Suder Foundation Focuses On First-Generation Students

With the help of a new program at SIU Carbondale, Nicole Kmiotek is pursuing her college degree without the fear and uncertainty that often comes with being a first-generation college student.

Kmiotek is part of the First Scholars program, which helps first-generation students transition into college life. Established by the Suder Foundation, the program offers support for students who have a demonstrated financial need, a solid academic record, and are the child of parents who have no education beyond high school.

"I learned about the First Scholars program when I was searching for scholarships," she says. "One of the requirements was that your parents never attended college—it was perfect for me."

A long-standing commitment to first generation students was one of the reasons The Suder Foundation of Plano, Texas selected the University for the five-year, $1-million scholarship program. The Suder Foundation is providing the University with budgeted funds to establish the program. SIU received $60,000 for planning purposes and $121,163 during the initial year of the First Scholars Program.

Additional funding is forthcoming, with the understanding that after the fourth year of the program, the University will be responsible for securing necessary funding to maintain scholarship renewals for existing students and to award scholarships to new groups of students.

The Suder Foundation funded 20 scholarships at $5,000 each beginning in fall 2011, and will fund 20 additional scholarships at the same level in each of the succeeding three years. Students from Illinois, Arkansas, Indiana, Kentucky, Missouri, and Tennessee will be eligible for the scholarships. Financial need and demonstrated academic ability as shown by ACT and/or SAT scores and high school GPA will be among the scholarship criteria.

The scholarship will be renewable for three years as long as the First Scholar maintains at least a 2.5 GPA and meets other criteria established by The Suder Foundation.

Kmiotek says the First Scholars program has provided amazing opportunities to her already. In addition to preparing her for college, it also helped her make new friends on campus, and encouraged her to join registered student organizations and get involved in the community.

"Service work is one of the requirements of the program. I volunteer at the animal shelter in Murphysboro and assist during RSO fairs and orientation," she says. "I'm also in Delta Zeta and Habitat for Humanity."

Community involvement is only part of the First Scholars program's requirements. Another of the Suder Foundation's requirements of scholarship recipients is "pay it forward." At SIU Carbondale, key scholarship recipients, such as Presidential Scholars, will mentor first-year participants in the First Scholars program during their freshman and sophomore years. As juniors and seniors, the scholars have the opportunity to be mentored by faculty, staff, or even alumni. First Scholars will subsequently fulfill their requirement by mentoring incoming participants.

"Mentors are important to the program and it's a great way for alumni to get involved with current students," says Christina Gilroy '03, First Scholars program coordinator. "You can be of service to these students, even if you don't live near the Carbondale campus."

For more information about the First Scholars program or to learn how to get involved, contact Christina Gilroy at 618-453-1843 or first2go@siu.edu, or visit firstscholars.siu.edu. To support the First Scholars program, contact the SIU Foundation by calling 618-453-4900, or visit: siuf.org.
The Smithsonian Saluki
For almost three decades, Eric Long '79 has produced spectacular images as a photographer at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C. Long, who recently sponsored an Association extern during spring break, says he was thrilled to share his expertise with a current SIU student. "So much of what happened to me professionally is because of things that occurred at SIU."

SIU's 'Super Students' Put Cancer On Notice
Two of Southern's most dedicated students are determined to take on the fight against cancer. Brock Kabat and Caitlin Moliske are the 2012 Super Student Scholarship recipients, and both the pre-med physiology majors plan to join research and practice to save lives. Together with this year's group of Most Distinguished Seniors, they represent some of the University's brightest students.

One Man's Dream
When the late Guy Renzaglia planted his first grapes in southern Illinois in 1982, the founder of SIU Carbondale's Rehabilitation Institute wondered if producing wine could truly become a practical business in the region. Three decades later, the family-run Alto Vineyards is part of an Illinois wine consortium creating a direct economic impact of more than $253 million annually. Southern Illinois alone is now home to 32 wineries that are key players in the region's tourism industry.
Each June, the SIU Alumni Association sends a complimentary copy of *Southern Alumni* to all recent graduates of the University. We often feature several stories and accomplishments by our talented student body, and this year’s collection of accolades is perhaps more impressive than any recent year.

From SIU placing three students among just 60 nationwide on the annual USA Today All-USA College Academic Team, to the Flying Salukis once again being recognized among the nation’s elite, our students continue to do great things. We also feature Southern’s Most Distinguished Seniors and Super Students, and showcase the Association’s award-winning Extern Program and its many participants and sponsors. 

As you turn the pages of this issue, I hope you take pride in the impressive accomplishments of some of the students, faculty, staff, and alumni who help make SIU Carbondale a special place.

A distinctive honor Southern bestows each year is the Lindell W. Sturgis Memorial Public Service Award. A prestigious prize bestowed annually since 1979 by the SIU Board of Trustees, it recognizes contributions of an SIU Carbondale employee to his or her community, area, state, or nation. This year’s recipient is John Erbes (see page 9), and the SIU Alumni Association life member joins an impressive list of winners who have found a way to make the world a better place.

Sturgis, recognized for his commitment to public service and education, served on the first SIU Board of Trustees after Southern attained University status in 1949. He was elected chair in 1969, and served in that role until his retirement from the Board in 1971.

His family established an endowment to fund the award, and now a bronze likeness of the late Metropolis, Ill., native has been unveiled on the first floor of Anthony Hall. To further honor her grandfather, Pamela Pfeffer ’67, along with her husband, Philip Pfeffer ’65, M.A. ’66, commissioned the piece by sculptor Alan Lequire. At their request, the bust also includes a plaque displaying the names of the recipients of the Sturgis award.

“The bust and plaque containing the names of the recipients remind us of our responsibility to our students and our communities,” Chancellor Rita Cheng says. “John is an outstanding choice for this year’s honor, and continues to make a positive difference through his commitment to education and public service.”
Package Deals for Alumni & Parents

T-Shirt Hoodie & Mug all for only $49.95

15% Discount for SIU Alumni Association Members

Visit the SIU Alumni Association Online Store for the latest shirts, hats, polos and more!

Get your SIU Basketball Apparel at: SIIALUMNI.COM
Magazine Brings Back Many Memories

For years, I’ve been the recipient of the Southern Alumni magazine. I graduated from SIU in 1970, and every time I think about the school, it brings back memories of a great school, a great process, and many nice people.

What I learned at Southern, particularly the business school and the education department, are the values that assisted me in establishing several successful businesses over a number of years. It also gave me the opportunity to recognize that you can do anything if you put your mind to it, but most importantly, you need to continue to learn. My education is the foundation for success.

I cannot begin to tell you how appreciative I am of SIU. All my kids are grown adults, but I keep telling them (whenever they’ll listen to me) about the warmth of the University and the people. I lived off campus most of the time but still remember many days at the “Rat Hole” and some of the other finer establishments, where you could buy a beer for 25 cents. I remember Wides Village where I had an apartment, and also resided in Murphysboro over Alice’s Pool Hall — all fond memories.

I was born and raised in Chicago but migrated to Phoenix, Ariz., 25 years ago and have been actively involved in the trucking industry for many years. I am a transportation analyst and have sold in excess of 325 trucking and logistics companies and have rehabilitated in excess of 200 companies. This has been done based on the sound principles of hiring people that are much more competent than I.

In closing, if there is anything I can ever do for the SIU Alumni Association, please feel free to call upon me. SIU is a great school with great people, and it certainly provided me with the value systems that I needed and were necessary to succeed in business.

Many thanks for sending the alumni magazine. It certainly brings back great memories.

A.W. Ahern ’70
Chief Executive Officer
Ahern & Associates
Phoenix, Ariz.

Political Debates At SIU Fuel Lifelong Friendships

It was during the hotly contested Bobby Kennedy/Eugene McCarthy primary in 1968 when five young, idealistic SIU government students came together with a University economics colleague for hours and hours of discussion and debate arguing the merits of their respective candidates.

One night the discussion grew so loud that the host was thrown out of his trailer park by the park’s owner. The owner of the trailer, however, was so impressed by the spirit of this group that he chose to move the unit to another location rather than kick us out.

On the weekend preceding the Indiana primary, the Kennedy campaign provided several free buses to bring SIU students to campaign. Some of us were irate when we discovered that colleagues who supported McCarthy were using the Kennedy buses to go to Indiana to campaign for their candidate.

On the weekend preceding the Indiana primary, the Kennedy campaign provided several free buses to bring SIU students to campaign. Some of us were irate when we discovered that colleagues who supported McCarthy were using the Kennedy buses to go to Indiana to campaign for their candidate.

The ethical, moral, and situational questions growing out of this adventure provided ammunition for much dialogue in the future between us all.

Now, 44 years later, we celebrate an amazing and deep friendship that has survived and strengthened over the decades. The fondness and appreciation for our experiences at Southern is always an integral part of reunion discussions — and so is politics. Our periodic reunions have always included a tolerant and adventuresome group of wives, with such gatherings held at various points across the country.

This year we met in Princeville on the island of Kauai. If you look closely at the photo below, you will see a Hawaiian rainbow. Somewhere over or under a rainbow, there always has to be a Saluki!

You’re Never Too Old

I read with interest the “Step Back In Time” article on Phil Coleman and the 1956 Olympics Trials. I was in school at SIU from 1950 to 1954 and was interested in Phil’s track career. A running friend of mine, Jerry Smartt of Warsaw, Mo., was in those same trials at the Los Angeles Coliseum in the steeplechase event, and was on the U.S. team that competed in Russia in 1958.

Over the past few years, Jerry and I have competed in USATF and World Masters Track and Field events in the U.S., Italy, and Finland. He is now 80 years old and recently won the U.S.A. Cross Country Championships (80+ division) held in St. Louis last winter.

I guess that shows that in some things, you’re never too old.

Don Pratt ’54
Annual Member
Monticello, Ill.
Dear Fellow Salukis:

We celebrated the many accomplishments of nearly 3,500 graduates during three exciting commencement ceremonies on May 12, and we welcome them into our proud alumni family. Among the many highlights of that day was the inspiring keynote address delivered by retired U.S. Navy Captain and astronaut Mark Kelly, who drew standing ovations at each ceremony. His life story of courage, perseverance, and preparation truly resonated with our graduates and the thousands of families and friends who filled the SIU Arena.

A week later, on May 19, we celebrated the School of Medicine’s class of 2012 during commencement ceremonies in Springfield, Ill. The 38th graduating class included 73 physicians and seven graduate students.

The spring semester was full of achievements. Here are just a few examples:

• USA Today named three of our students to its prestigious All-USA College Academic Team, an honor reserved for just 60 students nationwide. Lee Stewart and Jessica Stout were named to the 20-member first team, and Jordan Kabat, who graduated last December, was named to the third team. Ours was the only university in the country with two students on the first team. Much credit also goes to the staff of our University Honors program and our dedicated faculty mentors.

• Our Debate Team, led by Director Todd Graham, again excelled on the national stage, placing two duos among the top four in the country. That is a first -- for any university. Sid Rehg and Josh Rivera finished third, and the duo of Ben Campbell and Mike Selck placed fourth.

• The Flying Salukis continue to rank among the nation’s elite precision flight teams. The defending national champions finished third at the National Intercollegiate Flying Association championships. Two team members, Daniel Harrington and Taylor Breum, captured individual national championships, and Courtney Copping was the event’s top scoring female competitor.

• We received a two-year, $1.7 million grant to continue our important research into the Asian carp problem that threatens Illinois waterways and the Great Lakes. James Garvey, director of our Fisheries and Illinois Aquaculture Center, leads the effort, which includes other members of the center’s staff and researchers from other universities. The team recently reported that the fish now make up the majority of living tissue in the main channel of the Illinois River.

• The clinic director of the Center for Autism Spectrum Disorders, Kirsten Schaper, received a statewide award from an advocacy agency for those with disabilities. The award recognizes her commitment to training, expanding educational resources, and developing an extraordinary partnership with parents.

• Dexter Wakefield, associate professor in the plant, soil science and agricultural systems department, received the Outstanding Contribution Award from the National Teach Ag Campaign and the National Future Farmers of America Organization. Professor Wakefield was one of three people honored during the Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Related Sciences conference in Atlanta. The award recognizes individuals for their impact on the agricultural education profession through service, mentorship, and leadership.

Congratulations also are in order for two members of our University family who are contributing their talents to this summer’s Olympics in London. A poem written by Frank Chipasula, professor of Africana Studies, will be displayed and read during the games as part of a special project involving poets from participating countries. He wrote the poem just as he began his 22-year exile from his native Malawi. In addition, Primo Angeli, who holds bachelor’s and master’s degrees from SIU, is among 48 international artists competing to have their creation become the official poster for the Olympics. His multi-media illustration is “London Calling.”

A busy construction season of much-needed improvements is in full swing, including the creation of a pedestrian mall on the east side of Faner Hall and a significant energy conservation initiative at the Student Recreation Center.

We broke ground in April for the Student Services building, which will open in time for the 2013-14 academic year. Other projects include roof replacements on the Communications Building and Lawson Hall, fire alarm upgrades throughout the campus, a campus-wide outdoor notification system, and completion of the Saluki Track and Field Complex and the Transportation Education Center. Many other large and small projects are in progress or in the planning stages, all designed to enhance the teaching and learning environment, and campus safety.

I have visited with alumni in New York City, Atlanta; and Nashville, Tenn., recently, and I enjoyed our annual SIU Day at Busch Stadium in St. Louis. There is great Saluki spirit everywhere I go, and I look forward to opportunities to visit with more of you in the months ahead.

I hope you are having a wonderful summer. Thank you for all that you do to support our students and our University.

Sincerely,

[Signature]
Rita Cheng
Chancellor
New Life Members
2/9–5/18, 2012

James Alm
Kham Baccam
Tamara Blair
Darin Bohm
Deborra Bracy
Glenda Caszatt
Kristine Domaracki
Christine Egley
Nathan Elliott
Cheryl Endres and Andrea Turner
Earnest Ferrell
David and Cindy Fiedler
Tim Frankfort
Connie Goldsmith
Toni Greathouse
Nancy Guertin
Gina Gurley
Beth and Carl Hartmann
Gregory Hempelman
Charles Henry
Susanna Hoeness-Krupshaw and Kim Krupsaw
David and Phyllis Howard
Steven and Debra Howells
Caleb Johnson
Larry Jones
Dennis Laake
Mark Lambley
Tim and Lorrie Leffler
Amanda Lowery
Bradley and Sydney Miller
Keith Mortag
Norman Padalino
Robert and Jirapon Padar
Wayne and Claudette Peterson
Marla Rathjen
Samantha Shaw
Byron Sipe
Peter Sjoberg
Richard Spangler
Aaron Stearns
Stephanie Suits-Klyber and Gabriel Klyber
Denise Thimmig
George and Linda Vineyard
James Wahl

Be Prepared For Tests
As the world leader in test preparation, Kaplan has been helping students succeed on exams and get into their choice schools for more than 70 years. Kaplan Test Prep annually prepares hundreds of thousands of students for high-stakes admissions and professional licensing exams. SIU Alumni Association members receive a 10% discount on Kaplan's products and services. For more information, visit www.siualumni.com/advantages.

Save Big With SafeRide
Members of the SIU Alumni Association receive a discount of more than 35% on emergency roadside packages with SafeRide Motor Club. Available packages cover towing, lockout, jump start, flat tire, and many other services. In addition, SafeRide provides financial support to the Association for every member that signs up. For more information, visit www.siualumni.com/roadsideservices.
MEMBER ADVANTAGES

We’re constantly working to improve the Member Advantages program! We hope you enjoy some of these new additions and great continuing opportunities for members...

Introducing Cory Mohr Designs
Getting ready to redesign your kitchen or bath? Contact Cory Mohr Designs for a 50% savings on the design fee. Cory, an SIU alumnus, is offering this great advantage exclusively to members of the Association.

Take Me With You
A Saluki mascot cut-out is featured on page 19 of this edition of Southern Alumni. Take it with you on your summer travels!

Never Stop Learning
Take an online course at home to learn Photoshop, get your network certification, or simply learn more about your computer’s programs. Learnkey offers members a 25% discount on courses. Take advantage of this opportunity today!

Did You Know?
You have access to thousands of scholarly research journals? All thanks to your membership in the SIU Alumni Association.

Lost Vacation Photos?
Recover your memories with Data Recovery Group – a company that works with your computer, camera memory card and more to recover lost photos, programs, and files. Members receive a 15% discount on completed recovery projects.

