

# SIU ALUMNI

SPRING 2022

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## Saluki Pride, Saluki Partners

*Banterra Bank has become an  
integral part of campus life*

# Forever SIU campaign's new goal: \$500M

BY JEFF WILSON



**C**hancellor Austin Lane has announced the expansion of the Forever SIU fundraising campaign with a new goal of \$500 million.

The announcement came in front of a large crowd as SIU kicked off its Saluki Takeover Tour in St. Louis at the Hilton St. Louis at the Ballpark on Wednesday, March 2.

"This will reshape the way we imagine the future of SIU," said Chancellor Lane during the Saluki Takeover Tour kickoff event on March 2 at the Hilton St. Louis at the Ballpark.

After raising more than \$3.5 million during the SIU Day of Giving, Chancellor Lane was overjoyed at the show of Saluki spirit.

"This is about supporting our students and strengthening the university," he said. "Our alumni and donors understand the importance of this mission, and their generosity is what has set us on this path to half a billion dollars."

## Forever SIU

The Forever SIU campaign was launched in 2017 with a goal of raising \$75 million in three years. The Foundation sped past that milestone seven months early, which prompted the decision to set a new goal of \$90 million.

Chancellor Austin Lane announces the new \$500 million goal for the Forever SIU fundraising campaign on March 2 during the Saluki Takeover Tour in St. Louis.

"At the end of 2019, we had already surpassed that new goal," Matt Kupec, CEO of the SIU Foundation, said. "That's when we set our sights on \$200 million, and we're well ahead of schedule. It's clear that we need to keep this momentum."

The money raised through the campaign has funded scholarships, campus improvements, supported faculty, and enhanced alumni engagement.

"The SIU Foundation acts as an accelerator for the university," Kupec said. "It's a role we embrace every day, and we're excited to continue the Forever SIU campaign."

For more information about the Forever SIU campaign, visit [foreversiu.org](http://foreversiu.org).

**FOREVER SIU**  
THE CAMPAIGN FOR  
SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY  
**IMAGINE 2030**

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### ON THE COVER

Banterra Bank staff are (from top right) Michael Lewallen, Commercial Officer; Steve Burroughs, EVP, Chief Risk Officer; Makenzie Nelson, Digital Media & Design Coordinator; Shane Carsrud, Senior Banker, Central Region; and Kristina Scott, EVP, Chief Banking Officer.

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Jeff Gleim, Executive Director

# Keeping Up with the Salukis

I'll admit it: I've had to double check my calendar more frequently lately. I guess I'm afraid I'll miss something. Recently, I took a few minutes to make a list of everything we've hosted or accomplished in the past year. It was two pages long. Then, I looked ahead at the things we're going to get done in the coming months. It got even longer.

Don't worry, it's all part of the plan. About a year ago, the Association started acting on a long-term strategy aimed at becoming more diverse and inclusive, strengthening partnerships across campus, enhancing the communication we already do, as well as fortifying our own house as a sustainable organization that will provide services not just for current and future alumni, but for the students we all serve at SIU. We hit all of our Fiscal Year 2022 goals.

Last fall, we had a great turnout for the Association's first Legacy Luncheon, which gave alumni and their children who just arrived on campus a warm welcome. We also completed our first-ever national call for new members to our alumni board of directors. We received more than 50 responses and are preparing to seat six new members. I encourage you to follow us on social media, as we frequently offer in-depth live chats with our campus partners to inform alumni about what's happening at SIU. We also have had a lot of fun inventing new

types of digital programs, like the "Saluki Sleuths" series, which dives into some of the myths, legends, and mysteries of more than a century of SIU history.

For students, we launched the Ask a Saluki website. A self-service mentoring platform, which helps connect students with the alumni best able to answer their questions. Some of you may have received and even answered these queries. In addition, the Association has also grown its Student Alumni Council, having just completed the application process and welcomed several new members to the group.

Through it all, the Association has kept up its traditions. We've hosted alumni events at Homecoming, we're preparing once again for our long-standing Wrigley Field and Busch Stadium gatherings, we were back in force at the Missouri Valley Conference tournament in St. Louis this spring to cheer on the Dawgs. Plus, we're committed to hosting more football tailgates at both home and away games than at any time in recent years.

So, yes, I'll keep checking my calendar, just to make sure I'm keeping pace with the apparent speed of the Salukis. I'd encourage you to do the same. We'd love to have you along for the ride!



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**L**ook for Saluki groups in your area and get involved.

**U**se your voice to advocate and recruit for SIU.

**K**eep wearing your Saluki gear!

**I**nvite local students to inquire about SIU.

The most valuable thing you can give to SIU is the time you make to participate, stay informed, advocate, and recruit for your alma mater.

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SIU ALUMNI  
ASSOCIATION APP!**



siualumni.com



## CAMPUS MOMENT

Paddleboats along the dock at Campus Lake sit amid the frozen waters during the early evening in the winter months at Southern Illinois University Carbondale. The lakefront was largely quiet after the first significant snow of the season in February.



# Imagining SIU Carbondale's long-term future



**When I started as chancellor at SIU Carbondale almost 2 years ago**, my first job was to listen – and to learn, not to come in and start barking out a strategic plan or marching orders. I have seen people do that at prior institutions; I know firsthand that approach does not work. During several months on my Listening and Learning tour, I asked for and got the good, the bad and the ugly from many constituencies, including alumni. I appreciate the candid feedback. It was invaluable.

I also heard a lot about what our university used to be, especially when more students were enrolled. While it is important to honor and learn from our 150-year-plus history, it is critical we fix on the years ahead and dream about what our future could be. The name of our new strategic plan, Imagine 2030, puts us in a positive place, where we can envision what we can do.

Imagine 2030 truly is not my plan. It's our plan – from faculty and staff, students, community members and alumni. It belongs to the entire Saluki family. We made a collective effort to create the plan, and we must make a collective effort to bring it to life and achieve our goals. Support from our alumni is essential.

For the first time in several years, we have a plan that gives SIU Carbondale focus among a lot of competing demands. Great things happen here in Carbondale, but if we don't have strategies and tie priorities to a strategic plan, they get lost. Five interconnected and equally important pillars narrow down the scope and help us be efficient.

**Our pillars are:**

- **Student success and engagement.**
- **Diversity, equity and inclusion.**
- **Branding and partnerships.**
- **Research and innovation.**
- **Sustainability.**

Even though we are only a few months into the plan, we have already seen early successes. Here are just a few examples:

- **Last fall, we had our largest freshman class in five years, our freshman class grew for the second consecutive year, and we saw increases in graduate and transfer enrollment. Projections for fall 2022 look good. We continue to examine our processes and remove barriers.**

- **We have brought in prominent speakers to lend their insight on diversity, equity and inclusion, including NAACP President Derrick Johnson. We are also participating in an SIU System-wide diversity climate survey to ascertain where we can do better.**
- **You may have noticed a heightened presence of our billboards in the Southern Illinois region, Chicago, Houston and Kansas City, all inviting potential students to imagine their future with us. And our newest commercials include a spot specifically for Hispanic/Latinx students rather than a mere Spanish translation of an existing ad.**
- **We have signed several Saluki Step Ahead agreements with community colleges in Illinois and one in St. Louis to provide a viable, affordable pathway for students with limited options.**
- **In 2020-21, faculty researchers secure more than \$44.7 million in grants. The funded projects include a genome survey of the virus that causes COVID, fish and wildlife management, early childhood development and agriculture.**
- **SIU Carbondale is leading a large and diverse coalition of several community partners in a U.S. Department of Energy Communities Local Energy Action Program (LEAP) project for clean energy economic development.**

There is nothing magical about these achievements. They are the result of focused effort, strategy and hard work done by many Salukis, including the insight and contributions of alumni.

If you are a parent, I hope your alma mater's accomplishments and aspirations will inspire your family to continue the Saluki legacy. As you may already know, Salukis receive hands-on learning and personal attention. If they are interested in research, they will have opportunities often reserved for grad students elsewhere. Your children may also qualify for a 20% tuition discount.

At the start of our next 150 years, our future looks bright, thanks to the efforts of many Salukis. We have work to do, and Imagine 2030 will guide us to where we want to go. You can learn more at [imagine2030.siu.edu](http://imagine2030.siu.edu).

Thank you for all you do for SIU Carbondale. Go Dawgs!

Austin A. Lane



# IMAGINE

STARTING A NEW ADVENTURE

LEARN MORE AT [SIU.EDU](http://SIU.EDU)



## HELP A NEW GENERATION IMAGINE THE POSSIBILITIES

Students of alumni receive a 20% Legacy tuition discount when they enroll at Southern Illinois University Carbondale.

CAMPUS & GROUP TOURS  
AVAILABLE DAILY!  
[admissions.siu.edu](http://admissions.siu.edu)





# SALUKI PRIDE, SALUKI PARTNERS

BANTERRA BANK

Has Become An Integral Part Of Campus Life In Carbondale



**B**anterra Bank has grown from humble roots as a small bank in Ridgway, Illinois in 1975. Today, it's one of southern Illinois' largest employers and has more than \$2.6 billion in assets across multiple branches in the region. Along with that, Banterra has also grown as a key supporter of Southern Illinois University Carbondale.

Banterra knows how important SIU is to the region, and it's one of the reasons it increased their partnership of more than a decade with the university in 2019. It became the first corporate naming-rights partner with an SIU athletic facility, renaming of the SIU Arena to the Banterra Center. The multi-million-dollar, ten-year agreement offers up to \$10 million for the university with a \$4-million guarantee for the first ten years, and a ten-year extension offer. It still remains the largest corporate naming-rights agreement in SIU's more-than-150-year history.

"We're committed to our communities and for this region, a key component to economic development is the success of Southern Illinois University and Saluki Athletics," said Jeff May, President and CEO of Banterra Bank. "The university has a rich history of being a driving factor for southern Illinois and as a company, we greatly appreciate that and wanted to be a partner that would help them continue that role. We are extremely proud to have our company name on such an iconic facility and to serve as a corporate partner example for the university."

As part of the naming rights agreement, Banterra exclusively offers a Saluki-branded debit card. The Banterra-SIU Saluki Visa Debit Card is available with Banterra Saluki checking products

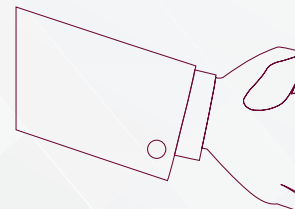
and the transaction activity contributes to the Banterra Bank-SIU Scholarship Fund. A minimum \$50,000 annual contribution is made to the university, with ten recipients receiving a \$5,000 scholarship. As debit card activity builds, there is an opportunity

for the annual contribution to go above the minimum of \$50,000. Banterra offers online account opening, so as an alumni from anywhere in the country can get a Saluki debit card and contribute to the fund.

"The Saluki debit card is a really easy way for SIU alumni and fans to support the university," said May. "On a daily basis, with items that you are already purchasing, supporters can use this debit card to provide important scholarships for students who hope to or are currently attending SIU."

In addition to the financial commitment with Banterra's naming-rights agreement and the benefits of the Saluki debit card, SIU is getting its brand promoted in Banterra's marketing and PR efforts. Banterra actively promotes the Salukis in more than 25 Banterra southern Illinois branch locations through signage and other materials. Banterra frequently runs TV spots and newscast sponsorships promoting the Banterra-Saluki Debit Card through local ABC-affiliate TV station, WSIL, as well as regional streaming opportunities. The branded product is also promoted through social media, digital advertising, Banterra's website, outdoor and through internal communication.





“We’re committed to our communities and for this region, a key component to economic development is the success of Southern Illinois University and Saluki Athletics.”

—JEFF MAY, PRESIDENT AND CEO OF BANTERRA BANK



#### **BANTERRA PARTNERS WITH SIU ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**

This year, Banterra decided to take their SIU partnership a step further. When Jeff Gleim, executive director of the SIU Alumni Association, approached Banterra with an opportunity to become a marketing partner with them, Banterra saw great value in the partnership.

Jeff Speith, Banterra’s Market Executive for southern Illinois and Paducah, Kentucky, is a SIU alumnus and welcomed the proposal.

“As an alumnus, I understand the loyalty of wanting to support the university and be a part of its growth

and success,” said Speith. “We want alumni to be aware of the benefits of what we offer through the debit card and how they can help their alma mater each day just by using it.”

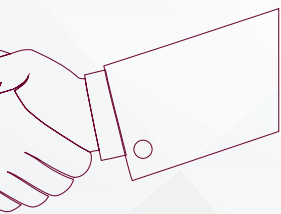
#### **BANTERRA EMPLOYS SIU ALUMNI**

While Banterra has approximately 500 employees in 40 locations across six states (Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Missouri and recently Arizona and Utah), nearly a fifth of their employee base are SIU alumni. Additionally, Banterra has worked with the university to regularly offer internship opportunities, participate in job fairs and provide financial literacy classes for students. The company also invested in an ATM kiosk area in the SIU Student Center in 2021 to offer on-campus convenience.

