What You Should Know About the Class of 2016

Excited, fretful, and more than a little stressed, these newest alumni are about to meet modern reality.
HARNESSING THE POWER OF GREEN

Karen Jones, chair of SIU's Department of Plant, Soil, and Agricultural Systems, used creative thinking to solve a space crunch at the University Farms greenhouse. Over the years, a separate teaching greenhouse had fallen into so much disrepair that the department had to consolidate activities in the University Farms greenhouse. The cramped conditions put a crimp into both teaching and research, and no funds were available to fix the problem.

The greenhouse's footprint can only house so many plants on a horizontal plane, but Jones concluded that if the department could grow plants by vertically layering them above the ground, it could ease the space issues. To do this, she and Joe Matthews, assistant scientist in the department, realized that growing plants this way would require light emitting diodes, commonly referred to as LED lights.

"We need to enhance our research and fulfill our teaching mission, and we need to do so with creative resources," Jones says. "We believe these lights are the resource we need."

What are LED Lights?

LED lights are specifically engineered to emit photosynthetic active radiation. Scientists are using LEDs, rather than traditional high-intensity discharge lights, to expose plants to specific wavelengths that enhance nutritional values of edible crops, influence the concentration of color and foliage, and improve endurance. Such lights also save up to 50 percent in energy costs.

Matthews says the University Farms greenhouse was remodeled in 2006 with traditional lights that typically have a lifespan of five years. Those lights are now going into their 10th year of use, so the need for new lights is considerably real.

That's where thinking outside the box entered the picture. Jones and Rhiannon Storm, development officer for the College of Agricultural Sciences, brainstormed how to raise money for the lights. Storm knew that Matt McCoy, assistant director of annual giving for the SIU Foundation, was spearheading a first-ever effort of raising funds through "crowdfunding," so when she approached him with the LED fundraising project, they realized this approach would work for the SIU Foundation's first crowdfunding venture.

What is Crowdfunding?

Crowdfunding is a platform for student groups, researchers, teams and others to raise funds for SIU initiatives. Students, alumni and community members can make small online gifts to support projects that may not be at the level requiring larger, major gifts.

Donations to crowdfunded projects will be deposited in the appropriate department's SIU Foundation account, and the goal for the LED fundraising project is $3,000. LED light costs can range from hundreds of dollars to well over $1,000 for just one light.

"We have so many needs in the College of Agricultural Sciences," Jones adds. "And we could use a win for our faculty and students. Our hope is that everyone will rally behind this effort."

This first step into crowdfunding began May 1 with the LED initiative, as well as with another project that seeks $7,500 to buy precision agriculture GPS and software to enhance the teaching of students, research and sustainability goals. To view what has been raised thus far, visit salukifunder.siu.edu. To learn more, contact McCoy at the SIU Foundation at 618/453-6096 or matthewm@foundation.siu.edu.

If you would like to make a gift through your estate or some other gift-planning option, please contact Pat Moline at 618/453-4947 or patm@foundation.siu.edu.

SIU FOUNDATION
SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION
www.siuf.org
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Faced with an unprecedented funding challenge and concerns over racial tensions on campus, university leaders are responding, and are determined, to make SIU stronger than ever.

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Excited, scared and more than a little baffled about how it will all come together, three SIU graduates share their expectations—and realities—about life after college.

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Sustainability and environmental awareness on campus are saving money and resources—and getting SIU noticed on a larger scale.

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People from all over the world will be coming to SIU in 2017 to observe a major solar eclipse, and a team from the university will be assisting NASA in a film project designed to help the scientific community study the sun’s elusive corona. With a high-stakes photo shoot looming, practice is key—even if it takes traveling 8,000 miles to do it.

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GOODWILL AMBASSADORS
Americans and Cubans met on the baseball diamond in Havana for the first time in more than a decade in March. An SIU alumnus was part of this historic trip, as decades-old U.S.-Cuban tensions begin to fade.

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STAND UP FOR DETROIT
A winding path in the television news business landed her in Detroit, but despite the city’s bad rap, alumna Karen Drew has found a voice advocating for the place she now calls home.
SIU Alumni magazine was recognized earlier this year in the 31st Annual Educational Advertising Awards, sponsored by the Higher Education Marketing Report. The magazine was a merit winner in the contest's external publication category. The Educational Advertising Awards is the largest competition for higher education promotions in the country, with more than 2,000 entries received from more than 1,000 colleges, universities and secondary schools from all 50 states and several foreign countries.

Judging for the awards was done by a panel comprising higher education marketers, advertising creative directors, marketing and advertising professionals, and the editorial board of Higher Education Marketing Report.

"It's a testament to the quality of the magazine having earned recognition in this national competition," says Michelle Suarez, executive director of the SIU Alumni Association, which compiles and edits content for the quarterly publication assisted by staff members of University Communications and Marketing.

"We thank everyone who has a hand in making SIU Alumni a success," Suarez says. "Alumni all over the world enjoy reading it, and it's one of the most important ways the Association connects with its members and all SIU alumni."

Readers may note some changes to the publication format in this issue. Primarily, the magazine has added sections dedicated to campus and research news. Members and alumni want to stay up to date with what's happening at their alma mater, so it made sense to expand the amount of campus news they get per issue.

Research also is a key component of the mission of Southern Illinois University. There is no shortage of groundbreaking studies and great ideas coming from campus, as well as from alumni who got their start at SIU. Keep in mind that what you see on these pages is just a fraction of the work being done by SIU students and faculty each day. If you want to know the full spectrum of research, visit siu.edu/research.

As always, alumni are welcome to give their feedback on these changes and anything else they read in SIU Alumni magazine. Contact the editor, Caleb Hale, at calebh@alumni.siu.edu.
Come for the Wine. Stay for the Experience.

sip around the trail
Experience an authentic wine culture as you travel from winery to winery through some of the most beautiful country in the Midwest. We offer twelve unique, friendly wineries dotting a well-marked 40-mile wine trail. Each boasts its own individual style and showcases a diverse array of award-winning wines. A perfect adventure for the wine enthusiast in us all.

revisit some of your old stomps
During your visit to the Shawnee Hills Wine Trail take a trip down memory lane and visit some of the unforgettable places from your past. Immerse yourself in nostalgia while creating new memorable moments along the trail. Come and see how we've grown.

always a reason to applaud
Enjoy some of our local flair with creative fun dinners along the trail that match a variety of local cuisine to our delicious wines. Many wineries offer live music on the weekends or look for festivals celebrating holidays, supporting charity events or just because. We are always looking for a reason to celebrate.

wine & food pairing weekends
All 12 wineries of the Shawnee Hills Wine Trail have paired up to create three wonderful weekends of savory wine and food pairings. We invite you to join us for a progressive tasting along the trail and enhance your appreciation and enjoyment of our wines paired with delicious samples.

August 6 & 7, 2016 / November 5 & 6, 2016 / March 4 & 5, 2017

Sign-up for E-News/Events/Promotions: www.shawneewinetrail.com

One FREE Wine Trail Glass during your next visit to the SHWT
While supplies last. Must present coupon. One coupon per person, per visit. Digitally duplicated copies of coupons (copy machines, scans, etc.) will not be accepted. Offer expires August 31, 2016.
Past, Present and Future Salukis

Thank you so much!! I had so much fun today! #siu #siucadmissions #futuresaluki #absaluki
Jynx_0903 Via Instagram

Proud to have earned a Bachelor of Science Degree from Southern Illinois University/Carbondale
Philip Garrison Via Facebook

Have a great rest of your semester #SIUC study Hard!
GammaUp Nupes Via Facebook

Go Southern Go, that's all the words we know. #SIU
Billy Leitner Via Twitter

Even after graduation, Raysean Golden @_goldieeg3 continues to give back.
#SIU
Kristina T Stepps Via Twitter

Can't wait till fall, excited to be attending SIUC for the next two years! #Saluki #SIUC
Aaron Denton Via Twitter

I am proud to say I've committed to attend Southern Illinois University Carbondale to further my education in Business Administration #SIUC
Thomas Jackson Via Twitter

Life on Campus

The Saluki Strike Battalion commemorates the 100 years of Army ROTC with a 5K fun run here on the beautiful SIU campus. The weather was perfect for a short run and the Cadets looked great. The Saluki Strike Battalion would like to say thank you to the cadets of the Charleston High School JROTC, out of Southeast Missouri. #ROTC100 #SIU
Southern Illinois University Carbondale Army ROTC Via Facebook

#SIU students meeting #WASPs made their day! #WAI66 aviation #education
Rachel Lee Via Twitter

Internqueen Via Instagram
Getting to know the students who helped put together my events last night at #SIU. I spoke for an hour about how I #hustle and another hour on#internships - what a great group!! @ siucareerservices @siu_sac

Spring at SIU

Carbondale's a great place to enjoy spring.
Linda Russell Via Facebook

Carbondale has one of the best campuses around.
Karen Giesler Via Facebook

Noteworthy Achievements

Congratulations to the 2016 Missouri Valley Conference Coach of the Year, Barry Hinson of Southern Illinois University! #siuc
Newsradio WJPF Via Facebook

Son Dylan gets an @siuc @ SIU_sustain #Environmental Ambassador Award! Way to go! #siuc #SalukiStrong
David Gibson Via Twitter
Graduation

Proud of my 4th generation Saluki and her 4.0 GPA @SIUC! #proudmommoment #Saluki @tglen65
Via Twitter

As a @BangorAlumni sporting my @BangorUni regalia at @SIUC graduation. With new @SIUCPlantBio alumna Lindsay Shupert @DavidJohnGibson
Via Twitter

Proud of my little bro graduating today w/ an engineering degree from @SIUC. Off into the big blue world...
@BenScheelk
Via Twitter

CULTIVATING LIVES, GROWING FUTURES.

ANIMAL SCIENCE HUMAN NUTRITION AND DIETETICS
HORTICULTURE CROP, SOIL, AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT AGribusiness ECONOMICS FORESTRY
HOSPITALITY AND TOURISM AGRICULTURAL SYSTEMS AND EDUCATION MBA WITH CONCENTRATION IN AGribusiness ECONOMICS ONLINE COURSES NON-DEGREE DIPLOMA IN EVENT PLANNING NON-DEGREE DIPLOMA IN COMPANION ANIMAL NUTRITION

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ag.siu.edu


Do you know someone we should know?

Use our Alumni Referral Form and our admissions staff will take it from there.

admissions.siu.edu/alumni

Remember: Children of SIU alumni may qualify for the Legacy Tuition Rate.
CAMPUS MOMENT

An evening fog settles over the Neckers Building. The facility, built in 1970, was named for James W. Neckers, who chaired the SIU Department of Chemistry for 38 years. It serves as home to the university's departments of Physics and Astronomy, Mathematics, as well as Chemistry and Biochemistry.
The past year has brought challenges to Southern Illinois University. Gridlock on a state budget left SIU — and all Illinois public universities — operating for the fall and much of the spring without state support. Racial tensions came to a head when a video, posted anonymously to YouTube, called for violence against students of color. And a string of shootings in Carbondale — one of which claimed the life of a local resident — prompted questions about the safety of the greater community.

In times of stress and conflict, university leaders are expected to mediate differences of opinion but preserve the fundamental principles of free expression. When available resources don’t cover expenses, they must make cuts but balance multiple views about what is essential to the institution’s mission. And when threats are made to the campus community, they must ensure that institutions are welcoming and safe to all who study and work there — even when there is disagreement about the approach.

