

GRADUATE SALUKI STORIES

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2017



DIVERSITY, ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AND INTERNATIONALIZATION



Diversity, Academic Excellence and Globalization: The Legacies of the Late President Morris

Yueh-Ting Lee

Dean, SIU Graduate School

Perhaps the most important icon or totem in the history of Southern Illinois University is President Delyte Wesley Morris, who was a strong advocate of diversity, academic excellence and internationalization. We have explicitly and implicitly benefited from his leadership vision.

Morris died 35 years ago. On April 13, 1982, his funeral service took place in Shryrock Auditorium on the Carbondale campus of Southern Illinois University. In Betty Mitchell's book, "Delyte Morris of SIU," the Rev. Donald G. Carlton is quoted as saying: "This great university president was a man of faith. He was a president whose vision and leadership gave rise to a major university, created out of his democratic spirit and educational philosophy, that provided opportunity for minority students, handicapped students, and students from the state and international community to achieve an education."

Mitchell also asked Dick Gregory, chairman of Dick Gregory Health Enterprise Inc. and a well-known civil rights activist, to write a foreword for her book. Gregory wrote: "In retrospect, I believe Dr. Morris understood the politics of racism. . . . And it was the atmosphere prevalent at SIU during Dr. Morris' presidency that encouraged my involvement in the civil rights struggle with Dr. Martin Luther King. Because I owe so much to Dr. Morris' influence, I can imagine how pleased he'd be to know that I am chairman of the first black multilevel company, Dick Gregory Health Enterprise Inc."

Improving the quality of people's lives via education and creating a school of excellence were two of Morris' primary goals, as reported in Time magazine in 1964. As Salukis we continue to promote graduate education excellence, diversity and internationalization as his legacies. This issue is devoted to graduate diversity, academic excellence and internationalization. We include many compelling stories in this issue, though space limitations do not allow us to use all the excellent stories we received.

Thank you, and go, Salukis!



SIU Carbondale as a Welcoming Campus

Brad Colwell

Interim Chancellor

Our commitment to access, opportunity and inclusive excellence has been a core value that dates to the very beginning of our university as a teachers' college in 1874. Our efforts to enhance diversity and inclusivity are ongoing and intentional, and they permeate every part of our campus.

One of the great strengths of our university is that we attract students, faculty and staff from many cultures and many countries. We have been enrolling international students for nearly 70 years; today, students from 100 nations attend SIU Carbondale. As graduate students, your teaching and research are critical to your careers and to the success of our university. Yet some of the most important lessons for all of us take place outside the classroom, as together we enhance mutual understanding and respect for all cultures and all lifestyles.

Important initiatives are underway on our campus to further two key pillars: diversity and inclusivity. I appointed a Diversity Council during the fall semester, and it includes representatives of graduate students, undergraduates, alumni, faculty and staff. The council has been charged with developing a long-term diversity plan. We also continue to implement what I consider to be positive changes: expanded programming for students, expanded training for faculty and staff, and training for search committees to ensure they are aware of their responsibility to seek and hire qualified candidates from a range of backgrounds.

I want to ensure that we are providing a welcoming campus where all of our students, faculty and staff can study and work in a respectful, positive environment. This valuable work is always before us, and takes the entire community – administrators, students, faculty and staff – to move forward. Thank you for contributing to these efforts.



Diversity and Academic Excellence in the Global World

Susan Ford

Interim Provost

When I started working here as a faculty member in 1979, there were very few female scientists on campus. Now we have many more female faculty members in all fields than 38 years ago.

Our university campus continues to become more and more diverse and global in gender, ethnicity, race and national origin. Diversity enhances academic excellence, and academic excellence cannot be separated from diversity. Enhanced diversity among our faculty and students leads to a richer, more multicultural curriculum drawing from varied intellectual histories.

Another example of diversity and academic excellence includes internationalization. SIU has a long tradition of globalization in the past 60 years. Not only do we have many excellent students and visiting scholars from all over the world, we also send our students and faculty members to different countries. Having led several study-abroad groups, I deeply appreciate the lifelong impact on students of experiencing other cultures firsthand. Understanding, respecting and appreciating human differences and similarities are vital for all Salukis for their part in the future of our world.



Diversity: A Key Factor in Quality Research

Elizabeth I Lewin

SIU interim associate chancellor for diversity

Linda McCabe Smith

Former SIU associate chancellor for institutional diversity

The most important task for an educator is engaging and creating a welcoming and safe environment in which a student can learn. Researchers agree that it is not possible to generate quality research without seeking diverse ideas and viewpoints. Having access to diverse information, experiences and ideas can create fertile ground for quality research. The best ideas and products emerge from environments that welcome and foster a wide variety of data and experiences. SIU's proud history for promoting diversity must continue if it is to maintain its reputation of being a quality research institution.

As we transition into new offices, our process and procedures may vary, but our commitment to diversity must remain steadfast if SIU is to continue on its journey to achieving excellence. It is the job of administrators, faculty and staff to keep a pulse on how students feel, as well as how they are learning. This can be accomplished by listening, mentoring and communicating with students. They must know that their success is our No. 1 priority. Remaining a top educational institution that produces quality research requires creating and maintaining a welcoming and safe environment for a diverse student body.



