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Southern Alumni

SIU Alumni Association

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Southern Alumni

Trouble in Paradise
Southern students help battle climate change issues in the South Pacific

Inside: Southern Exposure, SIU Hall Of Fame, Salukis In Business, and more...
A couple who took diverse paths to SIU Carbondale share a passion that has been a longtime source of fulfillment.

Herb Donow, a Woodmere, N.Y., native, was an instructor at two universities before arriving at SIU in 1966, where he spent most of the next 28 years as an English professor. Carolyn Donow grew up in nearby Carterville, attained three degrees from the University, and served in roles as a researcher and psychology lecturer before becoming associate director of the Office of Research Development on campus from 1981 to 2004.

Herb and Carolyn have derived enjoyment from productions at Shyrock Auditorium and McLeod Theater, programs featured on WSIU, the University's public broadcast station, and find Morris Library to be a pertinent resource. The Donows have often extended their appreciation by generously making contributions to cultural activities, including art and theater programs on campus.

"These activities enrich the lives of many, and they are important to us," Herb says. "There is a governing principle. It is enjoyable contributing to activities that have meaning in your life. We get a lot of pleasure out of SIU's cultural scene, and this is our way of expressing our appreciation."

Carolyn's connection to the University dates back to her youth. She attended her first opera and live symphony on campus. She and her husband share an avid interest in politics, and were both fond of late U.S. Senator Paul Simon, founding director of Southern's Public Policy Institute. They regularly attend lectures, seminars, dinners, and other programs hosted by the Institute.

And once again, Herb and Carolyn are demonstrating their appreciation by extending financial support to a campus activity they enjoy. They are contributing a percentage of their estate through their respective wills to the Paul Simon Public Policy Institute. The Herbert S. and Carolyn F. Donow Endowment Fund will benefit the activities and initiatives of the Simon Institute as decided by its director.

"We shared deep admiration and respect for Paul Simon. The Public Policy Institute is his legacy and it's essential to our University," says Carolyn, who represented the Simon Institute on the SIU Foundation's "Opportunity Through Excellence" comprehensive campaign committee. "We feel this is a great way to support the Institute's initiatives."

Herb adds, "The Public Policy Institute is not a partisan activity. One of its most pertinent purposes is to educate students on what is going on politically. You get the straight story, as opposed to slanted viewpoints."

And it's yet another example of the Donows supporting an entity from which they have derived enjoyment. "In a way, it's probably a selfish act to support those activities you enjoy," Herb says. "But our University has a lot to offer from a cultural perspective. I figure that contributing money is one way to enhance it to an even greater level, and perhaps, make a difference well into the future."

If you are interested in making a contribution through your estate or any other planned giving option, please contact: Director of Planned Giving, Yvonne Spencer, at 618-453-4907, or via e-mail at yvonnenem@siu.edu.
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FEATURES

Trouble In Paradise
Although the Pacific island of Palau may appear on the surface to be a slice of paradise, climate changes are causing horrific changes regarding the citizens' food supply and basic quality of life. Some students from Southern recently traveled there to work with the Centers For Disease Control and Prevention on dealing with issues this tiny island nation 500 miles from the Philippines now face.

Dream Come True
As executive producer on one of the most popular radio/television shows in the country, Paul Pabst is relishing in his dream job. The "Dan Patrick Show" is now on more than 250 radio stations, XM Radio, DirecTV, Comcast Sports, and all the Fox Regional Sports Channels across the country. "My training at SIU was invaluable to what I'm doing now," Pabst says. "Those times in Carbondale are with me each day."

From Senegal To Southern
Although Saluki basketball saw its share of disappointments this season, the arrival of 6-7 forward Mamadou Seck provided a true highlight. The energetic transfer student quickly became a fan favorite with his hustling style of play. Seck has taken a winding path to Carbondale, and every step along the way he has marched to the beat of his own drum.

Paying It Forward
Jay Rud has never forgotten the lessons he learned from pilots who visited the SIU campus during his undergraduate years. Now a captain for American Airlines, he works closely with fellow alumni to organize the yearly American Airlines - SIU Aviation Career Day flight, giving Chicago-area high school students interested in aviation a chance to see Southern's campus.
While putting finishing touches on this issue of Southern Alumni, I noticed that many stories were painting a picture of Salukis helping others. So often we find that our graduates are trying to make a difference in the world around them, and this edition highlights some of those special people.

Our cover story focuses on a group of SIU students who traveled to the Pacific island of Palau at the behest of the Center For Disease Control in Atlanta, Ga. Their mission was to try and help citizens in Palau deal with major problems spreading across the country. Although the tiny island at first glance appears to be a slice of paradise, monumental climate changes are decimating its citizens' food sources and have led to mind-boggling levels of obesity and diabetes.

The students' 10-day fact-finding trip produced more than 1,700 photos and a documentation of issues which will be addressed through an advertising campaign on the public health impacts of climate change in this country of only 20,000 people.

Another feature story introduces us to captain Jay Rud, who has been giving back to Southern for many years in a unique way. Along with fellow captain and alumnus Steve Brainerd, he helps organize the annual American Airlines-SIU Aviation Career Day flight. This endeavor has long provided Chicago-area high school students with an interest in aviation with the opportunity to visit Southern's aviation department and our campus.

Even smaller stories point to a passion for helping others, such as SIU Women's Golf Coach Diane Daugherty winning the 2011 Lindell Sturgis Award For Public Service. If you know Diane, no doubt you agree that she is a perfect fit for such an award. Ready to assist others at a moment's notice, Diane always uses an "all-in" approach to get the job done.

Another example is a class note on Becky O'Neill, an attorney and clinical law professor at Southern who was recognized as the recipient of the first Human Rights Day Award given by the Southern Illinois Chapter of the United Nations Association. O'Neill, whose passion is helping the elderly, tries to also motivate her students to serve others.

Whether it is as a mentor, a volunteer, a donor, or a talented student trying to help solve a problem, it's obvious that Southern graduates are indeed a special group!

I hope you enjoy your magazine.
A Bigger Picture

I always learn something new when I read the alumni magazine, and the December issue kept that streak alive. I was most taken by the story on former Daily Egyptian Editor Jordan Wilson's investigative journalism trip to Kenya.

The passion, and often frustration, that Wilson described as he saw more than 750,000 people displaced by a political war of which they had no control left a strong message. I was impressed that since his return home, he has taken a break from regular newspaper journalism to work for a not-for-profit group that helps at-risk youth.

It's obvious that Wilson sees the bigger picture out there, as he said he has to do something that will "have a real impact in making the world a better place." SIU should be quite proud of this young man and the profound difference he is trying to make in society.

Charles Watson EX '87
Charleston, S.C.

He Only Met Cal Once

I wanted to let Gene Green know what a great article he wrote on the late Dan Callahan. It was a real "guy" article, coming from the bus and locker room viewpoint. I think every guy - and yes, more than a few women - were right there with Gene as he recounted the stories and experiences.

I only met Coach Cal once, yet that moment has stuck with me ever since.

My fiance and I were in Carbondale one year for the baseball game SIU played on Good Friday and we stayed over that evening for the fish fry. We arrived at the Carbondale Civic Center early and were picking a table to sit at when Cal walked by.

I congratulated him on that day's win, shook hands, and he thanked me for being there. He then asked where we were from, and told him we had driven down from the Quad Cities to catch the game and dinner. He sincerely thanked me again, and we continued on to our table.

Hours later, we left the event while it was still going on. As we walked down the hallway, I heard someone call out my name. Since I knew no one there, I kept walking. Again - this time louder - I heard someone call my name. Down the hall about 30 feet was Coach Cal with a group of people. He stopped his conversation to thank me again for being there that day! I waved, said thanks, turned to my fiance and said; "Wow ... that is impressive. All the people he met and talked to tonight, yet he made sure to thank me, and remembered my name!"

I have told this tale many times. Even though it was perhaps just a small thing, Cal saw it as something important. His kindness was a lesson learned for me, a relative stranger.

Gene, your story just amplified that experience. Thanks so much!

Steven Montgomery
Life Member
East Moline, Ill.

The Apple Didn't Fall Too Far

I read your article on the late SIU Baseball Coach Dan Callahan with great interest. I worked with his father, Gene, in Springfield where we often shared political gossip with Ray Serati, and later in Washington, D.C., when Gene was chief of staff for Senator Alan Dixon. While I never knew Coach Cal, I certainly knew how proud his father was of him.

After reading the article, I now know the apple didn't fall very far from the tree. We meet too few Dan and Gene Callahans in our lifetime. We should treasure our time with all of them as much as Southern Alumni Editor Gene Green obviously did with Coach Cal.

Sam Baker '69, M.S. Ed. '71
Founder and CEO
Haversham and Baker
Cincinnati, Ohio

Teaching Life's Lesson

After reading Gene Green's column on the late Dan Callahan, it made me realize once again how much of an impact he had on my life — not only as a player — but in how he also helped make me the person I am today. I know I speak on behalf of many former players when I say that although we might not have realized why he was doing certain things at the time, we truly understand his thought process now that we are in the real world.

Cal was not only a great baseball coach, but he taught us countless life lessons along the way.

I never understood at the time why he would always get up out of his chair when he shook someone's hand. Or why he demanded we leave our hotel rooms clean. Or why he always told us to leave a tip. Or why his shoes were always shined. Or how he would always say, "pardon me." All of these Callisms boiled down to respecting others.

I was fortunate enough to see him the day before he passed away at his home in Carterville. Even though he could not talk, he did hear what my former teammate Joe Schley and I said during the 15 minutes we were able to be with him. We thought later that Cal would have been quite upset that we drove 10 hours to see him for 15 minutes, but Joe and I wouldn't have missed that opportunity to see him one more time.

I have been in a unique position since I left Southern Illinois University, as I now umpire in the Missouri Valley Conference. Some might think my views on Cal are a bit biased, but that would be incorrect. The MVC umpires who had the opportunity to work for him over the years had nothing but continued on page 39
New Life Members
(November–February)
Judy Baine
Jill Berube
David and Paula Biby
Dale and Kelli Blaise
Keith Botsch
Benjamin Carmitchel
Mario Caudillo
James Charles
Thomas and Cheryl Couch
Shani Doyle
Steven Durkovic
Michael Ebersohl
Byram Fager
Janice and Robert Grove
Dennis Hawkins
Floyd and Jane Jerkins
Joseph Legg
George and Ruth Little
Tyler Lukens
Elizabeth Malafa
Brian and Lindsay Manci
Phillip McCarthy
Travis Parry
Kynda Pottorff
Darren and Lisa Pulley
Tereza Roney
Thyra and Herbert Russell
Scott and Steffanie Seegmiller
Jason Smith
John Summers
Marcos and Karina Trevino
Donna Waller
Taress Williams
Jon and Kendra Wofford
Todd Woodside
Janice Wyckoff

Dell
In today’s fast-moving society, technology is something we depend on in our homes, on the go, and in the workplace. With exciting new products from Dell such as the new Streak 7 Tablet, and the money-saving discount offered exclusively for SIU Alumni Association members, staying connected with friends and family is easy.
Association members can take advantage of a 7 percent discount on Dell laptops and printers when they order through the 710 Bookstore in Carbondale. It’s one of the many ways of saying “thank you for being a member.” Visit www.seventen.com for additional details.

Gold’s Gym
If you’re like most Americans, you probably know how difficult and expensive it can be to go to the gym. Luckily, for our valued members of the SIU Alumni Association, Gold’s Gym in Carbondale and Marion, Ill., will waive the $109 enrollment fee. This saves you money while motivating you to stay in shape. Gold’s Gym is a place committed to helping people find their own strengths through living a healthy lifestyle. They have been fulfilling this commitment for more than 45 years.
Get in touch with Gold’s Gym in Carbondale or Marion today by calling 618-465-3703 (Carbondale) or 877-465-3703 (Marion).
Check Out Our Benefit Program

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 JSTOR: Browse thousands of scholarly journals through JSTOR's online database
• Shenew - Williams Paints: 10% off regular priced items
SIU Alumni Association Online Store: 15% off merchandise (membership number required)

NATIONWIDE
• Allied Van Lines/Federal Companies: 63% off on interstate moves
• Beautiful Displays.com: 15% off list prices of trade show exhibit kits and graphics
• Bella & Folla Children's Bedding: (online only) 10% off crib bedding sets
• Boyer's Coffee: 10% off
• Car Rental: Alamo, Avis, Budget, Hertz, and National
• CORD North American: *Denotes benefit code required. To access codes, please call us at 618-453-2408 or visit us at siaualumni.com.
• Carbondale - Free soft drink with entree
• Furniture King: 15% off accessories
• Gamblin Inc.: 10% off room and 10% off at Gambit Steak House
• Garfield's Restaurant: 20% off (not available on lunch specials)
• Golds Gym: 10% off
• Green Retreat: Murphysboro - 10% off accommodations on stays two nights or longer and 10% off services
• Hampton Inn: 20% off standard room rate
• Harbaugh's Restaurant: 10% off
• Houlihan's: Carbondale - Free appetizer with purchase of two entrees (excludes sampler/combo)
• Huck's: Carbondale - 10% off
• Irish Inn: Ozark, IL - 10% off regular rates, 20% off for joint members
• Italian Village: Carbondale - 10% off your meal
• Lush Aveda Salon & Spa: 10% off services
• Mehta Motors: 10% off
• Maberry Consulting: 10% off grant writing/evaluation service
• Niemann Flooring, Inc.: 10% off regular paint, 20% off reg. paint, 10% off advanced registration
• Midwest Ear Nose & Throat Clinic: 10% off
• Murphy's Pub: 10% off
• Newburgh, Ind. - 15% off
• Parent of SIU: 10% off
• PI Fraternity: 20% off
• Progress Enterprises: 10% off
• Red Hawk Golf Course: 10% off
• RX For Pools: 10% off
• Spartan Foods: 10% off
• Spinoni's Pizza & Pasta House: 10% off
• Tres Hombres: 10% off
• Touch of Nature: 15% off for annual members on SIU imprinted items
• Visions Hair Studio: 10% off
• West Frankfort - 15% off
• Zeller's: 15% off

CAMPUS
• McLeod Theater: 20% off for adult/senior citizen tickets (excludes Summer Playhouse)
• Morris Library privileges - visit siaualumni.com for details
• Old Main Restaurant: 10% off
• SIU Career Services: Free access to Saluki Job Bank (job search system) and complimentary resume critiques
• Student Center: 10% off
• Student Center: Bowling & Billiards: members receive SIU student rates; Cyfroff Shop: 10% off Saluki merchandise
• Touch of Nature: 20% off lodging at Little Gossy Lodge; Call 618-453-1121 for reservations.
• University Bookstore: Student Center: 20% off
• University Press Publications: 20% off

This list is subject to change.

