

GRADUATE SALUKI STORIES

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GRADUATE EDUCATION, RESEARCH AND SCHOLARSHIP



Successful Graduate Education and Research at SIU

Yueh-Ting Lee

Dean, SIU Graduate School

In May 2016 I had the great opportunity and privilege to participate in graduate student commencement ceremonies on the Southern Illinois University Carbondale campus and the SIU School of Medicine campus in Springfield. I am very proud of the hundreds of graduate students who received their doctoral and master's degrees, as well as those who received medical and law degrees. Earning a graduate degree is a milestone in one's life. It is no easy job; it involves hard work, persistence and support from our graduate students, families, graduate faculty, administrators and staff members. Their research, creativity and other scholarship accomplishments definitely earn them the degrees they deserve. We are proud of all our graduate students, and we wish them continued success!

This issue of Graduate Saluki Stories focuses on graduate education and research. We are very fortunate to have stories from a variety of individuals, including SIU President Randy Dunn and Donald Beggs, former SIU chancellor and retired president at Wichita State University. John Koropchak, former vice chancellor for research and former dean of the Graduate School, and James Garvey, interim vice chancellor for research, teamed up on a piece, while Carl Feingold – one of SIU's outstanding scholars and researchers, and chair of the pharmacology department at the SIU School of Medicine, who has worked and supported SIU graduate education and research for 44 years – also tells his story. Kay Zivkovich, professor in the School of Art and Design and the longest-serving artist for that graduate program on the SIU campus, writes for us, along with Naushad Ali, chair of the Department of Physics, and David Gilbert, professor emeritus in the Department of Psychology, who are two SIU graduate faculty members with the longest-running external grant funding efforts to support graduate education and research.

We have received numerous excellent stories from our graduate students and graduate alumni. I fully enjoyed reading all those stories, and also shared them with their respective chairs or deans. Although our space limitation does not allow us to use all of them, we selected a few to represent various academic areas and research fields. We appreciate our graduate students and alumni for sharing with us their meaningful Salukis experiences.



Importance of Graduate Education and Scholarship

Randy Dunn

SIU president

I've been proud to be associated with the SIU Graduate School since coming to Carbondale more than 20 years ago as a new faculty member. Through teaching in a graduate-degree-only program and serving on numerous grad school committees through the years, I have a keen appreciation for the important work taking place across a wide variety of disciplines. Others do, too: The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching ranks Southern Illinois University Carbondale among the top 5 percent of all U.S. higher education institutions for research – an undertaking central to our success in graduate education.

We hear so much now about the workplace applicability of university degrees generally – and graduate programs specifically. Well, an advanced degree opens doors in your career! Data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics is compelling: In 2013, the median annual wage for full-time workers age 25 and older whose highest level of education was a master's degree was \$68,000, compared with \$56,000 for those with a bachelor's degree. In terms of job opportunities, the bureau had projected employers adding 2.4 million jobs requiring a graduate degree or higher between 2012 and 2022.

But it's not just about a job and what it pays. It's about becoming a true scholar and expert in your chosen field of endeavor. As you pursue your passion in our nationally recognized Graduate School, you will realize tremendous growth in terms of critical thinking skills, leadership development and a broadening of your personal and professional horizons.

As you undertake advanced study and conduct your own research – especially if you write a thesis or dissertation – you get to experience one of the greatest rewards of being a grad student: creatively synthesizing information and establishing new knowledge. In so doing, you will gain the deep satisfaction of knowing you've made a positive impact, leaving your mark on the world.



Research Statistics and Advice for SIU Graduate Students in the Past 50 Years

Donald L. Beggs

Former SIU chancellor

When I joined the faculty in 1966, my primary teaching responsibilities included a statistics sequence for graduate students that included a course in experimental design. This sequence of courses was considered as a research tool for the graduate students in a variety of programs. In these courses I had the opportunity to meet quality students from across the campus. Over the sequence of courses, I watched the students learn how the statistics were relevant to the research processes of their specific academic disciplines. Most of the students were involved in research activities with their major's faculty members. The students were developing an interest in research questions that were important to the academic discipline, and in many cases discussed with me the experimental designs they would use in their theses or dissertations. As a result of these interactions, I became more aware of the research interests and strengths of the graduate faculty in the university. I saw the graduate faculty making research an integral part of the graduate student learning experience.

I had the opportunity to serve on thesis and dissertation committees for more than 200 graduate students while I was a member of the graduate faculty. I had the opportunity to read the research papers and learn more about disciplines, and I learned more about the important research questions that the graduate faculty were working to answer. It was evident in the thesis and dissertation committees that the students were completing papers that were meaningful to them and the members of the committee. I am convinced that quality graduate programs at SIU are committed to faculty and student involvement in meaningful research that goes well beyond the completion of a graduate degree.