For Banterra team members who attended SIU, it has been exciting to see Banterra’s increased support to their alma mater.

Steve Burroughs, Banterra’s EVP, Chief Risk Officer, has a family heritage that has been supporting the Salukis since the mid-1960s. “Our entire family attended SIU and started our careers right after graduating. We attend the SIU games often, with three generations being Saluki fans and supporting athletics and other programs,” said Burroughs. “Now to attend those games in ‘Banterra’ Center, see our company logo on campus and in Saluki Stadium, and with the addition of the Alumni Association partnership – just reinforces the sense of pride and commitment we have to the SIU family, both at a personal and corporate level.”

For Kristina Scott, who recently joined Banterra’s Executive Management team as EVP, Chief Banking



“I had no idea when I graduated from SIU, that I would one day work for a company that supports SIU to this level. With my involvement in Carbondale, I know how important the university is to this town and to this region.”

—SHANE CARSRUD, SENIOR BANKER, BANTERA'S CENTRAL REGION

Officer, she was especially honored to join a company that partners with SIU.

“My husband, Nate, and I are both Lifetime Members of the SIU Alumni Association” said Scott. “I am a second-generation Saluki and actually watched my parents graduate from SIU when I was 12. I was really fortunate to be get the full experience while attending SIU – Business Scholars Program, founding member of Saluki Student Investment Fund, Saluki Shaker, SIU's 25 Most Distinguished Seniors. It prepared me so much for my career and to join a company that gives so much to SIU meant a lot to me.”

Michael Lewallen, a commercial lender at Banterra's Carbondale location, serves on SIU's Young Alumni Committee and works daily serving SIU, including serving the financial needs of international students.

“SIU attracts a large base of international students, and these students have unique financial needs, as the banking systems in other countries are much different than what we have in the US. They may need help writing a check, or understanding the difference between account and routing numbers, for example. At Banterra, we make it one of our top goals to serve SIU students, while providing them with the financial tools and education they need to succeed.”

Shane Carsrud, Senior Banker for Banterra's Central Region, also works out of the Carbondale branch. Shane has served in various leadership roles in Carbondale's civic organizations and is a SIU alumnus.

“I had no idea when I graduated from SIU, that I would one day work for a company that supports SIU to this level,” said Carsrud. “With my involvement in Carbondale, I know how important the university is to this town and to this region. My mom and sister work

at SIU; I have so many reasons to want to see SIU grow and just happy that our company can be a part of that.”

One of Banterra's team members who is an SIU alumni had an interesting opportunity due to her company's partnership with SIU. Makenzie Nelson, Digital Media & Design Coordinator in Banterra's Marketing Department, actually got to design the logo for Banterra Center, which would replace the SIU Arena branding.

“I couldn't believe that I was able to design a logo that would be used for the iconic SIU Arena. I'm often reminded when I see the logo that I was able to pay it forward a bit – the university where I learned design now benefits from that with the logo and the almost-daily creative that we produce that promotes SIU,” said Nelson.

Banterra hopes to continue to build on their partnership with SIU in various ways. In addition to participating in SIU sponsorship and year-round event activities, Banterra will be joining forces with SIU Alumni Association to provide a great tailgate experience at Saluki's opening football game on Sept. 10th against SEMO.



Interest in showing your Saluki pride and contributing easily to SIU scholarships? Go to [Banterra.bank](https://Banterra.bank) to open an account online, make a branch appointment or to learn more.



# 60 YEARS STRONG:

## *WSIU Public Television Celebrates 60 Years of Broadcasting Excellence*

1961 was a big year in American history. John F. Kennedy became the 35th President of the United States, Roger Maris of the New York Yankees broke Babe Ruth's 34-year-old home run record, Alan Shepherd became the first American in space, and Joseph Heller published his classic novel *Catch 22*.

Closer to home, another significant event took place at Southern Illinois University Carbondale signaling the start of what has become a 60-year tradition of excellence in education and public service. On November 6, 1961 – just three years after WSIU Public Radio made its debut as WSRV, “Southern’s Radio Voice” – the University launched its first public television channel, WSIU-TV 8 followed by WUSI-TV 16 in the Olney area on August 19th, 1968.

Founded by then-President Delyte Morris, who would transform SIU from a small teacher college into a major research university in just 12 years, and professors Buren C. Robbins and Jacob O. Bach, WSIU-TV signed on the air with 55 hours of programming, nearly half of which were devoted to instructional programs for area K-12 classrooms.

“We are proud and humbled that legendary SIU President Delyte Morris’ legacy providing high quality educational and public service public television is thriving 60-years after WSIU-TV, Carbondale signed on the air,” said Jak Tichenor, former Interim Executive Director of WSIU Public Broadcasting.

All photos provided by WSIU.

Today, WSIU boasts five digital television channels (WSIU, WUSI, WSEC, WMEC, WQEC), three radio stations (WSIU, WUSI, WVSI) broadcasting around-the-clock, and provides a myriad of digital methods to watch, listen and learn. The station also maintains a nationally recognized education and outreach department; an award-winning local production unit; and the Southern Illinois Radio Information Service (SIRIS), a radio reading service for individuals who are blind or physically unable to read for themselves. With the recent addition of WSEC Jacksonville/Springfield, WQEC Quincy, and WMEC Macomb, WSIU Carbondale and WUSI Olney now serve an audience of five million people in 67 of the 102 Illinois counties and portions of Missouri, Indiana, Kentucky, Iowa, Tennessee, and Arkansas - making WSIU one of the larger PBS regional networks in the country.

“Our commitment to the area has never been stronger. We’ve invested millions of dollars of dollars in new transmission equipment and connectivity for our television stations in the past two years and added a new television repeater facility near Cape Girardeau, Missouri in the fall of 2020 thanks to the generosity of an anonymous viewer,” Tichenor said. “We’ve also improved our on-the-air line-up including the addition of the PBS KIDS 24/7 channel last year thanks in large to the support of viewers throughout the region. Our local programming, educational outreach, and public service initiatives are vital to the well-being of our audience.”

WSIU has never lost sight of the goals President Morris set for WSIU-TV, and into our 60th year we continue strive to meet our mission to improve the quality of life for the people we serve. This not only includes our viewers and listeners but the larger University community as well.

In keeping with the vision set forth by President Morris, the station has continued its commitment to serve as a resource for “hands-on” experiential learning for generations of public media professionals. Here, students work alongside their professional mentors to learn the business of broadcasting and digital media. Student training has been in WSIU’s DNA since the very founding of the Broadcasting Service in 1954 and students routinely work in dozens of roles in the daily operation of the stations that prepare them for a lifetime of professional service.

#### THE NEXT 60 YEARS

The last sixty years have ushered in many changes and expansions at the station – from technology upgrades and local programming to leadership changes. In December 2021 the station welcomed a new Executive Director, Fred Martino.

Martino joins the WSIU leadership team from New Mexico where he served for thirteen years as the Director of Content at KRWG Public Media at New Mexico State University. Martino also served as Director of News and Public Affairs for nine years at WGTV Public Media at Grand Valley State University in Michigan.

“We are proud to have Fred join the WSIU family and take the helm,” says Jak Tichenor who served as the station’s Interim Executive Director from 2019-2020. “Fred’s expertise in content creation and his leadership experience bring a unique perspective to WSIU’s executive team. His long-standing background in public media lends decades of experience to the position, and I have every confidence the station will thrive under his leadership,” says Tichenor.

Martino’s history in public media, specialization with university-based stations, and commitment to life-long learning and the values of public broadcasting will serve him well as he positions WSIU for its next decade of service. While growing campus and community partnerships will be a key part of WSIU’s strategy moving forward, Martino says he will maintain a sharp focus on children’s educational programming and K-12 community outreach. Martino’s plans for WSIU will continue to focus on award-winning television and radio programming, however he is most excited for new opportunities to connect with viewers, listeners, and community partners throughout the region.

“I am looking forward to meeting with community members who have made WSIU’s remarkable achievements possible,” says Martino. “Public media is more important than ever. With continued local support, we’re planning more regional programming while continuing to present the best from PBS and NPR,” he adds.

Thank you to all the viewers, community partners and local businesses who have supported the WSIU stations over the last 60 years! With your ongoing support, we look forward to another 60 years of outstanding programming and services for people of all ages.

# Day Of Giving Raises More Than \$3.5 Million

## Saluki Takeover Tour Hits St. Louis

BY JEFF WILSON



Chancellor Austin Lane and SIU Foundation CEO Matt Kupec watch the screen as the Day of Giving totals rise during the livestream on March 2 at the WSIU-TV studio.

**T**he SIU Day of Giving reached new heights this year by raising more than \$3.5 million.

In its sixth year, the 24-hour online fundraiser received more than 2,400 donations and set numerous records. In its six years of existence, the Day of Giving has brought in more than \$10 million.

“Once again, Salukis everywhere came together and showed their spirit,” Matt Kupec, CEO of the SIU Foundation, said. “We were awed by the outpouring of support throughout the day.”

The Day of Giving was capped by Chancellor Austin Lane announcing the expansion of the Forever SIU fundraising campaign. The SIU Foundation plans to raise \$500 million in its continuing effort to support the mission of the university. After surpassing its original \$200 million goal, Chancellor Lane said he’s excited to keep going.

“This is about supporting our students and strengthening the university,” he said. “Our alumni and

donors understand the importance of this mission, and their generosity is what has set us on this path to half a billion dollars.”

The \$3.5 million total is the highest in the history of the SIU Day of Giving. Last year, the SIU Foundation raised \$2.8 million on the day, which started in 2017.

The College of Liberal Arts led the way by raising more than \$723,000, and the School of Medicine came in a close second, bringing in more than \$681,000.

Some of the other highest totals were:

- College of Business and Analytics: More than \$230,000
- College of Agricultural, Life, and Physical Sciences: More than \$188,000
- College of Arts and Media: More than \$167,000
- College of Engineering, Computing, Technology, and Mathematics: More than \$135,000
- Saluki Athletics: More than \$109,000



Donors to the Balancing Education, Experience, and Reality (B.E.E.R.) Scholarship continued their tradition of Day of Giving support by combining to make nearly 700 gifts and raising more than \$52,000.

Other areas with the most donations were:

- School of Medicine: 374
- Saluki Athletics: 184
- College of Agricultural, Life, and Physical Sciences: 147
- College of Arts & Media: 128
- College of Health and Human Sciences: 108

“The Day of Giving is one of the best days of the year at SIU,” Kupec said. “Our alumni and donors make it so much fun. They have made it into an unbelievable success.

#### GOING LIVE

For the second straight year, the SIU Foundation hosted a livestream event during the Day of Giving. Featuring presentations from Chancellor Lane, deans, university officials, students, and staff, it showcased some of the best that SIU has to offer.

“We were the only university to go live last year, and it was so terrific that we knew we had to do it again,” said Kupec, who hosted the livestream from the WSIU-TV studio.

Broadcast on the SIU Alumni Association’s Facebook page, followers were able to comment and interact with the livestream as Kupec made real-time announcements about gifts and other important news

#### SALUKIS IN ST. LOUIS

The Day of Giving wrapped up with the Chancellor’s Reception at the Hilton St. Louis at the Ballpark as the university kicked off its inaugural Saluki Takeover Tour St. Louis.

The takeover event lasted four days in conjunction with the MVC men’s basketball tournament. Numerous events around the city allowed alumni and supporters to gather and celebrate the Saluki spirit.

Chancellor Lane and others announced partnerships with St. Louis-area high schools and community colleges as part of the university’s effort to increase enrollment.

“The excitement surrounding these events is palpable,” Kupec said. “Saluki pride is an incredible thing, and it was on full display.”



Chancellor Austin Lane poses with a family of Salukis during the Chancellor’s Reception on March 2 at the Hilton St. Louis at the Ballpark.



Madison Giltner and Dylan Chambers, members of the SIU Dawg Pound, joined the Saluki Takeover Tour in St. Louis.



Chancellor Austin Lane shakes hands with St. Louis Community College Chancellor Jeff Pittman after signing a Saluki Step Ahead agreement, as SIU System President Dan Mahony applauds.

# Alumnus honors Werlich family with donations

BY JEFF WILSON

Most worthwhile college experiences include connecting with others. Some of these interactions are fleeting, but some make a lasting impact.

One such connection from decades ago inspired an SIU alumnus to ensure that impact stretches decades into the future. With two gifts, totaling \$525,000, he and his wife have honored Dr. David Werlich and his family.

“I don’t think I would have ever finished my graduate degree without their support,” said the alumnus, who wished to remain anonymous.

