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Southern Illinois University Carbondale

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Graduate Highlights

Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research and Graduate Dean

Spring 2002 • Volume 2

Foreword

Optimistic Outlook for SIUC Graduate Programs and Research!

The past two years or so have produced significant advancements in the university's research, scholarly, and creative (hereafter, research) activities and graduate programs. Most recently, the university system's new President, James Walker, and new SIUC Chancellor, Walter Wendler, have articulated strong and welcome support for the research and graduate education missions of the university. Chancellor Wendler has proposed 1) raising the proportion of graduate students in our overall student body from its current ~17% to between 25 and 30%, and 2) substantially increasing our research productivity. These goals are challenging but they are also exciting opportunities that promise to transform the university in many positive ways. In fact, we are already well on our way toward achieving them.

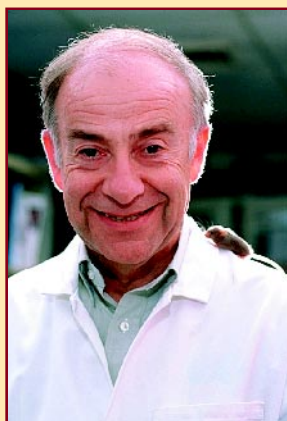
Over the last two years we have had annual increases of 15-20% in the number of proposals submitted, along with increases in external award \$ (even without considering the \$25M award from ComEd for clean coal initiatives). We have also seen a rise in our technology transfer activities, as evidenced by four patents issued in each of the last two years, compared to none in the previous four.

In FY00, a new formula was implemented for redistributing the F&A (indirect cost) returns that are gener-

(continued on back page)

Research, Scholarly, and Creative Accomplishments of SIUC Graduate Faculty and Students*

The Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research and Graduate Dean is pleased to devote much of this issue of *Graduate Highlights* to showcase some of the many recent awards and honors received by SIUC Graduate Faculty and Students. *Congratulations to these individuals on their outstanding scholarly accomplishments!*



Andrzej Bartke and one of his long-lived mice

FACULTY HONORS

A physiologist at Southern Illinois University Carbondale has been singled out to receive the eminent scholar award given every three years by Phi Kappa Phi. **Andrzej Bartke**, professor in SIUC's physiology department, in competition with five other accomplished academics, won the \$10,000 National Scholar Award in recognition of his contributions in the area of male reproductive physiology, including the relationship between longevity and growth hormone, as studied in mice.

The SIUC Rehabilitation Institute and institute director **James Bordieri** were recognized in the Summer 2001 issue of the *Rehabilitation Counseling Bulletin*. The institute was second among universities and Bordieri was fourth among faculty in the number of articles published in the bulletin between 1990 and 2000.

The Whiting Foundation has announced that **Joel Brouwer**, assistant professor in the Department of English, is a 2001 recipient of the Whiting Award. This is one of the country's most prestigious awards for creative writing, and Brouwer joins a very distinguished group of previous winners.

A patent was issued to the University in August 2000 entitled "Methods of Treating Traumatic Brain Injury by Vagus Nerve Stimulation." The inventors are **Ron Browning, Doug Smith, Rob Jensen, Kevin Clark, Dean Naritoku** (SOM-Springfield), and Reese Terry (Cyberonics Corp.) Using an implant invented by Cyberonics for treatment of epilepsy, the new method controls the electrical activity of the vagus nerve which is involved in memory and learning.

Brooks Burr, Professor of Zoology, has been selected the College of Science Outstanding Researcher for 2001. Burr is an expert on the diversity, ecology, and geography of North American freshwater fishes with an emphasis on the biology of three of the most diverse groups.

**Please contact us (koropcha@siu.edu) with any good news such as this that you would like considered for our future publications.*

Chemists **Dan Dyer** and **Shaowei Chen** received CAREER awards from the National Science Foundation. Dyer will receive more than \$492,000 for research with polymer-based organic thin films. Chen will receive \$350,000 for his work with materials which have potential for use in small scale electronic devices. Chen also received a \$75,000 Cottrell Scholar Award from the [Research Corporation](#).

Microbiologists at SIUC, led by **John Coates**, have isolated two microorganisms that can break down benzene without the aid of oxygen. This important research, which could aid in the removal of this pollutant from the environment, was published in the June 28 issue of *Nature*.