The Crucial Symbiosis of Graduate Education and Research

John Koropchak

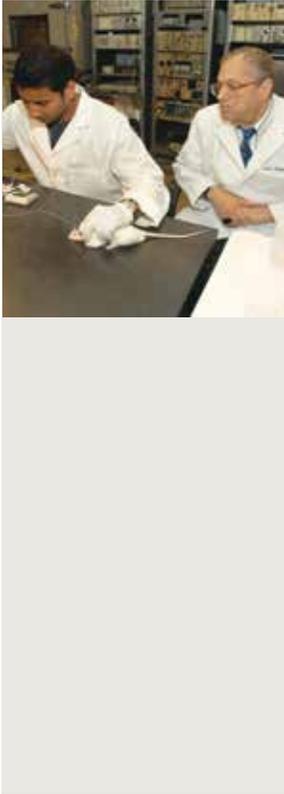
Former SIU vice chancellor for research

James Garvey

Interim vice chancellor for research

Scholarly endeavors are the intellectual lifeblood of a research university such as SIU, and graduate students are the educational engine, having positive impacts on the university, the region, state and world. We have strongly supported the symbiotic relationship between research and graduate education in senior leadership roles by serving in the role of vice chancellor for research and as Graduate School dean. John Koropchak helped create the more than \$1 million annual tuition assistantship award program that has provided assistantship support for thousands of graduate students in all of the colleges for more than a decade. He helped create the "Research Town Meeting," in which hundreds of graduate students each year gained experience at presenting the intellectual fruits of their creative work, and the Center for Graduate Teaching Excellence, which provides graduate students with training and tools for enhanced undergraduate teaching. James Garvey continues to support these initiatives, expanding the Town Meeting to a week of celebration of creative activity called "Da Vinci Days," which includes a graduate student forum of oral and poster presentations. Garvey is dedicated to connecting graduate students of all disciplines to collaborate in venues such as the new McLafferty Annex on the west side of campus, and the Saluki Innovation Hub in the Student Center.

The value of graduate students to the university reaches far beyond research, as our students have important teaching roles, serve as peer mentors for undergraduates, engage our constituents, serve the region and contribute in innumerable ways. On a more personal level, we have supervised the degree completion of dozens of graduate students and consider these some of the most rewarding experiences of our academic careers.



A 44-Year Devotion to Graduation Training and Research

Carl L. Faingold

Professor and chair, Department of Pharmacology, SIU School of Medicine

I joined SIU in 1972 as a naïve assistant professor at the School of Medicine in Springfield after getting my doctorate from Northwestern University and a post-doctoral fellowship at the University of Missouri. Tremendous changes have occurred in my 44 years here, and I have been recognized as one of the founding faculty members of the SIU School of Medicine.

The School of Medicine was literally a hole in the ground when I arrived, since the foundation of our first instructional building was just being excavated. As the newest faculty member, I got to initiate our first university-owned building: a former nursing home with a windowless office in the basement. This building eventually became a lab and a clinic, and also housed some of our first experimental animals: roosters whose crowing did not go over well with patients being examined in our clinics. This building, which since has been demolished, occupied the site of the Richard Moy clinical building, which is part of the medical campus now covering more than three city blocks.

During my career here, I mostly have been funded by national research organizations, including more than 20 years by the National Institutes of Health. I have published more than 100 peer-reviewed articles on epilepsy research, many book chapters and reviews, and have edited several books – the latest of which was published by Elsevier in 2014 and is titled “Neuronal Networks in Brain Function, CNS Disorders and Therapeutics,” with co-editor Hal Blumenfeld of Yale University.

The Pharmacology Department was established in 1979, and I became chair in 1995. We established our graduate program in pharmacology and neuroscience, which has graduated 77 doctoral students, with 11 more students currently in the program. Along the way I was a member of almost every school of medicine faculty committee and served as chair of several of them, including the Research Policy Committee. I also served as vice chair of the Faculty Council, the elected governing committee of the school, and was selected as an SIU Outstanding Scholar in 2009.



Supporting the Art and Design Program as the Longest-Serving Art Professor

Kay Zivkovich

Professor of communication design, School of Art and Design

I’ve been developing my education as a designer, artist, curator and art administrator since the late 1970s, when I established the Craft Shop facility, which included a comprehensive art and design program that was instructional and educational in nature. This position also established the permanent art collection in the Student Center under the Student Affairs division on the campus. The Craft Shop continues to operate as a successful facility serving the university community. Currently, I teach in the School of Art and Design’s design program, a position I’ve held since 1989, having also served as associate and interim director.

Whether it is direct teaching, programming a fundraising event, reorganizing program facilities or directing a national exhibition, I have had the opportunity to teach and mentor many creative graduate students. Supervising, teaching and sharing knowledge while giving direction allows our graduate students insight into creative research, teaching and service, while it enables the individual to experience a professional focus in a multipurpose university.

The graduate program in art and design and humanities is key in stimulating perception and challenging the maker. It allows individuals to participate in interdisciplinary dialogue and creative play/investigation, enhancing the problem-solving process. These advanced artistic endeavors or creative discoveries can expand a vision confirming the role artists and designers play in a changing world.



Continuing Graduate-Student Mentoring and Support

David Gilbert

Professor emeritus, Department of Psychology

Nearly two years after my retirement following 29 years of formal teaching and researching responsibilities, I continue my research and mentoring of graduate and undergraduate students. During my career at SIU, I have generated almost \$14 million in combined direct and indirect costs. A substantial part of this funding has gone to support (on average) three graduate students per year for the past 31 years.

