</td>
<td>Aviation Management</td>
<td>Jan. 1999</td>
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<td>Palomar College</td>
<td>Fire Service Mgt.</td>
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<td>Progressive Products</td>
<td>Aviation Management</td>
<td>Aug. 2006</td>
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<td>Joliet</td>
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<td>E. St. Louis Higher Education</td>
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<td>Aug. 2007</td>
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<td>Parkland College</td>
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<td>Industrial Technology</td>
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<td>Triton College</td>
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<td>Truman College</td>
<td>Automotive Tech.</td>
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<td>University Center</td>
<td>Fire Service Mgt.</td>
<td>Jan. 2006</td>
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<td>Lake County</td>
<td>Elementary Education</td>
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<td>Indiana</td>
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<td>M.S., Education/Rehab.</td>
<td>June 2001</td>
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<td>Barnes-Jewish Hospital</td>
<td>Post-Baccalaureate</td>
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<td>Jan. 2002</td>
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<td>NGA M.A./Certificate</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Earth Science/Geospatial Analysis</td>
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</table>

## Legend

- AFB: Air Force Base
- FCTCL: Fleet Combat Training Center Atlantic
- MCAS: Marine Corps Air Station
- MCB: Marine Corps Base
- NAS: Naval Air Station
- NBK: Naval Base Kitsap
- NH: Naval Hospital
- NMC: Naval Medical Center
- NNMC: National Naval Medical Center
- NSW: Naval Submarine Base
- NLR: Naval Air Station
- NSA: Naval Station
- NH: Naval Hospital
- NGA: National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency
- U.S. Navy: United States Navy
air traffic control, aircraft operations support, and other aviation-related fields, the program graduates people who go on to professional, technical, and management positions in aviation manufacturing, the airlines, general aviation, military aviation, and government agencies related to aviation.

Electronic Systems Technologies provides an essential foundation in basic electronics and offers a blend of advanced technical and managerial coursework for students pursuing careers in the electronics industry.

Fire Service Management is the only program offered exclusively off-campus. Fire service management is a two-year upper division program of study aimed at fire service professionals in the areas of management and supervision. The program is one of only four in the country to be accredited by the international fire service accreditation congress. It is offered through Southern but located only at Triton College (River Grove), The College of Lake County (Grayslake), Parkland College (Champaign), and Goodfellow Air Force Base (San Angelo, Texas).

Health Care Management provides course work and experience across the spectrum of health care supervision and management. Many graduates obtain supervisory and administrative positions in various health and medical facilities, such as hospitals, nursing homes, public health departments, health care training institutions, or HMOs.

GETTING THINGS DONE

When it comes to commitment to achieving their goals, off-campus students are hard to top. Think about it: they're already intrinsically committed 24 hours a day to the military, working a full-time job, and always subject to being deployed to a war zone; they have also taken on the load of spending 16 hours every other weekend in a classroom and doing the homework and research that entails for up to 18 months; and most have families, with all that encompasses.

Still, those who teach in the off-campus programs report their students are abundantly enthusiastic. "The students really want to be there," Beebe says. "I loved it when I taught in the programs. They challenge you, unlike a typical 18-year-old."

Beebe isn't alone in his enthusiasm for teaching off-campus classes. "The faculty in these programs really wants to be there," he points out. "Adjunct faculty comes out of industry and they bring the real life to it."

Reaching out to off-campus alumni is one of the goals that Michelle Suarez, interim executive director of the SIU Alumni Association, has set.

"During our initial meeting, Dr. Beebe spoke of the importance of off-campus students feeling as if they are a part of the main campus," Suarez says. "It's a relationship we need to strengthen and fortify every day."

While many of the Association's alumni groups are located in cities, Suarez hopes to "develop other opportunities for the Association" with off-campus alumni. There are the beginnings of an alumni chapter already in Virginia Beach, Va.

After all, we're all Salukis here. "They (off campus graduates) receive the same diplomas," Beebe says. "We all bleed maroon."

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**IS SIU WORTH IT? AbSaluki!**

Many of the SIU students at the Groton, Conn., naval submarine base weren't even a gleam in the parents' eyes when the off-campus degree program launched there 30 years ago.

In June, the Workforce Education and Development (WED) Program celebrated the anniversary with the record of enrolling three consecutive classes each year since June 1978. It's one of WED's 17 locations nationwide, in addition to the main campus in Carbondale.

Most of the students are active military; some are retired. But Connie Plessman, program coordinator at Groton, says that all of them are Salukis, despite the fact that most have never set eyes on Carbondale.

One of the special features of the 30th anniversary celebration was an idea dreamed up in the Instructional Systems Design class that Plessman teaches. Students were working to write instructional objectives—or slogans if you will. The class had the right idea, but she urged them to punch up their writing, to strengthen it.

Plessman told her Salukis "to tighten it a bit, ensuring a much more specific objective that wouldn't lead to misinterpretation," she recalls.

Later in the day, when Plessman responded, "Absolutely!" to a response on the part of a student, another piped up with "AbSaluki," a play on words that delighted them so much that they came up with an idea for a anniversary t-shirt.

The shirts read, "Is SIU Worth It? AbSaluki!" And every one of the students at the Groton site was sporting one free as a part of the open house celebration.

Keith Waugh, WED chair at Southern, spoke at the event, and Capt. Mark Ginda, base commanding officer, received a commemorative plaque in recognition of his and the naval base's support for the SIUC program.

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Connie Plessman, SIU program coordinator at Groton, Conn., shows off a shirt that her students dreamed up in a class and later became part of the program's 30th anniversary celebration.

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"It's a relationship we need to strengthen and fortify every day," Beebe says. "It's a relationship we need to strengthen and fortify every day," Beebe says. After all, we're all Salukis here. "They (off campus graduates) receive the same diplomas," Beebe says. "We all bleed maroon."

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**Bonnie Marx**
Super Students

Goodin And Rabideau: Two Super Students With Plenty In Common

by Stacey Vinson

Sean Goodin and Amanda Rabideau share many similar achievements as students at Southern Illinois University Carbondale. In addition to 3.7 grade point averages, the pair are:

• Dean's List students and University Honors Program recipients
• Student Life Advisors and SOAR staff members
• President's Volunteer Service Award recipients

Now, they have something else in common. Goodin and Rabideau were recently selected as recipients of the Super Student Scholarship, awarded by the Student Alumni Council of the SIU Alumni Association. The scholarship is valued at $500, and recipients are selected for their academic prowess and contributions to campus life.

Goodin is pursuing bachelor's degrees in physiology and philosophy/political science. The Red Bud, Ill., native is currently president of Tri-Beta Honor Society, vice president of the Pre-Health Professions Association, and undergraduate representative for the College of Science Dean Advisory Board. He is also an AmeriCorps member and New Student Programs residential advisor.

Goodin won first place in oral presentation at the 2007 Regional St. Louis Area Undergraduate Research Symposium for his research. He also volunteers his time at the Abundant Health Clinic and African American Museum. He is planning to attend medical school and already conducts research in physiology. Jodi Huggenvik, associate professor of physiology, says, "Sean sets the standards for a super student. He represents the best of Southern Illinois University students."

Goodin says he quickly learned that an education is clearly something more than textbooks and classes. "The awaiting opportunities surrounded and intrigued me," he explains. "I began to take full advantage of these opportunities and quickly learned that SIU provides the foundation for a melting pot of prospects and goals."

Rabideau, a physiology and philosophy major, is also an undergraduate student researcher and has completed one project that has earned her a co-authorship on a manuscript submitted for publication. For her research, she received the 2008 Lonnie Russell Undergraduate Research Award.

Prema Narayan, assistant professor of physiology, is the leader of the laboratory in which Rabideau conducts research. "Amanda's research accomplishments are rare in undergraduate students. These are milestones that we expect our graduate students to accomplish," Narayan says. "She is an important contributor to my research program and the ideal student that faculty dream of mentoring."

The Pittsburg, Ill., native is an active volunteer, working with AmeriCorps, Saluki Volunteer Corps, and Big Brothers Big Sisters.

"Since coming to SIU as a freshman, this University has become a critical component of defining who I am," Rabideau says. "I am proud to be a Saluki, and I believe that Southern offers students a well-rounded education."
A Closer Look At The ‘Super Students’

SEAN GOODIN
College of Liberal Arts/College of Science
Hometown: Red Bud, Illinois
GPA: 3.7

RSO Involvement:
Student Leadership Council (Fall 2005 – present); Sigma Alpha Lambda (2006 – present); Alpha Lambda Delta (2006 – present);

Service and Employment:
Saluki Volunteer Corps.; SIU School of Medicine’s Physiology Department, student researcher (Sept. 2005 to present); New Student Programs, residential adviser (Summer 2006); SOAR staff member (Fall 2005 – Summer 2006); Student Life Adviser, team captain (2006-07); AmeriCorps, member (2006-07); Abundant Health Resource Clinic, volunteer (2005 to present); African American Museum of Carbondale, volunteer (2006 to present).

Awards, Honors, Achievements:
University Honors Program (2005 to present); Dean’s List (2005-06); SIU Dean’s Scholar Scholarship Recipient (2005); University Honors Program Academic Scholarship recipient (2007); Bruce and Mary Lou Swineburne Academic Scholarship recipient (2006-07).

“I quickly learned that an education is clearly something more than textbooks and classes. The awaiting opportunities surrounded and intrigued me. I began to take full advantage of these opportunities and quickly learned that SIU provides the foundation for a melting pot of prospects and goals.”

AMANDA RABIDEAU
College of Liberal Arts/College of Science
Hometown: Pittsburg, Illinois
GPA: 3.7

RSO Involvement:
Student Leadership Council (Fall 2005 – Spring 2006); Beta Beta Beta, treasurer (Spring 2008 to present); Pre-Health Professions Association, treasurer, president (2005 to present).

Service and Employment:
Department of Physiology, student researcher (Fall 2005 to present); Student Life Adviser, team captain; SOAR, staff member; Assisting Pre-Health Adviser; Judge for Junior Science Fair; Big Brothers Big Sisters; Abundant Health Resource Center; AmeriCorps; African American Museum; Saluki Volunteer Corps.

Awards, Honors, Achievements:
University Honor’s Program (2005 to present); REACH grant (2007, 2008); Lonnie Russell Undergraduate Research Award (Spring 2008); Dean’s List (Fall 2005, Spring 2006, Spring 2007, Summer 2007); Presidential Scholarship (Fall 2005 to present); President’s Volunteer Service Award (2005-07).

“Since coming to SIU as a freshman, this university has become a critical component of defining who I am … I am proud to be a Saluki and I believe that SIU offers students a well-rounded education.”

“Members like me help Salukis maintain their Southern roots.”

Your connection to SIU should not end once you receive your diploma. With alumni across the nation, SIU Alumni chapters help fellow Salukis continue their connection to SIU. Many chapter members attend events, and volunteer for activities together.

The main goal of alumni chapters is to bring together the efforts of alumni to establish an SIU presence in their area, to encourage participation in and provide information about the University, and to facilitate involvement and camaraderie among Salukis around the world.

Join Today -- visit www.siualumni.com or call 618-453-2408 for membership and program information.
A LIFETIME COMMITMENT TO PUBLIC SERVICE
by Greg Scott

While sitting in his office on Wacker Drive in downtown Chicago, Roland Burris reflects on a distinguished 20-year career in public service, highlighted by a four-year stint as attorney general for the State of Illinois (1991 to 1995).

While he has met his share of influential people across the nation, no individual had a greater impact on the 1959 SIU Carbondale graduate than a college roommate 50 years ago. The two were members of the Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity, with Burris serving as president.

At the home on Walnut Street, he had the opportunity to observe the young man every day. With his freshman year complete, he began his sophomore year with great hope that rapidly descended into overwhelming challenge.

“This gentleman didn’t have any money for food. He looked for an envelope in the mail from his family but it wasn’t forthcoming,” Burris says. “So he filled himself up with water in the evenings before going to bed. One day I came home and he was gone. He was doing fine academically but had to drop out of Southern because he didn’t have money to carry on. That was in 1958, and I never knew what happened to him.”

