

GRADUATE SALUKI STORIES

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IDENTITY, LOYALTY, AND PROFESSIONAL SUCCESS



Identity, Loyalty and Professional Success

Yueh-Ting Lee

Dean, SIU Graduate School

More than two years ago, when I first read an article titled “Big Voice in Little Egypt,” published in a 1964 issue of Time magazine, I was amazed by the transformational leadership of late SIU President Delyte Morris described therein. In 1964, SIU, under Morris’ leadership, was transformed into a top 20 national university with 18,000 students and 1,150 faculty members. Time magazine covered SIU, describing Morris as one who always kept two big goals in mind: improving the quality of life in Southern Illinois and building a school of excellence. In fact, most of our great doctoral programs were built during his tenure in the 1960s.

Today is different from Morris’ day, and situations have changed. However, we can still continue to pursue his two main goals! We can learn from his transformational leadership style so that we will be innovative and depend less on a state budget. Together we need to enhance the high quality of graduate programs while increasing our enrollment, obtaining more research grants, and raising more funds to support our graduate students and graduate programs.

This issue of our Graduate Saluki Stories focuses on Identity, Loyalty and Professional Success. In this issue, we welcome our new Chancellor Carlo Montemagno and invited him to share his leadership vision and ideas about graduate education and research with us here. The first part includes the perspectives of current and former university administrators and is followed by a highlight of several graduate faculty members who received 2017 Graduate Faculty Mentorship Awards of Excellence for our graduate students. For Parts 2 and 3, we have received many superb stories related to identity, loyalty and professional success from our current graduate students, past graduate students and graduate alumni. We have included most, but not all, of them due to space limitation. We hope you will enjoy reading them. Go Salukis!



The University’s Research Mission and Vision

Carlo Montemagno

SIU Carbondale Chancellor

I’m honored to be chancellor of SIU Carbondale, an institution committed to graduate education and defined by its research mission. At a doctoral research institution, graduate students benefit from opportunities to engage in meaningful research and creative activities that add to critical knowledge – all while addressing societal needs. In short, graduate education and research go hand-in-hand.

One of my first steps as chancellor was to invite all of our stakeholders, including graduate faculty members and current and former graduate students, to participate in a survey that will help define our vision for the SIU of 2025. This is just one of many ways I hope to engage the campus community in a discussion about what it means to be a research university that serves and supports its graduate students. I look forward to developing a shared vision for SIU.



Why Southern Illinois University Matters to Me?

James G. Salmo

Vice Chancellor for Development and Alumni Relations and CEO of the SIU Foundation

Since 2012, I have been a part of the Saluki family. Prior to arriving here, I worked at Rhode Island College but spent most of my thirty-year career in Missouri. My father was raised in Herrin, a town not too far from Carbondale and several of my relatives are graduates of Southern Illinois University. So this “family connection” is the first reason that Southern Illinois University is very near and dear to me.

Second, the education, innovation and learning or training (especially the masters and doctoral training) that our excellent faculty members offer are outstanding. We continue to support our undergraduate and graduate students and faculty members on campus at Southern Illinois University.

Third, as the Vice Chancellor for Development and Alumni Relations, I have observed how loyal and supportive our alumni, faculty, staff, students, and friends are to SIU. Please allow me to demonstrate that support. Last January, we began a new fundraising effort: “Forever SIU: The Campaign for Students”. This campaign will last three years and will conclude in December 2019, the 150th anniversary of the founding of SIU. Our goal is to raise \$75 million in support of students. As of May 1, we have achieved \$33 million of that goal. That is an impressive display of support, and I invite you to join the effort by visiting our website at foreversiu.org.

SIU matters because it is providing an outstanding academic experience to students from around the world. SIU is strong and will continue to be strong because of the loyalty and support provided by our alumni, faculty, staff, students and friends. On behalf of the SIU administration, we appreciate the generosity we have received and will do our best to shepherd those gifts to having a significant impact on this fine institution. Our success is your success, and yours is ours! Go Salukis!



Graduate Teaching, Mentorship and SIU Administration Career

John Haller

SIU Graduate School's External Advisory Board Member and Former SIU VPAA

After twenty-two years of teaching and administrative service at Indiana University, California State University Long Beach, and the University of Colorado, little did I anticipate that I would spend the next twenty-five years as a member of the SIU family. Recruited as Vice President for Academic Affairs (VPAA) for the SIU System, I had the honor of serving six of its eight presidents and an equal number of chancellors, provosts and deans while holding tenure in both the History Department in the College of Liberal Arts and in the Department of Medical Humanities in the School of Medicine.

My most memorable moments involved students, whether in the classroom or as a faculty associate working in one of the residency halls at Thompson Point. Foremost in my memory of teaching graduate students was having my first doctoral student, Elizabeth Clark George, earn the outstanding dissertation of the year award in 1996. Mentoring this superb student/scholar through that process proved to be one of the highlights of my career and certainly one of the most satisfying rewards any faculty member could ever wish for.

Whether teaching graduate seminars in American intellectual history or leadership and moral responsibility in the University Honors Program, one thing stands foremost in my memory, namely the quality and curiosity of the students I have had the privilege to teach, mentor, facilitate, and support.

I remain a proud member of the SIU family.



The Pivotal Role of Graduate Education and Faculty Productivity

Thomas Gutteridge

SIU Graduate School External Advisory Board Member and Former Dean of the College of Business Administration at SIU

One of SIU Carbondale's characteristics which distinguishes it from many other institutions of higher education in Illinois nationally and globally is the pivotal role represented by its strong emphasis on graduate education, that is, Masters and Doctoral degrees. Thus, as significant as its production of undergraduates, throughout its history, SIUC has been well-known for its production of Graduate School alumni accompanied by faculty research productivity. In turn, this recognized contribution has been pivotal to SIUC's growing national and global image. During my tenure as Dean of the SIUC College of Business and Administration (1983-1992), COBA was able to capitalize on its strong graduate school reputation expanding both its enrollment base and its record of faculty research productivity.