I also have provided training in psychophysiological research methods, psychopharmacology and rigorous research methods to undergraduates and faculty. Most of my research has focused on an integrative perspective that involves the characterization of individual differences in genetic and temperamental characteristics to the effects of nicotine and marijuana on mood, attention, task performance and brain activity.

The three graduate students pictured with me are studying how nicotine and smoking cessation influence activity in different parts of the brain. Ryan Coppens, a doctoral student in clinical psychology, is conducting a dissertation in which he is assessing the effects of quitting smoking and genetic polymorphism associated with Alzheimer's diseases on task-related brain activity. In his master's thesis, Matt Ruehle, a graduate student in clinical psychology, is assessing changes in regional brain activity and connectivity associated with the ability of nicotine to reduce responses to stress. Kian Hamedani, a doctoral student in electrical and computer engineering, is assessing the acute effects of quitting smoking on moment-to-moment changes among regional brain structure communication network activity.

My current National Institutes of Health-funded study is a longitudinal investigation that is assessing how individual differences in brain activity and volume, genetics, personality, reward sensitivity and response to nicotine predict changes in smoking patterns spanning 18 months in young, light smokers. Along with my graduate students and lab instructors, I have mentored hundreds of undergraduates over the years, more than 100 of which have gone on to earn doctoral or master's degrees.



Magnetism and Magnetic Materials Laboratory

Naushad Ali

Chair and professor, Department of Physics

Our research laboratory team is composed of Igor Dubenko, senior scientist, and three doctoral students: Abdiel Quetz, Anil Aryal and Sudip Pandey, under my supervision.

Our primary field of research is magnetism and magnetic materials. The primary purpose is to find the microscopic pictures of how the magnetic properties are manifested in macroscopic materials. This is arrived at by the measurement of various physical properties experimentally in our laboratory. We then try to understand these manifested properties through inter-atomic, electronic and structural interactions at microscopic levels.

In addition, we are engaged in a very large project called "Magnetic Refrigeration." The idea of this project, which has national and international collaborators, is that a "designed" magnetic material, when subjected to an external magnetic field, undergoes a significant change in its temperature. The potential for applications is to design a new type of solid-state air conditioning and refrigeration.

This project has been funded by the U.S. Department of Energy for the past several years. This funding support provides our graduate students a great opportunity to carry out their research. In return, they contribute to enhancing the knowledge base of our scientific endeavor.

CURRENT GRADUATE SALUKI STORIES

Strive to Thrive Justin D'Agostino

I have been provided many opportunities that have had a positive impact in my graduate life and learning since starting doctoral research at SIU. Being an anthropology student, gathering firsthand data can be very difficult for a variety of reasons. From the logistics of traveling more than 10,000 miles to arrive at a remote site to following the most agile primates through the most rugged terrain in the world, the graduate program at SIU has supported my challenging international research at every step. The most recent example was a pilot study I conducted this winter, during which I traveled to Sumatra, Indonesia, and visited

the field sites of Sikundur and Batang Toru. The purpose of the trip was to determine if I could conduct a feasible dissertation project. Before this recent pilot study, I had completed three intensive nonhuman primate research projects that had resulted in presenting findings at professional conferences, and publishing results in peer-reviewed academic journals. This has continued at SIU, where I have returned to the field and continue to present and publish data. Any graduate student with the intention of being active in research and building a career should not hesitate to join the SIU graduate community.

A Global College: Local Meets International Herson A. Pérez

I am a master's student in violin performance, having joined the program at SIU in fall 2015. My experience here has truly been wonderful and positive. SIU provides one with a variety of educational programs, which lead to inspirational lifetime experiences. This campus contains both research and recreation-oriented facilities, such as Morris Library, the Student Center, the Recreation Center and many more. These facilities help students get involved and interact with individual and group activities on campus. What I like most about SIU is the diversity of students and faculty on campus. I have had an incredible opportunity for cultural exchange, and I have made great friends from all over the world. I am so glad that I have made my lifelong friends here at SIU. Something that I look forward to every week is attending the International Student Coffee Hour, held in Woody Hall on Fridays. This activity has helped me get to know so many remarkable



people from different countries, and I would say that we have become quite like a family. In my opinion, SIU is filled with a strong sense of community, and students' values are greatly respected and appreciated in this institution. I am proud to say that I'm a Saluki!

Above and Beyond Expectations Gajanan Kulkarni

Just a few hours' drive from Chicago, SIU boasts a scenic and beautiful campus. The Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry is in the heart of the campus, surrounded by beautiful trees and just a short walk from the campus lake. The department is small, which helps create a close-knit community. The small groups help build an amazing rapport with the professors and equally amazing camaraderie on campus. Many professors work beyond expectations for their students to make them feel special. The department is culturally diverse, and people from all ethnicities and backgrounds fit in.

The professors here have fantastic academic backgrounds and are extremely helpful.

SIU also offers many state-of-the-art instruments that are easily accessible throughout the campus. There are various awards, funding opportunities, and teaching and graduate assistantships available for qualified graduate students. I would highly recommend this university to those who want to be a part of the close-knit community while focusing on the academics – and, at the same time, enjoying nature. Go, SIU! Go, Salukis!