* Denotes benefit code required. To access codes, please call us at 618-453-2408 or visit us at siaualumni.com.

Consider membership as a gift!
Members receive:
• The Southern Alumni magazine quarterly
• Saluki Pride electronic newsletter twice weekly
• Access to member-only areas of career and networking community
• 15% discount at the SIU Alumni Online Store
• Opportunity to attend events at member rates

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12 Projects Help Southern Turn A Deeper Shade Of Green

A dozen Southern Illinois University Carbondale sustainability projects will be funded this spring with $209,811 from the campus Green Fund.

The projects range from continuing work on the SIU wind turbine project to installing water-bottle refilling stations and improving lighting efficiency. The fund itself is the result of a student-led initiative that each semester assesses students a $10 fee. The goal of the fee is funding projects to promote energy efficiency, the use of renewable energy, and sustainability at Southern.

"This is our most diverse assemblage of projects we’ve funded so far in terms of who the ideas are coming from and what impact on campus life they will have," says Ryan Klopf, chairman of the Sustainability Council.

The projects allocated monies during the current funding cycle, along with the amount of each grant award and a brief project description, are:

• SIU wind power project - $87,302 to continue efforts toward construction of a wind turbine that would provide approximately 5 percent of the campus' energy.
• Grease conversion to fuel and feed-stuff - $51,000 to convert used canola oil from dining halls to biodiesel and cattle feed. Dining facilities produce about 200 gallons of waste oil weekly.
• Vegetable production - $23,871 to grow vegetables on a one-acre sustainable production area at the SIUC farms for use in University Housing dining halls.
• Converting campus utility vehicle to plug-in - $9,930 to convert an existing, inoperable campus utility vehicle to a plug-in electric vehicle.
• Hydration stations and reusable water bottles - $9,014 to install three Elkay water hydration stations on campus and promote the use of reusable water bottles.
• Blinding the Light: Recapturing Energy Efficiency in Faner Hall - $8,918 to install energy-efficient LED exhibit lighting in the University Museum at Faner Hall.
• Climate assessment - $8,000 to assess SIU’s net emission of greenhouse gases in order to be more energy efficient.
• Campus sustainability literacy assessment - $6,076 to continue work to survey and assess the literacy on campus of students, faculty and staff regarding sustainability so the data can be used to evaluate current sustainability efforts and expand the role of sustainability in the curriculum.
• SIU Synergetics 2011 - $3,000 to help fund the “Synergetics 2011: Where Innovation and Sustainable Development Meet” symposium April 7-8.
• Student Center Earth Day Celebration - $1,550 to help cover expenses for the Student Center's Earth Day celebration April 22 featuring a variety of programs and efforts promoting recycling, energy, consumption, eliminating food waste, and more.
• SIU Environmental Ambassadors Program - $648 to recognize the University's volunteer environmental ambassadors for their work to improve the region through planting flowers and trees, working on trails, picking up litter, and much more.
• Ecology Distinguished Speaker Series - $500 to help support the Center for Ecology's Distinguished Speaker Series, bringing speakers to campus who will focus on the theme "Challenges in Designing Conservation Reserves."

For more information about the Green Fund, e-mail greenfund@siu.edu, or contact Klopf, a doctoral plant biology student who chairs the Green Fund Committee/Sustainability Council at (618) 453-3209 or by e-mail at rklopf@gmail.com.
University Mourns Death Of Keith Sanders

 Keith Sanders ’51, M.S. ’62, former executive director of the Illinois Board of Higher Education and a member of the SIU Board of Trustees (BOT) since 2004, died at 71 years of age on Jan. 12 from complications related to pulmonary fibrosis.

 Sanders, who served as SIU Alumni Association president from 1977 to 1978, received the Alumni Achievement Award in 1996 and a Distinguished Alumni recipient in 2008.

 "It was with great sadness that the board learned of Dr. Sanders' death," BOT Chair Roger Tedrick said. "Keith was a passionate and eloquent advocate for Southern Illinois University, a man held in deep respect by his fellow board members for his unwavering commitment to this institution."

 A Benton native, he was a two-degree SIU graduate, holding both bachelor of science and master of science degrees in speech/psychology. He earned his Ph.D. in communications from the University of Pittsburgh, and had been working on an additional graduate degree at the University of Chicago.

 "Southern was blessed with the opportunity to have Dr. Sanders serve his alma mater and the state of Illinois," Tedrick added. "The exceptional stewardship he provided to the university he so dearly loved was instrumental in allowing SIU to make progress in the face of some of the most difficult times public higher education has ever seen."

 Sanders' distinguished career in higher education spanned five decades, including serving as the executive director of the Illinois Board of Higher Education from 1998 until his retirement in 2002, various appointments in the University of Wisconsin system from 1989 to 1997, including senior vice president and chief operating officer for the University of Wisconsin System and chancellor of the University of Wisconsin at Stevens Point.

 Sanders' academic service at SIU included stints as dean of the former College of Communication and Fine Arts from 1983 to 1989 and professor of communications from 1967 to 1989.

 His tenure on the BOT will be most remembered for his work in promoting affordable access to a public higher-education degree. Sanders, who served as chair of the BOT's Finance Committee, was a strong voice on the board in support of last year's enactment of a tuition rate freeze. In 2006, he and his wife, Carol, endowed an alumni scholarship at SIU to support the academic goals of high-achieving, low-income students from Franklin County, Ill.

 "The thoughts and prayers of our entire university community go out to Carol and her family for their loss," SIU President Glenn Poshard stated. "His contributions to this University over the last 50 years have been many; but in my view, his greatest gift was the constant vigil he kept for those least able to afford a college education. No one was truer to the mission of this University and its role of lifting students of modest means into this country's great middle class than Keith Sanders."

 Sanders, who resided in Spring Grove, is survived by his wife, Carol, and their son, Mark.

 University College At SIUC Gains Approval

 The SIU Board of Trustees' Executive Committee has authorized the creation of a University College at Southern Illinois University Carbondale. The full board will be asked to ratify the Executive Committee's action at its next regular meeting in April.

 By centralizing and coordinating all services supporting new freshman and transfer students, the University College will improve the campus experience for these students. Creation of a University College model is based on recommendations from the Foundations of Excellence/SIUC First Year Task Force. Three units will comprise University College: University Core Curriculum, the University Honors, and Saluki First Year, which includes New Student Programs, Pre-Major Advisement, the Center for Academic Success, Student Support Services, Supplemental Instruction, Career Services, and the Suder First Scholars Program.

 "While we already have many excellent programs and offices in place that support our new students, the University College will enhance the effectiveness of these programs and significantly broaden the number of students who will benefit from these services," Chancellor Rita Cheng says.

 The idea for a University College at Southern goes back to 1999. That year's self-study, completed as part of the University's reaccreditation process, promised the creation of a comprehensive first-year experience program by the time of the next accreditation review. In 2004, a campus committee investigated the need for such a program, and did a subsequent study in 2007.

 The newest effort stems from the 2008 decision to join the Foundations of Excellence project. A campuswide study involving approximately 90 faculty, staff and students led to the establishment of Saluki First Year, a first-year success program, as a precursor to establishment of a University College.

 Mark Amos, associate professor of English, and Julie Payne-Kirchmeier, director of University Housing, led the First Year Experience task force, and serve as academic director and student affairs director, respectively, of Saluki First Year, and remain involved in the implementation of University College.

 Students admitted to Southern after the implementation of the University College structure will still enter the college that is home to their majors, if they have declared a major, and that is where they will continue to go for their academic advisement. However, those students who have not declared a major will find a home in University College. In addition, all first-year students will benefit from the coordination of and better communication among the services and programs pertaining to new students.

 New programs and services slated for the fall 2011 semester pertaining to implementation of University College and Saluki First Year include testing all incoming students for placement into the appropriate mathematics courses, and broadening the scope of the early intervention system. Co-curricular events will deliver programming similar to a Common Reader program, and, perhaps most pervasively, the offerings of "Foundations of Inquiry," the college-specific student success courses, will expand.
Dear Fellow Salukis:

Spring is the season of optimism, growth, and renewal, and you will find those in abundance at your University. A variety of exciting initiatives are under way that will enhance the educational experience for our students and move SIUC forward — efforts that I know you support in many valuable ways.

The 47 textbook scholarships awarded by the SIU Alumni Association in January are a perfect example. The $25,000 worth of textbooks and supplies was important assistance to these students, who also learned important lessons about commitment and loyalty. We certainly hope that they will someday join you in being generous supporters of fellow Salukis.

We are very excited about the new Legacy Tuition Rate available to newly entering students who are children of SIUC graduates. That’s a 20 percent discount, beginning next fall, on the in-state or out-of-state tuition, guaranteed for four years. I encourage you to take advantage of this and share the good news with your fellow alums.

Also new is our University College. We all remember our earliest days on campus, a time of excitement but also transition and uncertainty. While we already have many offices and programs — academic and service — that support our new freshman and transfer students, the University College will enhance the effectiveness of these programs and significantly broaden the number of students who will benefit from these excellent services.

We have brought together nine programs to create a more comprehensive and coordinated experience for our students. These include the seven programs currently under our first-year experience program, Saluki First Year — Pre-Major Advisement, the Center for Academic Success, Student Support Services, New Student Programs, Career Services, Supplemental Instruction, and Suder First Scholars — as well as the University Core Curriculum and the University Honors Program.

How many of you remember the “Woody Hall Shuffle”? Our ongoing efforts to improve programs and services received an important vote of confidence last month from the Illinois Board of Higher Education. The board approved plans for our Student Services Building, which will be built where the current parking garage stands. Demolition of the parking garage is set to begin next January, and site work will begin the following March. The schedule calls for building completion by the end of 2013.

We are planning a special celebration of the excellence of our University in April, and I sincerely hope you can join us. Events are planned in Chicago, Springfield and Carbondale, including our annual Research Town Hall Meeting/Fair and a speech by Thomas G. Mortenson, Senior Scholar at The Pell Institute in Washington, D.C., both on April 12 on campus. Our School of Music will present a concert at Springfield’s Hoogland Center on April 13, and in Chicago’s Orchestra Hall on April 14. Then on Friday, April 15, I will have the honor of being installed as SIUC’s 22nd chancellor. Events continue through that weekend, including the annual Honors Day on April 17. Please visit http://www.chancellor.siuc.edu/installation/index.html for more information. We are extremely grateful for the private support we have received for these activities.

Our theme for the week is “Advancing a Culture of Excellence.” It is a culture that you — our supportive alumni — and our students, faculty and staff have created and sustain through hard work and commitment.

Thank you for all that you do for our students and our University. I look forward to seeing you during our week of celebration.

Sincerely,

Rita Cheng
Chancellor
Daugherty Wins Sturgis Award For Public Service

Diane Daugherty's enthusiasm is infectious. From 25 years as coach of the Southern Illinois University Carbondale's Women's Golf team, to her work helping establish an area no-kill shelter and her support of several community events, she has a love of life.

Her community service and efforts on behalf of the University has earned Daugherty the 2011 Lindell W. Sturgis Memorial Public Service Award. The SIU Board of Trustees presented the award and plaque to Daugherty during a ceremony at the Student Center in February. Her name will also go on a permanent plaque hanging in the Student Center.

"I'm stunned and humbled," Daugherty says. "When Chancellor (Rita) Cheng called me I was really shocked." Daugherty is widely known for her championship women's golf team. The three-time Missouri Valley Conference Coach of the Year has guided the Salukis to three conference titles, and five second-place finishes. Her teams also captured two Gateway Conference titles. She also found success as a part-time touring professional.

But Daugherty's work away from the golf course is emblematic of her commitment to the community, says nominator Kathy Jones, a senior associate director of athletics at SIU.

She is a past board member of the Southern Illinois Regional Social Services (SIRSS) and since 2002, has hosted an annual golf tournament that raises approximately $5,000 annually for the organization, and helped found the St. Francis-Community Animal Rescue and Education (CARE) shelter in 2004, and is currently the board's president.

The SIU Alumni Association life member has served as "Mistress of Ceremonies" for the Carbondale Chamber of Commerce's annual dinner; and put her talents as an auctioneer to work for several worthy causes, including The Women's Center "Taste of Chocolate" fundraiser for six years, in addition to "Coaches vs. Cancer," "Inspiring Women Gala," and the "100 Men That Cook" charities.

Since 1993, Daugherty has been co-director of the Hickory Ridge "Hook a Kid on Golf" clinic, which has attracted more than 1,000 children for a week-long clinic that aims to inspire a love for the game. She was also instrumental in bringing the Illinois High School Association Girls' State Golf Tournament to Southern Illinois in 2003, and was tournament director for five years.

Denny Kortkamp, president of Venegoni Distributing Inc., first met Daugherty about 15 years ago as they were walking their dogs. Without Daugherty's leadership as president, the work of the no-kill animal shelter would not be possible, he points out.

"Her efforts, along with her enthusiasm and compassion have allowed her to be an effective fundraiser and role model for recruiting hundreds of volunteers," Kortkamp says. "Many days you will find her feeding and cleaning at the shelter alongside those giving their time. She is a leader by example. She has spent countless hours organizing anything to foster an awareness of the plight of the abused, abandoned, and unwanted dog or cat.

Daugherty says the no-kill shelter is her passion, and the facility is making a difference in the region's unwanted and wanted pet population, she said. The shelter was able to hire a full-time veterinarian and the facility has done close to 2,000 spays and neuters in the past two years, and the facility averages about 40 dog and cat adoptions per month, she said.

She recalls her former boss, former SIU Women's Athletics Director Charlotte West would say Daugherty has two speeds — fast and off. "I'm either going at something 100 percent or I'm out like a light," she says. "I look at everything as an opportunity to give 100 percent."

Daugherty, who began to play golf when she was three years old, would tag along with her parents to play the game. Daugherty's father passed away six years ago, but her mother, Dorothy, who is 90, was her guest at the luncheon. Her mother was also present at the dedication of the Diane Daugherty Golf Facility at Hickory Ridge Public Golf Center in December. The facility features a combination indoor driving range and golf simulator for team practices in inclement weather.

Daugherty recalls the early days of women's golf at SIU. She arrived to a team, already conference champions, with sparse accommodations and gear. There were no rain suits, the team's golf bags emblazoned with spray-painted "SIU Girl's Golf," and the uniform featured light blue shirts.

Early in her Saluki career Daugherty had opportunities to go elsewhere. But it never occurred to leave, she says. "I fell in love with Carbondale; fell in love with SIU."