International Graduates: Friends Leading Around the World

Jared H. Dorn

Current advisory board member of SIU Graduate School, former director, International Programs & Services at SIU Carbondale, vice president at Bangkok University

A wonderful aspect of graduate study at SIU is the opportunity to develop lifelong international friendships. My own involvement with international students began when I entered the SIU Department of History as a graduate student in 1964. The international focus of President Delyte Morris already was noticeable, and it had an impact on my thinking and my career. I count one of many international friendships from that period. Suzuko Mita, who eventually earned three SIU degrees during a couple of leaves from her home institution, Obirin Junior College in Japan, where she eventually served for years as president, was here then for her first degree. She has remained a loyal SIU alumna, and during the years of the SIU-Niigata campus she supported our recruitment efforts. Over the decades she always could be counted on to attend SIU alumni activities and to meet SIU visitors.

Throughout my years working in international education (actually living 25 of them abroad in several different countries) and traveling in many lands, it always has been inspiring to see our SIU graduates with advanced degrees serving and leading in government, industry, business and education. SIU graduates particularly have guided educational efforts in many countries. I was privileged and honored when Thanu Kulachol, president of Bangkok University, invited me in 2006 to join his staff as one of his vice presidents when I was leaving SIU. He and I have been friends for more than 40 years, since he was a doctoral student in the Department of Higher Education in the early 1970s. As president emeritus of Bangkok University in spring 2016, he was called to serve as president of Assumption University in Thailand.

I count Suzuko and Thanu, and many other international graduate students, as dear friends. Most have served, and many still are serving, in leadership roles overseas or in the United States in various fields. I owe SIU a great deal for a wonderful career in international education that gave me the opportunity for these true and loyal friends.



Women and Gender Diversity

Barbara Bickel

Director of Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, and associate professor of art education

Formed in the early 1980s, the SIU Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies (WGSS) program was one of the first women's studies programs in the United States. Scholarship in WGSS is now found in almost every branch of academics. I came to this field of study through my practice as an artist interested in the representation of women, and I wanted to know why women artists were not represented in art history classes – and why I could not find books on women artists in the library. Women studies programs offer a place to learn about those that have been marginalized, and to learn practices that can be engaged to make needed change in their communities, the nation and the world.

WGSS is one of the few programs on campus whose entire curriculum offers a critical cultural education in diversity. The WGSS program offers a graduate certificate and a minor. The program's continued growth makes clear there is an increasing student interest and desire to learn about the critical and present-day issues related to women, gender and sexuality, and by extension, race, ethnicity, class, ability, nation and multiple intersecting cultural identities.



Promoting Global Citizenship and International Education

David Wilson

Current advisory board member of SIU Graduate School, former associate dean of the Graduate School and professor emeritus of history

On Dec. 21, 2016, the United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon visited SIU and provided a thoughtful, insightful and often depressing view of the world in which we inhabit, and argued that we all need to become global citizens.

His talk reminded me how important international graduate students are to the SIU graduate education and research missions. SIU attracts undergraduate and graduate students from all around the world. These students provide diversity and different perspectives as our graduate students make their way through their master's and doctoral programs.

I taught U.S. foreign policy in the Department of History, and the following experience illustrates my point. My class was discussing President Harry Truman's decision to drop the atomic bomb on Hiroshima, Japan, on Aug. 6, 1945. Many classmates believed that Truman's decision had been a terrible mistake and was possibly even immoral. A Malaysian graduate student sitting at the back of the room raised her hand and stated: "My grandmother told me that she wished that the United States had dropped many more atomic bombs on Japan." The class was shocked by her statement and asked how could she say such a thing. She responded, "You did not live under the Japanese occupation."

Stories such as this show how the background and life experience of our international students play a key role in the graduate education process. During my time in the Graduate School, we did all in our power to ensure that international students helped us all to become global citizens.



Rehabilitation and Disability Research

Carl Flowers

Director and professor of Rehabilitation Institute

I am very proud of the Rehabilitation Institute as one of the largest, most comprehensive, most distinguished education, research and human services training programs in the country.

Founded by Dr. Guy Renzaglia in 1955, the institute is a diverse academic unit with top-notch and award-winning faculty and outstanding students who, collectively, join together to transform lives through science and practice.

I received my doctoral degree in 1993. After working elsewhere for many years, I came here as an associate professor in 2002 and assumed directorship in 2011. The Rehabilitation Counseling program is ranked No. 4 in the nation as noted in the most recent U.S. News & World Report rankings, among more than 90 accredited programs nationwide. The Center for Autism Spectrum Disorders (CASD) serves as a state-of-the-art training program for graduate students in the behavior analysis and therapy and communication disorders and sciences, and works collaboratively with parents and community professionals to enhance all aspects of children's lives.

We also are very proud of the fact that, since 1984, nearly 200 doctoral graduates who are now in academic research positions across the country and several countries around the world have called the Rehabilitation Institute their home.



Diversity, Global Village, and Future

Joseph Brown

Professor of Africana studies

When I was very young (in a time long ago and in a galaxy far away) and in the seminary studying philosophy, one of my professors had been a classmate of the legendary Marshall McLuhan, articulator of the concept of “the global village.” So for the last 50 years I have been alert to the implications of how the world would be interconnected through media and human interactions.

The future is always now, if we are awake and aware. How could we not have diversity and multiculturalism as our guiding principles in higher education? How could we not seek the best and brightest to make the most perfect quilt of ideas and experiences ready to cloak our young people? How could we not be true mentors, people who give more than strategic advice on how to succeed as “masters” of a discipline or as “doctors of ideas,” but people who see a young and flickering flame of possibilities and say, “I will help you grow stronger and brighter and steadier until you can be the torch that will replace me (us) someday.”

Graduate education at SIU is an exciting challenge for the entire community. We must endure – and teach others to join us in every possible capacity: as healers, artists, shapers and visionaries of the future; as technicians who can help save and improve our world; and as teachers who can link the past to the present. We are stewards of the future.



