

GRADUATE SALUKI STORIES

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SIU GRADUATE EDUCATION YESTERDAY, TODAY AND TOMORROW



A Long History and Bright Future of Graduate Education at SIU

Yueh-Ting Lee

Dean, SIU Graduate School

In summer 2015, I came to Southern Illinois University at Carbondale to serve as the 18th dean of its graduate school. It is a great honor and privilege to serve our graduate students and faculty members.

Our graduate education at SIU has a long and dynamic history, and a very bright future. On July 15, 1943, the state of Illinois passed the Crisenberry Bill, granting the university master's degrees in education. Soon enrollment began to climb, with the graduate school reaching 101 students in 1946. Then-SIU President Delyte Morris instituted doctoral programs during the 1950s.

Today we have approximately 4,000 graduate students, including 1,000 international students. More than 70 master's and 30 doctoral programs are available across all academic disciplines in nine colleges and schools. U.S. News & World Report ranks us as one of the top 100 graduate schools in the nation.

SIU's graduate school is an environment in which students acquire the knowledge and skills necessary to compete in the global economy and solve problems of national and global scope. We aim to provide our graduate and professional students with ample opportunities for their future employment and career success. Our graduate students today will be tomorrow's loyal Saluki alumni, who appreciate the graduate learning, research, creativity and discovery provided by the SIU Graduate School.

In this inaugural issue of Graduate Saluki Stories, we invited former SIU Chancellor John Jackson (who also previously served as dean of the graduate school), Interim Chancellor William Bradley Colwell, Interim Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Susan Ford (also previously dean of the graduate school), and current Graduate Council Chair Michael Eichholz, associate professor of zoology, to share with us their perspectives and experience about graduate education at SIU. Also very delightedly, we received many excellent graduate stories from current and past graduate students. Due to limited space, we can only use a few of them. We are very grateful to all of those for their submission of their stories for this publication.



Pride in our Graduate Students

William Bradley Colwell

Interim Chancellor

SIU Carbondale has long valued graduate education as an essential component of its mission as a national public research university. Graduate students add great intellectual and creative vibrancy to all of our programs, and they make a positive difference for all students as role models, researchers and teachers. Further, our graduate students benefit from working alongside and learning from faculty who are experts in their fields.

In sum, we are deeply proud of all our graduate students as they go on to become leaders in our ever-changing society.



37 Years of Devotion to Graduate Education

Susan Ford

Interim Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

A hallmark of my 37 years at SIU has been my involvement in graduate education. As a professor of anthropology, I have had the pleasure to supervise 20 master's students (two second place for the Outstanding Thesis Award) and ten completed doctoral students (one winner and one second place for the Outstanding Dissertation Award), as well as serving on 46 master's and 31 doctoral committees. I am immensely proud of them all. In addition, I have served many terms on the Graduate Council, including service as both chair and vice chair, and several terms as the chair of the Educational Policies Committee.

As director and later dean of the graduate school from 2012-2014, I oversaw its move from its more than 60-year home in Woody Hall to the new Student Services Building, which provides more convenient service for graduate students. I was proud to work with the excellent staff to streamline service and access for graduate students, place many items online, provide an updated handbook for graduate advisors, provide visible recognition for our outstanding fellows, improve international recruitment, and work to help all graduate students achieve their dreams of advanced education.

Graduate education is critical to the core mission of SIU as a Carnegie High Research and Community Engagement University. Our outstanding graduate students play key roles in advancing the frontiers of research in all fields, in great teaching support for undergraduates, and in regional, national and global change. Our reputation for excellence in graduate education is central to what we are.



Graduate Education Growing in the 1980s

John Jackson

Former Chancellor and Graduate School Dean

It was a busy and productive time at the graduate school. Enrollments were growing, new programs were being developed, and external grants and contracts were increasing steadily. We were developing new master's and doctoral programs and looking for disciplinary areas where the graduate enterprise could respond to society's demands.

The state of Illinois and SIU were investing in graduate education and research as a way to help the state and nation move toward the 21st century. This required sophisticated, research-intensive educations that would move us from the manufacturing age and that would meet the demands of a new information-based and digitally driven economy that was then emerging in the United States and the world. America's research universities lead the world in graduate education and research and are a beacon for students from around the globe to come here to study. SIU was a part of that wave of investment in the graduate enterprise, and I was fortunate to be at the graduate school in that era.

As dean I participated in and helped manage the university's commitment to expanding graduate education and research enterprise. As associate dean I dealt daily with student recruitment, retention and student problems. I appreciated and learned from my constant interactions with the students and with my faculty colleagues. I have been fortunate to see many of those students go on to productive careers based on the fine educations they received at SIU.



Graduate Faculty's Perspective on Graduate Research and Creativity

Michael Eichholz

Associate Professor of zoology and Graduate Council chair

Through research and creative activities, research-intensive universities such as SIU not only provide new knowledge, critical technological advances and artistic creations that benefit society as a whole, but also provide a critical component in the education of undergraduate and graduate students.