The Centralia native, who became the first African-American to be elected to a major political office in Illinois when he began serving the first of three terms as state comptroller in 1978, has never forgotten the young man. “My former SIU roommate is my motivation for helping SIU students,” he says. “He would have received a degree from Southern with ample resources, and I don’t want to see any more students in that situation.”

Burris, an attorney who also heads Burris and Lebed Consulting firm specializing in government and political relations, has held true to his word. While hosting a reception at his home in April, Burris announced that he is establishing a $100,000 endowment through the SIU Foundation as part of the University’s Project Hope and Opportunity initiative. The campaign seeks to establish a $1 million scholarship program and increase financial assistance to minorities and other traditionally under-represented populations at Southern.

The University will present scholarships through the Roland W. Burris Scholarship Endowment once it is fully funded, using interest from the account to fund the awards. Burris says recipients must be African-American students at Southern who hail from either his native Centralia or the Chicagoland area, and pursue a field of study in the College of Liberal Arts.

“We need to establish scholarship funds for black students who don’t have resources to support their own education,” Burris says. “I’m doing my part to help, and I’m hopeful that my fellow SIU graduates will do the same.”

A COMMITMENT TO SOUTHERN

Those close to Burris say his commitment to Southern is nothing new. Berlean Burris, his wife of 47 years, says her husband always speaks fondly of his SIU experience. “In terms of loyalty and commitment, SIU is at the top of the list for Roland,” she says. “He never forgets the time he spent there, his friends, and his experiences on campus. Our two children and I have had to listen to him tell stories about Southern over and over again.”

Berlean, the former dean of nursing at Chicago State University who holds a Ph.D. from Northwestern University, says she fully supports her husband’s support of Project Hope and Opportunity.
“Roland clearly remembers what it meant for him to receive financial support from SIU while he was a student. He always wanted to be able to give something back,” she says. “This Project Hope and Opportunity initiative for minorities has allowed him to reach another one of his many dreams, and for this we are grateful.”

Bill Norwood, a 1959 SIU graduate and lifelong friend, says Burris has never forgotten his roots. “Roland has always been an honest man and he is loyal to his friends,” he says. “The other thing I’ve always admired is his focus and tenacity. He goes after what he wants.”

John Holmes, a fraternity brother and former college roommate who holds two degrees from Southern, says friends are important to Burris. “Roland always returns to campus for the SIU Black Alumni Group reunion; you can count on seeing him,” he says. “Those reunions are important to a lot of us because we see friends we made during our time on campus.”

Burris and Norwood are chairing the Project Hope and Opportunity drive along with their classmate, Seymour Bryson, associate vice chancellor for diversity at SIU, Harold Bardo, director of SIU’s Med Prep Program, and Dr. Wrophas Meeks, a Carbondale radiologist.

Bryson says Burris is returning a favor to Southern.

“His leadership in Project Hope and Opportunity demonstrates his commitment to future generations. His wife has a similar devotion,” Bryson says. “They want current students to have the same opportunities and support they received.”

Bardo concurs. “We typically talk about our memories of Southern when we get together. Several of us are going to make gifts to this cause commensurate with our commitment to this institution. It’s important that Roland took this step; hopefully, others will follow suit.”

Burris says the co-chairs share a common bond. “We all dealt with significant issues while pursuing our degrees. In addition to fighting racism, our families were home struggling and couldn’t help us financially,” he explains. “So we had to persevere and try to make it on our own. That is why we are all so committed to this cause. Those trials and tribulations build your character.”

**A FOUNDATION IN CENTRALIA**

A solid upbringing laid the foundation for Burris’ character. He was born on August 3, 1937, in Centralia, one of three children raised by Earl Burris, a railroad laborer and grocery store owner, and Emma Burris.

Burris says he and his older siblings always worked. His brother Earl, who would earn two degrees from SIU, was the first black to receive a paper route for the Centralia Sentinel newspaper. Roland eventually joined his brother, receiving a route of his own in addition to assisting with the family business. He also recalls assisting Norwood’s father, who was a carpenter in town.

“My mother and father were involved in the community and were closely connected with the PTA and all school activities,” Burris says. “We didn’t have a lot of money, but we were rich in terms of family, community, and opportunity.”

Harvey Welch, a fellow Centralia native and retired SIU vice chancellor, says the Burris family was eager to help others. “They were truly generous and shared with all of us growing up,” says Welch, a two-degree SIU alumnus. “This is a common trait we discovered in Roland, his brother and sister. And Roland hasn’t forgotten his roots. He is proud of Southern Illinois University and the entire region.”

Norwood says Burris benefited from the environment he grew up in. “Roland learned a great deal because his parents were entrepreneurs and he was exposed to how a business structure operates. That is possibly an edge he had over the rest of us,” Norwood says. “But Roland took advantage of this situation and learned from it. He has always been willing to learn from those around him. The most important thing is that he has never lost the common touch with people… he is still Roland.”

Burris attained additional focus and resolve as a result of an incident when he was 15 years old. On Memorial Day in 1953, Burris, along with four other black youths in Centralia, integrated the Fairview Park swimming pool in Centralia. When he and his friends happily returned home, Burris recalls that his father wasn’t in a celebratory mood.

Earl Burris had hired a lawyer to represent the boys in the event they were incarcerated. The elder Burris gave the lawyer a $100 retainer; however, he didn’t show up.

“That was a lot of money in those days, and my dad was upset,” Burris says.
From left, Roland, Roland II, Berlean, and Rolanda Burris celebrate the younger Burris’ graduation from Northwestern University.

“He said if we as a race of people are going to get anywhere in society, we need lawyers and elected officials who are responsible and responsive. Those words rang in my ears. I set two goals at that point. First, I was going to become a lawyer. Secondly, I set my sights on becoming an elected official.”

A focused Burris graduated from Centralia High School with an academic performance that earned him a tuition waiver from SIU. He and four of his high school football teammates, including Norwood, rode the train together from Centralia to Carbondale. They were meeting with SIU Head Coach Al Kawal prior to lunch when their first day on campus took an unexpected turn.

“Coach pulled out a list of only four restaurants where black players were allowed to eat in Carbondale,” Burris says. “We had just traveled 60 miles and this was my introduction to the community. Carbondale was segregated; blacks couldn’t even go in a clothing store and try on clothes or stay in hotels.”

But perhaps demonstrating the tenacity and determination that he later became known for, Burris took action. An injury limited his football career to one season on the junior varsity squad. He focused on pursuing his degree in political science, leading the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, and improving conditions for African-Americans in the community.

He met with former SIU President Delyte Morris and John Rendleman, the University’s legal counsel, to discuss segregation issues in Carbondale. He was advised to gather evidence before the University took action.

Burris devised a plan with his fraternity brothers. They would visit various Carbondale businesses and document denied services. He also commissioned three of his Jewish friends to witness these occurrences. A report was filed and submitted to Morris and Rendleman.

“Dr. Morris invited us to join him in presenting this information at a Chamber of Commerce meeting. He informed the business leaders that the University and Carbondale are one community and we should all be treated the same,” Burris says. “The lid was off. Dr. Morris called their hand on this whole racial situation in Carbondale. I loved Dr. Morris … the man was great.”

Shortly thereafter, Carbondale businesses were integrated, and fellow SIU students took notice of this rising leader.

“Roland often carried a briefcase and wore a shirt and tie,” says Bardo, a Sparta native who arrived at Southern in 1957. “I knew he was a different kind of guy than I was accustomed to seeing. You didn’t see too many black guys carrying briefcases in those days.”

**A MAN ON A MISSION**

After graduating from Southern in 1959, Burris studied one year at the University of Hamburg in Germany. He became the first black student from SIU to become an exchange student, and one of only two selected out of 200 applicants.

Longtime friend John Holmes says Burris was on a mission. “Roland was ambitious and always had a vision,” he says. “None of us who knew him are surprised by his success.”

Burris returned to the states to attend Howard University Law School in 1960 where he received a scholarship for academic standing. He graduated from Howard in 1963 and immediately received credentials to become a bank examiner in Chicago that same year, the first black in the nation to attain this status. He was honored by the Office of the Controller of Currency in Washington 40 years later for that feat.

A year later, Burris was hired by Continental National Bank in Chicago, eventually ascending to vice president in 1973. But he was still interested in a political career. “I worked with various organizations and campaigned for candidates to get my name out there,” he says.

In 1971, Burris was assisting Dan Walker in his pursuit of the governor’s post in Illinois. When Walker was elected in 1972, Burris accepted an invitation to join his cabinet. This opened the door for him to work toward his political aspirations. He was elected state comptroller in 1978, then re-elected for two additional terms, before winning the Illinois Attorney General post in 1990.

Norwood points out that Burris’ victories have social significance.

“Roland opened doors for African-Americans. During a time when many questioned our qualifications, they subsequently saw him doing a good job in various capacities,” he says. “His success was important because it created opportunities for other minorities as well.”

Arnette Hubbard, a Cook County judge and 1957 SIU Carbondale graduate, became acquainted with Burris during their undergraduate years at Southern. Their relationship continued through their mutual involvement in the political arena in Chicago.
“Roland’s run for state comptroller was visionary at the time. His quest inspired a lot of people,” she recalls. “It is quite a challenge to run for a constitutional office, but he was determined to make believers out of doubters who said it couldn’t be done. And he did.”

Burris remembers his doubters.

“I visited predominantly white communities and talked about running for a statewide office. Black people would tell me, ‘You’re crazy; these white folks aren’t going to vote for you,’” he says. “The only way to find out is to put yourself out there and try it. I guess the blacks who doubted me were wrong.”

Bryson says Burris brings diverse people together.

“Roland was devoted to everyone in the state of Illinois, regardless of race. When he was Attorney General, his staff was racially diverse,” Bryson says. “That’s who Roland is. He receives strong support because of the way he carries himself with everyone. You’ll never see any scandals associated with him.”

In Berlean Burris’ words, “Once Roland makes a commitment, there is nothing that will cause him to change. He holds fast to tradition and finds it hard to change.” The Burris children have followed suit. Their daughter, Rolanda, has a doctoral degree in higher education administration and is director of student support services at Justin College. Their son, Roland, is an attorney who earned his law degree at Northwestern.

Burris, who continues his involvement in politics as vice chairman of the Democratic National Committee, has never forgotten the foundation of his success.

“My dream had come true 25 years from the time I had set those goals while growing up in Centralia,” Burris says. “My upbringing in southern Illinois was the reason I was able to do it. Additionally, it served me well to work at SIU with diverse populations whether they were black, white, or Jewish. Those experiences came to bear on my election and ability to serve the people of Illinois and the country.”

THE CENTRALIA CONNECTION

Three close friends from a small town just 60 miles north of Carbondale took similar journeys to SIU and subsequently blazed a trail for future generations by conquering significant racial barriers they encountered.

Roland Burris’ ascension to becoming the first African-American elected to a major political office in Illinois is documented in the adjoining feature story. However, two fellow Centralia natives and SIU graduates, Harvey Welch and Bill Norwood, are history-making pioneers in their own right.

Welch, the first African-American basketball letter winner at SIU, received bachelor’s and master’s degrees from the University in 1955 and 1958, respectively. He returned to the campus in 1975 when he was hired as an administrator after a 20-year stint as an officer in the U.S. Air Force. Welch became the first African-American to hold the position of Dean of Student Life at Southern. Welch subsequently became the University’s first black vice president in a permanent appointment.

Norwood, a 1959 SIU graduate in economics, became the first black quarterback in the school’s football history and is a member of the Saluki Sports Hall of Fame. He served in the U.S. Air Force prior to becoming the first African-American pilot with United Airlines in 1965. He attained the rank of captain, the first African-American to do so, during his 31-year career with the company.

Norwood, who served on the SIU Board of Trustees for 27 years, was honored this year as one of six laureates of the Lincoln Academy of Illinois. It is the highest honor for outstanding achievement the state can bestow to individuals who were born or have resided in Illinois.

All three credit their upbringings for their successful careers.

“We are proud of Centralia and the associations with our hometown,” Welch says. “Each of us benefited from outstanding teachers at our black elementary school. Few people can name each of their teachers ... but we can. They had an impact on us. They told us that we weren't going to be treated fairly, but they also told us we could be successful; they were right. Our teachers discouraged us from reacting violently. Roland is a byproduct of that philosophy.”

Norwood agrees that the trio benefited from positive influences in the Centralia community.