Dreams Come True

Ross Guida

I began my doctoral journey in the fall of 2011 after selecting SIU for its interdisciplinary and well-regarded Environmental Resources and Policy program. During my time here, I benefited from multiple funding sources, including the Universities Council on Water Resources, a prestigious National Science Foundation, Integrative Graduate Education and Research Traineeship (IGERT) fellowship, and a dissertation research assistantship award. I am extremely grateful for these projects and funding opportunities, including a five-month research trip to central Europe and several national conference presentations that led to awards and positive recognition from peers.

Perhaps most importantly, I achieved my goal of obtaining a tenure-track position upon earning my doctorate, being offered

multiple assistant professor positions. I will start at Sam Houston State University in fall 2016. The faculty and staff in SIU's Department of Geography and Environmental Resources provided excellent guidance, and went above and beyond their required duties to help me achieve success. I am extremely grateful for their advice and willingness to assist students.

The people I've come to know in Carbondale and the SIU community have helped me grow as a scholar, instructor and person. The Salukis will always occupy an important place in my heart, and I will look back upon my time here very positively. While the town may seem small, the campus community, faculty and fellow graduate students are excellent and allow you to make big dreams a reality.

Treasure of Research Opportunities, Connected to Industry

Pavan Kumar Javvaji

I came to SIU for a master's degree in electrical and computer engineering in 2013. Inspired by the ongoing research in the department, I decided to pursue my doctorate. The graduate school encouraged me by granting admission into its direct doctoral program. Ever since that day, I have been a part of active research in the department, including participating in the field of large-scale integration research. SIU is a treasure of research opportunities, having direct connections with industry. The classroom atmosphere at SIU is interactive, with a limited number of students per class, in contrast to many schools where there are hundreds of students in a class. This facilitates personal

attention toward each student and helps to make sure everyone understands the lecture.

At SIU, I received a top-notch education and learned the true definition of engineering. Because of the opportunities provided by the school, I can obtain an internship to extend my research on current industrial trends. Carbondale is the best place to live, with a peaceful and friendly atmosphere everywhere. The whole town is like a big family, with a warm welcome everywhere. I am glad that I am part of this community, and will be forever grateful to the university. I would recommend SIU to anyone looking for a quality education.

Diversity and Equal Opportunities, Distinguished Programs

Galquald S Jones

SIU has always been a place in which I felt very comfortable and appreciative of the diversity of staff and the student body. I have learned to appreciate SIU since I received my bachelor's degree in business management, with a specialization in entrepreneurship. I had always thought that going to graduate school was an option for me, but in the meantime I wanted to go out into the world and explore and learn more about what was actually needed before I picked a field of study as a graduate

student. SIU was my first option for expanding my education. I just wanted to make sure I was mentally ready. Here at SIU I am able to excel academically and professionally as I journey to become the best person I can be. SIU is a place where everyone is welcomed with open arms and success in all aspects of life is warranted. I recommend SIU Graduate School to any person who wants to further his education and build great memories and experiences that will last a lifetime.

Our First Priority, Our Students

Angela Anima-Korang

Being an international student in the doctoral program in the College of Mass Communication and Media Arts has been a most rewarding academic career experience. The diversity in the college is truly encouraging, as it fosters interaction between students and faculty from all geographical backgrounds. The courses here are designed to cultivate the unique interests of students following interdisciplinary paths. As a student whose interests focus on mass communication and health communication, I have been able to bridge these interests by taking classes from MCMA as well as from the Department of Health Education and Recreation in the College of Education

and Human Services. What I find especially outstanding is the vibrancy of the faculty and staff here, their willingness and ability to put the needs of the students first, and their enthusiasm with helping students become the best they can be. While the program here is vigorous – and, I dare say, sometimes stressful – being able to work with experienced faculty who also have their fingers on the pulse of cutting-edge research and professional innovations is of great benefit to the students. Aside from the coursework, students are involved in research that allows us to build our expertise.



The Top 5 Percent of the World's Business Schools

Nico Marjorczyk

After I earned a bachelor's degree in information technology from the University of Applied Sciences and Arts in Dortmund, Germany, I decided to gain experience abroad by pursuing the Master of Business Administration. A friend of my mother recommended SIU and its College of Business, as she obtained her doctorate from SIU as well. I do not regret my decision to pursue my MBA at SIU. Carbondale and SIU are like an oasis of international and interdisciplinary education in the heart of Southern Illinois.

Being a student at SIU gives me the feeling of being part of a big family. SIU also hosts a lot of international students, which makes the university stand out among others across the country. Actually, my classes at the College of Business remind me of

a small world that combines local and international students from Asia, Europe, Africa and South America. It is fascinating to meet new people from all over the world and to learn about their cultures. Also, in my program we often have to work in teams. Setting the focus mainly on teamwork is important to prepare students for jobs, theoretically as well as practically.

I would definitely recommend SIU to other people, because students can learn about different countries and cultures in depth, along with what it means to work in groups and get to know their team members. They also will learn how to work with them in the most efficient way. I am proud of being a Saluki, as it indicates being part of a big global family.

SIU Illuminates Higher Education in Illinois

Richard M. Montoya

When I was accepted into the applied psychology program at SIU, I was excited about the opportunity to be a part of a research-oriented graduate program. Graduate students here can participate in a number of research opportunities and experiences. As a student I have had the opportunity to receive hands-on consulting experience and training through projects in Applied Research Consultants. ARC has allowed me to apply the concepts learned in class and gain experience working on real-world projects

with a team. The faculty at SIU are eager to provide guidance and collaborate with students on research projects. The training and support I have received from the faculty in my program have enabled me to develop my abilities as a researcher. Beyond this, the connections I have made with the diverse faculty, staff and students at SIU have allowed me to grow as a person and be confident that I will be successful in a globalized workforce.