Similarly, during this same time frame, my SIUC dean counterparts were also able to achieve similar success in increasing both the enrollments in their colleges as well as the research production of their faculty. In other words, from my perspective, there was a positive correlation between the growth of SIUC's graduate school focus and both its enrollment growth and increased faculty research production.

In sum, I am pleased to report that, over time, SIU Carbondale's alma mater, building upon the legacy of President Morris, has evolved into a highly regarded university, known for both its exemplary undergraduate and graduate student focus as well as its strong research productivity and the balanced teaching and research contributions of the associated faculty cadre.



Progressive and Professional Work for Successful Graduate Education at SIU

Walter V. Wandler

President at West Texas A&M University and former Chancellor at SIU Carbondale

After completing my contract as Chancellor, I returned to professorial work in the School of Architecture. My first assignment was to teach the initial course that would eventually become the accredited Master of Architecture degree. Since then, the program has grown to over 100 students from diverse backgrounds, and is now the fifth largest master's program offered by SIU Carbondale.

The program is innovative, inclusive, and divided nearly equally with student's on-campus and off-campus. It is driven by academic quality and excellence. Faculty who teach off-campus must also teach on-campus. Student's needs are paramount. Required monthly face-to-face weekend meetings are held in St. Louis at Rankin Technical College. Costs for on-campus and on-line programs are essentially equal. In addition, both programs are cohorts and require equal time to graduation. Hundreds of thousands of dollars of after-cost revenue accrue to the university.

Entrepreneurial and excellent programs extend our university's reach, while quality is advanced and costs managed. It is now the largest on-line architecture offering in the nation. Evidence suggests that engaged diverse student populations are very satisfied with the work.



Evolving through Interaction with My Students

Jared M. Porter

Associate Professor of Kinesiology

I am an Associate Professor in the Department of Kinesiology and the director of the SIU Motor Behavior Laboratory. I have been at SIU for nearly 9 years and have worked with more than 50 graduate students in that time. My research focus is on the topics of human motor learning and motor control, which means I investigate how humans learn/re-learn motor skills and how the nervous system controls the body to generate skillful movements. I am interested in how factors such as practice environment, skill level, and motor/cognitive impairments influence the motor learning and control processes.

There are many things I like about SIU. Namely, I really enjoy interacting with students in my classes and in my laboratory. SIU has many wonderful students, and I've been fortunate enough to engage with many of them. My colleagues in the Department of Kinesiology, too, are great to work with. Additionally, working in higher education can be very rewarding; I get to spend time researching questions I am inherently interested in answering. Then I get to share the work with my colleagues and teach the findings in my classes. Apart from the university, I also enjoy the many outdoor opportunities Southern Illinois has to offer.

When I was in graduate school, I was fortunate to have excellent mentors. Because of them, I value the tools that are needed to successfully guide young researchers through the process of developing unique research questions and the search for what it means to be a productive academic. To be honest, I constantly learn new things through my communications with my graduate students. I hope I am always evolving as a researcher and as a teacher; so much of that evolution is the byproduct of my interactions with my students.



Strong Mentors are Important in Life and Careers

Novotny Lawrence

Associate Professor of Radio, Television and Digital Media

I earned my doctorate from the Department of Theatre and Film (now Film and Media Studies) at the University of Kansas. My area of specialization is the representation of African Americans in cinema, but I also conduct research on television and popular culture, among other subjects. I am passionate about my work because it largely challenges social inequality. Given the climate we currently live in, I believe that my teaching and research are more important than ever.

I have worked at SIU since the fall of 2005. I like my department and value my colleagues a great deal. Together, our curriculum and the wonderful group of artists, scholars, and professionals with whom I work are the best part about being at this institution.

Since joining the university, I have chaired or served on thirty-one graduate students' committees. However, I feel it important to note that I do a great deal of unofficial mentoring that cannot be quantified. I believe that mentoring is important because of the impact that strong mentors have had on my life and career. Throughout my college education, professors such as Dr. Larry Ehrlich, Dr. Gregory Black, Dr. Tamara Falicov, Professor Kevin Willmott, and others spent a great deal of time advising and encouraging me to help bring my goal of becoming a professor to fruition.

As I worked with each of them, I realized how critically important mentoring is to student success; therefore, I am dedicated to giving back to students in my program and across campus. From my perspective, doing anything less would mean that I had failed to live up to the expectations of the wonderful mentors that in myriad ways helped me.



The Challenges of Exploring New Boundaries within Our Profession

Shannon Sanders McDonald

Assistant Professor of Architectural Studies and Interior Design

As an SIU assistant professor in architecture, I focus on the research areas of sustainability and transportation. There are many overlaps and synergies when exploring these two topics within architecture from the building scale to the urban scale. Having worked at SIU for six years, I appreciate the architecture school for its balanced and professional approach to design. The mix of students at SIU, from the urban to the rural, creates dynamic discussions and solutions in the design studio. Mentoring students from local, urban, and rural backgrounds to mentoring our international students has enriched and deepened my understanding of design.

Serving as chair of 15 architecture masters committees with students from 5 countries and being on 40 architecture masters committees and 2 doctoral dissertations has been a privilege. Working also with 6 graduate research assistants and 5 graduate teaching assistants has provided me a wonderful opportunity to delve deeply into several topics. Working as a mentor with graduate students is a very gratifying experience. I watch them as they prepare for the architecture profession and express concern about many important architectural issues that they want to explore.

This challenges me, as a professor, to engage at emerging levels of thought and go along with students as they explore new boundaries within our profession. These relationships are at the core of the Universities' mission and bring attention to SIU through the publication of collaborative papers and presented research about the future of architecture and our built world. Thank you very much for this opportunity to work with such fantastic students.