“Roland – like each of us – learned from good role models there,” Norwood says. “You were expected to give speeches in church at a young age and perform well in school. The demands that were placed on us were to our benefit. The community, church, and school helped Roland be who he is.”

Dianne Meeks (who was featured in the March issue of Southern Alumni), a Carbondale community volunteer who assisted Burris on the campaign trail, says these family and community ethics are essential. “Young people may be aware of Roland’s achievements, but they need to know the road he traveled to get there,” she says. “This should instill confidence in them to succeed, too.”

Welch and Norwood say that neighbors and friends in Centralia played a role in raising each child. “If you were out of line, a neighbor would give you a whipping. And you had to be careful because you might get two,” he says with a smile.

Burris remembers those days well.

“There was no such thing as talking back to any adult,” he stresses. “In those days they would pull you aside, spank you, and tell your parents what happened,” he says. “That was the way we were raised, and I think we all turned out to be pretty good.”

Roland Burris, Bill Norwood, and Harvey Welch have accomplished a great deal since leaving Centralia, Ill. The trio says neighbors and friends in the community played key roles in helping them as youngsters.
Saluki Baseball Finishes 3rd In MVC Tournament

T
the SIU Baseball Salukis finished the 2008 season at 34-23 after posting a 2-2 record in the Missouri Valley Conference Tournament. The fifth-seeded squad finished third in this league tourney, defeating Northern Iowa and Creighton and losing to top-seed Wichita State and Missouri State.

The 34 wins ties for second-most in an SIU season under head coach Dan Callahan. “I was glad we lasted as long as we did in the MVC Tournament,” he says. “I thought we had some momentum going into elimination game against Missouri State, but we were just awful on the mound in the first two innings.” Southern lost 11-6 in the finale.

Earlier in the tournament the Dawgs defeated Northern Iowa 5-3, lost to Wichita State 12-0, and eliminated Creighton with a 6-5 win.

Senior designated hitter Adam Hills and junior pitcher Cody Adams were named to the 2008 all-tournament team. Hills hit .667 (8-for-12) with two runs scored, a double and three RBI to lead the Salukis to the third-place finish.

Adams struck out seven and allowed just three runs in 8.2 innings to key SIU’s opening round victory over Northern Iowa. They were the team’s first all-tournament picks since 2005.

Just before press time, Adams was drafted by the Milwaukee Brewers in the second round of the 2008 Major League Baseball Draft as the 62nd pick overall. He compiled a 6-4 record and 3.75 ERA in 14 starts this season, throwing a pair of complete games and leading the Salukis in strikeouts with 78. He also walked just 23 in 96 innings of work.

Adams is the highest draft pick in 14 years under Callahan. He is the first Saluki to go in the top three rounds of the draft since lefthander Eric Haberer was a third-round pick of the St. Louis Cardinals in 2004.

The righthander was 21-13 with a 3.64 ERA in 57 career appearances and 36 starts at SIU. He tossed five complete games and recorded 199 strikeouts in 262.1 innings in his three years as a Saluki. He ranks among the school’s career leaders in both games started (tie-7th) and innings pitched (9th).

For final team and individual statistics for 2008, go to siusalukis.com.

‘Good Night From Carbondale’ Audio Book Is Now Available

“Good Night from Carbondale,” the long-awaited CD audio book chronicling some of the best moments from the past 30 years of SIU football and basketball through the broadcasts of the “Voice of the Salukis,” Mike Reis ’78, has arrived and is being offered by the SIU Alumni Association.

The disc – featuring narration from former WCIL radio personality John Riley ’87 – retails for just $12 (plus shipping) and is available through the SIU Alumni Association’s Web site at siualumni.com, by visiting the Association’s campus offices in Colyer Hall and the SIU Student Center, or by calling 618-453-2408.

A portion of the proceeds will fund the new “Mike Reis Scholarships” to be awarded to select members of the SIU Dawg Pound (the vocal Saluki student fan base). The project is special to Reis, who was inducted into the SIU Athletics Hall of Fame in 2005 and was the Association’s “2007 Alumni Achievement For Service” recipient.

“It’s a nice way to give back,” the SIU Alumni Association life member says, “and I hope people will enjoy reliving these moments while supporting a worthwhile cause – funding scholarships at the University.”

The SIU Alumni Association helps more than 220,000 graduates around the world stay connected to their alma mater. The organization provides scholarships, support for University activities, recognition of distinguished alumni, and many other endeavors to support its mission of “revealing to the world the excellence of Southern Illinois University.”

SIU Sends Three To NCAA Track Championships

At press time, three athletes on the Southern track and field teams were set to begin competition at the 2008 NCAA National Championships at Drake.

Brittany Riley, a five-time all-American, was to throw the hammer. She entered the competition ranked second in the nation this season after finishing second in the hammer a year ago.

Men’s thrower Brenton Siemens competed in the shot put for the second-straight year, while long jumper Bianca Stuart, a two-time indoor national championship participant, advanced to the outdoor championships for the first time.

The outcome of the competition will be featured in the August edition of Saluki Pride, or you can go to siusalukis.com for results.
The third-seed Softball Salukis were upset by seventh-seed Missouri State 5-0 in the second round of the 2008 Missouri Valley Conference Tournament to end their season at 30-24. The event was hosted by Southern at Charlotte West Stadium. Freshman righthander Danielle Glosson was named to the all-tournament team following her career-high, 11-strikeout effort in the loss.

SIU, which finished third in the final regular-season conference standings, entered the tournament with a three-game winning streak after sweeping its final series at Bradley this past weekend. Head coach Kerri Blaylock's squad had also won six out of their last eight games after going 6-2 on their regular-season ending eight-game road trip.

Southern failed to advance to postseason this season despite a banner effort from senior first baseman Lauren Haas, who was named the 2008 MVC Softball Player of the Year. She became just the third Saluki in the program's history, and first since 1997, to earn the award. Outfielder Colleen Holloway (1990-93) and pitcher Jamie Schuttek (1994-97) were named the player of the year in 1993 and 1997. She also was a member of the 2008 Great Lakes All-Region Softball First Team, her first selection, and the third straight year the Salukis placed at least one athlete on the 12-member all-region team.

Haas finished the regular-season with the top batting average in conference play by nearly 40 points at .456, and is tied for the league's most runs batted in with 39. She concluded the regular season ranked in the top 10 in seven offensive categories and, in conference play, holds the top spots in average, slugging, on base percentage and doubles, and ranks second in hits, RBI and total bases. (For final team and individual statistics, go to siusalukis.com).

Another top award went to senior outfielder Krystal Stein, who received this year's MVC postgraduate scholarship, known as the "Emerson Excellence Award." She will receive a $10,000 postgraduate stipend from the league.

Stein achieved a perfect cumulative 4.0 grade point average in speech communication with a marketing minor. She was twice awarded with an MVC Scholar-Athlete selection, earning first-team honors in both 2006 and 2007. Stein was also selected in 2006 and 2008 to third-team ESPN the Magazine/CoSIDA (College Sports Information Directors of America) Academic All-America Team.

Additionally, Stein was on the SIU Academic Dean's List seven times, was a 2005-2007 Saluki Scholar, and the recipient of both the Dr. Charlotte West Endowed Scholarship and Lincoln Academy Student Laureate Award in 2007. Stein concluded her undergraduate studies by being named the 2008 SIU College of Liberal Arts valedictorian and one of the SIU Alumni Association's 25 Most Distinguished Seniors.

The Southern Illinois Orthopedic Center (SIOC) recently pledged $500,000 toward the Saluki Way athletic facilities project that will feature a new 15,000-seat football stadium, renovation of SIU Arena, and construction of a 56,000-square-foot arena addition.

Since August of 2005, SIOC has been the primary provider for Saluki student-athlete orthopedic treatment and staffs all Saluki football games and attends other athletics events.

"The SIOC is the gold standard for orthopedic care, and we deeply appreciate its commitment to the health and excellence of our student athletes," says Saluki Director of Athletics Mario Moccia. "Now, they've stepped up in a big way to support Saluki Way, and we are excited and thankful for their generosity."

Saluki Way has an estimated $83 million price tag, and Rickey McCurry, vice chancellor for institutional advancement, says SIU had secured nearly 80 percent of the necessary funding. "This gift demonstrates a strong desire to make Saluki Way a reality," he stresses. "SIOC is a long-time supporter of Southern, and we are truly appreciative and grateful for the group's ongoing commitment to this institution."

Several of the doctors at SIOC say they were moved to contribute to the project out of loyalty and admiration for the University.

"We are proud of our relationship with SIU and Saluki Athletics and are appreciative of what the University provides to all the communities in our region," explains Dr. Tom Davis. "This is just SIOC's way of giving back."
For New Orleans Hornets broadcaster Sean Kelley, his “dream job” has taken him on an incredible journey.

As one of the youngest play-by-play men in professional sports, SIU’s Sean Kelley has plenty to smile about in his New Orleans Hornets broadcast booth.

One morning four years ago, Sean Kelley awoke to find that a broadcasting job in professional sports was no longer just a dream. A 1997 radio-television major at Southern Illinois University, he remembers the moment clearly—as well as what soon occurred to turn it into a temporary nightmare.

“I had been the play-by-play radio voice for Tulane University Athletics since 2002 and had also become involved part-time with the New Orleans Hornets as the studio host on their National Basketball Association broadcasts,” Kelley recalls. “The Hornets’ television position opened up, and the radio play-by-play man took that job. I threw my name in the hat for his spot and hoped I would at least get a shot. I knew if I did it would be my big break.”

After a long interview process and a gut-wrenching wait, Kelley was named the radio voice of the New Orleans Hornets on Aug. 15, 2005. His days of working two and three jobs to keep the dream alive were now history.

“I was thrilled. It’s almost hard to describe,” he says. “For me, my wife, Kim, and our children, something really big had fallen into place. Kim had a good job at Tulane, the kids were in schools they liked, and we had recently moved into a nice home. I was in the ‘big time.’ What could possibly dampen our spirits?”

Two weeks later to the day, Hurricane Katrina arrived to answer the question with a vengeance.

Back to Carbondale

The Kelleys had moved into their home in Mandeville, La., just two weeks before Katrina arrived to ravage the region in biblical fashion. The area historically had experienced so many near misses that most residents felt the growing giant charging across the Gulf of Mexico would surely change course and pass them by.

“We went to bed on Aug. 28 thinking that perhaps the route would change and the eye of the storm would miss us,” he recalls. “The next morning we awoke to see that the hurricane was headed straight at us and was getting larger by the minute.”

Unlike many who either couldn’t or wouldn’t leave, Kelley and his wife scrambled that morning to find important papers, family photos, and other mementos they could quickly place in their car. Escaping the area before the gale force hit, they put their scared and confused children in the vehicle and began the long drive to Carbondale where Kim’s grandmother still lives.

“As we pulled out of the driveway that morning, I looked over at Kim and she was crying,” he says. “We had dodged many of these storms in the years we had been in New Orleans, but it was now obvious that this was going to be the one.”

When they arrived in Carbondale, news accounts soon proved their instincts to be correct. Although they were safe, watching the onslaught of devastation on television proved maddening.

“With all lines of communication down, there was no way to know if our house was still standing, no way to know if our friends and neighbors were fine, heck, no way of knowing if either of us still had jobs.”

The displaced family soon realized they would be in Carbondale for an extended period. They enrolled their children, Keighley (9) and Colin (7), at St. Andrew’s Grade School in Murphysboro, seeking to give them some semblance of normalcy.

“People at the kids’ school, in the community, and those we talked to at the University could not have been nicer,” Kelley says. “Just what you would expect from the area: caring, helpful people who want to help in any way they can. That made it much easier on us, but now the question was how long would we be here, and was there anything to return to?”

Pack Your Bags for Oklahoma

In the weeks that followed, the Kelleys were finally able to drive back to Mandeville to check on their house. Although destruction was everywhere around them, their home had not sustained major damage nor had it been impacted by flood waters. They returned to Carbondale thinking that the family could soon return and try and piece things back together.

Whether he or his wife still were employed anywhere was another question when they returned the third week of September.