John Coates and **Laurie Achenbach** from the Microbiology Department received the Strategic Environmental Research and Development (SERDP) Project of the Year Award for cleanup 2001. SERDP is a joint program between DOD, DOE, and EPA. This national award was given as a result of their successes in the field of bioremediation of perchlorate.

John C. Crelling, a geology professor at SIUC who conducts research at the University's Coal Characterization and Maceral Separation laboratories, received the Gilbert H. Cady Award from the Geological Society of America for his contributions to coal geology research.

Benedykt Dziegielewski, Professor of Geography, is being honored by the College of Liberal Arts as this year's outstanding researcher for his work in water resources.

Regina Glover, Associate Professor of Health Education and Recreation, has received a top honor from her alma mater, the University of Illinois. The Charles K. Brightbill Award, is presented to graduates who have made significant contributions to the field of recreation.

Kent Haruf's third novel, *Plainson*, was nominated for the National Book Award.

The College of Mass Communication and Media Arts Outstanding Scholar award for 2001 was won by Prof. **Thomas Johnson**, Associate Professor, School of Journalism.

Henry Kim, Department of Mathematics, has been named a Clay Prize Fellow by the Clay Mathematics Institute in recognition of his outstanding research achievements in the field of number theory.

Noted metalsmith, sculptor, and professor emeritus of art, **L. Brent Kington**, received a Gold Medal from the American Craft Council, the organization's highest award for individual artists.

Sanjeev Kumar, Assistant Professor, Department of Civil Engineering, won both the College of Engineering's Dean Juh Wah Chen Outstanding Faculty Research Paper Award, and the Dean Kenneth E. Tempelmeyer Outstanding Faculty Research Award.

The May 2001 issue of *National Geographic* had separate articles, "The Fragile World of Frogs" and "Assassin of the Pine Forests," with quotes from **Karen Lips** and **John Reeve**, both assistant professors in SIUC's Department of Zoology.

Works by photographer **Fern Logan** were displayed in spring 2000 at the Smithsonian Institution's Anacostia Museum.

A research article published by Southern Illinois University Carbondale fisheries expert **Christopher C. Kohler** and former doctoral student **Anita M. Kelly** has been cited for its significance by the American Fisheries Society. Published in the *North American Journal of Aquaculture*, "Cold Tolerance and Fatty Acid Composition of Striped Bass, White Bass and Their Hybrids" was named the journal's top publication of 1999.

Michael T. Madigan, microbiologist, received the SIUC 2001 Outstanding Scholar Award in recognition of his work in anoxygenic phototrophic bacteria—tiny organisms that live in airless environments and make energy from sunlight.

Creative writing professor, **Lucia M. Perillo**, received a John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation "genius grant" in June 2000. This prestigious award provides \$500,000 in support over a five-year period.

SIUC documentary maker, **Jan Thompson's** work, "Hidden Korea" was aired by PBS nationwide in fall 2000. This program, one of a series produced by Thompson called "Hidden Journeys" examines the issue of food and culture.

Dick Estelle, the *Radio Reader*, recently read a novel by the Department of English's faculty member, **Brady Udall**, entitled *The Secret Life of Edgar Mint*. The book is also winning notice in Europe, and Udall just returned from a book tour there.

Professor **Gregory P. White**, Department of Management, was named as the College of Business and Administration's 2001 Researcher of the Year. His current area of research is operations strategy.

GRADUATE STUDENT HONORS

Donna J. Bernert, a doctoral student in Health Education, has landed a \$34,000 dissertation fellowship from the Social Science Research Council, which distributes funds on behalf of the Ford Foundation. Bernert will employ a research method known as ethnography, or cultural immersion, to explore sexuality issues among women with mental retardation.

Chad S. Briggs, psychology graduate student, won the 2001 Outstanding Thesis award for "Supermaximum Security Prisons and Institutional Violence: An Impact Assessment."

Lars-Erik Magnusson, a doctoral student in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry won first place among graduate students at the international meeting of the Federation of Analytical Chemistry and Spectroscopy Societies (FACSS) held in Detroit during the week of October 7 in a symposium

devoted to Rising Stars in Analytical Science for his presentation entitled "Condensation Nucleation Squared (CN²) and Other Fundamental Advances in Aerosol Light Scattering Detection for Separations."