Daugherty admits the 25 years have gone by fast. She is a Facebook friend with most of her former players, noting that one just turned 40 years old. She has been a part of quite a few weddings and receives Mother's Day cards from them. Having quality young women who are good citizens and earn degrees is the goal, as many have gone on to be successful doctors, attorneys, and businesswomen.

"My players have always been my team and family," she says.
Recent Graduate Finds Niche In Paralegal Studies

by Andrea Hahn

If not for squeamishness about chemistry, Jessica Henson’s future plans might look different indeed.

The Peoria native graduated from Southern Illinois University Carbondale’s paralegal studies program last December, and next fall expects to enroll in the SIU School of Law. Until then, she is working as a paralegal for a local bankruptcy attorney.

“It took me a little while to figure out what I wanted to do,” the SIU Alumni Association student member says. “At first I was trying to make other people happy, but then I decided I needed a career to make me happy.”

She had begun college in a civil engineering program. As much as she enjoyed it, she felt her heart pulling her to a pre-veterinary program. There were two problems: one, family obligations required frequent moves, which made starting a college career difficult, and two, chemistry is a requirement for those wishing to pursue veterinary medicine.

“I found that I don’t really like chemistry,” she notes, “but I had taken a course in property law while I was studying civil engineering, and I really liked that.”

Henson enrolled in an associate degree paralegal program in Colorado. The program director, an SIU alum, saw Henson’s Illinois roots and suggested a look at Southern should her travels ever bring her to Southern Illinois.

And sure enough, Henson found herself in Carbondale. Though she had worked in law offices for several years already, her experience had shown her that the paralegal field can be quite competitive. She wanted an edge, and Southern was the whetstone.

“There are not as many paralegal positions as there are legal secretary positions, it seems,” she says. “Paralegal jobs pay better, and I enjoy that work more because it involves research and problem-solving. So I wanted a program such as SIU offers, a baccalaureate paralegal studies degree.”

Southern offers the only American Bar Association-approved bachelor’s degree in paralegal studies in Illinois. The program, Henson stresses, is challenging. She notes in particular a research course that often stymies students unprepared for the workload. But workload is no deterrent for her.

“I wasn’t really in a hurry, but I did want to finish the program and move into law school,” she says, explaining why she took 18 credit hours in her fall and spring semesters, and 11 credit hours during the summer. And she was working her way through college, relying on two part-time jobs, one at a restaurant and one in a retail shop – together approximately 38 hours a week – to pay her way.

Even with such a full schedule, Henson served as president of the Organization of Paralegal Students at SIU and took an internship job at the SIU Law Library, a job that cemented her desire to attend law school.

“People come into the law library off the street with legal problems and they are looking for answers,” she explains. “There is always something to research, and it is always something different. That is one of the things I love the most about it. The law isn’t always easy to understand, and I love the challenge.”
Top Cinematographer Returns to Southern

by Pete Rosenberg

Award-winning and Emmy-nominated cinematographer and director James Chressanthis says he cannot emphasize enough that whatever career a person chooses, “it better be something you absolutely love.”

Chressanthis, who returned to Southern Illinois University Carbondale in January to share his work and creative insights with students, well remembers the moment more than 30 years ago while pursuing his master of fine arts degree from Southern when that sentiment hit home. Working as a part-time orderly at Memorial Hospital of Carbondale, he was transporting a man dying of cancer to treatments and therapy when the man asked him what he was studying.

The 1997 SIU graduate says he was “making sculpture, painting, and art,” to which the man replied, “I always wanted to do that…” His own affection is synonymous with success through a variety of mediums in more than two decades in studio motion pictures, television movies, drama series, and documentaries.

Chressanthis’ visit on campus featured screenings and discussions of two of his acclaimed films, No Subtitles Necessary: Laszlo and Vilmos, and Four Minutes. There was also a mixed-media photography exhibit by Chressanthis and his wife, Robin Becker M.F.A. ’97, and a workshop with students in directing and cinematography courses. His other work includes the Emmy-nominated mini-series Life with Judy Garland: Me and My Shadows, Urban Legend, and television movies The Reagans, 3: The Dale Earnhardt Story, The Music Man, Eloise at the Plaza, and the 2001 Brian’s Song.

“We were pleased to have James Chressanthis return to campus to share his expertise, his film work, and his photography with our students,” says Gary Kolb, dean of the College of Mass Communication and Media Arts. “He is a wonderfully talented individual with significant achievements in his career.”

Walter Metz, professor and chair of the Department of Cinema and Photography, recalls meeting Chressanthis with Ronald Graves, the college’s constituency development officer, in August 2009 on the set of the critically acclaimed television drama, Ghost Whisperer. He was director of photography and also directed some episodes in the series.

Southern students were able to learn “what is going on in the industry right now,” and get a glimpse into what it’s like to be on sets that can have more than 100 people, Metz points out. “It’s that kind of information that if students can get in the classroom, then going and being on a set will not be that intimidating.”

Chressanthis says he had “terrific support” from his sculpture professor Thomas Walsh, and film professors Don Zirpola and Michael Covell. Covell “was really an inspiring filmmaker-teacher, pushing us to learn both traditional film craft and test the boundaries of experimental cinema,” he says. “It was a perfect training ground for a cinematographer, though I did not realize it at the time.”

“It’s always great to have alumni return and share their passion and knowledge with our students and faculty,” Kolb says. “It reminds us of what we do right, and we are proud of them,” he said.

To learn more about Chressanthis’ work, visit http://chressanthis.com/; to learn more about Robin Becker’s work, visit http://www.robinbeckerartist.com/.

Chressanthis says he had great support from professors at Southern, who “pushed us to learn both traditional film craft and test the boundaries of experimental cinema. It was a perfect training ground for a cinematographer.”
by Bonnie Marx

Trouble in Paradise

If you travel to Palau, a Pacific island nation that bills itself as "the paradise at the end of the rainbow," you will likely be delighted with the pristine white beaches, world-class scuba diving, the amazing array of marine life and gardens of coral beneath the clear blue waters, and the waterfalls, forests, reefs, and caves. What isn't apparent is that native Palauans, in a society that dates back more than 3,000 years, are clinging to a culture that faces extinction from a very modern threat - climate change and global warming.

That's where a group of advertising students at Southern Illinois University comes in. With the financial backing of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta - through disaster medicine specialist Dr. Mark Keim '87, M.D. '91, senior science adviser - the advertising class is taking on the challenge of educating Palauans to the dangers they face every day through a campaign called "Protect, Provide, Unite."

It was hardly a random act for Keim, who has worked in the Pacific for about 15 years in emergency response and preparedness for what he says is "the most disaster-prone place in the world."

Why Palau?

"This marks the first time the CDCP has been called about a new type of disaster (climate change)," Keim says. "We needed to help people, learn from it, and use it as a test bed. Hundreds of scientists are working together to measure the health effects of climate change worldwide."

Small islands are in the front line of climate change and, according to the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the impact on people, economies, tourism income, and ecosystems is likely to be severe.

There's also the concept of "environmental justice," Keim says. "There is some responsibility for the nations that caused climate change to help those on the front lines of it."

Palau's issues are many, says Mahany. "Sea level rise, extreme heat, salt water coming up in the..."
The 10-day fact-finding trip to Palau produced more than 1,700 photos and a laundry list of problems that are being addressed through the advertising campaign on the public health impacts of climate change in Palau.

Problems: We’ve Got Problems
The climate-change factors involved in the ad campaign include:

Sea level rise: Called “one of the greatest threats to the country’s social, economic, and environmental sustainability,” the rise in sea levels contributes to coastal flooding, which results in crop damage and numerous health hazards that are creating threats for the public health of Palau, says Sarah Hubbs, the student in Journalism 406 named president of the project, a senior from Mahomet, Ill. Hubbs was in charge of the project and led the team in making the class’ presentation to Keim in mid-December.

Keim says one island in Micronesia, a nation neighboring Palau, found itself covered with 18 inches of water over the entire island because of coastal flooding. The water eventually receded, leaving salt behind that affected trees, gardens, and wells.

In the meantime, sea level rise is causing the loss of medicinal plants (Western medicine is considered “alternative” to traditional Palauan medicine) and a marked decrease in the availability of traditional crops (because of damage from sea water), such as taro.

Directly related to the decrease in the availability of traditional crops and the shift to a diet containing more processed foods are the health problems of the inhabitants, with diabetes and obesity constituting the greatest threats. In 2010, Forbes magazine named Palau the seventh fattest nation on earth, at 78.4 percent qualifying as overweight (25 or more score on body mass index) or obese (30 or more BMI.) Forty-nine percent of the population suffers from diabetes, which accounts for 75 percent of the deaths and 40 to 60 percent of health care costs. In fact, the Palau minister of health has declared an emergency in noncommunicable diseases – like diabetes – among all U.S.-associated Pacific islands, like Palau, Mahany says.

In flood-prone areas of Palau, there are epidemic levels of Dengue Fever, which is transmitted by mosquitoes, and problems with viral hemorrhagic fevers, hepatitis, malaria, encephalitis, and West Nile virus.
Since the end of World War II, when Palau became a United Nations protectorate administered by the U.S., residents have been abandoning traditional foods such as fish and taro, for cheap, easily attained, processed food from the West. The World Health Organization (WHO) says the island’s dietary changes stem from a dependence on foreign aid and the ease of the global food trade.

WHO says the number of underweight and malnourished people on earth is now equivalent to the number of overweight and malnourished—both stand at about 1.1 billion. (In 2008, the World Bank estimated world population at 6.7 billion.) The U.S. came in at No. 9 on Forbes’ 2010 list of the fattest counties, with a total of 74.1 percent of the population qualifying as overweight or obese. In that list, the first seven places are occupied by Pacific island entities: 1. Nauru, 94.5; 2. Micronesia, 91.1; 3. Cook Islands, 90.9; 4. Tonga, 90.8; 5. Niue, 81.7; 6. Samoa, 80.4; 7. Palau, 78.4.

**Extreme Heat**

Although the average yearly temperature is 82 degrees on Palau, it's not unusual for it to reach three digits, causing drought and crop damage, as well as exacerbation of respiratory diseases such as chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), asthma, and bronchitis. That additional stress on the body can cause internal vulnerability for other diseases, says Hubbs, Palau residents seem especially vulnerable to syncope (fainting), which may be traced to a variety of causes, including temporary reductions in blood flow causing a shortage of oxygen to the brain. Dehydration and heat spur diseases of the nerves of the legs in older persons, especially those with diabetes, she says.

Keim adds it’s “no coincidence that poverty and disaster go together. They can’t move.” There’s also a disparity about the effects of climate change on people of color and those who are impoverished. “Chronic diseases are higher among people of color.”

**El Niño**

El Niño (and its chilly counterpart, La Niña) is the dominant meteorological and oceanological phenomenon affecting the Pacific. It originates in the Pacific “and occur when trade winds are weak—

Irony is apparent in this shot—a child with her lunch of canned corned beef and rice in front of a decades-old old poster promoting healthy eating and the major food groups.

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**SIU Students On A Mission**

Three student employees of the Daily Egyptian—Sarah Hubbs (advertising manager), Julia Rendleman and Genna Ord (photographers)—found themselves on a mission in Palau last September.

Hubbs, who was class “president” of the Palau project, had never heard of the island nation before Jerry Bush raised the subject with her last May. Rendleman and Ord were not class members.

The islanders, eager to see their traditions preserved, so welcomed the group into their midst that they were allowed into places that no Westerner—and few Palauans—had gone. From hunting medicinal plants in the forest, to being shown every way imaginable to prepare taro, to being guests at the ultra-traditional birthing ceremony (which happens a few weeks after a first child is born) their access was almost unlimited.

“We were privileged to have been a part of such a culturally significant event,” Hubbs says. “I was quite moved. Most people never get to see it.”

The three students chosen to make the Palau trip by Jerry Bush, class instructor, also had writing ability, a necessary trait in being able to caption the photos and narrate their experiences. For Hubbs, “I wasn’t surprised by what I found. I expected strong cultural ties and a tight-knit group, but the workload shifted. Certain things became more important that we initially thought.”

At the current state of the project, Hubbs and Ord are working with an advanced web design class that will develop the site for the project. “We are the clients and they’re developing a website for us,” Hubbs explains.

“I’m blessed with this opportunity,” she notes. “I don’t think a lot of people are able to put something like this on a resume. It incorporated all the things I’ve learned here at SIU and triggered a response that was unbelievable in changing people’s lives and getting them to understand.

“It’s important to have had this experience, but even more important to know that I have helped someone.”

Julia Rendleman photographs elementary school children in Koror.
enrolled," Hubbs said in her December presentation of the class project.

Increasing temperatures and ocean acidification are also causing the disappearance of coral reefs, which are especially susceptible to climate change. Palau, world-renowned for its marine biodiversity, claims more than 1,300 species of fish and more than 700 varieties of coral.

El Niño also causes a decrease in the fish population, as does thermal expansion (a change in sea volume in response to a change in temperature.

It may be a region in peril, but this young resident still enjoys the natural wonders of the island.

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**Protect, Provide, Unite**

The SIU Advertising 406 class will begin its advertising campaign sometime this year, inundating the 20,000 or so Palauans by radio, newspaper, and cable television. Hubbs says their efforts include "newspapers, TV, radio, billboards, posters, informational brochures, social media, special climate change events, direct mail, and promotional items."

One year after the launch of the campaign, a team will assess awareness levels of Palau citizens.

Mahany says the initial trip to Palau was to "gather data, do interviews, and have people fill out a survey. The first step for the advertising is the ad campaign, which will be followed by a photo book and a website, probably in late summer or early fall."

"This cause marketing was different for us to do," says Bush. "A people project like this was a totally different way to approach things for SIU. It's new to me and not like a normal campaign."

When the class presented its proposed ad campaign to Keim in December, he was soundly impressed with the "insightful" presentation. "They captured things it takes people years to learn," Keim says, "and the students were able to elicit things from the Palauans that we couldn't."

Perhaps the best part for Keim, though, was the $77,000 final price tag for the ad campaign.

"For our agency, that's a small amount of money compared to what we spend on things," the CDC's Keim points out. And as pleased as he is with the partnership between government and academia, he is thrilled that the project is succeeding at his alma mater.

"SIU is the perfect University for this with its medical, clinical, and collegiate research,' Keim says. 'The institution has always been known for its humanity -- Southern prepared me to be a humanitarian and to assist humans, and to look for ways to help people be empowered locally."