Find these advantages and more online at www.siualumni.com/advantages
Southern Illinois University Carbondale recently broke ground for the 125,000-square-foot Student Services Building, a state-of-the-art facility that will serve students, parents, and alumni. The building is going up south of Anthony Hall and Parkinson Hall, slightly northeast of the Student Center on the ground where the two-story parking garage stood.

"We want the total student experience to be positive, and this facility will be a one-stop shop for so many of the services our students need on a daily basis, and staffed by dedicated professionals" says SIU Carbondale Chancellor Rita Cheng. "It also will improve the aesthetics of the campus and provide an impressive, inviting new entryway."

The facility, part of SIU's Saluki Way plan, will house the University's enrollment management functions, including Undergraduate Admissions, Bursar, Registrar's Office, Career Services, Enrollment Management, Enrollment Technology Services, Graduate School, Financial Aid, Learning Support Services, New Student Programs, Transfer Student Services, University College, and University Housing. The building will also house the Saluki First Year Initiative — which is designed to make sure students reach their full potential and are active participants during their first year at the University.

The three-story complex will feature a limestone façade and include a welcome center with cross-trained staff to serve students. The projected cost for design and construction is $36.6 million. River City Construction of Benton is the general contractor; White and Borgognoni Architects of Carbondale is the project architect. Construction is expected to be completed in June 2013. Phil Gatton, director of Plant and Service Operations at SIU Carbondale, says the building creates a new entryway onto campus, and that the facility focuses on student needs. "I think what we have come up with is a great solution that people will be happy with," he says.

New Deans At SIU Carbondale

Several new deans have recently been hired at the University. Three colleges will soon have new leadership in July, as will Library Affairs. We will feature more information on these new campus leaders in the September edition of Southern Alumni magazine.
The College of Business Honors Five Alumni

The College of Business at Southern Illinois University Carbondale recently inducted four people into its Hall of Fame and recognized a fifth as Executive of the Year. The 2012 Hall of Fame inductees are Kevin Bastien '86, M.A. '87, Diane Compardo '91, M.A. '92, Jeff Emme '80, and Stephen Parks '80. Wesley Gibson '81 is the Executive of the Year.

"It was an honor to have the opportunity to recognize these five individuals. They have made undeniable contributions to their field. The example they set for current and future students is a powerful message that will leave a lasting legacy far beyond the professional achievements each has produced," Dean J. Dennis Cradit says.

Bastien is the chief financial officer for the St. Louis headquarters of the Edward Jones financial firm. He joined Edward Jones as director of finance in 1996, handling tax function and partnership capital, and two years later became a principal with the firm. He became CFO in January 2009.

Compardo is currently a principal with the Moneta Group, a financial planning firm providing family chief financial officer services to more than 2,000 clients. The firm, founded in 1995 and located in Clayton, Mo., earned recognition as one of St. Louis' top wealth managers in August 2011. Her association with the firm dates to 1997, as she was the first professional consultant. She became partner in 2007.

Emme is senior vice president for the Downers Grove-based Sara Lee Corporation. He oversees a staff of 25 in Illinois as well as 17 employed overseas, and his connection with the company goes back 25 years. He serves as a board member for the Civic Federation of Illinois, is active in his church, and is a lifetime member of the SIU Alumni Association.

Parks, a vice president at General Electric, joined the Dallas firm of KPMG Peat Marwick shortly after graduation. In 1985, he joined the United States Congress Joint Committee on Taxation staff where he assisted with the Tax Reform Act of 1986 and other legislation. Three years later, he returned to KPMG as international tax partner in the Dallas branch. His affiliation with General Electric extends back to 1991 in various other roles before promotion to his current post as vice president of taxes and infrastructure in 1995.

Gibson is the founder and managing partner of Gibson Consulting Group, LLC, with headquarters in Chicago and offices in Tampa, Fla., London, Paris, and Shanghai, along with a training facility in Carbondale. A certified management consultant for more than 20 years, he also previously worked in operational consulting for the Chicago office of Arthur Andersen and with the firm's special services group.

The Executive of the Year award recognizes an SIU Carbondale graduate who rises to a prominent business position and demonstrates a commitment to innovation, broadening the scope of economic opportunity through utilization and transfer of technology and training skills. The honored executives serve as role models for peers and inspiration for College of Business students, according to Cradit.

All five honorees participated in an awards presentation and banquet held recently at the Student Center.

Suski Named Undergraduate Admissions Director

Katharine Suski '98, M.A. '04 has been named the permanent director of undergraduate admissions at Southern Illinois University Carbondale. "Katharine has exactly the kind of knowledge and experience we need in this critical position," Chancellor Rita Cheng says. "Our focus on enrollment requires the strong leadership that Katharine provides."

Suski, an SIU Carbondale alumna for both her bachelor's and her master's degrees, has been part of the University's undergraduate admissions office since 1999 when she became an admissions coordinator. She was campus visit coordinator from 2002 to 2007, when she became associate director of undergraduate admissions. More recently, Suski has been interim director of undergraduate admissions since August 2010.

"I'm honored to lead the admissions team at my alma mater," the SIU Alumni Association life member says. "I am personally invested in the success of SIU and look forward to further implementing student-focused, outcomes-based initiatives within the admissions office. As a second-generation alumna, SIU is in my blood and has provided endless opportunity to my family and me. Supportive faculty, outstanding academic programs, and lifelong connections are just a few of the benefits SIU students enjoy."

Erbes Wins Sturgis Public Service Award

The community volunteer efforts of John Erbes J.D. '79 span generations.

You will find him working with the Boy Scouts and local youth baseball and soccer programs, assisting the Murphysboro High School Crimson Express band, building sets, and assisting the elderly in numerous areas. The SIU School of Law graduate finds joy in helping people.

The interim director of the Southern Illinois University School of Law Legal Clinic, Erbes views his varied volunteer efforts as an extension of why he became an attorney: to assist others. It is that passion and community service that earned him the 2012 Lindell W. Sturgis Memorial Public Service Award. The SIU Board of Trustees presented the award and plaque to Erbes during a March ceremony at the Student Center. His name will also go on a permanent plaque hanging in Anthony Hall.

Erbes was "completely surprised" upon learning of the award. "Looking at the list of people who have received this award makes it even more of an honor," he says. "I don't do volunteer work for the reward but I do get a lot out of it. It's enjoyable and personally rewarding."

"John's service to the public is just who John is," wrote nominator Rebecca O'Neill '85, J.D. '88, a clinical professor at the law school and 2005 Sturgis Award recipient. "He goes far beyond what other people do to help others in his work, in his profession, and throughout the community."

Erbes and his wife, Julie '80, live in Murphysboro. The couple has two sons, Andrew, 25, and Aaron, 20, and he credits his children's activities while they were growing up as key to many of his volunteer efforts, laughing that at times his sons "really kind of pushed me ... or they volunteered me."

He views his volunteer efforts as an extension of practicing law, something which he reminds his students. He also remembers advice his father offered. "He told me that if I was going to do something, to do it to the best of my ability. I take that approach with my job or whatever it is I am doing."

On The Side

Katharine Suski

John Erbes
USA Today Names Three SIU Students To All-Academic Team

Three Southern Illinois University Carbondale students are among just 60 nationwide named to the annual USA Today All-USA College Academic Team.

**Lee Stewart** (Dowell), a political science major, and **Jessica Stout** (Taylorville), a physiology major, each have a place on the "First Team," and **Jordan Kabat** (Waltonville), a 2011 mechanical engineering graduate, is on the third team. All three are University Honors students, Presidential Scholars, and members of the SIU Alumni Association.

"This is one of the most prestigious academic honors in the country, and we are extremely proud of Lee, Jessica and Jordan," Chancellor **Rita Cheng** says. "They are in the company of students from other distinguished universities, including Rice, Cornell, the Naval Academy, Northwestern, and the University of California at Berkeley. But it is important to point out that ours is the only university with two students on the First Team."

She also emphasized that SIU Carbondale is the only Illinois institution represented on the First Team.

"This honor reflects the initiative, passion, and commitment of our students," Cheng says. "It also is a credit to the staff of the University Honors program and the faculty who share their time, experience, and expertise mentoring our students."

This is not the first time SIU Carbondale students have earned spots on the academic list, but this is the first year the University is represented on the First Team, which includes only the top 20 students in the nation. SIU Carbondale has, in fact, placed eight students on the USA Today academic teams since 2006.

**Lori Merrill-Fink**, director of the University Honors Program, says this year's representation of students proves that some of the nation's top students choose SIU Carbondale. "These honors are a testament not only to the character, drive and initiative of these remarkable students, but also to the opportunities and mentoring they receive," she says.

The University Honors Program has doubled in recent years, going from 220 students in 2010 to 437 in spring 2012, with 57 set to graduate in May. This increase in students isn't because the program has become easier. In fact, the opposite is true.

The University Honors Program was restructured in 2008 to make the program stronger and more academically challenging. Students choose now to enter the Honors Certificate track, which requires them to take five honors courses, or to choose the even more rigorous Honors Degree program, which requires a total of seven honors courses plus a three-credit-hour honors thesis. In addition, the minimum grade point average required for eligible students is now 3.4, an increase from the previously acceptable 3.25.

"When students find out that we are not like most high school honors programs, but rather a value-added learning experience with many benefits, they are eager to join," Merrill-Fink notes.

For Stewart, the honor is a score for his hometown of Dowell, population approximately 420, and for his University as well. "I view this not so much as a personal achievement, but rather one for the University," he says. "I'm a small-town guy. I want kids from this area to know that just because they may not have all the advantages (of bigger and more affluent school districts), they can do what they want to do. SIU Carbondale gave me the chance to prove myself." He plans to attend graduate school and to focus on a future in policy analysis.

Stout will attend the SIU School of Medicine beginning this fall. Ultimately, she intends to specialize in pediatric oncology. As a student, she has worked toward this goal through undergraduate research projects, including acting as a research assistant with the SIU School of Medicine and the St. Louis Children's Hospital.

She says she was "astonished" to learn she'd been included in the First Team. "It is overwhelming," she says. "I am humbled to be ranked within such a prestigious group. My focus throughout college has never been reward-based, but rather about trying to learn as much as possible to help kids and their families fight cancer, now and in my future."

Kabat is a fourth-generation Saluki. He notes that the excellence of the engineering program and the opportunity to participate in undergraduate research were also determining factors in his selection of SIU Carbondale for his education. He says the national recognition was a "great way to wrap up my career here at SIU." Upon graduation in December 2011, he accepted a job with Peabody Energy in Evansville, Ind.

In addition to the USA Today All-USA College Academic Team members, the University Honors Program has nurtured students along the way to other major national awards. For example, honors students have also been Morris K. Udall Scholars and Barry M. Goldwater Scholars, and nominees for Rhodes Scholars, National Science Foundation Research Fellowships, and Marshall Scholars.

"The recognition that Lee, Jessica, and Jordan have earned is a wonderful example of why we tell all of our students that big things are always within reach," Cheng says.
July
6-8/13-15 McLeod Summer Playhouse presents Chicago the Musical, Thursday-Saturday at 7:30 p.m., and Sunday at 2 p.m.
14 Austin/San Antonio: Round Rock Express baseball; game time 6 p.m.
21 Quad Cities Happy Hour, 7 p.m. at Doc's Inn
26-30 McLeod Summer Playhouse presents Cinderella, Thursday-Saturday at 7:30 p.m., Sunday at 2 p.m., and Monday at 7:30 p.m.
28 Dallas/Ft. Worth: SIU Day with the RoughRiders; game time 7 p.m.
29 35th Annual SIU Day at Wrigley Field, Chicago Cubs vs. the St. Louis Cardinals. Pregame at Cubby Bear Lounge two hours prior to 1:20 p.m. game time (game time subject to change).

August
4 13th Annual Greater Michigan Picnic
8 Chicago Food Bank Summer Volunteer Effort, 6 p.m.-9 p.m. at the Greater Chicago Food Depository
18 Quad Cities Social, 7 p.m. at the Blue Cat Brew Pub
30 Saluki Football at Eastern Illinois, Charleston, Ill. Game time 6:30 p.m.

September
8 Saluki Football at Miami University, Oxford, Ohio; game time TBA. SIU Alumni Association will host a tailgate before the game.

15 Saluki Football hosts Southeast Missouri State; game time 6 p.m. Join the SIU Alumni Association on Saluki Row for a pregame tailgate.
22 Saluki Football at Missouri State, Springfield, Mo.; game time 1 p.m.
28-30 Saluki Family Weekend
29 Saluki Football hosts Indiana State; game time 6 p.m. Join the SIU Alumni Association on Saluki Row for a pregame tailgate.

Looking Ahead:
Oct. 13 Homecoming
Nov. 18 3rd Annual SIU Day with the St. Louis Rams

Legacy Preview Set For Homecoming Weekend
Mark your calendars for the next Legacy Preview set for Friday, Oct. 12, a program giving you the chance to share your alma mater with your child. Coinciding with SIU Carbondale Homecoming Weekend, this preview will provide an opportunity to learn more about admissions, financial aid, scholarships, and housing at the University.

You will also have a chance to meet with college representatives regarding specific majors that interest your student. In addition, learn about special scholarship opportunities offered specifically for students related to an alumnus. For those who would like to view the campus and see how things have changed, walking campus tours will be available. For more information please visit admissions.siu.edu/legacy or contact Amber Short at ashort@siu.edu or 618-453-2988.

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Long's photo of the SR-71A Blackbird, a high-speed altitude aircraft, was taken to help promote the building of the Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center, the companion facility to the museum on the National Mall. He says this image is representative of his style of lighting and drama.

For almost three decades, Eric Long '79 has produced spectacular images as a photographer at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C. Although his career and training he received as a student at Southern Illinois University Carbondale have indeed served him well, he admits that he had no idea what the next step in his life would be when he graduated from high school.

Long grew up in Rockville, Md., and decided to attend a local community college and pursue a career in accounting. "I quickly learned that probably wasn't a great idea - I soon struggled with economics," he recalls with a laugh. "That issue and a few other things made me start to reassess my academic plans."

During that time, Long's mother passed away. "Her death really made me think long and hard about what I wanted to do with my life," he admits. "I wanted to find a career path that really was something I would find appealing. I had always been interested in photography, so I began to consider where I could transfer to for that type of degree."

One of the premier schools excelling in the curriculum was the Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT). The programs offered were impressive, but the cost of attending made it an unrealistic option. Instead, Long and his father began to research other universities. "In the 1970s, not many schools actually had a true photography program," he says. "I also wanted something that was not connected to an institution's art department - a collaboration quite prevalent in those days."

Long had read a publication produced by Kodak which listed colleges with photography departments. He enjoyed an article written by C. William "Doc" Horrell '42, a noted photographer who had been an SIU Carbondale faculty member since 1959. After pursuing the material, he and his father decided to make two campus visits - Ohio University and SIU Carbondale.

"When we arrived in Athens, Ohio, the first thing I found out was that the photography department was tied to the art department," Long says. "The buildings were old and I really wasn't that impressed. Arriving at SIU, I was taken by a beautiful campus in a great part of the state. The facilities were still fairly new in the mid-1970s, and the department was its own entity. I told my father that I thought Carbondale would be a good place to continue my education."

Long began classes at Southern in the fall of 1975 and would graduate three years later. Along the way, the one thing he wanted to avoid ended up helping him secure employment in the real world: he was asked to work with SIU's art department.

Looking for the Right Place

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"I was approached by ceramics professor Harris Deller about shooting some of his ceramic pieces for a publication," Long recalls. "Doing that job taught me a great deal about lighting, and I really enjoyed it. One of my photos ended up on the cover of Ceramics Monthly magazine and served as the first color photograph that publication ever placed on its cover."

"Afterward, the editor of the magazine sent me a wonderful letter telling me how much they liked my photographs. I used the cover and that letter as a shining example in my portfolio - the combination carried me quite a distance when I left SIU for the real world."

An SIU Course Pays Dividends

When Long graduated, he admits he had neither the confidence nor funds to open up his own studio. He instead worked on several small jobs when they came his way, but it was once again something that had occurred at SIU that gave him a professional boost.

"I had taken a course at Southern called 'Reconstruction of Color' where you shoot black and white 4x5 negatives through a specific color filter and then print the same picture through that same filter. The process produced surrealistic images that were really interesting."

This image "Stradivarius Quartet of Decorated Instruments" won Long third place in a nationwide Kodak contest for commercial photographers. The photograph is still being widely used at the Smithsonian.
Shot for a book regarding the travelling exhibit on “Star Wars’ 20th Anniversary,” Long says this image helped him land his current position at the National Air and Space Museum.