Ultimately, university leaders cannot tackle serious issues in isolation. They have a responsibility to join forces with students, faculty, staff, alumni, friends and community leaders to translate problems into progress. With that in mind, these are the complex issues SIU is addressing in partnership with its stakeholders:

AN UNPRECEDENTED BUDGET SITUATION

There is no playbook for what has happened in Illinois with regard to its funding of public universities. Simply put, the legislature and the governor could not agree on a budget for fiscal year 2016, so universities operated for most of the year without any state appropriation. In the last fiscal year, SIU received $142 million in state support for the Carbondale campus and School of Medicine.

The university entered the academic year anticipating cuts in excess of 30 percent under at least one budget model. What it got, in effect, was far worse, as the impasse left all universities operating without any state-appropriated dollars until late April. That’s when state leaders agreed upon a $600 million stop-gap funding bill for state universities, $40 million of which went to SIU Carbondale and the School of Medicine. It was less than one-third of the state appropriation for the previous year.

“It is by no means a final spending plan for this fiscal year — a fact acknowledged by almost every legislator who rose to speak on the bill’s behalf,” said system President Randy Dunn at the time. “There is still work to be done — with our campus and statewide elected officials as they continue to fix this state budget and live up to the covenant the state of Illinois has with its public universities.”

Even as the university juggled internal resources to manage through 2015-2016 without state funding, it was planning for the 2016-2017 year assuming a possible cut of 20 percent, leading to internal conversations about campus priorities that continue.

Full legislative resolution of the budget impasse was pending at press time.

UNIVERSITY MISSION CONTINUES

It has been said more than once but bears repeating: In spite of the budget issues, Southern Illinois University is here to stay.

This is not to say the effects of severe state budget cuts would go unnoticed. Some initiatives and staff positions may be at risk, colleges could be merged or reorganized, library hours may be reduced and classrooms might not receive needed repairs. Many of the university’s storied outreach programs, such as WSIU Public Broadcasting, Touch of Nature, University Press, athletics and the University Museum might suffer.

These financial challenges don’t make for a great student recruitment pitch at a time when families and students want confidence they are choosing a university that will deliver on its promises. In truth, the publicity surrounding Illinois’ budget battle will likely hurt enrollment at many state public universities this fall.

“We understand the concerns, and have been assuring all of our current and prospective students that SIU will be here for them,” said Interim Chancellor Brad Colwell. “If we enroll you in a program, we will make sure it is delivered. We may look a little different, but we will still be fulfilling our academic mission. We have been here for nearly 150 years and will be here for the next 150 that follow.”
BUILDING A POSITIVE CAMPUS CLIMATE

Expressions of racism, bigotry and intimidation seem to be on the rise in society, fed in part by the anonymity offered by the internet. When a video promoting violence against black students at SIU surfaced on YouTube this spring after several reports of other campus incidents, the university acted quickly to get it taken down. The university also ensured that students who chose to participate in peaceful protests in response could do so safely, leading to a relatively calm ending to the semester. More importantly, though, it responded to the concerns of some minority students who felt as though they were accepted but not necessarily welcome on campus.

The issues "brought into sharp focus the need for us to have a critically important conversation about race and inclusivity on our campus," Colwell said. "This is a conversation that is happening on campuses across the country, because the issues we face are not isolated to SIU."

In fact, SIU has an established history as an institution open and welcoming to students of all backgrounds, earning multiple Higher Education Excellence in Diversity Awards for its commitment to a positive environment for all students, regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, disability or socio-economic status.

But Colwell notes there still is work to be done. The campus community already is acting on a 17-point strategy, built from suggestions made by students, faculty, staff and alumni, to build a more positive campus climate, address student support needs and review hiring practices.

"It will take the entire community - administrators, students, faculty and staff - to move forward," Colwell said. "We have a responsibility to create the space for real conversation, listen and respond appropriately based on what we hear. We cannot legislate personal perspective, but we can work to ensure that people understand their responsibilities as part of a respectful, civil society. And, of course, we can respond to threats and intimidation that undermine the entire community."

COMMUNITY SAFETY COLLABORATION

Several off-campus shootings in Carbondale during the spring led to a communitywide discussion about safety. While none of the suspects involved in these incidents were affiliated with SIU, the loss of a local community member, who was an innocent bystander, brought home the seriousness of the problem.

At an April safety forum hosted by the city, residents and city leaders identified a number of safety priorities, including increased foot patrols, improved lighting, better landlord/property manager communication and the enactment of a chronic nuisance ordinance.

Colwell, who spoke at the forum, said it was important that SIU work collaboratively with city officials on community safety initiatives.

"Most incidents have not involved SIU students - in fact, many of those involved are not even Carbondale residents," he said. "Regardless, the university believes that we must partner with the city on safety concerns - real and perceived - because they are a reflection on all of us."
How Alumni Can Help

We all share a part in the story of Southern Illinois University. As alumni, we’ve benefited from the education and experiences received as students. Now we can help current students as benefactors of the university’s mission — and that doesn’t necessarily begin and end with simply writing a check to SIU.

“SIU may be faced with challenges today, and it may deal with more in the future,” says Michelle Suarez, executive director of the SIU Alumni Association. “None of that takes away from the good things that happen on this campus every day. Good things happened to our alumni while they were here; that’s the story we need them to share now — and, honestly, for all time.”

There are hundreds of thousands of SIU alumni. Whenever any of them share their stories, it makes the university stronger. As far as what other actions alumni can take, here are some ideas:

Recruit New Salukis

Alumni of SIU are living examples of how this university has changed lives for the better. Each year, thousands of graduating high school students — or even students seeking a transfer — are looking for the university that best fits their needs. Share your experience and convince them SIU is that place.

“I’ve seen it many times before: An alumnus talks to a prospective SIU student, a connection is made and we get another Saluki for life,” Suarez says. “The passion of our alumni base is second to none, and once prospective students connect with it, they just have to check out what makes everyone so excited to be part of this campus.”

Alumni are always welcome to take part in recruiting events happening near them, and they can let the university know they want to help by filling out a short form at the Association’s Volunteer SIU web page: sialumni.com/volunteer. There you also can find other volunteer activities.

Finally, if you think you know a student who would be a good match for SIU, go to the Association’s home page at sialumni.com and click the “Refer A Future Saluki” button. You can send the university’s admissions team the information about a student, and they’ll be contacted.

Be An Advocate

Whether you are speaking to someone in your community, your local legislator or even to leaders at SIU, be an informed advocate. The alumni voice is an important component of any university. Be a voice.

The Southern Illinois University system has established siumatters.com as a means of keeping alumni and supporters apprised of budget matters pertaining to the university. You can also review frequently asked questions, subscribe for updates and calls to action, and get information about how you can contact your representatives in support of SIU.

Of course, your Association is always willing to listen to the concerns of alumni. “We welcome any questions and appreciate feedback we get from alumni,” Suarez says.

Visit Campus

Whether you’re coming back to the place you once called home or you’re one of our thousands of alumni to receive their degrees through the university’s off-campus program, make time to visit the Carbondale campus. You can take a walk to see firsthand the progress SIU has made over the years (or experience it for the first time), visit your college and talk to the students.

Homecoming is just around the corner, and we want to fill Saluki Stadium with all of our family and friends.

Stay Engaged

Above all, stay engaged with your alma mater in whatever way is most appropriate for you. Renew your annual membership with the SIU Alumni Association, or upgrade your commitment with a life membership. Donate to a college or program you’re passionate about, because the donation will help drive the passion of other students who benefit. If nothing else, make sure you’re signed up to receive the Association’s Saluki Pride e-newsletter, or any newsletter that may be available from your college. It will help you keep in touch with what’s happening on campus.

“We want alumni engaged in any way possible, and we realize that means different things to different people,” Suarez says. “At the end of the day, we simply want all of our alumni to have a meaningful connection to the university.”
Reality Greets the Class of 2016

Three recent SIU graduates discuss the troubles and promises of post-college life

BY JACOB GAERTNER
There are a few things you should know about Southern Illinois University students who make up the Class of 2016. They are optimistic – cautiously so – about their futures. Their educations have given them the opportunity to make many things go right, but growing up in a world where they’ve watched banks fail, once-shining industries crumble and their own families’ earnings stagnate, they know many things can also go wrong.

While these newest of alumni understand the concept behind working for a living, they have not kept their focus strictly on maintaining a full-time job to pay bills or taxes, or to keep food on the table. Many of them will readily admit they have no idea how it all works day to day. Some already carry debt from student loans that will need to be addressed before they ever think about things such as a new car, a home mortgage, or even a simple savings account.

Above all, one question looms largest in their minds: “What if I fail?” That, it seems, fills them with the most dread – because the answer, in many cases, is one that hangs thick and uncomfortably in the air: “I don’t know.”

THE FEAR
The first thing Ray Walden Jr. feels about the prospect of graduating from SIU is fear. “(There’s) a little bit of excitement, because it’s finally over,” he says. “But then comes that ‘oh, God, I have to do something with my life’ fear.”

And his biggest fear is not succeeding. Walden, a Chicago native with degrees in history and political science, has a very specific plan for success. Should something not go accordingly, he wouldn’t know what to do, he says.

Walden’s first step is graduate school, which he hopes to begin in the fall. He had yet to be accepted into any of the schools he applied to as of late in the spring semester, and he doesn’t intend to stay at SIU. Although he likes the Carbondale campus, Walden says he wants to attend graduate school elsewhere, so as to further build his résumé.

He says he would like to follow a student affairs career path. On every university campus there are staff members who help students – from housing and financial aid to advisement and career services. The prospect of helping other college students appeals to him.

“(I’ll be looking for) an on-campus job, such as housing,” Walden says. “Basically the things that help students succeed.” Getting a student affairs job isn’t the ultimate goal for Walden, though. He someday wants to teach history at the college level.

“There, I think I could share my passion and teaching skills,” he says.
Like many college students, Briana Redding has taken out student loans to complete her bachelor's degree in psychology. She wants to be an art therapist and perhaps work for a nonprofit organization. For the moment, she's considering graduate school and looking for any counseling position she might be able to take.

There's one caveat to her immediate future, Redding says: "For me to survive after (college), I have to find a job that will offer loan forgiveness."

She's referring to the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program, offered by the Federal Student Aid office of the U.S. Department of Education. Individuals who work for an employer that participates in the program can have student loan balances forgiven after 10 years, as long as a stringent set of guidelines are met. To qualify, one must be employed full time by a participating employer and make a minimum of 120 monthly on-time payments before the remaining balance is forgiven.

Briana Redding is looking for an employer that will allow her to qualify for a loan forgiveness program, but she knows the job market in her field is particularly fierce.

Redding desperately wants to find a job that participates so she isn't hampered by student loan payments decades after graduating.

She also wants to start working this summer, but she knows most positions in her field want more than a bachelor's degree, which will make it very difficult for her to find a job she likes before she starts graduate school.

It's a competitive job market, Redding says. "It's like I'm competing against all of these people that I don't know," she says. "I have to keep my eye out for opportunities."

She would like to live on her own, but says she most likely will live at home in Chicago until she feels confident she can leave without sinking.

What You Should Know About the Graduating Class of 2016

- They grew up with Harry Potter. In fact, he could have easily been a classmate.
- A map is something that has always, quite literally, told them where to go, as GPS navigation has been available since they were born.
- Jay Leno is their original host of “The Tonight Show.”
- They've seen Tiananmen Square as an Olympics venue, not as a massacre site.
- Wal-Mart has always been bigger than Sears and employed more people than General Motors.
- Some Britney Spears tunes are considered classic rock/pop.
- Building a wall (or some barrier) along the Mexican border has always been on the government's to-do list.
- Most of them have probably lived near a mega-church.
- Gas stations don't fix flat tires, but they do offer serviceable cappuccino.
- As far as they know, IBM never made a typewriter.