Mentoring History Graduate Students

Jonathan Bean

Professor of History

As a professor at SIU, I have had many rewarding opportunities to advise and support my students. My research has made me privy to career connections for students such as the Presidential Management Fellows program. I tout the program to those bright academics who aspire to a career in public service, one that will hand them a tremendous responsibility fresh out of graduate school.

Two of my students who were selected for the program have went on to work with Colin Powell and various U.S. embassies. Some of my graduate assistants have worked with me on litigation that also helped further their careers. Some cases involved tobacco liability, Apple's alleged e book price fixing, and American Express fraud.

I've been honored to see former students become lawyers, principals and have their work cited on the evening national news.



Guidance and Support for Engineering Graduate Students

Tsuchin Chu

Professor of Mechanical Engineering

I have always been fascinated by NASA's achievements – the Apollo moon landings, the shuttle program, and more recently, the completion of the International Space Station. When I first came to SIU in the 1990's, I learned that NASA had a Faculty Research Fellowship program. I immediately applied and was fortunate enough to be accepted as a research fellow.

As a fellow, I took many SIU graduate students to NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Alabama, to conduct research. This was when I began doing more to mentor my graduate students than just advising them on their theses.

I have mentored more than 40 graduate students in my 27 years at SIU, in areas such as Non-Destructive Evaluation (NDE), Biomedical Engineering, and Experimental Mechanics. I have published more than 140 peer-reviewed journal articles and conference proceedings, and I am proud to have co-authored many of them with my mentees.

I recently served three years on the Board of Directors for the American Society for Nondestructive Testing (ASNT). In this capacity, I was able to help broaden my students' professional networks. As a result of this, and their own hard work, many have ended up with excellent careers.

Over the years, I have been awarded research grants from NASA, Boeing, the US Air Force and Navy, IBM, and the Illinois Clean Coal Institute, among others. I developed the Intelligent Measurement and Evaluation Lab (IMEL), which houses state-of-the-art equipment including a Digital Image Correlation (DIC) system, an Infrared (IR) Thermography system, and Ultrasonic Inspection systems. In addition to SIU's steadfast and enduring support, these grants and equipment provide me the additional funding and means to continue mentoring and supporting my students.

For me, the most rewarding part of conducting research is having the opportunity to mentor students and to watch them grow over the course of their own research. It gives me great satisfaction to guide my graduate students as they develop into mature, experienced, and successful engineers.



Teaching and Research in Agricultural Science

Ahmad Fakhoury

Associate Professor of Plant Soil and Agricultural Systems

My research and academic interests include fungal genetics and genomics; mycotoxin biosynthesis and control; and plant microbe interactions, especially the interaction between soybean and the fungal pathogens *Fusarium virguliforme*, *Cercospora sojina*, and *Macrophomina phaseolina*. I am also interested in the use of metagenomic tools to study seedling diseases of soybean.

I began my career at SIU fourteen years ago. I appreciate the beauty of Southern Illinois and the SIU campus. Southern Illinois is an ideal setting for hiking, adventures, and my favorite pastime: photography.

I have mentored five successful master's candidates, four successful PhD candidates, and am currently advising four graduate students. I have participated in 26 graduate committees, have mentored 22 undergraduate students, one visiting researcher, and four post-doctoral researchers.

Mentoring students and researchers is one of the most rewarding aspects of my job. Helping others learn the fundamentals of science and develop as researchers allows them to find their own passion, which will help them foster others' passions in what I hope will be a continuous cycle.

CURRENT GRADUATE SALUKI STORIES

Enhancing the Saluki Spirit Abdulsamad Humaidan



I arrived at Southern Illinois University Carbondale in August of 2012 as a Fulbright scholar set to pursue an MA/TESOL degree. I was excited to be here and had watched many YouTube videos about SIU's campus while I was preparing to travel. I can still remember having lunch with the Fulbright fellows

and a Fulbright supervisor who was visiting. At the lunch table, every one of us introduced him or herself, and we talked about the schools to which we were heading. When it was my turn, I

mentioned SIU. The Fulbright supervisor said it was a big campus, which I was glad to hear because I knew it meant I would have an interesting experience meeting people from different parts of the world. After arriving, I made many friends in class who helped me understand other cultures. I have many favorite spots on campus, because it is so big, but Morris Library would top my favorite's list. In fact, I have been telling new students that they would enjoy their time studying in the library. SIU is and will always be my first home in the United States. I would be proud to be an SIU ambassador in the future when I move to another school as a faculty member. I will continue enhancing the Saluki spirit.



Our Highly Ranked Rehabilitation Counseling Program Alex Morgan



I first came to Southern Illinois University Carbondale with the sole intention of completing my last year of eligibility as a Saluki and to be a part of the historic track and field program here. I had always been interested in pursuing a career in counseling, but I did not know which field would

be the best fit for me. While exploring the graduate catalog, I came across the rehabilitation counseling program and decided to apply. Before being accepted, I was not sure what exactly rehabilitation counseling was; to say I was nervous would be

an understatement. After completing my first semester, I found a sure footing in the discipline, and I knew that SIU was exactly where I needed to be. Not only is the rehabilitation counseling program at SIU highly ranked among the best in the nation, it is also, I discovered, the best fit for me and my aspirations in the counseling profession. To top that off, I established many genuine friendships with my colleagues, classmates, and teammates that will last a lifetime. Between juggling a graduate class load and traveling on the road each weekend to meets, I can honestly say the late nights, study sessions, and academic pressures have been worth the lifelong experience I have gained during my two years at SIU.

Big Achievement at SIU

David R. Stoddard



I have always wanted to become an attorney, and because of my love for business, I also yearned to earn my MBA. Before coming to SIU, I worked and went to school in Utah full-time to avoid going into debt for my degrees in business management and English writing. Upon graduation, I applied to 25 law schools throughout the U.S. I was accepted to 18. While attending a law fair at my undergraduate institution, I met Associate Dean Chris Behan from the SIU School of Law. He explained the benefits at SIU, specifically the opportunity to receive a high-quality education at an affordable price. He also said that I could earn my JD and MBA in three years instead of the usual four. After narrowing my list of 18 schools to those where I could receive both degrees in three years, I organized campus visits.

