SOUTHERN ALUMNI

CLIMBING TO THE TOP
DANIEL CHANCELLOR'S SIU DREAM IS NOW A BUSINESS REALITY

Homecoming 2012 Oct. 12-13

Inside: Southern Exposure, Salukis In Business, Class Notes, and more...
Helping Current Students Is Important To These Alumni

It was 46 years ago, but Carl and Janet Jennings remember the occasion like it was yesterday.

The young married couple, both attending SIU Carbondale, were invited to attend the Theta Xi Variety Show. Carl was asked to approach the stage where he was presented $250 as the Leo Kaplan Memorial Scholarship recipient.

“I was in the audience and thrilled. The award came at a critical time and helped immensely,” Janet says. “We still recall it quite often.”

Carl, who earned bachelor and doctorate degrees in chemistry from SIU Carbondale in 1967 and 1971 respectively, says, “That was more money than we made in two months. SIU provided a great education and opened doors for us. Janet and I were married in college, had our two children while we were there, and had to struggle to make ends meet.

“I'm sure a lot of students need help from time to time as college is so much more expensive these days. We have been blessed and decided we wanted to help in some way so that others could complete their education and hopefully enrich their lives.”

Janet and Carl, who retired in 2003 from BASF, the world’s largest chemical company, held true to their commitment. The couple established the Jennings Endowed Scholarship Fund in 1994 through the SIU Foundation. The College of Science has presented scholarships to students through the endowment for well over a decade.

Also, the Jennings fulfilled a $150,000 additional commitment to the University in 2008 during the Opportunity Through Excellence Campaign, SIU Carbondale’s first-ever comprehensive fundraising effort.

A former SIU Foundation board member, Carl was the first in his family to attend college and eventually his three younger brothers and younger sister also attended SIU. A native of Equality, Ill., he accumulated 4,000 hours of student work as an undergraduate and still has a certificate that was presented to him by legendary SIU President Delyte Morris.

The Jennings will celebrate 47 years of marriage in September. They have two grown children — both college graduates — and four grandchildren. They say family values and education are important. “We are just happy to give something back to SIU and hope it helps others achieve their dreams.”

Southern Illinois University Foundation

“Investing In Saluki Futures”

www.siuf.org
Climbing To The Top

With entrepreneurial spirit fostered at SIU, Daniel Chancellor has turned an interest in rock climbing into a major business. In addition to manufacturing and distributing climbing holds worldwide through So iLL Holds, Inc., he and his partners have now opened a climbing facility in St. Louis and continue to expand on what was once a fledgling student enterprise at Southern.

The Fungi Frontier

Greg Mueller and Betty Strack discovered a love of mushrooms – and each other – at SIU. Their work has contributed to breakthroughs in the field of mycology that are helping scientists better understand the critical role of fungi in maintaining the health of forests.

SIU’s Irish Connection

A man with direct ties to SIU is now the president of Ireland. Michael Higgins was elected last October to a seven-year term. His election continues a long career as both a public servant and an educator, including one stop in Carbondale as a visiting professor almost 40 years ago. Higgins still remembers his days at Southern in 1973, calling it “a great experience.”

An Olympic-Sized Life

As the designer of this year’s official United States Olympic poster, Primo Angeli continues to make his mark around the world. At 80 years old, he remains a powerhouse – a major player in the fields of branding, corporate identity, and packaging. His iconic designs are branded into the national psyche.
by Gene Green

The University and the SIU Alumni Association lost a dear friend this summer when Richard Reynolds passed away at the age of 80. When I became editor of this magazine in 1999, one of my first duties was to interview the Association's newly appointed president. I drove to St. Louis and spent a day with him that I will never forget.

Rick, who grew up in East St. Louis, vividly recalled coming to Carbondale many decades ago and being dropped off on campus by his father, Raymond. "His advice I still think about each day," he told me that afternoon. "He said, 'Don't ever be afraid! Never back down! Always participate in positive change!'"

Perhaps little did Rick, who earned a bachelor's degree in 1956 and his master's the next year, realize how well that advice would serve him.

His first job following graduation was in the Gary (Ind.) Public School System, a position several told him not to waste his time on since they had not been hiring African-Americans. Remembering his father's mantra, he applied anyway and landed a position at Froebel High School, where he taught from 1957-63.

Rick returned to his native St. Louis in 1963 and spent the next 30-plus years working in the public school system. He was an administrator for the multicampus St. Louis Community College District and later an executive assistant for the East St. Louis Housing Authority.

I was honored to attend a memorial service for him in July, an event that absolutely celebrated his life. As a member of countless organizations, it was often noted that day how he made a difference in the world around him. It was also evident that he impacted the family he dearly loved.

Rick and his wife, Jewelle, shared 56 years of marriage, a union producing a son, Richard II, and daughters, Norma and Leah. To his children and grandchildren, he often ended a conversation with this challenge: "Do your best... and do it right."

"There were no shortcuts growing up in our household," his son said at the memorial. "Certain things were expected of you, and my father was always there to help us. No matter what you were dealing with, however, he would eventually look you in the eye and add. '...but do your best... and do it right!'"

Those were not hollow words; Rick lived by them in his own life. Those of us at the SIU Alumni Association who called him a friend and benefited from his advice and insight are forever blessed.

This photo of Rick was taken one year at the Black Alumni Group reunion, an organization he also once served as president. Always impeccably dressed, I could easily have selected a more formal image to share with you, but to me this expression best illustrates the man who always arrived in Carbondale armed with wise counsel and a smile, rolled into one classy package.

Godspeed, my friend, on a job well done. You did your best... and you certainly did it right!
Dear Fellow Salukis:

I hope you have had a wonderful summer. I continue to enjoy my visits with you during alumni gatherings around the country, and look forward to meeting with more of you in the months ahead.

The start of the new academic year is always an exciting time, and the energy and enthusiasm on campus is contagious. Fall is a beautiful time on campus, as you know, and this will be an especially busy season. I look forward to welcoming you during Homecoming festivities Oct. 12-13. This issue includes all the details you will need to make your plans to reconnect with your University, classmates, and old friends.

While on campus, be sure to take in the many improvements. You cannot miss the ongoing construction of the Student Services Building where the parking garage once stood. This impressive facility will present a wonderful front door to the campus, and offer improved services and one-stop shopping for our students. When completed next summer, it will house 19 departments including the bursar’s office, financial aid, University Housing, the University College, and so much more.

Take a walk over to Faner Hall as well – evening would be best. The new pedestrian mall area is impressive. In addition to creating a more attractive space for members of the University community to gather, the area features dramatically improved lighting designed to enhance safety.

It has been an incredibly busy summer on campus, and many other improvements may not be as obvious, but are just as important to the teaching, learning, and living environment. How many of you lived in the Triads? That complex is now but a memory. We tore the complex down this summer as the first step in our new Housing Master Plan that eventually will also lead to the demolition of the Towers. Our plan is to create far more attractive housing areas that are responsive to the expectations of students and that contribute to their success.

We are replacing roofs, enhancing technology and modernizing classrooms and offices, and improving our infrastructure. Plans are in place to complete the sixth and seventh floors of Morris Library and devote that space for tutoring and mentoring students. Work also is underway to create much-needed space for our cutting-edge research. Books that have been stored at the McLaﬀerty Annex on the west side of campus are being moved back to the library. We then will convert the Annex into a facility that will support interdisciplinary research. Ours has been an aging campus, but we are working hard to bring it fully into the 21st century.

I also want to invite you to the grand opening of the Transportation Education Center at the Southern Illinois Airport. We are planning a celebration beﬁtting this amazing facility and our automotive and aviation programs on Oct. 26. High-tech, beautiful and practical, this new center – or TEC, as we like to call it – elevates our nationally recognized programs to a whole new level. It will enhance teaching, learning and research, and as you might expect, will be a great recruiting tool. No matter what you earned your degree in, you will take great pride in this wonderful addition to our University. Please join us for a truly memorable occasion.

In addition to the many physical improvements, we also are enhancing our academic and student services programs. Student success leading to graduation is our priority, and our many initiatives are designed to ensure our students are ready to not just compete, but lead the global society.

You can learn more about the many positive changes in my State of the University address, which I delivered on Sept. 5. It is posted on my website, chancellor.siu.edu.

We just learned that The Princeton Review has named SIU Carbondale among its “2013 Best Colleges: Midwest Region.” SIU was selected mainly for academic excellence, and we earned high marks for financial aid, our commitment to being “green,” admissions selectivity, fire safety, and quality of life.

There is much to be proud of at your alma mater. All of the changes and improvements we are making revolve around student success. I look forward to seeing you this fall.

Sincerely,

Rita Cheng
Chancellor
New Life Members
5/18-8/9
Scott Allen
Teresa and Eric Bak
Lisa Brown
Michael Burcar
Zenetta McDaniel Coleman
Sherie DeDore
Pamela Doty
Christine Egley
Craig Eubanks
Michael and Carolyn Foley
Edgar Grigalis
Gary Hayden
John and Jennifer Hogan
Raymond and Laurie Holley
Kirk Kaltenbronn
David Klein
Deryk and Melissa McDowell
James Meares
Brenda and Larry Morse
Morgan and Jason Moser
Courtland and Mary Munroe
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Michael Reel
Catherine Sample
Michael Sawitz
Jennifer Schneider
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Linda Twiehaus

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Nostalgic T-Shirts Will Take You Back
The SIU Alumni Association Online Store offers branded merchandise from the University, each College, and classic Carbondale favorites. Be sure to check out the throwback apparel and score nostalgic T-shirts from places like the American Tap, Mugsy’s, Bonaparte’s Retreat, and more! Members of the SIU Alumni Association receive a 15 percent discount on all merchandise. Start shopping at www.silkwormshops.com/siualumni.
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Dear Readers...

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

Southern Alumni
Colyer Hall, 1235 Douglas Drive
Mailcode 6809
Southern Illinois University
Carbondale, IL 62901

You can email your letters to alumni@siu.edu. Letters are sometimes edited for length and style.
We also invite you to send items and photographs of interest for the class notes section as well as submissions for Southern Memories. You can mail this information or send it by email to the above addresses.

Alumnus Shares Some College Memories

I am glad an alumni directory is being prepared. I was thankful to receive a scholarship from Benton High School, which enabled me to attend SIU Carbondale.

Since retiring from teaching, I have a number of interesting hobbies. One of these is composing poetry—having done about 300 over the years—and have 50 of them printed in booklets. I attempted to compose this poem and the words came to me in about 20 minutes:

College Memories
From the years 46-50, I have memories sweet,
Wonderful times, more simple, but neat.
I’m thankful to have attended, ’twas a pleasure to me,
I believe others who were there would certainly agree.

Dr. Delyte Morris, the president, gave the best he could,
Highly respected, he helped make college life good,
Known then as SINU, preparing only teachers, you see,
It was just what I needed—yes siree!

Only 3,000 students attended back then, But most professors were so helpful, they seemed like a friend,
I met some wonderful people, I’ll never forget,
Those were the “good old days,” sweet memories remain yet.

Charles Boyer ’50
Benton, Ill.

Enjoyed Long’s Photos In June Magazine

It was with great pleasure that I read the cover story in the June issue of Southern Alumni on photographer Eric Long. I was taking journalism courses at SIU about the same time he was getting his feet wet as a photographer in Carbondale, and it was wonderful to see how his career has flourished from those early days.

I have often enjoyed the photography appearing in the alumni magazine, and seeing Long’s images was a real treat. Although I have only been to the Smithsonian once before, I now look forward to returning to see in person some of the spectacular images he shared with us.

Congratulations on a fine career. I do take pride in knowing that there is “A Saluki In The Smithsonian.”

Edward Hall EX ’73
Peoria, Ill.

Editor’s note: A Long photo not making the cut in June is this scene at the Smithsonian Institution Building (The Castle). Long says he captured this image from inside the doors of the castle after noticing the light, clouds, and overall setting when he walked out of the building. “No one requested this photo,” he recalls. “I just had my camera with me and decided to shoot a photo that I had never seen before.” It serves as another remarkable shot by this talented Saluki.
**October 2012**

4  Ron White, Shryock Auditorium, 7 p.m.
6  Saluki Football at Illinois State, 1 p.m. – Association tailgate begins at 10 a.m.
12  Class of 1962 Reunion

**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 more about the legacy tuition rate and scholarship. 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 Rivers at arivers@siu.edu or 618-453-2988.

13  Homecoming Parade 10 a.m., followed by Association tailgate under the Big Tent on Saluki Row.
Saluki Football vs. Northern Iowa, 2 p.m.

**November 2012**

3  SIU Alumni Dinner at Dave and Busters in San Diego
Saluki Football vs. South Dakota State, 2 p.m.
Saluki Men’s Basketball vs. Upper Iowa, TBA
12  Saluki Men’s Basketball at New Orleans, TBA
17  Saluki Football vs. Western Illinois, 2 p.m.
Saluki Men’s Basketball vs. Benedictine University-Springfield, TBA
18  3rd Annual SIU Alumni Day at the Dome Fundraiser, St. Louis Rams vs. New York Jets, 12 p.m.
20  Saluki Men’s Basketball at SIU Edwardsville, TBA
24  Saluki Men’s Basketball at Saint Louis, TBA
28  Saluki Men’s Basketball vs. Fresno State, TBA
29-2  The Three Musketeers Thurs.-Sat. 7:30 p.m., Sun. 2 p.m., McLeod Theater

**December 2012**

5  Saluki Men’s Basketball at Western Kentucky, TBA
15  Saluki Men’s Basketball at Green Bay, TBA
17  Saluki Men’s Basketball vs. New Orleans, TBA

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Southern Illinois University Carbondale welcomes new deans. Moore comes to SIU after serving as a professor in Purdue's College of Agriculture. He was also associate dean for Purdue Extended Campus and chief director of Purdue University Distance Learning. As chief director of distance learning, he oversaw several MBA programs. Moore comes to SIU from the University of South Dakota, where she was dean of libraries and director of Wegner Health Sciences Information Center in Sioux Falls, S.D. She was also an associate professor of educational administration in the school of education there. Latour comes to SIU after serving as a professor in Purdue's College of Agriculture. He was also associate dean for Purdue Extended Campus and chief director of Purdue. Latour comes to SIU after serving as a professor in Purdue's College of Agriculture. He was also associate dean for Purdue Extended Campus and chief director of Purdue. Lemish is no stranger to campus, coming to Carbondale in July 2010 to serve as chair of the Department of Radio-Television. Prior to that, she was a professor in the Department of Communication at Tel Aviv University, and from 2008 to 2010 was a visiting scholar at The Center on Media and Child Health (CMCH) at Children's Hospital and Harvard Medical School in Boston. Achenbach is a veteran faculty member and administrator with more than 20 years at the University. She came to SIU in 1990 as a visiting assistant professor in the Department of Animal Science, Food and Nutrition at SIU Carbondale that year. She became a professor at the University in 2002 and has also served as associate dean for research and graduate programs in the College of Science since 2007.