Winners from the 12th annual Combined Research Symposium at SIUC's School of Medicine in Springfield have been announced. The first place medical student winner was **Daniel Liesen**, a graduating senior from Quincy. The first place graduate student winner was **Sandeep Pingle**, a pharmacology student from Pune, India. The first place resident winner was Dr. **Arian Mowlavi**, a plastic surgery resident from Irvine, California.

Two students, **Corey R. McCall** (Philosophy), and **Cecelia J. Mitchell** (Anthropology) have won the prestigious \$15,000 Morris Doctoral Fellowships to pursue graduate study at SIUC.

Penelope McLorg, Department of Anthropology, was awarded the Outstanding Dissertation Award for 2000. Dissertation title: "Aging and Glycemia in a Nonwesternized Context: Rural Maya Females in Yucatan, Mexico."

A doctoral student in the Department of Plant Biology, **Paige A. Mettler**, is the recipient of a 'Science to Achieve Results' (STAR) fellowship for 36 months. The fellowship pays up to \$34,000 with a \$17,000 stipend, \$5,000 for research and up to \$12,000 for tuition. The program is funded by the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Keli N. Ross, a graduate student in education at SIUC, is the University's first Holmes Scholar. She had been chosen to participate in the national initiative that assists aspiring minority teachers. Directed by The Holmes Partnership, the venture plugs talented minority graduate students into a network of mentors who provide professional development and future job referrals.

Jimmy Ruiz, a second-year medical student from Waukegan, has been awarded both an Alpha Omega Alpha Student Research Fellowship and the Howard Hughes Biomedical Research Award. Ruiz is the first SIUC medical student to win both awards in the same year.

Zoology doctoral students, **Brian L. Sloss**, **Timothy W. Spier** and **James "Ed" Wetzel II** won three of 12 prizes awarded by the American Fisheries Society to students in fisheries and related aquatic fields. They each received John E. Skinner awards, named for the former fisheries society chapter and Western division president. SIUC was the only University with three Skinner prize winners.

Ernesto Valenzuela, graduate student in agribusiness economics, was named the 2000 Outstanding Thesis winner for "Gravity Model Application for Estimation of Interregional Trade within the United States."

A master's graduate student in geology, **Warren Dean Vestal**, was awarded a NASA fellowship.

MORE HIGHLIGHTS

SIUC's **Materials Technology Center** received two Technology Challenge grants, totaling \$294,996, from the Illinois Dept. of Commerce and Community Affairs in spring 2001. One is to develop nano-scale devices such as drug delivery systems and molecular tweezers. The other is for advances in intelligent transportation systems, including "smart" sensors for remote monitoring of structures such as bridges and airplanes. Faculty in civil engineering, mechanical engineering, and chemistry are conducting the research.

The **Cooperative Wildlife Research Lab** was awarded the Wildlife Society's Group Achievement Award AND celebrated its 50th anniversary.

The **Center for Archaeological Investigations'** participation in the "Learn and Serve" program of Carbondale's Unity Point School helped make that program a state and national award winner.

Plans to build a new pedestrian bridge at SIUC moved forward Aug. 1 when the U.S. Senate approved a transportation bill containing \$750,000 in grant money for the project. The bridge, which would span Lincoln Drive between the Engineering and Neckers Buildings, would be built from composite materials made up of fiber and epoxy. Not only would the bridge offer increased safety for pedestrians and motorists, it would serve as a living laboratory for students in SIUC's engineering program. The total cost of the bridge is expected to run about \$1.5 million. The bridge project calls for a unique blend of engineering, materials design and student involvement.

SIUC's Graduate School held an open house and reception for a new teaching and research laboratory Oct. 3 in Room 209 of Parkinson Laboratory. The Geographic Information Systems/Remote Sensing Laboratory is a component of the University's **Environmental Resources and Policy** doctoral degree program. The lab consists of 10 new computer workstations, all equipped with the latest GIS systems. The Environmental Resources and Policy Program is jointly directed by the SIUC Departments of Geology, Geography, Agribusiness Economics, Forestry, and Plant, Soil and General Agriculture. Other units on campus, including the College of Engineering and School of Law, also participate. The program focuses on advanced training and research on physical, biological, and social processes responsible for natural resource and environmental problems facing society. Students also assess public policy alternatives to address those problems and create new opportunities.