Graduate Students' Leadership and Advocacy

Brandon Woudenberg, president of Graduate and Professional Student Council (GPSC)
Johnathon C. Flowers, GPSC vice president

SIU is one of a small number of higher education institutions where graduate students have unionized and enjoy the protections of a collective bargaining agreement. Without such an agreement, we would be unable to earn our degrees and perform the vital roles that we all play at this institution. It is true that few schools in the entire country allow for, and support, advocacy for graduate students and graduate assistantships the way SIU does. We work together to advocate for graduate and professional students on a regular basis. We are proud to come from an institution that provides us the opportunity to take the concerns of fellow students and transform them into change for the better.



GRADUATE SALUKI STORIES FROM PAST STUDENTS AS ALUMNI

Excellent Education and Inspirational Mentorship Robert M. Augustine

My life and career were forever altered following a meeting with Barry Prizant at SIU. Prizant's work in the field of communication sciences and disorders was groundbreaking. He offered three doctoral colleagues – Ruth Stonestreet, Gail Richard and Jeanne Johnston – and me the opportunity to influence new clinical directions in early intervention and autism through our doctoral research. Tackling this intellectual challenge required a gifted team, and I was fortunate to have professors Ken Ruder, Gene Brutten and Steve Blache on my committee. My mentors guided me toward a professorship at Eastern Illinois University and a visiting professorship at Hertzen Pedagogical University in St. Petersburg, Russia. They informed me of new curricular directions I could influence by serving as a department chair and as the dean of the Graduate School. My mentors helped me translate scholarship into practice, resulting in an appointment to the inaugural Birth Through Three Credentialing Board of Illinois and an invitation to join a national task force that created the first treatment outcomes database. My SIU professors and doctoral colleagues motivated me to seek national roles on the board of directors of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association and the Council of Graduate



Robert Augustine, second from right, received his doctorate in communication sciences and disorders from SIU in 1985.

Schools (CGS). In my role as senior vice president of CGS, I have the opportunity to influence the direction of master's degree education. Learning how to influence future directions was the path offered by my doctoral experience at SIU, and it continues to influence my work today.

Forever A Saluki Kesha K. Coker

As I reflect on my SIU experience, I remember the people who made the place that made me who I am today. As an international student from Trinidad and Tobago, my Saluki experience began with a warm welcome from the Center for International Education when I first joined SIU to pursue my MBA. As I progressed through the program, the staff, faculty and my classmates at SIU made learning an enriching experience. I graduated from SIU with not only my MBA, but also with long-lasting bonds to fellow Salukis.

Since SIU became a true home away from home during my MBA program, my choice to pursue a doctoral degree in marketing came naturally. The staff and faculty in the Department of Marketing came to mean more to me than their titles suggest, and today I consider them family. In addition to providing me with a strong academic foundation, they mentored me about the life of a true scholar. I developed strong bonds with my fellow doctoral students, many of whom became my closest friends, co-authors and even roommates at academic conferences.

In addition to the people who made an impact in my life, SIU provided financial support for my education. Coming from

a developing country, I deeply appreciated the initial Fulbright Scholarship I earned to pursue my MBA. I also was fortunate to have earned support for my doctoral program through graduate assistantships from the Department of Marketing, grants from the Pontikes Center for the Management of Information and doctoral fellowship funding. SIU's culture of financial support for students provided me with the means to pursue my dreams of becoming a marketing academic.

Overall, SIU is a major component of my identity as a marketing scholar. Since graduating from SIU and starting as an assistant professor at Eastern Illinois University, I have accomplished many things in the classroom, in my research and in the academic community. I attribute much of my success to the strong foundation provided through my SIU experience. I will always be grateful to the professors and students at SIU who made a difference in my life so I can make a difference in this world. For these reasons, and more, as I look forward to the future I will always remember my SIU experience as being fundamental to my success. Once a Saluki, forever a Saluki!

Interdisciplinary Research Matters

Kristin Rosche

I came to Carbondale not knowing what to expect of the university or city, and left with a master's degree – as well as the knowledge and tools I required to be successful. I chose to come to SIU in fall 2012 because of its small microbiology department and teaching opportunities for graduate students (not to mention the nice stipend for master's degree students). I especially enjoyed working alongside each professor in the department while assisting in the microbiology laboratory courses.

I initially chose SIU over other schools because of my advisor, Vjollca Konjufca, an assistant professor of microbiology. Her research interests really fascinated me, and her enthusiasm for discovery was infectious. The skills I learned working in her lab have given me the confidence and determination to pursue new employment opportunities following graduation. Starting very soon I will be working as a researcher investigating the immunological

response to rotavirus infections in mice at Washington State University. I could not be more excited to flex my creative muscles and put to work everything she taught me.