Faculty’s View on Diversity and High-Quality Graduate Education

Tomas Velasco

Chair, Graduate Council, and associate professor of engineering

I had the honor of being elected the chair of the Graduate Council for the academic year 2016-2017. It has been a long and interesting journey for an international student from Spain/Colombia (a Spaniard who grew up in Colombia) whose vocation and interests were all in the field of engineering, and who came to this country to embark on a road to a graduate education. Over the years I came to meet many remarkable people, many of them professors, who provided the teaching and leadership that made me an ardent advocate for education.

I believe education could be one of the solutions to the many problems being faced by society, and also that the higher the level of education of a person, the better the understanding and preparation for that person to avoid economic and social despair.

High-quality education in conjunction with teachers with diverse backgrounds can’t immediately alleviate economic poverty, but it will help young men and women understand the many issues to avoid poverty in adulthood as they become better-rounded individuals to face their own futures. Education equals empowerment, and being exposed to diversity provides understanding. Education and diversity are foundational values at SIU, and that is why I am proud to be called a Saluki!



Campus Diversity and Graduate Education Excellence

Philip C. Howze

Professor and social sciences librarian, chair of the University Diversity Council

The lens of diversity, particularly as it pertains to international graduate students and protected-class members, has always been a part of my consultations at SIU as a library professor. SIU has had a long and successful history of supporting graduate education. Inclusive excellence is the framework through which each research encounter is approached; that each student, as a professional “client” of mine, will receive the information they seek.

Our graduate students also learn searching techniques to be expert researchers in their own right. My experiences have helped me to understand and provide for the needs of a diverse graduate student clientele. For example, my office is a comfort zone for students who have problems with writing because English is not their first language. All of our graduate students benefit from the library in ways that have become so seamless that instant access to information is the standard user expectation. We work in consonance with the essential elements of graduate education: collaboration, appreciation of differences, freedom of inquiry, search for truth, a connection to current knowledge and open access to information.

When we do these things well, diversity flourishes and inclusive excellence is evident.



Medical Service and Graduate Students Training in more than 40 years

Sidney G. Smith, M.D., FAAP

Clinical assistant professor, SIU School of Medicine, Physician Assistant Program

Upon completion of my medical school education at Northwestern University Medical School, a pediatric residency, and Navy military service, I was invited in 1970 to join the pediatric staff of the Carbondale Clinic (now the Center for Medical Arts.) Shortly after, I also was invited to join the faculty of the newly established Southern Illinois University School of Medicine.

For many years I have served as a clinical professor with the medical school, having the opportunity to work with developing physicians. It has been a great privilege to participate in the training of these students as they have acquired clinical knowledge and skill, and to witness their successful entry into the world of clinical medicine.

More recently, I have served as a member of the faculty of the SIU School of Medicine Physician Assistant Program. It has been most rewarding to participate in the development of these dedicated, hard-working students as they enter into the service of medical care. Throughout the years it has indeed been a rewarding opportunity for me to work with so many outstanding students, faculty and staff members of the Southern Illinois University School of Medicine.

CURRENT GRADUATE SALUKI STORIES

A Saluki Story from an Iraqi Student

Trefa Mohamad



I am from the Kurdistan region in northern Iraq. SIU's diversity was a pleasant change for me. I got to know so much about people of other cultures, religions and countries, and their ways of life in terms of food, language and customs. People are so different, but there is so much common in basic

human nature. Having friends from other cultures for the first time in my life made it really helpful in improving my communication skills. Having interacted with such a diverse range of people on daily basis, I feel much more confident about myself.

We really care about our academic collaborations inside the lab. The faculty members are always at hand to help with not just academic but also personal problems. I had visa problems and could have missed my scholarship, but my principal investigators and department chair intervened to solve the problem with the scholarship agency in Iraq. I will cherish this help for life.

There is a difference in my knowledge level between when I came to SIU and now. SIU, and my microbiology department in particular, helped fill that gap and bring me up to par so that I feel more confident as a researcher.



The Beauty of Global Diversity

Abhinav Adhikari



Coming from Nepal, I was both scared and excited to start my stint in the United States. As compared to my life back home, the immense diversity at SIU was a big change for me. It's incredible to meet diverse groups of students on a daily basis. There are students from Europe, Asia, Africa,

Latin America and, of course, North America. There is great diversity even in a small department such as ours.

The great joy in diversity is that we get to share so much with each other, especially food and daily customs. Personally,

it also allowed me to know about issues concerning different people in different parts of the world. I could broaden my horizon and develop my own perspective on world affairs due to the invaluable interactions I have had on campus.

SIU, and also Carbondale as an extension, has always given me a home-like feeling. My department is very close-knit, and all the labs in it collaborate with each other. We use each other's facilities, and that really benefits research work. This spirit of academic collaboration also extends beyond the workplace and forms a larger family that keeps me secure and grounded.

Diversity, Dialogue and Distinction

Jenevieve Nelson



The Graduate School at SIU can boast that almost one-third of its current student population is international. Having students from Saudi Arabia, India and China, and 76 other countries, speaks to the inclusive spirit of SIU. We are a campus that welcomes all. One of my passions as a graduate student in the College Student Personnel Program is to find new ways to bridge gaps on U.S. campuses, especially among ethnicities and cultures. While SIU already has a foundation of diverse students, staff and faculty, it is the

perfect place to study since it also supports new approaches to connecting our SIU community.

Recently, Sosanya Jones, assistant professor of educational administration and higher education, gave us an assignment to participate in a service learning or social justice event happening on campus. Within the small one-week window of the assignment, we had more than eight events on campus to choose from. These events ranged from the American Disabilities Act training to engaging in dialogues about race or gender. In my mind, this established how SIU brings learning from the classroom to the campus while connecting our students and hearing their voices.