Through research and creative activities, undergraduate and graduate students learn important skills such as critical thinking and how to better work with – and communicate with – others. They also gain valuable experience for their post-graduation endeavors. Being a research-active university allows SIU to hire faculty who are active in research and creative activities, faculty who are exceptional instructors because they are typically exceptional communicators and more current in recent advancements in their specialty areas.

CURRENT GRADUATE SALUKI STORIES

Off the Beaten Path Kameron Hill

When I came to SIU in 2010 as a freshman, I had no intentions of going to graduate school. All throughout my college career, I was of that mindset and determined to immediately leave school after graduating. However, after a talk with a fraternity brother who also serves as a mentor to me, it became clearer to me that graduate school did not mean that I had failed in immediately entering the workforce. So, I chose to apply, and was happy to learn that I was accepted.

My graduate school journey is just beginning, though I was accepted as a non-declared graduate student here at SIU.

My hope is to gain acceptance into the multimedia journalism program in the College of Mass Communications and Media Arts. With the hard work that I have done to this point, I know that this is only a small step toward the ultimate goal of gaining my master's degree. SIU has granted me so many opportunities in the time that I have spent here, and I'm glad that I can look forward to even more opportunities because of my decision to enroll in graduate school here.

Striving for Success Amy Stewart

SIU has provided me with a diverse range of wonderful experiences and opportunities as a doctoral student in philosophy. From its institutional strengths in research, teaching and community outreach to its emphasis on faculty mentorship and interdisciplinary collaboration, SIU offers graduate students like me a space to excel both academically and professionally.

I was drawn to SIU because of the unique opportunity to study closely with the nation's top scholars in my field of feminist psychoanalysis, and I have been continually impressed by the rigorous level of teaching and research that my department produces each year. Not only have I had the opportunity to present my research at international academic conferences alongside my professors, but, because of the professional

connections that I have made by being at SIU, my scholarship is being published in a book together with my advisor.

What has been most important to me, however, is that I have had the opportunity to teach for the Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies program, where I have been given the freedom to design and teach my own courses (recently offering the university's first special topics class on transgender histories, identities and politics). I believe that these kinds of extraordinary opportunities, which significantly impact my career as a young professional, are what make SIU both a thriving academic community and an incredible destination for future graduate students to expand their horizons.

Small Town, Big Results Nachiket Thakkar

The main reason I decided to come to SIU and pursue a doctorate in economics was the faculty in the department and the amount of research done by them in the field of development economics. After coming to SIU and meeting new people, both American as well as foreign outside of my department, I was very impressed with their helping and welcoming nature, which helped me very much to settle in Carbondale easily. Also, the location

of the university is unique as it is in a small town but also not far away from a metropolis like St. Louis or even Chicago.

So, if someone is looking for a university that has quality teachers and is very research-oriented, as well as located away from the hustle-bustle of a big town, I will surely recommend SIU to them!

Home Sweet Home Darren Abadie

SIU has become the home that I never knew I needed. In the three-and-a-half years that I have spent in Carbondale, SIU has become so much more than the school I chose based off of the criteria that it would allow me to travel the farthest from home without paying out-of-state tuition. In my time here, I have become one of the biggest Saluki sports fans, hiked Southern Illinois' Shawnee National Forrest, and enjoyed my fair share of our scenic wine trails. After earning my undergraduate degree here in December 2014, there was no question as to what graduate institution I would attend to best prepare me for my future career.

Now being in the College Student Personnel program, I am being educated by professors who use their diverse experiences to develop student affairs professionals who will make a lasting impact on their future students. My cohort members and mentors here on the SIU campus have become my support system, my study partners and family. The relationships built, both professional and social, have further strengthened my ties to SIU and the community.

SIU will always remain a part of who I am, and I will forever be a Saluki at heart. Once a Saluki, always a Saluki!



Leadership and Dedication to Graduate Student Organization Amanda Barnard

Vice President, Graduate and Professional Student Council

The most positive experiences I have had as a graduate student in biological science and in education at SIU have been related to my work with the Graduate and Professional Student Council. Being involved with that organization has allowed me to develop leadership skills, improve my public speaking skills and make friends with graduate students across campus whom I otherwise would not have met.

The most meaningful work I have done with the group was working on an initiative to get an Affordable Care Act-compliant health insurance plan for students. I learned that when you are dedicated to and passionate about an issue, if you work hard enough, it is possible to effect positive change in your community.

GRADUATE SALUKI STORIES FROM PAST STUDENTS

Science, Technology, Laws and Connections to SIU **Kathleen E. Chaffee**

I attended graduate school in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry at SIU under the mentorship of professor Boyd Goodson where I earned my doctorate in 2008. My doctoral studies focused on amplifying nuclear magnetic resonance signatures of host-guest interactions and molecular structure using liquid-crystalline matrices and polarization enhancement of nuclear spins. I also studied relaxation behavior of coated superparamagnetic iron oxide nanoparticles for use as pH sensors and targeted MRI contrast agents. Functionalized NPs can help verify areas of tumor according to pH or chemical expression in a tumor.