In calendar year 2000, SIUC faculty:

- ◆ published: 661 articles, 94 books, and 158 book chapters;
- ◆ held: 252 productions, and 89 exhibitions and
- ◆ made: 301 presentations at international meetings; 863 presentations at national meetings, and 365 at state meetings

\$1.167M/yr. Enhances New Faculty Hiring

Starting this fiscal year, the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research (OVCR) will receive \$1.167M annually to assist departments and colleges with the hiring of new faculty. These funds will allow purchase of equipment required by new faculty to establish their research programs. Commitment of such funds is generally made during the negotiation phase with candidates who are selected for hiring, and in many disciplines the level of funds provided can be a deciding factor to prospective hires interested in a productive career at a research university such as SIUC. The levels of these 'startup' commitments have become substantial, averaging over \$300,000 per faculty member in some disciplines, as shown in Table 1, page 5, which lists average commitments made by comparable universities across the country. The funds from this program will provide part of the resources required by departments and colleges to competitively hire the high quality faculty that we need for our students and campus.

Successful, quality faculty hires now can have tremendous long-term implications to the campus, impacting virtually every academic program, as those granted tenure may spend 30+ years at the university. The funds available in the program will also lead to upgrading of the research and technology infrastructure of the university. Higher quality faculty than could be hired without competitive startup funds will increase the quality of undergraduate and graduate programs, and the experience that students receive, enhancing student recruiting and retention, as well as performance for employers of our students. Higher quality faculty who have the resources needed to develop competitive research programs will be more likely to be successful at attracting external funds and generating intellectual property, enhancing the image of the university and increasing the likelihood of spin-off enterprises that can enhance the Illinois economy.

The funding of this program comes at a critical time for SIUC. The average faculty age at the University has risen steadily over the last 12 years, and the number of retirements has risen substantially since 1980. Recent demographic data indicate that nearly one third of our full-time faculty are 55, or older. As a result, these retirement trends can be projected to even higher levels in the near future. In the very near future, departments and colleges will need to replace more and more retiring faculty, entailing continued need for start-up costs. A highly competitive market for quality faculty is evidenced already by the high costs listed in Table 1, but since the expansion in the 1960's at SIUC was mirrored at many universities, one can anticipate similar retirement trends elsewhere and therefore greater demand nationwide, making the near-term market for quality candidates even more competitive, and therefore potentially even more costly. Not surprisingly, escalating needs for start up funds was one of the major issues discussed by academic leaders from around the country at recent meetings of the National Association of State Universities and Land Grant Colleges (NASULGC)⁽¹⁾. The OVCR is pleased to have secured

this funding with the assistance of the university administration (and the support of IBHE, the governor's office and the state legislature) for a program that ideally gives us a competitive advantage for hiring new faculty.

Two years ago, the OVCR prepared the proposal entitled "Recruiting of Faculty in Areas of Critical Need" which resulted in this funding. The proposal was submitted to the Illinois Board of Higher Education as part of the university's new programs request. This past June, we received word that the proposal had been funded by the state at a level of 90% of the original budget, or \$1.167M. Notably, this was the only new program request from the campus that was funded this year.

In anticipation of funding of the request, last year the OVCR gambled and committed nearly \$500k in funds to assist hires in virtually every college in the university. The OVCR has received projections from the colleges totalling \$2.7M for the startup of new hires anticipated this year.

⁽¹⁾ NASULGC *Newsline*, September 2001, Volume 10(8), page 6.

New Ramp Initiatives for Graduate Students

The RAMP proposal to create a **Center for Graduate Teaching Excellence** approved by the Graduate Council last Spring has passed a major hurdle and was approved by the IBHE for at least partial funding in FY03. The approval of the governor and legislature is still required. The FY04 RAMP proposal, "**Enhanced Recruiting and Retention of High Quality Graduate Students,**" to provide an additional 10% average stipend increase to graduate assistants has been given high priority by the Deans' Council. Full or partial funding of one or both of these proposals will have a major impact on graduate education at SIUC.