Entries adapted from “The Mindset List” compiled annually by Beloit College in Wisconsin.
THE UNCERTAINTY

Even when finding a job is certain, living off the wages earned isn't.

Jacklynn Boatman of Decatur, Illinois, received her degree in the SIU Department of Radio, Television and Digital Media. She wants to work for a television broadcast, preferably entertainment news. She's moving to Florida for an internship at Walt Disney World in Orlando, Florida. She'll start, as most do, in a low-level position. In her case, she'll be a lifeguard. After a few months she'll be eligible to apply for something more in line with her career path.

Boatman is drawn to the theme park because the Walt Disney Co. owns ESPN and ABC. She's hopeful that doing the internship will open some doors into the broadcast industry.

"I'm not ready to get a real job yet, so I'm also doing it to give me a little breathing room before jumping into the real world," she says.

Boatman admits her path will be a financially daunting one.

WELCOME TO ‘THE REAL WORLD’

Dependent upon who's being asked, the jump from college to “the real world” can be a big one. Shedding the mantle of student and entering the workforce is exciting, and it's often a welcome change from years of homework, textbooks and exams – even if it's a little confusing.

College students often earn criticism, even derision, for lacking awareness of reality. As they'll tell you, though, students are aware of it but often simply don't know how to work their way through it, having spent so much of their time focused on the technical details of their own fields of study.

When asked what knowledge she thinks she's missing, Redding replies, "Preparation for adult life – like how to do your taxes, how to job hunt, how to live on your own, how to get a mortgage."

Redding says courses geared toward topics traditionally covered in the career services department would have helped her.

Boatman says she also could have used a few more courses on practical life skills – even more so than some of her required general education courses.

"I've learned so much and loved a lot of classes, but I can tell you that I know nothing about biology or ceramics," she says.

Gaertner is a junior in the SIU School of Journalism.

Class of 2016

Congrats
Tomasz Wiltowski is the director of the Advanced Coal and Energy Research Center at SIU, a research center devoted to advancing clean energy. The Energy Development Park that is part of ACERC includes a CoalTec Energy Gasifier, mine dust control laboratory, and a high-bay space for projects involving coal byproducts testing, coal-to-liquids labs, coal cleaning testing and more.

**WHAT IS ONE OF THE GREATEST ENERGY CHALLENGES WE FACE?**

Efficiency. It’s a key concept. Where does electricity come from? You flip a switch on the wall, right? Obviously it doesn’t come from the wall. Someone has to produce the electricity, and someone has to deliver it. We lose energy during delivery, and we lose it during production. To be sustainable – and that means having something to leave for our kids and our grandkids – we need to reduce waste and to use our resources more efficiently.

**COAL HAS SUCH A BAD REPUTATION, AND YET RESEARCH INTO COAL USE SEEMS TO BE YIELDING SOME POSITIVE RESULTS. WHAT IS GOOD ABOUT COAL?**

We can use coal in so many ways besides burning it. It’s a resource that can give us useful chemicals and transportation fuels, as well as electricity – things we use every day. I think that’s a good thing. Beyond that, we are looking at ways of making coal more efficient. For example: At most, only about 30 percent of the energy from gasoline moves your car; the rest is lost. We are exploring transportation fuels made from coal that might do better than that. Coal-to-liquid technology is producing automobile and even jet fuel.

**WHAT IS ONE OF THE BIGGEST CHALLENGES IN RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCES?**

Energy storage. Solar energy only works when you have sun. Wind energy only works when you have wind. Currently our solar energy panel storage is only about 15 percent efficient. And there we go back to efficiency again.

**WHAT ABOUT THE BYPRODUCTS?**

We are looking at biogasification of coal that uses coal-eating microbes to produce methane, which burns more cleanly than coal – and with half the carbon dioxide emissions. We are also looking to convert the carbon dioxide to useful chemicals and hydrocarbons. We want to find a use for all the byproducts of energy production. It’s a dream, but it’s slowly becoming a reality.

**WHAT IS ONE MISPERCEPTION ABOUT ENERGY SUPPLY AND USE YOU WISH YOU COULD CORRECT?**

Efficiency. It’s a key concept. Where does electricity come from? You flip a switch on the wall, right? Obviously it doesn’t come from the wall. Someone has to produce the electricity, and someone has to deliver it. We lose energy during delivery, and we lose it during production. To be sustainable – and that means having something to leave for our kids and our grandkids – we need to reduce waste and to use our resources more efficiently.

**WHAT IS SIU DOING, BESIDES INDIVIDUAL RESEARCH PROJECTS, THAT MAKES YOU PROUD OF ACERC?**

We are encouraging students to study and research in energy with the Energy Boost Scholarships for undergraduates from Southern Illinois, and for graduate students entering SIU. We announced our first winners at our inaugural SIU Energy Day, an educational event we hope to repeat annually.
Waste Not!

Forced air composting facility makes ‘green’ sense

Eighty-seven tons of food scraps every year is a lot of waste — until it’s turned into a potentially marketable byproduct.

SIU increased its commitment to sustainability with the construction of a state-of-the-art, forced-air composting facility that opened this spring. The facility takes all the food waste from Truthblood and Lentz Halls — about 9,800 pounds per week. It also handles straw, hay, manure, and greenhouse and garden waste.

The facility is eight bins, each measuring 12 feet by 10 feet by 6 feet and capable of holding 240,000 pounds of waste. Besides the fact that it’s one of the largest facilities of its kind in the nation, the facility is remarkable in its efficiency. From drop-off to finish, the composting process takes 60 to 70 days, and the aeration process is key. The forced air, which enters the bin from the floor, eliminates the need to turn over or rake the compost for oxygen exposure. In addition, site personnel and researchers can regulate the temperature, moisture and oxygen flow, manipulating the decomposition process that leads to compost. The natural process also is environmentally sound, with no fossil fuels in use and with a product that has low odor and a low incidence of pests.

“We are adjusting the mixes, and our first bins will be out at the end of the semester,” says Myron Albers, site manager and a College of Agricultural Sciences faculty member. “I just wish we’d built it twice as big because of the potential for recycling.”

Check out the YouTube video “SIU Compost – Residence Hall Dining” for more information and a demonstration of the facility in action.

Arbor Day Foundation Designates SIU a ‘Tree Campus USA’

The Arbor Day Foundation has recognized SIU for its commitment to effective urban forest management by designating the university as a Tree Campus USA. Just 254 campuses across the country have earned the title. David Tippy, superintendent of grounds at SIU and chair of the committee that sought the national recognition, says work has been ongoing for some time to achieve the Tree Campus USA designation.

“Fortunately, we have been able to solidify a good group of people dedicated to this cause,” he says. “They brought with them a variety of backgrounds and knowledge that enabled us to sit down and produce a tree care plan for the SIU campus.”

A diverse cross-section of campus is represented on the university’s tree committee, including arborists, forestry faculty, grounds and sustainability representatives, and students. They all worked together to complete the tree plan and application, and will continue efforts to promote effective urban forest management on campus.

The national Tree Campus program was created in 2008. To achieve the recognition, SIU had to meet five requirements, including creating and maintaining a tree advisory committee along with a campus tree-care plan. In addition, the university dedicates annual expenditures for the campus tree program, holds an Arbor Day observance and sponsors a relevant student service-learning project.

“IT is an important achievement, because it recognizes the university’s dedication to conservation and sustainability and serves to advertise that commitment,” Tippy says. “This designation is also evidence of the campus’ already recognized sustainability efforts and will help us score even higher in those ratings.”

Demolition Refuse Becomes Recyclable

SIU is significantly reducing landfill waste and saving thousands of dollars by recycling campus concrete and asphalt broken up during campus demolition projects. Refuse materials are being processed into new composite material for construction and stored on campus.

MATERIAL FROM SIDEWALKS, ROADWAYS OR BUILDINGS

- CONCRETE 3,188 TONS
- ASPHALT 500 TONS
- METAL 7 TONS

COST SAVINGS $30,000-$40,000 ANNUALLY
Morris Library Adds Three Millionth Volume

BY CHRISTI MATHIS

A first edition/first print copy of “Uncle Tom’s Cabin” officially became Morris Library’s three millionth volume this past spring.

The Friends of Morris Library purchased the book, published in March 1852, which to this day remains a controversial tome. Penned by Harriet Beecher Stowe, “Uncle Tom’s Cabin” was rife with anti-slavery sentiment and sold more than 300,000 copies in its first year, even though it was banned in the South as abolitionist propaganda.

The book was added to the library’s Ralph McCoy Freedom of the Press collection, named for SIU’s first library dean and his devotion to First Amendment principles. The Friends purchased this book in recognition of the continued growth of Morris Library’s academic collections and the library’s support of faculty, student and community research.

The copy of “Uncle Tom’s Cabin” joins an exhibit featuring the volumes the library acquired as its one millionth and two millionth books. The tradition began in 1968 with the acquisition and ceremonial presentation of a first edition of Walt Whitman’s “Leaves of Grass,” donated in honor of Delyte W. Morris, then president of SIU. The two millionth volume, acquired in 1988, was a 1644 printing of John Milton’s “Areopagitica.”

Annual Friends of Morris Library Gala, Oct. 15
Gala and reception to feature premiere of play “To My Dear Wife,” written by theater Professor Emeritus David Rush. More information available at: lib.siu.edu/gala

Technology & Innovation Expo Heading to Chicago

Innovators and entrepreneurs connected to SIU will be in Chicago this October for the eighth Technology and Innovation Expo.

Hosted by the SIU Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research, the School of Medicine and SIU Edwardsville, the event will showcase various applications of technology in use by university faculty, staff and alumni. The expo is set to feature such applied topics as:

• Fermentation science.
• Stem cell gene therapy.
• Biogasification, producing methane from coal.
• Techniques for measuring tinnitus.

The event took place for several years in the Dunn-Richmond Economic Development Center at the Southern Illinois Research Park on the SIU Carbondale campus, but this year organizers decided to place the expo in a bigger venue: Chicago’s 1871 incubator. The goal is to highlight how research conducted at the university can become marketable products and creative processes in the science and technology sectors.

“The expo is all about connecting SIU's top innovators to partners that can help move their work further into the public sphere, whether through commercialization, outreach or other mechanisms,” says James Garvey, interim vice chancellor for research at SIU.

Eighth Technology and Innovation Expo
2 P.M.-6 P.M. Oct. 13
1871 Incubator
222 W. Merchandise Mart Plaza
Suite 1212
Chicago, IL 60654

For registration and sponsorship inquiries, contact:
michelle.chitambar@siu.edu or 618/453-4544

Participation in the expo is free, but preregistration is required. Sponsorship opportunities also are available. For more information, contact the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research.
The Daily Egyptian marks 100 years in 2016, and a planning for a centennial celebration during Homecoming weekend, Oct. 21 and 22, is underway.

The event includes a panel discussion hosted by the SIU School of Journalism that will focus on the future of the industry. Tours of the converged newsroom between the Daily Egyptian and River Region Evening Edition also will be available.

Faculty managing editor Eric Fidler says the history of the student-run newspaper is really the history of the university.

"You can’t look at the stories and photos from the last 100 years without learning an awful lot about the university and what makes it a special place," he says. "We don’t see the Daily Egyptian as a museum, but as a vital, constantly changing resource that provides a service to the community while giving students a chance to learn their craft."