“We knew there was no way that the NBA team could play in downtown New Orleans that year, so I was waiting to see what was going to happen,” he recalls. “I soon received a call that said the team was relocating to Oklahoma City for the 2005-06 season and that I
Kelley, who honed his interviewing skills on Saluki coaches years ago, is shown chatting with NBA Commissioner David Stern before a Hornets game.

had 10 days to get there. Kim and the kids stayed in New Orleans while I went to training camp solo in Oklahoma City; we tried to make sense of the whole thing.”

When his wife and children returned home, Kim would find her position at Tulane had been eliminated due to the hurricane damage at the university. With no job and her husband more than 700 miles away, the trio moved to Oklahoma City around Christmas to join Sean and rebuild their life in an area they had never been before.

By the time his family joined him, the SIU product was already seeing something special. The city, which had never before had a major professional sports team, was being treated like rock stars in Oklahoma City and playing in front of sold-out crowds.

“Now all of a sudden we were being treated like rock stars in Oklahoma City and playing in front of sold-out crowds. This level of excitement ultimately led to the team playing better basketball, and before you knew it the whole thing seemed like a perfect fit.”

A second solid NBA season followed in 2006-07, and several people thought — perhaps quietly hoped — that the Hornets might find a way to stay there. Although the plan had always been for the franchise to return to the Big Easy, things went so well in the new location that many questioned the move. But return they did after two seasons in their temporary home. Another move and another adjustment was in store for the Kelleys, who had quickly fallen in love with Oklahoma City.

“Staying there was probably wishful thinking on many people’s part,” Kelley admits now, “as it was always the league’s plan for us to return to New Orleans. We played a few select home games back there in 2006-07, but when we came back for good this season, the result was initially as bleak as we feared.”

When the 2007-08 season began, attendance was low and there was little interest in the team. Some thought if the franchise was not properly supported, the NBA might relent and let the Hornets return to Oklahoma City. That type of thinking would soon change.

“People weren’t interested in the team at first; we were winning, yet apathy was everywhere,” Kelley says. “This was a football town even before we left, and what money and interest fans could muster down here was more often than not directed at the Saints. We realized the challenges for people to embrace us, as the Hornets had been gone for two years while the daily lives of countless people in New Orleans were focused on simply surviving.”

THE FAN BASE RESPONDS

After the rough start, something remarkable started to take shape.

“In January we started playing really well and basketball fans there realized we actually might be worth paying attention to,” Kelley says. “New Orleans was hosting the NBA All-Star Game that spring, and the hype of that event helped people get excited as well. The Hornets went on a long winning streak, and the
When Sean Kelley left home in 1990 to attend Northeast Missouri State, his goal was to earn a degree in finance.

“It took one semester for me to realize that wasn’t happening,” he now says with a laugh. “But I had always loved listening to guys like Jack Buck, Dan Kelly, and Bob Starr broadcast sports on the radio when I was growing up in St. Louis. I figured since I wasn’t going to go far as an athlete, I better find a way to stay around athletics some other way.”

Kelley attended Northeast Missouri (now Truman State University) for more than two years, ultimately securing an internship at a local FM radio station where he would spin records and read weather forecasts. Eventually he pleaded with the station manager to let him add a sportscast to the mix, and in what would become a pattern, he offered to do it free of charge.

The Priory High School grad was growing restless, however, to expand his knowledge in broadcasting. He decided to transfer to a larger university – one with NCAA Division I athletics – and gain additional exposure. Kelley narrowed his choices to the University of Iowa and SIU and decided to make trips to each campus.

“SIU had a good radio-television program, and I soon discovered I could get in-state tuition quicker in Illinois,” he now says of his decision to come to Carbondale in 1993. “Plus, when I came for the visit, I heard Mike Reis call a basketball game. I knew right then that I wanted to someday learn from him.”

Kelley would eventually get the chance to work with Reis but not before paying his dues elsewhere. His first job in Carbondale was at WTAO, working from 10 p.m.-6 a.m. spinning records. He stayed in the position from 1993-97, soon convincing the station to allow him to add sports to the mix, again placed on his plate free of charge.

“River Radio’s Tom Miller was at WTAO,” Kelley recalls. “Initially I would record a sportscast at night and leave it for him to use on his morning show. Later in my time there I worked mornings as sports director, went to school, and reported to work at Tres Hombres. I’m not real sure when I slept back then!”

Kelley’s first opportunity to do collegiate play-by-play came in 1996 when he was named the radio voice of the SIU women’s basketball team. For the next two years he called Saluki hoop action and began to work with Reis as a board operator for basketball and football broadcasts and as color analyst on SIU baseball games.

And he continued working at Tres Hombres during much of the tenure.

“I’m the oldest of six kids,” Kelley explains. “My father helped me for awhile, but I knew that when the others got near college age that I would be on my own regarding college costs. It took me longer to get through school because I couldn’t take as large a class load as some, but the working experience was invaluable.”

When Kelley left Southern, his first full-time position was in 1998 with KFRU Radio in Columbia, Mo., later on adding duties with Learfield Sports as part of the Mizzou Tiger Network. He did pregame, halftime, and postgame reporting on University of Missouri football and basketball games, and filled in for Tiger play-by-play (and SIU graduate) Mike Kelly when there was a scheduling conflict. In 1999 he added Tiger Baseball play-by-play to the mix and stayed in this capacity until 2002 when he was named voice of the Tulane Green Wave.

Reis has enjoyed watching Kelley climb in the profession.

“Because Sean transferred here to gain more experience, I thought he would work hard,” Reis recalls. “You don’t make a move like that if you are not serious about things, and I remember once thinking that as hard as he works, if he doesn’t succeed, none of us will.

“I’m proud of him; he has earned his breaks and buries himself in his work,” the veteran Saluki play-by-play man says. “Sean can be critiqued without taking the criticism personally; he persists; he networks. Not everyone has those qualities in this business.”

Kelley in turn appreciates Reis and several others at the University who made the difference in his student radio days.

“During my time at SIU I was blessed to work with coaches like Rich Herrin, Cindy Scott, and Dan Callahan; they didn’t treat me like a kid,” Kelley says. “They dealt with me as a professional and hopefully saw that I worked hard to try and do a good job. The same thing can be said for the SIU Sports Information staff, which always gave me any assistance I needed.”

Scott, now in her 10th year as an assistant athletics director at Bentley College, was the first coach who dealt with Kelley as a play-by-play announcer.

“It was clear from the beginning that Sean was going to be successful in broadcasting,” she says. “He had maturity and professionalism one would expect in a seasoned veteran, and took his job calling women’s basketball games so seriously that he made me feel like he thought he was calling the NBA Finals.

“He commanded respect and operated with class while still an undergrad, something that just does not happen very often. I really liked Sean; I can only imagine how good he must be now.”

Callahan agrees that Kelley soon separated himself from the pack.

“I sensed early on that Sean was way ahead of his years,” Callahan says. “He was a consummate pro even as a college student; handling interviews, well and staying respectful and professional at all times.

“What he has done at a professional level is not the least bit surprising to me. When a guy handles himself like he has, you pull for him. A lot of us at SIU have always been Sean Kelley fans.”

Southern veteran play-by-play man Mike Reis had a chance to catch up with Kelley at an NBA game this spring. “I’m proud of him,” Reis says. “He’s earned his breaks.”
'MITCH'S SPOT'

When the Hornets arrived in Oklahoma City, the team began training for the 2005-06 season. During the first week of camp, Sean Kelley noticed a young boy in the stands with his parents.

"He was bald, so I figured he was battling some form of cancer," Kelley recalls. "I walked over one day, introduced myself, and started to describe to him what the team was doing to prepare for the new season."

The young boy's name was Mitchell Whitaker, and the 8-year-old and Kelley immediately hit it off. Soon his parents began to bring him to more practices, seeing it as a distraction from his battle with leukemia and the first round of medical treatments he was facing to battle the disease.

"When the season began, I told Mitch that when he felt like it - or when his doctors felt he was able - to call me up and I would find room for him to sit with us in the broadcast booth," Kelley says. "I knew it would be something special for him, and I realized it would keep him safe from the crush of the crowd."

Mitch took him up on the offer, coming more and more often as the season stretched out. When treatments sent him back to the hospital, Kelley bought him a radio so he could listen to the broadcasts. When the team came back home and his strength allowed, the young fan returned to the Hornets radio booth.

"By that time players like Chris Paul, Desmond Mason, and Jannero Pargo had really taken a liking to him, and Mitch always wanted to come back to see the guys," Kelley recalls. "We had a chair with a head-set on it that was left vacant for him in case he showed up for a game, and we simply called it Mitch's spot."

When the franchise returned to New Orleans, Kelley received a call one day from John and Tracey Whitaker. They told him their son had relapsed, and it wasn't looking good. Mitch would have to receive a bone marrow transplant to survive, but that never happened. He passed away at 10 years old before the procedure could occur.

"Even before he died, I knew I wanted to do something in New Orleans that was an extension of what we shared with Mitch," Kelley says. "There is more space in our broadcast booth here than we had in Oklahoma City, so with the blessing of the Hornets we developed a space in the booth called Mitch's Spot. Through donations we have nicely furnished it and made it a special place for kids to enjoy a game."

At each home contest, Kelley and his color analyst, Gerry Vaillancourt, host children who are battling debilitating illness. They also welcome the youngsters' family and friends, wanting the experience to serve as a night off from their medical worries.

This endeavor is an extension of the kind of activity Kelley embraced during his years at Tulane, where he started "Tulane Voices for Kids," a program that raised money for pediatric medical research. Supporters pledged any amount of money, which was multiplied by the total number of Tulane wins in football, basketball, and men's and women's basketball.

"My mother and stepmother died from cancer, so trying to make a difference in this area has always been a passion for me," he says. "Helping young people forget about their problems for a while and enjoy just being kids is what really moves me."

This year in New Orleans, countless boys and girls enjoyed sitting in the Hornets' radio booth in front of a banner that read "Mitch's Spot." The only thing Kelley asked in return was for his guests to sign the streamer before they left.

"By the end of the season, I looked at all the signatures and it really got to me," he says. "It was emotional, but also pretty neat. In many ways Mitch was still in the booth with us."

Kelley is shown two years ago with Mitch Whitaker, a young boy battling cancer who became a regular visitor in the radio booth. Although Mitch later passed away from the disease, Kelley keeps his memory alive by hosting children in "Mitch's Spot," a special area adjacent to the broadcast booth at the Hornets' home arena.

The only thing Kelley asked in return was for his guests to sign the streamer before they left.

"We all know there are plenty of things in New Orleans much more important than basketball. I could fill these pages with nothing but the incredible things I have witnessed. Make no mistake ... things are still really tough down here for many citizens."

"When each day you see good people battle through the type of adversity few can imagine - and find the strength and courage to try and rebuild their lives - you are forever affected by it all."

Gene Green

players and coaches became active in the community. It was starting to resemble what had happened in Oklahoma City - people couldn't get enough of what was now a really good NBA team."

A string of sellouts followed, and as the crowds grew, so did the players' visibility in town. "The guys on the Hornets are really good people, and when they got back here, they saw that many people were basically just surviving," he says. "It really affected them. Head Coach Byron Scott (the reigning coach of the year in the NBA) is a class act, and he sets the tone. He and his players reached out to the community and the community responded in ways that have surprised us all."

The Hornets stunned the professional basketball world this season by winning their division title in the Western Conference, logging a 56-26 record while tying the reigning NBA Champion San Antonio Spurs for the best regular-season record in the Southwest Division. Paced by most valuable player candidate Chris Paul, New Orleans began its unlikely march toward a championship ring by dismissing Dallas in five games in the first round of the NBA playoffs before being eliminated in seven games by the world champion Spurs.

"It's been sort of like the movie Major League," Kelley says with a laugh. "No one gave us much of a chance to do what we've accomplished in New Orleans this year, but once we got on a roll, everyone started to believe. Sometimes I have to almost pinch myself over what all has happened during the past few years, but I know it has all happened for a reason."

"We all know there are plenty of things in New Orleans much more important than basketball. I could fill these pages with nothing but the incredible things I have witnessed. Make no mistake ... things are still really tough down here for many citizens."

"When each day you see good people battle through the type of adversity few can imagine - and find the strength and courage to try and rebuild their lives - you are forever affected by it all."