Board of Trustees Chair Meets with Graduate Council

Chair of the SIU Board of Trustees, Molly D'Esposito, met with the Graduate Council on November 13, 2001. The meeting provided an opportunity for her to learn about the operation of the Council, the types of issues it undertakes, and decisions it is called upon to make. After the meeting, the feedback from Mrs. D'Esposito was that it was helpful to hear the members speak about the business conducted by the Council; she was particularly impressed by the depth and scope of University and professional service performed by the faculty.

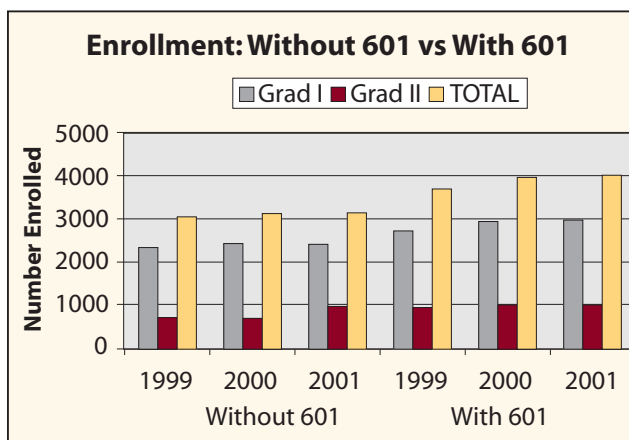
Table 1: Non-Salary Recruiting Costs for Faculty at Carnegie Research II Universities*

R-2 Department/Unit	Average (\$)
Accounting	20,750
Anthropology	18,250
Architecture	2,500
Art	3,590
Behavior/Comm Sciences	2,500
Biochemistry	260,000
Biological Sciences	140,360
Biology	76,571
Botany	114,333
Chem/BioChem	239,666
Chemistry	238,641
Classics	5,500
Communication	7,792
Comparative Literature	5,000
Computer Science	24,055
Creative Writing	4,500
Crime/Justice	4,633
Ctr for Italian Studies	3,500
Decision Sciences	27,400
Earth/Envir Sci	109,400
East Asian Studies	6,000
Economics	8,222
Educational Studies	14,500
English	5,857
Fine Arts & Performing Arts	2,500
Foreign Lang/Lit	5,100
Geography	13,571
Geology	49,712
Geosciences	305,165
Germ Lang/Literature	5,000
Health & Sport Sciences	50,000
Hispanic Languages	4,500
History	5,306
Human Relations	4,500
Journ/Broadcast	4,810
Languages, Lit & Cultures	6,000
Linguistics	10,750
Math	10,197
Microbiology	243,000
Modern/Lang	3,888
Music	2,426
Philosophy	9,871
Physical Education	4,000
Physics	140,462
Plant Biology	91,600
Political Science	5,634
Psychology	40,561
Public Affairs	5,000
Religious Studies	5,000
Social Work	4,425
Sociology	8,062
Statistics	5,000
Theater	4,000
Theological Studies	2,000
Women's Studies	1,500
Zoology	91,333

*Data from Council of Colleges of Arts and Sciences, New Hires Survey, 1999-2000.

Graduate Enrollment Trends

The nationwide decline in graduate student enrollments has ended with some institutions in metropolitan areas experiencing 5% increases in their graduate programs in Fall Semester 2001. SIUC graduate enrollments increased 1% for Fall Semester 2001. The growing number of international graduate students studying at SIUC is largely responsible for our enrollment growth for the past several years. The impact of the events of September 11 is unclear, however, because legislation is being considered at the national level that may effect the numbers of international students on campus. Consequently, graduate departments will need to intensify recruiting efforts both nationally and internationally to meet Chancellor Walter V. Wendler's goal of increasing graduate student enrollments at SIUC.



Energy Systems of the Future

The U.S. Department of Energy estimates that even with conservation efforts, domestic demand for energy will increase annually by 1.4 percent for the next twenty years. Concerns about resource depletion, local environmental damage and global climate change will place great pressure on energy producers to commercialize cleaner, more efficient systems that will meet national energy needs. A key issue in today's energy debate is whether significant new air pollution reduction can be achieved with the continued use of coal. The SIUC Coal Research Center is exploring opportunities to develop coal-based power plants that will have much higher efficiency and significantly lower pollution than any currently available technology. Researchers at SIUC have in the past year launched ambitious new projects to explore coal-based energy systems of the future.

