

Southern Highlights

Compiled by the Department of Development Communication in the SIUC Division of Institutional Advancement through the courtesy of University Communications; college, school and department representatives; and Saluki Athletics.



Southern
Illinois University
Carbondale

Programs

SIU Carbondale is the second university in the nation to offer a master's degree in medical dosimetry (a part of radiation oncology) since the Illinois Board of Higher Education approved the program in October.

The University has been awarded a \$1.2 million emergency preparedness grant funded by the federal government. The grant will assist 17 southern Illinois counties in assessing their disaster risks and making plans for disaster mitigation. The Federal Emergency Management Agency is funding the work, which will continue through 2010. Nicholas Pinter, professor of geology, is the lead investigator.

In January, WILL-TV, the broadcasting service at the University of Illinois, began airing "Hometown Housecall," a program about health and medicine from the SIU School of Medicine. The series is hosted by Dr. Stuart Frank, a cardiologist and professor emeritus of internal medicine. "Hometown Housecall" is new to WILL-TV, but is in its fifth season of programs, which also air on WSIU-TV, Carbondale. The series was honored with a Bronze Telly Award in the 2007 national competition.

University scientists from several fields, working through the SIU Materials Technology Center, received \$1 million from the Federal Highway Administration's Intelligent Transportation Systems program in November. They will create a network that can provide near real-time data and analysis on the structural soundness of transportation infrastructure such as bridges.

"Inside the 7th Circuit," a symposium hosted by the SIU School of Law in February, examined how the federal appeals court for Illinois, Indiana and Wisconsin decides cases. Prior to the start of the symposium, a three-judge Seventh Circuit court panel heard oral arguments in three cases. The *Southern Illinois University Law Journal* will publish the papers presented by conference speakers.

The Rehabilitation Institute is ranked sixth out of approximately 100 programs in the country by U.S. News and World Report. Among its recent honors is receipt of the Commissioners' Award from the Rehabilitation Services Administration, U.S. Department of Education, recognizing it for "Outstanding Distinction of Achievement" in rehabilitation education.

In November, 55 staff from the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East completed the Certified Education Programme in Social Work from SIU. The program is designed to help social workers improve their effectiveness in addressing the needs of Palestine refugees.

Southern received a \$20,000 competitive technology grant from the AT&T Foundation, the corporate philanthropy organization of AT&T Inc., in November. The grant will support Connect SI, a regional economic development plan that works to increase Internet access in southern Illinois.

Students may now earn an associate degree in veterinary technology through the Southern Illinois Collegiate Common Market, with Southern providing use of the SIU farms and with the cooperation of the College of Agricultural Sciences and its animal science faculty.

The Saluki men's basketball game versus Creighton on Jan. 26 was featured on ESPN's "College GameDay" broadcast.

The SIU chapter of Pi Sigma Epsilon recently hosted the regional Midwest conference. It is the only national, professional, coeducational fraternity in marketing, sales management and selling.

The Workforce Education and Development graduate program is ranked 10th in the country by *U.S. News and World Report* within the specialty of Vocational/Technical Education.

SIU participates annually in the American Dental Association's national program. The University garnered statewide honors from the Illinois State Dental Society in the form of a second-place participation award in the individual/small group category.

The College of Agricultural Sciences is now offering a doctoral program in agriculture science, making it one of three non-land grant universities with such a program.

SIU was ranked 33rd in *Collegiate Baseball* newspaper's Fabulous 40 preseason poll.

People Student Accomplishment

Track and Field student-athlete Jeff Schirmer was named 2007 MVC Athlete of the Year.

Leighton A. Peavler, a senior from Catlin majoring in exercise science, and Nathan J. Grintjes, a senior from Chatham majoring in finance, won the Collegiate Golf Alliance regional tournament in Edwardsville last fall. They became the first SIUC intramural golf team to earn a berth at the National Collegiate Golf Championship Tournament. They won an all-expense paid trip to the tournament at Badlands Golf Club in Las Vegas Nov. 9-11.

SIU volleyball student-athlete Kristie Berwanger, a fashion design merchandising major from Lake Zurich, was named to the 2007 *ESPN The Magazine* Academic All-District V First Team and to the Missouri Valley Conference Scholar-Athlete First Team.