A reunion of former DE student staff members is set for Friday, Oct. 21, in the Communications Building. The newspaper also will have space inside the College of Mass Communication and Media Arts tent before the Saturday football game against Indiana State.

Information on anniversary events will be available online at dailyegyptian.com.

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CHASING THE SUN

BY TIM CROSBY

SIU Team Makes 8,000-Mile Trek To Prepare For 2017 Solar Eclipse

It’s a photo shoot decades in the making.

The first solar eclipse visible over the mainland United States since 1979 happens Aug. 21, 2017, and again in April 2024. For both occasions, Carbondale, Illinois, will offer gazers the longest view of the events. SIU, as part of the Eclipse Crossroads of America, will serve as home base for NASA and other scientists observing these eclipses. In addition, the university will participate in an intensive, multifaceted project to film a solar eclipse as it has never been done before.

For such an undertaking, practice is key, even if it takes place 8,000 miles away from southern Illinois. That’s why three SIU representatives — a physics specialist, an undergraduate student and a retired faculty member — made the NASA-sponsored trip to Indonesia in March through a grant from the National Solar Observatory. The trip gave the trio a firsthand look at how to prepare for next year’s eclipse.

“The lessons we learned will be of great use in our outreach efforts and events, and in preparation for SIU to help support scientific observations in 2017,” says Bob Baer, a specialist in the department of physics. The Indonesia trip allowed Baer, along with Sarah Kovac, a junior in physics, and retired SIU faculty member Fred Isberner, to practice for their roles in the nationwide effort to capture a “movie” of the 2017 total eclipse. The effort, known as the Citizen CATE (Continental America Telescopic Eclipse) Experiment, will see SIU cooperate with about 60 other teams recording the event across the United States. The National Solar Observatory will use the data collected to assemble a visual record of the total eclipse, in an attempt to capture elusive, moving pictures of the sun’s corona, which usually is obscured by the sun’s brightness.

While in Indonesia, Baer and Kovac used a telescope fitted with a special camera to record images of the total solar eclipse visible from a spot on an island, where Isberner made observations from a cruise ship in the Makassar Strait. The trio was one of five teams recording the event from various spots along the path of darkness created by the eclipse. The teams were spread out along the path to get images from different locations and overcome any weather complications, as well as to extend the time of the images, just as they will be in the United States next summer. The teams had favorable weather conditions in four of the five locations.

“We saw the eclipse from a small island that is about 60 miles wide and that was completely in totality,” Baer says, meaning the sun was completely blacked out by the moon when viewed from that area.

Now that they’re home, the team members are conducting data analysis for the Citizen CATE Experiment. The team gathered about 18 gigabytes of data using the telescope and another 300 gigabytes of video images during the trip, Baer says. Preliminary analysis indicates the data is very useful — and, when combined with the other teams’ data, it will help scientists observe the ways in which the sun’s corona evolves over time.

“Prepare for our next year’s eclipse. The teams were spread out along the path to get images from different locations and overcome any weather complications, as well as to extend the time of the images, just as they will be in the United States next summer. The teams had favorable weather conditions in four of the five locations. "We saw the eclipse from a small island that is about 60 miles wide and that was completely in totality," Baer says, meaning the sun was completely blacked out by the moon when viewed from that area. Now that they’re home, the team members are conducting data analysis for the Citizen CATE Experiment. The team gathered about 18 gigabytes of data using the telescope and another 300 gigabytes of video images during the trip, Baer says. Preliminary analysis indicates the data is very useful — and, when combined with the other teams’ data, it will help scientists observe the ways in which the sun’s corona evolves over time."
A team of students and researchers from the Center for Archaeological Investigation has been running tests with a new tool: a ground-penetrating radar unit that looks a little bit like a lawnmower. Their test project is a search for the foundation of the Old Main Building, the cornerstone of Old Campus, lost twice to fire in 1882 and again in 1969.

Mark Wagner, the center's director, has a pretty good idea of where the foundation is located. The lesson for students is to find it with the GPR unit. His first team of students surveyed the northeast corner of the building using the GPR unit to find two foundation walls about 5 feet underground. Wagner wants to survey the entire building, but he's holding some of the survey work back for a fall 2016 class.

The GPR unit uses radar to find irregularities underground. First, an operating team sets up a grid over the survey area. A unit operator then walks the grid, and the unit sends waves through the ground to read what's beneath the surface. During data collection, irregularities show up as a hyperbola wave on a computer screen attached to the unit. Unit software converts the waves to a three-dimensional model, and the team can look at images of vertical slices of terrain by selecting a square of the grid. The team members can have that first 3D look right there in the field — and they can upload the information to a computer for even more sophisticated analysis.

The GPR unit can read up to 30 feet below the surface, and with different settings it can read through concrete, asphalt and rock. Waterlogged terrain can give it some problems, though — and so can cellphones. The search for the Old Main foundation is part of Wagner's idea to promote campus archaeology. For SIU archaeology students, it's like having a field school without leaving campus. For the campus community, it's a way to connect to the campus' history. And there's no digging mess — unless an excavation is ordered, that is.

"The whole point is proximity," Wagner says. "This (Old Campus) is a really nice place to bring students so they can gain experience with this equipment they wouldn't otherwise get without leaving campus for a field school."

Wagner has plans for off-campus use of the equipment, too. SIU has been called to conduct an archaeological survey of a National Guard Armory in East St. Louis that's known to be located on the site of a former cemetery. He expects the archaeological investigation team, already busy with surveys at historic sites, will become busier still — and that's great for students seeking career training and marketable skills.
In the Weeds

BY CALEB HALE

Green thumbs know the bane of weeds — and while their removal may mean a sore back and dirty knees for the average gardener, the stakes are considerably higher for farmers.

Weeds cost $43 billion in lost corn and soybean crops between 2007 and 2013, according to the Weed Science Society of America — and that was with mitigation. Without any weed control in place, encroachment has been shown to easily decimate half the yield.

For years, farmers have employed a range of tactics to combat crop loss to weeds. But as Lauren M. Schwartz '11, Ph.D. '15 says, no one can rely on a single solution and expect consistent results. "There's not a silver bullet that will fix everything," she says.

Schwartz studied invasive species in grasslands for her master's degree at SIU. For her doctorate, she joined a project with the Weed Science Lab in the university's Plant Soil and Agricultural Systems Department that combined ecology and agronomics. In doing so, she was able to apply her knowledge of invasive plant species in natural ecosystems to weed management in farming.

The work cemented her belief that the battle against weeds is won with a diversified arsenal.

"The message scientists, universities and extension agents are really pushing is integrated weed management," Schwartz says. "The use of herbicides is not the only reliable option for management in farming today. Repeated use over several years, depending on other issues present, determines how weed resistance can evolve. Now it's not realistic not to use herbicides. They are helpful — and, if they are applied appropriately, are very safe. But there's also mechanical control, such as tillage, hand pulling and mowing, to consider. Management can involve cultural control options, such as the use of cover crops or staggering planting dates. There are even biological control options. Geography can also be a driving factor on which weeds are present in a field."

Schwartz is a post-doctoral research associate at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville, Arkansas, studying herbicide resistant weed species in corn, cotton, rice and soybean crops. Her routine involves researching and testing in the field and greenhouse.

Schwartz recently was honored by the Weed Science Society of America as lead author on the 2016 Outstanding Paper Award in Weed Science. She co-wrote the paper "Seedbank and Field Emergence of Weeds in Glyphosate-Resistant Cropping Systems in the United States" with fellow alumni Karla L. Gage, Ph.D. '13 and Joseph L. Matthews '86, '88, faculty and staff members respectively in the Plant Soil and Agricultural Systems Department, as well as David J. Gibson, professor and director of graduate studies in the Department of Plant Biology, and former faculty member Bryan G. Young, now an associate professor of botany and plant pathology at Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana.
For former Saluki catcher Derek Shelton '92, a 47-minute flight this spring was almost like emerging from a time machine. The hitting coach for the Tampa Bay Rays was part of a group that traveled to Havana, Cuba, on March 20 for a historic game against the Cuban national team.

Stepping off the plane was almost like stepping back a half-century in time for the SIU graduate, as most cars, buildings and the nation's infrastructure appeared frozen in time.

"To say the least, the initial feeling you experience is quite surreal," he says.

The baseball competition helped serve as a goodwill component for the week, as it was coupled with a political delegation led by President Barack Obama, the first sitting U.S. president to visit the communist-ruled island since Calvin Coolidge in 1928.

"Cuba is crazy about baseball," Shelton says. "When you consider that we were the first American team to play there since 1999, the excitement that we felt both in the stadium and on the streets of Havana was unlike anything I've ever imagined."
For instance, Shelton says although the March 22 game began at 2 p.m., gates were opened at Estadio Latinoamericano Stadium beginning at 8 a.m. Thousands entered the stadium then, even though nothing would occur in the 55,000-seat facility for several hours.

Before the contest, which the Rays won 4-1, Shelton had an opportunity to host a hitting clinic for several Cuban Little League teams. He partnered with Cuban legend Omar Linares, generally considered one of the greatest players in Cuba’s baseball history. Linares led the Cuban team to gold medals in the 1992 and 1996 Olympics, and a silver medal in 2000.

“To have the chance to interact with these young players with Linares was incredible,” Shelton notes. “Children there look up to him the way kids in the United States do to our greatest players, so we had a really excited group to work with.”

The Rays also brought boxes of baseball equipment donated by the players, and gift bags for youths.

The Cuban Experience

One unique experience that week came at a party sponsored by the Major League Baseball Players Association, where the Rays joined dignitaries such as President Obama, MLB commissioner Rob Manfred, Hall of Famer Dave Winfield, future Hall of Famer Derek Jeter, and Rachel Robinson, Jackie Robinson’s widow. The highlight of the night was having singer Jimmy Buffet as the evening’s entertainment.

Shelton says he and the other Rays players and coaches were able to walk freely around Old Havana throughout their stay.

Bustos Backs Agriculture Initiatives

Another SIU connection involved in the historic trip to Cuba was U.S. Rep. Cheri Bustos of Moline, Illinois. The sister of the late Saluki baseball coach Dan Callahan has been a frequent visitor to the Carbondale campus over the years.

Bustos joined about 20 other members of Congress who traveled with President Obama to meet with Cuban officials in March. As a lifelong resident of Illinois – and someone who fondly remembers her grandfather Joe Callahan’s days years ago as a hog farmer in tiny Milford, Illinois – she remains passionate about agriculture.

“By establishing new trade partnerships in Cuba, we have a real opportunity to grow our agricultural economy and create more good-paying manufacturing jobs in Illinois,” Bustos says. “Cuba represents a new market for Illinois exports, and I look forward to working with our equipment manufacturers, agricultural producers and exporters to grow our economy.”

This was not the first trip to the island for Bustos, who last year went there as part of a bipartisan agricultural trade mission to learn more about the barriers to increasing trade between Illinois and Cuba.

“The reality is that Cuba imports 80 percent of its food,” she says. “So there are absolutely huge opportunities – to the tune of about $2 billion a year – that we want to make sure we tap into.”
and he enjoyed all the interaction with citizens.
"We really felt safe and had free rein to go wherever we wanted," he recalls. "There are basically no guns on the island, and you have to remember that Cubans are quite used to tourists. People from Canada and Europe have enjoyed the place as a tourist destination for many years."

Some Memorable Moments
While the trip remains a surreal experience for Shelton, he says he knows the enterprise was not without debate.