### Project Will Enrich Campus Life, Enhance Safety

A pedestrian mall on the east side of Southern Illinois University Carbondale's Faner Hall will enrich campus life and enhance student safety. The $1.25 million project includes replacing the current walkways, and adding fresh landscaping, raised planters, seating areas, and improved outdoor lighting, says Phil Gatton, director of Plant and Service Operations.

The landscaping project is from Faner Drive south to the Student Center, and connects with landscaping from the pedestrian overpass to the area between the site of the Student Services Building and Parkinson Hall. The revamped area will be more pedestrian friendly by eliminating the staid paved walkways with multi-colored concrete and various aggregate materials, and project a more welcoming environment for students to meet.

Because of the wide area of existing concrete, the area east of Faner Hall can resemble an airport runway, Gatton said. The University recently installed steel bollards to restrict vehicle traffic, particularly in the area between Faner Hall and the rear of Altgeld Hall, Allyn Building, Shryock Auditorium, and Parkinson Hall, because of safety concerns.

"We've had a number of instances where people drive too fast on these areas they consider to be a thoroughfare and you have pedestrians walking," he explains. "This should eliminate that and make it safer for students to walk."

The project makes the area more functional and beautifies the campus, and will address some of the lighting issues in the area. Path lights along the walkways will improve the lighting.

The redesign adds an emergency phone to the area. Constituency-based Campus Safety Walks identified the area as needing a lighting upgrade and other safety improvements. The annual Safety Walks assist University officials in identifying safety concerns on campus.
Aviation Alumni Selected For Blue Angels

Two Southern Illinois University Carbondale aviation alumni will be part of the famed Blue Angels flight demonstration team for the next two show seasons.

Navy Lt. Ryan Chamberlain '04, (Bloomington, Ill.), and Navy Lt. Cmdr. Declan Hartney '00 (Limerick, Ireland) are part of the elite team that represents the U.S. Navy and the U.S. Marine Corps. Chamberlain will pilot an F/A-18 beginning as part of the 2013 flying team. Hartney is pre-selected as the maintenance officer for the team for the 2014 season.

Chamberlain says flying with the Blue Angels seemed like an unattainable dream. However, stepping out of expected paths is something he's become accustomed to over the years. He has been flying since he was 16, inspired, in part, by his brother, who entered the aviation flight program at SIU.

Chamberlain says his decision to come to SIU Carbondale contributed to his success as a pilot.

"I liked the area, and of course the reputation of the program is so high nationwide. There is no way I would be where I am without the aviation management faculty at SIU – they are the best in the country."

Hartney, currently assigned to Naval Special Warfare Support Activity 1 at the Naval Amphibious Base Coronado, in California, returns to the Blue Angels as an officer after serving with the team as an enlisted man near the beginning of his military career.

He graduated from SIU Carbondale without ever having set foot on campus, taking advantage of the University's off-campus programs and working on his degree on two different military bases. He was actually a member of the Blue Angels maintenance team when he earned his degree.

Hartney says SIU Carbondale was his first exposure to the American education system. He hoped to attend his own commencement, but was touring with the Blue Angels as part of the maintenance crew at the time. He hopes to visit campus in the future.

"We are ecstatic about what this says for the program," David NewMyer, professor and chair of the aviation management and flight program, says. "It speaks well for the format of the degrees, and in serving the students well. We are getting them right out into the industry and they are well-prepared to handle some of the more advanced management opportunities."

The Blue Angels 2012 performances are in celebration of the Centennial of Marine Aviation and commemoration of the bicentennial of the War of 1812.
CLIMBING TO THE TOP

ENTREPRENEUR DANIEL CHANCELLOR HAS TURNED A DREAM AT SIU INTO A BUSINESS REALITY

BY GENE GREEN

PHOTO BY BILL SAWALICH
Elephants, flowers, and even this giant eyeball make up some of the unique climbing areas of Climb So iLL, and separate it from almost any other climbing facility in the country.

Long before Daniel Chancellor ’05 arrived at SIU Carbondale to earn a degree, he had been introduced to something that would become both a passion and vocation. While still in grade school, an uncle took him rock climbing and a challenge to defy gravity was soon born.

With his older brother, David, and longtime friend Ian Anderson, he continues to forge an entrepreneurial trial that appears to have no end. Another SIU connection, Taylor Ashford ’10, is the group’s brand manager. This year they opened Climb So iLL, an indoor climbing facility inside the historic City Hospital Power Plant building near Lafayette Square in St. Louis.

They already had been manufacturing and distributing climbing holds worldwide through So iLL Holds, Inc., a vibrant company Chancellor estimates now has more than 3,500 commercial accounts in 15 countries. Although they now produce a myriad of products, their “bread and butter” remains rock climbing grips climbers use to scale walls. They now offer more than 700 different types.

His group embraces an ever evolving business plan and – by design – knows they will never be confused with any other rock climbing company. So iLL proudly tilts at windmills, awash with bright colors and elaborate designs instead of the drab granite and limestone motifs found in most climbing facilities.

“We are a little on the whimsical side,” Chancellor admitted to the St. Louis Post Dispatch. “Sort of like Willy Wonka meets wall climbing.”

GETTING STARTED

Growing up in Eureka, Mo., Chancellor attended a small Christian high school with only 20 people in his graduating class. A friend’s father was an instructor there and offered a class in entrepreneurship.

“That was an unusual subject to be offered at such a small school, so I took the class and found it interesting,” he says. “I soon decided I wanted to find a creative outlet as a means to make a living, and that class really got me and my brother thinking outside the box.”

By now the duo were avid rock climbers. They first built a climbing wall in their parents’ basement, and eventually began to make holds there to market at trade shows. “They were pretty bad as I look back at it now,” Chancellor says with a laugh, “but it was getting us started.”
Climb So iLL has been designed to reflect a commitment to environmental responsibility. The adaptive reuse of the space near Lafayette Square ensures that many of the original elements of the power plant building are preserved. In addition to reusing building materials, Climb So iLL has incorporated a variety of sustainable products, amenities, and elements into the facility. The gym's green initiative helps educate members of the community and promote environmental awareness in an effort to reduce waste.

Adaptive Reuse: Most of the power plant's original structural steel was reused during construction. Other recycled or sustainable materials, such as car hoods and bamboo, were used to create custom countertops, cabinetry, and furniture.

Green Initiative: Climb So iLL aims to reduce waste by utilizing waterless urinals, hand dryers, water bottle refill stations, and paperless office solutions.

Natural Light: Natural lighting reduces Climb So iLL's carbon footprint by minimizing the amount of electricity needed to illuminate the facility.

Alternative Transportation: Climb So iLL is located in a Community & Transportation Improvement District, making public transit an accessible and responsible alternative to driving.

For more on the facility, go to www.climbsoil.com.

When he arrived in Carbondale a decade ago (David came then as well to attend John A. Logan College), a house on South Maple Street served as their home and production headquarters. “It was crazy,” Chancellor says. “I was studying my business management classes during the day and then working with my brother almost every night to get the business off the ground.”

During his early years at SIU, Chancellor had been on the Dean's List.

When the business began to take off, however, his grades paid the price.

“I had a few professors who were worried about me and wanted to know what was going on,” he says. “One told me I arrived in class that day, immediately fell asleep, and woke up when class was dismissed. Once I explained what I was trying to accomplish in my ‘spare time,’ he understood and tried to help.”

One department that helped shape the fledgling company was the SIU Office of Economic and Regional Development. Chancellor contacted assistant director Greg Bouhl ’97 at his Dunn-Richmond Center office to help shape a business plan.

“We were asking Greg to help turn what had sort of been an art project in high school into a real business,” Chancellor points out. “He started us thinking about financials, provided ideas on where to acquire investment money, and was there to assist in any way he could.”

Bouhl still recalls the day the Chancellor brothers strolled into his office.

“They just sort of appeared one day off the street asking for help,” he says. “Soon it was obvious they had a passion for what they wanted to accomplish. I also recall them being quite unassuming and fun to work with. I was able to help them with a business plan and suggested a few
avenues to take to raise both funds and awareness for their company.

With Bouhl's assistance, and instructors at the University in his corner, Chancellor sensed that things were about to ramp up.

"It was interesting that some of my professors had been entrepreneurs themselves at one time or another and had experienced similar situations. As I reflect back on those days, I had a backbone of mentors at SIU."

**THE EXPANSION BEGINS**

One of the first things he and his brother did to facilitate the growing business was purchase property in near-

...I HAD A BACKBONE OF MENTORS AT SIU." 

by DeSoto, Ill. The manufacturing operation had grown too large for the house they were sharing in Carbondale, and the new location featured a large pole barn that would alleviate the space issues.

Even that upgrade soon would be deemed obsolete.

"My brother was doing all the manufacturing in DeSoto and was extremely busy, ordering thousands of pounds of raw material each month to fill orders," Chancellor recalls. "We were pouring the grips by hand and didn't have the high-tech equipment we needed to keep up."

They eventually located a company in Louisville, Colo., that could handle the production end of the company for them. "We realized we were really good at marketing, building relationships, and building a brand, but not terrific as a manufacturing company," he admits.

"Outsourcing production freed us up for other projects and allowed us to sell our facility in DeSoto. That is when the idea for the climbing facility in St. Louis really started to take shape."

Climb So iLL opened its doors in March, offering climbing enthusiasts more than 10,000 square feet of somewhat bizarre vertical terrain. "Everyone else in the country was building climb-

ing walls that looked like a giant granite cliff," Chancellor says. "We went in the opposite direction and instead built a giant eyeball wall that is 60 by 20 feet, a kid's wall that is shaped like an overgrown elephant, and another wall that looks like a tulip."

And the climbing facility, which benefited from a $30,000 grant from a second-place finish in the 2010 St. Louis Regional Business Plan Competition, is off to a great start.

"We ran our first quarter projections, and they are 50 percent higher than we thought they would be. My brother excels in community outreach and has already booked corporate events at the facility for companies such as Microsoft, which brought in almost 500 employees to climb as a team building event. We also offer vendor space, catering, and custom birthday parties for kids, and already have more than 250 members who use the facility at all times of the night and day.

"It's pretty nice to see that dream become a reality."

This climbing enthusiast enjoys tackling one of the walls at So iLL, featuring 10,000 feet of sometimes bizarre vertical terrain.
When the Chancellor brothers lived in southern Illinois, they found several places in the area to sharpen their rock climbing skills. The region continues to be a special place for them to leave a mark.

"When we were at SIU, we found this rock in an area called 'The Holy Boulder' near Pomona," Daniel Chancellor says. "Half of it is on private property and half is in the Shawnee National Forest. Recently the property went up for sale, and we are working with a non-profit corporation called the Access Fund to try and acquire the land.

The Access Fund is the national advocacy organization with the goal of keeping U.S. climbing areas open and conserving the climbing environment. Founded in 1991, it supports and represents over 2.3 million climbers nationwide in all forms of climbing: rock, ice, mountaineering, and bouldering.

"My brother, David, has recently been working with them, meeting with the owner, and trying to negotiate a price. We feel investing in this kind of project is something special we can do for an area that really helped us out."

"We want people in southern Illinois and beyond to be able to continue to enjoy areas like this."
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Thank you.

Members – join the fun on Saluki Row prior to each home football game. Tailgates open three hours prior to kickoff. Find out more at www.siualumni.com/salukirow.
It was nothing 104-year-old Mary Weeks expected when she arrived at the Stone Center on a July afternoon. Slowly but steadily, she made her way to a chair on the arm of her son as the room began to swell with reporters and University dignitaries.

"Amazement," Weeks said when asked how she felt about the star reception. She had simply asked her son, Andrew, if he would drive her from her Alma, Ill., home to the campus she first set foot on 88 years ago. She wanted to see the changes brought by time and meet SIU's president.

"She thinks she has some things to tell him he might not know," said Andrew Weeks, explaining that his mother felt a connection with SIU President Glenn Poshard, who grew up near Carmi, Ill., where Mary Weeks raised two sons who attended high school there a few years apart from Poshard.

Despite the crowd and the cameras, the president and one of the oldest living alumni reminisced like old friends. Her memory sharp, Weeks traveled back in time to when Henry Shryock was president and she earned her first SIU degree, a 1926 teaching certificate.

Her favorite memory was the first day in one of her classes at Old Main. She described the two-seater schoolhouse desks where the teacher, George Washington Smith, called each student to sit alphabetically. A white student objected to sharing his seat with a black student.

"George Washington Smith said, 'You'll sit there or you'll drop this class,'" Weeks recalled with a tenor of pride for her alma mater.

"It's a different America we have today," Poshard responded. "Better."

Poshard had prepared a surprise for Weeks with the help of Morris Library's Special Collections Research Center. The staff pulled historical records including two Obelisk yearbooks in which Weeks (then Mary Winks) appeared. Senior library specialist Judy Simpson pointed them out to Weeks, exclaiming, "Wow, you were a looker!" Weeks agreed, describing her striking copper hair, but she told the crowd that she meant business while a student at SIU.

She worked hard at her cooking job in the women's dorm earning $40 per month plus room and board, and she kept her nose in the books while other students "jellied" at local hang-outs. "I didn't jelly," she said. "I went to my room."

Weeks worked as teacher for two years in her hometown of Alma, a condition of her free tuition, and returned to the campus to earn her bachelor's in education in 1938. She went to work in an office in Carmi when an oil boom provided new economic opportunities for the region. Poshard, raised on a farm...
50 miles outside the bustling little city, recalled watching the oil rig flames from the porch of his farmhouse, and the 45-minute bus ride to high school after milking the cows. They talked of the old Dairy King and the changes to the town and to life in general.

