

# SOUTHERN HIGHLIGHTS

*Compiled by the SIUC Division of Institutional Advancement*

*December 18, 2006*

## **PROGRAMS**

- **Southern Illinois University's automotive technology program has received top honors once again.** Southern's program has been named #1 in the nation by the Automotive Industry Planning Council. The organization previously bestowed this honor on Southern in 1991 and 1999. A program may receive the designation only once every five years.
- **Recent additions to the department of automotive technology training fleet include** a 2006 Pontiac Solstice from General Motors Corporation, a Jeep Liberty Limited Diesel from DaimlerChrysler Corporation and an Acura TL from American Honda Motor Company.
- **SIU's Flying Salukis** finished fourth in the National Intercollegiate Flying Association Region VIII competition. The Salukis finished behind Lewis University, the University of Illinois, and Purdue University. The top three teams receive automatic bids into the national championship competition at The Ohio State University in May 2007. Southern, which has seven first-year performers on this year's team, finished just one point behind third-place Purdue. The Flying Salukis will know in the spring whether they receive one of the available at-large open invitations to make a 38th consecutive appearance in the nationals. SIU junior Jennifer Byrne was the top scoring female competitor in the event.
- **Southern Illinois University's longstanding partnership with the Carbondale Women's Center received prestigious recognition recently.** The Illinois Campus Compact for Community Services honored both entities with the **Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter Partnership Award**. Former First Lady Rosalynn Carter, at the invitation of the Illinois Campus Compact, presented the award to SIU and Women's Center representatives at a ceremony in Chicago. The award is presented to a recipient in every state where a college or university collaborates with a community group to address public needs. Over 100 SIU students volunteer to assist the Women's Center on an annual basis. The University depends on the Women's Center for expertise in matters related to sexual assault and domestic violence prevention and treatment. SIUC and the Women's Center split the \$15,000 grand prize.
- **The Illinois Board of Higher Education has approved SIUC's request to offer a doctoral degree program in computer science.** The IBHE approved Southern's request during its meeting on Dec. 5. SIUC will welcome its first computer science doctoral students in fall 2007.

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- **Four Southern Illinois University Carbondale law school alumni are providing scholarship funds to support SIU School of Law students.** The Springfield law firm of **Hodge Dwyer Zeman, along with Springfield attorney N. Lee Beneze are providing \$22,000 in scholarship funds** for use by second- and third-year law school students. **Hodge Dwyer Zeman, a Springfield firm that concentrates on environmental law, is contributing \$15,000.** Partners Katherine D. Hodge, Edward W. Dwyer, and Christine G. Zeman, each graduated from the law school — Hodge in 1986, Dwyer in 1987, and Zeman in 1979. The 10-lawyer firm, whose clients are primarily business and industry, started in 1991 and carries a definite Saluki pedigree. Five SIU School of Law graduates work in the firm, including a member of the one of the law school's first graduating classes and a 2006 graduate. **Beneze is contributing \$7,000.** He earned his law degree from the SIU School of Law in 1985, and has been active in the SIU School of Law Alumni Association since graduation. He is currently the law school alumni association secretary. Beneze is the legal services developer with the Illinois Department on Aging.
- **The SIU School of Law Judge Richard Mills Scholarship was announced on Nov. 29.** This scholarship will generate \$1,000 annually for a second- or third-year law school student with outstanding academic credentials and hails from one of the 46 counties comprising the Central District of Illinois. The Scholarship honors Judge Richard Mills, a senior judge for the U.S. District Court for the Central District of Illinois. The University's relationship with Judge Mills dates back 30 years ago. Mills regularly visits and speaks to SIU School of Law students and presides over law school moot court competitions. He has served as an adjunct professor of medical humanities at the SIU School of Medicine in Springfield since 1985. In 1988, Mills became one of two inaugural SIU School of Law honorary alumni. Judge Mills earned his bachelor's degree in history from Illinois College in 1951. He earned his law degree from Mercer University School of Law in 1957, and a master of laws degree from University of Virginia School of Law in 1982. He is a retired U.S. Army colonel with 33 years active and reserve service. He served 14 months in Korea with the 3rd Infantry Division, 8th U.S. Army, and earned a Bronze star. He also was a major general in the Illinois State Militia.
- **The River Region Evening Edition, Southern Illinois University Carbondale's student-run television news broadcast, received top honors from the Illinois Broadcasters Association.** River Region won first place for Best TV Newscast during the IBA's 2006 Student Silver Dome Awards in Bloomington. The awards are judged by professional broadcast journalists from around the state. Students who work on the broadcast serve as reporters, editors, producers, anchors, technical crew members, and graphic artists. The broadcast airs at 5:30 p.m., Monday through Thursday on WSIU-TV.