Southern Alumni
Display your Saluki pride with shirts, caps and accessories. From trendy t-shirts and polos to warm sweatshirts and jackets, you have many choices to show your support for your alma mater no matter what the occasion. All of the items are high quality and are in stock now. Order now at www.siualumni.com!
Former Football Saluki Supports Extern Program

During Pete Jansons' years at Southern, he bounced unruly patrons at local bars, worked on a pig farm, dug ditches, and baled hay to earn money. On the football field, the Chicago Lane Tech product was an energetic offensive lineman who broke his back one year yet missed only a few games.

Jansons likely never imagined that one day his career would take him all over the globe - he has been in Shanghai so often that he speaks a little Mandarin - and put him in a position to boost the careers of other Salukis.

As vice president of sales for CareerBuilder.com, headquartered in his hometown of Chicago, Jansons participated for the first time this year in the SIU Extern Program, sponsored by the SIU Alumni Association. Eight SIU students spent spring break week in getting a view of the real world with Jansons and his crew.

"It really opened my eyes to the opportunities available," says Kevin Moll, an SIU junior in marketing. Although a previous internship in sales in the Carbondale area may have contributed, Moll says his extern experience makes him want to redirect his career path into sales, rather than marketing.

Kevin followed his dad, Ken Moll '73, to Southern and even chose the same major. Today Kevin is president of Pi Sigma Epsilon, a professional marketing fraternity. The Molls are from Glen Ellyn.

It was by no means the first time that Jansons, a 1989 graduate in health care management, had encountered Salukis in the real world. "We've hired dozens of Salukis already and have put some through to management here at CareerBuilder," Jansons says. But the extern experience so impressed Jansons as a good idea that he's now hired an intern coordinator. And he's...
My goal for SIU is to get a curriculum together for sales as part of the marketing department," Jansons noted. "I'd pay a sponsorship each year to be a part of that, and I'd hire every person who came out of the program."

He has no fear of inadvertently hiring a slacker, "In sales, you either produce or you don't," he says. "If kids from Carbondale have thick skin and can deal with rejection and can take 18 to 24 months of hard work, then I can find a job for them."

This year 168 externs worked for 128 sponsors during the week. Thirty-eight percent of the sponsors were alumni, some of whom had participated in the extern program themselves. Since its beginning in 1984, an average of 45 percent of the externs have been offered a future with the company with which they participated.

To find out more about the Extern Program, go to siualumni.com/extern.
Forrest Brem, a zoology student from Belleville, Ill., is the recipient of the 2008 Southern Illinois University Alumni Association Outstanding Master's Thesis Award. The annual award recognizes and promotes outstanding research by graduate students. This is the 12th year the award has been granted.

A six-member faculty committee judged Brem's thesis, submitted by the Graduate School, as the top one of 2007. Brem received a $500 cash prize and an award certificate from the SIU Alumni Association.

Brem's thesis, titled, "Comparing batrachochytrium dendrobatidis infection prevalence among habitats before, during, and after an epidemic in Central Panama," focused on a deadly fungus that is eradicating frog populations in Central America. The specific fungus Brem studied, known as "Bd," likely has driven many amphibian species to extinction during the last 20 years.

Karen Lips, Brem's thesis advisor, worked closely with him in melding his interest in wildlife disease in frogs with current research being conducted on amphibian disease. Research currently in progress offered Brem access to a field site in Panama.

Immediately after Brem completed taking samples from the healthy frog population in Central America, the Bd fungus arrived, allowing Brem to study the complete life cycle of the infection and learn several important reasons why the fungus is so deadly. "He was the first researcher to discover that infectious zoospores could survive outside the host, likely contributing to its higher transmissibility," Lips says. "His thesis has expanded our understanding of factors that cause extinction, knowledge that contributes to the fields of epidemiology and conservation biology."

Brem is currently experimentally testing hypotheses developed directly through his observations in Panama and through his other research. "My thesis at SIU has become a stepping stone or building block to my current dissertation research," he says.

Brem is grateful for Lips' assistance and guidance. "I could not have done this research without the assistance and mentoring provided by Karen. She was the best advisor any grad student could ask for. Through her grantsmanship, she is excellent at providing her students with the resources they need to complete their projects and teaching them how to acquire money for their own research."
SIU Wind Ensemble Plays Carnegie Hall

by Andrea Hahn

The Southern Illinois University Carbondale Wind Ensemble had a date recently at Carnegie Hall, and it was not to sit in the audience. On March 26, the student ensemble and a half-dozen SIU School of Music faculty performed in the Isaac Stern Auditorium on the Ronald O. Perelman Stage at Carnegie Hall as part of the New York Band and Orchestra Festival. The Wind Ensemble was one of only two showcase ensembles to perform. The ensemble earned its spot through competitive audition.

The trip was made possible in part through a sponsorship provided by the SIU Alumni Association.

Christopher Morehouse, assistant professor and director of bands, conducted the ensemble at its Carnegie Hall debut. He says the students worked hard to prepare for Carnegie Hall, understanding that this performance was a once-in-a-lifetime event.

"The value of this performance," he says, "cannot be overestimated — not for the individuals who will play or for the University they represent. "Once you've been there, you always have that; you can always say you performed at Carnegie Hall," he says. "And the University will always have that, too."

Amanda Jackson, a senior in the School of Music from Mt. Carmel, says her friends are kind enough to bring up the subject often, so she has the opportunity to share her excitement.

Jackson plays clarinet, an instrument she first picked up in fifth grade. At that time, she used her grandmother's clarinet. Her grandmother and several other family members were in the audience at Carnegie Hall.

Nathan Kingery, a junior in music education, admits to choking up when he heard the news, too. "Everyone just froze," he says. "Honestly, I almost cried."

Kingery says there are times when a young musician has to explain to friends and family why a given venue, honor, or selection is a big deal. Not so with the Carnegie Hall debut; "everyone knows that one," he notes.

The students and faculty took in a Broadway show while they were in New York City, and also enjoyed a ferry tour of the Statue of Liberty. The band festival organizers, World Projects International Music Productions, arranged the ferry trip. The other showcase band, the Northamptonshire Orchestral Winds from England, took the ferry tour as well.

Here is a list of students and faculty who performed at Carnegie Hall. The students are listed by the high school they attended:

**Illinois**
- Antioch Community High School: Ben Henning, tenor saxophone
- Belleville East High School: Mike Dee, alto saxophone
- Charleston High School: Jessica Drake, horn
- Chester High School: Jim Beers, percussion
- Christopher High School: Will Biby, tuba; Josh Livesay, horn; Jere Montgomery, trumpet
- Dixon High School: Jonathan Poquette, percussion
- East Alton-Wood River High School: Eric Hendrickson, percussion
- Galesburg High School: Mackenzie Allert, flute
- Gibault Catholic High School (Waterloo): Caleb McCoy, baritone saxophone
- Herrin High School: Erica Travelstead, euphonium
- Marion High School: Joey Atwood, horn; David Kosmatka, soprano/alto saxophone; Aaron Moore, trumpet; Katherine Patrick, bass clarinet
- Mendota High School: Bailey Ayers, euphonium
- Mt. Carmel High School: Amanda Jackson, clarinet
- Murphysboro High School: Jani Bryant, clarinet
- Newton Community High School: Ken Trimble, trombone
- Pinckneyville High School: Emily Plumlee, clarinet; Donovan Reese, percussion
- Plainfield: Frank Cheon, clarinet
- Ramsey High School: Nathan Kingery, percussion
- Salem High School: Ryan Ham, trombone
- Sparta High School: Robert Reed, clarinet

**Florida**
- Northeast High School (Oakland Park): Amber Blacharski, trumpet

**Michigan**
- Interlochen Arts Academy: Paul Vincent Petrucelly, clarinet

**Minnesota**
- Fergus Falls Senior High School: Joel Adams, tuba

**Wisconsin**
- Wilmot Union High School: Jake Vozel, trombone

**International**
- Ju Me Lee, flute; Boon Kah Lim, percussion; Sunyoung Lee, piano

**School of Music Faculty**
- Edward Benyas, oboe; English horn; Suzanne Lord, piccolo, flute; Melissa Mackey, bassoon; Eric Mandat, clarinet, bass clarinet; Jennifer Presar, horn; Jeanine Wagner, soprano

**SIU Piano Scholar Plays Hall In June**

Still giddy from the Carnegie Hall debut of the Southern Illinois University Carbondale Wind Ensemble, the School of Music sent another musician to debut at Carnegie Hall. This time, the musician was Junghwa Lee, assistant professor of piano.

Lee debuted in a Carnegie Hall solo performance on June 21 in the Weill Recital Hall presented by Artists International Presentations. "I hope to get a review in New York," she said prior to the trip, noting that a positive review would make her debut even more meaningful for her as a musician. She was also hopeful that any New York City-area SIU alumni would attend her performance.

As she prepared, she found herself more critical of herself as a performer. "It was bringing me to a new level, to debut at such a place," she recalls. "I found myself more and more interested in what I am doing (musically)."

Her Carnegie Hall program lasted about 75 minutes with an intermission including Bach, Schumann, DeBussy, and Prokofiev. She also featured a United States premiere of an original composition by Frank Stumper, SIU's composer-in-residence.

More information about Lee is available at the School of Music's Web site at siu.edu/~music/bio/lee.html and at beautyinmusic.com/artist_pages/junghwa_lee.htm, a site dedicated to women in classical music.
SIU Day At Busch Stadium

One hundred and eighty-six alumni and friends attended the 24th SIU Day at Busch Stadium. The pregame gathering at the new Arch Ballroom at Hilton at the Ballpark was a hit with the attendees where a good mixture of Cardinals and Cubs fans were represented. Interim Executive Director Michelle Suarez welcomed the group of Salukis. Also representing the SIU Alumni Association were incoming president Randy Ragan, board member Wes Wilkins, and Director for Off-Campus Programs Argus Tong. The St. Louis Alumni Chapter Executive Committee of Ann Eberlin, Leslie Tepen, Kimberly Omelson, Tracy Abbott, and Anna Vani were also in attendance.

Above, Steve and Kimberly Deiro show they have different ideas on who should win the game that afternoon, while at left, Ann Eberlin, Randy Ragan, and Michelle Suarez enjoy the pregame meal.

Austin/San Antonio Alumni Club Meeting

A meeting/social convened in March to coordinate alumni efforts to start an alumni club in the Austin/San Antonio area, which has more than 2,000 SIU alumni. To meet fellow Southern alumni and participate in future activities, please contact club representatives Paul and Donna Lecocq at dele cocq@austin.rr.com.

Attending the event in Texas are, from left, Bill and Mary Szelag, Linda Gaither, Sarah McMahon, Michael Elaison, Jodie Whitworth, and Donna Lecocq, with her boys Marc and Benjamin.

SIU Day With The Miners

The Williamson County Alumni Chapter invites all alumni and friends to attend the Second Annual SIU Day with the Southern Illinois Miners on Saturday, July 12. Attendees can enjoy a pregame picnic starting 5 p.m. at 17th Street Bar & Grill, followed by the game at 7 p.m. at Rent One Park. For more information, visit siualumni.com/events. The Williamson County Alumni Chapter wishes to thank all alumni and friends who contributed to the scholarship fund via a telefund campaign this spring. The Williamson County Scholarship Committee awarded scholarships worth $1,875 each to four graduating Williamson County High School seniors attending SIU in the fall.

Emanuel Ax Performs At Shryock

Members of the Association enjoyed a performance by one of the world’s greatest pianists when Grammy Award winner Emanuel Ax performed at Shryock Auditorium. Ax played Beethoven’s “Emperor” piano concerto with the Southern Illinois Symphony. From a string of early career successes in the 1970s, Ax has emerged as one of the most versatile, brilliant, and universally respected pianists on the international concert scene.
Official Class Ring Ceremony

Family and friends joined students and alumni for the presentation of their official class rings on April 11 in the Old Main Lounge of the Student Center. SIU Alumni Association President Doris Rottschalk and Provost Don Rice presented the rings. Student Alumni Council President Timasha Udugama relayed his experiences wearing the ring and what it means for a student. This is the sixth year the Association has conducted the ceremony; since it began, more than 1,000 rings now adorn the hands of SIU alumni. The ring may only be worn by current students who have completed 56 credit hours, achieving junior or senior status, or those holding an SIU degree. You can purchase your own class ring today at siualumni.com.