“We have a lot of things in common,” Poshard told her, noting that one of them was the pair’s commitment to education. “It’s still the most honorable profession there is,” Poshard said, Weeks nodding in agreement. “Some people today question whether to get a college education. What would you say to that?”

“It’s worth it to use your mind, whether it makes you any money or not,” Weeks responded. “People shouldn’t think of education only in terms of money or getting ahead. They should think about it in terms of developing their minds. I’m glad I was born into a family that valued education.”

Weeks proved to be an exceptional student whose one and only C grade “broke my heart,” she said. It was zoology, and she remembered “picking a dead cat all to pieces. Well, I was done with that!” Still she graduated fifth in a class of 100, but said “I should’ve done better”.

“She needs to talk to our kids!” replied Poshard, who presented Weeks with a certificate of appreciation that recognized her commitment to education. “It’s more than I could’ve hoped for,” Weeks said. “Thank you for being so kind, thoughtful, and interested. I just can’t believe it. It makes me want to cry.”

When asked about her longevity, Weeks chalked it up to good genes, noting long-lived family members including her father, a Civil War veteran, and his grandfather, a Revolutionary War veteran.

“This is history folks,” said Poshard, who told Weeks, “You have to be one of the oldest alumni I’ve ever met.”

“Well, I’m not planning to leave here right away,” Weeks shot back. “I wish we all had your spunk.” Poshard chuckled.

“My mother always said, ‘I know what’s here and I like it,’” Weeks said. “Once around is not enough.”

The old class photos used in this story was pulled online from the University’s old yearbook, the Obelisk. While Mary Weeks perused print volumes of the publication on her campus visit, their contents are now available to anyone with internet access. Thanks to the work of Morris Library’s Special Collections Research Center (SRCR), anyone can view “a wealth of information about the growth of Southern Illinois University, the activities of its students, as well as writings by students,” says SRCR Director Pam Hackbart-Dean. “After selecting the year you would like to view, these yearbooks can be read either online, by PDF, or even on your Kindle.”

Digitized through the University Archives and the CARLI Book Digitization program, the SIU student annual yearbooks available include the Sphinx (1899), Obelisk (1914-1973), and Obelisk II (1976-1987 and 2004-2005). Browse them at archive.org, and put “Obelisk” in the search box. To see all collections related to SIU, go to http://archive.org/details/southernillinoisinunivcarbondale.

One of Weeks’ memories was the opening of “the new gymnasium” — now known as Davies Gymnasium — in 1925. A year later, the Anna resident would earn a teaching degree from SIU, and return 13 years later to claim a bachelor’s of education degree.
### Thursday, October 11
- **10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.**

### Friday, October 12
- **8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.**
  - Dental Hygiene Professional Seminar, guest speakers Sam Gordon, DDS, DSc, FRCD (C) and William Y Gregg, DDS, FAGD; The oral Physician: Selected Systemic Diseases and Dentistry and How to Listen so Patients will Talk – and talk so Patients will Listen; Student Center International Lounge/Auditorium.

- **8:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.**
  - Class of 1962 Registration, Student Center, Old Main Lounge, 2nd floor.

- **9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.**
  - Class of 1962 Brunch, Student Center, Old Main Lounge, 2nd floor.

- **9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon**
  - SIU Alumni Association Board of Directors meeting, Student Center.

- **10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.**

- **10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.**
  - Class of 1962 - Tour of Campus, meet between main and south entrance of Student Center.

- **12:00 noon - 1:30 p.m.**
  - SIU Alumni Association/SIU Foundation Joint Board Luncheon, Student Center, Ballroom D.

- **12:00 noon - 4:30 p.m.**

### Saturday, October 13
- **10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.**
  - University Museum Saluki Brunch, north end of Faner Hall door 12. Exhibits include something for everyone: Lions & Tigers & Bears, Oh My!; Photography by area high school students; Carbondale Community Arts’ Extraordinary Talent Come Home; Alumni Exhibits; Primo Angelii, Master Designer and Jerry Milew’s Political Satire Collection; College Student Exhibit; Southern Illinois Metalsmiths Society; EVERYONE INVITED.

- **10:00 a.m.**
  - Homecoming Parade. Downtown Carbondale. (Sponsored by SPC Homecoming Committee)

- **11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.**
  - ALUMNI TAILGATE. EVERYONE INVITED. Register for complimentary food and beverage, fun for kids, gather with fellow alumni, and visit with college and university officials Saluki Row (A program of the SIU Alumni Association).

- **2:00 p.m.**

- **6:34 p.m.**
  - 41st Annual Miss Eboness Pageant, Shryock Auditorium. (Sponsored by Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc.)

### Special Offers for Alums:

- **University Bookstore:** Hours are 8 a.m. - 6 p.m. Friday; 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. Saturday. Twenty percent discount on SIU-imprinted merchandise with your SIU Alumni Association membership card. For more information: 618-536-3321.

- **Student Recreation Center:** Alumni Special! Free use of facilities with your SIU Alumni Association membership card, during homecoming week, 5:30 a.m.-11 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 5:30 a.m.-10 p.m. Friday; 8 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday. Free boat rental at Campus Boat Dock. For more information: 618-453-2177, www.reccenter.siu.edu.

- **Student Center Bowling and Billiards:** Alumni Special! Bowling for $2 per game, $1 shoe rental, and $3 per hour billiards games. 9 a.m.-11 p.m. Friday; Noon-11 p.m. Saturday; 1 p.m.-9:30 p.m. Sunday. For more information: 618-453-2803.

### Alumni Tent To Again Be On Saluki Row

The SIU Alumni Association Homecoming Tent will once again be the meeting place for Salukis young and old. Entertainment and refreshments are free of charge for all alumni and friends. Please visit us at our new Homecoming Home on Saluki Row!
A Passion That Keeps Giving

The holiday season is an annual event for most. However, Francine Spacek is in the spirit all year long. Spacek aspired to be an interior designer since she was 8 years old and followed through with that passion by earning a degree from SIU Carbondale in 1970. She has been an interior designer for 35 years and has her own design firm – Francine Spacek Interiors, Inc. – located at 155 N. Michigan Ave. in Chicago.

Something else, however, often provides her with even more joy. While shopping at the Merchandise Mart for her design clients, Spacek was taken aback by the waste of beautiful fabric samples that had been discontinued and tossed in a dumpster. The SIU alumna decided to put this discontinued fabric to good use. Six years ago, she founded SEWonderful Quilts, a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization that recycles new but discontinued fabric into unique quilts. These quilts are gifted – free of charge – to children with life-threatening illnesses.

"It's a win-win because when a child receives a SEWonderful Quilt they are ecstatic, and also we're keeping the planet greener," she says. "Something as simple as selecting a quilt for themselves is truly empowering for these children, because they feel powerless under the circumstances."

"I really don't think they would be any happier if you gave them a million dollars. I had no idea the quilts would have the impact they do. There are no two alike; each quilt is as unique as each child. And although none of the quilts are sold, they are all priceless."

Once Spacek collects the material, she assembles quilt kits for volunteers. Each kit consists of enough coordinated fabric to make a crib-sized quilt, custom SEWonderful Quilt label and set of guidelines. She recruits volunteers through presentations at churches, senior citizen centers, quilt guilds, Boy Scout and Girl Scout troops, civic organizations, word of mouth, or any other group willing to support this effort. The only stipulation is that the quilts need to be 100 percent cotton and made on a sewing machine.

About half of the volunteers are quilters, and the rest are people who like to sew, she explains. "We have children who use SEWonderful quilts as their community service projects, as well as grandmothers who have been quilting for 65 years or more, making quilts for us."

As a member of the Alpha Gamma Delta sorority at SIU Carbondale, Spacek says her sorority's purpose is to give back to the community. But she feels that she gets back tenfold more than she gives. Currently, SEWonderful Quilts is gifting to 10 hospitals, two hospices, and two sexual abuse centers in the Chicago and central Illinois area, and Spacek either mails the quilts or delivers them personally. She sent a box of quilts to New Orleans in the wake of Hurricane Katrina and did the same after the tsunami in Japan last year.

The SIU alumna displays some quilts in a showroom that the Merchandise Mart provides to SEWonderful Quilts free of charge. Spacek says SEWonderful Quilts has received approximately 3,000 quilts, most of which have been distributed.

"You have no idea how therapeutic these quilts can be to the children and their parents," she says. "Children take their quilts with them to chemotherapy sessions, MRIs, spinal taps and other tests or doctor appointments. It's heartbreaking to watch these children go through this at such a tender age."

She says she hasn't made any quilts herself (or even owned one), although she enjoyed sewing in high school and college. While her interior design business is based in Chicago, she has clients nationwide, including California and New York.

"I'm not paid to operate SEWonderful Quilts … it's truly my passion. But it wouldn't have been possible without my career in interior design," Spacek says. "This allows me to merge my love of children with my creative ability. I am blessed to have discovered two passions in my life."

Because SEWonderful Quilts is a nonprofit 501(c) (3) organization, it will gladly accept 100 percent tax deductible contributions. If you would like to donate, have an interest in volunteering to make a quilt, or know a child eligible to receive a quilt, please contact Francine Spacek via phone at 312-307-7733, or e-mail: sewonderfulquilts@hotmail.com.
Full Speed Ahead

David Schwartz' Ride To Success Started At Southern

by Holly Fisher

Dave Schwartz' business motto can be summed up in one phrase: "Keep your foot on the gas." It's a fitting mantra for this fast-paced entrepreneur with a penchant for cars and 1999 alumnus who admittedly never slows down.

"Maybe I am a little insane," Schwartz says of his hectic work schedule. "I'm always working, trying to be one step ahead. I'm not one of the smartest people in the world, so I compensate by working as hard as I can and learning as much as I can."

It's a drive and focus Schwartz says he sharpened at Southern. In the 10 years between graduating and founding a multimillion dollar company, Schwartz cofounded Generation X Design Media while at SIU. As if starting a successful business in college wasn't enough, the 1998 Homecoming King and Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity member was involved in everything from Red Cross volunteerism to the SIU debate team to membership in organizations such as the Public Relations Student Society of America.

For the New Rochelle, New York, native, the Midwest was new ground, and SIU was the place where Schwartz defined himself.

"I really did go out and change myself in a way. I could just express myself," Schwartz says. The smaller, intimate setting of SIU not only supported him in the classroom but also on campus and in the community, where he seemingly knew everyone. "It was the perfect size, the perfect place for me. I achieved what I really wanted from my college experience."

A year after graduation, Schwartz sold Generation X to Diamond Players Club, LLC, a company owned by a group of major league baseball players. Schwartz led his next employer, FranchiseForSale.com, to a successful acquisition by Landmark Interactive, a subsidiary of Landmark Enterprises, the company that started The Weather Channel and Weather.com. Schwartz then helped produce Atlanta's PINK magazine's top three revenue-producing issues and increased Garden & Gun magazine's circulation 130 percent and rate base 33 percent.

His current company, Franchise Clique, secures qualified leads of people who have an interest in becoming franchise owners. His business doesn't broker the sale but simply provides the information. At that point, it's up to the franchisor to effectively work the leads, Schwartz says.

Schwartz admits his ideas aren't completely new — lots of industries do lead generation — but his approach of targeting qualified prospects and working hard keeps the company successful. Franchise Clique retains about 80 percent of its clients and continues to grow its staff, having hired new team members each quarter.

The business, Schwartz says, has more customers and more traffic than most of its competitors, but that doesn't mean Schwartz lets up. He's in the field, making sales calls, and being part of the team.

"I try to lead by example," he says. "I execute everything I say I'm going to do. I don't wait around for the opportunity to come to me. If I need something that creates more productivity, I won't wait..."
for a month for the budget to kick in. I'll get it that day.”

Schwartz has carefully crafted his team, putting together the best people he could find, even if that meant spending a little more on salaries. He knew the long-term payoff would be worth it.

“I like to surround myself with smart people who can make good suggestions that will help us be more efficient.” Schwartz’ entrepreneurial spirit and management skills coincide nicely with marketing franchises to other would-be entrepreneurs.

“Franchising provides a good method for making a living and being an entrepreneur,” Schwartz says. “As long as the location is correct, they provide you with a good, solid brand name. If you follow their system, they will provide you with a good business.”

The trick, though, is reaching those people who want to take that step into business ownership, and it’s a more difficult task than most people realize. Tremendous cost goes into this kind of lead generation – knowing where to spend the money and monitoring the return. Schwartz spends time on education as well as working with small franchisees, helping them reach the next level of success.

“I really feel people, in general, can make the most of opportunity. Everybody can be somebody,” says the SIU Alumni Association Life Member. “If you work hard and set goals, you will really accomplish what you want to accomplish.”

Learn more about Schwartz’ business at www.franchiseclique.com.

— Holly Fisher writes for the Charleston Regional Business Journal, where this story first was published. SIU Alumni Association staff writer Marleen Shepherd contributed to this report.

In 1998, Schwartz was SIU’s Homecoming King.

This organization receives financial support from allowing Liberty Mutual to offer this auto and home insurance program.

Get your feet wet, give your apartment a quick facelift, or donate to your alumni organization...whatever moves you most.

As a Southern Illinois University alum, you could save up to $343.90 on your auto insurance with Liberty Mutual. You could also enjoy valuable discounts tailored to the way you live today and save even more by insuring your home as well.
On a recent visit to Southern, Greg Mueller and Betty Strack pose in the greenhouse where the couple once worked alongside one another.

"Now there is more attention to trees as co-equal to their fungal partners," Mueller says.

**UNDER THE SCOPE AT SOUTHERN**

It's a role that was minimally understood when Mueller and his wife, Betty Strack '76, M.S. '79, found a mutual love of mushrooms and one another on the SIU campus.

"It's her fault," Mueller says of his fascination with fungi.

"They are totally different and more complicated than most people know," explains Strack, who manages the scanning electron microscope lab at the Chicago Field Museum of Natural History, where Mueller also spent 24 years as curator of fungi in the department of botany. Strack's favorite subject for scrutiny under the scope was mushrooms at Southern, where she worked in the lab of Dr. Walter Sundberg.

"They were lucky enough to be in my class, but more importantly, they were there with open minds," says Sundberg, an emeritus professor of plant biology who is recognized as an expert in the field of mycology, the scientific study of fungi.

"The field was totally open," reflects Mueller, now an internationally recognized mycologist himself. "They are fascinating, beautiful, and we know such little about them."