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- ***The Daily Egyptian*, Southern Illinois University Carbondale's campus newspaper, was nominated for the 2006 Pacemaker Award, one of college journalism's top national awards.** The Associated Collegiate Press nominated the *Daily Egyptian* for the prestigious honor. This is the paper's fourth nomination in the last six years. The ACP and the Newspaper Association of America Foundation co-sponsor the annual contest. Professional journalists judge the annual entries, which consisted of issues from two selected dates and one day of the newspaper's choice. Judges base their decisions on coverage and content, quality of writing and reporting, opinion page leadership, in-depth reporting, design, photography, art and graphics. The *Daily Egyptian* is among the finalists for the award nationwide. Other finalists include Harvard University, Eastern Illinois University, Indiana University, the University of North Carolina and the University of California Los Angeles, among others.
- **SIU students and faculty made their mark at the National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences Mid-American Regional Chapter Emmy Awards on Oct. 28 in St. Louis. Southern won six statues, including awards in both student and professional categories.** Students represented the **Department of Radio-Television and Department of Cinema and Photography in the College of Mass Communication and Media Arts.**

The student-run program *alt.news 26:46*, which features a unique perspective on news and special features, won in the category of "Best Student Production." The program has won more than 20 professional and student Emmys during the last seven years.

Cory Byers, a lecturer in the radio-television department and a recent SIUC master's graduate, also won for his production, "Forgive Me Father," a tribute to the late Alfred Hitchcock. The production was Byers' senior thesis project.

Also winning awards were:

- • "Evil Dead: Beyond the Blood," which featured interviews with the special effects artists and cast members who worked on the horror movie. Jon Solita, a senior from Manteno, and Robert Solita, of Peotone, produced the show.
- "FTX: Field Training Exercise," which followed SIUC Air Force ROTC candidates during a three-day training event. Editors and co-producers included Kyle Tekiela, a junior from Bartlett; Adam Slutsky, a sophomore from Deerfield; and Nicholas Karsten, a senior from Nilas, Mich.

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- Students also won Emmys for program graphics. They include Jordan Gzesh, a senior from Deerfield; Andrew Mitchell, a senior from Champaign; along with Brown, Solita, Tekiela and Wilkerson.

Students also received nominations for:

- "The Sweatshirt Phenomenon," which explored the origins of the famous "COLLEGE" sweatshirt worn by the late actor John Belushi in the movie, "Animal House." Sophomores Tim Wilkerson, the son of Patrick and Debbie Wilkerson of Crystal Lake (3803 Spy Glass Ridge Road), and Sean Brown, son of Frank and Laurie Brown of Deerfield (1025 Hillside Ave.), co-produced the program.
- "Parkour: Never Look Back," which examined an urban extreme sport also known as "free running." Jared Kagel, a recent graduate from Bloomington and the son of David and Nancy Kagel (1507 Espy Drive), produced the show.
- **Four SIU playwriting students were selected to read one-act plays at the prestigious regional Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival, Jan. 9 in Milwaukee.** Festival judges chose Michael Campbell of Arvada, Colo., for "Risata, Sciocco . . .Risata" ; Michael A. Rose of Minot, N.D., for "Skinless; Boneless"; Randall Colburn of Rochester Hills, Mich., for "Svetlana", and Laramie Dean of Missoula, Mont. for "We Are Not Monsters." Colburn's "Ravishment" was also selected as a standout in the 10-minute play competition.
- **The College of Applied Sciences and Arts has its first master's program.** A physician assistant master's program has been approved for the college. A proposal for a master's of architecture program has been approved by the Illinois Board of Higher Education and the college's medical dosimetry certificate program is transitioning into a master's program.
- **SIU's ceramics program is one of seven regional graduate programs that will participate in the National Council on Education in the Ceramic Arts Conference,** scheduled for March in Louisville, Ky. Students will have an opportunity to showcase their talents to an international audience comprised of over 5,000 art professionals and students worldwide. Students will be selected for participation at the beginning of the spring semester.
- **The fire service management program has been accredited by the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress.**
- **The Saluki football team advanced to the NCAA Division I-AA Football Playoffs for the fourth consecutive season.** In the first round, Southern defeated Tennessee-Martin 36-30 in a thrilling come-from-behind victory at McAndrew Stadium. SIU trailed by as many as 20 points early in the fourth quarter. The win allowed Southern to advance to the quarterfinal round of the playoffs, where it was defeated by Montana, 20-3. The Salukis finished the season with a 9-4 record.