An Unmatched Education

Zachary J. Kartje



Carbondale has been home to me for the past three years. Moving here from Indianapolis was a significant change in climate and culture. While earning my doctorate in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, I have seen many changes over the past few years. What sets SIU apart from other schools is that it is always striving for distinction. From the installation of impressive new buildings to the appointment of bright, young faculty, SIU is growing.

Another fascinating component of an SIU education is the unique exposure and experiences received here. Faculty, students and staff alike come from vastly disparate backgrounds. This affords a truly distinct opportunity for a well-rounded education. In addition to the on-campus culture, Southern Illinois accommodates a diverse assortment of nearby activities and national parks. Since enrolling in 2013, I have met great people and accumulated a matchless education. SIU is an emerging institution, competitive with the finest post-secondary universities.

A Welcome Learning Environment: Voice from an African-American Saluki

Brione Lockett



I enrolled at SIU in the fall of 2010, on track for a teaching degree in history. I was raised in Arlington Heights and attended Rolling Meadows High school in Rolling Meadows, both located in the northwest suburbs of Chicago. There was little history taught about black culture.

I never knew much about the history of African-Americans and Africans besides what was taught on a minor scale during Black History Month. During my junior year at SIU, a teacher of mine in the history department suggested that I go meet with some professors in the Department of Africana Studies, so I made my way to Faner Hall and met with the faculty. Little did I know that

this department would be my new family – and my new home.

I double-majored in history and Africana studies at SIU. I have received many internships, scholarships and other positive opportunities. I have had numerous opportunities to work and meet with many individuals who had huge success within the health care and political realms of Illinois, such as many state elected officials, congressional members and department agency heads that represent Illinois.

Now I am a master's student in public health at SIU while also being a teaching assistant for the Department of Africana Studies. I have had the opportunity to expand my knowledge in various fields of health while inviting new students to learn with, and from, the family that took me in as I teach and learn with students at SIU.

Freedom To Explore: My Saluki Journey From Kenya

Clara Mundia

I first came to SIU in 2008 to begin my master's degree in the Department of Geography and Environmental Resources, and I was drawn to SIU because of its academic and culturally diverse faculty. Although I had an idea of my intended areas of research, the department provided courses that helped narrow my topic and identify appropriate strategies to successful completion of my degree. The departmental graduate potlucks were welcomed breaks to resurface and socialize with faculty and cohorts during the semester. Through assistantships and internship opportunities, the department looked out for me during my studies – and even after I had graduated.

After returning to Kenya to work for two-and-a-half years, I came back to SIU in 2014 to undertake my doctorate in the

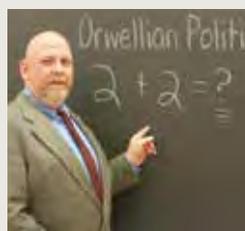
environmental resources and policy program. I was drawn back by the high post-graduate placement of the program, and its multidisciplinary and multicultural nature.

The program has supported me by giving me freedom to explore all available avenues of research. The program and the university as a whole have a history of being flexible with students who have other personal or professional obligations, and they work hard to see us through to graduation. They celebrate any and all academic accomplishments during (and beyond) our time here. I am truly glad I got to begin and mold my journey to my professional career here at SIU.



SIU, Multiculturalism and Me

James G. Wilson



While deciding on which university to attend for my doctorate degree, SIU's political science graduate advisor, Steve Shulman, associate professor, suggested I might qualify for the Graduate Dean's Fellowship. I was awarded this fellowship because I am legally blind and a first-generation

college attendee with a strong academic history over the past four years. Thanks to perseverance and technology for the blind, I attended SIU Edwardsville and earned my Bachelor of Science degree in political science with a 4.0 GPA in my major field. I

earned my Master of Arts degree at the University of Illinois Springfield campus in political science, where I achieved the top GPA among graduating students in my department. Now I am in Carbondale at SIU serving proudly as a Graduate Dean's Fellow.

I had been told that SIU was rich in multicultural and ethnic diversity. Now that I am here, it is amazing to see how integrated this university is. I was also told of a wonderful group of people who run the Disability Support Services office here. From firsthand experience I know that this office goes out of its way to accommodate both student and faculty needs. If you are looking for diversity and student support services, SIU is definitely the place for you to attend.

Doing It Together Benard McKinley Jr.



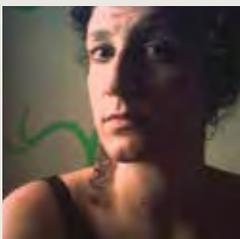
I am a second-year master's student in the College of Mass Communication and Media Arts. A couple of years after graduating with my bachelor's degree in the department of Radio-Television, I decided to take a couple of years out of school to work. Upon returning to SIU, I was welcomed back

by the people who I consider my second family. The faculty and staff in the College of Mass Communications and Media Arts, as well as in the Department of Africana Studies, have gone out of their way to guide me on my path to a second degree.

In addition to the accessibility of the faculty and staff, my cohort has taken it upon itself to serve as support systems for their colleagues. The research process can prove daunting at times, so it is always helpful to get advice from people who have been in, and are currently in the middle of, the same situations. In my time as a graduate student, I have been amazed at the capacity for coordination in the department. It is not uncommon to see doctoral students collaborating with master's students and undergraduates on projects ranging from guest speakers and lecturers to film screenings. I am glad to have chosen to pursue a graduate degree at SIU.