Biotechnology Retreat at Touch of Nature

Biotechnology is one of the fastest growing research areas today, an area that the state of Illinois has focused on for economic growth, and one with great federal funding potential, as evidenced by the \$2.5B budget annual increases for NIH in recent years. As a result of these and other considerations, the Graduate School organized a retreat at Touch of Nature in July of 2001. The meeting was attended by nearly forty faculty representatives from the Carbondale and Springfield campuses, including those from the colleges of agriculture, engineering, and science, and the school of medicine.

As described by the attendees, SIUC has nationally recognized biotechnology strengths in the areas of aquaculture, bioremediation, soybean research, and neuroscience/hearing research. In addition, strengths were noted in marker-assisted selection, reproductive physiology, biodiversity, biomaterials/biosensors, and nutraceuticals/pharmaceuticals, including phytoestrogens. As a result of this discussion, it was concluded that focal points for our biotechnology initiatives should emphasize the areas of health (preventing and curing diseases), food and nutrition (functional genomics leading to better diets, and improved crop yields), and the environment (bioremediation and biodiversity).

Several goals for biotechnology on the campuses were identified. The first of these was to facilitate greater interactions, information exchange, and collaboration among campus biotechnology researchers. Included among objectives to achieve this goal were to establish a listserv for biotech researchers. As a result, a listserv has been set up by ORDA. The second goal was to improve the campus biotechnology infrastructure in order to enhance the competitiveness of campus biotechnology efforts. The third and ultimate goal was to develop nationally-competitive biotechnology centers on the campus.

More complete information about the retreat can be found at the ORDA website, www.siu.edu/worda/rm28/28-08.html.

New Funding Initiatives

Graduate Student Recruiting: Last December, the Graduate School received proposals from departments and combinations of departments in response to a Graduate School Recruitment Initiative designed to enhance recruitment activities of departments with innovative ideas. We were able to fund nine proposals this fiscal year and we hope to repeat the initiative next year. The Graduate School is willing to consider such proposals at any time if funding is available.

Graduate Technology Enhancement: The University initiated a graduate technology fee two years ago as a means to create resources to enhance the technology available on campus to graduate students. About \$40,000 a year is generated with this program. In FY 01, projects in Art & Design, Educa-

tional Psychology and Special Education, Anthropology, and the Integrated Microscopy and Graphics Expertise (IMAGE) facility were funded. This year projects in IMAGE, Art & Design, Journalism, Agriculture, the Nuclear Magnetic Resonance facility, and the Environmental Resources and Policy Ph.D. program were funded.

2001: 50th Anniversary of the Graduate School

It was with great pride that the Graduate School at Southern Illinois University Carbondale (SIUC) celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2001. A brief history of the development of the University's graduate programs follows. At the end of 1943, approval was given for the first graduate program, a Master of Science degree in Education in the fields of biological sciences, education, English, foreign languages, mathematics, physical sciences, and social sciences. During the following years, the University added additional master degree programs in various disciplines. The Graduate School, formally established in 1951, welcomed Willis G. Swartz as the first Dean. In 1955, the SIUC Board of Trustees authorized the University to grant the Ph.D. degree. Ph.D. programs were established in 1956 in Speech Correction and Government, followed in 1957 by Education and Psychology. The first doctoral degree was conferred in 1959. Since that time, the University's graduate degree landscape, comprehensive in nature and both entrepreneurial and traditional in approach, has expanded and diversified. Currently, 84 advanced degree programs are offered through the various academic colleges.

After Willis Swartz, individuals who have served as deans of the Graduate School include: C. Addison Hickman, David T. Kenney, William E. Simeone, Herbert H. Rosenthal, John M. H. Olmsted, Thomas O. Mitchell, John C. Guyon, John S. Jackson, Barbara C. Hansen, Michael R. Dingerson, John H. Yopp, Richard E. Falvo, and current dean, John A. Koropchak.