As a graduate student, I was encouraged to travel and present at one or more conferences a year. Throughout my graduate career at SIU, I was provided ample research support and guidance to improve my writing skills (yielding four co-authored publications). I was also encouraged to apply for external funding, receiving

more than a dozen merit-based awards including a Fulbright Fellowship to study abroad with world-class synthetic chemist and collaborator, Jean-Pierre Dutasta at ENS Lyon, France.

After my postdoctoral research position was completed, I became a patent agent at Dentons. Dentons is currently the largest law firm in the world. I began working at the firm in 2011 as a scientific advisor to several intellectual property and patent attorneys. In 2012, I passed the patent bar exam and became a registered patent agent. As a patent agent, I write and prosecute patent applications in a wide variety of technologies including chemistry, pharmaceutical, and biotechnology. I can perform all the functions of a patent attorney as far as providing patentability opinions to clients, drafting applications and prosecuting the application to issuance. In fact, I am currently prosecuting several applications on technology derived at SIU.

For the Students, Because of the Students **Steve Murphy**

I grew up in Herrin, Illinois, and graduated from high school there in 1990. In the spring of 1994 I received a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering from the University of Illinois. After spending eight years as a refinery engineer with Archer Daniels Midland at various locations throughout the country, I returned to Southern Illinois to pursue a career in education. I began taking graduate classes to obtain alternative teaching certification in science, and in fairly short order I was hired as a science teacher at Carbondale Community High School.

I was in the "mode" of teaching at CCHS and taking night courses at SIU. After I completed the requirements for alternative

teaching certification, my principal, John Dively, who is now a clinical assistant professor in educational administration and higher education at SIU, encouraged me to keep taking courses and obtaining administrative certifications. By 2009 I had obtained a master's degree in educational administration and was hired as principal of CCHS. In 2010 I received my superintendent endorsement and was hired as CCHS superintendent in 2011. I am currently pursuing my doctorate in educational administration at SIU. My graduate school experience has been amazing and I certainly owe a great deal to SIU and the opportunities the graduate school has provided!

One Big Family **Ben Eng**

Studying at SIU and working as a graduate assistant at the graduate school was not only a terrific experience, but it also put me in a position to have a great career and a happy life. The true difference between SIU and all other schools are the people

who work there. Both faculty and staff sincerely care about your development. They will challenge you to be your best, but they will also give you the resources and support to help you reach it. And along the way you'll make a host of memories.

Global Success **Yuhui Tai**

I'm Yuhui Tai, and I graduated in 2013 from the College of Mass Communication and Media Arts at SIU with a doctorate. Two months after graduation, I began my academic career as an assistant professor in one of the leading universities in Taiwan, National Chiao

Tung University. The training I received in MCMA from my mentors is the major reason for my success. Their intelligent guidance and passionate collaboration helped me achieve my goal. Hopefully I can be a good professor, just like my dear mentors in MCMA.

SIU GRADUATE SCHOOL IN FALL 2015 – A QUICK LOOK AND CALLING FOR MORE STORIES

Nancy Vorhees

Retired staff member



After almost 30 years at SIU, I will be retiring at the end of December. When I started working here as temporary part-time help in the Bursar's Office, I had no thought about making a career out of SIU. I figured that when things got boring, I would leave. In nine years in the Bursar's Office, four years with the Registrar and almost 16 years in the Graduate School, I have never been bored.

I am looking forward to the next phase of my life with great anticipation, but I am just as sorrowful to leave behind SIU. I will miss the daily conversations and phone calls with people all across campus and within my own office. I will miss seeing students who came to SIU to begin their academic career with a bit of trepidation graduate and leave this institution, ready to face new careers, or continue upward in existing ones, armed with the confidence they gained through the knowledge they acquired at SIU.

I hope to continue friendships begun here and especially want to thank each and every student I've worked with over the years. You keep me young.

Graduate School's Services for Students in Fall 2015: Examples

Yueh-Ting Lee

Dean, SIU Graduate School



Welcome party



Fellowship reception



Pathways symposium

There was much going on in fall 2015 to serve and support SIU graduate students. First, on Aug. 20, the SIU Graduate School hosted a welcome party for new graduate students. Second, on Nov. 13, we hosted a graduate fellowship reception to honor those graduate students in different fellowship programs. Third, on Nov. 17, the SIU Graduate School organized a symposium on Pathways to Graduate Schools and Career Success by working with University Research Office and Career Service Office. The primary function of the SIU Graduate School is to serve students and faculty, to comply with all policies and regulations, and to advocate our graduate education and research.

Appreciation and Solicitation from the Dean of the Graduate School

I am very appreciative of Ms. Susan Babbitt (Admission Officer), Ms. Crystal Marlow (Fellowship/Assistantship Officer), Dr. Ratna Sinha (Assistant Dean and Record Officer), and all other staff members at the Graduate School for their dedication and commitment to our graduate students. Graduate Saluki Stories is Nancy Vorhees' great idea. We thank her for this. We need unique stories from current graduate students or past graduate students (i.e., graduate alumni) with action-related pictures.

Graduate students, please send your stories to us via grad.deansoffice@SIU.edu or leey@siu.edu.

Thank you!



FOR MORE INFORMATION

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