“Taking this technique, I began applying it to slide film using multiple exposures through color separations, and used this approach to try and find work. That class at Southern gave me the opportunity to do something not many were doing back in those days. I took that idea and began to follow several leads.”

One lead led straight to the Smithsonian Institution.

“I secured an interview to work on a book project, and they decided that the photography technique I had been using might be a good fit,” he says. “The Smithsonian ended up contracting me to shoot sunrises over some of the buildings in Washington. I really had fun with it.”

“While shooting one day, a man jogging nearby became curious and stopped to ask me what I was doing. I told him what the photos were for, and he introduced himself as a darkroom technician/photographer for the Smithsonian’s Museum of American History. He urged me to go talk to his boss and show him my portfolio, which at the time consisted mainly of large format studio work.”

Long interviewed with the Smithsonian Photographic Services, gave a presentation, and received positive feedback. There was only one problem – a hiring freeze was in place. He was urged to stay in touch in case additional staff was later added.

Long was eventually hired in 1983 and worked at the Museum of American History for the next 13 years. During the latter part of that stretch, he heard of a project at the Air and Space Museum regarding a proposed book based on model airplanes in the museum’s collection.

“No one really showed any interest in doing that, so I said I would. Later on I worked at that museum again on a ‘Star Wars’ project, and eventually transferred to the Air and Space Museum in 1996. I’ve been there ever since, and love what I do.

“As I look back on the training I received, I think the most important difference in the photography program at SIU over other schools was that it helped me develop my own style of photography. At a school such as RIT, I would have basically copied the style of their professors. SIU’s approach gave me a significant advantage coming out of school and entering the real world. So much of what happened to me is because of things that happened in Carbondale.”

One important thing that happened at Southern was meeting his wife, Kathleen ’74, a native of Zeigler who has worked in the Washington, D.C., area for the Marriott Corporation for the past 12 years. The Longs have three daughters.

“We get back to southern Illinois every year or so,” Long says, “and when we do we see friends and family in Zeigler. I didn’t grow up there, but my wife says they have long since adopted me as one of their own.”

SPONSORING AN EXTERN

Long’s latest connection with his alma mater was serving as an Extern sponsor this spring. He mentored Robert “R.J.” Bachmann, a junior majoring in commercial photography and advertising. (See accompanying story on Bachmann and the Extern Program.)

And what does he think of the SIU student’s work?

“His portfolio was quite impressive,” Long says without hesitation. “Normally I see students bring in something they did as a school assignment. R.J., howev-
Long has produced three books on airplane cockpits from the Smithsonian’s collection. This is the cockpit of the Space Shuttle Columbia.

er, was showing me things that he did for actual clients. The emphasis for a college photographer should be to try and get work published, and this young man has already started doing that.”

The Extern experience is something Long thoroughly enjoyed. “I had done something like this for other institutions, but it was quite nice to sponsor someone from SIU,” he says. “Talking to R.J. really took me back to my days at Carbondale. It was easy to relate to him as we talked about the campus.”

All photos courtesy Smithsonian/Eric Long

One of Long’s current projects is providing a product to World War II veterans who come to the nation’s capitol. Here he is shown giving a veteran a poster he produced on Veterans Day at the World War II Memorial. The SIU graduate has produced a postcard set as well (samples shown at right). To see the entire collection or to purchase, go to his website at www.ericlongphoto.com.
EXTERN EXPERIENCE EXCEEDED HIS EXPECTATIONS

For Robert "R.J." Bachmann, the SIU Alumni Association's Extern Program allowed him to refine his photographic skills by working with a top professional in the field. Majoring in commercial photography and advertising at Southern, the Hawthorne Woods, Ill., resident spent a week this spring at the Smithsonian Institution under the watchful eye of staff photographer Eric Long.

It was something Bachmann will always cherish.

"What happened that week in Washington, D.C., exceeded all of my expectations and provided a hands-on learning experience I will never forget," he says. "Some of the highlights included helping Long photograph the Hubble Telescope Test Module, the Wright Brothers' pocket watch used to record the first flight, and documenting several exhibits on display at The Smithsonian Postal Museum."

Long not only allowed Bachmann to observe his daily schedule, but invited him to stay at his home in Maryland and travel with him to work each morning. "I wanted the experience to be as cost-effective as possible, while giving him the full experience of what it was like going to the job each day."

Bachmann made a strong impression on the 1979 SIU graduate, who says the University junior "has a real way with people and makes them feel comfortable at a photo shoot. He has another year to go in school, yet already has a confidence level you rarely see at that age. R.J. also has a strong sense of how to properly use lighting — that really impressed me."

Bachmann hopes more SIU students take advantage of the opportunity offered via the Extern Program.

"I greatly appreciate what the SIU Alumni Association is doing to help current students start successful careers," he says. "With the Association continuing to partner with successful alumni, the Extern Program should continue to grow and be an experience many more students will want to participate in."

R.J. Bachmann stands on the second floor mezzanine of the Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center. The Hazy Center displays the larger sized collection of the National Air and Space Museum such as the B-29 Enola Gay, SR-71A Blackbird, Air France Concorde, Space Shuttle Discovery, and over 300 such artifacts.

Bachmann gets inside a cage and photographs a South American Toucan at the National Zoological Park. The image was taken for possible use in the 2011 Smithsonian Annual Report.
2012 PARTICIPANTS

The Extern Program, established by the SIU Alumni Association in 1984, is designed to prepare students for success after graduation by simulating a real job environment. Junior and senior students go through an application process, interview, and commit to work over the University’s spring break. For sponsors, the program is designed to share their expertise with students who aspire to soon enter their given vocation.

Students begin applying in October, interviews are held in December, the matching process occurs from January to March, and sponsor applications are due in January. To secure the best externship match, time is allocated to insure a student’s goals and interests are compatible with what the sponsor can offer. The Association partners with SIU Carbondale’s undergraduate colleges during the matching process, and each year approximately 150 students take part in this offering.

To help defray some of the students’ cost, the Association once again provided travel awards to some participants. In 2012, the Association’s board of directors awarded 28 travel awards totaling $11,000 to assist with the expense of traveling.

To learn more about the Extern Program, contact Director of Student, College, and Constituent Relations Tuesday Ashner at tlashner@siu.edu, Extern Coordinator Kimberly Brombosz at kbrombosz@foundation.siu.edu, or call the SIU Alumni Association office at 618-453-2408.
SIU Grads Are Mega Millions Winners

by Becky Malkovich

Merle Butler '71, '87 did little recently to hide the fact that he was holding one of three Mega Millions lottery tickets worth more than $218 million.

"Yeah, sure, I won it," the two-degree Southern Illinois University Carbondale alum said whenever one of his friends or neighbors jokingly asked if he had purchased the winning ticket at the Moto Mart in Red Bud, Ill., where he has lived most of his life."I answered, most of the time truthfully, that 'Yes, I did,' but they didn't catch it."

They all caught it in mid-April when Butler and his wife, Patricia '70, were introduced by Illinois Lottery Superintendent Michael Jones as the latest Mega Millionaires during a news conference at the Red Bud Village Hall.

Butler's share of the record $656 million jackpot came after a $3 investment in a Mega Millions Quick Pick ticket. Ticket holders in Maryland and Kansas have claimed their pieces of the pie as well, but those states, unlike Illinois, allow lottery winners to remain anonymous.

After checking the numbers drawn March 30, "I turned to my wife, who was right there with me, and said, 'We won.' And she kind of looked at me funny and I said, 'No, we won.' And then she started giggling and she giggled for about four hours," he says. "We were up all night. We waited for 9 o'clock when the banks open and went over to our local bank where we have a lockbox and placed the ticket in the lockbox."

The couple, retired analysts, shared the good news with family and a few close friends, and immediately sought financial and legal advice to help them cope with their sudden riches. The Butlers chose to take their winnings in a lump sum payment of $157.8 million, which after 25 percent federal and 5 percent state withholding, ends up as $110,517,449.

"We have a real good set of financial advisers. Over the next few months, possibly a year, we're going to start setting up different things we can use it for, and there could possibly be a vacation in there," he says with a laugh. "This is a full-time job, it looks like. You'd be surprised at what all is involved. It's a bit of work to set this all up."

When the couple was whisked away from the news conference, many townspeople gathered to celebrate their good fortune at a picnic behind village hall.

Mega Millionaires Merle and Patricia Butler played the lottery only when the jackpots reached more than $100 million. The SIU graduates are retired. Merle, 65, was a computer analyst, and Patricia, 62, was a programmer analyst.

"We're going to stay here," he says. "We know everybody in Red Bud just about. I grew up here, it's 3,700 people, and it's a nice, comfortable, family-oriented community. We really enjoy living here, and we don't plan on doing anything else," he says.

Asked whether they plan to share their wealth in any charitable ways, he notes, "We're meeting with our financial advisers, and we've got a plan for setting up stuff, and we're going to go through all that. But that's all down the line, and everything is kind of open now, the types of things we're going to set up."

— Story and photos courtesy of The Southern Illinoisan
TAKE ME WITH YOU!

On your next trip, cut me out and pack me with your camera. Take a photo with me in it and post it to the SIU Alumni Association’s Facebook page. Be sure to tag me, “Saluki Mascot” and your fellow alumni can see where we’ve been!
Three separate commencement ceremonies were held at the SIU Arena for undergraduate and graduate students in May, as retired U.S. Navy Captain Mark Kelly, who served as commander of the space shuttle Endeavour on its final mission last year, was the keynote speaker for each. Kelly flew four shuttle missions in his career, and is one of only two individuals to visit the International Space Station on four different occasions.

He is married to former Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords, who continues her recovery from a January 2011 assassination attempt. The couple shares their story of hope and resilience in their best-selling memoir, “Gabby.”

During the commencement celebrations, one individual received an honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters, two people received Distinguished Service Awards, and five alumni received Alumni Achievement Awards during their respective college or school ceremony.

Here are the honorees:

- Deidre McCloskey received an honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from the College of Liberal Arts and College of Mass Communication and Media Arts. She is the Distinguished Professor of Economics, History, English and Communication at the University of Illinois at Chicago, and a professor of economic history at Gothenburg University in Sweden.

- Edward Collins '82, J.D. '86, vice president and assistant general counsel for The Allstate Corp., received his Alumni Achievement honor from the College of Liberal Arts. The Gurnee, Ill., resident earned a bachelor's degree in political science in 1982, and a law degree from the SIU School of Law in 1986.

- Sam Robb '68, M.S. '75, a retired, longtime vocational agriculture teacher at Pinckneyville Community High School, received the Alumni Achievement award from the College of Agricultural Sciences. The Pinckneyville, Ill., resident spent 37 years teaching high school industrial education or vocational agriculture classes in Kewanee, Mount Carmel, and the last 32 years at Pinckneyville Community High School before retiring in 2005.

- Lee Raines A.A.S. '85, '86 director and division head of automotive service for American Suzuki Motor Corp., received his Alumni Achievement honor...
from the College of Applied Sciences and Arts. The Acworth, Ga., resident has held various leadership positions with American Suzuki Motor Corp., in addition to other automotive manufacturers.

- **Thomas Murray ’67**, a retired executive vice president and owner of Chicago-based Sargent & Lundy, LLC., received his Alumni Achievement honor from the College of Engineering. Murray spent more than 40 years with the company and retired in 2007 as director of the company’s Power Delivery Services business group. The Lisle, Ill., resident is a registered professional engineer in eight states.

- **Brocton Lockwood**, nominated by the SIU School of Law, received a Distinguished Service Award. He earned his bachelor’s degree in political science at Oberlin College in Ohio and his law degree from Vanderbilt University. Returning to southern Illinois and private practice, he taught constitutional law at the University and the SIU School of Law from 1971 to 1976. As an associate judge in the First Judicial Circuit between 1978 and 1983, part of Lockwood’s duties included assisting with the backlog of cases in Cook County by serving in their traffic court. Frustrated by the apparent corruption, the Harrisburg, Ill., resident volunteered to serve as an undercover investigator for the FBI’s Operation Greylord.

- **Larry Bailey ’72**, nominated by the College of Business, received a Distinguished Service Award. A businessman and consultant in Washington, D.C., he is a licensed CPA and is a former partner with two international public accounting firms, in addition to being a former Internal Revenue Service agent. He is one of the founders of SIU Carbondale’s accounting registered student organization, Blacks Interested in Business (BIB).

- **Hazel Loucks ’66**, who served as Illinois’ Deputy Governor for Education and Workforce from January 1999 to January 2003, received her Alumni Achievement honor from the College of Education and Human Services. An assistant professor at SIU from 1989 to 1994, the Edwardsville, Ill., resident is currently an associate professor at McKendree University.
A device that is referred to as "too simple" by its inventor could ultimately save 250,000 lives on an annual basis. "Too simple is actually the problem," says Matt Reavill, a 1988 SIU Carbondale engineering graduate. "Complex problems aren't supposed to have simple solutions."

The complex problem Matt refers to is an extremely deadly reaction to what are often routine infections. This reaction is called sepsis, during which the body literally collapses in an all-out attempt to fight off the infection. Sepsis is often the actual cause of death when you hear "complications of" cancer, pneumonia, stroke, heart attack, or surgery, etc. The complication is an infection that exacerbates the problem. The death comes from sepsis.

"The problem clinicians have with finding and treating sepsis is that stethoscopes and blood pressure cuffs almost diagnose it," he says. "The only diagnostic device accurate enough to confirm sepsis is a central line catheter that might cause death."

In 1994, his father, Fred Reavill, died when his central line catheter became infected.

Matt’s company and device he invented – ReavillMED CVP – are named in his father’s honor. Matt’s invention uses the patient’s existing IV line to infuse a central line catheter to measure central venous blood pressure of the heart safely from the arm instead of the neck. It was FDA cleared in December 2010 and is estimated for a full launch by the first part of 2013.

Fred had survived a delicate heart procedure at one of Indiana’s top heart hospitals. A central line was needed to monitor his heart during the recovery. It kept him alive and helped the doctors confirm he would need a heart replacement. But before a donor heart could be found, the catheter that was keeping him alive became infected. He developed sepsis from the central line used to save his life and died 20 days later in a coma, just after his 60th birthday.

Matt insists his invention isn't a state-
ment against central lines. He's actually identified stethoscopes and blood pressure cuffs as the bigger problem.

"My dad was one of 28,000 U.S. deaths per year from central lines. Sepsis kills 250,000 each year in the United States by not getting a central line placed (in time)," the Plainfield, Ill., resident says. "Clinicians have been made so aware of central line infections and deaths that they have to provide an explanation whether they use a line or not. Either way, it's still time lost at the most critical first hour for the sepsis patient.

"The world's best stethoscope doesn't hurt; it's accurate, doesn't take any longer, protects the patient, and allows a doctor to share the results."

The ReavillMED CVP isn't a stethoscope; it's a central line. It is still an infusion device and will enable new life-saving procedures like induced hypothermic therapy by delivering cold water directly to the heart. However, Matt says it hopefully has all the positive qualities of the best stethoscope.

Whether he's right or wrong, Matt realizes that changing medical practice isn't easy. He has received support abroad, where ReavillMED won Omnicompete's inaugural Health Pitch Battlefield in London last October. The global search was for best new medical device technology to improve healthcare delivery.

"Pain is an incredible motivator, fear is a frantic search for options, and a mission is relying on them both," he says. Learn more about the initiative at www.reavillmed.com.

Reavill recently won an award for inventing a medical device that reduces the risk of infection for patients who need a central line catheter. Photos by Paul Newton/The Southern Illinoisan.

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Student, Faculty Member Capture Broadcast Honors

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outhern Illinois University Carbondale's Department of Radio-Television continues to earn top industry accolades with strong showings in the Broadcast Education Association's (BEA) Festival of Media Arts competition. The awards ceremony was held in April at the BEA's annual conference.

Nick Gresham '12, a radio-television graduate from Chicago, earned top honors in the national competition for "Best TV Sports Story" in the organization's student division. In addition, Jan Thompson, an associate professor in radio-television, earned several awards in the BEA faculty division for her documentary, "The Tragedy of Bataan." Narrated by actor Alec Baldwin, the documentary features accounts of more than 20 Bataan Death March survivors.