Graduate school was a big decision. With a wife and infant child, we would be leaving our home in Utah. Our first stop was SIU, and we fell in love. We respectfully kept our appointments with the other universities, but we knew SIU would be our new home. We moved here in August 2014. Here, I have a 4.0 MBA GPA, have achieved Dean's List honors at the law school, have received multiple CALI Awards (achieving the highest grade in a law school course), became Chief Articles Editor of the Southern Illinois University Law Journal, have received a research graduate assistantship at the College of Business, have represented the law school on the Graduate and Professional Student Council, and am the personal research assistant to Assistant Professor George Mocsary at the School of Law. I will graduate with my JD and MBA in May and will then sit for the bar exam in July.

Wonderful Externship from the School of Law

Arben Ballazhi



I am a first-year law student from Oswego, one of the northwestern Chicago suburbs. Initially, it took me some time to get used to graduate-level work and to get used to the change from working for myself to working for the academy. The first semester of law school was definitely the most grueling type of work I had ever been asked to do. Not to mention, I am a non-traditional student. Fortunately, I was able to find an externship with the Matthew Shepard Foundation

after going to a presentation that was offered at the Law School as a part of a presentation series required for our professionalism class. I was offered the position largely because Dean Cynthia Fountaine said some wonderful things about me when asked by the foundation's director if she would approve of me doing an externship. I could not be more thankful for Dean Fountaine's kindness and generosity, and for having had the opportunity to work in a field that I have been so passionate about ever since Sept. 11, 2001. I look forward to working on hate crime legislation this summer as a full-time extern.

Opportunities and Mentors that are Second to None

Duane J. Lickteig



What drew me to SIU as an undergraduate, kept me here for my M.A.T. and now doctorate, are the unique research opportunities and mentoring access engrained in SIU's culture. During my undergraduate career in microbiology, I pursued research related to the development of mucosal based vaccine systems using nanoparticles as a novel vaccine delivery vector. My success during this time can be attributed to Associate Professor Vjollca Konjufca, who helped develop me into a scientist. Working in her lab, she told me, "I will spend thousands of dollars on your experiments and countless hours teaching you laboratory skills; however, at the end of it all, no one will care about your education as much as you do." This

wisdom drove me to invest all I could muster in my academics and research. Participating in authentic science and working through an internship in Dublin, Ireland, has driven me to pursue an M.A.T.

Harvey Henson, assistant professor of curriculum and instruction, mentored me while we collaboratively researched inquiry-based curriculum in classroom instruction and teacher professional development. Without his guidance and mentorship, I would not be the researcher and scholar I am today. Very few universities have opportunities for undergraduates and non-thesis based master's students to contribute to innovative research that leads to regional and national conference presentations and publications. I can only look forward with excitement to the potential programs and research I'll be able to be a part of as a doctoral student in science education at SIU.

Success through Diversity

Eric Secrist



I am a first-year graduate student in public administration. I started at Southern Illinois University Carbondale as an undergraduate studying architecture, but after some introspection, I came to the conclusion that I needed to take a different path to accomplish my goals.

I served as public relations/marketing director of Delta Epsilon Iota, president of Delta Epsilon Iota Academic Honor Society for two years, and was the chartering president of Alpha Sigma Phi Fraternity's Eta Gamma Chapter here at SIU. My leadership roles in these organizations expanded my view of what success in life means. For me, it means working closely with a diverse group of individuals who come together to accomplish a goal that is greater than any one person. The core values of silence, charity,

purity, honor, and patriotism have helped me grow and flourish as a leader and will continue to shape my path for a long time to come. Through my extracurricular activities at SIU, it has become clear to me that I need to be in a position that lets me lead and work with others to accomplish a common goal for the good of the community. Subsequently, I decided on getting a master's in public administration. Through my coursework in the program, I have been able to explore my passion for helping others by taking every available nonprofit class I could. As a graduate student, I have also been fortunate enough to have an assistantship with my department as well as an internship with the career services department at SIU. Over the next year, I will be working with Carbondale City Manager Gary Williams in an attempt to accomplish some goals set out by the Office of the City Manager and the Carbondale City Council.



A Different Perspective

Farris Abou-Hanna



When I decided to attend SIU School of Medicine, I knew that spending a year here in Carbondale would provide me with a host of new experiences. I've lived most of my life in Peoria, which I consider to be a fairly metropolitan area. Southern Illinois is a unique place in terms of its landscape, its population,

and its student-driven environment. For the past few months, I have gotten to enjoy the wooded, open areas within and surrounding campus. Nature and campus are mostly a single entity here in Carbondale, and I think I will miss it greatly as I make my way up to Springfield next year to continue my education.

As a medical student, I've also had the pleasure of interacting with the non-student population through my mentorship program in Union County Illinois, where I shadow a doctor and interview patients myself. Learning about peoples' ways of life in the southern tip of Illinois and how healthcare changes from region to region are vital lessons, some that I will carry with me as I grow into my profession. SIU is not a run-of-the-mill university, and I think the students here get to enjoy a refreshing higher education experience and build memories that they will take with them throughout the rest of their lives.

My Passion is Aviation

Hou U Lou



I am a first-year graduate student studying public administration with an aviation administration specialization. I first started here at SIU in 2012, working on my bachelor's degree in aviation management with an airport planning minor. I graduated in the spring of 2015 and then got an

opportunity to work at the Southern Illinois Airport Authority as a management intern. During my internship, I realized that I needed to master more professional skills in order to help with my future career. In addition, I have met Salukis at different events and conferences. Many suggested that working on a graduate degree would help me in various ways.