Konjufca also encouraged travel to regional conferences to present my data, which was made possible by the department and Graduate School scholarships. Additionally, the annual Trainee Research Symposium was a great occasion for me to present my data to other SIU graduate students and professors. Other opportunities for scholarships on campus, such as the Marlene Rotbart Matten Academic Excellence in Health Research Award, plus the Graduate Professional Student Council Research Award, provided additional funding for research. All in all, what seemed like a huge chance for failure became a great achievement, and I'm glad I decided to make the move to Carbondale to pursue a master's degree.

Never Too Late

David Culp

My education started at SIU as an undergraduate student, and I graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree with majors in economics and government in 1973. From there, I earned a master's degree in economics from another university and attended a doctoral program at yet another, which I did not complete. After 10 years of teaching economics at a state university in Pennsylvania, I decided that I needed to complete my doctoral program to further my career and become a more effective teacher. Fond memories of SIU as an undergraduate convinced me to take an educational leave of absence and move my wife and six children back to Carbondale. I arrived in the doctoral program in economics as a nontraditional student

with a rusty skill set. The faculty in the economics department were extremely helpful. They gave me a chance to get back into the flow of graduate work and then demanded my best work. I realized what I was to learn in the program were research skills to complement the teaching part of my career. My major professor stuck with me after I had to return to work, and I graduated with a doctorate in economics in 1996. My professional career has been greatly enhanced, and I am now retiring from my institution after 38 years. I credit SIU at the undergraduate and graduate level with preparing me for what has been a rewarding and successful career.

Here, One Spark Starts a Fire

Bardwell F. White

I have worked for many years. In fact, my entire career is in the information technology arena. I was accepted into the master's program at SIU in computer science. At the same time, I was given a programming job in the SIU computer center. After three years of full-time employment and a master's-level course load, I was honored to be the first graduate of the computer science program at SIU in 1967.

During the last 30-plus years of my career, I moved into the management side of computing and have served as the chief information officer for several worldwide manufacturing companies, including Spalding Sports Worldwide, WANG Laboratories and Rexam Graphics. I also have worked in several IT consulting positions, as well as IT support to the Atomic Energy Commission, senior IT director at Computer Sciences Corp. and as the vice president of a startup software development corporation,

ServiceTune. I currently teach IT part time for the University of Phoenix online, and I am the founder-president of the Whitecrest IT Consulting Group. I was named the worldwide CIO of the year by Bull Inc. in 1995. At the time I was serving as the CIO and worldwide IT director for Spalding Sports Worldwide. Finally I served as a business reference accountant and spoke at user conferences for WANG Labs, IBM and Hewlett Packard. I also spoke at a DEC international user conference.

Overall, I can honestly attribute my almost 60 years of IT business success to the opportunity and encouragement I received from the faculty and staff at SIU. I matured late after high school, but SIU gave me an opportunity to grow and fulfill my dreams. I have tried to emulate the SIU experience my entire business life, and I owe a great deal to the opportunities the faculty and staff afforded me.

Pride in SIU: Wonderful Experience

Fred Golub

I graduated from SIU with a master's in health education in 1965. How I came to SIU is a story in itself. I grew up in Brooklyn, New York, and in the 1960s I was awarded a basketball scholarship to Eastern Montana State College in Billings. In the last semester of my senior year, I was not sure whether I would take a teaching position or go to graduate school. One of my professors told me to go to graduate school, while the department chairman of health and physical education suggested that I go out and teach for a year.

After several weeks of discussing my situation with my friends and other professors, I decided to go to graduate school. I immediately went to see the department chairman, who really

became my second father, and told him of my plans. He looked at me and said, "Are you sure?" and I answered, "Yes."

He immediately called a dear friend of his by the name of Donald Boyston at SIU, and I was fortunate that they were looking for a graduate assistant. I was hired.

I arrived in Carbondale in September, and started taking courses and teaching two health courses. The faculty members were fantastic, and I met so many wonderful students in the program.

SIU was a great experience for a youth from Brooklyn. The faculty at SIU were not only outstanding in Department of Health, but also friendly and extremely helpful. This is my story, and I am proud to be graduate of SIU.



A World-Class Education

Scott Delinger

As undergrads, students tend to live the full university experience. Graduate students, however, tend to come in, keep their heads down and get the work done for the thesis or dissertation, especially in the sciences or engineering disciplines. When I was a doctoral student in analytical chemistry, I was interested in how the university worked: chairs, deans, governance committees and the like. I joined the Graduate and Professional Student Council, served a few years and won the Deborah Joy Brown award for service. In the late 1980s and early 1990s, GPSC had representation on the Faculty Senate, and I served as one

of those nonvoting members. All of this paid off years later, as I served in the CIO's office at the University of Alberta, Canada's fifth-ranked research university, in shepherding projects through governance and the provost's office, and dealing with issues arising with the faculty association. My advice to graduate students: Get out of the lab, library or office and participate more fully in the university. You never know what aspect of your student career will be useful in later life. The most useful aspect may just lie outside the subject matter at hand within your degree.



Unique Professional Science Program at SIU **Nivousha Karbasion**

The Professional Science Master's program provided me a great opportunity to expand my horizons and learn more about renewable energy, associated economy, and domestic and federal policies and markets, plus other aspects of engineering in general. SIU was one of the few universities to offer this unique program. The program and the university's good reputation, friendly staff and a wonderful campus visit made me eager to join the program. I now work as assistant manager for the commercialization department at Blue Mountain Biomaterials, after completing my internship at the American Council on Renewable Energy.