Gresham, who graduated in May, was sports producer of WSIU-TV's River Region Evening Edition newscast and won for his story, "All-Access: Saluki Practice." The story, which aired Dec. 1, 2011, on WSIU-TV's Saluki Sportsview, gave viewers a "rare, behind-the-scenes view of an SIU men's basketball practice" that relies on state-of-the-art visual techniques, professional quality photography, and compelling sound, explains Greg Todd '72, River Region Evening Edition news director.

While "thrilled" about earning the award, Gresham says it's not about him. He gives much credit to WSIU, the College of Mass Communication and Media Arts, the Saluki men's basketball program, former coach Chris Lowery, and WSIL-TV 3, the region's ABC affiliate, where he has also worked.

"I think we get lost in the competitive nature of sports and the demand for the win that we lose the human aspect and connection of the people who are out there deciding the contest," he says. "Fans don't get to see that; fans don't get to hear about these guys doing good deeds." His award-winning video may be previewed at rtv.siu.edu.

Gresham, who assisted the SIU Alumni Association by filming and editing videos of the 2012 Grad Bash event for sjualumni.com, is a "great mentor to younger students," Todd says. "Students like Nick go on to join many SIU Radio-TV graduates who are at the top of the broadcasting industry from coast to coast and beyond."
Flying Salukis Among Nation's Elite

With a demeanor that belies their strength, the SIU Flying Salukis are once again among the nation’s elite. Paced by two individual event champions and the top-scoring female competitor, the defending national champions finished third in the country in May at the 2012 National Intercollegiate Flying Association championships in Salina, Kan.

Senior captain Daniel Harrington won his second consecutive simulated comprehensive area navigation (SCAN) event, while Taylor Breum, a junior in aviation management, captured the simulator ground trainer event after winning short-field approach and landings last year. Courtney Copping, also a junior in aviation management, was the event’s top scoring female competitor this year.

The Flying Salukis finished with 319 points. National champion Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University-Prescott finished with 500 points, and the University of North Dakota, 382 points. Western Michigan University was fourth with 268 points and The Ohio State University was fifth with 193 points.

Twenty-eight teams competed at Kansas State University’s Salina Regional Airport. The Flying Salukis used balance to place in 10 of 11 events in the 28-team field, and was second overall in flight events and fifth in ground events. More than 80 teams compete in regionals to be one of the 28 teams at the nationals. Among other universities competing were the Air Force Academy, Purdue, Embry Riddle-Daytona, and Auburn.

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This is a demanding competition, and the time and effort our students and coaches spend in practice and preparation is a real testament to their commitment,” Chancellor Rita Cheng says. “Not only does the team perform at a consistent, high level year after year, its members are wonderful ambassadors for our University. We are proud of their accomplishments.”
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The Flying Salukis have a solid legacy, and this year’s finish marks a milestone. This is the first time since 1985 that the squad has had consecutive top three national finishes. The team has eight national titles and qualified for the national competition in 42 of the last 43 years. Recent national finishes include fourth place in 2005 and 2010, and fifth place in 2006 and 2008.

Nathan Lincoln, the Flying Salukis’ coach and two-year team member in the late 1990s, says it is also important how team members carry themselves. He acknowledges that some teams might have overlooked the Flying Salukis when they were placing fourth and fifth, “and now people definitely know who we are.”

Lincoln was also pleased with the balanced scoring in events. Scoring in 10 of 11 events is a key to having a successful team, he says. The team showed depth, with five Flying Salukis among the top 23 individual scorers among more than 300 competitors.

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Department of Aviation Management and Flight Chairman David NewMyer says this year’s squad stepped up to perform well after losing a few of last year’s team, along with some assistant coaches.

“The remaining coaches really held it together and put a lot of effort out there,” he notes. “These are faculty members who give up their time to make that extra effort. I’m as proud of the coaches as I am the competitors.”
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Ruiz Earns Simon Distinguished Faculty Award

Throughout his 17-year teaching career at Southern Illinois University Carbondale, José Ruiz Ph. D. ’03 has sought to make his classes interesting, appealing and challenging. A professor in the nationally recognized aviation management and flight program, he doesn’t shy away from expectations – for either his students or himself.

“IT’s our responsibility to raise the level of expectations for our students so they can rise to meet them. Our kids need to be challenged,” he says. “They are capable of so much more. Often they just don’t recognize their potential.”

Ruiz is the 2012 recipient of the E.J. and Mary C. Simon Distinguished Faculty Award in the College of Applied Sciences and Arts (CASA). E.J. Simon was dean of the college from its inception in 1951 until his retirement in 1970, and both he and his wife, Mary C. Simon, remained strong supporters of the University and CASA.
When SIU Director of Athletics Mario Moccia named Barry Hinson as the new head coach of the Saluki men's basketball program, he felt an exhaustive search had produced the right fit of athletics and academics needed to turn around the floundering hoop's program. Hinson, who succeeds Chris Lowery, becomes just the 13th head coach in the school's 99-year history of men's basketball.

Hinson, 50, has served the last four years on Bill Self's staff at the University of Kansas. During his first two years at KU, he worked as the director of external relations and in 2010 was promoted to director of operations. The Jayhawks have been one of the nation's premier programs during the last four years with a combined 106-20 record and a trip to the Final Four this year.

"I have never been around a more positive, energetic, unselfish person," Self says. "I love the guy. Barry Hinson gets it and will be a great person to work with and build the Southern Illinois University basketball program."

Prior to Kansas, Hinson was the head coach at Missouri State for nine seasons. While at Missouri State, he guided the Bears to a 169-117 record (.591) with postseason NIT teams in 2000, 2005, 2006 and 2007. His 2006 squad was left out of the NCAA Tournament with a 21 RPI, and hat club went on to win NIT games over Stanford and Houston.

"Barry Hinson comes from a great tradition, has an excellent record of graduating his student-athletes and winning games," says Moccia. "We are pleased to welcome him as our new head coach."

Although Southern dominated the Missouri Valley Conference by winning six-straight championships from 2002 to 2007, Hinson's Bears beat Southern 10 times - more than any other conference school during his nine-year tenure. The Bears had three, 20-win seasons under Hinson and advanced to the finals of the MVC Tournament three times.

Twenty-three of Hinson's 26 players who completed their eligibility as seniors for the Bears received undergraduate degrees from Missouri State. Thirteen of his players went on to play professionally overseas.

"I'm genuinely excited to be the head coach at a university with a great tradition in college basketball, and even more excited to be part of a community which seems so much like the place where I was raised," says Hinson, a native of Marlow, Okla. One person who knows Hinson well is excited to have him back in the MVC.

"Barry Hinson is a man of great integrity and high character, who has recruited exceptionally well and graduated an extremely high percentage of his student-athletes," says MVC Commissioner Doug Elgin. "I compliment the search committee, Mario Moccia and Chancellor Rita Cheng for making a tremendous hire. I have absolutely no doubt that Barry Hinson will return the Saluki basketball program to prominence."

Associate Head Coach Tom Hankins - Hankins has spent the past 15 seasons as an assistant at Oral Roberts. He was originally hired by Hinson at ORU in 1997, and served under him for two seasons (1997-99). During his tenure there, the Golden Eagles won five Summit League regular-season championships and made three NCAA Tournament appearances (2006, 2007, 2008) and two trips to the NIT (2005, 2012). In addition to serving as the top assistant, Hankins will be Southern's recruiting coordinator.

Assistant Coach Terrance McGee - McGee has served the past two seasons as an assistant coach at Grand Valley State University, during which time the Lakers compiled a 33-21 record. A former guard who played collegiately for Hinson at Missouri State (2001-03), he earned First-Team All-Missouri Valley Conference and All-Defensive Team honors. Prior to MSU, he spent two years at Kirkwood Community College (1999-2001). After his college career, McGee played professionally overseas for seven years.

Assistant Coach Anthony Beane - Beane is a former assistant at Illinois State. He served two stints there, coaching five seasons under Tim Jankovich (2007-12) and two years on Tom Richardson's staff (2000-02). In between, he was an assistant coach at Saint Louis University from 2002-06. Beane broke into the NCAA Division I coaching ranks with a three-year run at Southeast Missouri State (1997-2000). He helped the Redhawks to back-to-back 20-win seasons, including a 24-9 mark and a trip to the NCAA Tournament in 1999.

Director of Basketball Operations Nate Mast - Mast, the former head coach of Parkland College, will serve as the program's operations director. A graduate of the University of Illinois, Mast was a student assistant for one season for the Illini (2001-02) and later joined Bill Self's staff at Kansas in 2004 in an administrative capacity. A four year letterman at Illinois, Mast holds the UI scoring record for walk-ons.
Baseball Salukis Fall In MVC Title Game

The SIU baseball team mounted an unlikely run in the 2012 MVC Tournament, before falling to Creighton 8-6 in the championship game. A win would have given the Salukis their first trip to an NCAA Tournament since 1990. Southern entered the tournament as the sixth seed, and had swept its way to the title game by winning three straight. Despite a roster featuring 17 freshmen and sophomores, the Dawgs almost pulled off the tournament win in Springfield, Mo.

"I can't fault our club for anything," SIU Coach Ken Henderson says. "We played hard and played well. I'm frustrated we lost, but I'm so proud of our kids because of the way we played."

Pitching on short rest, SIU ace Cody Forsythe lasted four-plus innings. He departed with a 5-2 lead after allowing the first two batters of the fifth inning to reach base. "We just couldn't get Cody deep enough into the game," Henderson admits. "We were hoping to get six or seven out of him, but he gave us everything he had."

SIU's bullpen eventually gave the lead back, and the chance at post-season was finally ended.

Catcher Brian Bajer was named to the MVC All-Tournament Team, along with relief pitcher Todd Eaton, and first baseman Chris Serritella. Serritella was later named a Louisville Slugger NCAA Division I Third-Team All-American, making the Saluki slugger only the 13th All-American in SIU baseball history and the first since Doug Shields was a third-teamer in 1990. He was drafted after the season in the fourth-round of the MLB Draft by the Philadelphia Phillies.

"It's a great honor being named one of the top first basemen in the country," Serritella says. "It's definitely a great feeling, and it's above my expectations." He led the conference with a .389 batting average and tied for the MVC homerun lead with teammate Jordan Sivertsen with 13 homers. In addition, the junior led the MVC in slugging percentage, on-base percentage, runs scored, hits, doubles, and total bases. His 24 doubles and 156 total bases in 2012 set new single-season SIU records, and his 91 hits were one shy of the school record.

SIU graduates only four seniors, and with many key pieces returning for 2013, Henderson looks forward to even brighter days for the Saluki baseball program.

"I truly believe that we're going to look back at that week in Springfield and say that was the turning point in the program," Henderson says. "Our young kids are learning how to win, and the way we played is going to pay dividends for a long time."

MVC Coach Of The Year Award Honors Callahan

The Missouri Valley Conference announced that the league's annual coach of the year award has been renamed to honor former SIU head coach Dan Callahan. Callahan spent 16 years as the head coach of the Salukis before losing his long battle with cancer in November of 2010.

Missouri State Head Coach Keith Guttin proposed the idea to name the trophy after Callahan, and the conference approved the decision after the league's coaches voted unanimously "It's the first coach of the year award in the league named in honor of a former coach," notes MVC associate commissioner Joe Mitch. "We have two player of the year awards named after former players — the Larry Bird Trophy for men's basketball and the Jackie Stiles Trophy for women's basketball, but none until now for a coach. It shows you how much respect everyone in the league had for Cal."

Callahan is one of only five coaches in MVC history to reach 200 league wins. Of his 595 career wins, 442 of them came at SIU. "The Callahan Family is deeply honored that Dan will be remembered in such a meaningful way," says his wife Stacy. "We thank all of his former fellow coaches and the MVC for this recognition."

SIU Softball Loses In Valley Championship Finale

Much like the SIU Baseball run, Southern's softball team also made it to the title game of the MVC Championships with a berth to the NCAAs at stake. Illinois State, however, hit three, three-run home runs in the first three innings as the Redbirds rolled over the Dawgs 13-3 at Charlotte West Stadium.

The Redbirds (35-21) crushed the Salukis (36-20) with the long ball as they scored the most runs ever in a championship game, putting a cap on the 2012 season. It marked the fourth time the Salukis have made the championship game but failed to earn the trophy. They have not won a tournament title since the league was changed to the MVC in 1993, last winning as a Gateway Conference member in 1991.

"I give a lot of credit to Illinois State and the way they came out," says SIU Head Coach Kerri Blaylock. "The thing I'm most proud of is that our kids fought until the end and did not quit."

MVC Player of the Year Mallory Duran-Sellers went 1-for-3 with a walk in her final game for the Salukis. She was later named a CoSIDA/Capital One Academic All-American for the second consecutive year, earning first team designation this season. An English education major with a cumulative 4.0 GPA, she is a three-time Missouri Valley Conference Scholar-Athlete and was honored as the MVC's Elite 18 Award recipient for softball at the 2012 MVC Tournament.

The 2012 MVC Player of the Year broke the MVC single-season record for runs scored with 61 and tied SIU's single-season record with 45 walks in 2012. The Windsor, Colo., native ranked third in the MVC in batting average at .362 in addition to driving in 24 runs with a team-high 17 stolen bases.
McCall Wins NCAA Hammer Throw; Women 14th In Nation

The SIU track and field program sent seven athletes to the NCAA Championships June 6-9 in Des Moines, Iowa, with senior Jeneva McCall providing national publicity by winning the NCAA title in the hammer throw. Her toss of 225-03 was good enough for the third national title of her career.

McCall, who won the NCAA weight throw title in March and was the discus national champion in 2010, has now won more NCAA titles than any athlete in SIU track and field history. The Midwest Region Field Athlete of the Year overtakes Brittany Riley, who won two titles in the weight throw in 2007 and 2008, and Darrin Plab, who was a two-time national champion in the outdoor high jump in 1991 and 1992.

In addition to her hammer throw title, McCall finished 10th in the discus with a 177-04, and finished her outstanding career with a third-place finish in the shot put with a throw of 57-11.75 to earn the 13th all-America honor of her career.

As a team, the Saluki women finished in a tie for 14th place. Senior Malaikah Love finished 10th in the triple jump with a leap of 42-11.00 to earn second-team all-America honors, as did freshman DeAnna Price with a 204-02 in the hammer throw. Others representing SIU in Des Moines were junior Kim Fortney (16th in the women's shot put), senior Cody Doerfllein (20th in the men's pole vault), sophomore Doug Palacious (21st in the men's triple jump), and junior Zach Dahleen (men's 1,500-meter).

It was a bittersweet weekend for Dahleen, who broke a 50-year-old school record in the men's 1,500-meter run during the preliminaries, but fell short of qualifying for the final. He ran 3:41.18 to overtake Bill Cornell's 1962 time of 3:42.74 atop the SIU record book. The effort was two-tenths of a second shy of the final qualifying spot.

"You can't ask for a lot more than the performances we had," says SIU Head Coach Connie Price-Smith. "We had great performances that didn't make it in the finals, but were certainly competitive marks. I am pleased with how it turned out."

In The Hole ...

SIU baseball alumni from many eras again came together this spring to watch the Salukis and raise money for the program. The alumni saw Southern defeat Creighton on the field, after raising money for Saluki Baseball at a golf tournament played earlier in the day at Hickory Ridge.

The tourney's highlight was a hole-in-one by former Saluki Jeff Nelson '91 (holding the ball), shown flanked by teammates Tom Strabav '91 and Bob Geary '91, who witnessed the ace that morning.
Cancer, you’re on notice! Two of Southern’s brightest and most dedicated students are determined to take on the disease in promising future careers. **Brock Kabat** and **Caitlin Moliske** are the 2012 Super Student Scholarship recipients, and both the pre-med physiology majors plan to join research and practice to save lives.

"I’m fascinated by the bench-to-bedside method," Kabat says. “You have your own laboratory where you work on cures and try to find breakthroughs. Once implemented, you can treat patients at their bedside.”

Like so many, the students had personal encounters with cancer that helped define their academic aspirations. The son of Kabat’s high school basketball coach developed pediatric leukemia. Two-year-old Andrew made it through after a tumultuous period of remission and recurrence.

“I saw the struggle the family went through, the fear and worry," Kabat says. “I wanted to find more direct care to make sure patients like Andrew are permanently and immediately cured.”

Moliske’s friend, Jason Gumbel, was diagnosed with Burkitt lymphoma their freshman year. Gumbel has been cancer-free for more than a year. He is a pre-med junior in biological sciences at SIU who plans to specialize in hematological oncology, or blood-related cancers. A team of clinical physicians implementing new protocols made that future possible. Moliske and Kabat both wanted this type of education – one that integrates the latest research with clinical application.