Soon the pair was working alongside one another in the SIU labs and greenhouse: The hands-on research opportu...
nities offered at Southern helped them see their education not as “memorizing a collection of facts” but “understanding science as a way to look at the world,” Mueller says.

“You're running your own experiments and getting results,” affirms Strack.

“Without those experiences, we wouldn't have known how much fun it was,” Mueller adds, “and how much work it is.”

As vice president for science and academic programs at the Chicago Botanic Garden, Mueller oversees research, training, and conservation programs that seek to protect plant life from a host of threats, including invasive species, loss of habitat, pollution, and climate change. Mueller is also an adjunct faculty member at University of Chicago, University of Illinois at Chicago, and Northwestern University.

Mueller passes on his knowledge to high school students and college undergraduates at the Chicago Botanic Garden through internship opportunities and classes.

“It's always great to have young people around and have the opportunity to teach them about something they didn't know. If you don’t know about something, how can you get excited about it?”

Surprisingly, there is plenty to get excited about.

**A WORLD OF POSSIBILITIES**

The wild, wonderful world of fungi is responsible for such great breakthroughs as beer, not to mention penicillin and a wide range of antibiotics. Applications are growing with each new discovery in the estimated 1.5 million species of fungi, only about 5 percent of which have been formally classified.

Fungi are found all over the world in a wide range of habitats, from the desert to the sea floor. Some species are even able to survive the radiation of space travel. Other forms of fungi have such amazing abilities as radioactive waste clean-up. The recent revelation of plastic-eating fungi in the Amazon may help solve the world’s waste problems.

What’s more? You can eat them! Well, a lot of them anyway. That’s what first attracted Joe McFarland to the mushroom. As an SIU college student living on macaroni and cheese and Ramen noodles, McFarland fondly remembered a mushroom hunt with his grandfather and decided to scavenge for something better. The trouble with eating mushrooms though, is that the wrong choices will kill you. Since McFarland didn’t trust any other mushrooms beyond what his grandfather had taught him, he sought out Dr. Sundberg.

“He patiently put up with me asking, ‘Are these edible? Are these edible?’” says McFarland, who would show up with specimens during Sundberg’s office hours. “I give credit to any professor willing to entertain a student of a different major. If not, so many of us would not find our true calling in life. Mycology was something I was casually interested in. Now it’s my life.”

McFarland didn’t go on to earn a degree in mycology, but he did end up with the nickname Mushroom Joe for good reason. He has studied mushrooms informally for 25 years and covered them extensively as a writer for the Illinois Department of Natural Resources’ magazine, _Outdoor Illinois_.

“There’s just something about the weird, puzzling world of fungi that just absolutely fascinates me,” says McFarland, calling it an “unexplored uni-
HOW TO MAKE BLACK TRUMPET DIP

The Black Trumpet is the most delicious wild mushroom in Illinois, agree Mueller and McFarland. Mushroom hunters will find these hollow, feather-light “funnels” between late May and September around oak woodlands in Illinois, but they’re hard to spot. Black Trumpets can also be found dried in specialty food shops where anyone can grab them easily.

Soak dried Black Trumpets in just enough cold water to cover, allowing the dirt to fall away, then carefully remove the clean mushrooms. (You can freeze wild Black Trumpets and save the strained liquid for other projects.) Crush the most delicious mushrooms by or chop the Black Trumpets. In a small saucepan, add Black Trumpets, diced button mushrooms, and cream.

Bring to a light simmer over medium heat, stirring occasionally, until cream is bubbly and mushrooms are tender. In a large mixing bowl, combine cream and mushrooms with cream cheese and blue cheese. Serve warm or chilled. Serves 10-20.

TIPS: Some people use a blender to transform this dip into a super-rich mushroom sauce for steaks, prime rib, or filet mignon. As a dip, you’ll want to leave the mixture a little chunky to showcase the ingredients. Also try serving the dip on a cracker with smoked salmon or smoked scallops. (Courtesy of www.illinoismushrooms.com.)

Ingredients

3/4 cup dried Black Trumpet mushrooms
3 button mushrooms diced
1 cup heavy cream or half and half
4 bricks (8 oz. ea.) cream cheese
3 tbsp. blue cheese or Gorgonzola
Salt and pepper to taste

Wild Black Trumpets are considered the most delicious mushrooms by experts Mueller and McFarland.

verse.” McFarland often consulted with Mueller on his articles for accuracy after the two hit it off at a conference at SIU’s Touch of Nature Environmental Center.

“I was terrified in the presence of professional scientists. I thought someone would thrust out a finger and say, ‘Remove this imposter from our presence,’” McFarland jokes. “Greg quickly put my fears to rest. It was refreshing to have a professional scientist turn out to be somebody funny and down to earth.”

HUNTING THE INCREDIBLE EDIBLES

After working together on numerous articles, McFarland and Mueller noted that information for amateur mushroom hunters was in demand. They started the website www.illinoismushrooms.com and co-authored a book, Edible Wild Mushrooms of Illinois and Surrounding States: A Field-to-Kitchen Guide.

“This book is an authority on the best edible mushrooms in the state of Illinois and their poisonous look-alikes,” says Mueller, who has authored six books and nearly 100 journal articles. “It includes multiple images and descriptions of both edible and poisonous mushroom species, in addition to information on where they can be found.”

The accessible field guide identifies 40 edible mushrooms, and if you think all mushrooms taste alike, McFarland will tell you to stuff it… in your mouth that is, and experience a multiplicity of flavors and textures that mimic everything from chicken breasts to succulent scallops. The book is peppered with mouth-watering mushroom recipes and is richly illustrated with dozens of images by Mueller and McFarland.

“They’re cool and weird and colorful. I love photographing them,” says McFarland, who leads the annual Giant City Early Summer Wild Mushroom Foray at Touch of Nature in June, a perfect time to pick out some of the Midwest’s most magically delicious mushrooms.

“The thing about foraging for wild mushrooms is almost anyone can do it, regardless of age and experience,” says McFarland, who waxes romantic about the lost art of rambling through the woods hunting hidden culinary treasures. “It is so important for these traditions to be passed down.”

You can create your own mushroom traditions with the book, available through Amazon, Barnes & Noble, and the University of Illinois Press.

“Our book encourages people to venture out and view nature in a different way,” says Mueller, who found his own mushroom wanderlust and professional passion in SIU’s Thompson Woods and nearby Giant City Park. “The scenic areas in southern Illinois presented us with some tremendous class and research opportunities.

“SIU totally transformed my life and got me where I am today.”
New Coach Looks To Lead Volleyball Dawgs To New Heights

The 2012 Saluki Volleyball season will usher in the Justin Ingram era, as the former Arkansas State University head coach begins his first campaign at SIU. The seventh head coach in program history brings 13 years of Division I coaching experience to Carbondale. He spent the last three years as the head coach at ASU, where he led the Red Wolves to an overall record of 60-33 and was named the 2011 Sun Belt Coach of the Year.

The Salukis were picked eighth in the MVC preseason coaches’ poll, with defending champion Northern Iowa the unanimous favorite to repeat as Valley champs. They return six starters and eight letter winners from a team that went 9-18 overall in 2011 and finished 10th in the conference with a 3-15 record in league play.

Southern, now in its 54th volleyball season, will have an offense led by a trio of attackers that each averaged more than two kills per set in 2011. Senior outside hitter Laura Thole ranked fourth in the MVC, while junior outside hitter Jessica Whitehead ranked fifth in the league. Senior middle blocker Alysia Mayes rounds out Southern’s top attackers.

Senior setter Rachael Brown returns as one of the Valley’s top assist performers.

Ingram hopes some fresh faces on the roster will turn things around for SIU this season. He added transfer Amy Drabant, along with freshmen Taylor Pippen, Mary Bogdanski, and Chelsea Cunningham.

In addition to Ingram, the Salukis begin the season with new assistant coaches Todd Nelson and Natasha Marquis. Nelson came to SIU after serving as the assistant coach for six seasons at the University of Denver, and Marquis comes to Southern after serving as head coach at Chardon State College.

“I am honored to be the head coach of the Saluki Volleyball program,” Ingram says. “SIU is located within a talented volleyball region and I look forward to continued success in attracting elite athletes to this incredible University.”

The SIU Volleyball schedule may be seen at www.siusalukis.com.

Men Picked First In Preseason Cross Country Poll

The SIU men’s cross country team is picked to win the Missouri Valley Conference in 2012. The Salukis received 74 points in the MVC preseason poll, including seven first-place votes. 2011 MVC champion Indiana State came in second with 65 points and one first-place vote.

The Saluki men return three all-MVC runners from last season – juniors Zach Dahleen and Brian Dixon, and sophomore Cole Allison. The Saluki trio combined for 11 top-10 finishes. “I think the ranking gives us confidence to perform, but we also know that there’s an ‘X’ on our backs this year,” says Head Coach Matt Sparks. “You have to come out and prove that ranking on race day.”

Southern’s women’s team was voted to finish fourth in the Valley, tallying 68 points and falling behind Wichita State, Bradley, and 2011 champion Illinois State, who all received first-place votes. The Saluki women lost Jamie Pfister, but return last season’s top runner Lacey Gibson. Gibson notched five top-20 finishes in seven meets last season, including two top-five finishes.

The 2012 MVC Championships will be held Oct. 27 in Normal, Ill.
Football Salukis Face Challenging League Schedule

The always challenging Missouri Valley Football Conference appears to be getting even better, and the 2012 Salukis hope some marked improvement on both sides of the ball will return them to their status as one of the league's top teams.

This will be the fifth season for SIU Head Coach Dale Lennon. In four seasons at the helm he already ranks second in school history in winning percentage and has two FCS Playoff appearances to his credit. Lennon was named SIU's 20th head coach in program history on Dec. 27, 2007. He guided the Salukis to back-to-back conference titles in 2008 and 2009, and was tabbed as the MVFC and AFCA Region IV Coach of the Year in both seasons.

This year his team is picked to finish the season seventh in the 2012 Valley preseason poll, after finishing 4-7 overall in 2011 and seventh in the conference with a 2-6 league mark. Four of those six conference losses were decided by eight points or less, and Southern returns 15 starters from last season's team. National Champion North Dakota State is selected to win the league title, and began the regular season as the top-ranked team in the country.

The preseason team features four Salukis. Defensive linemen Kenneth Boatright and Kayon Swanson earned preseason team honors along with tight end MyCole Pruitt and return specialist Steve Strother.

Boatright, a defensive end, is coming off of a breakout junior season in which he was an All-Conference Honorable Mention and earned a spot on the MVFC All-Newcomer team. He led the Salukis with 6.5 sacks and 13.5 tackles for loss. Swanson returns for his senior season at nose tackle after he was a second team All-MVFC selection in 2011. He led the team with 52 tackles and recorded four sacks and 9.5 tackles for loss. Pruitt lead SIU in receptions (43), receiving yards (562) and receiving touchdowns (three) as a redshirt freshman. Strother was a first-team selection as a return specialist in 2011, as he led the league with an average of 27.6 yards per kick return, which ranked 10th nationally.

"The theme for our offseason was 'Get Better,' Lennon says. "Last season, we were in every game, but for one reason or another we were not capable of winning those games – when you get right down to it, we need to be better both as players and as coaches. We are going to be a pretty experienced football team, and I think we have recruited some talented athletes who will be impact players."

"We're cautiously optimistic and feel we have the potential to be a good team, but until we prove it that will be up for speculation. The main objective in front of us right now is that we have to prove that we are better than seventh in the conference."

SIU opens league play Sept. 22 at Missouri State, and then has the MVC home opener Sept. 29 on Family Weekend. The 2012 Homecoming Game will be on Oct. 13 against Northern Iowa.

"Every schedule is challenging," Lennon says. "I like the fact that we have three non-conference games in a row so it doesn't break up our league schedule. When we get into the MVC we know it will be tough – this conference is amazing. From one to ten, anyone could be a contender ... it's that legitimate. And with South Dakota coming in, the league just got tougher."
Jacobs Pays Back A Fan –With Interest!

by Gene Green

Former Saluki running back Brandon Jacobs made a big impression during his years with the New York Giants as a key member of two Super Bowl Champions. Although he recently signed a free-agent contract with the San Francisco 49ers, that didn’t keep a 6-year-old Giants’ fan from reaching out to the 6-foot-4, 260-pound star.

The fan sent the SIU alumnus a letter containing $3.36 to see if those funds would help him stay with his favorite team. What happened next was rather amazing and one of many reasons why Jacobs continues to be held in such high regard by Salukis everywhere.

This is how Chuck Schilken described the scenario in the Los Angeles Times: "Brandon Jacobs recently received $3.36 from a young New York Giants fan who desperately wanted the running back to remain with his favorite team rather than switch to the San Francisco 49ers. Touched by the gesture, Jacobs decided to pay him back. In addition to a signed football helmet and a $5 bill — "some interest in there just for being a good kid," Jacobs said — he had a surprise for Joe Armento while he was back in the New Jersey area this summer getting his family ready for the move to the Bay Area.

Jacobs took Armento and his 4-year-old brother, as well as his own 5-year-old son, to the Jump On In "bounce house" in Boontown, N.J., for an unforgettable outing that lasted nearly two hours. According to Armento’s mother, Julie, he appeared to have as much fun as the boys did.

"He told me he really wanted to get out there with the kids," Julie Armento said in a phone interview. "He wanted to enjoy it, and he did. It was amazing."

Jacobs said: "It was just us in the whole place, and we were going room to room, bouncing and flipping all over the place, hitting each other with balls, sweat-

The letter that started it all contained $3.36 to try and keep Jacobs from leaving the Giants as a free agent.

From left, Nick Armento, Brandon Jacobs, Joe Armento, and Brayden Jacobs having fun at the bounce house.

Dear Mr. Jacobs:
My 6-year old son, Joseph, is a huge NY Giants fan. Last year he had the opportunity to go to a game, and he just couldn’t let that both you and I explained that the Giants are no longer with the team. When he asked me why you were going to SF I explained that the Giants did not have enough money to keep you, so I decided to convince you to return to NY by writing you the enclosed letter, and included money for you from his piggy bank.

Joseph is just learning to read / write so I will help you by translating his letter:

"Dear Brandon Jacobs.

So you could go to the Giants, here is my money
Love, Joe"

I hope this letter finds you well. Congratulations on the Super Bowl win! Our family will miss you next year, but we wish you all the very best in San Francisco.