With support from the professors in my department and my family, I decided to pursue my interest in aviation in a more in-depth manner. I am passionate about aviation because it helps connect the world, and I always wanted to help establish a well-developed aviation system for my country or even the world. I did some research and decided to join the public administration program at SIU. The program not only provides me the opportunities to work closely with a diverse group of people, but it also gives me a chance to develop my thoughts and ideas regarding something that deeply interests me. I am fortunate enough to have received a graduate assistantship through the Southern Illinois Airport Authority during my graduate study. I have an opportunity to apply and expand my knowledge from the graduate school to my daily duties at the Southern Illinois Airport.



Teaching Assistant, Athlete and Coach

Nathan Schuck



I am currently studying sports studies within the Kinesiology Department. Here at SIU, I have enjoyed being able to fulfill many roles professionally, athletically and academically. During my time here as an undergraduate, I won many accolades on the track, such as a

Conference Championship, and I am a two-time outdoor regional qualifier. It was during this time that I realized my passion for

coaching and was able to pursue my graduate degree in sports studies. Working as a teaching assistant while finishing up my eligibility with the track and field team was truly an enriching experience. I have been able to witness firsthand the concepts I was learning in the classroom. In the future, I will be returning to SIU to finish my master's degree and intern with the team in order to gain more experience as a track and field coach. My professors have been great in working with my varied schedule and numerous commitments. The academic rigor is challenging but rewarding, and I actually feel accomplished upon completing it.

Studying with Media Experts

Shan Wang



I am a first-year graduate student in the College of Mass Communication and Media Arts. From the fall of 2014 to the spring of 2015, I was an undergraduate exchange student at SIU. The high-quality faculty and top-ranking research abilities of MCMA greatly impressed me and brought me

back to SIU a year later. After returning to SIU, I found out the differences between a graduate and an undergraduate education. Graduate courses are set up in seminars instead of lectures, which requires you to interact more with the professor and other

classmates. You are encouraged to raise questions related to the class, share opinions with classmates, and fully participate in class discussions. In classes, professors usually raise up novel and engaging questions. They bring new sources and thoughts into classes to expand our outlooks, cultivating and thereby promoting our thinking abilities at a higher level. I also met and became friends with classmates from various countries. They are all media experts and independent thinkers. They guided me a lot both in my studies and in my life. Living and studying along with these people made me braver, more creative, and more perseverant. I enjoy spending time learning and relaxing in this peaceful town, and I am fortunate to be a Saluki.

Working One-on-One with Cancer Survivors

Marie Bongiorno

I am a second-year master's student in the Kinesiology Department. This is my sixth year at SIU; I graduated with my bachelor's degree in exercise science. After my four years here as an undergraduate, I knew that I wanted to further my education, and I knew that I did not want to do it anywhere else. As a graduate student, I have had many opportunities to work with equipment that can help me in the exercise field. I have also worked with professionals from whom I learn so much. I have the honor of being a teaching assistant for the Kinesiology Department, which has expanded my knowledge outside of the classroom. I am also involved in Strong Survivors, a program that lets me work one-on-one with cancer survivors, helping them alleviate symptoms and live healthy lifestyles.

SIU has opened many doors for me, and it has become my second home. I am glad I chose this university to further my education. I have had the opportunity to work with Philip Anton, associate professor of kinesiology, my adviser for the past two years and the creator of the Strong Survivors program. He has allowed me to work with cancer survivors and help improve their quality of life. Without him, I would not have been able to gain the one-on-one training experience that I have. He has mentored me through my research experience and guided me through the process of becoming a successful graduate student.

Advocating Graduate Student Success and Professional Growth

Brandon Woudenberg, former President of Graduate and Professional Student Council and Johnathan Flowers, current GPSC President



To support student success, the Graduate and Professional Student Council prides itself on its dedication over the past 10 years to professional events and travel funding for graduate students wanting to go to conferences across the nation. Every year, GPSC provides our own set of

research awards in the spring as well. In fact, GPSC has been able to conservatively manage our budget so that we were able to provide travel funding for the best and brightest graduate students throughout all of last year.

As a very important organization on campus, GPSC also provides opportunities for its constituencies to participate in vital advocacy roles such as search committees and advisory boards relevant to their professional goals after graduation.

GRADUATE SALUKI STORIES FROM PAST STUDENTS AS ALUMNI

My Loyalty to SIU as an Alum and a Decanal Leader

Elaine Vitello

Ph.D. SIU Carbondale Graduate School's Advisory Board Member and Former Dean of the College of Applied Sciences and Arts (CASA).



As an alumni and life time member in the SIU Alumni Association, I am proud to have been a graduate student, faculty member and dean at Southern Illinois University Carbondale.

During my tenure as dean, I led a long and exemplary process of academic and curricular changes within the College

of Technical Careers. Subsequently, six new technically oriented baccalaureate degrees were approved by the Illinois Board of Higher Education in January, 1996. They were Architectural Studies, Automotive Technology, Aviation Technologies, Dental Hygiene,

Mortuary Science and Funeral Services and Radiological Sciences. In July, 1996, the SIU Board of Trustees approved a name change to the College of Applied Sciences and Arts. These changes assured that CASA would be positioned to pursue quality graduate degrees, which it now offers, not only for students from Southern Illinois, but also for students worldwide. The college's mission throughout its evolution was to provide quality education regardless of academic level and to meet workforce needs. The college continues to meet workforce needs with its tradition of success and standard of excellence. We are very proud of the CASAs whose graduate programs have grown progressively.

Dreams Do Come True

Li Ma Lee



In 1959, SIU welcomed me as a foreign student on a full scholarship to earn my master's degree. When I was almost finished with my graduate studies, however, fate intervened. I fell in love with an SIU journalism student, and my studies were derailed. I got married, became pregnant, and moved with my

husband to New York.

I never received my degree. Though I had come so far, achieving a top academic ranking in my native Taiwan to gain a scholarship

to study in the United States, I fell short of earning my degree by one credit.