Football Tailgate At Northwestern

The Chicagoland Chapter of the SIU Alumni Association will host the pregame football tailgate against the Northwestern Wildcats on Sept. 13 in Evanston, Ill. The chapter invites all Saluki fans to attend. Details are still being ironed out but volunteers are needed to assist the chapter at this tailgate. Please contact Director of Chapter Development Argus Tong at 618-453-2408 or at argus@siu.edu.

Member Appreciation Baseball Tailgate

The Association held a member appreciation baseball event on May 3 during a doubleheader between the Salukis and the Creighton Bluejays. Lunch and beverages were enjoyed by 133 members and their guests. Additional attendees included talent scouts from several major league teams who were in town to watch SIU pitcher Cody Adams. This event is made possible by

Greater Michigan Alumni Chapter Has Annual Dinner

More than 20 alumni and friends attended the annual dinner party at Dave & Buster's restaurant hosted by the Greater Michigan Chapter of the SIU Alumni Association. Coordinating the alumni efforts in the Greater Michigan area are Chris Micha, Dale Hall, and Chad O'Brien. The chapter will be hosting its ninth Annual Detroit Picnic on July 26. All alumni, friends, and families are invited to attend, and the picnic will be held from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. (Eastern) at the Kensington Metro Park Area (North Hickory Ridge Site H) in Milford, Mich. For more information or to register, visit siualumni.com/events or call the SIU Alumni Association office at 618-453-2408.
the contributions of several Association supporters. Bill McGraw '69 (Stock Yards Packaging in Chicago) donated the hamburgers, hot dogs, brats, and Italian sausages; Steve Bleyer (Rend Lake Beverages) donated Coors products; John Koch (Pepsi MidAmerica) donated soft drinks and water; Cameron Taleban (owner of local Subway restaurants) donated the chips. Bruce Shingleton and Scott Spicer grilled for the crowd, and four members of SAC and Association staff members Doreen Hees and Kathy Dillard were also on hand to assist.

Quad Cities Alumni Club
Twenty-four alumni and friends attended the Quad Cities Alumni Club meeting at the home of Don and Rae Miller. Alumni Dick and Cindy Stockner from Marshalltown, Iowa, drove more than 170 miles to attend the meeting and help with the process of starting an alumni club. Club Officers appointed were: Don Miller, president; Belinda Scrogham, vice president; Sandi Schmidt, treasurer; and Dick Stockner, secretary. If you are interested in volunteering or want to be informed of upcoming events, please contact Miller at drmiller@mchsi.com.

Calling All Chicagoland And Greater Atlanta Alumni
Alumni clubs and chapters bring together the efforts of alumni to establish an SIU presence in their areas, to encourage participation with the University, and to create involvement and camaraderie among Salukis. Denis "Doc" Kane will take an active role in revitalizing the Chicagoland Chapter. If interested in assisting or to be informed of upcoming activities, please contact Doc at doc.kane@gmail.com. More than 3,500 alumni reside in Lake County. To meet fellow SIU alumni, participate in future activities, and to support the efforts to revitalize the chapter, please e-mail alumni Suzi Schmidt and Lou Archbold at lakecountysalukis@gmail.com. The Greater Atlanta Alumni Club is seeking more volunteers to assist with the efforts to organize activities for SIU alumni and friends in the area. If interested, please contact Club President Jim Dennis at jimjdennis@yahoo.com or the club secretary at lawliss@comcast.net.

SIU Day At Wrigley Is Sold Out
Tickets for SIU Day at Wrigley on Sept. 20 are sold out. Tickets for the pregame gathering at the Cubby Bear from 10 a.m. to noon are still available at $12 per person. Game time is tentatively set for 12:05 p.m.

Service To Southern Illinois Award Deadline Approaches
Nominations are being accepted for the 2008 Service to Southern Illinois Award. Nominees should be individuals who have provided outstanding service in the Southern Illinois community. The 2007 Service to Southern Illinois award recipient was Sam Goldman. Deadline for the application is Sept. 8. Applications are available on the Jackson County Chapter page at siualumni.com/jackson. The recipient will be honored at the Jackson County Awards Banquet, together with the Jackson County Scholarship recipients, in November. For more information, please contact Jackson County Chapter President Kitty Mabus at mabus@siu.edu, or call the SIU Alumni Association at 618-453-2408.

Achievement Award Nominations Being Accepted
The SIU Alumni Association is accepting nominations for the Alumni Achievement Award for Service. This award is bestowed annually for outstanding service to the Association. Nominees may be graduates, former students, or friends of SIU who have demonstrated their commitment to alumni by their service.

Past recipients of the award include Mike Reis, the “Voice of the Salukis” for almost three decades; Robert Reid, retired educator, volunteer campus flag master, and spearhead in the effort to light Pulliam Tower; and Mary Ellen Dillard, retired educator and principal of Carbondale’s Thomas School, community and campus volunteer, and past president of the Jackson County SIU Alumni Association.

The Alumni Achievement Award for Service is presented each year at the Association’s Board of Directors Homecoming luncheon. The recipient must be present to accept the award.

Please submit nominating materials, including resume and background materials, to SIU Alumni Association, c/o Lorrie Lefler, Colyer Hall, Mail Code 6809, Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, IL 62901, or e-mail her at lilefler@siu.edu by July 31.
Amanda Gresens gives many people a reason to smile. She is a dental hygiene student and works to ensure that her patients have a healthy smile. In addition to being an excellent student, she is active in the community and campus, all of which are why she recently was named one of the SIU Alumni Association’s 25 Most Distinguished Seniors. The May magna cum laude graduate is originally from Arlington Heights, but attended Southern because, she says, “Southern is the only dental hygiene bachelor’s degree program in the state of Illinois.” She adds that the Student Orientation Advisement Recruitment program was also a factor in her decision.

“My parents had visited during the SOAR program, and Dr. Dwayne Summers [clinical associate professor in the School of Allied Health] had taken about an hour and a half of his time with just me and my family to tour the clinic on campus. That kind of attention, when he didn’t know who I was or if I’d even be coming to this school, was outstanding and made me want to be involved with people who cared to that degree.”

The College of Applied Sciences and Arts houses the dental hygiene program. The curriculum is designed to instruct students in the latest techniques in the oral health field. In addition to traditional courses in dental hygiene, the program provides additional preparation through hands-on practice.

Gresens has participated in one of the more unique offerings of the program, the First Baptist Church of Cobden dental mission trip to Mexico. She explains, “We see patients who have never been seen by a dentist in their lives, and we provide them with comprehensive dental services.” Sherri Lukes, dental hygiene assistant professor and the coordinator of the trip, adds, “Amanda was one of 12 dental hygiene students who traveled to central Mexico on a mission trip last summer, providing dental hygiene care in area villages. She was definitely a leader on the trip as she worked tirelessly in the heat and dust serving poor Mexican villagers.”

“It was the greatest thing I’ve done,” says Gresens about the mission trip. “It made me grateful, and I wanted to make the most of every opportunity that I’ve been given.” Dental hygiene students also rotate among various locations such as churches or schools to practice their skills and talk about preventive care. Since working these various rotations, Gresens would like to continue her involvement in public health and outreach. “That’s one of my aspirations for the future, to bring healthcare to populations of great need,” she says.

“For me it all goes back to the community. I enjoy being out, whether it’s with students or alumni or other community members. I just really enjoy the area and the people I’ve been able to meet. When I came here I fell in love with the community and the area, and I knew I wanted to stay. I want to stay and serve southern Illinois.”

As for why she feels that dental hygiene is what she wants to do with her life, the recent Southern graduate explains, “My uncle is a dentist, and I guess I’ve always had that influence in my life … and people have always told me I have a good smile.”

The 25 Most Distinguished Seniors

1. Andrea Arnieri; Palatine, IL
   College of Liberal Arts
2. Jared Burde; Carbondale, IL
   College of Science/College of Engineering
3. Katie Butler; Rockton, IL
   College of Science/College of Liberal Arts
4. Cory Dack; Duluth, MN
   College of Liberal Arts
5. Casie Frink; Dunlap, IL
   College of Liberal Arts
6. Ashley Gibson; Carterville, IL
   College of Business
7. Rhonda Glover; St. Louis, MO
   College of Mass Communication and Media Arts
8. Amanda Gresens; Arlington Heights, IL
   College of Applied Science and Arts
9. Stacy Lemere; Rockford, IL
   College of Liberal Arts
10. Levi Lohnes; St. Ripon, WI
    College of Liberal Arts/College of Mass Communication and Media Arts
11. Jennifer Methling; Williamsville, IL
    College of Mass Communication and Media Arts
12. Michelle Myers; Jerseyville, IL
    College of Liberal Arts
13. Jamie Nash; Cobden, IL
    College of Education and Human Services
14. Kelsey Nave; Arcola, IL
    College of Science
15. Allison Niendiek; Teutopolis, IL
    College of Business
16. Susan Noeth; Collinsville, IL
    College of Business
17. Samantha Okon; Arlington Heights, IL
    College of Education and Human Services
18. Krishna Pattisapu; Mt. Vernon, IL
    College of Liberal Arts
19. Alex Pilota; Manteno, IL
    College of Engineering
20. Alicia Packman; Washington, IL
    College of Engineering
21. Alyssa Rider; Kewanee, IL
    College of Agricultural Science
22. Krystal Stein; Nashville, IL
    College of Liberal Arts
23. Martin Van der Hoek; Homewood, IL
    College of Liberal Arts
24. Andrea White; Newburgh, IN
    College of Liberal Arts/College of Mass Communication and Media Arts
25. Erin Wilson; Murphyboro, IL
    College of Education and Human Services
Frank Klingberg, Noted Political Science Professor

Frank Klingberg, an emeritus political science professor at SIU, whose teaching career at Southern spanned three decades, recently passed away at 99 of natural causes. Klingberg joined the SIU Department of Political Science in 1946, and soon became an active supporter of the International Relations Club and of the Model United Nations on campus. The SIU Alumni Association life member enjoyed working with international and American students and directed many dissertations of both international and American students.

In 2004 his legacy was cemented when the Frank L. Klingberg Endowed Professorship was established. Anonymous donors, including some of Klingberg’s former students, donated $250,000 to establish support for state funding for the SIU Business Incubator—now known as the Dunn-Richmond Center—recently died at 87. He was also chief sponsor of bills obtaining funding for the renovation of Davies Gym, Touch of Nature, Pulliam Hall, and many other projects at Southern.

Active in politics for most of his life as an alderman and mayor in Murphysboro, Klingberg was elected to the Illinois General Assembly in 1974 and served in the House of Representatives with distinction until his retirement in 1993.

Bruce Richmond, Longtime SIU Supporter

Bruce Richmond, a politician who was the original sponsor and supporter for state funding for the SIU Business Incubator—now known as the Dunn-Richmond Center—recently died at 87. He was also chief sponsor of bills obtaining funding for the renovation of Davies Gym, Touch of Nature, Pulliam Hall, and many other projects at Southern.

Active in politics for most of his life as an alderman and mayor in Murphysboro, Richmond was elected to the Illinois General Assembly in 1974 and served in the House of Representatives with distinction until his retirement in 1993.
July

11-13/17-20 The Producers, McLeod Summer Playhouse, Thursday, Friday, Saturday at 7:30 17-20 p.m.; Sunday at 2 p.m.

12 SIU Day with the Southern Illinois Miners, Marion, Ill.

18 Pre-game picnic at 5 p.m., game at 7:05 p.m.

25 Chicagoland Golf Outing, Chevy Chase Country Club, Wheeling, Ill. Shotgun start at 9 a.m.

26 Ninth Annual SIU Detroit Area Picnic, Kensington Metro Park, Milford, Mich., at 11 a.m.

31 Little Women, McLeod Summer Playhouse, Thursday, 7:30 p.m.

August

1-4 Little Women, McLeod Summer Playhouse, Friday, Saturday, Monday at 7:30 p.m.; Sunday at 2 p.m.

8-17 Illinois State Fair, Springfield, Ill.

15 Saluki Oasis, Student Center, move-in day for fall semester.

22-31 DuQuoin State Fair, DuQuoin, Ill.