Sincerely,

Julie Armento

of the 49ers’ Santa Clara practice facility. That meant the former SIU running back didn’t see the message until early June. When he finally got it, he says he called the Armentos the next day.

"When we first spoke, Brandon said he was genuinely touched by the letter and that it almost brought him to tears," Julie Armento recalled. "He also made sure to tell me that it came at just the right time for him."

Jacobs explains: "I’m at a point in my career where some people have stopped believing in me, not thinking I can still play. But that’s not the case. Joe believes in me, and that gave me a lot of confidence and a lot of want-to. I’m ready to go. I can’t wait for the season to start."

I’m sure SIU alumni and friends will be in his corner this season in San Francisco, as his actions certainly provide Saluki Pride.
by Pete Rosenberg

A rare Boeing B-29 Superfortress bomber, piloted by a 2006 Southern Illinois University Carbondale aviation program graduate, touched down for a brief visit to the region this summer. David Oliver '06 is the pilot of “FIFI,” the only remaining flying example of the B-29 Superfortress bomber and part of the Commemorative Air Force (CAF) squadron. The plane, along with a P-51 Mustang of the Cavanaugh Flight Museum, arrived June 18 at Southern Illinois Airport. “FIFI” was built late during World War II and used as a training aircraft, while the P-51D Mustang, built in 1944, was shipped to England and assigned to the 9th Air Force, 370th Fighter Group, 401st Fighter Squadron and flown by Lt. Hjalmar Johnsen. The two planes were part of a four-week tour that began May 18 throughout the eastern part of the United States and Canada. They are restored to their historic wartime configuration, says Oliver, a professional pilot and president of Hangar Workshop Productions.

Oliver says that while looking at logistics for the return trip to Dallas, he noticed the flight path took him over Carbondale, and he decided to stop. He got his start with the B-29 while filming the installation of new engines on the bomber. He was chosen as a volunteer flight operations officer for the squadron and moved into his permanent position in January.

“Normally we go to large cities and larger air shows, but this was a special event,” he notes. “It was nice to bring the airplane to Carbondale and share it with the University that gave so much to me. I hope everybody enjoys it.”

Gary Shafer MAPD '09, Southern Illinois Airport manager, says it was a “great honor” for the facility to host the event. “Veterans of this era will likely remember the impact these aircraft had on the outcome of that war,” he says.

As a fleet, the B-29 first flew in 1942 and began active service in 1944. The plane carried atomic bombs over Japan in August 1945 and was in service during the Korean War. The U.S. Air Force retired the plane in the early 1960s. “FIFI,” the B-29 that Oliver piloted, has a crew of about 14. At least two other crewmembers on the B-29 are SIU Carbondale aviation grads, but they were not aboard for this trip. The P-51 has a two-person crew, Oliver says. While a student at SIU Carbondale, Oliver was heavily involved in student organizations and the aviation program. He was the 2006 International Aerobatic Club (IAC) National Collegiate Aerobatic Champion and part of an SIU Carbondale-affiliated team.

“I had some great teachers, and they all applied themselves before and after class to get to know their students and invest in them as individuals, not just academic numbers or statistics,” Oliver says.
A man with direct ties to Southern Illinois University Carbondale is now the president of Ireland. Michael Higgins was elected last October for the center-left Labour Party. His seven-year term follows a long career as both a public servant and an educator, including a stop in Carbondale as a visiting professor almost 40 years ago.

Joe Zefran: We noticed when you were elected that you were a visiting professor at Southern Illinois University. What period of time you were there and how did you find yourself to be in Carbondale?

Michael Higgins: It was part of an exchange between what was then University College Galway (UCG) and Southern Illinois University. I had studied at Indiana University, so I had lived in the Midwest before and was teaching sociology and political science at UCG.

We had a connection with SIU because we had visiting scholars from Southern who had stayed with us at UCG. They needed somebody to actually go and exercise the Irish end of it. I was more or less volunteered to go to SIU in 1973 and taught two courses there at the undergraduate level. I taught a course on problems of contemporary United States and another on the sociology of the city. It was a great experience talking to young undergraduates.

It was during my period there that I got the news that I was being appointed to the senate for the first time, and I served there from 1973 to 1977.

JZ: Did you at any point have the “pleasure” of experiencing the heat and humidity of southern Illinois?

MH: Oh, yes, I did. We worked out how to purchase an air conditioner and perch it on the window and do all of those other cultural things that are associated with the Midwest. I call it the land between the rivers. You are right about the weather, but you just get on with it and sometimes maybe you go a bit slower.

JZ: Did you know what a Saluki was before you arrived in Carbondale?

MH: No, I had seen this dog, but knew nothing at all about it.

JZ: What do you think of local democracy in the U.S., where school boards and must everything else are elected?

MH: I think local involvement in education is good, but to be effective, it must be combined with other things. This is part of the difficulty with the Irish state at times. You must not only be elected but also have to have the wherewithal to implement policy.

I had to accept, as a young Irish person teaching at SIU, the sheer variety of the United States experience. There were differences between people in Carbondale and even those from Chicago. The United States is an enormous continent of diversity and variety.

JZ: Is there anything you learned when you were at SIU that you now use as president or you used as a member of the Irish parliament and senator?

MH: As a teacher, I learned that you are challenged to be effective in a short period of
time. There is ground to be made up by some of the undergraduates you're teaching, and at the postgraduate level, the availability of resources – be it in terms of books, journals, etc. – is much more apparent. I enjoyed returning to SIU in 1996 when I spoke about exile and the Irish and the theme of immigration in Irish folk culture.

JZ: Any plans to visit again, either personally or officially as president?

MH: I'd love to. If this great institution of the Midwest wants to make contact with the Department of Foreign Affairs at the Aras (Ireland's version of the White House), I would be happy to consider such a visit.

JZ: You were in the Teachta Dala (Irish Parliament) for many years, and now you are president. Do you miss what goes into creating legislation, or are you glad to be out of the viper's pit?

MH: I was a representative for the west of Ireland. I won that seat, more or less carved it out, and kept it for 25 years. It had been 1926 since a Labour candidate had been elected from Galway. Do I miss it? Not enormously. I've been in every elected office, been mayor of Galway twice, I'd been a TD, and was Minister for Arts, Culture and the Gaeltacht (Irish-language regions). Then in 1996, I was president of the Council of Culture Ministers in Europe.

When that was all over, I went back to being a spokesperson for the Labour Party in foreign affairs, an area in which I am still interested.

I actually appreciate where I am now. I don't speak on matters that are current policy or legislation, but I do speak about issues such as poverty, unemployment, or immigration. That suits my temperament at the present time, I remain in a mind of constructive pessimism sometimes, but at the same time, I believe in the utopian vision. Only when we continually see alternative futures, can we make our best contribution.

I do think it is a time of intellectual crisis; there's no doubt whatsoever. In Europe, after the World Wars, you had a period of Keynesianism. (Keynesian economists believe that total spending in the economy does not necessarily equal supply).

I agree with the professors who argue that markets are not rational. I think the idea of assuming that people are irrational and that markets are rational is a dangerous assumption. We have to try and construct a form of economy that is responsible to the people. I am in favor of a political economy within a culture that carries ethics, not as a burden, but as something to be aspired to and implemented.

JZ: Thank you so much for your time. I'm sure SIU alumni and friends appreciate your insights and little history lesson.

MH: I wish them all well, and want them to know that all these years later, I'm still listening to Willie Nelson!

Joe Zefran was a Cinema & Photography major at SIU and eventually became editor of Ireland's largest news website, RTE.ie. He currently lives in his hometown of Chicago and produces the National Public Radio program "Smiley & West."
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AN OLYMPIC-SIZED LIFE
Angeli has consistently created "The Look of the Games," starting with the 1996 Olympics. His firm beat out 500 others for the honor of charting its visual landscape, and he has worked with the Olympics ever since, designing for events including the 1998 Winter Olympics in Nagano, Japan, and the 2002 Games. Above right, Angeli unveils the Olympic banner and poster for Atlanta with Olympic Committee President Juan Samaranch.

WORLD-RENOWED GRAPHIC DESIGNER STARTED AT SOUTHERN

BY MARLEEN SHEPHERD

Holding a phone interview with Primo Angeli is like racing a train. Other phones in the background never stop ringing, and he keeps trying to shoo me off. I'm not offended. The man is releasing a third book on his world-famous designs this month, launching an online poster store, pursuing "new avenues of design and communication," and helping prepare the retrospective of his life's work for the University Museum's major fall exhibit.

At 80 years old, Angeli is still a powerhouse—a major player in the fields of branding, corporate identity, packaging, and naming. "We're just loaded," he says, "working mainly with a lot of our friends, and having another roaring time."

While you may not be familiar with his name, Angeli's iconic designs are branded into the national psyche—from Capri Sun to Conoco motor oil to the Olympics. He has created consistently for the event starting with the 1996 Games in Atlanta and continuing with this year's official U.S. poster. In 1991, he created the 29-cent stamp that commemorated the 50th birthday of U.S. savings bonds. Major clients have included Nestlé, Miller, Ben & Jerry's, Coca-Cola, Guinness, Intel, Stroh's Brewery, Levi Strauss, General Foods, General Mills, Banana Republic, Xerox, Hyatt Hotels, Bank of America, Visa, Wells Fargo, Standard Oil, Qantas, and The San Francisco Giants.

There are so many, even he can't keep track of them all. But whenever Angeli stalls, his witty wife, Deanie, rattles off stats in the background. Although it's more accurate to say she's in the foreground, "We work closely together because she's a lot more intelligent than me," explains Angeli. The couple will soon celebrate 50 years of marriage. "I give her most of the credit for..."
bringing me around in a strong direction to do what I really wanted to do. What I had to do was make it profitable.”

And profitable it would become. It’s a success story that began with an SIU education. In 1949 Angeli embarked on what he believed would be a career in chemistry. After his first class, the professor called him into his office and offered to pass him with a D-if he promised never to take chemistry again. Angeli took a break from school, working in West Frankfort, Ill., where his family operated various ventures including a hotel and restaurant, a nightclub, and a vending machine business. He also served in the military, where he remembers painting symbols on cannons as an artilleryman in the Army.

Throughout his life, he dabbled with drawing, but didn’t feel he had a particular talent for it. “Nothing fabulous, but I valued that expression.” Angeli didn’t take that interest seriously until he stepped back onto the SIU campus. What he found was nothing short of a revolution.

A rift at Chicago’s Institute of Design begat an exodus of designers and artists, some of whom landed at SIU. Designer Harold Cohen was one of them. Cohen was invited to form SIU’s new design program in 1955 at the behest of President Delyte Morris, “a proponent of educational innovation and advancement,” says Herb Meyer, who entered the program with Angeli in 1956, beginning a lifelong friendship. “The early design department excited everybody who learned about it. It was the scene of constant creative thought, experiment, and activity.”

Under Cohen’s leadership the department’s reputation for creative freedom attracted such visionaries as New York City designer Herbert Roan and the legendary R. Buckminster Fuller. All three played a role in Angeli’s education.

“It was the golden days, that’s for sure,” says Angeli, who earned his bachelor’s in graphic design in 1957, and entered the department’s first master’s degree program along with Meyer and only two other classmates. “It was a fan-
tastic opportunity to have surfaced for us at that time.”

In the summer of '59, master's degree in hand, Angeli set out for the West when “everything else in graphic design was happening on the East Coast.” Still, new companies springing up “took a chance on my developing designs and logos for them. Although initially the budgets weren't too generous, I was interested in doing excellent design work and having fun doing it.”

By 1967, Angeli had founded his own company, which would eventually employ 60 people in three offices in the United States. Angeli remained intimately involved in his team's work. He thrived on the collaborative process in which he says the best idea always won out, even if it wasn't his.

“It takes a special person to keep track of that much talent and make such good use of it as he did,” says Meyer, retired director of University Photocommunications at Southern.

In the decades that followed, Angeli authored three design books including the soon-to-be-released Celebratory Posters. His work is part of permanent collections and exhibitions worldwide including the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Smithsonian, the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, the Warsaw poster collection, and the Centre Pompidou in Paris.

In 1958, on the main floor of the new Morris Library, Angeli browses a traveling exhibit on American typography arranged by one of his major inspirations at Southern, design instructor Herb Roan. Roan regularly brought in work from his contacts in New York where he was a prominent professional graphic designer. Angeli is shown with Roan's daughter, Toni. Bottom left: Angeli poses in his football uniform as a high school student in West Frankfort, Ill. (Photos courtesy of Herb Meyer)

In 1999, Angeli sold his firm, and with Deanie, moved to Italy from where his parents emigrated. They made a home there in the neighborhood of Angeli's many cousins. Recently they returned to California, and Angeli enjoys working independently on favorite projects – especially posters, which he calls his hobby – and teaching.

He is also looking forward to visiting his alma mater for the University Museum exhibit, “Primo Angeli: A Retrospective of Posters, Design and Brand Identity.” It includes more than two dozen posters, packaged products, and a modular interior design series Angeli created. After six decades, it's a body of work that just keeps growing.

“Do you ever slow down?” I ask.

“No I can't. I love what I do.”

Angeli designed the poster for his University Museum retrospective, which runs through December.
Eight Elected To National Board

Smith To Lead Association; Eight Elected To National Board

Barry Smith ’80, president for Regions Bank in Western Kentucky, has assumed duties as president of the SIU Alumni Association’s National Board of Directors. Smith took over the organization’s leadership on July 1, replacing Ray Serati ’59, who will continue to serve on the board.

An Eldorado native, Smith was a four-year basketball standout at Southern, scoring 1,066 points as a Saluki from 1977-80. Now a Paducah, Ky., resident, he has served on the board of directors of the Paducah Area Chamber of Commerce, the Greater Paducah Economic Development Corp, and the Carson Center. His wife, Amy, is also a 1980 graduate of SIU and was a Marching Saluki and member of the Pom Pon squad.

“We appreciate the willingness of alumni to serve on the Association Board and provide support for the University,” says SIU Alumni Association Executive Director Michelle Suarez. "I look forward to working with the newly elected members, and know that Barry will do an outstanding job as the organization's president.”

In addition to Smith’s new role, the following SIU alumni were elected to the board through votes of dues paying members of the SIU Alumni Association.