As The New York Times noted: "The challenge for the United States and Cuba – or, really, for the Castro family – now involves finding ways to help Cubans chart their own course into this unfamiliar territory that is neither purely go-go American, nor the restricted Cuba of today. It means more uncomfortable questions. And more answers."

Politics aside, however, the expedition served as one of the most memorable moments of Shelton's 12-year MLB career.

"For one thing, having the opportunity to meet a standing U.S. president and his family is something few people get to do," Shelton notes. "People are free to make their own determinations about the political issues involved – and I understand and respect that – but I was proud to play a small role in this historic trip.

"The Rays were goodwill ambassadors, and I hope something good comes from it."

– Gene Green is the emeritus editor of SIU Alumni magazine and will continue to be an occasional contributor to the publication.

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Kill Back To Show Support During Spring Practice

BY GENE GREEN

A familiar figure stalked the sidelines at Saluki Stadium this spring, when Jerry Kill returned to Carbondale to lend his support to new SIU head football coach Nick Hill.

It’s been more than six months since Kill resigned at the University of Minnesota, where he stepped down for health reasons related to his long battle with epilepsy. Now noticeably thinner and sporting a beard, the Saluki Hall of Famer says he feels better than he has in many years.

“First of all, I’m taking care of myself, eating right, exercising, getting more sleep and doing things I should have done before,” Kill says. “I’m staying real active traveling around the country for speaking engagements and enjoying things like being back with the Salukis for a week.” Kansas State University recently hired Kill as an associate athletic director, who will work with the school’s football program.

Kill, who has long maintained a residence at Lake of Egypt, says it was exciting to return to the area to observe practice, break down film and offer encouragement as his former quarterback readies himself to lead the program he once coached.

“I have been impressed with what I have seen,” Kill notes. “Nick has put together a talented staff, and there appears to be a strong work ethic on the team. He will get everything out of his players — and if you do that, you have a chance to be good.”

For Hill, having his mentor care enough to return to SIU is hard to describe. “Coach Kill could be involved anywhere,” Hill explains. “Since he retired, schools all over the country have contacted him to come observe what they are doing — Texas Christian and Notre Dame are two places he has recently been — so it’s a true honor to have him with us. It’s difficult for me to put that into words.”

For SIU coaches and players, Kill’s weeklong interaction provided a frank and honest assessment of spring practice.

“We all notice the things that are working,” Hill points out, “but Coach Kill is incredible about explaining things we have to work on. Although he can ‘X’ and ‘O’ it with anyone in the country, his rare gift is being able to mold a team in a manner where everyone embraces a common goal. You can’t put a price tag on that.”

With tongue planted squarely in his cheek, Kill adds: “The only thing that is strange for me being back here is walking around this beautiful stadium. Old habits die hard; when I first got to town, I showed up at McAndrew Stadium that first morning and saw it’s now a parking lot!”

All joking aside, time back in Carbondale always strengthens Kill’s feelings for the region.

“This is a special place to me and my family,” he says. “It’s one reason we still have a home near here. It’s an area that has always fit us so well, and I think Nick is a great fit now for some of those same reasons.

“You are always a product of your environment, and Nick grew up around here and played at SIU when great things happened for Saluki football. It’s a wonderful opportunity for him. I’m excited for Nick, the university and the region to have one of their own running the program.”
Men’s Golf Wins First MVC Championship

The Southern Illinois University men’s golf team won its first Missouri Valley Conference championship in school history this spring, finishing 10 strokes ahead of heavily favored Wichita State. The host Shockers had won the last eight league titles.

“From the time our guys arrived on campus in August, everything we’ve done was preparing to win this conference championship,” says head coach Justin Fetcho, who was named MVC coach of the year. “I’m so excited for these guys. They worked extremely hard, and to see it all come together is special.”

The Salukis (+37) led by five strokes heading into the final round at Prairie Dunes Country Club in Hutchinson, Kansas, and doubled that lead on the final day by shooting a 295 to pull away from the second-place Shockers (+47).

SIU was picked to finish fourth in the pre-tournament poll, and the Salukis had never won an MVC title since joining the league in 1975. In that same poll of head coaches, Wichita State was the unanimous choice to repeat this year.

“It’s a dream come true,” says Drew Novara, the lone senior on the SIU squad. “This is what we’ve worked for.”

Individually, four Salukis placed in the top 11, led by Brandon Carlson’s third-place showing (+5), matching the best individual finish in school history, tying Kyle Hosick (2004) and Chad Cooper (2006).

“I got off to a poor start and took a double bogey on the second hole,” Carlson says. “I three-putted from 5 feet. I didn’t let it get to me. The team needed me, and I gave it my all.”

After leading the field through the first two rounds, Wilhoit took fifth place (+8). He and Carlson earned all-conference honors, while Luke Gannon tied for ninth (+12), Matt Greenfield tied for 11th (+13), and Novara came in 33rd to round out SIU’s scoring.

“We have a bunch of guys who work extremely hard, and who want to learn and get better,” says Fetcho, who is in his second season with the Salukis. “The players are willing to put in time and effort. All recognition needs to go in their direction. I couldn’t be more proud of them.”

With the win, SIU advanced to the NCAA Regionals for the first time. The squad was assigned to action in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, and the Salukis finished in 13th place at regionals. Top performer for SIU was Gannon, as the freshman was plus-seven for the three-day competition.

Softball Field Dedicated To Honor Brechtelsbauer

Festivities before SIU Softball’s April 30 doubleheader against Northern Iowa left a humble Saluki Hall of Famer searching for words. Saluki Athletics dedicated the playing field at Charlotte West Stadium as a tribute to former coach Kay Brechtelsbauer ’66, Ph.D. ’80 who led the program for 32 years.

“It’s hard to express how honored I am,” says Brechtelsbauer, who reflected on the early years of the program. “You have to remember that we started off with just an open field, had no backstop and pounded stakes in the ground each practice for bases. I was fortunate to work for Charlotte West, and enjoyed great players and support from the administration. SIU softball has come a long way. I’m pleased that the growth has continued.”

Brechtelsbauer won 633 games and made five College World Series appearances. When she retired, the SIU Alumni Association life member had the most overall wins and conference wins in Missouri Valley Conference history. She remains the fourth-winningest softball coach ever in the league.

“The majority of her life was given to SIU softball,” says current head coach Kerri Blaylock. “Coach B gave me my first opportunity – and if it wasn’t for her, I wouldn’t have gotten into coaching. I think it’s most appropriate that the field is named for her.”

A large celebration for the program’s alumni and supporters will take place this fall. Dates and details will be unveiled at a later date.
Price Sets American Record In The Hammer Throw

History was made in late April, when three-time all-American DeAnna Price gave the inaugural Southern Clash Track and Field competition a performance to remember. The reigning NCAA hammer throw champion established an American college record in the hammer throw with a heave of 238-4 (72.66 meters).

The toss surpassed the previous mark of 237-11 held by SIU alumna Brittany Riley. The Moscow Mills, Missouri, native fell about a foot shy of the NCAA record set by Australian Jenny Dahlgren while at the University of Georgia in 2007.

“I never thought this was going to happen,” Price says. “I remember thinking my freshman year, ‘Brittany Riley, I can never hit that distance.’ It’s a dream come true. When it happened, I burst into tears because it’s something I’ve been trying to go after all season.”

Price’s performance mirrored the consistency she has showcased inside the ring all season. She has 15 throws this season that have surpassed the 70-meter mark. The senior, whose hometown is about an hour away from Edwardsville, Illinois, where the meet took place, says she was glad to share her record-breaking performance with several family members and friends.

And while Price is putting together one of the greatest single seasons in college hammer throw history, she isn’t resting on her laurels just yet.

“Now that I have the American collegiate record, the next goal is going to be the NCAA record,” Price says. “You know, it’s right there — literally a foot away.”

For results of the MVC Championships in mid-May, as well as all postseason action for men and women’s track and field, go to siusalukis.com.

Other Spring Sports ...

Several other SIU sports programs were still winding up their spring seasons as this issue of SIU Alumni magazine went to press. To see team and individual results for baseball, softball and tennis, please go to siusalukis.com.

Women Capture Valley Swimming And Diving Title

The Saluki women’s swimming and diving team won the Missouri Valley Conference championship for the first time in nine years, and accomplished the task in the most tightly contested championship meet in league history.

The Salukis finished with 799.5 points, half a point ahead of Missouri State.

SIU last won the championship in 2007, with Missouri State earning the title every year since.

“We had to win against a team that has won year after year and is accustomed to winning,” says SIU head coach Rick Walker.

“For all the times we came up short or couldn’t find a way to do it, this year we figured out how to win.”

SIU trailed the Bears by 1.5 points heading into the final event, which was the 400-yard freestyle. A faster finish than Missouri State, regardless of the final placement, guaranteed a win for the Salukis.

Freshman Oliwia Okaj led for SIU, swimming a 51.31-second 100-yard freestyle to put SIU ahead of the Bears to start. McKenna Avery, Kelsie Walker and Bryn Handley followed, with Handley’s 50.53 anchor leg putting the Salukis at 3:23.7 for the fastest 400 freestyle relay finish in program history. SIU’s time put Southern in second place behind Northern Iowa and ahead of Missouri State, clinching the conference title.

“I told them that if they have the imagination to dream, then have the courage to make it come true,” Walker says. “We had a game plan that we stuck to; I guarantee that if we don’t follow that plan, we would not have become champions.”

The host Salukis finished the season undefeated against conference opponents.

The title marks the 14th in program history for the Salukis, and it’s the second women’s MVC title under Walker, who now has nine conference championship titles in his 29 seasons at SIU.

SIU’s men’s team finished fourth in the Mid-America Conference Championships.
Perception often becomes reality. When that occurs, shedding a negative label—whether warranted or not—can turn out to be a monumental task.

Karen Drew ’91, a news anchor for WDIV-TV, the NBC affiliate in Detroit, has witnessed such a scenario up close.

Crime rates and financial issues resulting in bankruptcy have led to a tarnished reputation for the city she has called home for 17 years. But Drew says many perceptions are based on hearsay rather than firsthand experiences or observations.

“Detroit gets a bad rap,” she says. “Ninety percent of the people who spread negativity have never been here. The city has an image issue, but it has changed dramatically over the last five years. Infrastructure is in place for people to pursue their career dreams here.

“Everyone pulls for each other to succeed. People are moving here at high rates, and the city continues to advance.”

Drew hosted “Live in the D,” a daily morning program on WDIV-TV, that helps defy Detroit’s negative perceptions. The television station’s leadership took note of Detroit’s image issues and created the program to showcase the city’s various positive aspects.

“ ‘Live in the D’ is based on the revival of the city and good things happening in our community,” Drew says. “The program covers stories that don’t typically receive a great deal of attention. We highlight some amazing people, charities and business development. It has been well-received, because people want a place to turn for positive news.”

AN INVESTIGATIVE REPORTER

Drew was named anchor of the station’s “Local 4 News First at 4” show in December. She’s also a member of “Local 4 Defenders,” the station’s award-winning investigative unit.
The SIU graduate made her mark in Detroit with investigative reports on government waste, con artists involving adoption, and crime trends in local neighborhoods.

Drew, a multiple Emmy-Award winning journalist, also was part of an investigative news team that focused on former Detroit Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick, who subsequently was imprisoned for multiple acts of corruption. She admits that being a member of the WDIV-TV investigative unit is gratifying.

"It's the best job," she says. "I hit the jackpot, because our station has allocated resources into investigative reporting. There are cases of people losing their life savings as a result of scam artists. Investigative reporting holds others accountable for such behavior."