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**Arkee Whitlock**

- **Saluki senior star running back Arkee Whitlock finished third in voting for The 2006 Walter Payton Award, which is presented to the nation's top Division I-AA player.** Whitlock finished behind a pair of quarterbacks including award winner Ricky Santos of New Hampshire, and runner-up Jason Murrietta of Northern Arizona. The Walter Payton Award was presented on December 14 at the 20th Annual I-AA College Football Awards in Chattanooga, Tenn. Whitlock is the first Saluki player to be selected a finalist for the award, named in honor of the legendary NFL running back. Whitlock finished his career with 1,828 rushing yards, 25 touchdowns, and 2,330 all-purpose yards in 2006. He was named to three All-American teams.
- **SIU football players are also excelling in the classroom.** Seven players earned 2006 Gateway Academic All-Conference honors. Saluki players receiving this honor include Nick Hill (3.25 grade point average); Braden Jones (3.61); Andrew Kernes (3.47); J.T. Wise (3.20); Ryan Beeler (3.33); Jon Cairns (3.79), and Trevor Moe (3.03).
- **The SIU Men's basketball team signed a trio of high school recruits.** Joining the Salukis during the 2007-08 season will be Carlton Fay, a 6-8 forward from Putnam County; Nick Evans, a 6-11 center from Carbondale; and Brandon Wood, a 6-3 guard from Kokomo, Ind.
- **SIU's women's basketball team played in front of a school-record 3,367 fans when it hosted Missouri on Nov. 12.** Southern gave its Big 12 Conference rivals a battle, but Missouri pulled away late for a 71-60 victory. The previous women's basketball attendance record was 2,003 set in 1989.

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## **PEOPLE**



**Joan Higginbotham**

- SIUC graduates played integral roles in the launch of Space Shuttle Discovery on Saturday, Dec. 9. **Joan Higginbotham, a NASA astronaut and 1987 electrical engineering graduate**, is making her first space flight as a mission specialist. Higginbotham is one of a seven-member NASA crew that embarked on a 12-day mission that includes a trip to International Space Station aboard Discovery on STS-116. **Jeffrey Spaulding, a 1987 graduate in mechanical and thermal engineering from Rockford**, is one of NASA's two shuttle test directors. He is responsible for the planning and execution of all shuttle launch countdown activities and for conducting the final portion of the count through launch. **Norm Tokarz, a 1987 graduate in electrical engineering**, is chief for International Space Station and Spacecraft Processing, Operations Division, at Kennedy Space Center, and worked with Spaulding on this mission. **Fellow SIUC alumna Angela Brewer** is flow director for the Space Shuttle Atlantis. Brewer manages the day-to-day activities associated with the processing of Atlantis for launch, according to NASA.

**Higginbotham, a Chicago native, began her career at NASA two weeks after graduating from Southern.** She has actively participated in 53 space shuttle launches during her nine years at Kennedy Space Center. Spaulding also commenced his career at NASA after graduating from Southern. He initially became interested in pursuing an aerospace career while participating in the **SIU Alumni Association's Extern Program** at Lockheed Martin in Denver. Spaulding was hired after official visit Southern to conduct job interviews.

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- **Edson Lobato, a 1973 SIU College of Agriculture alumnus, is one of three recipients of the 2006 World Food Prize.** The \$250,000 World Food Prize was established in 1986 as the most prestigious international award for achievements significantly increasing the quality, quantity or availability of food in the world. Lobato is former Technical Director of EMBRAPA Cerrado Research Center. During his 30 years as an agronomy engineer and administrator at EMBRAPA, he coordinated efforts with his colleagues to expand agricultural development on the Cerrado.
- **Max Bittle, an SIU junior majoring in photojournalism, won the \$10,000 Nikon Spirit Initiative's Eddie Adams Scholarship for his portfolio.** Bittle received the honor at the 19<sup>th</sup> annual Eddie Adams Workshop in New York, a four-day gathering of top professional news photographers and 100 carefully-selected students. **Bittle, a native of Carterville, garnered Student Photographer of the Year honors from the National Press Association.** The 22-year old previously worked for The Courier in Carterville, the Daily Egyptian at Southern, and interned at the St. Petersburg Times. He has also completed freelance work for Illinois Issues, the Chicago Tribune, and the New York Times. Bittle plans to seek employment as a photojournalist at a newspaper following graduation.
- **SIUC student Fahren Robb was one of 60 college students nationwide named to the 2006 All-USA College Academic Team by USA Today in February.** The Pinckneyville, Ill., native was selected from a pool of over 600 nominees. She is majoring in agricultural information and political science, and pursuing minors in speech communication, environmental studies, and agribusiness economics. She is the first SIUC student to receive the honor in the program's 17-year history.
- **Daniel Hechenberger, a doctoral student in curriculum and instruction, is one of 75 "Humanities Heroes" through the Studs Terkel Humanities Service Award program.** The Illinois Humanities Council selects recipients. Local mayors nominate residents every other year for the honor, which recognizes individuals for their contributions to promote the humanities in their respective areas. Mascoutah, Ill., Mayor Gerald "Jerry" Daugherty bestowed the honor on Hechenberger, citing the SIU student for volunteering to found and run an educational not-for-profit organization known as Nipwaantiikaani, which means "the lodge where we learn from each other." It works to cultivate an appreciation for social studies, history and other cultures, particularly the cultures of Illinois' first peoples. Earlier this year, Hechenberger won one of seven national scholarship awards made to graduate students by Phi Delta Kappa, an international honor society.
- **SIU anthropology Professor Izumi Shimada, a world-renowned researcher, was honored by The National Congress of Peru on Dec. 11 in Lima, Peru.** Professor Shimada received a medal from Peru's government honoring his three decades of scientific contribution to Peruvian archaeology. Shimada joined SIUC as an assistant professor in 1994, became an associate professor in 1996 and reached the rank of full professor in 2002. He earned his bachelor's degree in 1971 from Cornell University and his doctorate in 1976 from the University of Arizona.