Holistic Education in Higher Education **Markisha Motton**

SIU, and more specifically the higher education and administration master's program, provided me with the knowledge, skill set and practical experience needed to be an effective student conduct administrator. I was under the mentorship of Saran Donahoo, chair of the Department of Educational Administration and Higher Education, and doctoral student Sylvia Gray. Both were there to provide support through the program, and to show a commitment not only to myself, but the entire Saluki

family. As a graduate student, I was encouraged to attend a national conference related to my field of study and supported with scholarships to attend. When I was on campus or in the Carbondale community, I felt a sense of pride being a Saluki, and was thankful for the diversity and inclusion the university valued. My graduate school experience was phenomenal, and I honestly don't think I could have had such a great experience anywhere else. SIU is committed to the holistic development of each student!

Outstanding Faculty and Excellent Programs

Kaoutar El Mounadi

I came to SIU in 2006 originally as a master's student in the Department of Plant, Soil and Agricultural Systems. I joined associate professor Ahmad Fakhoury's laboratory and started my research in plant pathology. The goal of my research was to understand the mechanisms that govern the biosynthesis of OTA in fungi and design strategies to control its production in food and feed. In 2009, I switched to the (then recently approved) doctoral program in agricultural sciences and continued working on Ochratoxin A, plus other plant pathology projects. I earned a doctorate in 2012. Therefore, I was the first doctoral graduate from that program. My graduate career at SIU has helped immensely to strengthen my desire to pursue a career in academia. I was encouraged by my advisor, Fakhoury, to present my research at various meetings and conferences, which in turn exposed my work to many universities. I also was encouraged to assist

with teaching courses in plant pathology, and to help train undergraduate and master's students. These combined experiences have helped me tremendously in developing my teaching, research and communication skills. After I graduated from SIU, I joined a laboratory at the prestigious Donald Danforth Plant Science Center in St. Louis, where I spent three years as a post-doctoral research associate. In fall 2015 I joined Kutztown University as an assistant professor in biology. I owe a great deal to the College of Agricultural Science, specifically the faculty and administration. Over my six-year experience at SIU, I developed my professional and personal skills, and attribute much of that growth to Fakhoury, my doctoral committee and the entire college. I appreciate their continued encouragement, support and dedication to students' academic and professional success, which have played a major role in my own success. I will always be grateful for SIU!



SIU's Impact Goes Far Beyond Education

Phil Roettjer

I started at SIU 50 years ago (fall 1965). I was in the pre-engineering curriculum until 1967. I returned to SIU in 1971 after serving a tour in the Air Force, and I enrolled in the engineering technology program. I graduated in 1973 with a Bachelor of Science degree.

During graduate school, in addition to the coursework, I completed a thesis project under the guidance of Lee Grismore. My thesis involved working in the thin-film lab, fabricating thin-film field-effect transistors. I completed my coursework and thesis by the summer of 1975 and was awarded a Master of Science degree in 1976.

My first job was with Fairchild Semiconductor, designing integrated circuits. From there I went to the microelectronics division of National Cash Register, and then to Digital Equipment Corp. Now, 40 years later, I have my own business that I

have been running for the past 13 years: providing testing for electromechanical relays. I turned 69 years old in May of this year and I have no plans to retire, since I continue to enjoy the challenge of working.

I am glad to say that SIU changed my life. When I first started at SIU in 1965, I really did not have any clear direction for my future. My path was interrupted during the Vietnam War, with a four-year tour with the Air Force. Upon my return to SIU in 1971, I was married and focused on getting the proper start for my future. SIU gave me that opportunity, and I am indebted to the wonderful professors there who helped to guide me in the right direction and teach me the fundamentals of engineering. I have had, and continue to have, a wonderful and challenging career as a result of my experience at SIU. Thank you, SIU!

SIU GRADUATE SCHOOL: A Quick Look at Spring 2016, and a Call for Graduate Stories about Academic Excellence and Diversity

The Graduate Council Transition with Dean Lee's Appreciation and Congratulations:



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, I am very appreciative of Graduate Council Chair Michael Eichholz, associate professor of zoology; Vice Chair Boyd Goodson, professor of chemistry and biochemistry; and other council members, including Randolph Burnside, associate professor of political science; Silvia Secchi, associate professor of geography and environmental resources; Prema Narayan, associate professor

of physiology; Andrew Pardieck, associate professor of law; and Alison Watts, professor of economics. For your valuable time and excellent service for us in the past year, 2015-2016, thank you!

I would like to send my congratulations to the newly elected officers and council members: Thomas Velasco, associate professor of technology, who will serve as Graduate Council chair in 2016-2017; Julie Partridge, associate professor of kinesiology, who will serve as vice chair in 2016-2017; and other recently elected members: Jennifer Lynn Smith, associate professor of languages, cultures and international trade; Sajal Lahiri, Vandever professor of economics; Trish McCubbin, professor of law; Rachel Whaley, associate professor of sociology; Buffy Ellsworth, associate professor of physiology; Norman Carver, associate professor of computer science; Sue Rimmer, professor of geology; and Wesley Calvert, associate professor of mathematics. Congratulations!



