




**SIU**<sup>TM</sup>  
— ALUMNI ASSOCIATION —

# 2023 ANNUAL REPORT







**MORE THAN 260,000 ALUMNI**  
call Southern Illinois University Carbondale their alma mater.

## **OUR MISSION**

Engage them and serve as their gateway to find meaningful connections in support of the university.



# ONCE A SALUKI, ALWAYS A SALUKI.

This year, the SIU Alumni Association took the boldest step ever in its 127-year history: We ended our dues-paying membership program.

As of July 1, we've stopped soliciting new annual and life members, instead putting our full attention on opportunities to engage with as many alumni as possible, free from any barriers to participation. We're excited about the potential this brings to reconnect all Salukis with SIU Carbondale.

Of course, we haven't forgotten how we got here. As the university's oldest and largest organization, the contributions of our members have sustained this Association for more than a century. We remain committed to recognizing our legacy life members and have offered the opportunity to promote some of our long-time annual members to life status. Rest assured, we will always honor the support and loyalty you've shown to your Association.

We have a motto around here: Once a Saluki, Always a Saluki. We're taking that message to heart, now more than ever, removing barriers and pressure, and encouraging alumni, like you, to let us help find the best way to get involved with SIU.

Even without membership, we know you will continue to support other important parts of our mission, such as local chapter scholarships, our Student Leadership Development Fund, and the Traditions Fund. These giving opportunities and more remain available by clicking the 'Give Now' link at the very top of our website [sialumni.com](http://sialumni.com).

In addition, sometimes all it takes is your time – the time to attend an event, to volunteer in your college, to be a mentor to a student, or simply to spread the good word about the great things SIU did for you and continues to do for others.

Thank you for your years of support to this Association. Moving forward, please help us share the kind of Saluki pride that makes everyone feel welcome at SIU. We can't wait to bring you along for this next chapter.

Sincerely,

**Jeff Gleim**

Associate Vice Chancellor for Development &  
Alumni Relations



# SERVICE & SUPPORT

## OUR BOARD'S MISSION

Dear Salukis,

As I enter my second and final year as president of the SIU Alumni Association's National Board of Directors, I want to share how proud I am of our board members' continuing work in service and support of SIU Carbondale.

It is encouraging to lead such an impassioned group of alumni, not only willing but capable of doing great things for this university and helping students on the path to becoming Salukis for life. I would like to quickly share just two examples with you. Darzel Price works tirelessly to recruit students in the Chicago area, visiting high schools and promoting SIU to everyone he encounters. Makela Clay joined the Board last year and went to work organizing a new chapter in the San Francisco area as well as alumni events up and down the California coast. The enthusiasm of Darzel and Makela for SIU Carbondale is contagious!

This past year, our board (with the assistance of a matching grant) raised the money necessary to endow the Student Leadership Development Fund which will help cover the costs of professional development conferences and workshops for some of our most promising students. With this opportunity, our students will be able to share best-in-class ideas with national speakers and fellow students. This fundraising project, along with others, will help them spread their ideas further giving our future alumni a stronger voice in their chosen field.

I also am pleased to report the Association's decision to truly open its doors to all alumni and end the dues-payment membership program. This decision required much preparation because while we want to be inclusive of all alumni, we also had to address how it would impact our other programs. However, we believe this decision ultimately positions this organization to be a much stronger gateway for all Salukis to reconnect with their alma mater and contribute to its future in whatever ways they see fit.

Again this fall, the Association will put out a national call for new alumni to join the board of directors. I encourage all alumni to consider nominating either themselves or a fellow Saluki whom they believe would be an asset to the group. Our organization wants to stay nimble, entertain new ideas, and always keep our focus on our mission of service and support to SIU.

I'm looking forward to my final year as president and the exciting things that our students and alumni will deliver.

With Saluki Pride,

Mike Blumhorst



**Mike Blumhorst '84, '85**  
President  
SIU Alumni Association National  
Board of Directors

### 2023-24 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

#### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Scott Moller '85, '19, President-Elect  
Gary Heflin '89, Vice President  
Wayne Sirles '89, Vice President  
Greg Wright '84, '98, Treasurer  
Andrea Nickrent '00, Secretary  
Molly Hudgins '97, Past President  
Elizabeth Walker-Smith '81, Member-at-Large  
Rick Hiatt '70, Member-at-Large

#### BOARD MEMBERS

Steve Brown '71  
Kenneth Buzbee '61, '78  
Makela Clay '99  
Nicole Engelhardt '20  
Forrest Fairall '81  
Michael Farmer '77  
Casey Hale '04, '07  
Kaliah Liggons '13  
Larry Mieldezis '86  
Brian Munoz '19  
Darzel Price '80  
Sunhil Sinha '98  
Laura Soucy '87  
Andrew Stoker '75  
Steven Wiyatt '70  
Rick Wysocki '83, '85



# \$535,187

## INVESTED IN ALUMNI AND STUDENT ENGAGEMENT EVENTS AND PROGRAMS LAST YEAR.



Alumni Tailgate | SIU vs. Northwestern

# 2,109 ALUMNI ATTENDED

# 49 EVENTS HOSTED BY THE ASSOCIATION



Fall 2022 Legacy Luncheon



SIU Day with the Pittsburgh Pirates



St. Louis Trivia Night



Salukis at MVC Weekend



Alumni Night in San Antonio



Alumni Networking Group  
Leaders Conference



50-Year Reunion | Class of '72



SIU Day at Phoenix Spring Training



SIU Alumni Homecoming Concert

# SIU

— ALUMNI ASSOCIATION —



# HONORING ACHIEVEMENT & LEADERSHIP



The Association began a new tradition in FY 22: Bringing together past board presidents and executive directors to collaborate on ideas for the future of the organization.



## DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI

**ALBERT AND CHERYL KELLERT**, owners of Gray Ghost Vineyards in Amissville, Virginia were honored as the 2023 SIU Distinguished Alumni for their lifetime of achievement and support of their regional wine industry.

## OTHER HONOREES



**MIKE BEHRMANN '86, '87, '95**  
VOLUNTEER EXCELLENCE



**HON. MARTY J. MURRAY, JR. '12**  
YOUNG ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT



**JACK JAMES**  
OUTSTANDING STUDENT LEADERSHIP



**DANIEL BOOTH '06, M.S. ED. '10**  
DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION



**STEVE FALAT '87**  
SALUKI SPIRIT



**SIU YOUNG ALUMNI GROUP**  
INNOVATION AWARD



# \$75,099

IN SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

# 60

NEW AND RETURNING STUDENTS FOR  
THE 2023-24 ACADEMIC YEAR

**THE ASSOCIATION AWARDED 100 PERCENT OF AVAILABLE  
SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS TO STUDENTS IN FY23**



# \$46,365

**RAISED FOR THE STUDENT LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT FUND**

## STUDENT LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT FUND

Established by the Association's Board of Directors, the Student Leadership Development Fund seeks to raise money to help SIU students participate in and attend professional conferences nationwide.

This fund allows students to network with others in their chosen professions or fields of study, providing assistance for fees, travel, and other related expenses.

It allows new generations of Salukis to step up and become visible leaders among their peers and make connections vital to their future success.



# SUPPORTING SIU'S IMPACT ON SOUTHERN ILLINOIS AND BEYOND

Alumni gathering on the Chicago River during the September 2022 Saluki Takeover Tour. The Association assisted the SIU Foundation at additional events in Nashville, TN and Florida, as well as the inaugural Saluki Ball in April, which raised more than \$600,000 in funds to help students bridge gaps to complete their education.

## PARTNERSHIPS ACROSS CAMPUS

The Association was able to host its first-ever event in conjunction with the SIU School of Medicine, which tapped the expertise of faculty to share important information about public health in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Association was also a partner with the SIU Fermentation Science Institute and the alumni-owned Ravinia Brewing Company in Chicago to help promote a collaboration that will benefit future students interested in pursuing a career in the beer and wine industries.



## EVERY GIFT MATTERS

**\$4.04 MILLION 3,702 GIFTS**

Association communication team members assisted with the production of the 2023 Day of Giving live stream, beaming to thousands of alumni and spreading the good news about SIU Carbondale.





# WELCOME TO THE SIU ALUMNI FAMILY!

## Connecting and Serving All Alumni

The SIU Alumni Association is the gateway for alumni to find connections to their alma mater and help and mentor new generations of Salukis in their educational goals.

The Association offers several services, events, and programs for alumni and students. All alumni receive:

- Access to a network of nationwide discounts and offers through our partner program PerkSpot.
- Special offers at Carbondale establishments (Use the app to show them you're a Saluki!).
- Discounts on insurance through our partners at Liberty Mutual and USI.



## Life Member Rewards

While the Association is no longer charging annual dues, we have a strong legacy of nearly 10,000 life members whose support has made many of our events and programs possible.

To continue honoring their contributions, life members receive these additional benefits:

- An annual gift mailed directly to them
- 20% off all in-person purchases at the University Bookstore
- Discounts on tickets to select alumni events

## Read SIU Alumni Magazine



- Published twice a year
- Feature stories on alumni
- University impact
- Class Notes

Submit your story ideas at [sialumni@alumni.siu.edu](mailto:sialumni@alumni.siu.edu)

Digital editions available too!

## STAY CONNECTED ON THE GO!



## Download our app on iOS and Android devices

- Receive announcements about events
- Message your fellow Salukis
- Get the latest news out of SIU
- Access your alumni perks and discounts

Follow us on social media

@SIUAlumni



## SALUKIS EVERYWHERE



SIU has more than  
**260,000**  
alumni



Living in  
**156**  
countries  
(That's 80% of the world!)

## Top 10 U.S. States



- |                        |                      |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Illinois - 123,457  | 6. Indiana - 5,913   |
| 2. California - 14,047 | 7. Georgia - 5,050   |
| 3. Florida - 13,347    | 8. Virginia - 4,681  |
| 4. Missouri - 11,682   | 9. Arizona - 4,663   |
| 5. Texas - 10,134      | 10. Colorado - 4,659 |

GET INVOLVED WITH ALUMNI NETWORKING GROUPS NEAR YOU

[sialumni.com/alumni](http://sialumni.com/alumni)