The first is a \$425,000 gift that will establish the Werlich Family Graduate Assistantship in Digital Humanities at Morris Library Endowment Fund. The other is a \$100,000 donation that creates the David P. Werlich Graduate Scholarship Endowment Fund in the Department of History.

Dr. David Werlich, an emeritus history professor, taught courses in Latin American history. However, it wasn’t his classes that inspired such a philanthropic gesture.

“I never took a class with Dr. Werlich, but I knew his son, Tom, and we went to graduate school at the same time. When I was there, all my undergrad friends had left, and I felt kind of alone,” said the alumnus. “That’s when we became extremely good friends. He introduced me to his family, and I ended up spending a lot of time at his home in Carbondale.

“Dr. Werlich would talk about a lot of things – history, politics, and particularly South America. The Werlichs were very good to me. It was like having a second family. It was vital for me.”

## The Werlich legacy

A recipient of five assistantships during his time at SIU, the alumnus felt it was important to give other students similar opportunities. The Werlich Family Graduate Assistantship will help the library with its digitalization project.

Graduate students will be able to apply for the assistantship and receive it multiple times to help SIU and Morris Library develop future leaders in the field of digitalization.

“This gift will allow us to bring more of the treasures held in the Special Collections Research Center to our students and faculty in a digital format that leads to a deeper engagement with the actual documents,” said John Pollitz, dean of Library Affairs. “It promotes collaboration with the history department directly but will and provides the foundation for more digital humanities projects across campus.”

Pollitz shared his experience with Dr. Werlich, which makes this donation that much more meaningful.

“I took two classes in Latin American history from Dr. Werlich. They had a real impact on my life,” he said. “Many things about Dr. Werlich’s teaching have stayed with me since those times. He made the subject come alive and exciting. The idea of honoring this wonderful professor and making the library part of this gift was a high point in my life as a librarian.”

The David P. Werlich Graduate Scholarship will benefit a student in the Department of History who is focusing on Latino Studies.

“Dr. Werlich’s career at SIU spanned four decades and left a deep imprint on the teaching of history to thousands of students,” said Dr. Jonathan Bean, professor of history at SIU. “Under his leadership, SIU hired a new generation of history professors to reinvigorate the field.”

Dr. Bean, too, was directly impacted by the career of Dr. Werlich.

“He was famous for his wicked sense of humor, and he was popular as an instructor,” he said. “He was also mentor to students and faculty in ways that went beyond the imparting of advice. I am indebted to him for his mentoring – he made my early years at SIU a pleasure and his mentoring is something I aspire to pay forward to the next generation. The ripples of his influence will be felt for years to come.”

## ‘This is what it takes’

After years of making smaller scale donations, including spreading funds to multiple areas during recent SIU Days of Giving, a conversation about something more substantial began.

“I was donating to a wide variety of causes, but I had not committed to a larger donation,” the alumnus said. “I knew I wanted to honor Dr. Werlich and his family.”

Both projects are forward-thinking in their nature, considering the value of digital records and understanding the importance of diversity, particularly that of the Latino culture.

“It’s important for the future success of the university. We want kids who are interested in focusing on these things,” he said.

The spirit of what Dr. Werlich was able to do for this particular alumnus is reflected in his generous donation.

“This is what it takes to have extras at the university,” he said. “There’s an element of feeling good about helping people out. It’s not easy out there.”

# Saluki friendship leads to major donation

Gift reinforces fund that support students with disabilities

BY REBECCA RENSHAW

When Gail Mrkvicka, '64 and '66, befriended Jim Greenwood they had an instant connection.

"Jim was such a positive person," Mrkvicka said. "Even though he was confined to a



James and Martha Greenwood

wheelchair, I never heard him once complain. Instead, he was probably one of the most positive people I have ever met in my life. He never let his disability keep him from doing anything –

whether it was attending sporting events or going to Shryock Auditorium. The physical challenges never seemed to affect his college years, and he was one of the most popular and magnetic students I ever met. He became one of my closest friends while at SIU."

Both Greenwood and Mrkvicka worked as resident advisors, he at Thompson Point and she at Kellogg Hall.

"I remember we would always eat lunch together at the cafeteria in Lentz Hall. We also used to hang out and get coffee at the coffee shop at University Drug Store," Mrkvicka said. "We really enjoyed each other's company, and we would share our challenges of being RAs. Both Jim and I stayed at SIU, got our bachelor's and master's degrees. Jim got his in engineering, and I received mine in higher education administration."

Upon graduation, their paths went in separate directions. Mrkvicka eventually became a dean of Russel Sage College, a

small women's college in Troy, New York. She later worked for the city of Rensselaer, New York, as a grants administrator.

## A friendship rekindled

Mrkvicka grew tired of the harsh winters and was battling health issues in 1999 when a friend suggested she relocate to Sarasota, Florida.

"Florida sounded really good to me at the time and it has proven to be a great place to retire," she said.

Soon after she moved to Sarasota, Mrkvicka recalls reading the local newspaper where she saw a photo of a vaguely familiar face.

"I hadn't seen Jim Greenwood in years, but in the photo that accompanied the article, the man had a SIU baseball cap on. I knew then that had to be Jim," she said.

She reached out to Jim, and they renewed their friendship along with Jim's wife, Martha.

"Jim came to SIU from Maine, partly because SIU was one of the few institutions that provided access to students with disabilities in the 1960s," Mrkvicka said. "He loved SIU and was a life member of the SIU Alumni Association and was active in its Central Florida Chapter."

## A commitment reinforced

In 2013, the Greenwoods established the Jim and Martha Greenwood Fund, created through their estate. It provides \$1.3 million in scholarships for students with disabilities who are studying science and engineering. The first scholarship was awarded in 2014.

"The Greenwoods left a powerful legacy by supporting the university that welcomed him in the 1960s, well before the Americans with Disabilities Act required campuses to be accessible," said SIU Foundation CEO

Matt Kupec. "It is the generosity of people like the Greenwoods for which we are forever grateful. He and his wife's substantial gift make it possible for other students with disabilities to attend SIU."

Mrkvicka recently decided to make a \$1 million estate gift to the Jim and Martha Greenwood Fund.

"Like Jim and Martha, I just want to make the lives of students with disabilities easier while they attend SIU," she said. "I don't want them worrying about paying tuition or renting books. I just want them to enjoy their college years like Jim did."

Matt Solverson, president of the SIU Foundation, said Mrkvicka's gift will broaden the Greenwoods' fund and continue SIU's



Gail Mrkvicka

national reputation for assisting students with disabilities.

"Fortunately, when he came to SIU, our facilities and staff were able to accommodate him and provide an outstanding educational

experience, which he remembered for the rest of his life," Solverson said. "Ms. Mrkvicka's gift is a great testament to the lifelong friendships that SIU cultivates."

# Six Alumni Join Association's Board Of Directors

## New Members, Selected After National Call, Begin Their Terms in July

BY CALEB HALE

The SIU Alumni Association has selected six alumni to join the organization's board of directors after a national call that went out to all Southern Illinois University Carbondale graduates in late 2021. Each new member will serve a two-year term, with the option of being reelected to a second term.

Michael Blumhorst '84, '85, president-elect of the board and chair of the screening committee that selected the slate of appointments, says the response the Association received from the call was more than expected, and the quality of candidates was excellent.

"The committee had its work cut out for it in reviewing the materials our alumni sent for consideration," Blumhorst said. "Of course, we always knew there would be plenty of worthy candidates to join us on the board, and I'm confident the individuals we selected will compliment our continuing members well."

With the incoming appointments, the Association's board of directors stands at 25. Members stepping down are Dorothy "Dede" Ittner '61, Nicholas Harkovich '76, Holly Kruep '01, Slade O'Keefe '91, and Charles Stewart III '03. Outgoing members were honored for their service during the board's spring meeting in April.

"The Association has been fortunate to have such a dedicated group of alumni, many of whom have served on the board for years," Jeff Gleim, executive director of the SIU Alumni Association, said. "As we began to chart our future, it became clear to everyone that other alumni should have the opportunity to serve the university. We're proud to say the pedigree of those coming onto the board is every bit as strong as those stepping away."

New members to the SIU Alumni Association National Board of Directors are:

### Makela Clay



Makela Clay earned a bachelor's degree in history from SIU Carbondale in 1999 and later moved to receive a C.M.S. in Museum Studies from Harvard University in 2003.

She currently lives and works in San Francisco, California as an operations consultant with a focus on administrative functions. During her two decades of experience, she has acquired a diverse background and proven track record in

fundraising, event and project management, executive support, office management, social media strategy and client relationship management. She has worked for companies, such as Twitter, Goldman Sachs, Monitor Deloitte, The Commonwealth Club of California and the San Francisco Girls Chorus.

Her career milestones include serving on the Blue Apron IPO administrative team, being part of a fundraising team to successfully raise \$5.75 million for the purchase of a building for The Commonwealth Club of CA, and starting the Alumni Relations Department for the San Francisco Conservatory of Music.

### Nicole Engelhardt



Nicole Engelhardt earned a Juris Doctorate from the SIU School of Law in 2020, having come from Texas A&M University at College Station, Texas, where she received a bachelor's degree in construction science.

She currently works for Brown & James in Belleville, Illinois. Her legal experience includes work with the Williamson County State's Attorney office in Illinois, as well as with Sam C. Mitchell & Associates in West Frankfort, Illinois. She has previously been an intern with the Office of U.S. Rep. Mike Bost and a project engineer at Clayco in St. Louis.

Her volunteer activities include work with the Make A Wish Foundation and as a court-appointed special advocate in Williamson County, Illinois.

### Casey Hale



Casey Hale earned bachelor's degree from SIU in 2004 before going on to receiving his Masters of Kinesiology – Sports and Business Administration in 2007.

He is currently a Certified Risk Architect with the Tedrick Group in Mount Vernon, Illinois. Prior to then, Hale worked with the SIU Athletic Department as a fundraiser for the Saluki Athletic Scholarship and Saluki Way project.

Hale is a life-long resident of southern Illinois and a long-time advocate for SIU Carbondale.

He currently lives in Marion with his wife, Deanna, and three daughters, Elly, Lilah, and Maggie. He enjoys golfing, cooking, and family in his spare time.

### **Kaliah Liggons**



Kaliah Liggons is a 2013 graduate of SIU in Carbondale, having received her Bachelor's degree in Criminology and Criminal Justice as well as Sociology.

In 2018, Liggons graduated with her Masters of Public Administration with a Public Management specialization from DePaul University in Chicago. She is currently a Community Development Program Manager at DePaul University. In addition, she is an events and marketing specialist and brand ambassador for a diverse spectrum of lifestyle brands.

While at SIU, she was initiated into the Delta Beta undergraduate chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. Liggons is a legacy AKA sorority member and a second-generation Saluki as her mother was also initiated into the same chapter before graduating from SIU in 1986. She was heavily involved on campus as a member of several additional RSOs and student groups as an undergraduate student. Liggons says her time at SIU inspired her to give back to her community in Chicagoland area. To that end, she has served on the board and volunteered with a national nonprofit, Kicks 4 The City, which provided 100,000 pairs of shoes to youth and adults experiencing homelessness. She has also served on the board of the Nubian Connection Group, comprised of SIU alumni, aimed to supporting current undergraduate students through scholarships and educational support.

### **Brian Munoz**



Brian Munoz is a 2019 graduate of SIU and a staff photojournalist and multimedia reporter at St. Louis Public Radio. Prior to joining the newsroom, he worked at USA TODAY as a visual storyteller helping report on national and international stories, such as politics on Capitol Hill and the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.

Munoz has also worked in daily newspapers including The Southern Illinoisian, where he reported topics such as social justice, immigration and rural issues, The St. Louis Post-Dispatch, and The Arizona Republic. His work has appeared in publications such as The New York Times, The Washington Post, The Atlantic, USA TODAY and The Pulitzer Center on Crisis Reporting. In addition, his work — both visual

and written — has received honors by several regional, state and national journalism organizations. Outside of media, Munoz has worked with several non-profit, educational and business clients as a creative consultant through his role as president of Studio FiftyOne Photography and Design.

While at SIU, Munoz was a proud member of the Marching Salukis, Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia, and The Daily Egyptian. He currently resides in south St. Louis and continues to be a passionate Saluki Athletics fan.

### **Sunil Sinha**



Dr. Sinha currently serves as the Vice President and Chief Medical Officer for the BJC Medical Group in St. Louis, MO. He was previously the Chief Medical Officer for Virginia of JenCare Senior Medical Centers (CMS), which is a Medicare Advantage HMO

joint venture between Humana and ChenMed Inc.

Prior to that he served as Vice President for Medical Affairs at the Bon Secours Memorial Regional Medical Center in Richmond. He has been the Director for Medical and Public Health Policy for Pfizer in New York, Senior Medical Officer at the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services in Washington DC, and the Director of Managed Care of the VA Maryland Health care System.