Diversity In Pedagogy and Practice Yvet Youssef



One of the things I enjoy about the SIU campus is the wide diversity of students from all over the world. I am a permanent resident originally from the Netherlands, and I value the international student body at SIU and the friendships that have come out of participating in the many

events on the SIU campus. As a student in the communication studies department focusing on intercultural communication,

SIU provides an excellent academic program in a welcoming, inclusive community.

The critical paradigmatic approach in my department allows me to study and teach communication praxis that is relevant to the world that we live in. I am grateful to be surrounded by wonderful human beings dedicated to social justice and critical theory. I am thankful to SIU for providing the opportunity to study in a field that I am passionate about, and that helps me develop both professionally and as a member of my wider community.



Different Notes, One Harmony

Yusaku Yajima



My experience as a doctoral student and a graduate teaching assistant in the Department of Communication Studies has been extraordinary, and more than I thought it would be. Belonging to my department/community, I can feel that I am growing as a scholar/teacher/human on a daily basis. This is largely because the

faculty members, staff and students all work hard to make our community and society a better one. I'm lucky to be part of the community in which we support everyone's collective and unique research/teaching philosophy and practice. We accept, support, challenge and push each other. I really like how our department has been building strong specializations and also diversities within each specialization; what we do is similar to and different from one another on multiple levels.

GRADUATE SALUKI STORIES FROM PAST STUDENTS AS ALUMNI

An Ode To Saluki Inclusiveness

Han Lin Huang Chen

Advisory board member, Graduate School



In the 1950s, when Taiwan had just started its economic development, most college graduates were trying to pursue advanced education abroad. America was my No. 1 choice. As the first female graduate student, I was lucky to receive a graduate school fellowship from SIU to enter the newly approved master's

degree program in chemistry.

With the financial support and the backing of my family, I came to Carbondale in fall 1956. There were five professors in the department of chemistry, and each had his own specialty. The first chemistry graduate class had four students: three male and one female. I was the only woman and foreigner in the group. We all attended classes and studied together. Most professors always held the door open for

me and followed me to enter the classroom. That is contradictory to the Chinese tradition, in which the student should hold the door open for a professor to go in first.

I chose Van Atta, an analytical chemist, as my major professor and worked on my master's thesis under his supervision. He was so kind and good to me. I was able to finish all the required courses, and most thesis work, in four quarters. In the meantime, I got a full-time job as a research assistant in the Nutrition Research Laboratory at the University of Illinois. I continued writing my thesis and came down to defend it with the thesis committee. I was the first one who finished the master's degree in chemistry program at SIU.

A Family That 'Always Got My Back'

Autumn Brown

After receiving my bachelor's degree in 2010, I was hired as summer help in the Graduate School working among the same staff that I had the pleasure to work with during my undergraduate schooling. Then I decided that I wanted to attend the Graduate School.

I was searching for countless hours trying to decide how I would pay for graduate school. I knew that I had a significant amount of loans from my undergraduate days. One day while working as summer help at the Graduate School, Ratna Sinha, assistant graduate school dean, approached me and asked if I was still looking for an assistantship. I told her that I was, and I apologized for possibly having to resign from summer help to pursue other ventures. To my surprise she handed me sheet of paper. I was confused until she instructed me to read it. I was reading what I thought would be a termination letter, but it was a graduate assistantship contract. I instantly threw my arms around her and gave her the biggest hug. I began to rejoice and may have even cried about this offer. Not only was I getting a graduate assistantship, but I was going to continue my current position. This was great news.

While completing my master's degree in social work, the Graduate School staff were continuously supportive and understanding. I was able to complete two practicums while maintaining my assistantship. To this day I remain in contact with my former co-workers and now friends of the Graduate School. We have shared some great moments together. We shed tears of sadness and joy once we relocated from Woody Hall to the new Student Services Building. The staff at the Graduate School are simply amazing. Crystal Marlow, academic contract supervisor, was helpful during my search during my program and now! Ratna Sinha continuously supported my academic and career decisions. Deon Thompson, academic contract specialist, can brighten your day with his great sense of humor and friendly advice.

There are so many great staff that I cannot name them all. I spent four years working at the Graduate School, and I would relive this experience a million times. You guys are truly missed!

Humble Origins, Big Dreams

Harvey Grandstaff

Coming from the small town of Mound, Illinois, I first enrolled as a freshman at SIU in 1958 and received a Bachelor of Science degree and Master of Science degree in speech pathology.

Being from a humble background, financial support for a college education in the late 1950s was a major concern. So, as a freshman, I worked collecting garbage and debris in then-Thompson Point Woods. Later, I worked at the boat docks at then-Lake on the campus, and also as a lifeguard. Then I was offered a vocational rehabilitation administration grant from the federal government to support my graduate studies in speech pathology. I also played in a rock 'n' roll band four nights a week for three years to supplement my graduate studies expense. This very popular Phi Kappa Tau fraternity band was called "The Four Taus."

I did not know until I got into the graduate program in speech pathology at SIU that the president of SIU at that time, Delyte Morris, was a past president of the American Speech and Hearing Association, and also a speech pathologist. The early graduate school training I received at SIU laid the groundwork for a doctorate at the University of Cincinnati. I did my postdoctoral studies in Duke University and eventually became a professor at Miami of Ohio University, where I taught speech pathology from 1966 to 1993.

I retired from my work in speech pathology in 2000 and began enjoying my hobbies of creating music and serving as a computer webmaster. I look back to my SIU days with fondness!