Highlights from the Research Support Facilities

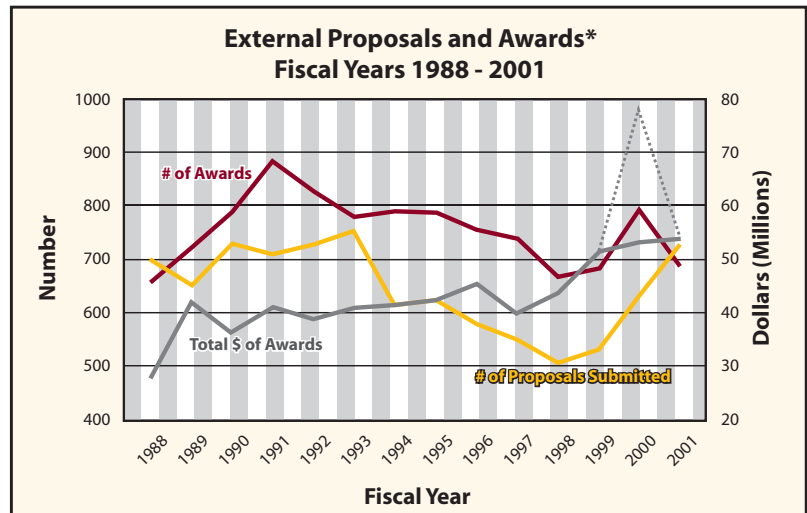
Integrated Microscopy and Graphics Expertise (IMAGE) acquired a Hewlett Packard 5000PS **large format poster printer via the Graduate Technology Enhancement Grant**. IMAGE subsequently purchased 2 high end graphics work stations and **professional level software to train graduate students in the production of large posters**. IMAGE will put online a high resolution (20 megapixel), high sensitivity, digital camera for use in low light (fluorescence) microscopy. The facility is available for use by all graduate students, as well as others on campus.

During the fall of 2000, representatives from the **Association for Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care (AAALAC) found the Graduate School's laboratory animal care program in conformance** with appropriate standards and was granted continued **Full Accreditation**. In addition to complying with the local, state and federal laws that regulate animal research, AAALAC accreditation demonstrates SIUC's commitment to responsible animal care and use.

ORDA Reports ...

The Office of Research Development and Administration (ORDA) registers continued growth in the University research mission, as measured through traditional indicators shown in the accompanying graph. Grant activity tends to oscillate around a mean, and that mean may be a trend line heading either upward or downward. Upward, of course, is the preferred direction, and that has been the course for SIUC since 1997-98. Last fiscal year's one-time award of nearly \$25 million from Com Ed provided an exciting spike in our dollar totals, so the drop to a "normal" amount looks disappointing in comparison. Similarly, this fiscal year's (2001) drop in number of awards to University researchers, compared to last year's total, is also disappointing ... but not necessarily a matter of concern*. As noted, awards tend to oscillate about a trend line, and it takes more than one point to indicate a trend. And at the time of this writing, preliminary figures for the month of December 2001 (FY 02) compared to December 2000 (FY 01) reveal sharp increases in both awards and dollars.

*Researchers typically apply for (and receive) multi-year grants, so "fat" years (with large number of awards) are often followed by relatively "leaner" ones.



*Excluding Financial Aid; including School of Medicine Springfield.
(Office of Research Development and Administration, SIUC. December 14, 2001.)

"Coming Together"

In spite of cold, rainy weather, the Graduate School held its Annual Picnic on Friday, October 5, 2001 at the breezeway of Faner Hall with a theme of "Coming Together." All units reporting to the Graduate School enjoyed good food, catered by 17th Street Bar and Grill, good company, and lots of fun and prizes. Coordinating committee members who planned the event were Bill Curtis, Glassblowing Research Shop; Jane Elder, Cooperative Wildlife Research; Debbie Fields, ORDA; Jim Garvey, Fisheries and Illinois Aquaculture Center; Paula Maloney, Coal Research Center, and Pat McNeil, Administrative Office. Dean Koropchak presented remarks and noted the accomplishments of the Graduate School during the past year, as reiterated in the *Foreword*, and expressed congratulations and thanks to all units of the Graduate School for their exemplary efforts contributing to these accomplishments.