He is board certified by the American Board of Internal Medicine, American Board of Quality Assurance and Utilization Review, American College of Healthcare Executives, and the American College of Physician Executives. He is past Regent for Maryland for the American College of Healthcare Executives and served a three-year term on the national Board of Governors (2012-15). He received the CMS Administrator's Achievement Award in 2004 and the Administrator's Citation Award in 2007. He was appointed by the United States Commerce Secretary to serve a three-year term as judge for the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award program and serves on the editorial boards of the Patient Safety and Quality Healthcare journal and the Journal of Healthcare Management as well.

He is a Fellow of the American College of Physicians, and Senior Fellow of the Council for Excellence in Government and the Health Research Education Trust (HRET). He completed an Internal Medicine Residency at the Loyola University Medical Center in Chicago, where he served as associate chief resident and was recipient of the Intern of the Year Award. He has a Master's in Business Administration from the Southern Illinois University and a graduate certificate in Information Systems from the Johns Hopkins University Carey Business School.

# An Experience of Endless Possibilities

Marc E. Morris '86, '92, Ph.D. '09 is the 2022 SIU Distinguished Alumnus for Career Achievement

BY CALEB HALE

**I**t was no happenstance Marc E. Morris came to Southern Illinois University Carbondale three different times when he wanted to go farther.

"I've been fortunate enough to get three degrees from SIU," he said. "Each time I knew I was coming back to get an education and support that would carry me forward in whatever direction I was going."

Morris, who grew up in Carbondale, Illinois, earned his bachelor's degree in university studies with an emphasis on business administration, a master of business administration in finance, and a doctoral degree in accounting all from SIU. He also earned a law degree from the University of Wisconsin in Madison.

"The way the faculty embraced me and nurtured my desire to learn, really event kept in touch with me



In 2021, he appointed the interim associate provost for academic administration. Morris began as an instructor in 2004, became an assistant professor of accounting with a cross appointment to the School of Law in 2008, an associate professor in 2016 and was made a full professor in 2021.

During his time on campus, Morris has also served on several committees, including graduate council chair, research task force chair, the Chancellor's Diversity and Inclusion Task Force, and Chancellor's Leadership Council. Away from the university, he is involved on the board of the Boys and Girls Club of Southern Illinois.

Morris said he's humbled to be recognized with the 2022 SIU Distinguished Alumnus for Career Achievement Award, especially among other alumni who've graduated from SIU Carbondale.

"I know in my role as director of the School of Accountancy that we have many distinguished alums," he said. "To be in the company of people such as that, I don't see myself as that and feel, from a career standpoint, I've got a way to go and more achievements to realize, more goals to make come true as well."

The one thing he'll carry with him thanks to SIU, he said, is that everyone of them is possible.

Morris was honored, along with several other individuals, during an April dinner and ceremony hosted by the SIU Alumni Association.

"I've been fortunate enough to get three degrees from SIU. Each time I knew I was coming back to get an education and support that would carry me forward in whatever direction I was going."

after I finished as an undergrad, it was good to have someone I could call on for advice," he said. "It was very nice to know what they said to me was true, that they trained me to be prepared for the profession I was going into."

Morris remembers early in his career meeting graduates from other universities, who thought of SIU as the "party school." Nevertheless, he said thanks to his education, he was able to perform at a top level and earn some respect over the preconceived notions of what being a Saluki was all about.

"Anything is possible if you're prepared," Morris said. "If you put in the time and commit to doing it, you can be successful. I know being a Saluki has allowed me to do that."

For nearly the last two decades, Morris has been returning the favors SIU did him as faculty member and administrator on campus. He is currently the director and professor in the School of Accountancy.

# Association Honors Other Individuals During Distinguished Alumni Ceremony

The SIU Alumni Association honored these other graduates for a variety of accomplishments during its April Distinguished Alumni Awards Dinner and Ceremony held in the Cook Club of the Banterra Center.

Each of the awardees was presented with a statue recognizing their achievements.



**Cristina Pisoni '11, '12**  
**Young Alumni**

Cristina has two degrees from SIU, a Finance undergraduate degree and Master of Business Administration. After grad school, she spent 5 years with Saluki Athletics on campus.

She opened her State Farm agency in Carbondale in 2018 and remains heavily involved with supporting the campus and Carbondale communities. She is currently a member of the Carbondale Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors and chairs the Young Alumni Committee through the SIU Alumni Association.

She and her husband, Joel, have two children, 6-year-old Luca and 2-year-old Dori Jo.



**Teri Campbell '91, '93**  
**Saluki Spirit**

Teri Campbell is an avid Saluki fan and booster. A two-time graduate of Southern Illinois University, she earned a bachelor's degree in management and a master's in business administration and is a long-time season-ticket holder for men's basketball and football.

Teri is a basic skills specialist at John A. Logan College, tutoring students in accounting, business, and computer information systems classes. She is also an academic advisor and TRIO mentor and is the sponsor of the T-PLUS Club, a group of student tutors. She formerly served as the assistant coordinator for public and sports information for the College Relations Office and the coordinator of athletic events in the Athletic Department. She has worked full time at Logan since 1996.

A life-long resident of Cobden, Teri coauthored a book about her high school basketball team's historic run to the state finals called *The Amazing Appleknockers: Illinois'*

*Cinderella Basketball Team of 1964*. It was published in 2011 and Teri was inducted into the Illinois Basketball Coaches Association Hall of Fame in 2013 for chronicling and preserving an important piece of basketball history in Illinois.



**Joseph Lenzini '77, '84**  
**Volunteer Excellence**

When Lenzini's parents moved to Carbondale in the early 1950's, they purposely purchased a home 2 blocks from campus so all of their kids would have access to higher education.

Eventually 5 of their 6 kids, plus several spouses and their children obtained multiple degrees from SIU including graduates from the first Engineering class and the first Law School class.

As a professional engineer, Lenzini has worked for the Illinois Department of Transportation and E. T. Simonds Construction Company. At IDOT he was involved in the interview, selection and supervision of close to 100 students from SIU's engineering program. Virtually all have progressed to graduation and professional employment and licensure. He has also been involved with the Civil Engineering Department's Professional Advisory Board since 1997, advising the department in matters of curriculum, policy, enrollment, program evaluation, accreditation reviews, and the capstone senior design class.

In addition, Lenzini has presented class lectures on a variety of topics, provided research materials and led field trips to construction sites. There is a very active student chapter of the American Society of Civil Engineers and he has been involved in their steel bridge and concrete canoe regional and national competitions.

Outside of SIU, he has helped with projects at Touch of Nature, Carbondale's Green Earth Inc. and building a pedestrian bridge in the John A. Logan Courtyard.



**Brett Bartholomew '12**  
**Young Alumni**

Brett Bartholomew is a performance coach, best-selling author, keynote speaker, and host of a top-ranked podcast. After nearly losing his life as a teenager, in part due to poor

medical care, he founded the leadership development company Art of Coaching™ which focuses on the unique role optimized communication plays within organizations and elite teams.

His experience includes working with members of Fortune 500 companies, the U.S. Special Forces, and sporting organizations and professional athletes. His book, *Conscious Coaching: The Art and Science of Building Buy-In*, achieved international “Best Seller” status in two categories and has been ranked as “Amazon Top 100 Books Overall.” *Conscious Coaching* has since crossed over into other industries and is used by universities worldwide as source material to help guide future leaders and professionals.

The Art of Coaching Podcast exploded onto the scene in 2019, experiencing 409% growth in less than 12-months, nearly a million downloads and subscribers in over 200 countries, all while remaining focused on hard-hitting topics centered around real-world leadership strategies implemented by everyday people as opposed to celebrities.

Bartholomew is the Vice President for the non-profit organization Movement2Be, which helps youth in underprivileged communities learn more about physical activity and proper movement. He is currently conducting his doctoral research focused on the role of power dynamics, persuasion, and optimizing change management within organizations at the University of Central Lancashire. He resides in Atlanta, Georgia with his wife and son.



**Hon. Roland Burris '59, '63**  
**Diversity and Inclusion**

Roland Burris is an attorney, who has a long and distinguished career in public service, including stints as attorney general for the State of Illinois, state comptroller, and as a U.S. Senator for Illinois.

A native of Centralia, Illinois, Burris graduated from SIU Carbondale in 1959, where he was a member and president of the Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity. After graduating, Burris studied for one year at the University of Hamburg in Germany, the first black student from SIU to become an exchange student. After returning to the U.S., he attended Howard University Law School, where he graduated in 1963.

Burris worked in banking until 1972, when accepted a position in the cabinet of Gov. Dan Walker. In 1978, Burris became the first African-American to be elected to a major political office in Illinois when he became state comptroller. He served three terms. He then became the Illinois Attorney General from 1991 to 1995. In 2009, Burris was appointed as a U.S. Senator to complete the term of the seat vacated by Barack Obama once he was elected president.

Outside of his public service, he was a partner at the Burris and Lebed Consulting firm, specializing in government and political relations. He also established for the university a \$100,000 endowment through the SIU Foundation as part of the Project Hope and Opportunity initiative. The scholarships focus on helping African-American students either from his hometown of Centralia or from the Chicagoland area, who want to pursue a field of study in liberal arts.



**Carbondale in the '80s and '90s Group**  
**Innovation**

What began as a simple Facebook page to help alumni from the 1980s and 1990s reminisce about their heydays at SIU Carbondale quickly took on a life of its own and generated a new, endowed scholarship for new generations of Salukis.

The Balancing Education, Experience, and Reality (B.E.E.R. Scholarship) has become one of the most funded financial aid offerings by thousands of alumni, who show their appreciation of the great memories SIU gave them by giving students the opportunity to create their own memories. The group raised more than \$150,000 in three years during the annual SIU Day of Giving.

Earlier this year, the group generated nearly 700 gifts totaling more than \$52,000. Meanwhile, the group's ongoing social media discussions continue to be a powerful and influential voice in the life of the university.



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# Stein Named League's Top Coach

A Season To Remember For MVC Champion Salukis

BY GENE GREEN



Veteran leadership and a team effort produced SIU's first MVC title in 15 years.

harder than any group I've ever had," said Stein. "One through fourteen worked extremely hard ... a really special group."

The Salukis roared through the Valley going 15-3 in league games, 21-10 overall, and were an incredible 11-0 at the Banterra Center. After being defeated by Illinois State in the conference tournament semi-finals, the Salukis accepted a bid to the WNIT, where despite placing three players in double figures, they fell at Purdue 82-60 to end a remarkable season.

## SIMPLY THE BEST

Over the past 25 years, Stein has coached some incredible talent, and this year's squad featured some of the best.

Abby Brockmeyer was named the 2022 Jackie Stiles MVC Player of the Year, finishing second in the Valley in scoring (16.3 ppg), second in field goal percentage (52.9%), and leading the league with 10.3 rebounds per contest. The graduate forward was the only MVC player to average a double-double for the season, posting a double-double in 14 of SIU's 28 games. She became just the third SIU player to earn the league's Player of the Year honor, joining Bridgett Bonds (1987) and Amy Rakers (1990).

Her fellow graduate first-teamer also hammered the record books. Makenzie Silvey averaged 15.5 ppg, led the squad in assists and steals, and became the first female basketball player in SIU history to eclipse the 2,000-point mark for a career. She finished with 2,002 tallies.

"It's an honor to be the first women's basketball player at SIU get 2,000 points," Silvey noted after the Purdue loss. "I haven't really thought about it that much because we were just trying to win the game, but I know I couldn't have done it without my teammates."

The third member of the graduate brigade, Gabby Walker, averaged 12.6 ppg and 6.3 rpg from her forward position.

In early July when Cindy Stein announced plans to retire as SIU women's basketball coach at the end of the 2021-22 season, many around the Missouri Valley Conference didn't predict a gala conclusion to a long and impressive career.

The Salukis were picked to finish eighth in the preseason MVC poll. Stein instead helped lead Southern to an 11-win improvement from the previous season and claim the program's first regular season conference title in 15 years.

Paced by an incredible group of veteran players, the Salukis became one of the more impressive Cinderella stories in recent years. "This team probably worked

## Jones, Domask Reach 1,000 Career Points In The Same Game

Makenzie Silvey in action against Purdue.



### FINISHING IN STYLE

For Stein, who was named MVC Coach of the Year and became the program's second-winningest coach, the season served as a great way to end her career.

"It has been a rewarding and challenging nine years at SIU," Stein noted. "I learned many valuable lessons here and am so appreciative of the community, University, and the entire athletic department for its continued pursuit of excellence."

In her head coaching stints at Emporia State

(1995-98), Missouri (1998-10), Illinois Central College (2013) and Southern Illinois (2013-2022), Stein amassed a 418-340 record, led her teams to 12 postseason appearances, and a trip the NCAA Tournament Sweet 16 as Missouri's head coach in 2001.