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- **Ron Kelly**, faculty emeritus from the department of aviation management at Southern, has been inducted into the **Illinois Aviation Hall of Fame**.
- **SIU engineering professor Sanjeev Kumar** received an academic award from the Korean Geo-Environmental Society in November, which recognizes outstanding performance and exemplary achievement that greatly contributes to the advancement of geoenvironmental engineering. Kumar is a professor of civil and environmental engineering at Southern. He received the award for his published papers in geoenvironmental engineering.
- **Edward E. Hearn, a 1980 SIU alumnus, claimed the title of 2006 World Champion of Public Speaking during the Toastmasters International Speech Contest in Washington, D.C.** His speech, "Bouncing Back," dealt with the importance of resiliency. A panel of 20 Toastmasters judges evaluated 10 contestants from different parts of the world, all of whom had advanced to the finals following a year-long process of elimination, using club, area, district and regional speech competitions. Criteria used in judging included speech content, organization, voice quality and gestures. Toastmasters International is a nonprofit educational organization that teaches public speaking and leadership skills through a worldwide network of clubs. The organization currently has 211,000 members in 10,500 clubs in 90 countries.
- **Lane Christiansen, a journalism student at Southern, was honored at the 2006 NPPA Conference "Living the Moment" Gallery Show in St. Louis.** The judges selected the 50-image show from more than 950 submissions. The exhibit took place September 16 at the St. Louis City Museum Aquarium.
- **SIUC Cinema and Photography alumnus Jarred Thorpe ('06) had his screenplay, "Depth of Focus," selected as a finalist for the Burnt Orange award at the 2006 Austin Film Festival.**
- **Kathryn "Kathy" A. Hytten, associate professor of educational administration and higher education at Southern, has been elected vice president of the American Educational Studies Association, an international society of students, teachers, scholars and administrators who view the liberal arts as the foundation of education.** She will become president-elect in 2008, assuming the presidency in 2009. The association has among its goals providing a cross-disciplinary forum in which scholars may exchange ideas relating to such disciplines as anthropology, economics, history, politics and sociology.

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## ***PLACES***

- **The \$48-million project to renovate Morris Library is on schedule.** The project, instituted in 2005, includes a renovation of the existing facility and an addition of 50,000 square feet to the north side of the facility. Exterior brick and masonry work on the existing structure is nearly complete. Eighty percent of the metal exterior for the new tower-like structure is complete. Additional developments include the following:
  - a) The studs for new interior walls are nearly complete throughout the existing structure
  - b) Most of the old elevator systems have been removed and new, larger elevators are being installed.
  - c) Workers have partially completed a new fire sprinkler system in the existing building.

The renovation of Morris Library is scheduled for completion by mid- to late 2008.

- **On November 4, 2005 Simmons Cooper LLC announced that it has pledged \$10.2 million to fund the cancer institute at SIU.** This is the largest single gift in the history of SIU and will establish the university as home to one of the leading cancer facilities in the United States. SimmonsCooper Cancer Institute at SIU School of Medicine in Springfield has broken ground and should be completed in 2008. This state-of-the-art building will provide patients with excellent and compassionate care in a comforting environment. Fundraising efforts are underway and a gala event, Denim & Diamonds, raised over \$150,000 for the Institute.
- **C.J. and Joey, a pair of kangaroos, are the winners of the St. John's Children's Hospital "Great Mascot Election" in Springfield.** C.J. and Joey will represent St. John's Children's Hospital in various educational materials and in person at hospital special events and community events. St. John's Children's Hospital combines the faculty resources of SIU School of Medicine with pediatric facilities and services of St. John's. The Springfield Foundation office also raises money for Children's Miracle Network (CMN) in partnership with St. John's Hospital. In October the SIU School of Medicine held A Fantastic Gift Basket Raffle and raised over \$6,000 for Children's Miracle Network. On December 2, a bus trip to downtown Chicago will take place leaving from Springfield, and proceeds will again go to the CMN.