"There's a culture I appreciate at SIU where accepting differences in culture is one of its strengths. It's not the Peace Corps, but it certainly is developing people in that way."
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It wasn’t all work and no play for the Dan Patrick Show at this year’s Super Bowl in Dallas. From left, SIU alumnus Paul Pabst (executive producer), Patrick O’Connor (director of operations), Andrew Perloff (blogger), Todd Fritz (executive producer), and Dan Patrick pose with 2010 Sports Illustrated swimsuit issue cover girl Brooklyn Decker.

Sometimes when Paul Pabst ’93 wakes up, he is tempted to pinch himself to make certain the day ahead is really not an illusion. As executive producer of the nationally-syndicated “Dan Patrick Show,” the Southern Illinois University graduate admits he is living a dream.

Now on more than 250 radio stations, XM Radio, and simulcast through DirecTV, Comcast Sports, and all the Fox Regional Sports Channels across the country, the three-hour daily show is arguably one of the most popular sports programs in the United States.

“No two days are alike, and we have great fun putting it all together,” the Fairfield, Conn., resident says. “I still can hardly believe that I have the job that I do and have the opportunity to enjoy a working relationship with a consummate professional like Dan Patrick.”

The SIU Days

Pabst grew up in the south Chicago suburb of Glenwood, Ill., knowing from a young age that he wanted to study journalism. After graduating from Marian Catholic High School in the late 1980s, he thought he knew where he wanted to attend college — but that decision would quickly change.

“I felt the University of Alabama was going to be the place, and drove down there for a visit the summer after graduation,” Pabst recalls. “Although I liked what I saw, something just didn’t click. I left wondering if it was the right place for me.”

On his drive back north, he called childhood friend Dan Smith ’91, who was already a sophomore at SIU. Smith asked, “Why not stop in Carbondale on your way home, spend the weekend here looking around the University, and just check things out?”

Pabst decided to do that. He loved what he saw, and thoughts of “Sweet Home Alabama” never crossed his mind again. He knew he was going to be a Saluki.

“I really didn’t know that much about SIU at the time,” he admits, “but was immediately taken by the beauty of the campus, the friendliness of the people, and everything I saw about the area. I decided to apply, got accepted, and started my college career in Carbondale.”

While at Southern, Pabst became a member of Alpha Tau Omega, a decision he still cherishes. “Most people think of fraternities as all parties and fun, but for me it was a place to grow. They had study hours for us and a structure to keep us on track. Many freshmen struggle, but me and my fellow fraternity brothers fared well.”

After a year on campus — and making certain his grades were in good shape — Pabst decided it was time to go to the Daily Egyptian offices and apply for a job. He was hired as a sportswriter during his sophomore year, and stayed with the publication for the rest of his time at Southern. “The DE was a great place to learn,” he stresses, “It really made a big difference for me.”

(See sidebar story).
A Great Training Ground

For Paul Pabst, his days at the Daily Egyptian provided training he will always remember. "It was invaluable," he says. "The DE was a great place to work and featured the environment of a real newspaper—not just a student newspaper. When I was there we didn't take a back seat to any local media—we were battling for the same stories."

One of the years Pabst was at the newspaper, Jackie Spinner '92 was the editor. "She was a star even then," he says of the Southern alumnus who would go on to be a standout reporter for the Washington Post. "Jackie was one of the most organized, well thought out college students I ever saw, and it is not surprising to me that she has accomplished what she has on the national level. When I think of her I also realize what I do now is basically entertainment. On a given day, Jackie is covering the war in Iraq and I'm covering the Knicks!" Pabst says the DE was "almost like a full-time job—you didn't call in sick or blow off an assignment, because you had a job to do. If you didn't take things seriously, they would let you go and find someone who would get it done."

Of the many instructors and mentors Pabst had then, no one made a bigger impression than former department dean Walter Jaehnig. "He was a real intelligent man who didn't talk down to you because you were a student," Pabst recalls. "Dr. Jaehnig would also give you feedback in a constructive way regarding what you were doing well and how you needed to improve. "The other thing I remember is that his door was always open— you could just show up at his office and talk about things. That is pretty special when you think about it, as many people in his position are probably not like that."

Pabst had not talked to Jaehnig since he graduated in 1993, but the "Dan Patrick Show" changed that. When the retired SIU journalism administrator heard his former student on the air, he contacted him via email. "For the last two years we have been corresponding back and forth," says Pabst, who has now ventured into the teaching arena himself as an instructor of a sports broadcasting course at Sacred Heart University. "Dr. Jaehnig listens or watches the show often, and lets me know what he thinks. He is someone I wanted to make proud, so it's really special that he is still providing feedback."

"He remains an inspiration to me each day."

— Gene Green

Having a little fun in the unexpected snow blanketing the Super Bowl weekend, Pabst tries to block former NFL Pro Bowl lineman Michael Strahan during a game of touch football. "As you can see," the 1993 grad says, "it didn't go well."

He also tried to branch out into other student media outlets—an experience producing little reason for optimism. "I went to WSIU for an interview, and it just didn't go well," Pabst now recalls with a laugh. "In fact the guy at the station actually told me that I wasn't meant to be on the air."

Although he would eventually do some work with student-station WIDB, Pabst would not venture on air again until many years later when he joined the Dan Patrick Show's ensemble cast of on-air characters. Now seen and heard by millions each day, the irony of that facet of his job brings a smile to his face.

The Real World

After graduating from Southern, Pabst landed a position with Pro Football Weekly. He later did some freelance writing before moving to New York City in 1996 to take a position with CBS. He stayed in that role until joining ESPN.
Radio in 2000 as a producer for its College Game Day segments.

Pabst often saw Patrick — then the co-host of “SportsCenter” — strolling down the studio hallways. He admits he didn’t really know him then, but that all changed in 2002 when a producer left Patrick’s show. A mutual friend mentioned to the ESPN star that “you might want to talk to Paul Pabst — I think you two would get along well.”

Patrick approached the Southern grad and asked him if he would be interested in joining the show as a producer. “It was a surreal moment — really something that I will never forget,” Pabst admits. “Dan was someone we all looked up to, and if you follow sports in this country, he was then — and still is — one of the biggest names out there. It didn’t take me too long to say yes.”

Patrick would leave ESPN in 2007 to start his own syndicated radio show, which has now branched out as a simulcast on the television side as well. “Dan said he was interested in controlling his own brand, and asked me if I wanted to work with him — and the more I miss it,” he says. “The longer I’m away from Carbondale, the more I appreciate what happened for me there — and the more I miss it,” he says.

“I think it’s quite telling that my best friends are still the people I met at SIU.”

When Dan Patrick Came To Carbondale ...

More than two decades ago something extraordinary was about to happen in Carbondale. Rarely was the men’s basketball team on television of any kind back in those days — no less on a medium that would provide national exposure. But on Dec. 14, 1990, the Salukis were set to host Murray State in a unique ESPN midnight telecast.

That Southern was going to play a regional rival at 12 a.m. on the cable giant was exciting enough for area fans and Southern students, but it became especially interesting when people found out that SportsCenter’s Dan Patrick would be doing the play-by-play.

The gregarious Patrick, along with studio co-host Keith Olbermann, had literally become the face of ESPN. Several SIU students like Paul Pabst arrived at the SIU Arena early that night to try and talk to the person they watched religiously each night on television. Since the game would end in the middle of the night — and Patrick’s plane in St. Louis would not be taking off until the next morning — some students began to put on their thinking caps.

Surely he had someone taking him to St. Louis, and obviously there wasn’t any place for him to go in Carbondale after such a late game. Pabst and his fraternity brothers sat behind press row and yelled out some post-game ideas, but ironically the man he would eventually work for 12 years later didn’t heed his invitation.

From left, Doug Dillard ’92, Dave Crome ’89, Joe Vitale ’92, Dan Patrick, Brad White ’89, Bill Allen ’90, and Cory Alan Forgue ’89 relax at a post-game party that the ESPN anchor attended following the midnight telecast.

That’s because Patrick had already accepted one from another Southern graduate.

Dave Crome ’89, now sports anchor at KDAF-TV in Dallas, Texas, was working for WSIL-TV3 at the time. He showed up at the SIU Arena hours before tipoff to record a preview with then-head coach Rich Herrin. As Crome recalls, “I was a one-man band out there, hauling around a heavy camera, lights, and a tripod. Dan Patrick looked at this, strolled over to me, and said, ‘rough gig.’ We started talking and he soon asked me if there was anywhere to go in Carbondale after the game.

“Knowing that game wouldn’t end until after 2 a.m., I told Dan that despite SIU having a ‘party school’ image, the sidewalks in town would be rolled up by then. I said, however, that some friends were coming to my place afterwards and he was welcome to come there. He showed up and we all had a great time with him — I don’t think he even went back to his hotel before leaving for St. Louis.”

It remains a night Crome and his fellow Saluki friends will never forget.

“Paul Pabst may be working for Dan Patrick now,” Crome says with a grin, “but that night I got to him first!”
Young Saluki Baseball Squad Faces Challenging Schedule

A young Southern Illinois University baseball team enters the 2011 Missouri Valley Conference season full of promise, despite facing what is arguably the toughest schedule in the program’s last two decades. Thirty-seven of its scheduled 57 games are on the road, including 16 of its first 18, and nine of SIU’s 14 weekend series will be away from Carbondale.

Head coach Ken Henderson, who took over the top post following the death of Dan Callahan, begins his 21st season coaching at SIU. He feels the 2011 Salukis represent one of the hardest working teams he’s coached at Southern. “The thing I like about this club is how good the guys are,” he says. “They seem to take care of business and are the best group we’ve had in the weight room since I’ve been here.”

SIU has a young squad this season, as 19 of its 28 players are either freshmen or sophomores. The one area of the team that is the most proven is its lineup. The Salukis return their top five hitters from last year’s unit that hit .308, which was SIU’s highest team batting average since 1998. Leading the way is junior first baseman Chris Serritella, who was a First Team All-MVC selection in 2010. Serritella, a .353 career hitter, ranked in the top five of eight different offensive categories in the Valley last year and his 64 RBIs in 2010 tied for the second most in a year in school history.

Also returning to the SIU infield are senior Blake Pinnon (.333, 70 H, 16 2B, 45 RBI) and sophomore Austin Murphy (.319, 43 H, 57 RBI), and senior Chris Murphy (.320, 72 H, 16 2B) and sophomore Nick Johnson (.309, 59 H, 22 RBI) will anchor the Saluki outfield. Sophomore Cody Forsythe (LHP) and Aaron Snyder (RHP) are Southern’s top returning pitchers and along with junior college transfer Cameron Maldonado (RHP), the trio figure to be SIU’s weekend Valley starters. Closer Lee Weid has been lost for the season due to injury, so that is an area that the Salukis must find another stopper.

“This most challenging schedule we’ve had in my 21 years here,” Henderson says. “We’re traveling a lot, so that is a bit of a concern with such a young team. It’s going to be a challenge, but I think it will pay off in the end and it will get us to where we want to be.”

Southern opens the MVC season April 8-10 at Evansville. For the full 2011 schedule, results, and statistics, go to www.siusalukis.com.

Reis Named Illinois Sportscaster Of The Year

The Voice of the Salukis — Mike Reis — has been named the Illinois Sportscaster of the Year, as voted on by the National Sportscasters and Sportswriters Association. The SIU Alumni Association life member is in his 32nd year of doing radio play-by-play for Southern football, basketball and baseball.

He also hosts weekly call-in shows for men’s basketball coach Chris Lowery and football coach Dale Lennon, and produces Saluki Sports Today, a daily feature that airs across the Saluki Radio Network.

“It’s a peer vote of Illinois sportscasters, and the fact they think I’m worthy of this award is humbling,” says Reis, who won his first broadcasting award. “I’m especially thankful to Bradley play-by-play man Dave Snell for nominating me.” Past honorees include current Chicago Cubs announcer Pat Hughes and the late Jack Brickhouse.

A 1978 SIU Radio-TV graduate, Reis has described many of the greatest moments in the history of Saluki Athletics. Among his highlights are broadcast of SIU’s 1983 I-AA National Championship football season, the 2007 I-AA Final Four football campaigns, and a pair of men’s basketball trips to the Sweet 16 in 2002 and 2007. In all, he has brought to life the accomplishments of nine NCAA Tournament basketball teams, seven Missouri Valley Basketball Conference regular-season championship teams, four MVC Basketball Tournament Championship teams, games in the 1977 College World Series, and four NCAA Baseball Tournament teams.

“Mike Reis is an institution in southern Illinois,” says SIU’s Director of Athletics Mario Moccia. “When it comes to Saluki Athletics, everyone wants to know what Reis thinks. His professionalism, his passion for his job and his knowledge of sports comes through crystal clear in every broadcast.” He began his student sportscasting career at WSIU Radio and WSIU-TV in 1975. He became a part-time sportscaster at WCIL Radio in 1976, and moved to full time in 1978.

The Cincinnati, Ohio, native was inducted into the SIU Athletics Hall of Fame, and is a member of the Illinois Basketball Coaches Association Hall of Fame. A 2007 recipient of the SIU Alumni Association Achievement Award for Service, he was also the 2008 recipient of the John Sanders Spirit of the Missouri Valley Conference Award. Reis has been the SIU College of Communications and Fine Arts Commencement speaker and was the College’s Alum of the Year.

The award will be presented to Reis during the NSSA Awards Weekend in Salisbury, N.C., May 14-16.

How Did The Salukis Do?

At press time, the SIU men and women’s basketball teams were still to play in the MVC Tournament, and men and women’s track was to compete in the league indoor championships. For final results on these teams, log-on to www.siusalukis.com.
Softball Looks To Defend MVC Crown

The defending Missouri Valley Conference champion SIU softball team returns seven starters from a season ago where it finished 38-20 overall and 20-5 in league play and earned their 14th consecutive season with 30 wins or more. Southern is picked to finish first in the league again this season, along with Illinois State. Both teams earned 94 points in a preseason poll. After being left out of the NCAA Tournament for the second consecutive year last season, the Salukis will look to regroup as they face a competitive schedule that includes eight teams that made the NCAA Tournament last season - one that made the Women's College World Series - and will face five of those teams at Charlotte West Stadium.

"We went through the fall season trying to find our rhythm or what we were going to be about offensively this season," says head coach Kerri Blaylock. "This team has many options, so we feel like we may be a little bit of a different team than last season, with more power and speed in the lineup."

Top returners for SIU include Preseason All-Conference honorees shortstop Haley Gorman, left fielder Mallory Duran, and MVC Pitcher of the Year Danielle Glosson). Catcher Cristina Trapani, a 2010 second team all-MVC, first team scholar athlete, and all-tournament team selection, is in her final season behind the plate, while Natalee Weissinger returns at third base for the Salukis. Chelsea Held returns at centerfield to lead a core group of outfielders including Duran, Morgan Barchan, and Michelle Bradley.