This year's conference championship topped off Stein's career in style. Southern had a winning record in seven of its nine seasons under the Peoria, Ill. native, who exits as just one of three coaches in program history to win 100-plus games as an SIU head coach.

"Deciding to retire was a tough emotional decision, as I deeply love every single player that has put on a uniform and played for me," she explained. "Yet, I knew in my heart it was time. I wanted to be open and honest as we moved into the academic year and announce it early so that we could move past this decision and strive to have a great year."



From left, Lance Jones, head coach Bryan Mullins, and Marcus Domask are honored at Banterra Center after the juniors scored their 1,000th career points in a win at Indiana State.

Through a season of ups and downs, SIU men's basketball was still able to enjoy historic performances by two talented juniors. The Salukis finished 16-15 overall and 9-9 in the MVC, before losing in the first round of the league tournament.

Head coach Bryan Mullins felt his squad was beginning to close the gap in the Valley, but SIU would lose a frustrating eight games by five points or less. Two of the regular season losses came against NCAA Tournament team Drake (by just three points), before the Bulldogs ended Southern's season in the tournament.

"There is so much to admire about this team's character and resiliency — they are a bunch of winners," Mullins said in reflecting on the season. "Things didn't go the way we wanted in some hard-fought close games, but I'm incredibly proud of the way the players competed."

No doubt the highlight of the season came Feb. 19 in Terre Haute. During SIU's 76-72 win at Indiana State — a win that gave the team a top six seed in the Valley Tournament — both Lance Jones and Marcus Domask surpassed the 1,000-career point milestone. They became the 48th and 49th player in school history to do so, and the first juniors to accomplish it in the same season.

"Those two guys have been with us from Day One and taken a lot of responsibility for this program," Mullins said of the duo. "Through ups and downs, they've always showed up and represented the jersey extremely well."

Jones picked up his 1,000th point on a drive to the basket. Minutes later, Domask powered his way to the basket for a layup and career-point 1,000.

"To both get to 1,000 points in the same game, on the road, and in a win, was a great day," Domask said. The Wisconsin native, with a 4.00 GPA in sport administration, became SIU's first Scholar-Athlete of the Year in the Valley since his coach won it in 2009. Saluki guard Steven Verplancken Jr. (3.933 GPA, Sport Administration) and center Kyler Filewich (3.875 GPA, Management) were also named MVC Scholar-Athlete Second-Team.

Domask started every game for the Salukis this season and led the team in scoring (15.1), rebounding (5.2) and assists (3.9). Jones was second in scoring (14.7) and led the team with 56 steals. Ben Coupet also averaged in double figures (11.0), and the senior guard was also second in rebounds (4.6).

As one of the leaders returning to the program next season, Jones predicts SIU is about to take the next step.

"I think we will use this season as motivation," he said. "It comes down to sticking together and playing hard. If we do that this off-season, we can be dominant next year."

# It's Curtains For The Puppet Show

Prof's Research Takes Aim At Social Media Fraud From 'Sock Puppet' Accounts



Sajedul Talukder, assistant professor in the School of Computing and director of the Security and Privacy Enhanced Machine Learning Lab, is developing technology to stop identity deception, which can lead to profile hacking, identity theft and other havoc for social media users. (Photo by Russell Bailey)

BY TIM CROSBY

“Hey everyone, don’t accept anything from me. It’s not me!”

How many times has a message like this come across your social media feed? A researcher at Southern Illinois University Carbondale is working on technologies to stop “sock puppet” requests that can lead to profile hacking, identity theft and other havoc for social media users.

Sajedul Talukder, an assistant professor in SIU’s School of Computing and director of the Security and Privacy Enhanced Machine Learning Lab, has received a \$158,000 grant from the National Science Foundation’s Computer and Information Science and Engineering Research Initiative to investigate ways to prevent “sock puppet” connection requests, which are false online identities and user accounts created for deceptive purposes.

Talukder aims to build a digital framework rooted in cognitive psychology, user-centric research and


machine learning methods to defend against such accounts and requests in online social networks. The work, which began in April, will last at least two years.

In 2019, identity theft cost victims almost \$17 million. The work could not only help prevent identity theft but also cut down on fake accounts that push propaganda during ongoing conflicts, such as in Ukraine, and a hostile government’s attempts to influence American politics.

## A GROWING PROBLEM

Social media sites generate revenue with targeted advertising, using personal information to hone and deliver such messaging. The more info you provide, the better targeted the ads, but that also means crooks have more opportunities than ever to steal identities or perpetrate fraud.

Attackers often use connection relations on social media to access private and sensitive user data, post



false or abusive information, or scam and influence the perceptions of victims, Talukder said. People who actively use social media are 30% more likely to be affected by identity fraud.

“The massive growth of social media usage has incentivized perpetrators to connect to users through identity deception, which is often successful due to the lack of adequate verification of declared information,” Talukder said.

### UNDERSTANDING THE ISSUES

Talukder’s goal is to significantly expand the understanding of identity deception and abuse in online social networks, and design and build ways to defeat those types of attacks. The first steps involve developing survey instruments and user studies to investigate the pending connection decisions, motivations and behaviors in online social networks.

Sock puppets are automatic or semi-automatic profiles that mimic human profiles. Fake profiles or their operators send requests to “follow” or “friend” social media users, who often accept them. If a user has friends in common with the fake account, for instance, the chance of accepting the request is 80 percent.

Other times, a fake profile is created to essentially duplicate a user’s online presence. Such attacks, called identity clone attacks, are devised to collect personal information and direct online fraud.

But fake accounts can still be detected by examining characteristics such as profile history, posting frequency, posting pattern, profile age, befriending pattern and like/follow patterns. Ultimately, the researchers will develop an app platform aimed at collecting detailed, baseline “truth behavior data” from social network users based on those characteristics.

“The underlying assumption is that the behavior of a true profile would be different than that of a fake one. In order to devise mechanisms for identifying and eliminating fake accounts on a near real-time basis, we need to collect the truth behavior data that will help us to differentiate between fake and real ones,” Talukder said.

### IMPROVING USER INTERFACES

Talukder will use his findings to create a pending connection decision classifier for Facebook, which will route suspicious connection attempts to a spam folder.

The researchers will combine sock puppet education and motivation in developing this new interface, which will reduce clutter and cognitive load for users by displaying each pending friend request on a single screen, with a large, centrally-placed profile photo.

When the user taps on the profile photo of a pending friend, a screen that includes the profile summary of the pending friend will appear. Users can navigate their pending friend list using the next and previous buttons on the sides of the profile photo.

“Further, the interface will transform the ‘Confirm’ button into an inhibitive attractor, by displaying it in the same gray color as the ‘Delete’ button. To address the case where the user does not feel comfortable making a decision, we also will include a ‘Skip’ button shown in the same gray color,” Talukder said.

Getting into the minds of both sock puppeteers and their victims will allow researchers to address the dynamic that exists between them, Talukder said.

“The work not only will enhance the understanding of just-in-time motivations and behaviors related to social network risks,” he said, “but it will also help sociologists gain deeper insights from underexplored social and spatial dimensions provided by social networks in order to test relevant theories.”

### SIU TO HELP LEAD CROWDED FIELD

As the founding director of SIU’s Security and Privacy Enhanced Machine Learning Lab, Talukder and his group develop protective systems with machine-learning, artificial intelligence applications. Soaring demand for privacy research has crowded this field in recent years, but the NSF’s efforts have a top reputation for funding only the most promising research. In addition to his recent grant, Talukder also has received funding from the NSF’s Secure and Trustworthy Cyberspace program.

“These types of grants are extremely competitive,” Talukder said. “The NSF has recognized my efforts at SIU as an emerging leader in this area of research.”

This latest grant will pay for survey work and user studies that will help the researchers develop apps, collect data and build solutions. The grant also will support several new doctoral students, along with existing graduate students, working with Talukder in SIU’s School of Computing.

# SIU Team Competes For XPRIZE Award

BY TIM CROSBY

A team of scientists from Southern Illinois University Carbondale and one of its private spin-off companies was among the roughly top 10 percent of groups worldwide vying for \$1 million awards aimed at mitigating excess carbon in the environment this past spring.

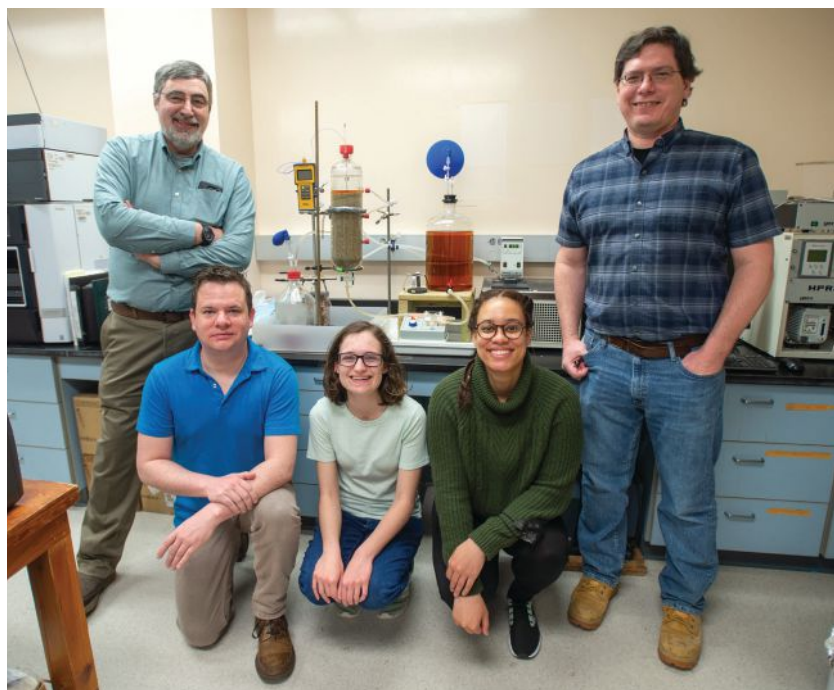
The Elon Musk Foundation placed Carbon Down Under, a team largely made up of SIU faculty and researchers, in the top 60 applicants out of some 500 worldwide for its XPRIZE Carbon Removal challenge.

“What we’re trying to do is get out in front of the world and let them know we have a really viable plan that could make a big difference,” said Ken Anderson, founder of team sponsor Thermaquatica, Inc. “We think our ‘Carbon Down Under’ technology can go a long way in helping us correct some of the mistakes of the past.”

Anderson, professor of geology and director of the Advanced Energy Institute at SIU, started Thermaquatica as an SIU spin-off company 10 years ago.

The SIU student team, made up of graduate students Jennifer Pierce, Tia Zimmerman and faculty member Scott D. Hamilton-Brehm, associate professor of microbiology, was among only 23 student teams in the world to win the XPRIZE Carbon Removal challenge. The student team will receive an initial award of \$125,000, with a second \$125,000 award contingent on filing a satisfactory progress report over the summer.

The global contest is aimed at fighting climate change and rebalancing Earth’s carbon cycle. Funded by Elon



Musk and the Musk Foundation, the \$100 million competition is the largest incentive prize in history.

Both the SIU student team and the Thermaquatica team are pursuing a technology dubbed Carbon Down Under, which would liquefy everyday waste biomass – everything from grass clippings to scrap vegetables – for injection into underground storage, such as empty oil reservoirs. Once underground, their plan calls for hungry microbes to consume the carbon-rich liquid and sequester it, preventing it from re-entering the atmosphere where it would contribute to climate change.

The Thermaquatica team comprises Anderson, Hamilton-Brehm, Zimmerman and Pierce, along with John Yingling of Thermaquatica and Derek Perry, a technician from SIU’s School of Earth Systems and Sustainability and a Thermaquatica associate.

While the student team's focus is in the laboratory, the Thermaquatica team is concentrating on how the technology would work in a scaled-up, real world scenario. An important difference in the application process involved the requirement that Thermaquatica hire independent, outside engineers to evaluate the developing technology and its potential application on a large-scale basis. To that end, Thermaquatica hired Patrick Engineering, a nationwide firm, which certified the team's approach to the carbon sequestration effort, Anderson said.

"Climate change is a very serious problem facing our global community, but I am hopeful and excited to be working on a solution with Thermaquatica Inc. that is being vetted through Patrick Engineering and XPRIZE as one viable path towards living in equilibrium with our home world," Hamilton-Brehm said.

Prior to founding Thermaquatica, Anderson pioneered oxidative hydrothermal dissolution (OHD) technology, which now plays a major role in the carbon sequestration technique championed by the SIU team. The environmentally friendly technology uses heat, pressure, oxygen and water to convert low-value solid materials, such as coal or biomass, into water soluble products that can be refined to produce high-value products or plastics that would otherwise be made from petroleum-based sources.