Thanks to the Saluki Research Rookies Program, the Super Students were placed in faculty-mentored, hands-on research activities freshman year.

“It was a great way to kick-start my research career," says Kabat, who plans to obtain both a medical degree and a doctorate of philosophy in order to work at a comprehensive cancer center as a medical scientist.

“SIU does a great job offering research positions to undergrads. We learned the ropes on how to be effective researchers. Having experience in the research field really helped me decide what research I wanted to do,” says Kabat, a Scheller, Ill., native minoring in chemistry.

“It allowed me to broaden my perspective to include things I had never considered before," says Moliske of Taylorville, Ill., who is minoring in chemistry and psychology. “Before I participated in research, my only goal was to become a doctor. Now my interests include both clinical research and medicine. Instead of simply treating illnesses that have no cure, I will be applying the research done by scientists in order to minimize fatalities caused by disease.”

The pair, entering their senior years at Southern, were both recommended for the Super Student scholarship by faculty that oversees their research. SIU School of Medicine assistant professor Buffy Ellsworth commended Kabat, who has presented his work at the Illinois Symposium for Reproductive Sciences.

“Brock’s ability to understand the primary literature and apply it in a proactive manner to future experiments in his pro-
jects is a great testament to his intellectual ability,” Ellsworth wrote of Brock. The talented junior also trained graduate students in a protocol that Ellsworth developed and which he took the initiative to teach himself.

Likewise, Moliske tackles “challenging independent research projects,” wrote School of Medicine associate professor Jodi Huggenvick in her recommendation. Moliske hopes to pursue clinical research and practice as a pediatrician at St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital, a pioneer in taking research breakthroughs to clinical application. St. Jude has also played a major role in both students’ college careers.

Since 2009, both have been involved with Up ’til Dawn, the college fundraiser for St. Jude. Up ’til Dawn earned the 2011 Program of the Year Award from St. Jude under the leadership of “Most Distinguished Senior” Jessica Stout, who served as executive director, and Moliske, assistant director. SIU’s fundraising effort was recognized as the

"Raising support and awareness for St. Jude is a major part of my life," says Moliske, who is now fundraising chair. Up ’til Dawn at SIU has brought in more than $165,000 for the hospital in three years. “Because I was so passionate about this cause, I realized that it was easy for me to spread the word to others. When you truly care about something, others notice. Every day I wake up and help raise funds for thousands of kids I have never met.”

Moliske noted that the survival rate for the most common form of childhood cancer was just 4 percent in 1962, but thanks to research and treatment protocols developed at St. Jude, it is now 94 percent.

“Knowing that is absolutely amazing,” she says. “We really can make a difference.”

While Kabat maintained a 4.0 GPA and Moliske a 3.84, both have contributed more than 300 volunteer hours each in University and community service.

“What has made SIU so amazing are the extracurricular and research opportunities,” Moliske says. “I can’t imagine my college career without those experiences.”

The Super Student program was created in 1989 by the Student Alumni Council (SAC) to honor fellow undergraduate students for their leadership, academic achievement, and volunteer service. The scholarships represent a way for SAC and the SIU Alumni Association to recognize outstanding students for their contributions to the University by assisting with college expenses. The scholarships are paid by SAC with funds raised throughout the year. Both recipients say they are honored to have been selected.

“It is nice to know that SIU does recognize hard work and nice to be recognized for that hard work, especially when so many others are deserving of the award,” Kabat says. “It is humbling.”

Brock Kabat uses a fixed-volume pipette to sample solutions in the lab. Kabat and Moliske’s rigorous research was one of many considerations in their being honored as Super Students.

Southern’s initiative to get students involved in hands-on research as early as freshman year gave this year’s Super Students opportunities to work in the SIU School of Medicine laboratories. Caitlin Moliske is shown here maintaining the health of cells at Life Science III.
ASSOCIATION HONORS 25 MOST DISTINGUISHED SENIORS

In addition to this year's Super Students, the SIU Alumni Association, the SIU Carbondale Chancellor's Office, and the Student Alumni Council (SAC) honored 25 seniors at an April ceremony as part of the institution's "25 Most Distinguished Seniors" program.

The 25 Most Distinguished Seniors program and the Super Student scholarship were initiated by the Association and SAC—a registered student organization—to recognize students who have enriched the University community with their active involvement in all facets of campus life. Some of these activities include academic achievement, athletics, residential life, military service, Greek life, and registered student organizations.

"Like our 25 Most Distinguished Seniors program, the Super Student Scholarship is one of SIU's most prominent student recognitions and illustrates high standards of accomplishment," says Tuesday Ashner, the Association's director of student, college, and constituent relations. "The recipients are considered to be some of SIU's brightest juniors and seniors, so competition each year is certainly intense. That makes it an arduous task for the selection committee."

This year's 25 Most Distinguished Seniors are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>City, State</th>
<th>College</th>
<th>Major</th>
<th>Minor(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Karla Avelar</td>
<td>Northlake, III.</td>
<td>Liberal Arts</td>
<td>Criminology and Criminal Justice</td>
<td>History</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Monica Bertrand</td>
<td>St. Charles, III.</td>
<td>Liberal Arts</td>
<td>Music Education</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Darlyshia Cherry</td>
<td>Belleville, III.</td>
<td>Liberal Arts</td>
<td>Speech Communication – Public Relations</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Sarah Claytor</td>
<td>Staunton, III.</td>
<td>Agricultural Sciences</td>
<td>Animal Science, Pre-Veterinary</td>
<td>Chemistry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Daniel Dunbar</td>
<td>O'Fallon, III.</td>
<td>Business</td>
<td>Major: Management</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Mallory Duran-Sellers</td>
<td>Windsor, Colo.</td>
<td>Education &amp; Human Services</td>
<td>Major: English – Middle School Education</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Caroline Ebelhar</td>
<td>Marion, III.</td>
<td>Business</td>
<td>Major: Management</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Kimberly Eisenbroek</td>
<td>Kingston, III.</td>
<td>Science</td>
<td>Major: Plant Biology</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Yuri Fedorovich</td>
<td>Dolya, Ukraine</td>
<td>Science</td>
<td>Major: Physiology – Pre-Medicine</td>
<td>Minor: Chemistry</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Anthony Graham</td>
<td>Mt. Vernon, III.</td>
<td>Liberal Arts</td>
<td>Major: Anthropology</td>
<td>Minor: Sociology</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Travis Healey</td>
<td>Brighton, III.</td>
<td>Science</td>
<td>Major: Biomedical Sciences</td>
<td>Minor: Chemistry</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>Nicole Haarmann</td>
<td>Effingham, III.</td>
<td>Agricultural Sciences</td>
<td>Major: Animal Science</td>
<td>Minor: Pre-Veterinary Medicine</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>Cameron James</td>
<td>Mattoon, III.</td>
<td>Business</td>
<td>Major: Management – Entrepreneurship</td>
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<td>17</td>
<td>Loran Luehr</td>
<td>Steeleville, III.</td>
<td>Agricultural Sciences</td>
<td>Major: Human Nutrition and Dietetics</td>
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<td>18</td>
<td>Thomas Marten</td>
<td>Raymond, III.</td>
<td>Agricultural Sciences</td>
<td>Major: General Agriculture</td>
<td>Minor: Environmental Studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Mike McElroy</td>
<td>Ada, Mich.</td>
<td>Education &amp; Human Services</td>
<td>Major: Health Education</td>
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<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Kistalynn Raymond</td>
<td>Alhambra, III.</td>
<td>Agricultural Sciences</td>
<td>Major: Agriculture Education</td>
<td>Minor: Plant &amp; Soil Sciences</td>
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<td>21</td>
<td>John Schumacher</td>
<td>Arlington Heights, III.</td>
<td>Liberal Arts</td>
<td>Major: Speech Communication – Public Relations</td>
<td>Minors: Marketing, Journalism</td>
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<td>22</td>
<td>Michael Small</td>
<td>Hoyletton, III.</td>
<td>Science</td>
<td>Major: Biological Science – Pre-Medicine</td>
<td>Minor: Chemistry, Psychology</td>
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<td>23</td>
<td>Jessica Stout</td>
<td>Taylorville, III.</td>
<td>Science</td>
<td>Major: Physiology – Pre-Medicine</td>
<td>Minor: Chemistry, Psychology</td>
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<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Makayla Trotter</td>
<td>Macomb, III.</td>
<td>Liberal Arts</td>
<td>Major: Geography &amp; Environmental Resources</td>
<td>Minor: French</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Ari Weiss</td>
<td>Chicago, III.</td>
<td>Liberal Arts</td>
<td>Double Major: Economics and Political Science</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Front row from left: Lisa Dohn, Jessica Stout, Loran Luehr, Karla Avelar, Kimberly Eisenbroek, Makayla Trotter, Jordan DiGrazia, Monica Bertrand, Darlyshia Cherry, Caroline Ebelhar, Sarah Claytor, Nicole Haarmann, and Kristalynn Raymond. Back row: John Schumacher, David Loska, Travis Healey, Yuri Fedorovich, Michael Small, Mike McElroy, Daniel Dunbar, Cameron James, Thomas Marten, and Anthony Graham. Inset are Mallory Duran-Sellers and Ari Weiss.
A Business Model To Believe In

by Marleen Shepherd

While one-third of Americans belong to co-ops such as credit unions and electric utilities, many people still don’t understand what they are, says Francis Murphy, ‘89, M.S.Ed. ‘92, M.B.A. ’94. But that is changing fast. People around the world are flocking to co-ops, businesses that are owned and run jointly by members who share in profits and benefits.

The United Nations designated 2012 as the International Year of Cooperatives, drawing attention to “the power of the cooperative business model to reduce poverty, create jobs, and fuel socioeconomic development.”

“It’s a business model people share in and believe in,” says Murphy, general manager of the Neighborhood Co-op Grocery in Carbondale. “Co-ops are born because people’s needs are not getting met in the market in another way. With co-ops, needs are met in a way that’s empowering and encourages community too. Every customer can become a shareholder.”

At co-ops, the concern goes beyond the traditional bottom line. “You have to make enough money to be able to reinvest in the business, but we’re also concerned with the impact on the environment and on the community as a whole.” Those are increasing concerns for consumers, as evidenced in the rising demand for local, sustainable, and organic products. Murphy notes that even through recession, the Neighborhood Co-op’s compound annual growth rate has remained close to 18 percent per year for the last 20 years.

That’s quite an accomplishment for a little network of neighborhood buying clubs that began in 1980. A member would drive a flat-bed truck to Madison, Wis., to bulk up on foods unheard of in local groceries 30 years ago. By 1985, the co-op had its first storefront on Jackson Street. Murphy recalls the original shelves built from smoke-damaged doors. “We didn’t even have a cash register.”

That humble start is hard to picture now when you walk into the $1.5 million, 12,000-square-foot storefront in the Murdale Shopping Center. The co-op features a café, a teaching kitchen for cooking classes, and a full-service grocery specializing in products that are organic, locally produced, or fairly traded as well as food for specific dietary needs. Long-term plans include operation of an organic farm and an education center.

Murphy says Southern plays a part in the continuing success of the business, with annual sales of nearly $4 million. Murphy plunged into Southern’s M.B.A. program while managing the store in order to get the financial background the co-op needed to flourish. That and his previous SIU degrees in psychology and health education combined to give him an ideal mix of skills for the job, he says.

Murphy also points out that there will soon be six SIU degrees in his immediate family. His wife, Julie, graduated cum laude with an A.A.S. in physical therapy assistant and a bachelor’s in anthropology in 1994. Their son, Colin, is taking his final courses for a bachelor’s degree in computer science at SIU this summer. (Their other son, Sean, graduated with a bachelor’s in urban planning from University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign in ’07 and a master’s in regional planning from Cornell University in May.)

Many of the co-op’s 2,700 owners are affiliated with the University, as are many of its founders and board members. Of the grocery’s current 45 employees, 26 are alumni or students.

The co-op also participates in the “Southern Illinois Cooperative Youth Conference” in June. The SIU College of Agricultural Sciences’ program provides high school juniors and seniors with the opportunity to learn about the cooperative business model and create their own co-op, says coordinator Michelle Sullivan M.S. ’07. Trips to area cooperatives include a visit to the Neighborhood Co-op, which features a local food scavenger hunt and a talk with Murphy.

“Francis’ involvement in that is to inspire kids,” Sullivan says. “He tells them, ‘We didn’t start out in this beautiful building. It just started with an idea.’ The idea of a cooperative is taking advantage of each person’s contribution, and doing it in formalized governance. It makes something possible collectively that might not have been individually.”

The success of the Neighborhood Co-op, its involvement in local charitable and fundraising efforts, and its continuing commitment to SIU and the community has not gone unnoticed. Murphy was named Cooperative Manager of the Year by the Illinois Cooperative Council. “The guy lives and breathes cooperatives; he’s just a perfect fit for the award, and we’re really glad he received it this year,” says Jim Fraley, treasurer for the ICC and manager of Illinois Milk Producers’ Association. “It’s a good example of a well-run cooperative, and this particular cooperative has Francis to thank for all his hard work and vision.”

Murphy was surprised to be awarded by the statewide organization that includes “big players” in all sectors of the economy such as large-scale agricultural co-ops, credit unions, and electrical co-ops. “This is the first time a grocery co-op has been selected. It’s pretty exciting.”

Murphy says Southern helped prepare him to do more than just a job. For the SIU Alumni Association life member, working for the co-op is a way to serve the local community and international communities that benefit from the cooperative model. It’s one in which farmers get better prices for the crops they sell than they could individually, and have more control over their economic fates. Consumers benefit from wholesome foods that help rather than hurt the local economy and the environment, he says.

“I’m grateful that I found a line of work that is in line with what I believe and value.”

Three-time alumnus Francis Murphy poses with the produce at the Neighborhood Co-op Grocery in Carbondale. Murphy received the Cooperative Manager of the Year Award from the Illinois Cooperative Council.
Guy prunes grapes at the vineyards before opening in 1988. He began the business following a 23-year career at SIU.
Almost 25 years ago, Paul Renzaglia '82 never imagined that a family venture would have such a profound effect on the southern Illinois region. With the first plantings in 1982, the Renzaglia family and Alto Vineyards began to introduce a new industry to the area, and the company’s president and winemaker admits he was stepping into unknown territory.

“At first I was scared the venture would not go anywhere,” the 1982 Southern Illinois University Carbondale graduate says. “But now I’ve seen the tremendous growth and popularity of the industry here and am just amazed what has come of it.”

Although an appreciation of wine is deeply rooted in the Renzaglia family, improving the lives of others was Paul’s first passion. After completing his bachelor’s degree in administration of justice at SIU, he worked with troubled youth in the St. Louis and Chicago areas. He returned to southern Illinois 10 years later after being recruited by his late father, Guy, to become a partner in the family vineyard.

“Initially, my greatest interest came from my father, who always grew grapes and made wine in Italy,” Paul says. “We grew up with wine at our meals, and it became a big part of family and social gatherings. It was easy to fall in love with something that was so integrated into our lives at an early age.”

This paradigm shift refocused Paul’s passion toward viticulture. He spent the next several years learning the trade through literature, workshops, and consultation from those who came before him. “The more I learn, the more I realize I still have a long way to go. But that’s part of the excitement... you never stop learning.”

From only five wineries in the state in 1988 to more than 100 wineries in 2012, the Illinois wine industry has created a direct economic impact of more than $253 million annually. Southern Illinois alone is home to 32 wineries that are key players in the region’s tourism industry.

Viticulture and winemaking are deeply rooted in the history of the region. Prohibition forced many grape growers to move away from grapes and make room for other crops, like corn and soybeans. The Shawnee Hills region's rich heritage in fruit production is now a nationally recognized American Viticultural Area.

**Birth Of An Industry**

After a 23-year career at SIU, where he helped start the University’s Rehabilitation Institute and made the campus one of the few universities in the country to provide services for the blind, deaf, and persons using wheelchairs, Guy retired and decided it was his civic duty as an Italian to start growing grapes.

With 13 acres in Alto Pass, he planted native American and French-American hybrid grapes that, prior, had been deemed impossible to flourish in the area. To everyone's surprise, the vines soon were producing quality fruit in the region. At the time, there were only 38 acres of commercial grapes being grown in the state.