September

1 Du Quoin State Fair, Du Quoin, Ill.

6 Saluki Football hosts Hampton. Tailgate at 3 p.m.; game at 6 p.m.

13 Saluki Football at Northwestern University, Evanston, Ill.

20 An Evening With Lily Tomlin, Shryock Auditorium, 7:30 p.m.

31st Annual SIU Day at Wrigley Field Day, Chicago, Ill.

27 Saluki Family Weekend, Saluki Football hosts Northern Iowa. Tailgate at 3 p.m.; game at 6 p.m.

Looking Ahead

October 11 Homecoming (full schedule of events will be featured in the August edition of Saluki Pride).
To view the most up-to-date schedule of events and download the Saluki Family Weekend Tickets Order Form, visit www.siucstudentcenter.org or call the University Programming Office at 618-453-2721.

Ticket Information:
Central Ticket Office
Second Floor, Student Center
618-453-3478

Accommodation Information:
Carbondale Convention and Tourism Bureau
www.cctb.org
618-526-1500

Local Religious Services Information:
Campus Ministries Website (Newman Center)
www.siu.edu/~siucmin
618-529-3311

Saluki Football
vs.
Northern Iowa
September 27 at 6 p.m.
Alumni listed in maroon are SIU Alumni Association members.

1950s

Bill Norwood '59, the former SIU Board of Trustees member who was the first African-American to pilot for United Airlines, has been inducted into the Lincoln Academy of Illinois, established in 1965 to honor distinguished Illinois citizens in all walks of life. Laureates are people inducted into the academy on the strength of lifetime achievements in a particular field of endeavor. Being inducted into the academy is the highest honor for outstanding achievement the state can bestow to people who were born or have lived in Illinois.

1960s

Although Joan Lintault M.F.A. '62 has been involved in fiber art for decades, she has only recently published her first book, M. Joan Lintault: Connecting Quilts, Art & Textiles. The book is available at www.dragonthreads.com and other Internet sites. In the book, Lintault shares the philosophies and techniques she uses to create amazing art quilts. Involved in fiber art since 1965, Lintault's work has been exhibited at, among other places, the Smithsonian Institute, the American Crafts Museum, and the American Museum of Quilts and Textiles. Lintault, who lives in New Paltz, N.Y., is the former head of the fibers and textiles department at the SIU School of Art and Design.

Robert Swenson '65, associate professor of architecture at SIU, has received a lifetime achievement award from the Illinois State Historical Society. Swenson is director of the University's Preservation Summer program, which pairs architecture students with community members to identify and preserve history. The program has made achievements such as discovering southern Illinois stops on the Underground Railroad and proving that the first African-American nurse for the U.S. Navy served on the Red Rover hospital ship in the Civil War.

E. Scott Geller M.A. '67, Ph.D. '69, Alumni Distinguished Professor and director of the Center for Applied Behavior Systems in the Department of Psychology at Virginia Tech, has taught and conducted research as a faculty member at Virginia Tech since 1969, authoring 31 books, 43 book chapters, 38 training manuals, 203 magazine articles, and more than 350 research articles addressing the development and evaluation of behavioral change interventions to improve quality of life. His extramural grant funding, totaling more than $6 million, has involved the application of behavioral science for the benefit of corporations, institutions, government agencies, and communities in general.

1970s

Julio Fuentes '71, a justice on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit, is the fourth William L. Beatty Jurist-in-Residence with the SIU School of Law. He was in Carbondale in April for the annual endowed program that began in 2005. Born in Puerto Rico, Fuentes served 22 years as a municipal and state court judge before being appointed in 1999 by President Bill Clinton to the appeals court in Philadelphia. He was the first Hispanic to hold the office. He is also the only the 10th Hispanic named to any of the 12 circuit courts, which are one step below the U.S. Supreme Court. Fuentes earned his SIU degree in Spanish, finishing up after interrupting his schooling for a three-year hitch in the U.S. army.

Don Davenport '72, associate covenant director of church planting and congregational development for Evangelical Covenant Church of America, has published a book, 7 Healthy Relationships, through Xulon Press, one of the largest publishers of Christian books in North America. Davenport says he wrote the book because there are so many failed relationships in our society. The book is meant to assist readers in attaining healthy relationships. He and his wife, Frances '76, live in Flossmoor, Ill.

Irle Engelhardt M.B.A. '72, chief executive officer of a major coal company and who formed the Future of Pinckneyville Foundation and made contributions to area schools, the county fair, and local chambers of commerce, has been inducted into the Lincoln Academy of Illinois, established in 1965 to honor distinguished Illinois citizens in all walks of life. Laureates are people inducted into the academy on the strength of lifetime achievements in a particular field of endeavor.


Judy (Shapin) Benaroche Johnson '73 is president and CEO of Rx Worldwide.
Drumming Up Southern Memories

By the time he was 7 years old, Rodney Harper '71 was beating out rhythms with his drumsticks trying to emulate his dad, William "Skins" Harper, a jazz drummer and bassist.

Harper earned a degree in sociology at Southern, but it was the formal drum studies here that sparked his eventual show business career. Today, Harper is touring in the pre-Broadway run of Ella, a theatrical event about legendary singer Ella Fitzgerald.

In mid-May, the company, where Harper plays Sticks Fletcher in a production that features 24 of Fitzgerald's timeless hits, played in Cincinnati. About five weeks later, they opened in Harford, Conn. The pre-Broadway run is booked into 2009.

Harper says his experiences at SIU, both on- and off-campus, "prepared me for meeting the world.

A native of Chicago's west side, Harper arrived in Carbondale with no formal training but with a big talent. He played in a variety of groups while he was here, including the SIU Big Band, with a group called the Chandra Ellis Quartet, in a rock group called Psychic Illusion, and in a trio with London Branch '60, M.M.Ed. '66, Ph.D. '76 and Joe Liberto M.S. Ed. '89, Ph.D. '98.

"Shryock was the biggest stage I'd ever been on," he remembers. And it was at Southern that he got his only chance to see Ella Fitzgerald in concert, when she played the Arena in January 1966.

These days Harper divides his time between his mom's home in Robbins, Ill., and his "very small apartment" in Harlem, N.Y. But he says he'll never forget his time in Carbondale. "I was the only black kid with a bunch of white boys in this band. I didn't even have my own drum set at the time."
know what a special person John Sanders was. It is obvious his memory still evokes much passion in the people he encountered, and to be part of helping honor his work with the Valley is quite humbling. 

Jamie Antonia Symonanis ex ’78 is the author of a novel, Immaculate Fetish, a fast-paced contemporary thriller that is a must-read for all science fiction fans. Set in southern Illinois at the start of the 21st century, the story concerns what humanity must do to save itself. The book is available at www.lulu.com/content/1862738. Symonanis, a native of Chicago, describes herself as “a writer, painter, photographer, and I do some IT work and Web site planning.”

Bradford Choate ’79, M.Ed. ’84, vice president of university advancement at the University of South Carolina, has been named vice chancellor for university advancement at the University of Arkansas. He will begin his new duties on July 1 and will oversee the development, alumni, constituent relations, special events, and university relations programs in his South Carolina job. Choate is responsible for fund-raising and advancement units at the university’s eight campuses. Choate’s previous positions include serving as president and CEO of the Minnesota Medical Foundation, associate vice president for development and university relations at Penn State, and advancement positions at The Ohio State University and Frontier Community College in Fairfield, Ill.

Michael Neeley ’79 has been promoted to chief information officer at Atlas World Group based in Evansville, Ind. Neeley joined the company in 2005 and was vice president of information technology development for Atlas Van Lines, Atlas’ largest subsidiary, helping build technology prowess in the relocation, transportation, and logistics industries. Neeley retired as a lieutenant commander of the Navy in 1993 after serving nearly 26 years. Catherine Hagler ’80, M.S. ’88, executive director of administration, was recently honored by Southern as a recipient for this year’s SIU Women of Distinction. Hagler, one of four individuals honored this year, has worked at SIU for 26 years. She was nominated for the award by Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Larry Dietz, who described her as “always prepared, analytical in her problem-solving, articulate and respectful, and having a keen sense of humor.” He added that the SIU Alumni Association life member has also worked diligently to employ individuals with disabilities and has been instrumental in emphasizing training for her unit’s employees in sexual harassment, sexual assault, defense training, and multicultural diversity.

Dan Overturf ’80, M.F.A. ’83, an associate professor of cinema and photography at SIU, is the co-author of A River Through Illinois, a book released in April by the Southern Illinois University Press. Overturf was the photographer for the 256-page book that details the lives of those living along the Illinois waterway, a 330-mile stretch of rivers and canals from Chicago to Grafton. Overturf, former chair of the cinema and photography department, is an award-winning photographer and lives in Murphysboro.

Tim Southey ’80 is vice president of landscape operations at Green View Companies, headquartered in Dunlap, Ill. In his position at the Bloomington/Normal location, Southey oversees design, landscape installations, and landscape maintenance departments of all Green View locations (Oswego/Naperville, Peoria/Dunlap, Bloomington/Normal, Champaign/Urbana, Springfield, and Woodford County.) A registered landscape architect and Illinois Certified Nursery Professional, Southey has been with the company for 23 years. He also serves as president of SIU’s Agriculture Alumni Society and is a member of the board of directors of the SIU Alumni Association. His wife, Mary Kay (Whalen) Southey ’81, is also a graduate in plant and soil science.

Scott Stahmer ’81, an assistant news editor at the Fort Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel newspaper, has the distinction of having written the newspaper’s best headline of 2007. Stahmer earned the Sun-Sentinel’s readers’ choice award for “Thinking Outside the Bulb,” a headline on a story about ways consumers and businesses can reduce their electric bills. He and his wife, Sandra, live in Fort Lauderdale.

Jerry Halstead ’82, athletic director and head baseball coach at John A. Logan College in Carterville, III., notched his 1,000th career win with the John A. Logan Volunteers on March 10. Halstead is in his 25th season at Logan, averaging more than 41 victories per year. He has won nine conference titles, six Region 24 championships, and made two NJCAA National Tournament appearances. The former SIU baseball player has produced 10 NJCAA All-Americans, and 14 former Volunteers are currently playing professional baseball, with four competing in the major leagues. His 1,000th win ranks sixth in the nation among active community college coaches. He is married to Kathy Halstead ’83, and they live in Carterville.

Dhyana Ziegler M.A. ’83, Ph.D. ’85, a professor of journalism at Florida A&M University, was knighted in April as a Dame of Justice by the Chivalric Order of the Knights of Justice during the World Reunion and Festive Knights Ceremony of Investiture at Cambridge University in England. The order is formerly known as the Knights of the Roundtable. Besides teaching and research, she is a television producer and on-air personality who lives in Tallahassee and who has produced several documentaries and other works.

Tim Daugherty Ph.D. ’84 has been named vice president of administration at John A. Logan College at Carterville. He previously had been dean of student affairs at Southeastern Illinois College in Harrisburg and has more than 24 years in the Illinois community college system.

Michael McDonald M.P.A. ’84, a veteran of legal affairs and higher education, has been named assistant to the chancellor for affirmative action by the University of Wisconsin-Superior. He previously was an instructor in the University Honors Program at Tennessee State University and adjunct faculty at Middle Tennessee State University. While at SIU, McDonald was a graduate dean’s fellow, interned in Springfield with the Office of the Speaker of the Illinois House of Representatives, and was a fellow in the office of the Honorable James Thompson.

Judi Ray ’84, J.D. ’05 has been named the college development officer for the SIU School of Law. She previously served as a political consultant at LSG Strategies in Washington, D.C., as coordinator of The Day One Center
Inc. in St. Paul, Minn., and executive director of the Health Care Coalition on Violence in Minneapolis. Ray also was deputy campaign manager for Mondale for Governor from 1996 to 1998 and a scheduler for the Richard Gephardt Presidential Campaign from 1987 to 1988. She lives in Anna.

1990s

Carol Fisher ’90, M.S.Ed. ’07 is the training and development specialist for the SIU Office of Labor and Employee Relations. Fisher has more than 22 years of experience in human resource management and organizational development/training in both the corporate and educational arenas. Fisher replaces Mary Anne Osborne, who had held the position for several years.