In this case, Carbon Down Under aims to use OHD technology to liquefy waste biomass for underground microbe consumption and ultimate sequestration.

A master's student in biological sciences, Pierce said she wanted to tackle the problem because she feels accountable for helping fix the "damage" done to Earth by humanity.

"Everything my teammates and I are doing is for the greater good of the planet," she said. "If these issues are not resolved, then the conditions on Earth that enable us to enjoy our lives will deteriorate and continue to put more species on the extinction list. I want to be present in this time, so we can have a future that includes action-driven work and research to reduce carbon emissions while making the planet a safer place for future generations to come."

A master's student in micro and biochemical molecular biology, Zimmerman said her excitement at finding a potential solution to climate change is tempered with caution. That's why doing solid

research will be so important during the coming months, she said.

"Fundamentally, we are trying to reduce atmospheric carbon dioxide by putting carbon deep underground," she said. "But what if the tiny creatures that live down there don't like it? What if they start doing something that adversely affects us on the surface? We don't yet

**"Everything my teammates and I are doing is for the greater good of the planet. If these issues are not resolved, then the conditions on Earth that enable us to enjoy our lives will deteriorate and continue to put more species on the extinction list."**

know what they will do with the carbon, and I want to help find that out."

Hamilton-Brehm's previous work on such organisms, coupled with the potential of Anderson's OHD technology, helped frame the idea for the carbon sequestration technology they would eventually pitch to XPRIZE.

As the idea took shape, Zimmerman said the excitement rose, making the team members eager to start the initial research.

"There was a kind of eureka moment immediately followed by a bunch of questions," Zimmerman said. "What if 'X' is an incorrect assumption? Did we consider all the impacts of 'Y'? I kind of thought: 'Enough thinking on what could happen. Let's get started on the research and see what actually happens.'"

Pierce recalled the satisfaction of watching the research yield results.

"Seeing the microorganisms grow over time when feeding them OHD liquid was a defining moment," Pierce said. "It is a great feeling to see your work pay off."