Thanks to the concerted efforts of the Graduate School and College of Education, in 2016, I was able to let go of this regret, which I still felt after all these years. This May, thanks to SIU, I am overjoyed to be receiving the diploma I set out to earn almost 60 years ago.

My SIU degree represents the hopes and dreams I had sacrificed for as a hard-working young woman. I feel lucky and blessed to come full circle to this gratifying and humbling moment. Thank you SIU for this opportunity to make my dreams finally come true!

The Value of an SIU Degree

Eden D. Thorne



Once I joined the fundraising team at the SIU Foundation, some 20 years after receiving an SIU Engineering diploma in 1984, one that I proudly display on my office wall, I realized that an advanced degree was not only within reach, but could also significantly ramp up my career! So I enrolled as an MBA student

in the SIU College of Business. Seated next to me were my adult daughter's former high school friends, many of whom I cheered on at the area soccer fields. Putting my age aside, I dug in and worked hard to learn how today's students were taught. Gone were the paper handouts and overhead projectors. It was blackboard, on-line quizzes, and research done via the library portal.

My fellow students were committed and driven (albeit 20 or more years my junior), and we soon became a team – all driven to walk that arena stage. Working full-time as well, I learned to focus on late-night papers instead of binge watching Grey's Anatomy; I loved every minute of it! Graduating several years later, I quickly found peer employers knocking on my door. I was a 50-plus professional with 2 degrees, and it mattered! When Florida State University looked at me, my MBA from SIU in 2014 was a huge bonus. Now I am employed at one of the top universities in the country. I thank SIU every day for this. If it weren't for my Saluki family, I would not be living and working in a field and city that has brought me great professional and personal joy!

Forever Bleeding Maroon and White!

Jodi Golden



Serving the public, creating effective government policy, and shaping the future of our city, state and country are some of the reasons why I entered the Master of Public Administration program at SIU. Having had spent 4 years as an undergraduate on the Carbondale campus, my love and loyalty

for SIU could not have been stronger. My interest in government, policy and politics bloomed while studying communications and public relations, and upon graduation I took my first professional position with State Rep. (now Congressman) Mike Bost. I was given the fortunate opportunity to intern in his office during my studies and knew from that experience that government and public administration was exactly what I wanted to do.

After working for the Illinois House of Representatives and an Illinois State Senator, I decided to return to my beloved SIU and

expand my knowledge of public policy by entering the unmatched MPA program. From hands-on experiences via numerous graduate assistantship opportunities to first-class professors that mentor each student along the way, my time in the MPA program was one of tremendous growth and development. I am confident I would not be where I am today without my MPA experience. Upon graduating, I went to work for the Indiana Treasurer of State for nine years and was executive director of the Indiana College Choice 529 Savings Plans. Currently, I am a member of Illinois Gov. Bruce Rauner's cabinet and executive director of the Illinois Capital Development Board. The CDB is the state's construction management agency and builds, repairs and rehabilitates state and university owned facilities. I am able to live out my dream of public service all thanks to the education and experiences provided by SIU. I will forever bleed maroon and white!

National and International Experience after Graduation

Habib A. Zuberi



My wife Rosemary McClain and I graduated from SIU. I received a doctorate in Economics, while she received a master's degree in Botany. Afterward, I served as president of the Economic Club, as president of the International Relations Club, and as captain of the cricket team. After

my graduation in 1971, I joined Central Michigan University as an assistant professor and was eventually promoted to associate

and finally full professor. I served as department chair from 1980-84 and became the first merit professor in the department in 1990. I published a number of articles in referred national and international economic journals and presented papers at London School of Economics and in India and Pakistan. I am very proud of my graduate education at SIU. I had a pleasant stay there and learned a good deal.

Living My American Dream!

Pratik Pathak

I am currently working as a water resources engineer at FTN Associates Ltd. Five years ago, as an undergraduate student in Nepal, I was working on a water resources project when I realized I wanted to be an expert in the field. I joined SIU in the spring of 2015, and there has been no looking back from there. Studying in the United States was a dream for me, and it was difficult to realize that dream becoming a reality coming from a country like Nepal. But I was given research and teaching assistantships that helped me pay for my education and living and made my dream come true. I got the opportunity to work with enthusiastic and bright faculty members at SIU who helped me shape my career goals.

Ajay Kalra, assistant professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering, was my supervisor for my thesis work, and I was able

to finish my thesis and publish two papers in peer-reviewed journals within three semesters. My supervisor not only helped me achieve my professional goals as a graduate student, but he also created an environment for me where I could discuss my personal problems. This enabled me to cope successfully with personal and professional demands. I presented my research and thesis work at various conferences and was exposed to experts in the field. I have faced various challenges in my life ranging from economic to mental, but with all the challenges that life has thrown my way, I am still living my dream!

The Unconventional Journey of a Theater MFA

Michael Licwinko



With my master's degree in theatre from SIU in 1995, I headed for Charlotte, N.C. hoping to start a career as a theatre professional. I specialized in playwriting but started dabbling in direction as well. In Charlotte, I founded the Seat of Our Pants Players with three local actors. I had performed for two summers when

New York City beckoned, and I followed. From 1998 to 2008, four of my plays were produced, including *White Lie* at the New York Fringe Festival. Up to that point, I had used my MFA in a conventional way. But that all changed in 2008 when I realized a 30-year dream and joined the Peace Corps.

I served as a volunteer in Talas, Kyrgyzstan, which had the only community radio station in Central Asia. The station was looking to create a radio drama. With their vision and my writing abilities,

"Kok Asman" (Blue Sky), a social issues radio serial, was born. With a group of talented, enthusiastic locals, we produced 14 10-minute episodes on topics such as bride kidnapping, safe sex, etc. Soon after, the director of the Fine Arts Department at American University of Central Asia invited me to conduct a three-day workshop for his theatre students. By the end, we watched 10 10-minute plays written and acted by the students. I also conducted a workshop at the International University of Kyrgyzstan. My Peace Corps experience resulted in a book, *Mail from Kyrgyzstan: My Life As An Over-50 Peace Corps Volunteer*.