Ripples From International Exchanges At Siu Carbondale: Life- And Career-Enhancing

Rudy Ray Seward

As I recently re-reviewed a book on sociology in Sweden, I was reminded of how my research fellowship in 1971-1972 at Stockholm University during my doctoral program at SIU had positively influenced my life and career. The fellowship was the result of exchanges initiated in 1967 by professor Herman R. Lantz, who at the time was director of graduate studies. Exchange programs were established with several European universities to bring competent faculty and students to enhance the SIU graduate program. Faculty from Sweden and Ireland were particularly prominent in teaching courses, guiding research and consulting in Carbondale, especially professor Gunnar Boalt from Stockholm University.

I was the third student sent to Stockholm University to work with Boalt. Because of that association, at the 2014 International Sociology Association's World Congress in Japan, Sanja Magdaleni from Stockholm University brought to my attention a book project dealing with the history of Swedish sociology. Many jointly written

publications by Boalt and Lantz – along with publications from other faculty and students from their universities that focused on aspects of Swedish sociology – were cited in the book.

I was a first-generation college student who had never traveled outside the United States, so the academic year in Sweden opened up many new worlds for myself and my family. Boalt and colleagues arranged meetings with key Swedish scholars and government officials in my research area. Among those I met was Jan Trost at Uppsala University.

My family traveled to Ireland during spring break to visit with fellow SIU student Gerry Booth, who held a teaching appointment at University College, Galway. These contacts nurtured my research over the years. They enabled return visits, including a fellowship at UCG in 1998, which resulted in publications on aspects of Swedish and Irish families, and led to worldwide relationships and travels to countries on five continents.

Compassion, Appreciation And Fulfillment In A Multicultural Environment

Lola Olufemi



I was recruited to SIU by the Graduate School's Underserved Fellowship Office under the National Science Foundation's BRIDGE to Doctorate fellowship. My goal was to obtain a doctoral degree, so I worked hard to get accelerated into that program after my first year.

My research focused on chromatin remodeling complexes. The mutation of these complexes has

been linked to cancer, so I was pleased that my work would yield insight on how these complexes functioned. I thoroughly enjoyed my research. The Underserved Fellowship Office provided me the support I needed to excel in my program and complete my doctoral degree. Those people became my family. Their love and genuine concern for my overall achievement was overwhelming. Since graduating, I have been able to work for two federal agencies. I am forever grateful for SIU's Underserved Fellowship Office for helping me achieve my dreams.

Where Dreams Come True: A Saluki Experience From Ethiopia

Awoke Teshager



I am originally from Ethiopia. The very foundation of my interest and knowledge about water and its related issues was laid when I attended my undergraduate studies in Arba Minch University, Ethiopia. The ambition I had, after then, to understand and research the complex problems of water and its interaction to

the environment led me to SIU.

I chose SIU because of the interdisciplinary nature of the program I wanted to join: environmental resources and policy. Even though

it was sometimes challenging to be far from home and focus on my research, the SIU environment and the friendly faces of the staff and faculty of the program were invaluable in making me feel at home. Thanks to their nurturing and guidance, I completed my doctoral degree successfully, and now I have substantial experience in dealing with multidisciplinary research problems related to water.

If it weren't for SIU, I wouldn't be where I am now. I am happy to be part of the SIU family, and I am always grateful for all the support the staff and faculty have provided to me and the students who have come before and after me.



Advanced Energy And International Space Station

Tala Njiti

After my graduation at SIU, where I received good graduate training, I had a brief internship at the Du Quoin Solar Park in Southern Illinois. I later moved to Houston, where I got to teach an engineering concepts course. I also invited a guest speaker from NASA to talk about her work with the space shuttle program and the use of fuel cell technology for water production.

I currently work in the aerospace industry, and my job is tied to the International Space Station. Overall, the professional science master program was great. My golden takeaway from the program is what one of my professors said in class: "Do not strive to use one sole form of energy for your energy needs; instead, focus on having an energy mix."

A Helping Hand Toward Academic Excellence

Natassia Jones

Advisory board member, Graduate School



The National Science Foundation BRIDGE to the Doctorate fellowship allowed me to transition with the support of the Underserved Fellows Office and my cohort of fellows, many of whom had similar backgrounds as I do. Some of these fellows have remained my core group of friends

through the years and have supported me through graduation into my first tenure-track position, and even now as I serve as

the managing director for a science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education institute.

Former assistant dean Pat McNeil and her staff truly made my experience at SIU less stressful, as they not only helped me to quickly find a bank, housing, church and even a hairstylist, but also provided a space for me to communicate any problems that arose – and to celebrate my accomplishments along the way. Having that kind of support allowed me to focus on classes and research right from the start, and enabled me to persist toward the goal of obtaining a doctoral degree.

An Excellent Research Experience That Exceeded My Expectations

Amelia Merced Alejandro

Advisory board member, Graduate School



If you are interested in bryophytes, an evolutionary important group of plants, SIU is the right place to be. I came to the plant biology doctoral program because of its world-renown scientists doing research with bryophytes in diverse fields. The concurrence of these experts created an

incredible – and unique – working and learning environment. Under the mentorship of Karen Renzaglia, professor of plant biology, I developed an original research project that resulted in various publications. I presented at conferences across the country and received several awards, including the prestigious SIU Doctoral

Graduate Fellowship. Today I work at the University of Puerto Rico, in my homeland.

The support I received from SIU exceeded my expectations. As a Hispanic nontraditional student and single parent of two children, I took advantage of the many programs SIU offered. Family housing at Evergreen Terrace was our home for five years, and my children loved the afterschool program and all the activities the university had for families. They grew up in a safe and very diverse environment. We made friends from all around the world, and many of them became like family to us. The opportunities and experiences I had reveal the commitment of SIU community to ensure excellence, diversity and success.