Elected to four-year terms were:

Gary Heflin ’89, the new business development manager for GHE Enterprises, has been actively involved with his alma mater since leaving Carbondale. Heflin, who coordinated the SIU Black Affairs Council while a student at Southern, has been one of the leaders in the SIU Black Alumni Group (BAG), and served as the organization’s treasurer from 2009 to 2011. Professionally he has experience in sales and managerial duties with companies such as Coca-Cola USA, Quaker Oats, Barton Beers, Gallo Wine, and Sara Lee. He lives in Chicago, III.

Marion native Larry Mieldezis ’86 is chief operating officer for the Atlanta-based Liaison Corp., a company that specializes in integration and data management services and allows companies to connect electronically with business partners. In 2011, as an alternative to offshore outsourcing, Liaison set up shop in Carbondale at the Dunn-Richmond Center as a customer service center, and that office continues to grow. Larry has been on the board since 2010, appointed to fill out the term of the late Cleveland Hammonds. Larry and his wife, Amy ’90, live in Flowery Branch, Georgia, and have six children.

For the past 16 years Rick Wysocki ’83, M.S. ’84 has served as president and owner of Language Services LLC. A native of the Jersey Shore, he now lives in Orland Park, Ill. He was a four-year letterman on the SIU baseball team from 1980 to 1983, and his wife, Karen ’83, was a Saluki Shaker. Rick was a graduate assistant at the SIU Student Recreation Center and a member of Eta Sigma Gamma national health honorary. He regularly attends many SIU events throughout the year and is actively involved with the baseball field renovation committee in efforts to restore and renovate Abe Martin Field at SIU.

Reelected to four-year terms were:

Winston Calvert ’02, an attorney at Armstrong Teasdale LLP in St. Louis, has served on the Southern at 150 Financial Resources Committee, Southern Illinois Symphony Orchestra Patrons Committee, Washington University School of Law Alumni Executive Committee, Washington University Distinguished Faculty Award Selection Committee, and event committees for the Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis and Opera Theatre of Saint Louis. He and his wife, Amanda ’02, ’04, have a son.

Dorothy (Dede) Lingle Ittner ’61 of Carbondale provided literacy instruction and learning style assessment in the John A. Logan College Adult Education program before her retirement. Five generations of her family have attended Southern Illinois University, and her father was long-time SIU coach “Doc” Lingle. She and her late husband, Bill, have three children and seven grandchildren. Dede is creator and facilitator of the ongoing Carbondale Oral History Project.

Mike Kasser ’78, a Certified Public Accountant and CFO of Southern Illinois Healthcare in Carbondale, has served as treasurer for the SIU Alumni Association’s National Board and now becomes president-elect of the organization. He has been a school board member and treasurer in Carbondale, and was president of the Southern Illinois Chapter of the Healthcare Financial Management Association. Mike and his wife, Jill ’79, ’00, have two daughters.

Ray Serati ’59 of Springfield, Ill., recently completed his term as president of the SIU Alumni Association Board. He was named the “Outstanding Journalism Graduate” at SIU during his senior year, and for many years he worked in the Illinois Capitol Press Corps covering all facets of state government and politics. He and his wife, Margaret, have three children and five grandchildren.

Ben Weinberger ’01 is co-founder and CEO of Digitalsmiths, a company started in 1998 which has grown from a two-person college business into a market-leading technology company. Digitalsmiths entered the entertainment industry in 2001 when it introduced its proprietary technology platform, Media Access Pro® and later InScene™, a ground-breaking software platform allowing clients to search massive amounts of film and television content in a simple way. While a student at SIU, Ben worked at the Association, and designed the organization’s first website. He and his wife, Jill ’99, have a daughter. They live in Chapel Hill, N.C.
11th Annual Saluki Family Day

The Chicago White Sox Steering Committee and the SIU Alumni Association hosted more than 75 alumni and friends at a game between the Chicago White Sox and Houston Astros. The event featured a tailgate prior to the game for alumni to enjoy a complimentary meal and the opportunity to socialize with fellow Salukis.

SIU Day At Target Field

The Greater Minnesota Chapter of the SIU Alumni Association hosted 60 alumni and friends at a game between the Minneapolis Twins and Chicago White Sox. There was an optional pregame gathering at Kieran's Irish Pub, located across the street from the stadium. Max Orenstein and Dean Andrew coordinated the event, and Zachary Sapienza attended on behalf of the SIU Alumni Association.

SIU Day With The Round Rock Express

The Austin/San Antonio Chapter of the SIU Alumni Association hosted more than 30 alumni and friends to a minor league baseball game between the Round Rock Express and Memphis Redbirds. After the game, several Salukis stayed for a free concert being held at the ballpark that night. Tara Jansen and Kristin Crawford coordinated the game outing.

35th Annual SIU Day At Wrigley

The SIU Alumni Association and George Loukas '73 hosted more than 500 alumni and friends to an afternoon game between the Chicago Cubs and the St. Louis Cardinals. Prior to the game, alumni gathered for a pregame meal and refreshments at the Cubby Bear. SIU Carbondale Chancellor Rita Cheng, SIU Men's Basketball Coach Barry Hinson, and SIU Director of Athletics Mario Moccia were in attendance. Michelle Suarez, Brent Zelten, Gene Green, and Zachary Sapienza attended the event on behalf of the Association.

SIU Day With The RoughRiders

The Dallas/Ft. Worth Chapter of the SIU Alumni Association hosted more than 30 alumni and friends to SIU Day with the RoughRiders. Salukis watched the Frisco RoughRiders take on the San Antonio Missions. Complimentary food and beverages were provided on the Dr. Pepper Patio, and all received a free RoughRiders baseball cap. Director of Corporate Relations Kathy Dillard attended for the SIU Alumni Association, and was joined by Associate Director for Development and Alumni Relations Jill Gobert. Chapter leaders Paul and Babs Piche, Roberta Tolen, and Catherine Ursprung assisted with the activities.

Greater Michigan Alumni Picnic

The Greater Michigan Chapter of the SIU Alumni Association hosted 70 alumni and friends to a picnic at Kensington Metropark in Brighton, Mich. Chapter representatives grilled up a feast which included barbecue pulled pork, brats, and several sides. SIU Automotive Technology Chairman Mike Behrmann was the guest of honor and conducted a short presentation about the new Transportation Education Center. Other SIU staff and faculty in attendance were Associate Vice-Chancellor for Development and Alumni Relations Jeff Lorber, Associate Director for Development and Alumni Relations Kevin Lister, Associate Professor of Automotive Technology Sean Boyle, and Director of Off-Campus Alumni Programs Zachary Sapienza. Chapters leaders Chris Micha, Dale Hall, Kent Wilson, and Chad O'Brien helped coordinate the event.
**1930s**

Ella May (Ohms) Gross, who earned her two-year teaching certificate from Southern in 1931, celebrated her 102nd birthday on May 5. Gross was a charter member and corresponding secretary of the Newman Club, founded at SINU in 1928. The Red Bud, Ill., resident has one son, one daughter-in-law, two grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren. Her son, Albert Gross M.S. Ed. '83 is a retired teacher of seventh grade and special education residing in Evansville, Ill., and reports that his mother is doing well for her age.

**1950s**

The brothers of Iota Phi Theta fraternity honored Seymour Bryson '59, M.S.Ed. '61, Ph.D. '72, Theta fraternity honored retired from Southern in 2010 '61, Ph.D. '72 chancellor for diversity, after serving as the associate Service Award. Bryson, who chapter's annual Community 1950s her age. his mother is doing well for education residing in children, and five great-grandchildren. Her son, Albert Gross M.S. Ed. '83, Todd Bryson M.S. Ed. '08, and Keri Young '01, M.S. Ed. '04.

**1960s**

In celebration of 25 years on the air, Bob Hardcastle, Money Talk returns to "The Big 550" KTRS in St. Louis. Through Money Talk, the 1963, M.S.'64 alumnus has helped individuals better understand the complexities of financial planning. Over the years, the president of Delta Investment Services Inc. has welcomed guests from the metro area and around the globe, giving myriad insights on finances. Hardcastle, who was a standout baseball player at SIU, retired from Southern in 2010 after serving as the associate chancellor for diversity, continues to serve part time with the university's Head Start program and assist with fund raising for Saluki Way and for Project Hope and Opportunity.

At SIU, he held many positions, including affirmative action officer, special assistant to the president for affirmative action, and director for the Center for Basic Skills (now the Center for Academic Success). His resume includes service as executive assistant to the chancellor and the president. The fraternity awarded Bryson for his distinguished community service and involvement in a variety of professional associations, commissions, and organizations.

He’s also a 1992 inductee into the Illinois Basketball Coaches Association Hall of Fame as well as the Quincy High School and SIU Halls of Fame. In mid-2009, the circle drive in front of the Student Center became Seymour L. Bryson Circle Drive in honor of his contributions to the University. Bryson and his wife, Marjorie '75, M.S. Ed. '86, are the parents of three children: Robin Bryson '83, Todd Bryson M.S. Ed. '08, and Keri Young '01, M.S. Ed. '04.

**Book Describes Amazing Prep Baseball Season**

One Shot at Forever: A Small Town, an Unlikely Coach, and a Magical Baseball Season "tells how the 1971 Macon, Ill., Ironmen made an amazing run to the state final behind their free-spirited coach, Lynn Sweet '66," says author Chris Ballard. "The book is about more than that though. It's about fathers and sons, and coaches, and small-town pride, and the way we treasure our high school memories." One of the main characters is former SIU baseball standout Steve Shartzer ex '76, whose storied career at Macon High School is highlighted in the book. The team finished second in the IHSA single-class state baseball tournament, the smallest school in history to make it that far. Also mentioned is Association life member Joe Cook '65, who worked in the sports department at the Decatur Herald & Review during that season. Ballard did an excerpt on the book in Sports Illustrated this summer, and that may be viewed at: sportsillustrated.cnn.com/2012/writers/chris_ballard/05/17/oneshot.excerpt/index.html. The book is available on www.amazon.com.
Dr. Tom Martin Ex '69 has penned *In the Shade of the Big Oaks*, a collection of stories, poems and photographs from the Shawnee hills. The book reflects on Martin's youth in the isolated river town of Shawneetown in 1950s southern Illinois and his returning as the sole town physician for 30 years. Martin was one of two SIU students in 1969 admitted to medical school prior to graduating. "SIU med school did not yet exist," says Martin, who graduated from Stritch School of Medicine at Loyola University in Chicago in 1973. His brother, Travis Martin '69, is also a physician who graduated from Stritch-Loyola in 1974 and is director of emergency services at Valley View Hospital in Glenwood Springs, Colo. "We both have fond memories of attending SIU. Great school! I had Dr. Haas in chemistry. We go back a ways." Dr. Neckers and Van Lente in ical school included. Trav had cellular biology and vertebrate anatomy. Dr. Tom Martin Ex '69, M.D. '76 was recognized as Mentor of the Year by SIU med school prior to graduating. "SIU med school did not yet exist," says Martin, who graduated from Stritch School of Medicine at Loyola University in Chicago in 1973. His brother, Travis Martin '69, is also a physician who graduated from Stritch-Loyola in 1974 and is director of emergency services at Valley View Hospital in Glenwood Springs, Colo. "We both have fond memories of attending SIU. Great school! I had Dr. Haas in chemistry. We go back a ways." Dr. Neckers and Van Lente in ical school included. Trav had cellular biology and vertebrate anatomy.

**1970s**

Richard Gibson '70, a CPA by profession, has published *A Celebration of State Capitals*. While photographing the 50 state capitols and doing research about their unique histories, he collaborated with historians, curators, and archivists from every state to ensure each state's information's accuracy. Gibson says that the project took more than two decades, resulting in a comprehensive text that presents authoritative information on all 50 capitols. The book is illustrated with more than 1,100 color photographs and features memorabilia such as capitol collectibles and vintage photographs and postcards. Learn more about the book or purchase a copy by visiting [www.capitolcelebrations.com](http://www.capitolcelebrations.com).

**Elizabeth Lewin '70, M.A. '71** is president of the board for Southern Illinois Regional Social Services and was part of the negotiating team in the agency's merger with The H Group. She also serves as an appointee of the Illinois State Board of Education, assigned with overseeing the use of state funding in the Cairo schools. Lewin is clinical assistant professor of SIU's department of educational administration and higher education. She is also former superintendent and board member of Carbondale Elementary School District 95. In May, Lewin was named as a 'Leader Among Us' by the *Southern Business Journal*.

**Jim Sumner '70** is the recipient of the National Poultry and Food Distributors Association Industry Lifetime Achievement Award. Sumner is president of the USA Poultry & Egg Export Council and serves on the executive committee of the U.S. Agricultural Export Development Council, representing approximately 80 U.S. agricultural commodity trade associations, farmer cooperatives, and state regional trade groups throughout the nation.

Family medicine physician **Larry Jones '73, M.D. '76** was chosen as Mentor of the Year by first-year medical students at SIU School of Medicine. Jones was honored for his work as a volunteer mentor to the students during their first year in Carbondale. Jones is a founding physician of Primary Care Group in Harrisburg, Ill. He has received numerous awards for teaching and patient care, including Family Physician of the Year from the Illinois Academy of Family Physicians (2011), Rural Practitioner of the Year (2010), the Alumni Achievement Award from SIU College of Science (2010), and the SIU School of Medicine Distinguished Alumni Award (2002).

**Sheldon L. Rosenzweig '73** was recognized by the Tuscaloosa (Alabama) County Bar Association for his work with indigents and others with significant substance abuse issues. Rosenzweig received the Liberty Bell Award, given annually to a non-attorney who has provided the legal community with support and service. Rosenzweig is coordinator of the substance abuse prevention and treatment program at the Indian Rivers Mental Health Center in Tuscaloosa. Rosenzweig is married to forensic and clinical psychologist Marianne G. Rosenzweig '73.

**Kenneth "Fog" Gilbert '74, M.A. '90,** under the pen name Jacob Erin-Cilberto, has published a new collection of poetry. *Used Lanterns* contains 71 poems that cover topics ranging from growing up with a Catholic background to reflections on adolescent love. Gilbert is an English teacher at John A. Logan and Shawnee community colleges, and he teaches workshops for several regional writers' guilds. *Used Lanterns* is available at Amazon.com.