In the circle, the Salukis return all three pitchers including Glosson, Alex Peters, and Britney Lang. Glosson recorded a 2.02 ERA, earned a 25-14 record, fanned 254 batters, and tossed eight shutouts.

Southern is scheduled to open the Valley portion of its schedule at home on March 19-20 against Wichita State. For the full 2011 schedule, results, and statistics, go to www.siusalukis.com.

Jo Ann Boydston Praised As 'Extraordinary Woman'

Jo Ann Boydston, an internationally respected scholar on American philosopher John Dewey and a distinguished professor at SIU, died in late January in Naples, Fla., at the age of 86. She returned to Carbondale last October for the dedication of the Boydston Center, a 50,000-square-foot facility that houses the Saluki football and basketball teams.

"We are truly fortunate to have had Dr. Boydston as a member of the SIUC family," Chancellor Rita Cheng says. "She was a woman of great intellectual ability, and she was very generous to the University. She endeared herself to the members of the University community - especially students - with her generosity of spirit, her kindness, and her compassion."

Boydston and her husband, Donald N. "Doc" Boydston, were also philanthropists for several notable causes and continually shared their love of SIU. Their contributions to the University include an endowed chair in the Department of Philosophy in 1994 and the Donald N. "Doc" Boydston Legacy Fellowships for racial minority student-athletes in Intercollegiate Athletics in 2009.

While Boydston and her husband were each individually successful, friends also recall the closeness and affection the couple, married for 62 years, shared with each other. While forging their own identities, they complemented one another as well, says Seymour Bryson, SIU's retired associate chancellor for diversity and now special assistant to the chancellor.

"They did what was right and what they believed in. Not for the publicity - they never asked for anything in return - they just wanted people to have the opportunity to do their best."
Saluki Athletics Inducts Seven Into Hall Of Fame

SIU inducted seven new members into the Saluki Hall of Fame during a ceremony on Feb. 4. The newest members are men's basketball players Darren Brooks and Troy Hudson, plus inductees Robert Dickson (swimming), Kelly Firth-Hatfield (women's basketball), Amy Harre (softball), John Hoscheidt (baseball), and Cameron Wright (track & field).

Here is a closer look at the newest Hall-of-Famers:

- **Brooks (2001-05)** was a two-time MVC Player of the Year and Defensive Player of the Year (2004, 2005) for the Salukis. He scored 1,761 career points and set the school record for steals with 258. SIU won four straight regular-season conference titles during his career, made four straight NCAA Tournament appearances, and won three NCAA Tournament games, including a Sweet 16 in 2002. The St. Louis native was a two-time AP Honorable Mention All-American. After playing professionally overseas the last few years, Brooks is back in his hometown of St. Louis recovering from an injury.


- **Dickson (1970-73)** was a nine-time All-American in the 100 and 200 butterfly, and the 400 individual medley. His best event was the 200 butterfly, in which he finished third in the nation in 1971, sixth in 1972, and fifth in the 1973 NCAA meet. He scored points at four-straight NCAA meets, leading SIU to 17th, 11th, 11th, and 20th-place finishes from 1970-1973. He resides in Albuquerque, N.M., and is the president of Paradigm & Company.

From left, new Saluki Hall of Fame inductees Troy Hudson, John Hoscheidt, Kelly Firth-Hatfield, Cameron Wright, Amy Harre, Robert Dickson, and Darren Brooks at the induction ceremony.
• Firth (1990-93) was one of the league's most dominating centers during the early '90s. She was a two-time First-Team All-Conference selection (1992, 1993). Firth finished with 1,093 career points and 811 rebounds. Her .547 career field goal percent still ranks in the school's top 10. Firth also excelled in the classroom, earning Academic All-MVC (1993) honors and winning the Virginia Gordon Award (1993). She resides in Colorado Springs and is the orthopedic director for Physicians Home Health.

• Harre (2002-05) ranks among the best pitchers in Missouri Valley Conference history, earning First-Team All-MVC honors all four years, plus MVC Pitcher of the Year in 2005. Harre is the school leader in career wins (84), innings pitched (820.1), complete games (90) and shutouts (49) and second in career ERA (1.05). She pitched three no-hitters and struck out 704 batters in her career. Harre was also a three-time Academic All-American (2003-05, 2nd/1st/3rd). The Salukis made three NCAA Tournament appearances during her career, in which she won seven games. She is currently a self-employed pitching instructor.

• Hoscheidt (1973-76) was an All-America center fielder for the Salukis in 1974, a year in which he led the Salukis with a .385 batting average and set the school record for hits (85) and RBI (45). He helped lead the team to a third-place finish at the College World Series in '74. Hoscheidt is still the career leader at SIU in triples and ranks among the school's best in total bases, stolen bases, and runs scored. SIU was a combined 162-45-2 during his career. A 10th-round draft pick of the New York Yankees in 1975, Hoscheidt returned to SIU for his senior season and later played three seasons in the Kansas City Royals farm system. He is the owner and general manager for WRMJ Radio in Aledo, Ill.

• Wright (1992-96) was a world-class high-jumper for the Salukis, earning All-American honors in the event five times during his career: Outdoor (1992-93, 1995) and Indoor (1993, 1996). He was a four-time MVC high-jump champion and was named the Most Valuable Field Athlete at the MVC Outdoor Championships in 1993. His most prestigious accomplishment came in 1996 when he represented the United States at the Olympics in Atlanta. Wright was a four-time MVC All-Academic First Team member and earned an NCAA postgraduate scholarship. He is a sales rep for Pfizer Pharmaceuticals in the southern Illinois area.

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Southern's Connie Price-Smith Named USA Assistant Coach For 2012 Summer Olympics

Saluki track and field head coach [Connie Price-Smith](http://www.siu.edu) has been selected as the women's throws coach for Team USA's 2012 Olympic track & field team. The Games of the XXX Olympiad will take place from July 27 through August 12, 2012, in London.

"I'm excited to be a part of it and be there to help the athletes strive to reach the best of their ability," Price-Smith says. "By going through it myself, I kind of know everything that you have to go through and prepare from one day to the next."

This will mark the sixth Olympic Games Price-Smith will participate in. The former thrower qualified for the Olympics in 1988 (Seoul), 1992 (Barcelona), 1996 (Atlanta), and 2000 (Sydney), while also coaching at the 2008 Olympics in Beijing. She will serve as head coach this summer for Team USA at the 2011 World Outdoor Championships in Daegu, Korea.

"It speaks volumes of the type of coach she is and certainly validates us trying to keep her around as long as we can," says SIU Athletic Director Mario Moccia. "Connie is a unique individual as a four-time Olympian. She's coached our women's team to a top ten finish in the NCAAs, coached national champions, and world record holders. She continues to hit heights in the profession."

Though the exact members of the Olympic teams will not be known until next summer, Price-Smith knows that many of them will bring a wealth of experience to London in 2012.

"Some of them, especially in the throws events, have been there before, so they know what they have to go through," she says. "I'm just there to help them manage everything and get ready to go out there and do the things that they need to do."
The first time Mamadou Seck spoke during a post-game press conference as a member of the Southern Illinois University Carbondale men's basketball team, several reporters in the room detected an unusual accent.

Born and raised in Dakar, Senegal, Seck spoke two languages throughout his childhood. He primarily spoke French, but also a native tongue known as Wolof. English was his third language, but he was speaking it so fluently during the press conference that day that it was hard to tell.

The 6-foot-7-inch forward, who transferred to Southern this season from Southeastern Illinois College, quickly became a fan favorite at Saluki games this season thanks to his all-out hustle on the court. Seck has taken a winding path to Carbondale, and every step along the way he has marched to the beat of his own drum. He points out he has never tried alcohol or smoked a cigarette, but does admit with a grin to having a mischievous sense of humor.

Soccer Was His Sport

When Seck was little, everyone told him that he was the best soccer player around and that someday he would play on the
Senegal National Soccer Team, the highest honor an athlete can achieve in a country that adores the sport. “Soccer is the sport in my country,” he says. “No matter where you are from or where you live, soccer is the sport you play.”

One day, a 7-year-old Seck was watching television when an American basketball telecast came on. The game fascinated him. Like so many American kids at that time, he became a Michael Jordan fan. He and his older brother decided to try the game for themselves. Indoor courts were hard to find in Dakar, so they shot at an outdoor hoop not far from their home. “In the beginning, it was just for fun,” he admits. “When my brother would shoot, I would get his rebounds.”

Seck enjoyed it so much that when he turned 8, he joined a basketball club and immediately made the traveling squad. By age 15, he was selected to play for the Senegal National Basketball Team, and he put his soccer ball away.

When he was 17, Seck played in the African Cup and met a coach who told him he was good enough to play collegiately in the United States. “He said it would be a good opportunity for me to come to the U.S. to play in the NCAA,” Seck recalls. “He said maybe one day I could be in the NBA, and if not, I would be able to finish my studies and get a job.”

Seck wound up taking that coach’s advice, more or less by accident.

One of Seck’s six siblings, a sister married to a U.S. serviceman, works as a cosmetologist in Seattle.

While visiting his sister, Seck was playing at an open gym one day and was discovered by a coach at Seattle University. He was promptly offered a scholarship.

“At first, I didn’t want to do that, as I would not get paid,” he says. “But then it was explained to me that a scholarship pays for your housing and food, so I accepted.”

Because he lived in another country, his academic situation became somewhat complicated, and he was eventually advised to attend a junior college instead. Following that stint, he could return to Seattle University or play at any other school that was interested in him.

The computer science major enrolled at Southeastern Illinois College, became an all-conference player, and two years later, he and Falcons teammate Troy Long signed at Southern.

**Becoming One Of The Best**

If you’ve seen Seck play as a Saluki, you can’t help but notice how well he handles the ball for a player his size. Here’s the reason: He played point guard until he arrived at junior college and didn’t hit a major growth spurt until his late teens. By then, he was the best ball-handler around.

“Shooting was harder for me,” he admits, which is why the lefty is now settled in at forward. He still emerged as one of SIU’s top scorers and was undeniably one of the top rebounders in the Missouri Valley Conference after joining the Saluki starting lineup in mid-December.

Seck enjoys living in Carbondale and is often asked about what it was like living in Africa. He says one of the misconceptions people have about his homeland is that he must have grown up in poverty. That was not the case, as his father is an engineer.

He says his childhood was not much different than the typical American’s. He played sports, studied, and fondly remembers family trips to the ocean. “People think when you are from Africa that you are from a very poor area,” he explains. “However, the part I am from is much like the U.S., and life here is similar to where I am from.”

Quick for his size, Seck has the ability to grab a rebound and then go coast-to-coast for a basket.
Catering With Saluki Style

by Bonnie Marx

While situated squarely in the heart of Illini country, Marty Kamerer '87 runs his business, Michaels' Catering in Champaign, Ill., with Saluki style.

Kamerer says the business aspires to a "different venue, different menu" every day as a "high-end corporate/social caterer," but catering the tailgate at last fall's match-up between the Football Salukis and the Fighting Illini "was the largest tailgate that we've ever done, but everything went smoothly."

More than 800 Saluki loyalists enjoyed a menu that included barbecue, grilled chicken thighs, red-skin potato salad, roasted vegetable salad, seasonal fresh fruit salad, and freshly baked cookies. The menu received extremely high marks from the SIU Alumni Association members who attended.

The company offers an array of services from executive box lunches to full-service catering, which provides big parties with food, beverages, china, silverware, linens, and centerpieces, says Kamerer, who's been in the business for 26 years. Michaels' Catering opened its doors in 1984; Kamerer came aboard five years later. Today, there are seven full-time employees and about 30 part-timers.

Even though Champaign is his hometown, Kamerer says there was no wavering in his decision to attend Southern, where he would spend two years in SIU's widely respected Achieve Program to help him conquer dyslexia. "I really enjoyed (studying) food and nutrition," he says. "It was where I was supposed to be and it was great. I made lifelong friends."

After earning his degree, the SIU graduate spent two years in Kalamazoo, Mich., before the business' original owner, Michael Carragher, lured him back to central Illinois and the business Kamerer had worked for during his high school and college days.

The two worked together successfully until Carragher's death on Jan. 1, 2009, from brain cancer. Since then, Kamerer has brought new partners David Jimenez and Stephen Kovachevich into the business.

Although Kamerer began his job at Michaels' as a manager and event coordinator, he became a managing partner the following year. These days, he says, "I'm more administrator than anything, but I still do menu planning and service. We're always trying to shake up the menu." He says they often turn to their "inspiration board," a wall where new ideas for recipes, food photos, and articles are displayed. "That's how we've gotten a lot of recipes and ideas over the years."

Two of their most popular menu items, he says, are the chardonnay dill shrimp sauce and English cheddar cheese rarebit spread. The "cheese mess" is made from Carragher's great-grandmother's original recipe.

"We've had a good following for 26 years," Kamerer says. "We get to go to amazing homes, buildings, and facilities. It's a different venue and a different menu every day."

At a recent event, members of Michaels' Catering staff relax for a moment before the party begins. They are (from left): Zulema Peace; Steve Kovachevich, a partner in the business; David Jimenez, also a partner; Anne Murray; and Michael McCulley. Inset is SIU alumnus Marty Kamerer.
To Our Members...

Thank You

“This month many SIU students will travel across the United States to take part in the Association’s award-winning Extern Program. The Extern experience provides students like us with the opportunity to work in our desired field and gain important real world experience even before we graduate.

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MiKensey Fox
Marketing ’12
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Check out more about the SIU Alumni Association’s Extern program at www.siualumni.com/extern. You could be a business sponsor next year!
Southern Graduate Edits Science Site

by Codell Rodriguez

As Murphysboro native Alex Berezow was receiving two degrees in microbiology, he became a big fan of the Web site RealClearPolitics.com, an independent, nonpartisan media company that provides unbiased news, analysis and commentary. When he suggested to the site creators that they do a site for science, they said it sounded like a great idea and hired him to launch it. Berezow was hired by the political Web site last August and launched RealClearScience.com in October. He is also the associate editor of RealClearReligion.com.

Berezow was born and raised in Murphysboro, graduated from Murphysboro High School in 2000, and earned a bachelor’s degree in microbiology from Southern Illinois University Carbondale in 2004. He moved to Seattle later that year and earned a doctorate in microbiology from the University of Washington.

“Whenever I was taking a break from experiments in the lab, I would usually read articles on RealClearPolitics.” Berezow says. “I appreciated their Web site model, which is to collect the best political news stories of the day, from all sides of the political spectrum. I thought that was really unique, and I wished that something like that existed for science news stories.”