**NEWTON**, James F., **EX**, '48  
11/26/2021, Carbondale, IL

**BRAYFIELD**, Robert G., '49, **M.S.**, '55  
12/15/2021, Dekalb, IL

**COPPLE**, Ernest V., '49  
11/30/2021, Indianapolis, IN

**MCMANUS**, Nora K., '49, **M.S.**, '50  
4/3/2022, Evansville, WI

**SCHWARTZ**, Barbara J., **EX**, '49  
11/20/2021, Makanda, IL

**BREMER**, Ellen R., **EX**, '51  
11/23/2021, Metropolis, IL

**BRUDER**, Joyce '53  
10/30/2021, Grand Rapids, MI

**PETERSON**, Guy H., '53, **M.S.**, '57  
10/5/2021, Marion, IL

**FERRELL**, Shirley J., '54  
11/1/2021, Arlington Heights, IL

**GOIN**, John S., **EX**, '54  
11/12/2021, Lindenhurst, IL

**RICHEY**, Robert W., '54, **M.A.**, '58  
10/4/2021, Des Moines, IA

**HEAMAN**, John P., '54, **M.S.**, '55  
12/5/2021, Huntsville, AL

**HAMMOND**, Glenna C., **EX**, '55  
11/22/2021, Owosso, MI

**KURTZ**, Gibson C., '55, **M.S.**, '58  
12/3/2021, Fernandina Beach, FL

**MOORE**, Dan M., '56, **M.S.**, '62  
1/11/2022, Prospect Heights, IL

**PARKS**, Philip G., '56  
1/13/2022, Amarillo, TX

**DIXON**, Billy G., '57, **M.S.**, '60, **Ph.D.**, '67  
10/4/2021, Benton, IL

**MARTIN**, Betty J., '57  
10/22/2021, Mattoon, IL

**SCHWEGMAN**, William J., **EX**, '57  
10/5/2021, Carbondale, IL

**SURINA**, Robert L., '55, '57  
3/7/2022, Westmont, IL

**SURWALD**, Delores M., **EX**, '57

10/30/2021, Westerville, OH

**CANADAY**, Jackie G., '58  
2/28/2022, Decatur, IL

**HAMMONDS**, Yvonne P., '58  
2/7/2022, Belleville, IL

**KENT**, Martha E., **EX**, '58  
11/30/2021, Carbondale, IL

**RHODES**, Diane '58  
12/18/2021, Springfield, IL

**ZIMNY**, Billie K., '58, **M.S.**, '61  
11/14/2021, Knoxville, TN

**CRAWFORD**, John M., '59  
12/30/2021, Aiken, SC

**GASTON**, Harold T., '59  
10/7/2021, Belleville, IL

**HENDRICKS**, James H., '59  
11/11/2021, Virden, IL

**SHAW**, Charles L., '59, **M.M.Ed.**, '68  
12/13/2021, Marion, IL

**BOOTH**, Marilyn A., '60  
11/29/2021, Flora, IL

**SPALT**, Donald F., '60  
11/21/2021, Kirkwood, MO

**GERBER**, Donald W., '61  
10/24/2021, Champaign, IL

**MOSS**, Mary A., '61, **M.S.**, '69  
1/20/2022, Carbondale, IL

**POLING**, Raymond D., '61  
11/22/2021, Streator, IL

**SIENER**, Freda Mae '61, **M.S.**, '66  
3/26/2022, Rosiclare, IL

**SIMPSON**, Jerry H., '57, '61  
10/20/2021, Carterville, IL

**TONEGAWA**, Makio '61  
11/15/2021, Crestwood, KY

**VEST**, Dempsey D., '61  
10/19/2021, Aledo, TX

**CAMPBELL**, Allen R., '62, **M.S.**, '64  
10/20/2021, West Carrollton, OH

**HERREN**, Jack D., '62  
10/19/2021, Mattoon, IL

**WALKER**, Glynda M., '62  
10/13/2021, Wheeling, WV

**BLEYER**, Thomas A., '63  
12/14/2021, Marion, IL

**HICKEY**, Ronnie E., '63, **M.A.**, '65  
10/11/2021, Ocala, FL

**JOHNSON**, Jerry L., '63  
2/26/2022, Paris, IL

**ANDERSON**, John D., '64  
12/3/2021, Vandalia, IL

**FENWICK**, William A., '64  
10/4/2021, Palo Alto, CA

**GILL**, James E., '64  
3/21/2022, Marion, IL

**HOSELTON**, Claren L., '64, **M.S.**, '69  
12/9/2021, Clay City, IL

**HYDE**, Sandra K., **EX**, '64  
11/5/2021, Wheat Ridge, CO

**HAMRIN**, James A., '65  
12/2/2021, Massillon, OH

**MCNEIL**, Jane H., '65  
3/12/2022, Saint Louis, MO

**SUNDERMEIER**, Bob L., **M.S.**, '65  
11/14/2021, Arvada, CO

**WILLIS**, Edward L., '65  
11/13/2021, Murphysboro, IL

**KOSTED**, Judith A., '65, **M.S.**, '66  
11/29/2021, Fond Du Lac, WI

**HUMMA**, John B., **M.A.**, '65, **Ph.D.**, '69  
11/2/2021, Statesboro, GA

**TRACY**, Sharon K., '65  
3/23/2022, Statesboro, GA

**ALTERS**, Alan E., '66  
10/18/2021, Golden Beach, FL

**DEMIER**, William C., '66  
10/31/2021, Bloomington, IN

**GROVES**, Jack M., '66, **M.B.A.**, '73  
11/4/2021, New Smyrna Beach, FL

**WARDEN**, Julia R., '66, '72  
10/18/2021, Champaign, IL

**BENEDICT**, Frank J., '67

3/20/2022, Chester, IL

**BENNETTS**, David P., **M.A.**, '67  
10/4/2021, Pequot Lakes, MN

**DEWEY**, Theron T., '66, '67, **M.F.A.**, '69  
11/20/2021, Oxford, MS

**FERGUSON**, Barbara M., '67  
12/3/2021, Libertyville, IL

**HICKSON**, Donald R., '67  
10/12/2021, Carmel, IN

**LEITNER**, Keith R., '67, **M.S.**, '70  
1/10/2022, Williams Bay, WI

**LORENZ**, Jon P., '67  
11/16/2021, Freeport, IL

**STEEN**, Annie V., '67  
10/12/2021, Metropolis, IL

**ALLEN**, Robert W., '68  
11/11/2021, Muskegon, MI

**ELKINS**, Charles L., **M.A.**, '68, **Ph.D.**, '72  
12/9/2021, Fort Collins, CO

**FRITZ**, Stephen E., **M.A.**, '68  
11/15/2021, Loudon, TN

**RUSSELL**, Jean A., **M.S.**, '68  
11/2/2021, Makanda, IL

**SMITH**, Gregory L., '68, '71  
12/18/2021, Stewardson, IL

**ALES**, Robert D., '69  
12/5/2021, Eureka, MO

**ALEXANDER**, Dennis K., '69  
3/17/2022, Bloomington, IL

**BRANDENBURG**, Dean B., '69, **M.S.**, '72  
12/4/2021, Murphysboro, IL

**GEGEL**, Barbara L., '69  
11/11/2021, Belleville, IL

**HARKER**, Lois M., '69  
12/6/2021, Anna, IL

**MASSEY**, Jeannette M., **Ed.S.**, '69  
12/9/2021, Paducah, KY

**SALM**, Simon E., '69  
12/10/2021, Sheboygan, WI

**BAYSINGER**, Patricia R., '70  
3/10/2022, Carbondale, IL



**BRUMFIELD**, Terry W., '70  
11/18/2021, Port Saint Lucie, FL

**GERACI**, Ronald L., '70  
11/5/2021, Pleasant Hill, MO

**HUNGERFORD**, Harold R., Ph.D., '70  
2/26/2022, Carbondale, IL

**KARAMI**, Hamzeh I., '70  
2/28/2022, Brewster, MA

**MARSKE**, Charles E., M.S., '70, Ph.D., '77  
11/20/2021, Bingham Farms, MI

**MEYER**, Leonard E., M.B.A., '70  
3/16/2022, Sun Lakes, AZ

**ALEXANDER**, Lorne H., '71  
10/9/2021, Taylorville, IL

**ANDREWS**, Judith L., '71  
12/2/2021, Palm Harbor, FL

**GORMAN**, Roderick J., M.S., '71  
11/22/2021, Newburyport, MA

**LEVITT**, Barry A., '71  
10/6/2021, Lakewood, CO

**MORGAN**, Barbara A., '71, M.S., '72,  
Ph.D., '92  
10/16/2021, Harrisburg, IL

**REECE**, Wendel E., '71  
11/8/2021, Waterloo, IA

**THOMPSON**, Marvin P., Ph.D., '71  
11/26/2021, Richmond, KY

**TROUT**, David E., '71  
11/14/2021, Chesterfield, MO

**ERLANSON**, Deborah M., M.S., '72  
10/20/2021, Decatur, IL

**GROGG**, William R., '72  
12/12/2021, Millbrook, NY

**KANE**, Timothy C., '72  
11/22/2021, Boulder, CO

**KELLEY**, William G., '72  
10/18/2021, Carbondale, IL

**KRAMS**, Michael J., M.S., '72  
11/23/2021, Arlington Heights, IL

**NOVELLI**, John T., '72  
11/1/2021, Chicago Heights, IL

**PALS**, David H., '72  
11/11/2021, Teutopolis, IL

**RICHARDS**, Thomas M., '72, M.S.W., '09  
11/24/2021, Harrisburg, IL

**ROCHE**, James L., '72  
12/10/2021, Baileys Harbor, WI

**SCHMIDT**, Arlene B., '72  
10/22/2021, Normal, IL

**SENFNER**, Carl L., '72  
11/9/2021, Channahon, IL

**SHUTT**, Dan W., '72  
10/25/2021, Jacksonville, IL

**ULMAN**, Jerome D., Ph.D., '72  
11/22/2021, Muncie, IN

**VYCITAL**, Ronald S., '72  
12/12/2021, Elko, MN

**WALL**, Gus C., '72  
12/24/2021, Gridley, IL

**COURI**, Michael T., '71, '73  
11/26/2021, Washington, IL

**DUNTON**, Brenda L., '73, M.S., '79  
10/12/2021, Seaford, DE

**EVERHART-MCDONALD**, Mary A., M.S., '73  
10/11/2021, Hillsboro, OH

**GENTRY**, Jimmy L., '73  
11/5/2021, Paducah, KY

**KRUSE**, John P., '73  
11/17/2021, Decatur, IL

**SHUBERT**, Victor H., '73  
10/19/2021, Coulterville, IL

**SONNEMAN**, Paul D., '73  
11/21/2021, Jamestown, OH

**BLANKENSHIP**, Earl EX, '74  
12/5/2021, Marion, IL

**COBBAN**, Bruce L., '74  
3/21/2022, Crown Point, IN

**COLBY**, Thomas V., '74  
10/25/2021, Springfield, IL

**HANKLA**, Judith E., '74  
11/16/2021, Cypress, TX

**LANGLEY**, Michael G., '74, M.D., '79

11/5/2021, Robinson, IL

**MCQUEEN**, Martin A., '74  
10/10/2021, Gowen, MI

**PATTON**, Patricia A., '74  
11/9/2021,

**REINEKING**, Michael W., '74  
12/6/2021, Metropolis, IL

**SORGANI**, Andrea M., '74  
12/2/2021, Bartlett, IL

**ZANG**, Steven C., '74  
10/29/2021, Springfield, IL

**BERNARD**, Larry D., '72, '75  
10/28/2021, Linville, VA

**KESLER**, Dudley E., '75  
12/12/2021, Dongola, IL

**KROLIKOWSKI**, Linda L., '75  
10/23/2021, Puyallup, WA

**LAUGHLIN**, Monique M., M.S., '75  
10/2/2021, Edmond, OK

**LINDSEY**, Patrick R., '75  
3/18/2022, Danvers, IL

**PETERSON**, Larry E., '75  
10/21/2021, Frankfort, KY

**STANLEY**, Edward J., '75  
10/5/2021, Shorewood, IL

**STRIPENS**, Michael J., '75  
11/14/2021, Monticello, IL

**BAZIK**, Edna F., Ph.D., '76  
11/29/2021, Darien, IL

**COWAN**, Thomas W., '76  
11/20/2021, Minneapolis, MN

**GREENE**, Sandra C., '77  
11/12/2021, Crystal Lake, IL

**JOHNSON**, Michael W., '77  
12/2/2021, Woodstock, IL

**LINN**, David C., '77  
10/22/2021, Benton, IL

**MACDAVID**, Martin L., '77  
10/5/2021, Geff, IL

**PASSEN**, Matthew J., '77  
11/23/2021, Northbrook, IL

**POCZATEK**, Kathy A., '77  
12/2/2021, Chicago, IL

**VOTH**, Tracy '77  
10/13/2021, Rochester, IL

**CONKLIN**, John J., '78  
12/2/2021, Mount Angel, OR

**KELLERMAN**, Michael E., '78  
11/19/2021, Pinckneyville, IL

**KIEFER**, Eleanor K., '78, M.A., '81,  
Ph.D., '03  
11/5/2021, Vienna, IL

**KLEINAU**, Marvin D., Ph.D., '78  
11/23/2021, Carbondale, IL

**MANIS**, James D., '78  
12/4/2021, Du Quoin, IL

**MISSAVAGE**, Roger J., '78, M.S., '91  
11/20/2021, Herrin, IL

**NICHOLSON**, Timothy L., '78  
10/8/2021, Carrier Mills, IL

**RAMPEY**, Mark S., M.S., '78  
11/10/2021, Bloomington, IL

**CAMPBELL**, Marlene A., Ph.D., '78,  
M.S., '84  
10/12/2021, Lexington, KY

**HAY**, David B., '79  
12/14/2021, Pana, IL

**HAYES**, Karen S., '77, '79, M.S., '85  
11/29/2021, Memphis, TN

**SCHWEIZER**, Cathy M., '79, M.S., '93  
12/9/2021, Carbondale, IL

**SMITH**, Judy A., '79  
11/25/2021, Merrillville, IN

**PARKINSON**, John D., '80  
12/26/2021, Vacaville, CA

**STREET**, Jettie V., '80  
11/6/2021, Decatur, IL

**BASINGER**, Teresa A., '81  
11/3/2021,

**HANDORF**, Jeffrey '81  
12/6/2021, Lemoore, CA

**JOHNSON**, Byron V., Ph.D., '81  
11/5/2021, Indianapolis, IN

**YOUNG, Theresa M., '81**  
12/2/2021, Lincoln, IL

**BONZELET, Joseph T., Ph.D., '82**  
11/7/2021, Ruidoso, NM

**CORKER, Susan C., '82, M.S., '84**  
1/8/2022, Carbondale, IL

**GILLUM, Suzanne M., M.F.A., '82**  
11/21/2021, Fresno, CA

**MAGER, Brian B., '82**  
12/8/2021, Murphysboro, IL

**WILLIAMS, John S., '82**  
11/30/2021, Naples, FL

**CHAPMAN, David C., M.D., '82**  
10/13/2021, Jensen Beach, FL

**HAWKINS, Frances J., '83**  
11/4/2021, Sparta, IL

**PEDRO, Jeffrey J., '83**  
10/9/2021, Dayton, OH

**SKELTON, John T., Ph.D., '83**  
3/12/2022, Ponte Vedra Beach, FL

**TAYLOR, George M., J.D., '84**  
10/15/2021,

**WILSON, William D., M.S., '84**  
11/7/2021, Albers, IL

**SMITH, Thomas G., '84**  
12/10/2021, San Antonio, TX

**BUCK, Wayde B., '85**  
11/1/2021, Galva, IL

**STROHMEYER, Nancy L., J.D., '85**  
12/5/2021, Collinsville, IL

**ANDERSON, David R., '86**  
12/8/2021, Oxnard, CA

**HARRELL, Effie M., '86, M.Acc., '89**  
2/14/2022, Villa Ridge, IL

**MEYER, Randy A., '86, M.S., '04**  
10/8/2021, Witt, IL

**STEWART, Alvin E., '86**  
12/2/2021, Vacaville, CA

**SUMNER, Barbara K., '86**  
12/2/2021, Murphysboro, IL

**HUEY, David L., '88**  
2/7/2022, Lyles, TN

**TREGER, Kimberly I., '88**  
3/30/2022, Carbondale, IL

**SEXTON, Samuel L., '89**  
10/12/2021, Springfield, IL

**KIRKLAND, James A., '90**  
2/28/2022, Galatia, IL

**BARNETT, Michelle R., '91**  
10/26/2021, Rockford, IL

**BLAKEY, Matthew D., '91, '93, M.S., '95**  
10/10/2021, Norcross, GA

**CHU, Alfredo '94**  
11/15/2021, Prior Lake, MN

**JONES, David R., '94**  
11/19/2021, Raleigh, IL

**LUTHERAN, Drew J., '94**  
10/15/2021, Stella, NC

**WALSH, William K., '95, M.D., '01**  
10/29/2021, Roanoke, VA

**BAUMAN, Charles E., '96**  
11/23/2021, Saint Louis, MO

**GASSEL, Linda D., '96**  
12/9/2021, Du Quoin, IL

**HARTZLER, Jonas R., '96**  
2/9/2022, Normal, IL

**YARLING, John P., '96**  
11/2/2021, Sun City West, AZ

**NICHOLS, Joan M., '96**  
12/9/2021, Murphysboro, IL

**MITCHELL, Thomas J., '97**  
11/6/2021, Springfield, IL

**SWEENEY, Michael D., '97**  
2/21/2022, Palm Bay, FL

**PAYNE, Terry L., '98**  
10/3/2021, Murphysboro, IL

**WHITENER, Joel P., '99**  
2/19/2022, Nashville, IL

**CURTIS, Donita K., '00**  
11/18/2021, Eureka, IL

**SCHWEGMAN, Christopher M., '01**  
11/2/2021, Metropolis, IL

**ALEXANDER, Steven W., '02, '02**  
10/16/2021, Marion, IL

**PETERSON, Amy E., '02**  
11/1/2021, Marion, IL

**ENGLAND, Jacob R., '04**  
11/4/2021, Decatur, IL

**RICHARDSON, Patrick E., '04**  
1/3/2022, Carbondale, IL

**HAYES, Laquita D., '07**  
11/17/2021, West Peoria, IL

**BALLARD, David T., '10**  
10/17/2021, Lithia Springs, GA

**GERDES, Gabriel F., '17**  
1/15/2022, Carbondale, IL

**BAHARLOU-QUIVEY, Madeline M., '18**  
10/12/2021, Denver, CO

**RODEMICH, Eugene A., M.D., '19**  
2/19/2022, Coralville, IA

**VINE, Corydon D., '20**  
3/12/2022, Carbondale, IL

**ERMEL, Joseph A., '21, '21**  
10/27/2021, Carbondale, IL

**JURINEK, Jacob E., '21**  
11/5/2021, Carbondale, IL

**LOBO, Daniel F., '21**  
11/20/2021, Carbondale, IL

**ANTOINE, Lionel S.**  
12/7/2021, Biloxi, MS

**BOBO, Glenda C.**  
3/21/2022, Dekalb, IL

**FOSSE, Raymond E.**  
10/13/2021, Diablo, CA

**HOLLEY, Curtis**  
10/20/2021, Belle Glade, FL

**REEVES, James S.**  
11/21/2021, Carbondale, IL

## FACULTY/STAFF

**BELBAS, Betty**  
12/20/2021, Carbondale, IL

**CACERES, Alejandro J.**  
11/23/2021, Carbondale, IL

**CLARKE, David S.**  
1/22/2022, Evanston, IL

**COULSON, Richard L.**  
12/27/2021, Fayetteville, GA

**DAVIS, Richard**  
10/2/2021, Carbondale, IL

**DUNCAN, Blossom L.**  
11/26/2021, Carbondale, IL

**DUNNING, Ernest L.**  
12/20/2021, Marion, IL

**FARRELL, Raymond L.**  
10/11/2021, Ludington, MI

**FITZGERALD, Robert W.**  
3/1/2022, Makanda, IL

**GROVES, Charles A.**  
1/27/2022, Herrin, IL

**HEADRICK, Todd C.**  
10/20/2021, Carbondale, IL

**LANCHESTER, Karin W.**  
2/28/2022, Carbondale, IL

**MANTOVANI, Mary L.**  
1/12/2022, Carbondale, IL

**MCDONALD, Shannon S.**  
11/23/2021, Carbondale, IL

**MOTICKA, Edward J.**  
3/4/2022, Long Beach, WA

**MULDOON, Hugh J.**  
10/12/2021, Carbondale, IL

**OWEN, Kenneth K.**  
10/10/2021, Paducah, KY

**PRIEST, Bettie E.**  
10/26/2021, Clovis, CA

**ROY, Robert M.**  
11/10/2021, Jacksonville, IL

**SULZER-AZAROFF, Beth**  
2/26/2022, Naples, FL

**WATTS, Donna M.**  
11/27/2021, Ava, IL



TRADITION



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## Bob Steele Named To 100 Greatest Swimming & Diving Coaches



**BOB STEELE '62** was recently named to the College Swimming & Diving Coaches Association of America's 100 Greatest College Swimming & Diving Coaches. Steele was SIU's head swimming and diving coach from 1973 to 1984.

Steele was selected from an initial list of more than 500 coaches. During his tenure at SIU, Steele guided the Salukis to six National Independent championships and 10 top-20 finishes. Under his guidance, swimmers earned a total of 56 All-American honors. He also

coached several U.S. teams in international competition.

Steele himself was a conference- and national amateur championship-winning swim captain at SIU from 1958 to 1961. He was inducted into the SIU Athletic Hall of Fame in 1997 and also received a past Distinguished Alumni Award from the SIU Alumni Association.

## 1970s

**BOB FRAKES '73** has authored a new book, "Remembering Missouri's Lookout Towers – A Place Above the Trees." The book has been featured in the St. Louis Post Dispatch, The Morning Sentinel and River Hills Traveler Magazine. Frakes has spent half a century researching forest lookout towers. He graduated from SIU with a Bachelor of Science in history.



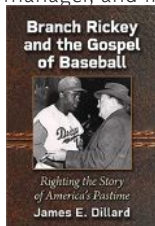
**ROGER BADESCH '74** retired from WGN Radio in Chicago after 16 years as a news anchor and reporter. Badesch previously retired in 2014 from a 20-year career as a high school broadcasting vocational teacher, the last 9 years of that working both jobs simultaneously. Badesch has worked in the press office for Chicago mayors Jane Byrne and Harold Washington and as advertising and public relations director for Gloria Jean's Gourmet Coffees.

**JULIE R. SASSE '74** has been recognized as a distinguished alumna by the University of



Arizona School of Art Advisory Board. She's the chief curator at the Tucson Museum of Art, specializing in modern and contemporary art. During her two decades there, Sasse has organized more than 100 group and solo exhibitions and has written more than 40 publications about diverse subjects and artists. She earned her bachelor's degree from SIU and graduated with honors.

**JAMES E. DILLARD '77** released a new book profiling Branch Rickey, an iconic baseball player, manager, and front-office executive



with the St. Louis Cardinals, the St. Louis Browns, the Brooklyn Dodgers, and the Pittsburgh Pirates. Dillard is a retired intelligence officer and combat veteran with the U.S. Air Force who has written books and articles on history for the past 40 years. He's a Herrin native and graduated SIU with a

bachelor's degree in journalism and political science.