**Julie Titone '74** is co-author of the book *Boooco Dinky Dow: My Short, Crazy Vietnam War* (www.shortcrazyVietnam.com). The book resulted from a collaboration with a graphic artist at the *Idaho Statesman*, where Titone went to work after graduation from SIU. She earned a master's in communications from Ohio State University, where she was a fellow with the Kiplinger Program in Public Affairs Journalism. She is enjoying her second career in academic communications, having worked at the University of Notre Dame and at Washington State. Her freelance articles and photographs have appeared in regional, national, and international publications, and she has penned essays in three college textbooks. "I'm very eager to see what lies ahead," Titone wrote to the Association. "My best to all in Salukiland."

**Gary Cox '76** is owner and winemaker of Ellensburg Canyon Vista Winery in Ellensburg, Wash. The wine is made exclusively from grapes produced from the 17-acre Cox Canyon Vineyard. One gold, one silver, and three bronze medals, as well as an Outstanding/Best Buy from *Wine Press Northwest Magazine*, have been awarded to wines made of grapes from Cox Canyon Vineyard. Visit Cox Canyon Vineyard online at [www.CoxCanyon.com](http://www.CoxCanyon.com).

After nearly 25 years of government legal work and working for private employers in southern Illinois, **Larry Lauterjung '76, J.D. '88** opened a solo private legal practice in Marion, Ill. Lauterjung was a public defender in both Jackson and Williamson counties, managed nine probation departments in the First Judicial Circuit, and worked as legal counsel for two of the area's largest bankruptcy firms.

**Sam Goodin '79, M.S. Ed. '83**, is director of Disability Support Services at SIU
Jack Musgrave '79, M.S. Ed. '84, interim director of Southern's Evaluation and Developmental Center, was recognized at the "Faculty and Staff Excellence Awards" in May. Musgrave has been with the comprehensive rehabilitation facility since 1984 when he began as rehabilitation counselor before quickly moving to chief rehabilitation counselor within a year. He became interim director in 2009. The center provided services to more than 300 clients during fiscal year 2011. Musgrave has published more than 25 articles in peer-reviewed journals and acquired grants in excess of $4 million.

Diana Sharp M.S. Ed. '79 is the principal and chief academic officer of the Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy. "IMSAS's national reputation for preparing highly qualified students for advanced study in STEM fields is unparalleled in the state of Illinois, and I am so honored to be chosen to continue this important work for our state and our nation," Sharp says.

Lt. Gen. Larry Spencer '79 has been nominated by the president for appointment to the rank of general and appointed to fill the second-highest ranking position in the Air Force: vice chief of staff. Spencer is director of force structure, resources, and assessment, supporting the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff at the Pentagon. Spencer develops capabilities, conducts studies, analysis and assessments, and evaluates plans, programs, and strategies for the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Spencer received his bachelor's in industrial engineering technology from Southern and was commissioned through Officer Training School in 1980 as a distinguished graduate. Later, he became the first Air Force officer to serve as assistant chief of staff in the White House Military Office. Spencer has received numerous honors, including the Distinguished Service Medal and the Defense Superior Service Medal.

1980s

Donna Erbs '80 was named The Association for Accounting Marketing's 2012 Marketer of the Year. "Achieving this national recognition for my work, especially as it relates to mentoring young professionals in business development strategies, introducing them to a marketing culture, and helping them develop into savvy business people as well as great technicians, was just beyond words for me," says Erbs, marketing director at Anders Minkler & Diehl, LLP.

Four-degree alumnus Larry Peterson will retire as president of Shawnee Community College in November. Peterson '80, '83, M.S. Ed. '87, Ph.D. '02 spent 30 years of his life in education. He attended Carbondale schools through junior high school and transferred to Goreville for high school before attending SIU. He began his education career coaching and teaching at Carbondale Community High School and eventually served at John A. Logan College as an assistant coach for women's basketball and an academic adviser. He worked at JALC for 20 years, the last five as vice president for administration.

Carol Sluzevich '80 of Benton, Ill., created Mentors 4 Kids, an organization that has matched 22 children with mentors and has a waiting list of more than 40 children. Sluzevich is also a court-appointed special advocate for Franklin County children and a Big Sister.

WGN newsroom coordinator Judy Pielach '82 was promoted to the position of managing editor. In her new role, Pielach is leading day-to-day operations of the WGN Radio news department and will also continue as the station's midday news anchor. Pielach joined WGN Radio in 1986 and has won several awards during her career. Her 2008 series on her struggle with breast cancer, "Why Not Me?," and the Chicago native's 2007 series on suburban teen heroin addiction, "Smack in the Suburbs," earned her two Edward R. Murrow awards from the Radio and Television News Directors Association.

Donald Torry '82, M.A. '85, Ph.D. '89 has been chaired name of the chair of the department of medical microbiology, immunology, and cell biology at the SIU School of Medicine. Torry is a professor in the department of obstetrics and gynecology and director of the Year 2 curriculum for the School of Medicine. Torry was honored in 2011 with a lifetime achievement award for reproductive immunology research from the American Society for Reproductive Immunology. After 28 years working at the Chicago Sun-Times, former managing editor Andrew Herrmann '83 has been named editor-in-chief of the Sun-Times Media's west suburban publishing group, which includes three dailies: the Naperville Sun, the Aurora Beacon-News, and the Elgin Courier-News. Before he was named managing editor in 2009, he'd been a section editor, Sunday editor, assistant city editor, religion editor, editorial writer, columnist, and reporter. For 10 years, he also appeared as a regular guest on The John Williams Show with a week-in-review segment on news/talk WGN-AM (720). Herrmann has won numerous reporting awards.

Macedonian director Milcho Manchevski '83, renowned for passionately sharing the story of his country's ethnic divisions, received this year's Central European Initiative Prize of the Trieste Film Festival. The award honored his 30-year career as a writer, photographer, film critic, screenplay writer, and director of films, music videos, and commercials. You can learn more about his work at www.manchevski.com.

Jim Lewis, '84, M.S. Ed. '86 was among a select group of people from across the country to receive a 2012 President's Council on Fitness, Sports and Nutrition Community Leadership Award. The award is presented annually in recognition of recipients' efforts to improve the lives of others by making sports, physical activity, and fitness and nutrition-related programs available in their communities. Lewis is associate professor of human performance and health educ
Michael Dreith '88 is president of John A. Logan College in Carterville, Ill. Dreith brings more than 25 years of community college experience to JALC. His background includes being the first Illinois community college graduate to become an Illinois community college president. Dreith previously served as the president of Western Texas College. Dreith started his career in newspapers, television, and ultimately as a radio news broadcaster and commentator. Dreith joined the faculty at Lewis and Clark Community College in Godfrey in 1986 teaching radio, public speaking, and humanities. There he served as associate dean of liberal arts and business and as an assistant professor of mass communications.

Pardie is the university's chief academic officer and holds the second highest administrative position at the university. She has served as chairman of the psychology department, interim associate dean of the college of liberal arts and sciences, associate vice chancellor for graduate education and research, and as interim provost since January 2011.

John Brocar '88 is the director of fraud and forensic recovery practice at Ryan, a leading global tax services firm. Prior, he was vice president of the fraud risk solutions division of a global software firm and held senior management positions at national consulting firms in business intelligence and investigations, and financial advisory services. Brocar is a frequent speaker and instructor at various seminars on fraud prevention, database analytics, and investigative topics. He holds a bachelor's in administration of justice from Southern and is a certified fraud examiner and certified forensic interviewer.

Ed Hamilton '88 is the new chairperson of the SIU College of Business Dean's Executive Advisory Board. Hamilton, a member of the group since 2005, recently retired as managing director/head of loan trading for Bank of America Securities, LLC. He resides in Charlotte, N.C., with his wife, Monica, and three sons. Also chosen to serve on the board are Betty Brennan '89, Sean Boston '92, and Sunil Sinha M.B.A. '98. The board is comprised of active business professionals who serve as consultants to the dean, faculty, and staff of the college.

Following a successful track record of 23 years with University Health Services at the University of Texas at Austin, Jamie Shutter '88,
dedication to enhancing safety. Blaylock, of Gillette, Wyo., has been a member of ASSE’s Mining Practice Specialty for three years, and for the past year has served as its membership chair. Blaylock has trained and led award-winning mine rescue teams who have not only performed well in competitions, but also have used their skills to enhance safety and save lives in the workplace.

Illinois State Police District 13 in Du Quoin, Ill., has promoted Ray Minor ’91, M.L.S. ’11 to the rank of master sergeant. Minor was selected for "exceptional abilities as a police officer, investigator, and administrator." The 27-year law enforcement veteran will serve as District 13 Platoon 3 supervisor.

Minor, of Benton, Ill., was a patrolman for the Benton Police Department, the West Frankfort Police Department, and a sheriff’s deputy for the Franklin County Sheriff’s Department prior to joining the Illinois State Police in 1995. Minor was first assigned to District Chicago.

George Norwood J.D. ’92 is the inaugural recipient of the SIU School of Law Moot Court Distinguished Alumnus Award. The federal prosecutor was part of a moot court team that finished fourth in the nation. An assistant U.S. attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, Norwood called the moot court program instrumental in his own legal education. When not judging moot court competitions, the adjunct professor at the law school also co-hosts the weekly television show InFocus on WSIU Public Television.

Edward Malone Ph.D. ’93, associate professor of English and technical communication at Missouri University of Science and Technology, was honored for his writing by the National Council of Teachers of English. Malone received the award for Best Article Reporting Historical Research or Textual Studies in Technical and Scientific Communication for his article "Chrysler’s Most Beautiful Engineer: Lucille J. Pieti in the Pillory of Fame." The article examines Pieti (left), a technical writer at Chrysler in the 1940s and ’50s, who graduated from college with an engineering degree but was unable to find a job outside of technical writing. Her story illustrates the generalizations about women scientists and engineers after World War II, Malone says.

Alfredo Montalvo Ph.D. ’93 is considered an authority on crime in his native Puerto Rico. Montalvo is an associate professor of sociology at Emporia State University whose research interests include the politics of crime and criminal justice and the sociology of law.

Chad Fink ’94 is vice president of sales at EnTouch Controls, a leading provider of energy management systems for small business. The Energy Management System (EMS) helps business owners understand and control the cost of energy. Fink oversees all aspects of the Richardson, Texas, company’s sales and channel strategies.

Terry Wilkerson ’94, M.S. ’95 is president of Rend Lake College in Ina, Ill., where he earned his associate’s degree in applied science before earning two degrees at Southern. Wilson taught agriculture at RLC for 10 years before becoming division chair of Applied Science and Technology in 2008.

M.D. ’95 was named assistant dean for clinical sciences at the Carillon School of Medicine at Virginia Tech. Dr. Schmidt-Dalton is an assistant professor of family medicine at the university.

Jason Covington M.A. ’97 has written American BeleMouth, a novella about a literature student and his fisheries biologist girlfriend who raise the world-record big-mouth bass in a Kentucky lake. The story is based on Covington’s experience as a Southern graduate student and features local spots such as Crab Orchard and Cedar lakes. Covington, who currently works at Stanford University, has taught writing at eight colleges and universities since 1993. Learn more about the book at www.belemouth.com.

Loyola Marymount University has named Bryant Keith Alexander Ph.D. ’98 the new dean of the College of Communication and Fine Arts. Alexander was the interim dean of the College of Arts and Letters and acting chair of the Liberal Studies Department at Cal State Los Angeles.

James Gardner ’98 has retired as a major from the Air Force after serving more than 23 years in the military. His wife, Michelle, served for 24 years before retiring as a senior master sergeant. At the time of his retirement, Maj. Gardner was assigned to Headquarters Air Force Space Command at Peterson Air Force Base in Colorado, where he served as chief of space protection maintenance. The Gardners have two children, Camille and Zachary.

Capt. Casey M. Herschler A.A.S. ’98, B.S. ’99 is director of new business development for North American Marine Consultants. Herschler has worked in the marine and construction industries since 1999 after his graduation from Southern’s architectural studies program. Herschler piloted excursion vessels and towing vessels primarily on the Mississippi River system.

Brian Clardy Ph.D. ’99, assistant professor of history at Murray State University, was recently awarded tenure. Clardy, who teaches 20th-century U.S. diplomatic history and American politics, is also the coordinator of religious studies. He completed the first year of education for ministry, a theological extension education program with the Sewanee School of Theology, University of the South. He has been elected a lay deputy to the 2012 Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Kentucky and serves as a Eucharistic minister at his parish, St. John’s Episcopal Church.

Shane Hawkins, ’99, M.S. Ed. ’06, former SIU assistant coach, is Marion (III.) High School’s boys basketball coach. The former Pikneyville, Ill., and SIU standout spent the previous six years coaching at Pinco High School, where he turned around the struggling program.

Keith Oates M.S. Ed. ’99, Ph.D. ’07 is superintendent for the Marion Unit 2 School District. Oates has 22 years experience in education. He served as the superintendent of Mahomet-Seymour Community Unit School District 3 in central Illinois and at Giant City District 130. Prior, he was principal at Shawnee District 84 and Jonesboro District 43.
His Photos Serve As A Memorial To Victims

Though the photographs may be of tranquil, pastoral landscapes, the images created by Stephen Chalmers M.F.A. ’99 depict areas referred to as “dump sites,” where murderers once disposed of their victims. In Unmarked, each photograph is paired with the name and age of the victim. The collection of 250 “psychologically charged” images is gaining international attention for Chalmers, an assistant professor of art at Youngstown (Ohio) State University. The photographs serve as a sort of memorial to the victims of violent crimes, who Chalmers says are only briefly mentioned in the media while perpetrators are elevated.

Chalmers plans to publish the photographs as a book, and he continues to work on other projects on the theme of “what is no longer there,” including documenting vacant lots where family homes once stood. Chalmers’ work can be found in numerous collections, including the Museum of Contemporary Photography in Chicago, the Polaroid Collection in Waltham, Mass., and the J. Paul Getty Research Institute in Los Angeles. Recent exhibitions of his work include the Kala Art Institute in Berkley, Calif., and the Toot Yung Gallery in Bangkok.

2000s

Husch Blackwell welcomed Alisha Huls '00, J.D. '03 in the firm's St. Louis office, where she joins the Intellectual Property group. Huls registers, prosecutes, and maintains trademark and copyright applications. Huls received her J.D. magna cum laude from Southern, where she was the production editor of SIU Law Journal and the associate editor of Legal Medicine Perspectives.