Globally, I taught English to English majors in Nanchang, China for four years. Never did I imagine that my playwriting skills would be used half-way around the world. The journey continues as my master's degree and I are now in Mexico looking to start a bi-lingual theatre company in addition to my teaching.

The Best Professor I Have Ever Known

Leo Hodapp



I got my Bachelor of Science degree in Art Education in 1973, and my experience in graduate school at SIU was phenomenal! My adviser was Bill Matthias, and he was simply the best ever. He took great care in guiding me and paid personal attention to me which helped me achieve my master's degree

in Educational Administration. While I was pursuing my graduate studies, I was also married with two children and working full time. In spite of the pressures of a full-time job and the demands of family

life, I managed to maintain the determination to get my master's degree from SIU. In order to balance work, family and graduate studies, I had to drive around a lot in town! Even though it was tough to go through this rigmarole and maintain the balancing act, I knew it was important to get my education from the institution I love. Looking back, I think it was worth all the effort I had put into getting my degree from this cherished institution. The people make the institution, and I think Professor Matthias is one of the best people I have ever known. Cherishing the memories and proud to this day, my slogan for life is "Go Salukis!"

SIU and My Success

Stefan D. Haag



My first stint at SIU began in the summer of 1959 when my father took a position teaching Agricultural Economics at the University. Although I had been a mediocre student in high school, I excelled at SIU, mainly because of the small classes, dedicated professors, and my having spent a year in Rangoon,

Burma with my parents before beginning college.

After graduating as a distinguished Air Force ROTC graduate, I attended pilot training and spent six years in the Air Force before leaving to pursue a master's degree at SIU on a fellowship. I chose SIU over a fellowship offer from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign because of the reputation of the faculty in

my academic interest of Southeast Asia and the Vietnam Studies Program at SIU. My choice proved to be a wise one. After receiving my degree, I taught at Kaskaskia College for nine years before accepting a position at Austin Community College in Austin, Texas. While teaching at Kaskaskia, I took additional course work toward a doctorate at SIU.

While teaching at ACC, I co-authored college-level textbooks on Texas state and local government — *Texas Politics and Government: Ideas and Institutions*— and coauthored the Texas component of a textbook by Karen O'Connor and Larry Sabato titled *American Government: Continuity and Change, Texas Edition*.

I will always credit SIU for much of my success, especially its highly dedicated faculty in the Political Science Department.

My Professional Career and the SIU Experience

Tim Gognat



I have a compelling story that is complementary of John Sexton, a geophysicist, who was my thesis advisor in 1976-77 at SIU. Professor Sexton took an interest in my unconventional ideas of which the Geology Department chairman at the time was very skeptical. He guided me

through the scientific process that enhanced my credentials and interested a major petroleum company enough to help me land a job there.

Later, I collaborated with two professors and friends from 1988-1990. We incorporated my thesis and their associated research in overlapping areas resulting in a best paper award following a presentation I made at a professional conference in London, Ontario. Another 15 years later, aspects of those studies led me to the development of a natural gas project.

Much of my professional career has borrowed on the SIU experience that Professor Sexton, in large part, facilitated. This history of events could not have been possible without his interest in me and his willingness to step a bit out of his geophysics comfort zone and into my area of study.

Living Through History: My Time at SIU

Barry Westfall



I earned my Bachelor of Arts degree in 1968 and my Master of Arts degrees in History from SIU during a time ravaged by the Vietnam War. I was able to gain a deferment from the draft because I was legally a resident of a university-impacted county whose draft board could and did easily grant

deferments that other, more rural counties did not have the luxury of granting. As long as I kept my original deferment, I was able to avoid being drafted until after reaching the age of 26, when hopefully, the war would be over.

The senior professors of the History Department, located in Old Main, had these wonderfully elongated offices with 15-foot

ceilings. The History Department had an illustrious faculty. Two of the department chairs during the time I was a student there were George W. Adams, author of *Doctors in Blue* and a recognized authority on the medical history of the Union Army during the Civil War. His course was not just excellent, it was enlightening!

He was replaced by Ping Chi Kuo, who had been a young attaché at the Teheran Conference during World War II and a Boxer Scholar at Harvard University. His classes on the modern history of China were highly memorable. His presentations on how Europeans, and to a lesser extent, Americans, ruled corruptly over the Chinese in the 19th century were also very enlightening! Professor Ping Chi Kuo was known for instilling a sense of discipline and work ethic in his students. I am still proud of SIU's excellent professors like him.

Graduate Education and Professional Success

Deb Moriarty



I feel that my graduate education at SIU was strongly responsible for my long-term professional success.

I earned a master's in College Student Personnel in August of 1978. During my time at SIU, I served as a graduate assistant in the Office of Student Activities and as a

housemother for Delta Zeta Sorority.

Since my time at SIU, I have worked at UCLA, UC San Diego, the University of Michigan, the University of Maryland, Baltimore County. I am currently serving as the Vice President for Student Affairs at Towson University, the second-largest institution in the University System of Maryland.

I have been at Towson University since 2004. While here, I have been instrumental in changing campus climate related to student life, diversity and inclusion and have been responsible for oversight of the addition of six new residence halls, the complete renovation of two smaller halls to serve as home to our Health & Counseling Centers, and the addition of 100,000 square feet to our campus recreation center.

I have also been active in my local community and my professional association. I have served as President of the Towson Chamber of Commerce, Executive Board member of Baltimore College Town, and I have just begun my term as chair of the Board of NASPA, a Student Affairs Professional Association. I feel that my education at SIU laid a strong foundation that has helped me achieve what I have today.