John Mead, Songwen Xie, Cal Meyers



Karen Renzaglia, John Bozzola



Picnic Participants

Southern Illinois University Carbondale, Administration

Walter V. Wendler, *Chancellor*

Margaret E. Winters, *Interim Provost and Vice Chancellor*

Glenn W. Poshard, *Vice Chancellor for Administration*

Rickey N. McCurry, *Vice Chancellor for
Institutional Advancement*

Larry H. Dietz, *Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs and
Enrollment Management*

Research and Graduate Programs Administration

John A. Koropchak, *Interim Vice Chancellor for Research and
Graduate Dean*

David L. Wilson, *Associate Dean, Graduate School*

Prudence M. Rice, *Acting Associate Dean, Graduate School, and
Director, Research Development and Administration*

John S. Mead, *Associate Dean, Graduate School, and
Director, Coal Research Center*

Patricia McNeil, *Assistant Dean, Graduate School*

(Foreword, continued)

ated as part of external grants to the campus. This formula increased the percentage returned to departments/colleges from 20% to 30%, and provides 40% to the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research (OVCR). This new distribution, plus the increased indirect costs generated by the higher level of external awards, has allowed the OVCR to establish many new programs, including one for faculty and graduate student travel (with assistance from the Chancellor's office, the Provost's office and the SIU Foundation). Other initiatives include an enhanced Research/Scholarly/Creative Grants award program, the graduate recruiting fund described below, and a matching funds program. The latter, in turn, has helped augment SIUC's portion of the \$10M state of Illinois matching funds program from \$42k in FY99 to \$307k this year.

In addition, the OVCR was recently funded by the state RAMP process with \$1.167M annually to support startup costs for recruiting new faculty. As described elsewhere in this issue, this program will allow SIUC to be more competitive at hiring excellent new faculty who will be part of a reshaping that will occur over the next twenty years of the campus.

Perhaps the most important consideration for all these increases in OVCR funds—IDC returns, state matching dollars, RAMP funds—is that virtually all of this money goes back to colleges, departments, faculty, and students to support research and graduate programs.

With respect to graduate education, over the past two years SIUC has experienced annual increases in graduate enrollment despite declines nationwide. In fall of 2001, graduate enrollment was up again, this time by 1.3%. This rosy situation is clouded by recent state and national events, however. The tragedy of September 11 has prompted national leaders to ask questions that could affect our ability to admit international students. State and national economies have taken a downturn with a host of negative budget ramifications. This has a bit of a silver lining for graduate programs, however, in that graduate enrollment generally increases during such times. Nonetheless, continued aggressive efforts at recruiting new graduate students will be required to promote con-

tinued growth in graduate enrollment. I am confident that working together we can continue our recent successes.

As part of this aggressive approach, the OVCR recently initiated a new funding program intended to enhance the recruiting efforts of departments and colleges. In addition, we are preparing a RAMP proposal to raise our graduate stipends by 10%, which, if funded, would increase our competitiveness for recruiting excellent students. And we have proposed at least a \$20M target in the capital campaign for an endowment for new fellowship dollars. Along with increased external funding, a greater number of fellowships will provide us with the assistantship support needed to increase our graduate student population. As many federal research programs continue to be projected for significant budgetary growth (e.g., NIH budget doubling nearing completion, and NSF doubling in progress), the opportunity to augment that factor also appears attainable, simultaneously and necessarily leading to enhancement of our research productivity.

As one important step toward enhancing the research and graduate education agendas at SIUC, Chancellor Wendler received approval from the Board of Trustees to establish the position of Vice Chancellor for Research and Graduate Dean. Although this new title does not substantially change my responsibilities, it does elevate research into policy- and decision-making at the highest levels of the campus, commensurate with primacy of research to the university's mission. It also demonstrates, both on and off campus, the critical significance of research to SIUC.

So, despite the recent economic downturn (which is a periodic phenomenon in any case), I believe that with this new administrative structure and team working together with the faculty and students, the future of research/scholarly/creative activities and graduate programs at SIUC shines with an unprecedented glow and is a source of great optimism!

—John A. Koropchak, *Interim Vice Chancellor for Research and
Graduate Dean*