The American Association for Health Education selected Maureen Johnson M.S. Ed. ’00, Ph.D. '06 of Indiana State University to receive the 2012 AAHE/HEDr Technology Award for outstanding contributions to health education through the use of technology. Johnson is assistant professor of health sciences at Indiana State’s College of Nursing, Health, and Human Services.

After a traumatic assignment in Afghanistan left her wanting to help other combat veterans, Sarah Oury ’00 earned her master’s degree in counseling from the University of Phoenix, San Diego. Oury studied aviation management at Southern and entered the Army as a logistics captain working in mortuary affairs, where her job was to retrieve the dead. She recorded details of the deaths and spoke with comrades of fallen soldiers. Her experiences led to a desire to help combat veterans suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder, and she currently leads support groups for veterans.

Joseph Spencer ’00 will see his debut novel published this month. Grim, a paranormal crime thriller, is available through www.damnationbooks.com, www.barnesandnoble.com and www.amazon.com, among other online retailers. The book is the first in the “Sons of Darkness” series. Work on his second book of the series, Wraje, is already under way and is expected to be released in 2013. The series follows investigations into mysterious deaths in the central Illinois city of Prairieville. In the series, Prairieville is the home of a notorious serial killer, and the town has a history of violence centered on an ongoing feud between organized crime families. Spencer will be appearing at Killer Con IV at the Las Vegas Stratosphere (Sept. 20-23); Scarefest V in Lexington, Ky., (Sept. 27-30); the Pekin (Ill.) Public Library 6-8 p.m., Oct. 18; the Dark Carnival Film Festival in Bloomington, Ind. (Oct. 19-21), and at Days of the Dead in Chicago (Nov. 16-18).

Former Southern Illinois post player Derrick Tilmon ’00 is the new assistant coach for Missouri State basketball. As assistant at the University of Southern Indiana, Tilmon helped Southern Indiana to a 72-16 record the last three seasons and a 2012 Great Lakes Valley Conference Tournament title. The 6-foot-7 native of Clarksdale, Miss., was a three-year starter at SIU from 1995 to ’98, finishing 13th on SIU’s career list for blocked shots with 58. Tilmon, 36, played professionally for five seasons in Europe.

Geography professor Reuben Heine M.S. ’01, Ph.D. ’05 earned tenure at Augustana College in Rock Island, Ill. Heine’s areas of expertise include water resources management, fluvial geomorphology, and geographic information systems. Heine conducts research trips on the Mississippi River where students are able to explore the ecology, hydrology, and history of the Mississippi as they collect data, analyze river sediment, seine for fish, and discuss their findings.

Tess French ’02 is district manager for the Social Security Administration in Somerset, Pa. French was hired in 2002 for her skill in languages, including German, French, and Spanish. The native of Jakarta, Indonesia, translates documents for Social Security beneficiaries around the nation.

Jen Tuder Ph.D. ’02 returned to Southern’s Kleinau Theatre as this year’s primary guest artist for the Patti Pace Performance Festival, which
brought students to SIU from 12 schools nationwide to workshop their performances and discuss the craft. Tudor, assistant professor at St. Cloud State University in Minnesota, performed the monologue “Suicide Punchline: Surviving Is the Opposite of Solving,” which deals with her father’s suicide and the struggles of being a survivor.

Former Southern men’s basketball player Abel Schrader ’02 has been named the boys varsity basketball coach at Belleville (Ill.) East. Schrader played for the Salukis from 1997 to 2001 under Rich Herrin and Bruce Weber.

Chris Wallace ’00 is the city of Carbondale’s development services director and oversees the city’s planning services, building and neighborhood services, and housing programs divisions. Wallace has worked for the city since 2006, most recently serving as the city’s senior planner. Previously, he was employed as a planner by the Greater Egypt Regional Planning and Development Commission.

Erin Castro ’03, M.S. Ed. ’06 earned her doctorate in education policy, organization and leadership (EPOL) at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and was chosen as the 2012 recipient of the Education Alumni Association’s Outstanding Student Medal at the doctoral degree level. Castro delivered the convocation address along with the bachelor’s and master’s degree award winners. At the University of Illinois, Castro was nominated by her department in both 2010 and 2011 for the Outstanding Teaching Award for Teaching Assistants.

She was also a graduate research assistant with Project STEP-UP, a study that investigates underrepresented undergraduate students’ participation in the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) fields at large public research universities.

Brad Korn ’04, a former SIU player and assistant coach at Southern, has joined Kansas State’s basketball staff as director of operations. Korn, a 6-foot-9 forward, was part of three straight Missouri Valley titles as a player at SIU from 1999 to 2004. He spent the next eight years as an assistant under Chris Lowery, now Coach Bruce Weber’s top assistant at K-State. “Brad is a terrific young coach and a great addition to the staff,” Weber tells the Capital-Journal.

Alex Tokarev Ph.D. ’04 joined the faculty of Northwood University in Midland, Mich., as assistant professor of economics. He earned a master’s in industrial management from UCTM at Sofia, Bulgaria, and a doctorate in economics from Southern. He has taught a variety of courses at several colleges and universities. Tokarev’s research interests are in institutions, incentives, entrepreneurship, history and economic development. The Carbondale native previously served as chair of business at Northland College in West Frankfurt, Ill.

Ross & Baruzzini, a globally recognized engineering and architectural planning, design, and consulting firm, appointed Karl Miller ’05 senior project manager for the St. Louis office.

Doug Schultz M.S. ’06 is the new area fisheries supervisor for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

Kyle Smithpeters ’06 has been named men’s head basketball coach at John A. Logan College in Carterville, Ill. Smithpeters played two years for Southeastern Illinois and played his last two years at Southern. After graduation, Smithpeters was an assistant coach at Southeastern Illinois for a year. For the next four seasons, Smithpeters was the assistant coach at John A. Logan. Last year, he was an assistant coach at Missouri State University. He is the son of Randy Smithpeters ’74, the longtime basketball coach for Harrisburg (Ill.) High School.

Steven Brown ’07 earned his professional engineering license in Illinois. Brown is a civil engineer at Hanson Professional Services Inc., where he serves in the infrastructure market at the company’s Springfield, Ill., office. He has been involved in a variety of projects, including hydraulic studies and analyses, site hydrology, storm sewer systems design, roadway drainage design, and hydraulic modeling. He earned his certified floodplain manager (CFM) designation in 2009.

Kyle Schweizer ’07, an aviation engineer at Hanson Professional Services Inc., earned his professional engineer license in Illinois. He serves Hanson’s aviation market in the company’s Springfield, Ill., office.

William Barrett ’10 is 911 coordinator for the city of Marion, Ill.

Travis Mossotti M.F.A. ’10 received the 2011 May Swenson Award from Utah State University for his first full-length poetry collection, About the Dead, with Garrison Keillor serving as judge. The author was awarded the James Hearst Poetry Prize from the North American Review in 2009, and “Decampment,” the opening poem in About the Dead, was adapted to screen in 2010 as an animated short film (www.decampment.com).

Jason Hughes ’11 has graduated from Navy Officer Candidate School (OCS) and has received a commission as an ensign in the United States Navy while assigned at Officer Training Command, Newport, R.I. The mission of OCS is to develop civilians and enlisted and newly commissioned personnel morally, mentally and physically, and to imbue them with the highest ideals of honor, courage, and commitment in order to prepare graduates for service in the fleet as naval officers.

Matt McCollough ’11 completed Ironman Coeur d’Alene, held in Coeur d’Alene, Idaho, on June 24. The competition was a full Ironman course consisting of a 2.4-mile swim, a 112-mile bike ride and a 26.2-mile run. McCollough has competed in several triathlons, including the 2011 Collegiate USA Triathlon National Championships and the ITU World Triathlon in San Diego held in May. He is a production assistant for Universal Sports Network in Los Angeles.

Shaina Barry M.S.Ed. ’12 is program manager for Little Star Center in Indiana, which provides a structured sensory-friendly facility where children with autism receive individualized therapeutic intervention. Barry is responsible for developing and implementing appropriate programs, behavior plans, and goals for learners; assisting with new staff training; and collaborating with parents to determine needed skills and behaviors to be addressed. Previously, Barry served as a direct-care worker for All-Ways Care Services in Michigan and as a graduate assistant counselor at Project 12-Ways at SIU; she also worked at the SIU Center for Autism Spectrum Disorders as a graduate clinician.
Life moves too fast. Much faster than it used to. Things crowd in on us and crowd us out. Too many things, too many devices, too many wires leading to more things, too many ways to talk to each other rather than face to face and nothing in our lives seems to last as long as it used to. Where did idle time go? The time to gaze out the window without feeling you had to be somewhere, doing something? In the scheme of history, we have a short past, and for some of us, even a shorter future.

When I walked into the old Syracuse Herald-Journal building one August morning in 1965, it was supposed to be for a summer job and part-time work while I went to Southern Illinois University Carbondale. On May 19, I walked out of that building for the last time into my next chapter of what I call "rewirement." Time does fly when you love and have a passion for what you do.

During that summer of '65 I began as a copy boy running errands and bringing news copy off the Associated Press wire Teletype machines for editors. After graduating from SIU in 1970, I was asked to come back to work in the art department retouching photos, designing pages, and drawing covers for the Sunday Stars Magazine. Mind you, I was a painting major. A creative type.

There was this tenuous thread about journalism in my life. Below my high school yearbook picture, I declared I would work in journalism and dabbled and scratched some cartoons and political portraits for the Daily Egyptian. I lived part of the tumultuous political history of the '60s and '70s when Carbondale was on fire and SIU abruptly closed down after the Kent State incident. Then it was off to reality. With me, I took fond memories of Southern as well as the woman who would become my wife, Susan Stupner, '71.

Over that span of more than four decades, I held positions, sometimes simultaneously, of art and design director, political cartoonist, deputy managing editor, and managing editor of The Post-Standard newsroom and, for the past five years, creator and editor of The Good Life, Central New York Magazine, as well as CNY Business Exchange Magazine and Central New York Sports Magazine.

The transition to creating the magazines was equally exhilarating. Conceiving, birthing, and rearing of them gave me a chance to slow time down. Television and online are a news blur and a commentary mishmash. Newspapers are history on the run. Magazines are a stroll in the park, an opportunity to stop and tell stories, and celebrate our community and its people in the light they deserve.

At some point in your career, you try to figure out the essence of why things turned out the way they did. I attribute whatever success I have had to words from my father at an early age. My dad was not a complicated man and gave me simple life advice: "Do your best and do it like you give a damn!" I've tried to stay true to his words.

The titles of two books by M. Scott Peck sum up my career path: A Road Less Traveled and A Road Well Traveled. I have taken both. So it comes down to timing. The time is right for me to step away on top of my game with gas in my tank to take a road yet to be traveled. Time is funny that way. It marches on with you or without you. It did so for my wife, Susan, who passed away in 1999. A park in Syracuse was dedicated in her name and a brick was laid at SIU's Morris Library patio in her memory. Timeless dots connected by life and death.

For 46 years I walked into my office with a sense of purpose looking for opportunities to do better. On May 19, I walked out with the same sense of purpose. It's a big world out there filled with grandchildren and new ways to express my creativity.

I hope my fellow Salukis continue to enjoy the good life. I know I will.

Tim Atseff '70
Syracuse, N.Y.
60 Years Ago...

Homecoming at SIU, which will be celebrated this year on Oct. 12-13, dates back to 1922. The event has been an important part of the University’s tradition since that time, providing alumni and friends with a great way to reconnect with Southern. In this 1952 photo, SIU’s marching band is shown during the Homecoming Parade on South Illinois Avenue approaching the Varsity Theater.
Recreation Alum Uses Training To Save Drowning Teen

It was an accident waiting to happen, alumni Nathan and Missy Schaumleffel realized, when they saw three teens enter the high, rushing waters of Sugar Creek at Turkey Run State Park in Indiana. The Schaumleffels were enjoying skipping rocks with their children (6-year-old Coleman and 2-year-old Cooper) on a Mother Day outing in 2011.

"My biggest concern was my own safety," Nathan says. "I certainly didn't want to leave my family behind. Just about that time she gave me a look," Nathan says of his wife, a look that said, "You need to go."

"I was the only one around with the skills and training to help them." Plunging into the 50-degree water, Nathan watched as two of the teens managed to claw their way to safety. The other was swept downriver, calling for help when he was able to keep his head above water.

Luckily, Nathan was able to catch a fast current as the boy slowed down. With the help of the boy's uncle, Nathan was able to get the victim to the side of the river, remove him from the water, and begin first aid. Due to his extensive training as a wilderness first responder, Nathan assessed that the boy was suffering from hypothermia, aspirated water in the lungs, and volume shock. Nathan had others call 911 and the park ranger as he continued to administer emergency aid.

The rescue was particularly poignant for Nathan as he nearly drowned himself at the age of 8 in the Meramec River near Stanton, Mo., when a teenager jumped in to save him. "The teen who saved me and the teen I rescued were about the same age," Nathan says. "I'll never forget what it feels like, that helpless feeling of having no control when the water takes you. I could tell by the look on that young man's face in Sugar Creek that was exactly what he was experiencing."

Nathan, an Indiana State University associate professor of recreation and nonprofit leadership, was awarded the Honor Medal from the Boy Scouts of America in February 2012 for the rescue. The lifelong Scout, who has logged 18 years of active adult service to the Boy Scouts, began with the organization at the age of 7, eventually earning the highest rank of Eagle Scout. At a camp once, an older staff member told Nathan, "You know you can go to college for this. I'm an outdoor recreation major at SIU Carbondale."

That day Nathan decided what his career would be and where to go to make it happen. "The recreation management program has always been one of the very finest in the country," says Nathan, who earned both his bachelor's in 1998 and master's in 2001 in recreation at Southern. He also made lifelong friends, and he met and married Missy, who earned her recreation bachelor's in 2000.

"That was just the experience we had at SIU. People cared. They were interested in long-term relationships," he says of students, teachers, and staff he and his wife worked with in student clubs, the recreation center, family housing, and University Hall.

"We really try to create that same experience SIU created for my wife and I and our friends," he says. "Being a Saluki recreation management alum really means something in our profession."

It's a reason that the Schaumleffels are life members of the SIU Alumni Association. "We are members because people cared about us at SIU and cared about us after SIU. We come back and still feel like part of the family."
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