SIU GRADUATE SCHOOL: A QUICK LOOK AT SPRING AND SUMMER 2017.

Graduate Council Members Service Appreciation

The Graduate Council is the constituency body that represents the graduate faculty in the determination of policies regarding graduate education and research activities within the University.

As the dean of the Graduate School, Dr. Yueh-Ting Lee is very appreciative of the following graduate faculty members for their service in the past three years; their terms expired at the end of the academic year 2016-2017—Constantine Hatziadoniu, professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering; Wanli Zhao, College of Business; Cinzia Padovani, associate professor for Radio, Television and Digital Media; Clay Nielsen, professor, Cooperative Wildlife Research Laboratory; Julie Partridge, associate professor of Kinesiology and Saran Donahoo (proxy for Cynthia Sims), associate professor of Educational Administration and Higher Education. For their valuable time and excellent service, we thank you!

Congratulations to Newly Elected Graduate Council Members and Chair Velasco

Dean Lee would like to send his congratulations to the newly elected officers and council members of 2017—Karen Jones, professor of Plant, Soil and Agricultural Systems; Marc Morris, associate professor of Accountancy; Saran Donahoo, associate professor of Educational Administration and Higher Education; Themistoklis Haniotakis, associate professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering; and William Babcock, professor, School of Journalism. Tomas Velasco (pictured below) was re-elected and continues to serve as Graduate Council chair for 2017-2018; Julie Partridge will continue to serve as vice chair in 2017-2018. Congratulations!



Happy Retirement to Ratna Sinha

Ratna Sinha, Assistant Dean of the Graduate School, who retired on June 30th, 2017, had worked for SIU Carbondale for 27 years and worked for the Graduate School for 16 of those years. The Graduate Council and the Graduate School at SIU Carbondale express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to Dr. Sinha for her superb contributions to the Graduate Council and the Graduate School. Below is the picture of Sinha's retirement party in May.



Awards from the Graduate School

Zaheer Masood in Chemistry and Sudip Pandey in Physics received the Willis Swartz Award in the spring of 2016. Also in the spring of 2016, our Outstanding Thesis Award winner was Liana Kirilova in History and our Outstanding Dissertation Award winner was Ali Behjatian Esfahani in Mechanical Engineering. We thank all our graduate faculty members for serving on these selection committees.

Three-Minute Thesis (3MT) Competition

To engage with our current students and faculty members, we started a new project called Three-Minute Thesis (3MT). We worked with the Graduate Council's Research Committee and Vice Chancellor for Research's office. Emi Hayashi, who is working on her doctoral degree in Physiology, was selected for first place in the SIU Graduate School's first Three-Minute Thesis competition, held Feb. 15. Caitlin Stallings, a doctoral student in Physiology, and Klaus Cavahieri, a doctoral student in Psychology, received second- and third-place honors, respectively. Thanks are extended to the Graduate Council Research Committee: James Garvey, Sajal Lahiri, Greg Rose, Buffy Ellsworth, Wesley Calvert, Graduate Student Representative Sheena Hart and previous Graduate School Associate Dean David Wilson for serving as judges. We also expressed our appreciation to our graduate school staff members, Ratna Sinha, John Russell and Sandra Meacham for their help in all the logistical arrangements.

Congratulations to May and August Degree Recipients

We had 126 graduate students who earned their doctoral degrees and 639 students who earned their masters degrees in May and August of 2017. Below is a picture of our graduate faculty members and degree recipients for the summer at our Springfield campus. Congratulations to them all!



Annual Meeting of Dean's External Advisory Board in Summer 2017

The Graduate School recently formed an external advisory board. The function of this external board is to help us in increasing enrollment, enhancing graduate programs' excellence and connecting with graduate alumni, as well as attracting external resources for our Graduate School and for our current or future graduate students. To represent different academic colleges or schools with graduate programs, the founding board members are: David Wilson, John Koropchak, Jared Dorn, John Jackson, Thomas Gutteridge, Juhwah Chen, Robert Augustine, Thomas Britton, Nastasia Jones, Hanlin Huang, Amelia Merced, Dafna Lemish, Elaine Vitello and Steven Kraft. Members had their first successful and productive meeting on July 14. All advisory board members attended the meeting either in person or via Skype. Julie Partridge, vice chair of the Graduate Council and Graduate and Professional Student Council President Johnathan Flowers were invited to attend this meeting. They approved the board's guideline, and Dean Lee also presented his annual report to this advisory board. They talked about the Graduate School's strategic directions and fundraising activities.





Donation and Appreciation

We thank our alumni, donors and friends of the SIU Graduate School for their generous support and donations. In the past academic year, we have raised \$620,000, of which two estate gifts of \$100,000 and \$500,000 were given to support graduate education and research. Additionally, we raised more than \$15,000 in 2016-2017 that specifically helped graduate students present their research at national and international conferences.

Would you like to help us continue to support graduate student education and research? Additional contributions from our friends and alums would allow us to assist more students in achieving their academic goals.

Please consider making an online contribution to the Graduate School at SIU Carbondale (www.gradschool.siu.edu/giving):
Please include this form with your check. Code 38207 G.

\$50 \$100 \$200 \$500 \$1,000 Other \$ _____

This gift should be used for:

General Support:

- Graduate Student Scholarship Fund
- Graduate School Activities Fund
- Graduate Student Supplemental Fund
- Other

Diversity

- International Student Support: Willis Swartz Graduate Award
- PROMPT (Proactive Recruitment of Multicultural Professionals for Tomorrow)
- American Indian Scholarship Endowment

Student Research

- Graduate Student Educational Support Fund
- Graduate Fellowship Fund
- Graduate Student Internship Support Fund

Please make checks payable to SIU Foundation and mail to: SIU Foundation, Colyer Hall – Mail Code 6805, 1235 Douglas Drive, Carbondale, IL 62901, USA, or online at gradschool.siu.edu/giving.

Thank you in advance for your support.



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