LIVING A DREAM

While growing up as the elder of two children in the northwest suburbs of Chicago, Drew aspired to be a television journalist. She received great training when she selected SIU over other in-state schools – primarily because it offered immediate hands-on experience.

"SIU was the perfect place," she says. "My freshman year I was on 'SIU Night Report.' There are so many opportunities at SIU for hands-on experience. Between that program, WSIU and WIDB radio stations, I received ample training preparing me for the job force."

Drew stays in contact with some of her SIU professors. The high achiever graduated from the university with honors in three years, and after several jobs at various stations, a twist of fate sent Drew to Detroit.

"I received a job offer from WMAQ (an NBC affiliate) in Chicago, but the place I was working wouldn't release me from my contract to go there," she says. "They then informed me of a position open at their NBC station in Detroit, and that is what brought me to WDIV."

OVERCOMING HEALTH ISSUES

Three years ago, while pregnant with her second child, Drew dealt with an inflamed sacroiliac joint and inflamed muscles in her pelvic area. Excruciating pain left her unable to move for two weeks, and she was hospitalized for 12 days. She had to use a walker for five months upon her release from the hospital, and doctors told her painkillers would be necessary throughout her pregnancy.

Drew's doctors also feared her baby would become addicted to the medication, and they weren't sure if the antibiotics they prescribed would address her pain. She conducted some research and chose to abandon her medication, opting instead for acupuncture, massage, physical therapy, an anti-inflammation diet, anti-inflammation supplements and herbs. Drew's health made a turn for the better, and her daughter was born healthy.

Her family, friends and co-workers were supportive during this time, which she considers a turning point in her life. Drew has made a stronger commitment to spend time with Paul Gorcyca, her husband of seven years, and their daughters, Madison and Morgan.

"It taught me the importance of having balance in life," she says. "Sometimes, while you're on the fast track in your career, people who are close to you get abandoned. I came to the realization that I needed to place more emphasis on family time."

The SIU graduate also makes a difference for others in the Detroit community. Drew has been a spokesperson and advocate for the Arthritis Foundation, the Cancer Institute, the March of Dimes, and parenting and school organizations. She also participates in events that raise community awareness about melanoma, a form of skin cancer that took her father's life.

"This is all a positive turn that occurred as a result of my health issues in 2012," she says. "It reinforced to me what's important in life. If I didn't learn this lesson, then the obstacles I encountered were all for naught."

Gene Green is the emeritus editor of SIU Alumni magazine.
SIU Honors 2016 Distinguished Alumni

University officials honored four accomplished individuals April 29 during the 2016 SIU Distinguished Alumni Award Ceremony, hosted by the SIU Alumni Association.

Each year, the Association recognizes alumni in the areas of career achievement, humanitarian efforts, cultural impact and young alumni achievement.

This year’s honorees were:

Career Achievement:
Robert (Bob) Steele
B.S., education and human services '62, M.S. '63

Humanitarian Efforts:
Marsha G. Ryan
J.D. '87

Cultural Impact:
Primo Angeli
B.A., liberal arts '57, M.S. '59

Young Alumni Achievement:
Viktor Gruev
B.S., engineering '97

Learn more about this year’s Distinguished Alumni at siualumni.com/distinguishedalumni. There you can also nominate someone for the 2017 award. Nominations are being taken until Aug. 5.

ROBERT (BOB) STEELE
"(SIU is) a hidden secret, and people don't really know how great it is. Yet people that run into me are very familiar with SIU and the Salukis because they are involved in sports. I had so many opportunities because of people that were mentors, great teammates, great leadership from coaches and faculty members. It's a great place because there are great people."

MARSHA RYAN
"SIU is a supremely dedicated organization, with no pretense. It does what it sets out to do, which is to educate students to be thinkers and leaders, and it does so without much in the way of self-promotion. In all corners of this campus, something magnificent is happening; someone is succeeding at something. It's a miraculous place, but its story needs to be told."

PRIMO ANGELI
"It's a great school, the best. I went to SIU in the early times, and we picked up a lot of our future there, just as (students) are doing now. It was a grand time and a very industrial time for us, for the work we had to do."

VIKTOR GRUEV
"It's a place where I defined my career, where I found my passion for engineering. I spent four wonderful years as an undergraduate, and it's shaped me in a way that I could not have imagined. I expected to be an engineer; I got a lot more out of it, and found a whole new world and passion for research."
Amidst the throngs of drunk concert-goers, wailing guitars, stage diving and even the occasional tossed water bottle — with it all mere inches from his face — Adarius Booth learned the importance of keeping focused on his shot.

Booth, a junior in the Radio, Television, and Digital Media program in the SIU College of Mass Communications and Media Arts, was one of three Externs to go to the South by Southwest Music Conference and Festival in Austin, Texas, in March. They worked with Bob Knauf '91, owner of Mainstage Films, which produced live video feeds — streamed over the Internet — of morning concerts from the 93.3 KGSR stage at the W Hotel in downtown Austin and the Waterloo Records SXSW Day Parties.

The schedule consisted of 16-hour days packed with bands to film, with all of it requiring the utmost focus on camerawork and logistics, Booth says.

"First, you have to prepare yourself to wake up at 6 in the morning and to listen to a live band, and then after that you've
got to keep your focus,” Booth says. “Yeah, the crowd might be going wild, the band might be loud, but you’ve got to keep your angles right, make sure you know when to switch your camera and make sure your video is correct. As long as you keep ahead of it all, you block out the crowd (and) remain on the task.”

In addition to filming, Knauf had his Extern crew help the Mainstage staff with setup and teardown at both venues, as well as direct a five-camera setup for a few of the performances.

“They were all fantastic,” Knauf says. “I think it really opened their eyes to this crazy industry. It was a pleasure to work with them, and I hope to have some Externs in 2017.”

SXSW, which started as a music festival in 1987, has grown into an annual international gathering that encompasses art, film, technology, education and creative ideas. It welcomes thousands of musical acts, speakers and artists, and this year’s keynote addresses were delivered by President Barack Obama and first lady Michelle Obama.

Adarius Booth, a junior in the Radio, Television, and Digital Media program in SIU’s College of Mass Communication and Media Arts, monitors the video feed during one of the concerts at SXSW. This year’s festival, which traces its origins back to 1987, took place in March.
Saluki Pride is Alive in STL

BY CALEB HALE

St. Louis may be awash in a sea of Cardinal red – but, if you look closely, you’re likely to spot a familiar shade of maroon here and there. The greater St. Louis metropolitan area is home to more than 12,000 Southern Illinois University alumni, making it a hotspot of people who once called the Carbondale campus home. Salukis work in practically every sector of the local economy, live in every neighborhood and are not shy about their SIU pride.

The city is home to one of the oldest chapters of the SIU Alumni Association. In recent years, members of the St. Louis Area Chapter have been ramping up activities and gatherings meant to capitalize on the history and the population of alumni concentrated in the region.

“I may be biased, but I think a lot of Saluki pride exists in St. Louis,” says Leslie Tepen Patterson ’03, one of the chapter’s representatives. “I get excited when I see a Saluki license plate cover, shirt, hat – anything. And any time I hear anyone talking about being a Saluki, it’s always with pride and enthusiasm.”

Patterson says the chapter keeps a laser-like focus on keeping alumni engaged and connected to SIU happenings, whether they are gathering for their annual SIU Day at Busch Stadium – which just marked its 32nd year in May – fundraising for scholarships to help local students attend SIU, or networking with alumni in job placement or career advancement.

St. Louis also is home to the Missouri Valley Conference’s “Arch Madness” college basketball tournament, which happens each March. Saluki basketball fever draws in alumni and fans from all over the Midwest. The Association, with help from the St. Louis Area Chapter, hosts them in its hospitality suite at the downtown Hilton St. Louis at the Ballpark hotel.

Not content with just events for the sports fans, chapter representatives have been branching out with gatherings that appeal to different interests, such as an event last November at a local brewery. Later this month, the chapter will be hosting a gathering for a show at The Muny.

Perhaps the chapter’s most successful event, in terms of scholarship fundraising, has been its annual trivia night, which is more than a decade old at this point. As National Public Radio indicated in 2013, trivia in the greater St. Louis region is more than a game; it’s a way of life that collectively attracts thousands each month to venues hosting competitions.

The St. Louis Area Chapter has managed to raise nearly $10,000 through its trivia night for its chapter scholarship since 2012 – funds that have been matched by the Association to help students attend SIU.

CONTACT A CHAPTER

Contact the St. Louis Area Chapter at stlsalukis@alumni.siu.edu and to learn about more Association chapters, clubs and groups, visit siualumni.com/connect.
SIU Alumni Association Board Appoints 3 College Directors

John Benner '80, '81 (College of Business) is a two-degree graduate of SIU. He is the vice president, and marketing product and project manager, for First Midwest Bank in Itasca, Illinois. As a marketing department graduate assistant in the SIU Master of Business Administration program, Benner published a research paper outlining differences between single-bank and multiple-bank customer preferences. He started his banking career with Wells Fargo in Des Moines, Iowa. Since then he has held several management positions in community and regional banks.

Bethany Krajelis '06 (College of Mass Communication and Media Arts) is the senior communications specialist to the Illinois Supreme Court. She studied journalism at SIU before moving on to earn a master's degree in public affairs reporting from the University of Illinois at Springfield. Before her start in public affairs, Krajelis was a reporter for several publications, including the Chicago Daily Law Bulletin, The Southern Illinoisan, Madison County Record and the Kane County Chronicle.

Stephen Wilson '71 (College of Liberal Arts) is a retired supervising administrative law judge for the Illinois Department of Employment Security, Appeals Division, Downstate Unit. Before joining IDES in 1978, he was assistant attorney general of Illinois and chief counsel to the Illinois Department of Labor. Wilson has served the SIU Alumni Association on advisory committees and as president of the Prairie Capital Chapter.
Board Of Directors

SIU ALUMNI ASSOCIATION NATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION RESULTS

Re-elected:
Steve Brown '71
Gary Heflin '89
Mike Kasser '78 (immediate past president)
Larry Mieldezis '86 (president)
Susanne Taylor '94
Ben Weinberger '01
Rick Wysocki '83, '85 (president-elect)

Newly elected:
Ken Buzbee ’61, ’78
Jeff Goffinet ’81, ’84
Liz Walker Smith ’81
Charles Stewart III ’03
Steve Wiyatt ’70

Upcoming Alumni Events

See more details and register at siualumni.com/events

SIU DAY AT THE MUNY
JULY 23
HOSTED BY THE ST. LOUIS AREA CHAPTER

SIU DAY AT U.S. CELLULAR FIELD
JULY 26
HOSTED BY THE CHICAGOLAND CHAPTER

39TH ANNUAL SIU DAY AT WRIGLEY FIELD
AUG. 12
HOSTED BY THE CHICAGOLAND CHAPTER
(PREGAME EVENT TICKETS STILL AVAILABLE)

Travel with fellow Salukis!

Adriatic Gems

Be entertained by the ancient history and stunning landscapes as you cruise the azure waters of the Adriatic aboard Oceania Cruises’ state-of-the-art Rivera. Timeless wonders come to life with visits to fascinating ports on the shores of Italy, Greece, Montenegro, Croatia and Slovenia.

November 1–9, 2016 from $2,599 with air

Reflections of Italy

Revel in the magic of Italy on this 10-day tour that explores the cities of Rome, Florence, Siena, Venice, Assisi, Perugia and Milan. Travel the Tuscan and Umbrian countryside, exploring medieval hill towns and visiting the birthplace of St. Francis of Assisi.