Reflections On Graduate Diversity

Magnolia Hood

To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose ... and I must say that one particularly fulfilling season was the six years that I worked in the Underserved Fellowship Office of the Graduate School. Aside from developing lifelong mentor relationships with my supervisors and gaining lifelong friendships with the staff and students, the most rewarding facet of my job was being able to plant seeds into the educational and professional journeys of the Proactive Recruitment of Multicultural Professionals for Tomorrow (PROMPT), Graduate Dean's, DFI, and BRIDGE Fellows. The Underserved Fellowship Office was a lighthouse for some of the brightest, most astute scholars to navigate the SIU educational system.

Unless you were a benefactor of the programs offered by the office, you may be asking this question: "What is the Underserved Fellowship Office, and why is it such an important place?"

The answer is simple: The office was the umbrella funding

office for multiple programs designed to support minority graduate students. The funding was awarded to the students not just for their minority status, but also for their scholastic and professional achievement, and for the ability to forecast their futures in affecting the Saluki Legacy. Working as an office staffer afforded me many opportunities to support the students that we now call alumni.

It was my daily interactions with the fellows that caused me to search inner motivations, leading me to pursue my graduate degree (imagine that). Now that I am back in the fold as an administrator, I am able to continue that effort with students – and share in their struggles, too. I must say that I am proud and grateful to SIU for the opportunity to brush shoulders, encourage, motivate and share experiences with some of the best minds and hearts that are contributing to the advancement of education, medicine, science technology, music, art and other disciplines that have been born and bred here in Saluki country.

SIU Carbondale Graduate School's Highlights, and a Call for Graduate Stories about 'Identity, Loyalty and Professional Success'

Retirement Appreciation and Staff Excellence Award



On Dec. 1, 2016, Thomas Velasco, chair of the Graduate Council, presented the council's appreciation certificate to Jim Allen for his service and support for graduate education for numerous years before his retirement as associate provost for academic programs. Thank you, Jim Allen!

In 2016, Crystal Marlow, supervisor of assistantships and fellowship office, received the Staff Excellence Service Award. Congratulations to her!

Graduate School's External Advisory Board

The External Advisory Board provides input on graduate enrollments issues, ensuring graduate education excellence, connecting with graduate alumni and attracting external resources for our graduate education and graduate students at SIU. Appointed by the Graduate School dean, the board members will include previous SIU administrators, retired graduate faculty/staff, distinguished graduate alumni and friends of the Graduate School.

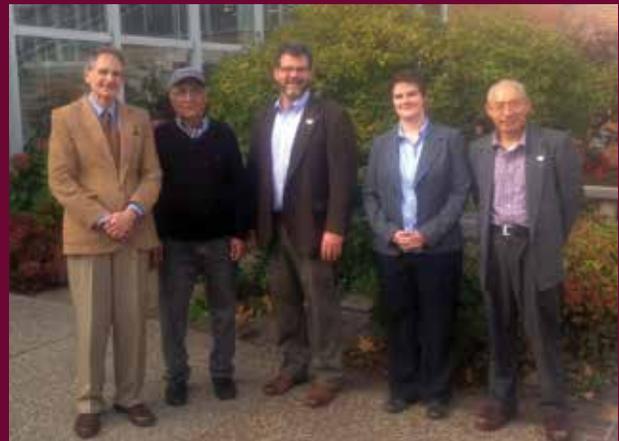
Those who have agreed to serve on the board include, but are not limited to: David Wilson, retiree; John Koropchak, former vice chancellor for research and graduate dean; Jared Dorn, retiree; John Jackson, retiree; Thomas Gutteridge, former business dean; Juh Wah Chen, former dean of engineering; Tom Britton, former law dean; Dafna Lemish, former dean of the College of Mass Communication and Media Arts; Elaine Vitello, former dean of the College of Applied Sciences and Arts; and alumni Robert Augustine, Nastasia Jones, Hanlin Huang and Amelia Merced. If you are interested in serving on the board as a previous administrator, a retired faculty or a past graduate student, please contact the Graduate School dean's office.



Engagement with Graduate Alumni

In early June, Yueh-Ting Lee, dean of the Graduate School, visited Northeast Normal University and Zheng Zhou University in China, meeting with SIU alumni at both locations.

On Nov. 8, Bagher Mousavi came to visit SIU campus. He graduated from SIU's Government Department in 1969 and moved back to Iran, where he became a professor of economics at the National University. Due to the arrangement of the Center for International Education, Mousavi met and chatted with SIU administrators, as he was touring the campus for the first time in 45 years.



Pictured above are Jim Allen, Bagher Mousavi, Andrew Carver, Cheryl Barnett and Yueh-Ting Lee.

Graduate Students Recruitment, Retention and Degree Completion



In the beginning of fall 2016, the Graduate School welcomed hundreds of new students to campus with events, including new graduate student orientation and a welcome pizza party, thanks to the efforts of Suzanne Babbitt, admission and records supervisor, Cordy Love, director of new student programs, and several other colleagues.

To honor the new graduate fellows, Crystal Marlow and her staff members organized a reception for them at the Morris Library on Oct. 20.



On Oct. 27, Graduate School and Career Services Office organized a graduate fair on campus. About 50 recruiters and 200 students attended.

Graduate School also offered two workshops on how to apply for assistantships and fellowships. The first was the



workshop for multicultural fellowships through the Proactive Recruitment of Multicultural Professionals for Tomorrow (PROMPT) fellowship and Graduate Dean fellowship. An active discussion with a diverse group of students on how to apply for the fellowships was led by Joseph Brown, professor of Africana studies; Royce Burnett, associate professor of accountancy; Paul Welch, associate professor of anthropology; Fran Harackiewicz, professor of electrical and computer engineering; Deon Thompson, academic contract specialist; and current fellows Alice Muntz and James Wilson.