In May 1988, the Renzaglias began construction on a small 600-square-foot winery with a little help from friends and other vintners. Starting a winery did not come without strife, though. The Village of Alto Pass had been dry by referendum since prohibition but came together to create an ordinance that would allow for a single liquor license. In December, Alto Vineyards released its first 1,500 gallons of Illinois wine, selling out in only three days.

Soon after Alto Vineyards opened its doors, Pomona Winery and Owl Creek followed suit, and the three wineries showcased the new-found quality fruit of the Shawnee Hills. Understanding the tourism potential for this new industry, the three wineries worked with state and local entities to form what is now known as the Shawnee Hills Wine Trail. Since its inception in 1995, the trail has come to consist of 12 different wineries covering about 100 miles.

With the success of the southern Illinois wineries, Guy and Paul began canvassing the legislature, governors, and politicians to give credence to the new industry. “My father really brought the industry out in the open,” Paul remembers. “We worked extremely hard to get people to acknowledge that this industry did exist and had huge potential. It was from that hard work that the first Grape and Wine Council was developed.”
The Shawnee Wine Trail

The Shawnee Wine Trail is made up of the following wineries: Alto Vineyards, Blue Sky Vineyard, Honker Hill Winery, Hedman Vineyard, Hickory Ridge Vineyard, Kite Hill Vineyards, Orlandini Vineyard, Owl Creek Vineyard, Pomona Winery, Rustle Hill Winery, StarView Vineyards, and Von Jakob Vineyards.

To learn more about the 12 wineries that make up the Shawnee Wine Trail, go to www.shawneewinetrail.com.

At that time, the council was headed by the deans of agriculture from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and Southern Illinois University, and consisted of winemakers and grape growers in the state. The organization established experimental vineyards along with viticulture curriculums at both state universities, which are still a part of the agriculture programs at UIUC and SIU today.

After 15 years of petitioning, the Shawnee Hills region was accredited as a national American Viticulture Area in 2006. This was a huge step for the region’s wine scene, Paul feels. “The AVA brings another dimension to help validate our region as a unique and viable growing area in the United States. Grapes from the Shawnee Hills can be comparable to Napa Valley or any well-known region, and have the potential to push southern Illinois wine to new levels of respect throughout the winemaking world.”

Leaving A Legacy

In November 2010, the Illinois wine industry and southern Illinois said goodbye to Guy, who passed away at 92 years old. His son, however, continues the pioneering reputation of the family. This fall, Alto Vineyards anticipates the first harvest of other varieties, including Sangiovese, Albariño, Lemberger, Cabernet Franc, Cabernet Sauvignon, and Viognier.

“We chose these based on suitability and likeliness to survive our climates. Though quality is important, we also had to consider how they would work as blenders,” Paul explains. “Alto Vineyards was born out of a sense of determinedness, punctuated by a certain quality of my father’s stubbornness, so we feel that growing some high-quality grapes that people don’t usually associate with this area is a fitting tribute to my dad.”

As tourism increases in the area, and interest in the thriving wine industry in southern Illinois increases, the Renzaglia family recently committed to building a new facility to host the influx of guests visiting the Shawnee Hills. A new 5,000-square-foot tasting room will provide indoor space for visitors and increase traffic during the winter months on the wine trail. Alto Vineyards anticipates the creation of five to seven new jobs with this facility.

“My hope for the future is to continue to improve our wines and continue to nurture the industry in southern Illinois,” Paul says. “It is then that we can truly become the Napa Valley of the Midwest.”
Benny Dunn, Distinguished Alumni

Benjamin "Benny" Dunn, a 2009 recipient of the SIU Distinguished Alumni Award, died at 95. The 1947 Southern graduate always maintained an unconditional love for education, teaching and baseball. He first came to the University in 1933, excited to study history and become a teacher. He knew baseball would have to wait, as the sport had been discontinued at SIU since 1924. His plans for both sports and an education were interrupted by World War II.

Dunn served in Southeast Asia as a member of the field artillery and was captured in March 1942. For three years he remained a prisoner of war working on the infamous "Death Railway" and then was sent to the prison camp at River Kwai. Refusing to give up, he miraculously survived unimaginable hardships before being liberated in August of 1945. Arriving back in the United States, he says he was overwhelmed by the warm welcome he received from his family and friends when he returned to the area. After a brief period back in Iowa, Dunn quickly rekindled his zeal for higher learning and decided to finish his education at Southern - 11 years after enrolling.

This time would be different. Coach Glenn "Abe" Martin began to revive the baseball program in 1946, the same year Dunn returned to Carbondale. He was soon able to fulfill his dream of playing college baseball a year later, something that had been unattainable for so long. Noting his maturity and leadership, the legendary Martin named Dunn his first-ever team baseball captain in 1947.

Following graduation, Dunn returned to teaching history and coaching baseball and basketball in his hometown of Gorham. His love of learning never faded, and he walked Southern's halls once again years later to earn a master's degree in educational administration. This helped set a path to becoming superintendent of schools in Gorham, along with stints as superintendent at Newman and Anna.
SIU Day At Minute Maid Park

More than 100 Salukis attended a May game between the St. Louis Cardinals and the hometown Houston Astros. Houston Alumni Club leaders Jason and Chelsey Glenn helped organize the Saluki gathering, which featured tickets to the game and an all-you-can-eat food bar. Gene Green represented the SIU Alumni Association at the event.

12th Annual Greater Michigan Dinner

The Greater Michigan Chapter and the SIU Alumni Association hosted 61 alumni to a reception and dinner at Dave & Buster's. Mike Behrmann, chair of Automotive Technology, was the guest speaker and presented on the building of the Transportation Education Center. Chris Micha, Dale Hall, Chad O'Brien, and Kent Wilson coordinated the event. Zachary Sapienza attended on behalf of the SIU Alumni Association.

2nd Annual Chicago Pre-Cinco de Mayo Celebration

The Chicago Chapter of the SIU Alumni Association hosted 35 alumni and friends for a Pre-Cinco de Mayo Social at the Saluki Bar. This event featured substantially discounted drink specials and complimentary appetizers for all to enjoy. Books highlighting the history of McAndrew Stadium were given to all alumni in attendance. Vanessa Matheny, Chris Stemler, Jim Buczynski and Ken Mantel coordinated the event. Dean John Warwick, his life Laura, SIU Development Officers Eden Thorne and Mary Carroll attended on behalf of SIU, and Michelle Suarez represented the Association.

Phoenix Chapter Has Spring Training Game Outing

More than 40 alumni and friends attended a White Sox-Cubs Spring Training game in Glendale, Ariz., at an event coordinated by chapter president Danny Griffin. Prior to the game, 25 Salukis enjoyed a pregame reception at The Native New Yorker, where the Association provided pizza and wings before the group watched the battle of the two Chicago teams. Gene Green represented the Pregame activity was enjoyed at The Native New Yorker. Association, providing a program where he updated alumni about some initiatives on campus and answered several general questions regarding the state of the University.
Chancellor Alumni Receptions Held In Nashville And NYC

The SIU Alumni Association continually strives to provide opportunities for alumni to meet SIU Carbondale Chancellor Somers, N.Y., resident Carl Lutes '48, M.S. 59 enjoys the New York event with SIU Carbondale Chancellor Rita Cheng. Rita Cheng, and those efforts continued in the month of April with receptions in Nashville and New York City. On April 5, more than 30 alumni met with the Chancellor at Jed's Sports Bar & Grill in Nashville. Club leader Elle Turner helped coordinate the event, which was also attended by SIU Foundation's Jill Gobert.

Two weeks later, 35 New York area alumni and friends had the opportunity to meet the Chancellor at Traffic Bar and Restaurant. Sara Ingold coordinated the event, Mary Carroll represented the SIU Foundation, and Michelle Suarez and Zachary Sapienza attended both events on behalf of the Association.

Central Florida Picnic Held In Tampa Bay

The Central Florida Chapter of the SIU Alumni Association hosted 32 alumni and friends to a picnic at Fort Desoto State Park overlooking beautiful Tampa Bay. Prior to lunch, several Salukis mingled, while others took advantage of the pristine beaches and beautiful weather.

After lunch, several items were raffled off. Tom and JoAnn Chamberlain coordinated the picnic and Zachary Sapienza attended on behalf of the SIU Alumni Association.

3rd Annual Austin/San Antonio Spring Picnic Features SIU-Themed Trivia

The Austin/San Antonio Chapter of the SIU Alumni Association hosted 29 alumni and friends to a catered picnic at Landa Park in New Braunfels, Texas. Afterward, chapter leader Tara Janssen spoke about ways local alumni can get involved with the chapter, and then an SIU-themed trivia game was hosted and SIU prizes were raffled off as a fundraiser for the chapter. Claudia Ogrin, Tara Janssen, Sara Weiskopf, and Eileen Eiden organized the event. Laura Taylor attended on behalf of the SIU Alumni Association.

The Austin/San Antonio Chapter of the SIU Alumni Association hosted another successful event, as the third annual spring picnic was catered at Landa Park in New Braunfels, Texas.
As we recently announced, the SIU Alumni Association is working with Harris Connect Publishing Co. to produce an alumni directory. This project represents our continuing effort to stay connected with fellow alumni featuring an approach we last used in 2003.

Harris representatives will begin a mailing and phone campaign in June to contact as many SIU alumni as possible for verification of information. Alumni will be asked to corroborate graduation data, class year, college achievements, and a current career update. The directory will feature alumni, academic, and business information about SIU Carbondale graduates that will be organized into easy-to-use sections.

We hope you will take a few moments to participate in this worthwhile project. Please note that while everyone will be offered the option of obtaining the SIU Alumni Directory in either book or CD format, no one will be under any obligation to purchase material for inclusion in this publication.

Get Involved With An Alumni Club Or Chapter

SIU alumni clubs and chapters exist to bring together the efforts of alumni to establish an SIU presence in their area, to encourage participation in the life of the University, to provide information about the University, and to facilitate involvement and camaraderie among Salukis around the world. Characteristics of clubs and chapters include strong leadership of local alumni and approximately 1,000 or more SIU alumni living within a specific geographic region.

Illinois Clubs & Chapters
Chicagoland Chapter  
[Link](www.siualumni.com/chicago)  
Central Illinois Chapter  
[Link](www.siualumni.com/ilcentral)  
Greater Rockford Club  
[Link](www.siualumni.com/rockford)  
Jackson County Chapter  
[Link](www.siualumni.com/jackson)  
Lake County Chapter  
[Link](www.siualumni.com/lakecounty)  
Peoria Tri-County Chapter  
[Link](www.siualumni.com/peoria)  
Perry County Chapter  
[Link](www.siualumni.com/perry)  
Prairie Capital Chapter  
[Link](www.siualumni.com/prairiecapital)  
Quad Cities Club  
[Link](www.siualumni.com/quadcities)  
Randolph County Chapter  
[Link](www.siualumni.com/randolph)  
Union County Chapter  
[Link](www.siualumni.com/union)  
Williamson County Chapter  
[Link](www.siualumni.com/williamson)  

U.S. Clubs & Chapters
Austin-San Antonio Chapter  
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Central Florida Chapter  
[Link](www.siualumni.com/cfasalukis)  
Dallas/Ft. Worth Chapter  
[Link](www.siualumni.com/dallasftworth)  
Greater Atlanta Club  
[Link](www.siualumni.com/atlalsalukis)  
Greater Michigan Chapter  
[Link](www.siualumni.com/michsalukis)  
Greater Nashville Club  
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Greater New York Club  
[Link](www.siualumni.com/nysalukis)  
Greater Phoenix Chapter  
[Link](www.siualumni.com/azsalukis)  
Houston Club  
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Indianapolis Chapter  
[Link](www.siualumni.com/indysalukis)  
Las Vegas Club  
[Link](www.siualumni.com/lasvegas)  
Los Angeles Chapter  
[Link](www.siualumni.com/lasalukis)  
Minnesota Club  
[Link](www.siualumni.com/mnsalukis)  
San Diego Club  
[Link](www.siualumni.com/sandiego)  
San Francisco Bay Area Chapter  
[Link](www.siualumni.com/sfsalukis)  
St. Louis Area Chapter  
[Link](www.siualumni.com/stalsalukis)  
Washington D.C./Baltimore Chapter  
[Link](www.siualumni.com/dcsalukis)

28th Annual SIU Day At Busch Stadium

The SIU Alumni Association hosted more than 100 alumni and friends to a Cardinals game against the Chicago Cubs and an optional pregame meal featuring an all-you-can-eat buffet of delicious baseball fare. SIU Carbondale Chancellor Rita Cheng, and Ron Jacober '61, KMOX Radio personality and host of America's longest-running radio talk show “Sports on a Sunday Morning,” were the speakers. Michelle Suarez, Gene Green, and Zachary Sapienza represented the Association at the event.
continued from page 35

KIRK, Alme J., '70, M.A., '72
2/10/2012, Springfield, III.

NEWELL, Gaye N., '70
4/14/2012, Chicago, Ill.

SCHULER, David J., '70
2/29/2012, Peoria, Ill.

TRZASKUS, Edward A., '70

BIDDLE, Thomas G., '71
3/06/2012, Louisville, Ky.

GRAND, John C., '71
1/23/2012, La Grange, Ill.

LEWIS, Margarette A., M.S., '71
11/04/2011, Nashville, III.

BOWEN, Eileen E., '72
3/06/2012, Houston, Texas

WILLIAMS, Nancy M., '72
4/11/2012, Des Moines, Iowa

ALONSO, TONY JR., '73
3/01/2012, Nashville, Tenn.

RICHARDS, Theresa D., '73
11/27/2011, Golden Valley, Minn.

THEUS, Robert W., Ph.D., '73
4/01/2012, Little Rock, Ark.

BROWN, Robert S., '73
5/10/2012, Peoria, Ill.

GARRETT, D.C., Dr. Donald H., '75

PLATH, Karl H., '75
12/21/2011, Chicago, Ill.

WASSLE, Gail E., '75
4/06/2012, Chatham, Ill.

BYRES, Celeste R., '76

JOHNSON, Debbie J., '76
5/05/2012, St. Charles, Ill.

WILGER, Cornelia, '77
4/23/2012, Westfield, N.J.

ZANZOTTERA, Bruce W., '77
5/14/2012, Herrin, Ill.

MCGRATH, Norman C., '80
2/23/2012, St. Elmo, Ill.

MONTY WHITE, Cleo "Gee", '80
3/01/2012, Chicago, Ill.

BROWN, Esther L., '81
2/23/2012, Broken Arrow, Okla.

DAILY, Eileen E., '81
3/18/2012, Redington Shores, Fla.

JOHNSON, Alan E., '81
1/28/2012, New Bern, N.C.

JONES, Warren M., '81
4/13/2012, Okaloosa, Fla.

MAXWELL, John J., '81
2/05/2012, Knoxville, Tenn.

KAYSER, James L., '83

KLUSE, Rodney E., '83
4/14/2012, Bremerton, Wash.

LAMBERT JR., Charles "Chuck" K., M.B.A., '83
2/21/2012, Flower Mound, Texas

ODUM JR., Charles "Chuck", '83
2/21/2012, Bradbryville, Mo.

FAIRMAN, Kathryn D., '84
1/05/2012, Saint Johns, Fla.

HENDRICK, Donald H., '84

SHEPPARD, J. Hugh, '85
3/02/2012, Carbondale, Ill.

KINNEY, John R., '86
11/19/2011, Fairfield, Ill.

KOSTER, Mary M., '86
5/05/2012, Peru, Ill.

HURST, Henry "Hop", '88
3/24/2012, Kilgore, Texas

REID, Carol Jean, J.D., '88

WARD, Richard A., '88
3/22/2012, Morgan, Ill.

WRIGHT, Brian K., '89
4/05/2012, Herrin, Ill.

BAIT JR., Wilbert, '90
3/30/2012, San Antonio, Texas

HARI, Joseph W., '90
1/22/2012, Santa Ana, Calif.

CADOR, Daren P., '95
4/26/2012, El Paso, Texas

FINK, David J., '95
2/09/2012, Manhattan, Kan.

GOLDENBERGER, Barbara L., Ph.D., '95
6/10/2011, Belleville, Ill.

HUMPHRIES, Kelly "Pat", '95
2/26/2012, Newton, N.C.

MILLER, James A., '96
2/15/2012, Mount Vernon, Ill.

CARMAN, Steven K., '97
4/04/2012, Mount Vernon, Ill.

GOODMAN, James L., '97
5/19/2012, Paducah, Ky.