Berezow says he did not have much Web experience before being hired by the company, but now that he works as an editor for the Web site, he hopes he can provide articles that appeal to science novices and experts alike.

“We want people of all backgrounds and interests to learn more about science,” he says. “Sometimes people are intimidated by science, so I try to fix that by posting stories that can be understood by anybody.”

He says one of his goals is to dispel myths in science. There is a section of the site called “Unconventional Wisdom,” which challenges widely held beliefs such as science and religion being at war with each other. He says the two actually complement each other.

“Science explains how we got here, while religion explains why and what we’re supposed to do about it,” Berezow notes. He hopes people will visit the site, because whether they realize it or not, science plays a major role in the United States government.

“A lot of important policies affect or are affected by science,” Berezow explains. “Science education, science funding, climate change, genetically modified organisms, stem-cell research, cyber attacks, and bioethics are just a sample of the topics we cover that have real policy implications for our government.”

—Codell Rodriguez is a reporter for the Southern Illinoisan, where this story first appeared.

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Brought to you by the SIU Alumni Association
Jay Rud is pictured with his daughter, Megan, a junior at Southern who is performing in the University's elite wind ensemble. "I grew concerned when Megan initially mentioned the possibility of attending SIU. I didn't want her to go there just because I did," Rud says. "She went on to explain to me that SIU had one of the top clarinet instructors (Eric Mandat) in the country. When Megan walked in and saw the beautifully renovated Altgeld and met Dr. Mandat, it sealed the deal for her."

Although he has been an American Airlines captain for more than 18 years, Jay Rud has never forgotten the lessons he learned from pilots who visited the SIU Carbondale campus during his undergraduate years. The 1983 aviation technology graduate appreciated aviation graduates who returned to their alma mater to mentor students striving to follow in their paths.

"It was a source of pride for me because these pilots had a lot of regard for a university that I was attending," the SIU Alumni Association life member says. "When you receive support from individuals who have succeeded in the profession, it means a lot to you as a student."

These memories are a motivating force for Rud, who works closely with fellow captain and alumnus Steve Brainerd '83, to organize the yearly American Airlines-SIU Aviation Career Day flight (www.aviation.siuc.edu/careerdays) from Chicago-O'Hare International Airport to Southern Illinois Airport. The flight, which began in fall 2005, gives 120 Chicago-area high school students interested in aviation an opportunity to visit Southern's aviation department.

Alumni Lend A Hand

American lends a "Super 80" airline aircraft for the flight, and Rud contacts SIU alumni working at American to staff the flight. "Our alumni volunteers assist me in all aspects of preparation, and throughout the day of the event," he points out. "This wouldn't be possible without the volunteers or the cooperation between the University and American Airlines. We also try to devote considerable time to the students. It all works out really well."

The University receives more than 300 applications for the event, which draws students from as far away as Ohio and northern Wisconsin, in addition to Indiana and Illinois. David NewMyer, chair of the aviation management and flight program, calls it "a huge, positive contribution to recruiting new students to SIU Carbondale."

"I suspect that we're going to start seeing ample support within our group, and hopefully we'll reach this goal in support of the University," Rud says. "Our graduates have a lot of pride in the reputation of our aviation department. We have a lot of funds to generate. I will certainly do my part."

Rud's initial exposure to aviation came through his father, also a pilot. The elder Rud encouraged his son to take flying lessons, and Jay attained his private pilot's license in high school. He was introduced to SIU through his older brother, Jeff '80, and friends who attended the University. Southern's scenic campus and the solid reputation in aviation made an impression.

A Flying Start

Although he ultimately decided to study aviation maintenance at Southern, Rud accumulated flying hours by renting a friend's plane to fly friends home on weekends. He subsequently earned the status of certified flight instructor and commercial pilot, in addition to an airframe and power plant maintenance rating qualifying him to work on airplanes.

He earned his bachelor's degree before accepting a maintenance job with a skydiving operation in Sandwich, Ill. Rud toiled as a mechanic during the week and flew skydivers on the weekend to gain additional flying time. He eventually landed his first small...
Rud answers questions during a discussion with students.

I didn't initially set out to be an airline pilot. But I got experience by working on airplanes and people would, in turn, give me lessons and allow me to fly them,” he says. “The airlines were hiring quite actively in the mid-1980s. I was fortunate to get hired at American Airlines in 1986 at the age of 23.”

Rud's primary passion is mentoring young people. He and his wife, Sandy, an elementary school teacher, are committed to supporting education. He inherited a small plane from his father-in-law that he uses to continue a legacy of teaching young students how to fly. He also maintains seven planes for others, with the assistance of students.

“I enjoy watching these kids light up and use this knowledge at their respective universities, whether it's Southern or elsewhere,” he says. “Aviation has been a rewarding career for me, and I want to pass that on. Young people are our future; it is just something I'm passionate about.”

If you would like to contribute to the “Campaign for TEC” in support of SIU Carbondale's Department of Aviation, please visit the SIU Foundation Web site at www.siuf.org and click on “Make a Gift.” You can designate “College of Applied Sciences and Arts” and type “Campaign for TEC” in the comments section. For more information, call Kevin Lister, development officer for CASA, at 618-453-4934.
Southern Student Captures National Geographic Internship

by Andrea Hahn

Southern Illinois University Carbondale senior Makayla Trotter, a geography and environmental resources major from Macomb, will head to Washington, D.C., next fall as a National Geographic geography intern. Her paid internship runs from Sept. 6 through Dec. 16.

"This is a competitive and selective internship with an internationally known agency," Leslie Duram, chair of the Department of Geography and Environmental Resources, says.

Trotter herself is over the moon at the idea of working for the National Geographic Society.

"I've been obsessed with National Geographic since I was a little girl," she says. "I think reading the magazine as a young person was a big part of what made me fascinated by people and space, and those interests are what led me to choose geography as a major. This is a 'full-circle' kind of moment for me."

Trotter says she actually began looking at internships there as a high school student. She thanked her SIU advisers for the encouragement they gave her during the application process. She believes her undergraduate research, including a research trip to South Africa and Mozambique (shown here), contributed to her successful application.

The department is proud of her too. "We are honored and so pleased to be an excellent representative of our department and our University at the national level," Duram notes that Trotter is the first southern student to capture the prestigious internship. "We are honored and so proud that our undergraduate student has been awarded this National Geographic internship," she says. "Certainly, this also speaks well of our faculty and our program here at SIU. I know that Makayla will be an excellent representative of our department and our University at the national level."

The focus of the Department of Geography and Environmental Resources at SIU is environmental sustainability, climate and water resources, and geographic information science (GIS and remote sensing) at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. To learn more about the department, go to http://info.geography.siu.edu.

Makayla Trotter says her undergraduate research, including a research trip to South Africa and Mozambique (shown here), contributed to her successful application. In addition to the research travel, Trotter says she has maximized her research and educational opportunities at SIU. She credits the breadth of opportunities with fueling her desire to learn even more. "I've got this mindset where I'll try anything once, and I'm fascinated by a lot of things," she says. "I think that shows in my resume. In my three years here, I've studied all sorts of things, from tree rings to local foods to the Lakota Sioux to French, and I guess that diversity on my application helped to make it stand out."

"I'm really grateful to my department because they have been very supportive of me," she says, citing her research advisers, Erin Seekamp in forestry, Matthew Therrell in geography and environmental resources, and Chef Bill Connors in local foods and other sustainability issues.

The department is proud of her too. "Certainly, this also speaks well of our faculty and our program here at SIU. I know that Makayla will be an excellent representative of our department and our University at the national level."

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Third Annual Holiday Dinner & Golf Outing

The Austin/San Antonio Chapter of the SIU Alumni Association hosted 45 alumni and friends to a holiday dinner at the Hyatt Lost Pines Resort. Earlier in the day, several alumni participated in an informal golf scramble. Claudia Ogrin, a member of the SIU women's golf team when she was a student, dominated the tees. Bill and Mary Szalag, Donna Lecocq, Tim Kirby, and Claudia Ogrin planned the event.

Tri-County Scholarship Banquet

SIU Alumni Association chapters of Jackson, Williamson, and Perry Counties joined together to present the first Tri-County Scholarship Banquet. More than 75 alumni and friends attended the banquet which consisted of a delicious dinner, presentation of awards, and guest speaker Jeffrey Speith, who is president of Old National Bank for the Southern Illinois Region. Scholarship recipients included: Jonathon Mason, Hillary Johnston, Arika Pavllo, Katherine Schwebel, Abby Bateman, Taylor Bryant, Alison Ishman, Lacy Waller, Jessica Peradotto, Hanna Harris, and Allison Spiller. The event was planned by the following chapter representatives: Kitty Mabus – Jackson County Chapter, Bill and Dede Ittner – Jackson County Chapter, Joyce Hayes – Jackson County Chapter, Linda Benz – Jackson County Chapter, Doris Rottschalk – Perry County Chapter, and Kari Sanders – Williamson County Chapter.

Randolph County Scholarship Dinner

The Randolph County Chapter of the SIU Alumni Association hosted more than 40 alumni and friends at a dinner to recognize recent scholarship recipients. The recipients who attended were: Emily Beers, Jeff Beers, Jimmie Beers, Kristi Beers, Emily Morgan, Ashley Phillips, Blake Shelton, Matt Toenjes, Kristen Wilson, Kristina Witherby, and Rachel Wolters. Randolph County Chapter Scholarship Committee members Barb Brown, Larry Thomas, and Betty Luthy coordinated the dinner.
6th Annual St. Louis Trivia Night

The St. Louis Chapter of the SIU Alumni Association hosted more than 100 alumni and friends for their annual trivia night fundraiser. “Team Carr,” pictured below and captained by Ken Carr, a retired marketing coordinator for SIU Student Health Services, successfully defended their title by winning for a second consecutive year. More than $1,000 was raised for the St. Louis Chapter Scholarship Fund. Chapter representatives Anna Vani, Ann Patton, Aimee Snavely, and Leslie Tepen coordinated the event, and Zoe Owens and Kenya Taylor from SIU Admissions spoke to the group about the new Legacy Tuition Rate.

CE Welch, Longtime Volunteer Dies

Clarence “CE” Welch Jr., 70, died recently in Springfield, Ill. The 1966 Southern graduate was a familiar face during SIU Homecoming Weekend, as for the past two decades he volunteered his time as part of the “Dawg Griller” group that cooked countless hot dogs and brats enjoyed by alumni and friends under the SIU Alumni Association’s Big Tent. Welch was a member of Phi Delta Tau Fraternity and was also past president of the Illinois High School and College Driver Education Associations, the American Driver & Traffic Safety Education Association, and Phi Delta Kappa.

Memorial contributions may be made to: Central Baptist Church, 504 S. 4th St., Springfield, IL 62703 or American Diabetes Association, 2580 Federal Drive, Ste. 403, Decatur, IL 62526.
Association Student Employee Wins Radio Station's Logo Contest

Ian Steele, a senior majoring in art at Southern and a student employee at the SIU Alumni Association, scored a win for his resume with the recent selection of his logo design by WCIL-FM, a regional radio station.

Steele's design was one of 127 submitted to the radio station during its recent "Design Our Logo" contest. Staff at WCIL-FM and Silkworm Inc., a local silkscreen, embroidery, and graphics company, narrowed the field first to 28 semi-finalists, then to five finalists. Listener votes contributed to the final selection.

His four-color design will replace the previous logo, which had been in place at the radio station for more than a decade. The radio station is part of the RiverRadio group of stations. As the logo contest winner, Steele received an Apple iPad and a week's externship at Silkworm. Silkworm and Ron Ward Chevrolet in Herrin sponsored the logo contest.

To see other examples of Steele's work, visit his design site at www.behance.net/iansteele.

Chicago Invitational Reception

Saluki Athletics, the SIU Foundation, and the SIU Alumni Association hosted more than 125 alumni and friends to a reception at the Sears Center Arena prior to the SIU vs. Purdue game. Saluki Athletics was represented by Mario Moccia, Chet Savage, Brad Taylor and Kevin Ginther, while Michelle Suarez and Zachary Sapienza attended the event on behalf of the SIU Alumni Association.

Minnesota Club Volunteers

The Greater Minneapolis Club of the SIU Alumni Association spent a night volunteering at Second Harvest Heartland Food Bank. After packaging food for several hours at the local processing center, volunteers later met for a group dinner. Dean Andrews and Max Orenstein coordinated the effort.

Director For Re-Election (four year term)

A [ ] B [ ]  Steve Falat '87, Murphysboro, III. - Falat is the market manager for River Radio, a six-station group in southern Illinois, and the official public address announcer for SIU Athletics and the Southern Illinois Miners, an independent professional baseball team in Marion. He is on the SIU Alumni Association's Executive Board. He and his wife, Jolene, have three daughters.

A [ ] B [ ]  Howard Spiegel '75, Buffalo Grove, Ill. - Spiegel is account manager for Arrow Electronics in Itasca, Ill., and is a member of the select Arrow Pacesetter Team, an honor given to fewer than one percent of all Arrow employees worldwide. He is on the SIU Alumni Association's Executive Board. Spiegel attended SIU as a Presidential Scholar and graduated with honors. He and his wife, Karri, have three children.

A [ ] B [ ]  Sandra Williams-Smith '72, Chicago, Ill. - Smith is a billing and collections specialist for CNA Insurance Co. in Chicago. She previously served as secretary of the SIU Black Alumni Group and on the Hayes Park Advisory Board. Smith volunteers for Christ Advocate Hospital and serves as secretary for her church club and treasurer for Nubian Connections. She has two children.

Please return this ballot or photocopy to:
SIU Alumni Association • Attn: Board of Directors Election • Colyer Hall • Southern Illinois University • Carbondale, IL 62901-6809

Name of person(s) voting / address / city / state:
Association Awards $25,000 In Textbooks

The Southern Illinois University Alumni Association awarded $25,000 in textbooks and supplies to 47 SIU students for the spring semester.

"We take great pride in supporting our students with these awards, and the Association's National Board of Directors is excited to offer other such initiatives for our SIU students" says SIU Alumni Association President-Elect Barry Smith. "Opportunities such as this would not be possible without the continued support of our members."

The SIUC Financial Aid office identified qualified students using two sets of criteria, including a minimum 3.0 grade point average and a demonstration of financial need. SIU International Program and Services assisted in identifying five international students to receive the award. These students are chosen based on their academic success and demonstrated Southern alumni family legacy.

In April 2008, the Association's National Board of Directors allocated funds to be invested with the earnings earmarked to support the financial needs of current and future SIU students. The Board's scholarship committee, with the assistance of Southern's Financial Aid office, identified the need for textbooks and supplies as an area of extreme importance for student success. They concluded that the money could best be used to fill this type of gap that often occurs in student funding.