## 1980s

**ZENEBE ABEBE, PH.D.**

'87 (NIU M.S. '78) recently published another book, "Funding A Mission: One Donor and One Penny at a Time." The book highlights the culture of philanthropy and nonprofit



organizations' abilities to form partners around the globe to provide support to those in need. It is a resource book with stories of many people and generous donors at countless nonprofit organizations that are involved in funding to change lives. "Funding A Mission" is available at Amazon and Barnes & Noble booksellers in paperback, hardback, and digital editions.

## 1990s

**PAUL EISENBERG '95** has won four awards from the Northern Illinois Newspaper Association, including two first-place awards in the historical and columnist



categories for stories he covered in 2021. He's currently an editor and columnist at the Daily Southtown in Chicago. Eisenberg wrote for the Daily Egyptian while attending SIU.

**TODD DOUGHTY '95** has authored a new book called "Little Pieces of Hope." It's been named by The Washington Post as one of the best feel-good books of 2021. Doughty is currently SVP, deputy publisher of Doubleday and has worked at Penguin Random House for more than two decades. He lives with his partner in Westchester County, New York.

## 2000s

**COL. RUSTY BALLARD**

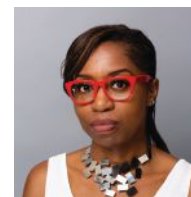
'00 has been named the next commander of the Illinois Air National Guard's 182nd Airlift Wing in Peoria, Illinois. Col. Ballard began his military career in 1993 as an enlisted utility equipment repairer with the Illinois Army National Guard. He received his commission through the Illinois Army National Guard Officer Candidate School in 1998 while attending SIU. Col. Ballard went on to become a UH-60 Black Hawk pilot with Company A, 1-106th Aviation Battalion in Decatur, Illinois.

**JOSEPH PAULINO '00** is the district police chief for San Bernadino City Unified School



District, overseeing a department of 26 sworn police officers, 55 campus security officers and more than 10 support staff. Under Paulino's leadership, the district formed a Safe Schools Task Force in 2012 to improve school safety. Paulino earned a master's degree in public administration and a Bachelor of Science in workforce education from SIU.

**ANEKA HENDERSON '01**, a graduate of the SIU English program, has authored a new



book, "Veil and Vow: Marriage Matters in Contemporary African American Culture." The African American Intellectual History Society selected Veil and Vow as one the Best Black History Books of 2020 and the Association for the Study of the Worldwide African Diaspora selected Veil and Vow as a finalist for the 2021 Outstanding First Book Prize. Henderson is an associate professor at Amherst College and was recently promoted with tenure.

**NICK SCHNEIGERT '04** is in his 3rd year as the head cross



country/track & field coach at the University of Dallas. In his first full spring season, Schneigert took the Crusaders to six outdoor competitions, which included the Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference Championships. Schneigert helped several student-athletes capture indoor meet school records at the Texas Tech Shootout in 2020. He graduated from SIU with a Bachelor of Science in radio and television with a minor in public relations.

**JERRY L. HAWKINS '07** is the executive director of Dallas Truth, Racial Healing and Transformation. Hawkins visited SIU in March as the School of Law's 2022 Hiram H. Lesar Distinguished Lecture, sharing his thoughts on how the nation can become more inclusive. Hawkins is also a co-founder of The Imagining Freedom Institute, a national research-based leadership group that helps organizations and institutions understand the historical context to contemporary issues of place, race and racism.

**KRISTINA DZARA '09** has joined the University of Washington School of Medicine as the inaugural Assistant Dean for Educator Development in the Office of Faculty Affairs. She is also an associate professor in the Department of Biomedical Informatics and Medical Education. Dzara is a graduate of the Master of Medical Sciences in Medical Education program at Harvard Medical School and earned a Ph. D in sociology from Southern Illinois University.



**AUSTIN BROOKS '08** has been named the varsity basketball coach of Reitz

High School in Evansville, Indiana. His appointment was approved by the school's board of trustees in April. Brooks played basketball for the Salukis under former coaches Matt Painter and Chris Lowery, as well as head assistant coach Rodney Watson. During his time, SIU advanced to the NCAA tournament consecutively for three years. Brooks has previously coached high school basketball at McCluer South Berkeley High School in St. Louis and at Evansville Day School, where the team went to only its second sectional championship in school history. In addition, Brooks had a three-year tenure at Boonville High School, leading the team to its first sectional championship game for the first time in more than a decade. Brooks will also join the faculty of Reitz in addition to his coaching duties.

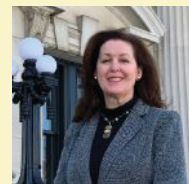
**ADAM HAHS '08** has been appointed chief science officer of Hopebridge Autism Therapy Centers in Indiana. In his new role, Hahs will be responsible for driving company research initiatives. He previously served as vice president of clinical services and was integral to leading Hopebridge's participation in the International Consortium for Health Outcomes Measurement and the development of one of the largest clinical supervision programs in the industry, the Hopebridge Fellowship Program. Prior to joining the company, Hahs was director of the MSABA Program in the Department of Psychology at Arizona State University and was president of the Arizona Association for Behavior Analysis. He earned a doctoral degree from SIU Carbondale, where he researched language generativity, complex human behavior, and clinical behavior analysis for individuals with autism spectrum disorder, traumatic brain injuries, and addiction.

## Alumni Earn Honorary Degrees, Distinguished Service Awards

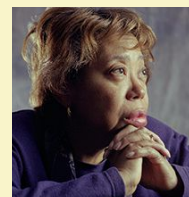


**ROLAND W. BURRIS '59** received a Distinguished Service Award at SIU Carbondale. Burris graduated from SIU with a degree in political science. He became only the sixth African American to serve in the U.S. Senate and the only SIU graduate to hold that seat when he was appointed in 2009 to fill the vacated seat of then-President-elect Barack Obama.

The appointment capped a career of other notable firsts, including becoming the first African American national bank examiner when hired by the U.S. Treasury's Office of Comptroller of the Currency for the Chicago region in 1963, the first African American to hold statewide office in Illinois in 1978 when he was elected comptroller. He was later elected attorney general in 1989. Burris also practiced law focused on environmental consumer affairs and estate laws. He was also a volunteer with numerous boards and foundations, including the SIU Foundation.



**CAROLYN TAFT GROSBOLL '84, J.D.** '87 received a Distinguished Service Award for her service as Clerk of the Illinois Supreme Court, from which she retired in 2021. Grosboll played a leading, pivotal role in modernizing and streamlining court operations. She is also credited with contributions to the administration of justice and preservation of natural resources in Illinois throughout her decades of public service.



**THELMA MOTHERSHED-WAIR '64** received a Distinguished Service Award for the way she devoted her professional life to serving students and families in the East St. Louis school system, where she worked as a home economics teacher and counselor until retiring in 1994. She also worked for the St. Clair County Jail Juvenile Detention Center and American Red Cross Second Chance Shelter. She was one of the Little Rock Nine students, who first integrated Little Rock High School in 1957. She is known as a champion of diversity, inclusivity, and equity and has received the NAACP's prestigious Spingarn Medal, as well as the Congressional Gold Medal from President Bill Clinton in 1999.

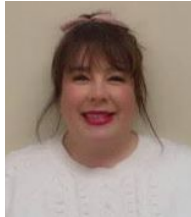


**CHO-YEE TO, PH.D. '67** received an honorary Doctor of Educational Leadership degree. To is an emeritus professor at the University of Michigan and an internationally recognized educator, scholar and pioneer in multidisciplinary inquiry in educational theory. To's dissertation at SIU was "John Dewey's Conception of the Relation of Education to the Democratic Ideal" and he began his academic career at SIU's Center for Dewey Studies. To

has also taught at the Chinese University of Hong Kong, where he is from, Kent State University, the National University of Singapore, and Soka Gakkai International of Tokyo.

2010s

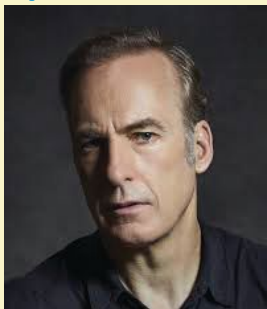
**MELISSA M. PAPPAS '10** has been named executive director of Rosecrance Central Illinois, a mental and behavioral health service facility based in Champaign, Illinois. Pappas has previously worked as a substance-abuse counselor at Centerstone in Carbondale, as a mental-health professional providing clinical screenings and assessments for prisoners in the Illinois Department of Corrections, and as a clinical supervisor for Nexus Family Healing in Onarga. While at Rosecrance, she has launched psychiatric services and has been heading the organization's crisis co-responder outreach with Urbana police. She earned her bachelor's degree from SIU in psychology and went on to obtain a master's degree from the SIU Rehabilitation Institute in rehabilitation counseling.



**KEN STONER '10, '17** has been named the new director of the Illinois Small Business Development Center at SIU Carbondale. Stoner previously worked as a small business specialist at the SBDC alongside former director Greg Bouhl since June of 2013, assisting more than 500 new and existing business owners. Stoner is a native of southern Illinois and completed his bachelor's degree in education and his master's degree in workforce education and development at SIU. His experience includes working as a language arts/reading teacher and technology coordinator at Egyptian High School, a technology integration coach for the Illinois Association of Regional School Superintendents, and as owner of Kemardia Consulting, a website development and IT service provider for businesses. Stoner is also a facilitator for Jackson CEO, a youth entrepreneurship program, and is active in other community activities.



Odenkirk To Star In Series Based On Book By Former SIU Faculty Member



**BOB ODENKIRK '84** has signed on for the lead role in the upcoming AMC comedy-drama series "Straight Man." The series is an adaptation of a 1997 of the same name by Richard Russo, a former faculty member of SIU Carbondale. Russo based some elements of the book from his time on campus.

Odenkirk will play William Henry Devereaux Jr., the chair of the English department on a fictional college campus in Pennsylvania. The series is set to debut in 2023, with Aaron Zelman ("Damages") and Paul Lieberstein ("The Office") adapting the book to television. "I loved Paul and Aaron's take on (Russo's) excellent, entertaining novel," read a statement from Odenkirk. "Once again a project with AMC with a focus on character depth and sensitivity. This milieu (academia) seems very pertinent to the conversations we're all having. I am drawn to the tone of humanity and humor in the novel, and I look forward to playing this role – something lighter than my recent projects, but still closely observed and smart." Odenkirk has starred in two other notable AMC series, "Breaking Bad" and that show's spinoff "Better Call Saul," which is currently running its sixth and final season on the network.

Dinner With 12 Salukis Offers Networking For Students, Alumni



Southern Illinois University Carbondale alumni recently shared a meal with nearly 200 students as part of the SIU Alumni Association's Dinner with 12 Salukis program. Twenty-one groups of alumni and students had dinner in and around the Carbondale area, March 18-19. The Dinner with 12 Salukis program is designed to bring current students together with alumni to network and learn about different professions, as well as the role SIU played in shaping them. Alumni sign up to host up to 12 students for dinner either in their homes or at a local restaurant. This is the second year for the program, which follows the 2021 pilot year. Among the alumni hosts this year were SIU Carbondale alumni Wayne and Michelle Sirls of Alto Pass, Illinois. They co-own the popular Rendleman Orchards in Southern Illinois. Wayne also serves as a member of the alumni association's national board of directors. "I just had so much success after going to SIU, I feel like it's our duty to give back to our alma mater," Michelle Sirls said. "We utilize the university and call upon our old departments there to help us when we need it, and we rely on students to help us in our retail. Mostly, we want them to have a good experience." Isaiah Storey, a junior who attended a dinner with alumnus James Mayer of Mayer Networks, said the recent dinner was about branching out and tapping into the knowledge of alumni who have been where he is. "I always try something different, you always want to be different, you always want to learn more," Storey said. "You never know everything, but I promise you if you utilize your resources you'll definitely learn something new." "Dinner with 12 Salukis" events are hosted during the spring semester each year. Alumni and students are encouraged to visit [sialumni.com](http://sialumni.com) for more information about the program, as well as when registration for the 2023 program will begin.

**JEREMY (SEQUOIA) NAGAMATSU '13** has released his debut novel, "How High We Go in the Dark." The novel is a national bestseller, a New York Times Editors' Choice and a Roxane Gay Literati Book Club Selection. "How High We Go in the Dark" has garnered praise from figures such as Alan Moore, the creator of Watchmen and V for Vendetta. Sequoia Nagamatsu recently received tenure in the English Department at St. Olaf College. He resides in Minneapolis with his

wife, Cole (Nicolette) Bucciaaglia who is also an SIU graduate.

*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](mailto:alumni@siu.edu), and use the subject line: "Class Note."*

*Alumni listed in maroon are SIU Alumni Association members.*

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