NASH, Curtis C., '97
3/19/2012, Los Angeles, Calif.

CHRISTIAN, Charles "Chuck" R., '92
5/06/2012, Tacoma, Wash.

FINCH, Marc W., '93
5/05/2012, Fairview Heights, Ill.

FRIEDMAN, David S., M.D., '93
11/24/2011, Westfield, N.J.

REID, Carol Jean, J.D., '93

WRIGHT, Brian K., '93
4/05/2012, Herrin, Ill.

BAIT JR., Wilbert, '94
3/30/2012, San Antonio, Texas

HARI, Joseph W., '95
1/22/2012, Santa Ana, Calif.

CADOR, Daren P., '96
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4/04/2012, Mount Vernon, Ill.

GOODMAN, James L., '97
5/19/2012, Paducah, Ky.

NASH, Curtis C., '97
3/19/2012, Los Angeles, Calif.

CHRISTIAN, Charles "Chuck" R., '92
5/06/2012, Tacoma, Wash.

FINCH, Marc W., '93
5/05/2012, Fairview Heights, Ill.

SCHROPP, Goff, M.S.Ed., '93
2/22/2012, Makanda, Ill.

MILLER, Michael L., '93
2/20/2012, Sullivan, Ill.

WEISE, Randy D., '93
2/23/2012, Chester, Ill.

KELLERHARR, Philip M., '95
2/17/2012, Cherry Valley, Calif.

REED, Bruce E., '99
4/10/2012, Jonesboro, Ark.

EVANS, Charles L., '11

SMITH-ELLIOTT, Robert L., '11
2/21/2012, Rockford, Ill.

Faculty/Staff

DOWNS, Edwin L., '76
Emeritus, Registered Nurse
Health Services
4/07/2012, Benton, Ill.

ENGELMANN, Charles "Chuck" R., M.A., '63, Ph.D., '68
Instructor
Chemistry Department

HIGGIN, Richard E., '84
Emeritus, Account Technician
Clinical Center
5/01/2012, Carbondale, Ill.

KOINE, Evelyn R., '74, M.S., '77
Emeritus, Assistant Director
International Programs and Services
5/07/2012, Carbondale, Ill.

LIFE, Thomas W.
Emeritus, Custodial Sub Foreman
University Housing
4/22/2012, Murphysboro, Ill.

MRUGUL, Alice W., M.S., '86
Research Assistant
Rehabilitation Institutes
2/19/2012, Carbondale, Ill.

MEYERS, Cal
Emeritus, Chemistry
3/12/2012, Carbondale, Ill.

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IG VINEYARD

Hi ANDI
One Year After
SIU Med School Alumni Bounce Back After Devastating Tornado

by Steven Spearie

A family weekend marking two milestones — that’s what Dr. Bill Kessler Jr. was celebrating more than a year ago in Joplin, Mo. Daughter Kate’s wedding on Saturday; son Will’s high school graduation the next day. Lots of out-of-town company, lots of handshakes, and lots of hugs.

After graduation, Will left on his own. The plan was to meet up with family at home.

The Kesslers were delayed, sent to the basement for weather-related reasons. They would find out that a tornado had ripped through Joplin, and only later learn it was one of the deadliest tornadoes in U.S. history, killing 160 people and injuring 1,000 others.

Initially, though, details were sketchy. Communication with Will was futile. Texts went unanswered. “We thought,” says Kessler, still choked up about the incident, “that he was dead or seriously injured.”

Will drove through part of the tornado before seeking refuge, ironically, in a church. Finally arriving at home, he made contact with his dad. “I asked him eventually,” says Kessler, “if the home was still there. He said, ‘Sort of.’”

It was May 22, 2011.

An Imminent Threat

Blue Skies. That’s what Dr. Timothy O’Keefe remembers about showing up for his shift at St. John’s Regional Medical Center in Joplin that afternoon. The emergency room was a little busier than usual. Then, almost without warning, the hospital went to condition gray, “an imminent threat.”

The wind kept increasing in intensity, until, recalls O’Keefe, “it felt like your head was in a jet engine.” Air in the ER turned white like fog. Pressure built against his chest and eardrums. “When sections of the hospital, tiles and lights, came down, that’s when I decided to get under something.”

The EF5 tornado, packing 250 mile-per-hour winds, damaged about 8,000 homes and more than 400 businesses. On the one-year anniversary of the disaster, the weekend featured interfaith services, dramatic readings led by Oscar-nominated actor Paul Giamatti, and even the debut of a symphony.

Volunteers and political leaders from across the country who helped out were invited back.

O'Keefe and Kessler, both 1984 graduates of Southern Illinois University School of Medicine in Springfield, had a general practice partnership since coming to Joplin in 1987 until the tornado wiped it out. With it went a sense of independence, they say.

“(Having my own practice) defined me a year ago,” says O’Keefe, 58, who moved to Springfield in second grade. “It doesn’t anymore,” Kessler, 53, a native of Rochester, had the added strain of losing his house. In hindsight, it was tempting, he notes, “just to get into the car and drive away.”

They say they stayed in Joplin out of a sense of loyalty to friends and to the community. “You really don’t want to desert friends, colleagues and the community,” says Kessler, “when they need you most. People helped us when we needed help, and we helped them when they needed help.”

Now Looking Ahead

More than a year later, both O’Keefe and Kessler are trying to come to grips with some aspects of the tornado’s aftermath. Professionally, both are now affiliated with Mercy Clinic Joplin, and they’re buoyed by the badly damaged hospital’s comeback and commitment to build a brand-new campus, which will open in 2015.

Other buildings and homes are going up to fill in the blank spaces, and some neighborhoods are rebounding. The Kesslers decided not to rebuild or move back to their old neighborhood. They’ve purchased a house and hope to move there in the next couple of weeks.

“You have to be careful about looking ahead and not forgetting the past,” he notes. “A lot of people lost family members and people lost material things important to them. It’s important not to forget or minimize the tragedy or the deaths. The fact is that life does go on. It’s a balancing act, I suppose, looking toward the future.”

There’s no blueprint for dealing with scenarios like Joplin. You rely on your training, and you roll up your sleeves. “You don’t have a choice,” says O’Keefe. “You focus on what’s right there in front of you.”

Normally, a hospital is a place you come to get better. In this case, the hospital itself was in the path of the destruction. Six people — five patients and a visitor — lost their lives that night at St. John’s Regional. Its diesel generators were knocked out, leaving it without a power backup, and a gas leak threatened what remained of the hospital.

People, oblivious to the damage, still made their way to the hospital. Working in the open air across the street, O’Keefe says he mostly dealt with people with lacerations and fractures from flying debris. A series of lingering thunderstorms and dropping temperatures eventually forced doctors and patients to nearby Joplin Memorial Hall, usually reserved for concerts and basketball games.
Dr. Timothy O'Keefe, left, and Dr. Bill Kessler Jr., are graduates of Southern Illinois University School of Medicine who practice medicine in Joplin, Mo. Photo courtesy of James Hawker/SIU School of Medicine.

Catching a break around 10:30 p.m., O'Keefe walked home to get some supplies and a new pair of eyeglasses. He learned that friends who lived about five blocks from the hospital were coming over to their house later. “I thought, ‘That’s strange that they’re coming over so late.’ That’s when my wife (Donna) told me that they didn’t have a house,” he recalls.

“It was only then that I realized how much damage there was. There’s no way to comprehend that amount of destruction.”

From SIU To Joplin
At the SIU School of Medicine, O'Keefe and Kessler talked about setting up a practice together “if it worked out,” recalls Kessler. After completing their residencies – O’Keefe in Kansas City and Kessler in Peoria – the close friends settled on Joplin, a city of about 50,000 in the southeastern corner of Missouri.

Both raised families there while their practice thrived. There was a level of financial comfort, but also, says Kessler, a level of independence, a level of having made it. There were no other names on the shingle, Just O'Keefe & Kessler. “I was the junior partner because I was five years younger,” Kessler says with a laugh.

In addition to the physical damage, the tornado claimed patients’ records and there was an insurance shortfall. Hospital revenue made up half the annual income for both physicians, and that hole made partnering with Mercy Clinic a necessity.

“It’s a more abrupt change than we all expected,” admits Kessler. “It’s not quite what we wanted, but it goes on, and we make the most of it.”

‘In This Together’
“Perspective can be a funny thing sometimes, whether you’re looking at physical things or at life. When you look at the destruction in the city, you’re seeing much farther than you realize,” explains O'Keefe. “You think you’re looking six to eight blocks, but you’re really looking two miles.”

There are signs Joplin is doing well, “extremely well,” says O'Keefe. “There are a lot of people who still need help, and a lot of people under stress. But the push is to not let this experience permanently harm us.”

“The whole experience reminds you what’s important in life: family, friends, community, faith,” says Kessler. “My hope is that we accentuate the positive and minimize the negative … but not necessarily ignore the negative.”

— This story originally appeared in the Springfield State-Journal Register.
Sent 126 Saluki Students all across the United States during Spring Break to participate in the 2012 Extern Program.

reMember... everything we do, you do.

Thank you.

Stacey Malick, Michael Meehan, Rachael Krekel, and Hannah McArthy spent their Spring Break alongside Extern sponsor, Black Diamond Harley Davidson.
Alumni listed in maroon are SIU Alumni Association members.

1940s

Former Southern Illinois University men’s basketball player Gene Stotlar ’49 was one of 75 individuals named to the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics 75th Anniversary All-Star team. Stotlar was a first-team All-American in 1946, was the MVP of the NAIA Tournament, and led SIU to the national championship. Southern finished 20-6 that season and won 16 of its last 17 games. He was also all-conference in football.

1950s

The Association was pleased to hear from Neil Hediger who wondered why his senior class picture did not appear in the 1950 SIU yearbook. After 62 years, it’s hard to tell, but we’re happy to share it today. Following a 40-year career as a design engineer for Caterpillar, Inc., and another 10 years leading tours of the facility, Hediger reports that he remains active at “88 years young,” and still cuts his own grass (two hours for the front yard, and four hours for the back). Glad to see that Saluki spirit still going strong!

Fred Dallmayr’s (M.A. ’56) new book, Return to Nature? An Ecological Counterhistory, demonstrates “how nature has been marginalized, colonized, and abused in the modern era.” Dallmayr is Emeritus Packey J. Dee professor of philosophy and political science at the University of Notre Dame. Information on his most recent book is available at www.kentuckypress.com/live/title_detail.php?titleid=2945.

1960s

Legendary SIU Basketball Coach Rich Herrin M.S.Ed. ’60 has returned to the hardwood as coach for Montclair College in West Frankfurt, Ill., as the Saluki Hall of Fame coach will start the hoops program at the new college.

James Rossner ’62, M.A. ’63, Ph.D. ’69, president of California State University, was honored for his work helping underserved communities gain access to quality higher education and championing advanced programs that increase diversity in education and in the science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) fields. The recipient of the 2012 American Council on Education’s Reginald Wilson Diversity Leadership Award oversees a campus that is among the most diverse in the nation in the ranks of its faculty and student body.

Waymon Butler ’65, M.S.Ed. ’70 is mayor of Mounds, Ill.

Roger Breternitz A.A. ’66 has published the book WINNING! It’s a Lot More Fun! available on Amazon.com. Breternitz remembers being on the Carterville campus from 1964-1966 in the commercial arts program, and getting a job as a lifeguard on Crab Orchard Lake with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. He would like to reunite with old friends from the art program in those years. Contact him at rogbret@cox.net.

John Gedraitis M.S. ’66 is director of Senior Class Acts, a “chronologically challenged” (age 55+) readers’ theater troupe in Wichita, Kan. The all-volunteer troupe performs skits and stand-up comedy programs for churches, nursing homes, and senior citizens’ activities in the Wichita area.

David Sawyer ’66 retired from Louisville Seminary and is enjoying continued work in congregational and judiciary consultation, leadership development, meeting facilitation, keynote presentations, and vocational discernment coaching. Learn more at www.FlorishingChurch.com.

A painting by Carolyn WarmSun ’68, “Vernal Fails,” was one of only 48 pieces of art chosen out of 696 submissions from all over the world to be in the Yosemite Renaissance XXVII show this year. It hung in the Yosemite Gallery through May 2, and will be shown in various other locations throughout the year. She says she has “found intellectual stimulation, artist group support and camaraderie, personal challenge, and pure pleasure in becoming an artist.”

1970s

Mayor of Mount Vernon, Ill., Mary Jane Chesley ’70, M.S.Ed. ’76 was recognized in a Chicago ceremony honoring Chamber of Commerce honored Doris Rottschalk ’69 with an Outstanding Citizen Award. Rottschalk taught at DuQuoin High School and served with multiple organizations at Southern, including the SIU Alumni Association, the SIU Foundation Board of Directors, and as a University Museum Ambassador. Her community involvement has included reading to children at the Du Quoin Public Library, and leading volunteer efforts at the Du Quoin Food Pantry and at Marshall Browning Hospital.

The painting “Sunday Morning Serenade” by Glenn Steward Sr., A.T. ’69 was selected by the Black Creativity 2012 Juried Art Exhibition held at the Museum of Science and Industry – West Pavilion in Chicago this spring. Learn more about the artist at www.glenstewardart.com.

Bernie DiMeo ‘71 wants your summer grill to show Saluki style. The Saluki Football Grill is the first product out of the gate for the owner of Campus Grills Inc., which also does business as Hot Sports Grills, Inc. The portable, football-shaped charcoal grill is 13"x9"x20" and sells for $49.99. Learn more at www.campusgrills.com or www.hotsportsgrills.com. This is a new business venture for DiMeo, who heads the Chicago public relations agency Bernie DiMeo Communications.
Women's History Month, "Illinois Women of Distinction." Honorees were selected for inclusion by state officials, and Chesley was among four women selected by Lt. Gov. Sheila Simon.

The world is not going to end on Dec. 21, 2012, says Jonathan Leyman Ph.D. '71. At least not according to Native views on the end of time that he has researched. The curator of anthropology for the Illinois State Museum is responsible for the museum's inventory and curation of Native American artifacts. He specializes in the American Southwest but also has experience with Native American cultures and artifacts from the Eastern and Midwestern U.S., as well as from Mexico and Ecuador.

After 17 years as executive director for the Boy Scouts of America Ozark Trails Council, Dean Ertel '72 retired from the council, which serves more than 11,000 youth and volunteers in 31 counties across Southwest Missouri and Southeast Kansas. Veteran Carbondale private practice attorney and former chief trial counsel for SIU Shari Rhode '72, M.S.Ed. '75, J.D. '76 is included in the 2012 edition of Illinois Super Lawyers. Only 5 percent of Illinois attorneys are chosen for the honor each year.

Capstone, a leading publisher of children's books and digital products and services, appointed David Smith '72, M.A. '73 to its board of directors. Smith has 40 years experience in publishing and educational technology.

George C.H. Sun Ph.D. '72 has been recognized by the Global Directory of Who's Who for outstanding contributions and achievements in the fields of philosophy and education. Sun is the founding president at Thorne H. Fang Institute and a member of the Young China Society. He has had numerous books and papers published and received many honors, including the Outstanding Teacher award in 1975.

Steve Rishel A.A. '73, '74 helped rescue a family whose boat capsized on the Ohio River. Rishel, a retired SIU policeman, was present with a life-saving award by the Illinois Police Association.

Jackie Cox '75, M.S.Ed. '92, Ph.D. '00 is project director for the RAMPDUP grant, a three-year, million-dollar, TQE No Child Left Behind grant awarded from the Illinois Board of Higher Education in 2010. The RAMPDUP grant serves 70 teachers in eight public schools and three private schools in rural southern Illinois with a focus on mathematics education, and works closely with the College of Education and Human Services and the College of Sciences at Southern. Cox taught special education, fourth grade, and gifted education in Carbondale Elementary District #95 for 20 years. In 1995, she was hired by SIU's College of Education and Human Services as a center coordinator and clinical instructor. She was one of the first to receive the Inspiring Women's Award in 2004, was awarded the Alumni Achievement Award in the College of Education and Human Services in 2004, and was named Outstanding Term Faculty in the College of Education and Human Services in 2009.

Four-degree alumn Joan Davis A.A. '75, '79, M.S. '82, Ph.D. '10 spent the month of April in Finland through the Fulbright Specialist Program. A professor in Southern's dental hygiene program, Davis is recognized internationally as an expert in the field of integrating tobacco cessation into health care curriculums and delivery. She developed the "Tobacco Free" online curriculum through a grant from the American Dental Hygienists' Association Institute of Oral Health.