November 7–16, 2016 from $3,899 with air

Find out more about all Saluki Travel destinations at siualumni.com/travel
1970s

GARY DENEAL '70 has turned over editorship of the southeastern Illinois-based Springhouse magazine to his son, BRIAN DENEAL '99. Gary co-founded the publication along with two friends in 1983, but after they stepped away in 1985, he ran it with the help of his wife, JUDY DENEAL '71. Brian is the former managing editor of The Daily Register in Harrisburg, Illinois. Springhouse, touted as "An Adventure Shaped Like a Magazine," chronicles the history and culture of southern Illinois. The magazine, which is headquartered in Junction, Illinois, is printed six times a year.

RAY ELLIOTT '74, longtime author and journalist, has published a new novel, "With the Silent Knowledge," a story that tackles how the prison system handles nonviolent offenders. Elliott draws upon his experience as a counselor at the maximum-security Menard Correctional Center in Chester, Illinois, to tell the story of a privileged but troubled man fending for himself behind bars. The novel was published by Tales Press, which is owned by Elliott in Urbana, Illinois, and has published works ranging from World War II-era historical fiction to the family history behind the Heath Candy Co.

1980s

NEIL FIALA '78 has been inducted into the Class of 2016 NJCAA Junior College Coaches Hall of Fame. Fiala, who coaches the Southwestern Illinois College Blue Storm baseball team, was honored along with three other coaches at this year's JUCO World Series May 27 in Grand Junction, Colorado. Fiala's 22-year record at SWIC is 817-445, with five regional championship wins. Before his junior college career, Fiala held positions of assistant coach at the University of Illinois and with the New York Yankees organization.

RANDALL SCHUMACKER '78, PH. D. '84 has been selected for the J. William Fulbright Scholar Award 2016-2017 to lecture and conduct research at the University of Macao in China. The Fulbright program is sponsored by the U.S. government to promote and develop international understanding and cooperative relationships. Schumacker recently completed a fourth edition of his popular statistics book, "A Beginner's Guide to Structural Equation Modeling." The book was published by Sage Publications, a company specializing in the publication of textbooks and other academic volumes. Schumacker is a professor educational research at the University Alabama. He has published two other works in recent years, "Learning Statistics Using R" and "Using R with Multivariate Statistics," as well as co-edited several other books with colleagues.

THOMAS MAJIEWSKI '81 has become a national account manager for Hotel Internet Services, a provider of Internet and technology solutions for the hotel industry. Majewski is leading a Chicago-based team in sales efforts for the central part of the country. Before coming to Hotel Internet Services, Majewski held positions in VTV Technologies, SONIFI Solutions and SBC Communications.

KENNETH MASCHHOFF '82 was named president-elect of the National Pork Producers Council earlier this year. He is chairman of Maschhoff Family Foods based in Carlyle, Illinois, as well as co-owner and chairman of The Maschhoff's Inc., which produces 3.5 million market hogs and 500,000 feeder pigs annually - the third-largest pork producer in the nation. Maschhoff is an NPPC representative on the Illinois Pork Producers board of directors. In addition, he serves with various other local boards and organizations.

CLIFTON SINK JR. '83 has been appointed vice president of product management services for AINS Inc., a global provider of cloud-based case management platforms and solutions. Sink is responsible for company sales and product management worldwide, market expansion, and overall growth across government and commercial markets. Sink previously worked for Hewlett Packard Enterprise, where he focused on development of new customer territories.

JEROME CASSADY '86 was named director of member services for the American Angus Association earlier this spring. Cassady is leading a team of member service representatives based in Saint Joseph, Missouri, to promote the organizations programs and services to cattle farmers. He has been with the association since 1992.

LINDA PETERS '88, '90 has been named a vice president of client services for Validant, a company offering quality and regulatory services to biotech, pharmaceutical and medical device companies worldwide. Peters is tasked with providing strategic direction and expertise in efforts to grow Validant's global regulatory affairs consultation offerings. She works from
Beggs, Higginbotham, Foxx Deliver Commencement Keynotes

DONALD BEGGS '63, '64 and JOAN HIGGINbotham '87 and KIMBERLY FOXX '94, J.D. '97 delivered keynote speeches at the Southern Illinois University spring commencement ceremonies in May.

Beggs, a Harrisburg, Illinois native, is a former chancellor of SIU Carbondale, from 1996 to 1998. Prior to that, he served for 15 years as dean of what was then known as the College of Education. Following his tenure at SIU, he became president of Wichita State University until his retirement in 2012. Beggs is a noted author and presenter on the topics of cognitive abilities assessment, interpretation of standardized test results, and education reform.

Higginbotham, of Chicago, is the first known Saluki and third African-American woman in space. She was a board NASA's Space Shuttle Discovery on a mission to the International Space Station in December 2006. After leaving NASA, Higginbotham became vice president of business development and worldwide production with Marathon Oil. She now serves as Lowe's Corp.'s director of supplier diversity and remains involved in various community activities.

Foxx, of Westchester, Illinois, is currently running as the Democratic candidate for Cook County State's Attorney. Prior to her candidacy, she served as chief of staff to the president of the Cook County Board. She has also served in various capacities as assistant state's attorney in Cook County.


JEFFREY ASMUS '89, '99 is the new superintendent of DeLand-Weldon Community Unit School District No. 57, effective July 1. Asmus was hired earlier this year. Before this appointment he was principal of Heyworth Junior and Senior High School in Heyworth, Illinois. He also taught for 10 years in southern Illinois before earning his educational administration degree.

EVA KEISER '89 has been appointed treasurer on the board of directors for the Minnesota Public Relations Society of America (PRSA) for 2016. Keiser works as an independent public relations and marketing communication consultant, focusing on business-to-business marketing, social media and media relations among other focuses. The Minnesota chapter of PRSA is the ninth-largest in the country, comprising more than 400 corporate, agency, independent, nonprofit and government relations professionals from Minnesota, the Dakotas and western Wisconsin.

GLEN PHILLIPS '89 has been promoted to associate vice president of writer/publisher relations at SESAC Performing Rights, the nation's only music rights organization. Phillips, who has worked for the Los Angeles-based organization since 2013, is credited with some of the most notable recent signings, including Nikki Sixx of Motley Crüe and Rick Nielsen of Cheap Trick. He has been in the music industry for more than 20 years, working in the areas of artist and tour management, as well as music licensing and indie music. In 2000, Phillips represented blues guitarist and Rock 'n' Roll Hall of Famer Buddy Guy.

1990s

BRIAN STONER '91 has become vice president of global alliances at Lastline Inc. in Redwood City, California, a provider of advanced malware protection. Stoner previously served as senior director of global consulting alliances for FireEye. He also has held leadership positions in McAfee, CA Technologies and NTT America.

CAROLYN HOLDER '92 has been appointed a member of the Employment Security Board of Review by Illinois Gov. Bruce Rauner. Holder is an accountant at David M. Holder PC., where she assists individuals and small businesses with preparing tax returns and other account services. She also serves as chairman of the Randolph County Soil and Water Board and is a trustee of the Baldwin Community Fire Protection District.

ANDREW KRAUSE '92, '93, CEO and founder of AKA Media Inc., recently announced a partnership with Kahoots Creative Group in Chicago. Under the partnership, both companies will work on strategic video development, digital marketing, web design, video analytics and email marketing strategies. Krause was part of the Goldman Sachs 10,000 Small Businesses Program, where he and Kahoots owner Sherrie Hablitzel first met. Krause founded AKA Media in 1998 to offer creative counseling and video production services to public relations firms, nonprofits and Fortune 500 companies.

JEFFREY PICATI '92 was honored earlier this year by President Barack Obama as a recipient of the Presidential Early Career Awards for Scientists and Engineers. Picati was one of 105 award recipients this year. The award is the highest honor bestowed by the government on early-career science and engineering professionals. Picati has been a research geologist at the U.S. Geological Survey in Denver, Colorado, since 2009.

DOUGLAS TOOLE '92 is the new public health administrator at the Vermillion County Health Department in Illinois. Toole, who
began his leadership in April, has been with the department for 27 years, beginning as an intern in 1988. After graduating from SIU, he was hired full time. Toole previously served as the department's director of environmental health.

ROBERT BOURQUE JR. '93 has been selected by Crown Holdings Inc. as president of the company's Asia Pacific division, based in Singapore. His appointment became effective May 1. Bourque previously served as senior vice president of Crown Beverage Packaging, China and Hong Kong. Throughout his career, he has held positions with the company's sales, manufacturing and engineering organizations.

REONA DALY '94 has been selected as the next U.S. magistrate judge sitting in Benton, Illinois. Her appointment is effective in September. Daly has been serving as associate general counsel at Southern Illinois University since 2010. She previously worked for a private law firm, as well as for the Illinois attorney general's office. She will serve an eight-year term as magistrate judge.

LARRY LOVEL '94 is the new superintendent of Trico Community Unit School District 176 in Campbell Hill, Illinois. Lovel replaces JACKIE SMITH, M.S. Ed. '02, who is retiring. Lovel has been the principal of General John A. Logan Attendance Center in Murphysboro, Illinois since 2010. Smith was first hired at Trico in 1979 as a science teacher and coach. He became principal in 2003 and superintendent in 2012.

ROBERT ANDY MORGAN '94, '99, '14 became dean of students at Indiana State University in Terre Haute, Indiana, earlier this year. Morgan was most recently the acting associate dean of students at SIU, a position he'd held since 2013. He served in various administrative roles on campus during the last 18 years, and in 2015 was honored with the establishment of the Dr. Robert Andrew Morgan Alumni Engagement Award, recognizing his work in leadership and civic engagement related to fraternities and sororities.

LISA RIVERA SKUBAL '94 has been named to the 2016 list of North America's Top 50 Economic Developers by Consultant Connect, an agency for economic developers and site consultants. Skubal is vice president of economic development for the Greater Cedar Valley Alliance and Chamber in Waterloo, Iowa. She is the first Iowa economic development professional to be included on the list, which is built from nominations from colleagues in the economic development industry and site consultant community.

NICOLE BARTON '96 has become the first executive director of the St. Louis Civilian Oversight Board. She was one of six finalists vying for the position. The role will have her leading a seven-member board, with the authority to review and investigate complaints against officers of the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department. Barton has been with the Missouri Department of Corrections for 15 years, starting as a probation and parole officer. She is the supervisor of the investigative and administrative staff of the Board of Probation and Parole.

JEREMY HOPKINS '97 has been appointed as the Virginia representative of the Owner's Counsel of America, a national network of eminent domain lawyers representing property owners in eminent domain and property rights litigation. Hopkins is a frequent speaker at seminars informing land and business owners of their constitutional property rights. He is also a regular presenter at the American Law Institute – Continuing Legal Education's National Eminent...
LAUREN KUNTZ '97, '03 joined First Financial Bank in Champaign, Illinois, as a trust officer in asset management earlier this year. Kuntz has spent 12 years working in financial services, focusing on trust administration and estates. She has assisted clients with estate planning, retirement and financial security.

SCOTT PHILLIPS '98 has joined GE Transportation as vice president and CEO for the company's mining business.

Before joining the company, Phillips was president of global equipment at Sandvik mining in the Netherlands. He also served as executive director for Freeman Financial Corporation Ltd. Phillips also has held leadership roles with Signal Capital Group Ltd. and at Caterpillar Inc. In his new role, Phillips will be based in London.