The textbook awards help fill a major need for many students, including recent recipient Jason Hughes. "SIU has transformed me from a student to a professional in every aspect of life," the Albia, Iowa, native says. "While earning my bachelor's degree in aviation management, I have had the opportunity to network with those in the aviation industry. I am graduating in May and pursuing one of my lifetime goals of being a commissioned officer in the United States Navy.

This textbook award helps make that possible. I am proud to be a Saluki."

According to Association Executive Director Michelle Suarez, the allocation of such funds helps demonstrate the organization's continued commitment to students and serves to also assist the University in its ongoing student retention efforts.

"Supporting current and future SIU students gives the Association great satisfaction," says Suarez. "We also hope that these textbook scholarships will emphasize the importance of supporting fellow Salukis by giving back to Southern."

The 2011 textbook award recipients were, front row, from left: Mike Imbayan, Katelyn Fritz, Stefanie Banks, Sarah Bencini, Sarah Born, Anna Antonini, Malicka Anjorin, Jere Mitchell, Ashley Strong, Valerie Turner, and Stuart Mullen. Second Row: Brent Jansen, Sheree Harrelson, Elizabeth Corbeil, Jason Hughes, Ashley Burks, Kevin Carney, Aiceea Settlemoor, Justin Redding, John Leco, Lindsey Leffelman, Lindsey Hoelscher, Ashley Preyer, Elijah Roberts, Morgan Price, Brett Rork, Alex Terwelp, and Alina Liwo. Third row: Alan Cation, Jon Gorgosz, Myranda Compton, Gina Cellucci, Grant Claire, Harold Estindu, Derek Snyder, William Shlah, Rebecca Keating, Kenneth Johnson, David Pfeiffer, Momoh Sufyanu, Alexandria Snelius, and Nicholas Romanus. Recipients Mark Hannan and Mackenzie MacNamara were not present at the presentation.

The utmost respect for him as a person and a coach.

When I sent out an email to MVC staff regarding donations for Coach Cal's medical fund, the umpires and people around the conference stepped up. At the conference tournament, all eight of us also donated a portion of our tournament umpiring check to the fund. The responses I got from people in the Valley were always: "It's for Coach Cal; how can I help?"

Cal has been such a positive role model, not only in my life, but in the way he has shaped the lives of so many of his former players. If you had the opportunity to interact with him in any way, shape or form, I know he made you a better person.

The biggest thing Cal wanted to do for his players and his University was to take the Salukis back to the NCAA tournament. Unfortunately, he was not able to do that during his 16-year SIU career.

One of the last things I said to him at his bedside was "Cal, some day if I get to umpire at the College World Series, we will be allowed to pick our numbers. I'll make sure to wear #37. That is the least I can do for someone I respect as much as you." "Cal, I already miss you, but I'll certainly never forget you."

Dave Condon '99, M.S. '01
Former Saluki
Baseball Letterman
Life Member
Chicago, Ill.

Editor's Note – Dave Condon was a pitcher for the Salukis in the late 1990s. His letter is indicative of more than 100 calls, letters, and e-mails Southern Alumni magazine received about Dan Callahan following the story in the December issue. Due to space limitations, we hope Condon's letter helps represent the thoughts of the many former players who learned the same life lessons from Cal.

No story in my 11 years as editor has elicited such a major response from our readers. It is a testament to the countless lives Cal touched. — Gene Green
Class Notes

Alumni listed in maroon are SIU Alumni Association members.

1940s

David Kenney '47, M.S. Ed. '48, professor emeritus of political science at SIU, is a historian, author, and conservationist, and served as director of the Illinois Department of Conservation from 1977 to 1984. In 2010, he was inducted into the Illinois Outdoor Hall of Fame by the Illinois Conservation Foundation.

Cameron Nickels M.A., '64, professor emeritus of English at James Madison University, is the author of Civil War Humor, a book that examines the various forms of comedic popular artifacts produced in America from 1861 to 1865 from and for both the Union and the Confederacy.

The newest book from Larry Franklin M.M., '66 is Cherry Blossoms and Barren Plains: A Woman's Journey From Mental Illness to a Prison Cell. The book explores the life of Rebecca Bivens, who beat her 5-year-old stepdaughter to death. In 1998, a jury found her guilty but mentally ill and sentenced her to life in prison.

Charles Helleny '57 has retired as president and CEO of Herrin Security Bank. He began his career at the bank as a bookkeeper in 1957, the year the bank opened. His older brother, Louis, helped found the bank. Helleny will continue to service on the bank’s board of directors and have an office there.

1950s

Charles Helleny '57 has retired as president and CEO of Herrin Security Bank. He began his career at the bank as a bookkeeper in 1957, the year the bank opened. His older brother, Louis, helped found the bank. Helleny will continue to service on the bank’s board of directors and have an office there.

1960s

Dick Foulk '61, owner of Richard Foulk Accounting and Tax Service in Benton, has been inducted into the Southern Illinois Golf Association Hall of Fame. A fixture on the southern Illinois golf scene since the 1950s, he was the sole inductee for 2010. During his years on campus, Foulk played for four years for the Salukis and helped lead the team to the conference golf title in 1961.

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Jon Carlson ’67, M.S. ’68 is the recipient of the 2011 Career Contributions to Education and Training Award from the American Psychological Association.

University Park, Ill. He has produced 300 professional training videos and authored 55 books, including Never Be Lonely Again, which was released worldwide last month.

Esther Chang M.S., '67, Ph.D., '74 is the interim president of the American Society for Nanomedicine and a member of the departments of oncology and otolaryngology at the Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center of Georgetown University Medical Center.

Raymond Bruzan '68, professor of chemistry at Benedictine University in Springfield, has retired after teaching at the high school and college levels for the past 42 years. He and his wife, Pameia, live in Rochester.

Keith Phoenix '68, of the law firm of Sandberg, Phoenix & von Gontard P.C., has been named one of the lawyers of the year in the St. Louis metropolitan area by Best Lawyers magazine. His individual title was "St. Louis Best Lawyers Product Liability Litigator of the Year."

Retired teacher Nancy Germann '68 was inducted into the 2010 Senior Hall of Fame in the education category by the Illinois Department on Aging. Germann began her teaching career in 1960 and taught third grade at Belle Rive Grade School until she retired in 1993. After 33 years in the classroom, she returned as a substitute teacher, music teacher, and currently works as a special education aide.

Sim Flora ’69 is professor of music theory and composition at Ouachita Baptist University in Arkadelphia, Ark., where he teaches music theory, jazz studies, and music technology courses. A trombonist, Flora works throughout the United States as an active soloist and clinician in the areas of jazz education and trombone performance.

1970s

Paul Reitman '70, Ph.D., '79 has been a forensic psychologist and hospital psychologist for 20 years in the state of Minnesota, and has also worked on high-profile cases in Wisconsin. Reitman conducts civil commitments for people who have mental illness, chemical dependency, those who are mentally ill and dangerous or sexually dangerous, and those who have sexual psychopathic personalities.

Dave Thompson '71, broker and owner of Dave Thompson Realty in Marion, was named Realtor of the year in 2010 for the fourth time by the Egyptian Board of Realtors. He's been in the real estate business for 38 years and was chosen for the honor over other realtors in the 28 southern counties of Illinois. Thompson and his wife, Marlene '72, are the parents of two children, Adam, a senior at SIU majoring in communication design, and Amanda '07, a teacher at KIPP.
Accounting For Success

Thirty years ago, when most accountants were still penciling numbers into ledgers, Ken Garen '70 became a revolutionary in the business world by co-founding the Universal Business Computing Co., which provides high-productivity payroll and accounting software for payroll and accounting professionals.

Today Garen, now president of UBCC, is garnering a slew of awards, not only for his leadership and ideas, but for educating accounting professionals and for designing software that allows UBCC clients to work in the most productive and profitable ways. "I helped bring about that revolution in accounting," he says. "I helped bring about that revolution in accounting." he says. "The company I founded in 1981 brought technology to payroll service and public accountants."

Garen, who lives in Pasadena, Calif., says that in his virtual company, "everyone lives and works wherever they want. We're all connected by the Internet."

As a student at Southern, Garen majored in accounting and minored in photography. But he says he's never forgotten the two design classes he took while at the Baby Boom generation.

Lunchbucket Chronicles: Tales and Travels of an Aging Boomer. The book is a collection of biographical memoirs aimed at the Baby Boom generation.

Mark "Skip" Cosgrove '75, M.S. Ed. '84 retired in 2010 after 21 years as a member of the Saluki softball coaching staff. Cosgrove spent 29 years at SIU's Plant and Service Operations, where he coordinated the University's ADA compliance projects. He retired from the University in 2007.

Bradley Skelcher '75, M.A. '77, Ph.D. '90, associate provost at Delaware State University, represented Chancellor Rita Cheng and SIU at the inauguration of Mitchell B. Reiss as the 27th president of Washington College, Chestertown, Md., last October. Skelcher is married to Dinah DeMoss '90, director of institutional research at Washington College.

Rick Sumner M.S. '77 has been named vice president of exploration and production subsidiary of Indianapolis-based Country Mark Cooperative, Indiana's farmer-owned oil company.

1980s

Renowned heart surgeon Kevin Accola '80 was inducted into the Carbondale Community High School Foundation Hall of Achievement last August. Considered one of the top cardiothoracic surgeons in
The First Female Judge In Williamson County

When Carolyn Bailey Smoot J.D. '83 was sworn in as resident circuit judge in Williamson County, she became one of only five female judges (out of more than 40) in the 21-county district of southern Illinois and the first-ever female judge in Williamson County.

An attorney since 1983, Smoot worked as an assistant state's attorney, and most recently in private practice. She's also served as the director of paralegal studies at SIU since 1998.

Not only is Smoot the first female judge in Williamson County history, but she is one of only five female judges in a 21-county Illinois southern district.

After being informed of her appointment, Smoot said, "I have a lot of respect for the judges that I've appeared in front of and to think that I was going to be among that group was just kind of one of those 'wow' moments."

But Smoot says she's positioned personally and professionally to be a judge, which makes a difference when women consider running for a position on the bench. In the past decade or two, women have begun entering law school in equal numbers with men, although women tend to have to balance work and family more than men do.

"There are many more women in practice now," Smoot says, "and I would think that there will be more women judges in the future."
For Becky O’Neill ’85, J.D. ’88, attorney and clinical law professor at the SIU School of Law, her passion for helping the less fortunate, particularly the elderly, is not enough. She also wants to infect her students with the same fervor. O’Neill’s efforts were recognized in December when she was the recipient of the first Human Rights Day Award given by the Southern Illinois Chapter of the United Nations Association. The day of the announcement, Dec. 10, was the 62nd anniversary of the signing of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

At the law school’s Civil Practice Clinic, O’Neill and her students serve southern Illinoisans age 60 and older for free in such issues as power of attorney in cases of emergency, elder abuse, guardianship, veteran’s benefits, and drafting wills. But on her own, and at no charge, O’Neill travels throughout southern Illinois helping with legal issues concerning the elderly.

“Students get to witness a lot of poverty firsthand that they have never seen in some of our more rural counties,” O’Neill says. “We’ve had people without electricity, without water, without windows, living in deplorable conditions.”

She also put her money where her mouth is with the establishment of the Bessie Engram Community Service Award, which provides an annual monetary award to the SIU law student who demonstrates the most community service to the citizens of southern Illinois. The award is named in honor of her grandmother.

“It does make a difference globally what you do locally,” O’Neill says. “Getting the award made me think that way. I can’t imagine ever not being involved with the clinic. I think I’ll probably be involved in law until I die.”

Not only does O’Neill want to make a difference in the world around her, but she also wants her students to have the same passion in assisting others.
Stephanie Low '89 is dean of curriculum and instruction in the academic affairs division at California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office. Her unit is responsible for management, policy development and implementation in the areas of instructional resources and academic standards.

Sheema Roychowdhury Ph.D. '89 is principal scientist II in the materials analysis division of Global Tungsten Products Inc. in Towanda, Pa. Her extensive work experience includes the application of state-of-the-art analytical instrumentation using spectroscopic techniques, as well as classical wet chemistry.

1990s

Timothy Sims '90, a C.P.A., has been named partner-in-charge of the recently formed Federal Tax Services Group at RubinBrown in St. Louis, one of the Midwest's largest accounting and business consulting firms.

Steve Webb M.S. Ed. '90, Ph.D. '06, superintendent of Goreville Community Unit School District 1, has been appointed by State Superintendent Chris Koch and the Illinois State Board of Education to a new Illinois initiative aimed at better preparing children to enter K-12 education. The only member located south of Springfield, Webb will serve on the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment Stakeholder Committee.

Kevin Keegan A.A.S. '92, '93 has been appointed commander of staff services at the Frankfort (Ill.) Police Department. He joined the department in 1998 as a patrol officer and later became a detective.


John Patterson '92 has left the Daily Herald of Arlington Heights to join the staff of State Senate President John Cullerton (D-Chicago) as deputy press secretary. In that role, he will assist the senior staff in managing and planning issues-based media relations for the senate president and the caucus as a whole.

Melissa Brown '93 is marketing research officer at the DHCU Community Credit Union in Moline, Ill., where she is involved in created targeted marketing for the membership. In 2010, she was selected as a Quad Cities Area Leader Under 40.

Vincent Boyd '94 has been promoted to assistant vice president for academic and student affairs at SUNY Sullivan, a two-year college in upstate New York.

Jon Miller '94 is the publisher of hawkeyenation.com website, sports director at WHO radio in Des Moines, Iowa, and beginning in January, co-host of The Big Ten Pulse, a new issues-and-opinions show on the Big Ten Network.

Brad Dillow '95, a battalion chief with the Cape Girardeau (Mo) Fire Department, was named 2010 Instructor of the Year by the University of Missouri Fire and Rescue Training Institute.

Katherine Smith Kennedy J.D. '95 became the first woman president of the Federal Bar Association of Western Michigan, an organization with 400 attorneys in the state who are federal court practitioners. She is a partner at the firm of Pinsky, Smith, Fayette & Kennedy LLP in Grand Rapids.

D.M. Mills '96, superintendent/principal at Jasper Community Consolidated School District #17 in Fairfield, Ill., had his doctoral degree in higher education administration conferred at Oakland City University in Oakland City, Ind., in November. He writes that "for extra karma" at his graduation ceremony, I wore the bow tie of my mentor and friend, the late Paul Simon."

Michael Cushing '97 has been named principal at Ottawa (Ill.) Township High School. He previously worked as a teacher and administrator at Prairie Central High School in Fairbury, La Salle-Peru High School, and at Lincoln Elementary in Chicago.