Andrew Piper '76 took second place for magazine editing in a series or special section in the Missouri School of Journalism's Pictures of the Year International Competition. The winner, "High School Soldiers," appeared in "Colorado Seen," a monthly photojournalism Webzine that Piper started, available online at www.coloradoseen.com.

Illinois Gov. Pat Quinn named David Vaught J.D. '77 to head the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Development. Vaught will oversee the agency that is tasked with growing Illinois’ economy through outreach with state, national, and international corporations. Vaught is an attorney and longtime financial analyst.

Linda Drust '82, M.S.Ed. '90, longtime educator and administrator, has been named director of SIU's Rainbow's End Child Development Center.

John Roche Jr. '82 was inducted as a fellow of the College of Labor and Employment Lawyers. He practices public sector labor law and represents law enforcement employees in Illinois. Roche is also treasurer of Piano Forte Foundation, which promotes classical and jazz piano in the Chicago area.

Millie Herrera A.A.S. '83, '83 has been selected by the U.S. Department of Labor to serve as regional representative in Florida, Georgia, Arkansas, Tennessee, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, North Carolina, and South Carolina. Herrera has advocated for rights of women, children, workers, and immigrants for more than 15 years.

Dhyana Ziegler M.A. '83, Ph.D. '85 is the first African-American woman to serve as chair of the Southern Scholarship Foundation, which aids low-income students. Ziegler is professor of journalism at Florida A&M University in Tallahassee.

Michael Banks M.F.A. '84 is president of Metropolitan Community College's Blue River campus in Independence, Mo. Before coming to Blue River, he was vice president of academic and student affairs at St. Charles Community College in Cottleville, Mo.

Carolyn Boyles M.B.A. '84 is the co-author of a new book, Searcy, a photographic history of Searcy, Ark. The book profiles the history of the city in Northeast Arkansas from its early days through current times. Boyles is the daughter of the late Professor Emeritus of English David M. Viethe.

Randy Osborn '86, executive director of the Boys and Girls Club of Carbondale, was named Citizen of the Year by the Carbondale Chamber of Commerce.

1980s

The California Healthcare Institute elected Rick Winningham '81 to serve on its board of directors.

Winningham is CEO of the San Francisco-based biopharmaceutical company Theravance. He is also a member of the external advisory board for SIU's College of Business and Administration and a 2006 inductee in the Business Hall of Fame.
Alumni Authors Shed New Light On Illinois History

The culture of Cahokia, North America's most sophisticated prehistoric native civilization, is brought to life in a book by William Iseminger M.A. '71, Cahokia Mounds: America's First City. Since completing his master's in anthropology at Southern, Iseminger has logged more than 40 years of archeological research at the Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site in Collinsville, Ill. Iseminger, current assistant site manager, has also served as museum curator. The Southern graduate received the 2012 Delta Award from SIU's Friends of Morris Library for the book.

What started as an SIU dissertation by David Joens Ph.D. '09 on a little-known public figure is now the first full biography of an early and influential black politician. The legislative legacy of John W.E. Thomas, the Illinois General Assembly's first black member, includes passage of the state's first civil rights act. The book, From Slave to State Legislator: John W.E. Thomas, Illinois' First African American Lawmaker, is also one of few comprehensive looks at black northern politics during the Reconstruction Era.

Saluki stomping grounds get the star treatment in an all-encompassing volume penned on the region. The State of Southern Illinois: An Illustrated History by Herbert Russell M.A. '66, Ph.D. '77 is a fresh take on "Egypt," the area south of U.S. Route 50 from Salem to Cairo. With rich illustrations, maps and photographs, a sweeping history unfolds from the earliest geologic formations to the 21st century in the area regarded as "a state within a state." Russell also authored Edgar Lee Masters: A Biography (University of Illinois Press) and edited A Southern Illinois Album, Southern Illinois Coal: A Portfolio, and The Enduring River: Edgar Lee Masters' Uncollected Spoon River Poems (all published by SIU Press).

Ruth Stonestreet Ph.D. '86 is the 2012 recipient of the Georgia Speech-Language-Hearing Association's Dr. Robert A. Hull Leadership Award. The Valdosta State University professor was awarded for her work in the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of human communication disorders such as autism.

Philip Lyons '87, M.S.Ed. '91 is interim vice chancellor for Administrative and Student Life Services at the University of Wisconsin-Stout. Lyons worked as the assistant vice chancellor since 2007.

Illinois State Police District 19 Trooper Michael Ahrens '89 was promoted to the rank of sergeant. In addition to his patrol duties, Ahrens serves as a field training officer, a rifle instructor, and a radar instructor.

Purdue University Calumet Professor of Communication Theresa Carilli Ph.D. '89 is adding to her growing playwright resume. Her 12th play, "Cat Hoarders Anonymous," premiered at The Producer's Club in New York City in February. Her full-length comedy, "A Perfect Garden," will be performed at Purdue Calumet this fall.

1990s

Illinois National Guard Chief Warrant Officer 5 James Gaddis '90 of Springfield, the 4th Command Chief Warrant Officer of the State of Illinois, is retiring June 30 after 27 years of service. Gaddis is the youngest soldier ever to have served as a Command Chief of the nation.

Bob Guido '91 is a mortgage banker at Heartland Bank and Trust Company, Champaign-Urbana.

Randy Nehrt '91 is the executive director of the Illinois Commerce Commission as a search is pending for a permanent director. Nehrt has served as bureau chief of external affairs at the ICC since 2007.

Renowned journalist Jackie Spinner '92 was the keynote speaker for SIU's celebration of Women's History Month. Spinner is a distinguished alumna, Fulbright Scholar, and assistant professor of journalism at Columbia College Chicago. She was a staff writer for The Washington Post for 14 years, covering the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and serving in numerous countries around the world. Spinner wrote Tell Them I Didn't Cry, a memoir of her time in Iraq. In 2010, Spinner started Iraq's first independent student newspaper, AUI-S Voice. She is also founder of "Angel Says: Read," an international literacy program based in Belize.

Teresa Katubig '93 mentors women to achieve their full leadership potential. Katubig is founder, president, and CEO of Extra Help, Inc., a multi-million dollar employment, payroll, and workforce services company.

Scott Walker '93 is president of ADM Cocoa, a division of Archer Daniels Midland Company.

Arlindall Burks '94 is associate pastor at St. Andrew's United Methodist Church in Brandon, Fla. This is the second ministerial position for Burks following a 26-year stint in the Navy.

Angie Bailey '95, M.S.Ed. '97, M.P.H. '08, is the first recipient of the Stephen Westbrook-Excellence in Rural Public Health Award. Bailey, health education director at the Jackson County Health Department, was awarded for her many achievements in improving health in southern Illinois, addressing issues such as family violence, healthy living, diabetes, mental health, and public health preparedness.

Chris Gerrit M.B.A. '95 has penned a second science fiction novel "Pirates of Mars" featuring pirates, a space ship, a secret cargo, and of course, the red planet. The book is available in bookstores everywhere.
Gerrib is also a senior vice president of technology at Republic Bank of Chicago. Visit the author's Web site at www.privatearmysrocket.net.

Heather Paquette '95 is managing partner of the Detroit office of KPMG, a U.S. audit, tax and advisory firm. She graduated cum laude from Southern, where she serves on the School of Accountancy Board of Advisers.

George Vineyard '96, M.S.Ed. '99, Ph.D. '05 is serving as interim director of Institutional Research & Studies at SIU during the national search for a permanent director. Vineyard has served as a researcher in Enrollment Management at SIU Carbondale since January 2009. During 2007 and 2008, he was the lead researcher in Institutional Research & Studies for the Illinois Shared Enrollment and Graduation Consortium.

Jay Ludescher '97 was promoted to lieutenant colonel in the Air Force. He is the chief information officer at Wilford Hall Ambulatory Surgical Center, supporting 4,500 staff members and managing 125 flight personnel.

The Civil Air Patrol in Illinois has selected Col. Rickey Oeth M.M. '97 to serve a four-year term as commander of the wing, the head of the search-and-rescue group. Oeth had been vice commander. Oeth works as a technology coordinator for the Sparta Community School District and has been a member of the Civil Air Patrol since 1976.

Michael Beam M.F.A '98 celebrated his first solo exhibition, The Idis of March, at Wine on Third Gallery in Niagara Falls, New York. Beam is curator of exhibitions and collections at Castellani Art Museum of Niagara University where he serves as an adjunct professor. His work is on view at Saatchi Online Gallery, London, at www.saatchionline.com/profiles/portfolio/id/290898.

Jose Santiago '98 is fire commissioner for the Chicago Fire Department.

A textbook written by Lisa Ford-Brown Ph.D. '99, DK Guide to Public Speaking, was named 2011 Pearson Education Product of the Year. In the English, Communication & Political Science (ECP) Division. She is associate professor of speech communication at Columbia College in Missouri, and her book is available online at MyPearsonStore.com, Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Google Shopping, and other services.

Ben Grossman '99, natural resource supervisor with St. Charles County Parks, is developing a nature-based classroom for children and working to restore the county's wetlands, savannas, and woodlands to what they would have been like before European settlement.

Diana Lados M.S. '99, associate professor of mechanical engineering at Worcester (Mass.) Polytechnic Institute, is the founder of the Integrative Materials Design Center at WPI. Lados also received a five-year CAREER Award from the National Science Foundation for a study of fatigue crack initiation and propagation. Work that could lead to greater use of light metals in transportation applica-

Alumni Recognized For Making A Difference

Southern has long been synonymous with brilliant documentarians whose work invites viewers into the lives and struggles of real people. We caught up with the careers of three such alumni: Steve James, Hilla Medalia, and Edgar A. Barens.

A riveting look inside the lives of former Chicago gang members who try to prevent violence in their neighborhoods is the substance of the latest documentary by Steve James M.F.A. '84. "The Interrupters," which aired on PBS' Frontline in February, scored a dozen awards and is James' fifth feature to be selected for the Sundance Film Festival. This is the 14th film directed by James whose credits include "Hoop Dreams" (1994) and "Stevie" (2002), which are considered among the best documentaries ever made. James reflects that "The Interrupters" took him back to the same streets and neighborhoods traversed in "Hoop Dreams," a film that followed two families hoping to use basketball as a ticket out of poverty. Learn more about the film and James' work at http://interrupters.kartemquin.com.

Violence interrupter Ameena Matthews with Producer/Director Steve James, Producer Alex Kotlowitz, and Co-Producer/Sound Recordist Zak Piper. Photo by Aaron Wickenden/Courtesy of Kartemquin Films.

When Andrew Perlmutter '00 wed Courtney Leach in Nashville, Tenn., he called all the Salukis to the front of the dance floor at the June 2010 wedding. Mary Lou Bradford '77 sent the Association this group photo of the 22 alumni in attendance with graduation dates spanning more than 50 years. "Congratulations to a wonderful couple, and in true SIU tradition, a great time was had by all," Bradford says. From left to right, Brian Kinsley '00, Alicia Karayiannis M.S.W. '10, Austin Schwartz '99, Bret Hilgart '00, Perlmutter, Haley Leach '04, George Terry '04, Janice Wallace '02, Jennifer Wilson '97, John Wallace '04, Martha Leach '71, George Thodoropoulos '71, M.S.Ed. '83, Farrah A. Hobbs '99, Amey Hogg '00, Alice D. Thodoropoulos '76, Patricia Karnes '80, Pam Melasky '71, Alice D. Thodoropoulos '71, M.S.Ed. '83, Johanna Schneider '76, Patricia Karnes '80, Pam Melasky '71, Janice Threw '71, M.S.Ed. '90, Bradford, Brandi Karnes '99, and Shirley Bramlet '59, M.S.Ed. '77.

Gov. Pat Quinn appointed three Southern graduates as arbitrators to review workplace injury claims on the Illinois Workers' Compensation Commission: Brandon Zanotti '03; D. Douglas McCarthy J.D. '79; and William Gallagher J.D. '76. Arbitrators rule on claims filed under the state's Workers' Compensation Act.

Damian Crooks '06 is staff attorney for a nonprofit legal aid agency "Supporting American Dreams" in Lake Bluff, Ill. BENNU Legal Services (www.BENNUIlegal.org) provides assistance to immigrants transitioning into the United States, as well as to entrepreneurial small businesses in their growth.

Karen Borre J.D. '07 is an attorney with the law firm of Blake Law Group, PC, which has offices in Belleville, Collinsville, Edwardsville, and Waterloo, Ill. The Heartland Sectionals Wheelchair Rugby Tournament attracted athletes and fans from all over the Midwest to the Student Recreation Center in March, including Daniel Mellenthin '09, M.S. '11 who competed in the competition. Mellenthin was one of Southern's "25 Most Distinguished Seniors" in 2009.

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More Than 90 Years Ago...

Old Main, which sat in the center of campus before it burned down in 1969, served many functions at SIU. One activity held there over the years were student assembly sessions, including this one in 1919 on the third floor of Normal Hall. Note the standard garment choice and hairstyles of students from almost a century ago.
Those in the WSIU listening area are well-acquainted with the voice of Jennifer Fuller ’00 delivering the daily news and delving into regional issues. This year her first-rate reporting received statewide recognition as well. The Mass Communication & Media Arts alumna was recognized by the Illinois Associated Press Broadcasters Association as the Best Radio Reporter in Downstate Illinois for 2011 and the state’s News Finder of the Year.

“To have Jennifer recognized, in a state that is not short on quality reporters, speaks volumes about her work,” says Greg Petrowich ’91 executive director of WSIU Public Broadcasting. “As a former SIU Carbondale student who worked in the WSIU newsroom, Jennifer is an example of what hard work and a commitment to journalistic integrity can mean both for the academic program and the station.”

Fuller has won prior awards from the AP for Best Newscast and Best Reporter while at WSIU. But the thrill of the job is not in the recognition she has regularly received, but in truly enjoying what she does. “I love that it’s never the same day twice, and that I never know what kind of day to expect when I come in,” Fuller says. “I get to meet such interesting people, doing things I could never imagine, and I get to tell people what they’re doing. What could be better than that?”

Fuller is best known for her “Morning Conversations,” a weekly radio program that welcomes everyone from dignitaries and local leaders to community organizers and artists. “I really like to be able to give people the opportunity to take the time they need to explain something. Having a longer interview segment, people can really say what they mean and how they came to that conclusion.”

One of her favorite morning conversations was with then-astronaut Joan Higginbotham ’87. “And, I love to tell students and others that I’ve interviewed the president,” says Fuller who sat down with Barack Obama when he ran for U.S. Senate. “I love that the program really runs the gamut of topics, and that so many people are able to share their stories with the rest of southern Illinois.”

Prior to her position at WSIU, Fuller reported at WTX-AM, where she worked during and after earning her master’s in public affairs reporting at the University of Illinois at Springfield in 2001. Her coverage of political and education issues on the top-rated “Morning NewsWatch,” earned her two awards in 2002. In 2003, Fuller returned to WSIU where she had worked as a student at both the radio and TV stations.

“She worked hard to be the best student reporter that she could be and that ethic and dedication has carried with her through her professional career,” says Jeff Williams ’90, WSIU radio station manager and news director. “Her professionalism is evident in her work on air as well as in the newsroom and especially in her work with our students.”

Williams says Fuller is part of a long tradition of station staff and students who have excelled at their craft. “I think it’s important to note that the second place finisher in this year’s best downstate radio reporter category behind Jennifer is Stephanie Pawlowski ’05. Stephanie is also an R-TV graduate.”

For Fuller, training the next generation of reporters, producers, editors, and writers is one of the most fulfilling aspects of working at WSIU. “It really keeps us fresh and gives us the opportunity to tell stories from a unique perspective.” She also mentioned exceptional university staff she considers mentors and role models including Beth Hart ’85, M.A. ’02, Ken Keller, Mike Lawrence, John Jackson, Bill Recktenwald, and the late Sen. Paul Simon. “They were people who were so knowledgeable about their career, and they treated everyone as not just a student but someone they were helping move from one point in life to the next.”

Fuller says she tries to give a little back “for all the great times and opportunities I had as a student,” and that is a reason she and her husband, Brian Flath ’97 are joint life members of the SIU Alumni Association. The couple met on her first day as an SIU student, and they have been inseparable since.

“It’s really important to us that this is where we began,” Fuller says. “We really wanted to keep a part of that. Everybody has a special place in their heart for their alma mater.”
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