On Nov. 28, the Graduate School offered a general workshop to graduate students, faculty members and graduate directors about the requirements and expectations of various assistantships and fellowships.

On Dec. 17, thanks to the hard work of Ratna Sinha and her staff in the Graduate School Record Office, about 60 graduate students earned their doctoral degrees, while another 320 earned master's degrees. Congratulations to them!

Call for Graduate Stories to Focus on Identity, Loyalty and Professional Success

We need very compelling stories (of fewer than 300 words) with action-related or situational pictures from our current and past graduate students or alumni. The coming issue will focus on identity, loyalty and professional success. We ask that you write about why you like your field/work or profession as a current student or graduate alumni, and why you are loyal to and supportive of SIU, especially graduate education. Please send your stories to grad.deansoffice@siu.edu or leey@siu.edu.



Donation and Appreciation

We thank Dr. Jared Dorn and Dr. Bob Augustine as our advisory board members and outstanding graduate alumni for their recent generous donations to sponsor 60 current graduate students to travel to various conferences for research presentations. We need additional contributions from all friends and alumni to support graduate education and appreciate your giving online at gradschool.siu.edu/giving. Please consider making a contribution to the Graduate School at SIU Carbondale:

\$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

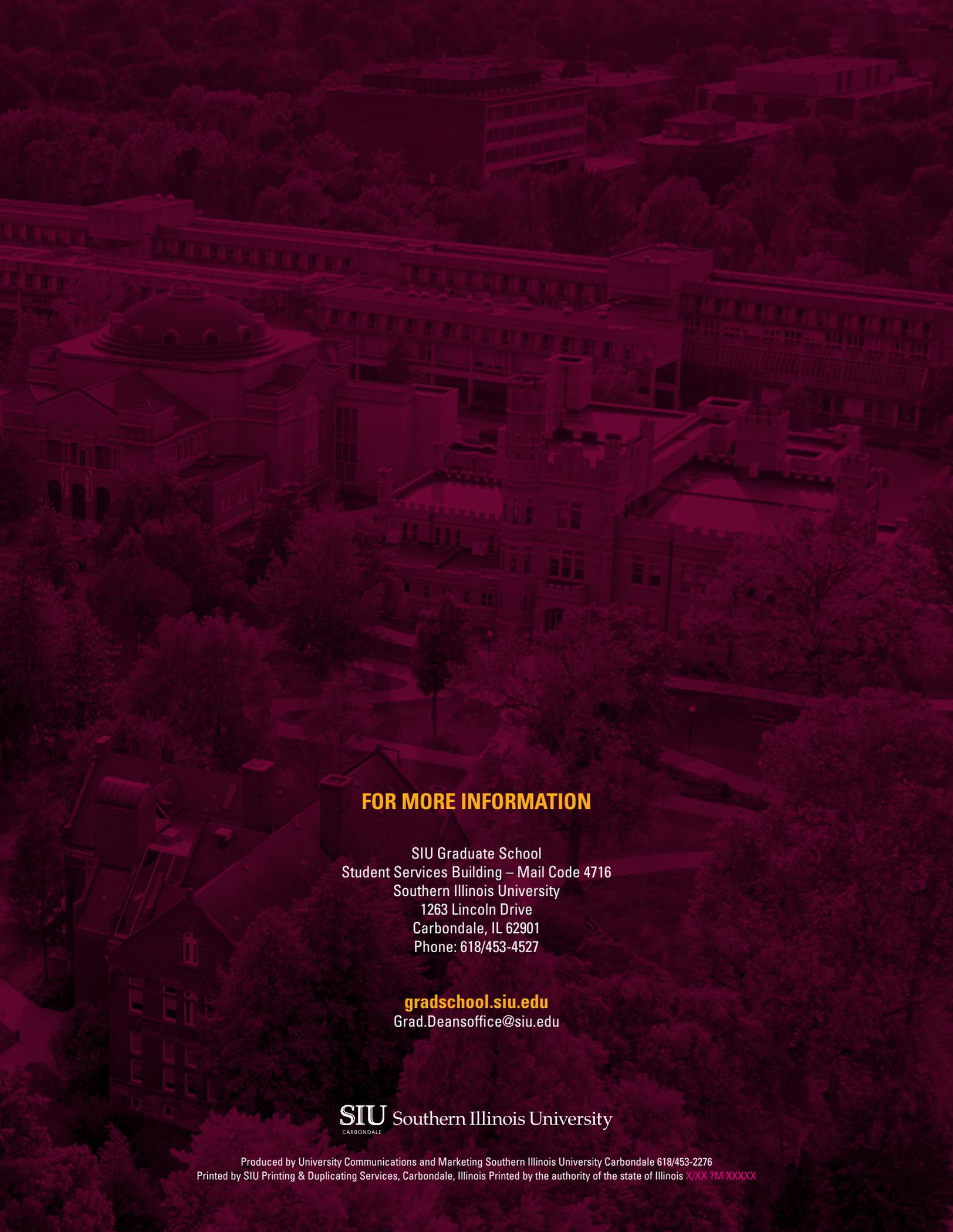
- International Student Support: Willis Swartz Graduate Award
- PROMPT (Proactive Recruitment of Multicultural Professionals for Tomorrow)
- American Indian Scholarship Endowment

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.
Happy 2017!



FOR MORE INFORMATION

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