Richard Lanman '98, M.P.A. '00 is the manager of Mena Municipal Intermountain Airport. He has previously managed airports at McPherson, Kan., and Mount Vernon, Ill. Lanman retired from active duty in 1997 after serving 20 years in the U.S. Marine Corps.

Don Nelson '98 has been promoted to vice president of facilities operations at PRIDE Industries, a leading employer of people with disabilities that operates in 11 states. He had more than two decades of professional experience in civil engineering, supervising multi-million-dollar facilities, construction and utilities operations, and personnel on military installations across the nation and internationally.

Beth Phelps-Hodges '99, M.S. Ed. '02, a teacher at New Mexico Children, Youth and Families Department and certified consultant at Scentsy, has been recognized by Cambridge Who's Who for demonstrating dedication, leadership and excellence in education and consulting. Her responsibilities include teaching business classes, including computers and career development, to incarcerated juveniles ages 13 to 21. She is married to Mark Hodges '07.

2000s

Steve Santner '00 estimates that he's driven every street in the St. Louis metro area as an employee of
TomTom, one of the world's largest manufacturers of global positioning system car navigation devices. Now he's gone international, thanks to a promotion, and trains others, which has taken him to Brazil, Mexico, Argentina, and Canada.

Marcy Chvasta Ph.D. '02 joined California State University-Stanislaus this year as a lecturer in communication studies. She taught at the University of South Florida for eight years and began her teaching career at California State University-Northridge, where she earned her master's degree.

Anita Eckhardt J.D. '02 opened Lyn-Nita Vineyards in Elkville last November. The winery offers seven varieties of wine, with three more due out in spring 2011.

Capt. John Fahy '02, a veteran fire department member, has been named fire chief in Elgin, Ill. He is a recognized fire and paramedic expert. He initiated and developed the Elgin Fire Department's "After the Fire" program to provide residents struggling through the aftermath of a fire with a practical guide to recovery.

Devon DeJournett '03 has been hired as the new city engineer for the city of Mount Vernon, Ill. As the city engineer, he will head up the engineering and inspection department for the city, manage construction projects, and act as field supervisor on small projects.

Blake Randles '04, doctor of chiropractic, has joined the Hoffman Chiropractic practice in Bourbonnais, Ill., which is his hometown. He's a 2009 grad of Palmer College of Chiropractic in Davenport, Iowa.

Nathaniel Kiltzing '04, a principal at Cambridge Capital Management LLC, has been named partner at the registered investment adviser. The firm, an affiliate of Diel & Ferguson Financial Group, specializes in tax, investment, and financial problems for individuals, businesses, not-for-profit organizations and retirement plans.

Rachel Gartner '05, M.A. '10 has been named news director for SIUC's acclaimed River Region Evening Edition. She was the assistant news director while working as a graduate assistant with the television newscast. Gartner was previously a senior reporter and fill-in anchor at WSIL-TV Channel 3, the regional ABC affiliate.

Leigh Gleason '05 is curator of collections for the California Museum of Photography at the University of California-Riverside. The collection at the museum includes an exceptional assortment of fine art, historical photographs, archival collections, and one of the largest collections of cameras in the country. Of all her accomplishments, Leigh says, "I am proudest of my Saluki education. Through the SIU extern program (where I interned at the Art Institute of Chicago), an undergrad assistantship at Moriss Library's Special Collections, and the excellent photo history classes I took, my future truly started at Southern."

Dr. Ryan Gobble M.D. '05, a general surgery resident at New York University, was one of 12 surgical residents and fellows to receive Excellence in Research awards from the American College of Surgeons. The Springfield native was the lead researcher in a team at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York City that identified genes associated with the spread of liposarcoma, or soft-tissue cancer. Expected to complete his residency in 2012, Gobble will serve a three-year fellowship to become a plastic surgeon and hopes to eventually perform reconstructive surgery for cancer patients.

Elizabeth Hahn-Lawrence '05 is owner and designer of Just Liv accessories, including headbands, necklaces, handbags, and hats, on sale at 25 boutiques (in St. Louis, New York, Los Angeles, and New Zealand) and online at JustLiv.etsy.com and JustLiv.com.

John Scott III '06 received top honors in the 2010 Page International Screenwriting Awards in the "Thriller/Horror" category. His winning entry, Maggie, is the story of a teenage girl who contracts a horrific new virus that is infecting the world and how she and her distraught father bond. Scott, who spent five years in the Air Force maintaining the orbits of secret satellites before coming to SIU, currently works for Northrop Grumman in Boston.

Karen L. Deardorff '07 became the new Assistant Hopkins County (Ky.) Attorney. She was previously employed by the Department of Public Advocacy in Hopkins County.

Randall Colburn M.F.A. '08 has been admitted to the Chicago Dramatists Playwright Residency Program, open to those who potentially will make significant contributions to the American theater repertory. Colburn has produced or developed plays in New York, Chicago, Atlanta, Seattle, and Great Britain and at The Right Brain Project, which dedicated its 2010 season to his work.

Aaron Tyska '08 is an environmental health sanitarian for the Winnebago County Health Department.

Matt Zahora '08 and a partner have opened Chicagoland Aviation at the Lewis University Airport in Romeoville, Ill., offering general aviation services and a flight school. Zahora spent five years working as a pilot for Air Wisconsin, an express carrier for U.S. Airways, before opening the business.

Ross Rowling '09 has been a sports reporter and weekend sports anchor at WTHI-TV in Terre Haute, Ind. A native of Jerseyville, Ill., Rowling worked for WSUI-TV all four years he was in Carbondale, serving as the station's sports director for his last three semesters.
Old SIU Arena Bleachers Come To Life

by Linda Rush

Steve Nelson ’77, M.S. ’83 figures he has come up with the perfect gift for the Saluki fan that has everything.

The school principal in Eldorado, Ill., has created ballpoint pens from wood salvaged from the old SIU Arena bleacher seats and has been selling them for $30 each. For $5 more he’ll sell the pen complete with a leatherette gift box. (The Southern alumnus had sold more than 160 of the souvenir Arena pens by early February.)

Nelson grew up in rural Jackson County, and his parents, retired educators Toby ’62, M.S. ’64 and Rachel ’69, M.S. ’74 Nelson, still live in Carbondale. After teaching in De Soto, he went to the Eldorado district, where he has been the elementary school principal for 24 years.

“My little workshop is a good stress relief,” he says. “Each piece of wood is a little different.”

The detail used to fashion the pens is quite intricate, as Nelson says no two pieces of wood are exactly the same.

Nelson has been making wooden pens, which use a standard Bic refill, for six years, using either exotic woods or familiar southern Illinois woods like redbud, walnut, catalpa and other species. “I can make them plain or fancy,” he notes.

When Eldorado replaced the chair seats in its school gym last year, Nelson got some of the wood and made pens out of it. With each pen, he included a card describing the source of the wood, plus a little piece of the wood. They proved really popular to fans.

When the recently completed SIU Arena renovations began, Nelson decided to try to replicate his success and began searching for the old bleacher boards.

“I went to the SIU Alumni Association,” he says. “Then I went all the way to the president’s office, and someone at the physical plant said the contractor who had razed the bleachers was Fager-McGee of Murphysboro.”

One of the company owners was a friend of his at Unity Point School years ago, and Nelson eventually went home with some SIU Arena bleacher wood.

The bleachers are made of Douglas fir, which when polished “burns almost a maroon color,” Nelson says. He turns the pen bodies on his lathe and makes a channel for the pen refill with a 7-mm drill bit.

Nelson also creates pens from deer antlers and coal. The coal pens are unusual, but a mess to create, he says, because he pulverizes the coal, then reconstitutes it with the help of epoxy. Drilling and polishing the coal pens wears out tool surfaces, too, he says.

Nelson and his wife, Mary Kay, both create things and enjoy selling the items they craft. Mary Kay, an artist, makes greeting cards and also makes rice-filled cloth sacks that can be microwaved to provide soothing heat to aching joints.

The two sell their wares at SIU craft shows, at the Southern Illinois Artisans Shop in Whittington, at Autumnfest, and Southern Illinois Hunting and Fishing Days at John A. Logan College. He takes a small lathe along to some of the fairs to demonstrate how he turns the wood.

For more information on the SIU Arena bleacher pens, contact Nelson at 618-273-2908.

—Linda Rush is a reporter for the Southern Illinoisan, where this story first appeared.
April 2011

1-3 Saluki Baseball at Kennesaw State
2-3 Saluki Softball at Northern Iowa
6 Saluki Baseball vs. Murray State
   Saluki Softball at Eastern Illinois
8-10 Saluki Baseball at Evansville
9-10 Saluki Softball vs. Bradley
12 Saluki Baseball vs. Southeast Missouri
13 SIUC Concert Choir and Wind Ensemble, reception at 5:30 p.m.,
   Hoogland Center for the Arts, Springfield, Ill., performance at
   7:30 p.m.
   Saluki Baseball at University of Illinois
14 SIUC Concert Choir and Wind Ensemble, Chicago Symphony
   Orchestra Hall, Chicago, Ill., 7:30 p.m.
   Saluki Softball at Tennessee-Martin
15 The Installation of Chancellor Rita Hartung Cheng, Shryock
   Auditorium, 2 p.m.
   Tokyo String Quartet, Shryock Auditorium, 7:30 p.m.
16-17 Saluki Baseball vs. Missouri State
16-17 Saluki Softball at Indiana State
16-19 "The Secret Garden", McLeod Theater, Thurs.-Sat. at 7:30 p.m.,
   Sun. at 2 p.m.
19 Saluki Baseball vs. Tennessee-Martin.
20 Saluki Softball at Evansville.
22-23 Saluki Softball vs. Missouri State
22-24 Saluki Baseball at Creighton
26 Saluki Softball vs. Evansville
26 Saluki Baseball at Southeast Missouri
28-30 "Macbeth", McLeod Theater, Thurs. – Sat. 7:30 p.m., Sun. at 2 p.m.

29-30 Saluki Baseball vs. Wichita State
30 Saluki Softball at Illinois State

May 2011

1 "Macbeth", McLeod Theater, Thurs. – Sat. 7:30 p.m., Sun. at 2 p.m.
1 Saluki Baseball vs. Wichita State
1 Saluki Softball at Illinois State
3 Saluki Baseball vs. Illinois at Marion
6-8 Saluki Baseball at Bradley
7-8 Saluki Softball vs. Drake University
7 Austin/San Antonio Picnic
12-15 Missouri Valley Conference Softball Tournament at Springfield, Mo.
13-15 Saluki Baseball vs. Illinois State
17 Saluki Baseball at St. Louis University
19-21 Saluki Baseball at Indiana State
24-27 Missouri Valley Conference Baseball Tournament at Omaha, Neb.

(For starting times of all SIU baseball and softball games, go to
www.siusalukis.com.)

Looking Ahead

June 4 SIU Day at Busch Stadium
July 7-10 Black Alumni Group Reunion
July 9 SIU Saluki Family Day – White Sox
   (SIU Day at Wrigley date to be announced)
July 30 Greater Michigan Alumni Picnic
Sept. 10 SIU at Ole Miss Football Pregame Tailgate

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60 Years Ago...

The 1951 Obelisk published this photo, noting for the second time in a decade, Southern's men were answering their country's call to duty. Once the Korean War broke out, more than 160 SIU students left school to join the armed forces. Many were veterans who had already seen action in the Korean combat zone. Here, Pat Kelly (left) looks on as Gene Wasmer shakes hands with local recruiter Sergeant Toler. Both Kelly and Wasmer were from Murphysboro.
Most of us figure that if we're lucky enough to survive to our 90th birthdays, we'll count ourselves fortunate if we've got a little mobility left and some clarity of mind.

Three months shy of that mark, John C. Taylor Ph.D. '96 not only possesses those qualities, but also aspires to become the first athlete over 90 to do a triathlon, as recorded by the 184,000-member USA Triathlon Association. He plans to be in the National Senior Games in Houston, Texas this June, competing in the 5K, 10K, 20K and 40K cycle races and the triathlon in the 90-94 age group.

Taylor, who received his Ph.D. in health education at SIU three days after his 75th birthday, describes himself as "very, very slow, not fast and beautiful like a Saluki. I may be an aging endurance athlete, but I still am able to do triathlons."

The Southern graduate wasn't always so athletically inclined. In fact, he didn't take up training until he was 60 and overweight. Thanks to a suggestion from SIU's legendary athletic trainer Robert "Doc" Spackman, Taylor entered his first 10K road race. Competing "bit me," he says, and a year later he was running, swimming, and biking his way through his first triathlon. Now, nearly three decades later, he's still doing eight or 10 a year.

Taylor has earned a trunk full of medals for his efforts. Last August he earned six fifth-place medals in the National Masters Swim Meet in Atlanta, nine gold medals in cycling and swimming in the Annual Georgia Senior Olympics last September, and four gold in the Florida State Senior Olympics Championships in December.

And Taylor is quick to point out that his wife, Sally, is his most enthusiastic supporter. "She is jokingly accused by my old-man competitors of being my 'performance enhancement drug' because she hugs and kisses me before every event," he says.

Taylor and his family arrived in Carbondale in 1960 from their native Alabama. He had been named the associate editor of the Illinois Baptist weekly newspaper, went on to work as a reporter at the Southern Illinoisan, and spent 14 years as information aide to the president of Shawnee College before signing on as business manager of the Daily Egyptian. Along the way he pastored several churches in southern Illinois, a calling he answered for 45 years.

As a life member of the SIU Alumni Association, Taylor feels "it's important to keep up with one of the really great institutions in America. It's wonderful to be an alumnus – I try and stay informed about everything.

"I'm thrilled about SIU because of what it became – from a small teachers college when Delyte Morris was president to a large University with far-reaching goals."
Southern Illinois University changed my life! Once I had aspirations of earning a degree and serving my country as a Naval Officer, but instead I received a diploma and met a wonderful husband. My father, Dennis Bianco, is a 1987 Southern graduate. He convinced me to earn my college degree through an off-campus military program SIU offered close to my home in Pensacola, Fla. There I met my future husband, George, an active duty Hospital Corpsman in the Navy who started his program the same time that I did. We fell in love, eventually married, and it was great timing for my education – I knew I would have a reliable group partner and study buddy! Seven years later, we are still happily married and now have two children. George has used his degree to advance his career in the military, and is applying to become a commissioned officer. I am a well educated stay-at-home mom for now, with dreams of an advanced degree sometime in the future. SIU is a great school that has done so much for both of us. It will always hold a special place in our hearts!

Amber '06 and George '10 Menninger
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