New Students in Spring:

On Jan. 29, the Graduate School held a welcome party for new graduate students admitted in spring 2016.



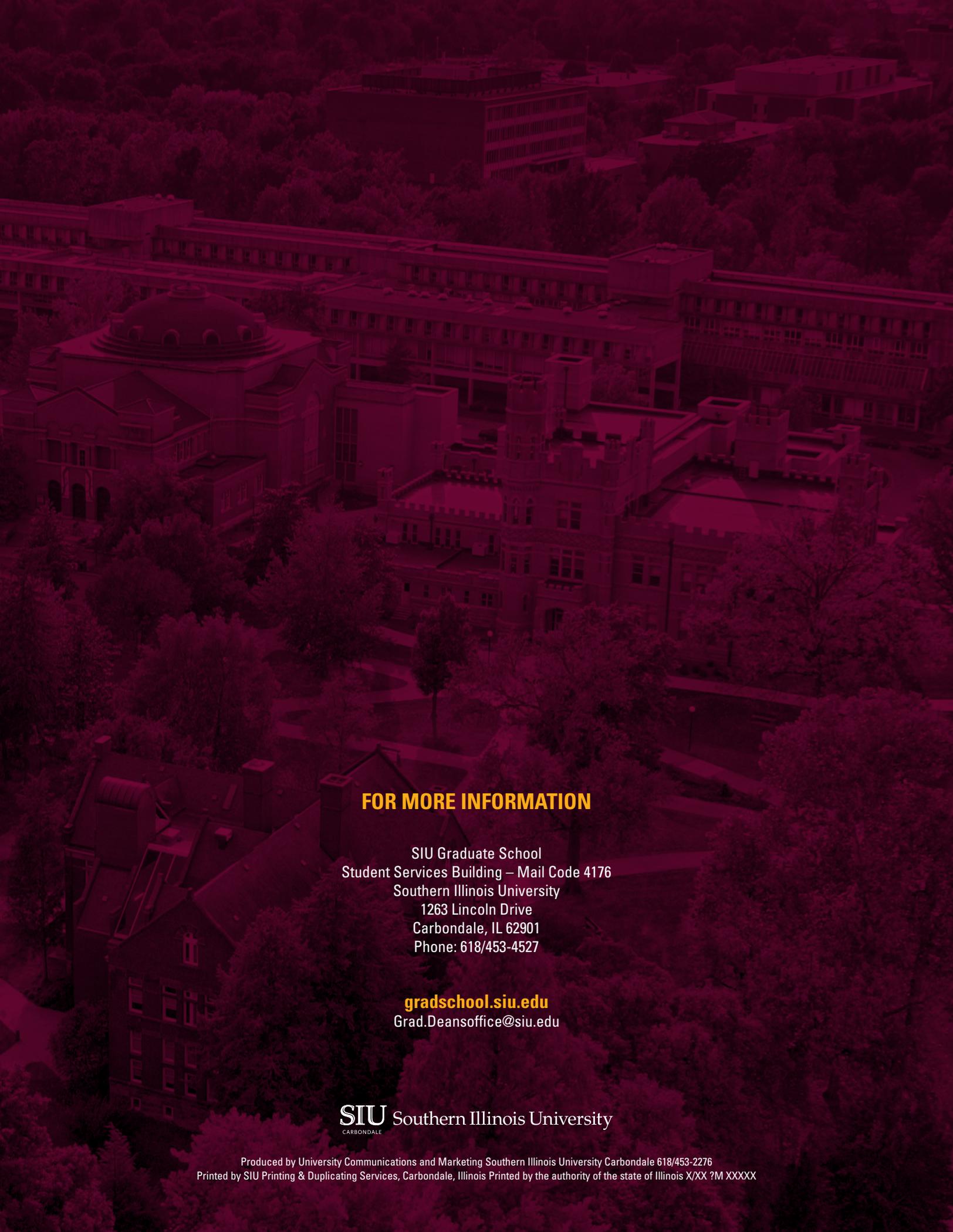
Commencement and Congratulations:

Thanks are extended to Dr. Ratna Sinha's office for helping to complete graduation paper work and to organize the commencement on May 14, 2016. Congratulations to 78 graduate students who received their Ph.D. degree and 495 who received their master's degree.

Money Talks: On March 7, 2016, the Graduate School collaborated with various offices and sponsored a financial symposium titled "Money Talks" for graduate students. Speakers on the panel included James E. Garvey, interim vice chancellor for research; Tawanda Greer-Medley, associate professor of psychology; Crystal Marlow, supervisor, graduate school academic contracts; Terri Harfst, director of financial aid; Galquald Jones and Stephanie Kang, graduate assistants; and Yueh-Ting Lee, dean of the Graduate School.

External Advisory Board for SIU Grad School: The Graduate School is forming an external advisory board to help increase enrollment, enhance graduate programs' excellence and connect with graduate alumni, plus attract external resources for our Graduate School and our current and future graduate students.

Call for Graduate Stories: We need unique stories with action-related pictures from our current graduate students and past graduate students as alumni. These stories will focus on graduate education excellence, diversity and internationalization for our next issue. Please send your stories to grad.deansoffice@siu.edu or leey@siu.edu.



FOR MORE INFORMATION

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