BRIAN CARROLL '99 is the Tennessee Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics' 2016 Outstanding Dietetic Educator. Carroll is a nutrition lecturer and directs the Dietetic Internship Program at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

2000s

ANDREW HAYES '01 has been appointed as a principal of public accounting firm J.M. Abbott and Associates in Lincoln, Illinois. Hayes is the firm's tax department manager, focused in corporate and partnership taxation, small business consulting and planning, as well as individual compliance.

SARAH KARY '01 has been promoted to partner at Emiling and Hoffman P.C. in Du Quoin, Illionois. Kary has served as senior manager in the firm, assisting with personal income, corporate, government and nonprofit tax work. She is a member of the Illinois CPA Society and the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants.

DONALD WESEMANN '01 recently was appointed as head of special education for the 2016-2017 school year at Wheeling High School in Wheeling, Illinois. Wesemann joins the district from Algonquin Community Unit School District 300, where he has held several roles since 2008, including special education teacher and interim elementary school principal, in addition to director of education services.

The award is given each year to a member of the academy for noted accomplishments. In addition to the state award, Carroll also was named an outstanding educator by the regional Nashville Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics.
hospital service provided through Morthland College Health Services. Rice treats children and adults for specific health concerns and general checkups, as well as school-and employment-related physicals.

NATHAN BAILEY ’07 is a new partner of Waller Lansden Dortch and Davis LLP in the firm’s Nashville, Tennessee, office. Bailey’s focus is on intellectual property, enforcing rights in areas of patent, trademark and copyright law. His work involves litigation and proceedings in federal district court, Patent Trial and Appeal Board, and Trademark Trial and Appeal Board. Before working with the firm, Bailey worked with the trial division of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, where he worked in areas of electrical, computer, mechanical and chemical arts.

LEE ENGLAND JR. ’08 has announced a new partnership with the Genesee Theater in his hometown of Waukegan, Illinois. England, a violinist who lives in Los Angeles and is an artist under record producer and Grammy award winner Quincy Jones, will periodically serve as an artist-in-residence at the theater, teaching music performance to youths. England says he wants to give support to the performing arts in his home community and offer the chance for students to find a love of playing music. England has appeared on the television show “Making His Band” and on “Jimmy Kimmel Live.”

2010s

PATRICK DUFFY ’12 has been named deputy fire chief of Oak Forest, Illinois. He has been with the department since 1989. He previously served as a lieutenant in the department beginning in 2008. His promotion was one of a couple of internal shifts following the resignation of the city’s previous fire chief.

If you would like a Class Note to be considered for publication, please contact the SIU Alumni Association at 618-453-2408 or by email at alumni@siu.edu, and use the subject line: “Class Note.”

Alumni listed in maroon are SIU Alumni Association members.
IN MEMORIAM

Barb Brown Passes Away

Barbara Leavitt Brown '76, M.A. '77, Ph.D. '85, who enjoyed an accomplished career in education, politics and community service, died May 5 in Chester, Illinois. She was 61.

Brown was a noted figure in local, state and national politics. She taught political science and American government courses at Southern Illinois University for more than 30 years. She was the clerk of courts for Randolph County, Illinois, from 2000 to 2012. She also served as a member of the SIU Alumni Association National Board of Directors from 2010 to 2014 and served as president of the Association's Randolph County chapter.

In addition, Brown was a leader and advocate for women in politics and public service. She co-founded the Illinois Women's Institute for Leadership, a nonprofit organization that helps women prepare for elected and appointed positions in Illinois. She helped form the Southwestern Illinois Democratic Women and Southern Illinois Democratic Women groups. She was a vice chair for the Democratic Party of Illinois, a precinct committeewoman and former chairwoman of the Randolph County Democratic Central Committee, and a nine-time delegate to the Democratic National Convention.

Brown ran twice for the Illinois State Senate District 58 seat. She also played a role in the campaigns of President Bill Clinton and President Barack Obama.

Her community service included establishing the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life in Randolph County; serving as a board of trustees member for the Chester Public Library; beginning a local 4-H club; and service to Rotary International and the DAR Liberty of the West chapter.

As stated in her obituary: "Barbara was a beautiful and kind daughter, sister, wife, mother, grandmother, friend and woman. Her intelligence, integrity and strength touched deeply each person with whom she came into contact. With her passing, the world is losing a distinguished and leading voice that spoke always for the rights and dignities of women and of common people. Her compassion and accomplishments are a testament to what one may achieve when she places family and community above individual aspirations."
IN MEMORIAM

Hall Of Famer Cornell Dies

Saluki Hall of Famer athlete and coach Bill Cornell passed away in late March at the age of 75 following a long battle with Parkinson’s disease.

The 1965 SIU graduate from Chelmsford, England, was a legendary competitor even before he arrived in Carbondale, setting a world record in the mile for his age group as a 17-year-old.

Cornell came to SIU from England on a track scholarship in 1961 with his wife, Rose. During four years competing at SIU, he was a three-time All-American and a two-time NCAA runner-up.

After receiving his bachelor’s degree, Cornell earned his master’s degree the following year and began his coaching career in the fall of 1967 as the head track and cross country coach at Murray State University.

In 15 years at Murray State, Cornell guided the Racers to three Ohio Valley Conference cross country titles and was league coach of the year four times. He coached seven Olympians there, had 28 athletes earn All-American honors, and was inducted into the Murray State Hall of Fame in 1994 and the OVC Athletic Hall of Fame in 2005.

In the fall of 1982, Cornell returned to his alma mater as Lew Hartzog’s successor, taking over as the head men’s track and field and cross country coach. The SIU cross country team won its first of five MVC titles under him that fall. In track and field, the Salukis won eight MVC titles indoor and outdoor, and had a six-year stretch from 1987-1992 in which SIU won at least one conference title each year.

For his efforts, Cornell, a 1980 SIU Hall of Famer, was recognized as the MVC Coach of the Year eight times during his 18 years at the helm of the Salukis, and in 2005 he was inducted into the U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association Hall of Fame.

During his 33 years as a head coach, Cornell mentored 11 Olympians, 49 All-Americans and four NCAA champions. After being diagnosed with Parkinson’s disease in 1989, he continued serving as SIU’s head coach for 11 years before retiring in 2000.

Friend of former SIU teammate Tom Ashman told The Daily Egyptian that it was Cornell’s competitiveness — and the love he had for his wife, Rose — that kept the Saluki great fighting after being diagnosed with Parkinson’s disease nearly three decades ago.

“Rose and Bill were as close as man and woman could possibly be,” Ashman says. “Rose was one of the reasons he was able to survive so long with such a devastating disease.”

The couple remained childless during 54 years of marriage, but friends of the Cornells say that fact doesn’t tell the whole story. The love and loyalty shown by former Racer and Saluki athletes throughout the years illustrated that the couple had hundreds — if not thousands — of sons!
Lauded Newspaper Editor Gene Cryer Dies At 80

Gene Cryer '58, who built a reputation as a tough-as-nails editor with the Sun Sentinel in Fort Lauderdale, Florida – and who is credited with helping usher in the era of Gus Bode at the Daily Egyptian – died in April following complications from a stroke. He was 80.

With his booming voice, steely eyes and a red pencil that would mark up the daily newspaper with withering critiques, Cryer cast an intimidating presence over the Sun Sentinel newsroom in the 1980s and 1990s.

Cryer guided the Sun Sentinel from a sleepy Fort Lauderdale newspaper into a regional media force. He oversaw a period of explosive growth in the region, expanding the newspaper with bureaus in Washington, D.C.; Atlanta; and West Palm Beach, Florida. He also hired young, ambitious reporters who would go on to become renowned authors and novelists, including Mitch Albom, Michael Connelly and John Grogan.

Since his 1994 retirement as Sun Sentinel editor and vice president, Cryer lived in Plantation, Florida, and wrote eight books. He remained active by riding, exhibiting and breeding Appaloosa show horses, mentoring writers and recording audiobooks for Insight for the Blind.

Cryer was the editor-in-chief of the SIU student newspaper – then called The Egyptian – when the comments of Gus Bode first appeared on April 13, 1956. Bode became a staple of the publication, offering editorial commentary on stories throughout the paper.

The Morris, Illinois native, who graduated from SIU with a degree in journalism, was fondly remembered by those who worked with him as a consummate editor, journalist and community leader.

Information for this article came from the Daily Egyptian and South Florida Sun Sentinel.
Remember Lake Ridgeway? Where a small parking lot outside Anthony Hall exists today was once a pond used by sketching and nature studies classes. Lake Ridgeway was originally dug in the 1890s and was held by the damming of a ravine using the leftover mortar in the construction of the Old Main Building. For six decades, the pond was a scenic oasis, popular picnic venue, and ice skating site (in the winter months). By the early 1950s, however, the site suffered after years of neglect. Eventually, President Delyte Morris ordered it filled.
WHY JOIN THE SIU ALUMNI ASSOCIATION?

HAIL ALMA MATER SOUTHERN TO THEE

Joining your SIU Alumni Association is a show of support and loyalty to Southern. We welcome and value all alumni, students and friends who love SIU. Membership is the easiest way to give back.

TRADITION STRONG THRU THE YEARS

The memories and experiences of alumni are the interwoven threads in the tapestry of Southern’s story. We carry forward and share their traditions, for in this legacy and history a strong future was born. Share your stories with us.

BEACON TO GUIDE US PRIDE

Enthusiasm never runs short whenever and wherever Salukis gather. Dozens of chapters and clubs nationwide, as well as several alumni groups, are open for you to share in this pride. Let it show at our events afar and when you return to campus for Homecoming.

OPPORTUNITY LIGHT THAT CAN NEVER FAIL US

You are a connection that builds the SIU network and reputation, a link to opportunities for fellow alumni and students. Your membership contributes to more than $150,000 in scholarships each year and helps us professionally connect students in their chosen career paths.

HELP YOUR ASSOCIATION GROW

Urge your fellow alumni to become members and keep the Southern Illinois University alumni family strong.

siualumni.com/join
#mysiutradition— Our tradition? Our daughter Rebecca will be attending SIU next fall. Both my husband and I are SIU grads. She fell in love with SIU on a campus visit and decided that day, that SIU would be her choice. Both me and my husband fell in love with it that quickly too. We have a sophomore in high school also. Fingers crossed, that we will be sending one more your way SIU!

— Joan Fiore Selitzky

#mysiuopportunity— I was a RA, social media assistant and VP of Alpha Kappa Psi at SIU. After graduating with a major in German and International Studies with a minor in Marketing, and a semester abroad at a partnering university, I was able to pursue a career with Bosch. The position allowed me to grow my marketing experience, travel all over the US and live in Germany for some time this past year! I am so thankful for all the opportunity and education I received from attending SIU!

— Ashley Joy

#mysiupride— One of my babies shows my Saluki pride.

— Vicki Blair

#mysiupride— My daughter is proof of my Saluki pride! I was so happy she chose SIU (without my prodding)!

— Susan Wood Metz

#mysiutradition— My brother chose SIU and started our tradition the fall of 1967. I followed in 1970 and then our sisters in 1982 and 1984. The next generation was my daughters starting in 1994 and 1997 and a nephew in 1994. And all became graduates and are alumni members. We are also looking forward to my niece, who is planning to start in 2016. Traditions included football games, basketball games, Homecoming festivities, Winston bagels, sitting in front of DQ, the sandwich man on Sunday nights in front of Neely hall, hanging out at the spillway, keggers at Giant City Park, Saturday night dancing at Gatsbys and Bonaparts Retreat, Italian Village pizza, and just taking in the beauty of southern Illinois. We visit many times a year as my brother and oldest daughter chose to make Carbondale their home and we continue to love it more each time we visit.

— Connie Collins