Lt. Col. Jeffrey Juhnke ’91 attained the rank of lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Air Force last August. He and his wife, Jenny, live in Chesapeake, Va., where Jeff is the chief of joint training at the U.S. Joint Forces Command in Virginia Beach, Va.

Camille Dorris ’92, M.S.W. ’96 is stepping down from her post as executive director of the Women’s Center in Carbondale, a post she held for six years. She joined the Women’s Center in 1997 as its domestic violence and shelter program coordinator. As director, Dorris presided over a $1.5 million building project that doubled the center’s space. Dorris will join Realty Central in Carbondale as a real estate agent.

Timothy Szymczek A.A.S. ’91, B.S. ’93 is president of Predictable Quality Solutions, which is known as PQS and provides quality control services for manufacturing companies. The company has moved into a new home at SIU’s Small Business Development Center. After earning a degree in aviation management, Szymczek went to work for Toyota and Mitsubishi for 12 years, gaining extensive experience in quality engineering, supplier training, production, and predictable quality.

Randall Fox ’92 is president of Metals USA Building Products, a privately held $2 billion company based in Houston, Tex. He joined Metals USA in 2003 after previously worked for California Steel Industries and Bethlehem Steel. Metals USA provides a wide range of products and services in the heavy carbon steel, flat-rolled steel, specialty metals, and building products markets. Fox and his wife, Jill (Speith) ’95, live in Kingwood, Tex., with their three children.

Jill Carey-Hargrave ’93 earned her bachelor’s degree in agriculture at SIU and now lives with her husband, Andy, in Kingston, Ill. They have two children, Aidan and Hope, and the future Salukis are shown here decked out in their SIU gear.

Cheryl Hanke A.A.S. ’95, ’97 is an architect with Cannon Design in St. Louis. She’s in charge of intern development, helping prepare interns to get their architect’s licenses. Hanke, who has been a member of the National Guard since she was 17, became a commissioned officer in 1998. Last summer she served in Rwanda, Africa; this summer she’ll be deployed to Iraq with an engineering unit to work on rebuilding. She’s also the mother of a 9-year-old son.

Joseph Lanser ’95 has been promoted to partner at the national law firm Seyfarth Shaw LLP Based in the firm’s Chicago office, Lanser focuses his practice on intellectual property and information technology law, particularly litigation. He has been involved in patent, trademark, trade secret, Internet-related, copyright, and other complex litigation and arbitration.

Shari Selander M.S.W. ’95, director of child welfare programs in the School of Social Work at SIUC, has been named this year’s Alumna of the Year by the SIU School of Social Work. Serving in that position since 2004, Selander’s key accomplishment on the job to date involves setting up and managing an integrated assessment program that involves 84 central and southern Illinois counties, employs 50 people, and has a budget of nearly $5 million. Previously she served seven years as the school’s director of educational partnerships.

Joshua Long ’96, M.P.A.D. ’06, a real estate senior planner at the law firm of Gunster, Yoakley & Stewart P.A. in West Palm Beach, Fla., has earned the designation of certified planner by the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP), the professional institute of the American Planning Association. The prestigious certification is the industry’s highest level of accomplishment.

Tom Beshoar ’98, who has been a bee surgeon for 10 years, is now a sales representative for Davey Tree Expert Co. in the company’s St. Louis office. He’s an International Society of Arboriculture-certified arborist.

Megan Moore ’98 has been named director of publishing for the Illinois Institute of Continuing Legal Education (ICILE). She joined the staff as a program planner in 2006. As publishing director, she will direct the award-winning ICILE publications department, which is responsible for publishing more than 100 practice handbooks and other publications, with an average of 36 of those titles being revised each year. Before joining ICILE, Moore was a staff attorney for the Legislative Reference Bureau, where she drafted legislation and advised members of the Illinois General Assembly and their staffs on legislative proposals. Other Salukis in Megan’s family include her mother, Amy Jackson ’77, and her late grandfather, Howard W. Webb Jr., who joined the SIU English department in 1956 and retired in 1990 as vice president of academic affairs for the SIU system. Moore and her husband, Shaun, live in Springfield with their sons, Ian and Cameron.

Anne Bowles ’99 has been promoted to account manager at LP&G Inc., an integrated marketing, advertising, and public relations agency in Tucson, Ariz. As an account manager, Bowles is responsible for the planning and managing of assigned clients, including strategic planning, public relations, and marketing developments. She has been with the company for four years.

Travis Alber M.A. ’99 and Aaron Miller M.A. ’99, both of whom hold degrees from SIU, in interactive multimedia, have begun their own company, an innovative social reading Web site, BookGlutton.com, The site, launched in January, aims to change the way people read...
books online by offering a cross between a book, a computer, and a book group, allowing users to discuss the book from the inside. In the new BookGlutton.com endeavor, Albers is chief creative officer and Miller is a writer and Web developer who has worked on both creative and technical aspects of screen presentation. At BookGlutton.com, Miller's most important role has been as CTO, managing the architecture, and development of the entire project.

2000s

Scott Kelemetc J.D. '01 is now a senior associate with Evans & Dixon LLC in St. Louis. Licensed in both Missouri and Illinois, Kelemetc concentrates on Illinois worker's compensation. He earned a bachelor's degree in accounting at SIUE and is a resident of Waterloo, Ill.

It was hard not to notice the huge rumble in the sky on a sunny April day in Carbondale that turned out to be a C-17 Globemaster III buzzing over campus, piloted by Carl Rotermund '01.

Rotermund, who was working on earning more flight hours, had flown out of Altus AFB, Okla., where the SIU ROTC program graduate is stationed. Rotermund's dad, Don '01, who is an automotive technology instructor at Elgin Community College, solved the mystery about who was roaming through our air space. The C-17 cargo aircraft holds a maximum payload capacity of more than 170,000 pounds, making it quite a change from the little Cessnas and the hospital's helicopter that we're accustomed to seeing.

Jeff Rose '02 is one of the four independent financial advisors who have created a new business, Alliance Investment Planning Group (www.allianceinvestmentplanning.com), in Carbondale. The investment and retirement planning firm began operations as a limited liability company on March 1, 2008. Rose says they offer a comprehensive range of tailored investment and planning strategies while maintaining local decision-making control and providing exceptional customer service. Alliance Investment Planning Group is affiliated with LPL Financial Services, the nation's largest independent brokerage network.

Documentary photographer Chris Walker M.F.A. '02 is an assistant professor in the Department of Communication and Journalism at Auburn (Ala.) University. Prior to joining the Auburn faculty, Walker had worked for such publications as the Associated Press, The New York Times, Scientific American, and New Mexico Wildlife. He was a general assignment photographer for five years for The Blade newspaper in Toledo, Ohio, and was a finalist for a Pulitzer Award in 2000 after he and two coworkers exposed that government defense contractors were being exposed to an airborne carcinogen. See www.chriswalkerphoto.com.

Chad Parmenter M.F.A. '05 won the poetry part of the 2007 Black Warrior Review Poetry and Fiction Contest with his poem, "Batellite, Batellite of Love." The award includes a $1,000 cash prize and inclusion of the winning poem in the spring 2008 issue of Black Warrior Review, a University of Alabama publication. His poetry appears in such publications as Harvard Review, Pleiades, and the anthology Best American Poetry 2007. Among other prizes and award, the St. Louis native won the Hotel Amerika Poetry Prize and earned a scholarship to the Ropewalk Writer's Retreat. Currently he is a doctoral student at the University of Missouri at Columbia, where he is also assistant director of the university's Center for the Literary Arts.

Michael Meyerhofer M.F.A. ’06 won the 2007 Codhill Press Chapbook Award for his manuscript, "The Clay-Shaper's Husband." The award carries a $500 cash prize and includes 50 copies of the published volume. (A chapbook is a small, economically priced volume, usually of poetry, often on a single theme or with some other unifying feature, generally by a single author.) Meyerhofer, a native of Osage, Iowa, has three other chapbooks to his credit, as well as a prize-winning full-length collection of poems called Leaving Iowa.

Joy Roach Ph.D. ’06, an assistant professor in the Department of Computer Science and Information Systems at the University of Tennessee Martin, is recipient of the Delta Pi Epsilon Doctoral Research Award, given by Delta Pi Epsilon, the national research society in business education. Her dissertation was "Factors Affecting Written Business Communication Creation and Productivity Perceptions."

Christian Tinajero '06, M.B.A. '07 is associate director of the international division of Advanced Technology Services Inc., a Peoria, Ill.-based company. A native of Mexico City, Tinajero came to SIU on an athletic scholarship and went on to become a six-time All-Missouri Valley Conference swimming and diving team member. Tinajero was introduced to ATS through its engineering leadership program at SIU, created and funded by Richard Blaudow '70, founder, chairman and CEO of ATS, which provides managed services for production equipment maintenance, industrial parts repair, and IT infrastructure support.

Parker Somerville '07, a paparazzo for TMZ, a celebrity gossip and news service owned by Time-Warner, was one of 16 contestants on Big Brother 9: Till Death Do You Part, that premiered in February. Parker, a Springfield, Ill., native who now lives in Northridge, Calif., won $10,000 in the series' first airing. In the second show, Parker and his partner were eliminated. After he walked across the stage to collect his diploma, Brian Kerby '08 pedaled across the country to earn money for the Boys and Girls Club of Carbondale. The 28-year-old business management graduate headed to San Diego, where he dipped the rear wheel of his bicycle in the Pacific Ocean on May 14, then commenced the 3,200-mile ride from sea to shining sea. He planned to stop in Carbondale in June, and then finish his trip by dipping his bike in the Atlantic Ocean at Virginia Beach later in the month. He dedicated his ride to the Boys and Girls Club of Carbondale because of the integral role the local Boy's Club played in his childhood in northern Illinois.

Ashley Grimes '09 is the William N. Wasson Student Leadership and Academic Award winner at SIU. The prestigious National Intramural-Recreational Sports Association (NIRSA) award recognizes top student employees or participants in the Department of Recreational Sports. It honors students for their efforts in the field of recreation, in the classroom and for participation and volunteerism involvement on and off campus. Grimes is one of just four undergraduate student winners in Region III. A junior from Colfax, she's majoring in sociology.
A Carbondale time traveler from 1908 would recognize very little if one landed here in 2008. But, while much of the scene has changed, the 100 block of South Illinois Avenue remains remarkably similar to its appearance at the turn of the 20th century. In the early days, the block was home to a saloon, Bonney Furniture Company, an undertaker, and other establishments. Now, a variety of businesses reside there, including Mary Lou’s, the diner fondly remembered by Saluki alumni.
Alumni Give Simply Fondue Some Saluki Spirit

Tim Petersen A.A.S. '90, '92 just wouldn't give up bugging his friend David Hays '91 about the two of them opening a restaurant in the St. Louis area. Hays began his career in the hotel/restaurant business as a front desk clerk, and then became a general manager in the 15 years since he earned his degree in management at Southern. Along the way he acquired plenty of experience. "But Tim kept after me," he says, and finally he agreed to make the giant leap into co-owning a business.

Now, Simply Fondue-St. Louis (located at 1629 Locust St.) is rolling toward its first birthday in its home in the Printer's Loft Building in downtown, and finding its niche along the way. It's earning high marks from patrons and restaurant critics for not only the cuisine, but also for the communal experience of preparing and eating the food.

Those in small town America may think that fondue left the scene at about the same time as avocado green appliances and leisure suits. But the truth is a some small fondue restaurant franchises have been in business since the 1970s and 1980s in larger cities. The new wave of fondue's renaissance happened in Dallas in the mid-1990s.

And now Petersen and Hays have kicked it off in St. Louis.

The partnership has grown to include the men's wives. Tim, who is a member of the SIU Alumni Association, and his wife, Suzanne, live in Mascoutah. David, and his wife, Ellen '92 (who is also a teacher in the O'Fallon School District where the family lives), are high school sweethearts who have been continuous members of the Association since the day they left campus.

The proud life member of the SIU Alumni Association says he never considered not joining, and hopes other graduates and friends of the University will consider this commitment to Southern.

"It's just the connection for us," David explains. "It's the way we stay involved."
The Newest Salukis

May graduates at Southern showed their pride and excitement in various ways, but the end result was the same – a degree and an education to last them a lifetime. Congratulations!

SIU Alumni Association
http://www.siualumni.com