Southern students placed ninth in the National Association for Industrial Technology annual robotics competition in October at Panama City, Fla. The students who represented the University's NAIT chapter are: Jerry Teel, an industrial technology major from Milledgeville; Tyler Madding, an industrial technology major from Decatur; and Max Kleiboeker, an electrical engineering technology major from Mount Vernon.

Robin Rogers, a graduate student in the School of Art and Design, recently had his glass creations on display at the Third Degree Glass Factory in St. Louis.

Elizabeth Gastelum of Springfield, a third-year Southern law student, has received the Women's Bar Foundation Scholarship, one of nine awarded annually, in the amount of \$3,000.

SIU public administration graduate student Kouri Marshall introduced former President Bill Clinton at an SIU-Edwardsville campaign stop in January.

A team of SIU Carbondale engineering students recently won the prize for creativity in technology integration. They demonstrated three applications for the wireless Internet-based sensor network at the annual Creativity in Action Design Competition in Taiwan. The team included Chris Williams, a junior in civil and environmental engineering from West Frankfort; Oliver Yang, a doctoral student in electrical engineering from Taipei, Taiwan; and Adam Miller, a senior in electrical engineering from Minier.

The Saluki football team placed eight student-athletes on the 2007 Sports Network All-America Team: Chauncey Mixon received third-team honors, while Nick Hill, Darren Marquez, James Cloud, Brandin Jordan, Clayton Johnson, Scott Ravanesi and Craig Turner were chosen as honorable mention.

Two elementary education undergraduate students, Lindsey Prunkard and Rebecca Hallock, will be presenting a poster session in April at the National Association of Professional Development Schools Annual Conference in Orlando, Florida. They will present “Another View: Undergraduate Teaching Internships in a PDS Environment.”

Track and Field student-athlete Brittany Riley was named 2007 National Throwing Coaches Association Female Thrower of the Year.

Mike Lennie, a senior majoring in athletic training, was named an All-Tournament Official at the State of Illinois Flag Football Championships in November. He earned a bid to the National Intramural Recreational Sports Association National Flag Football Championships in January at the University of Texas at Dallas.

In January, SIU theater students represented the University at the Kennedy Center American College Theater Region III Festival in Milwaukee, Wis. A handful of productions compete at the regional festival for the honor of being performed in the national festival at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. SIU is one of those with a featured performance, “dREAMtRIPPIN,” by recent graduate Thomas Campbell of Arvada, Colo. The short play features Lee Trovillion, a senior in cinema and photography from Simpson, and Rachel Goffinet, a senior in theater from Hurst. Other playwrights from SIU who took part in the festival’s play-writing competitions are graduate student Steven Ackerman from Kernersville, N.C.; Randall Colburn, a graduate student in theater from Rochester Hills, Mich.; and recent graduate Laramie Dean from Missoula, Mont. Ellen Conn, a junior from Neoga, competed for the Irene Ryan (Acting) Scholarship.

Two graduate students in the School of Art and Design are finalists in the NICHE Award art competition for 2008. Kyoung Hwa Oh, from South Korea, is a finalist in functional ceramics with “Water Vase 2,” and Yoshi Fujii, from Japan, is a finalist in sculptural ceramics with “Hub.” As finalists, they will be among the students featured in the spring issue of *NICHE* magazine, a trade journal for craft gallery retailers.

Krystal Stein, a senior studying speech communication, is the 2007 Lincoln Academy of Illinois Student Laureate representing SIU. The Nashville, Ill., native also delivered the keynote address on behalf of the 2007 Student Laureates during the presentation in Springfield.

Accounting student Mohamed Mohamed, a junior from Carol Stream, is the first Saluki to qualify for nationals in cross country since 2005, and only the third to do so in the last 12 years.

Management student Bryan T. Stinchfield is one of only 15 doctoral candidates worldwide chosen to attend the “Climate Change, Uncertainty and Strategic Management” seminar at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich, Switzerland, in January.

Saluki volleyball student-athlete Erika Bartruff was named as one of 10 State Farm MVC Good Neighbor Award Recipients for the fall.

Southern Debate Team members Kevin Calderwood, a sophomore in political science from Chesterfield, Mo., and Kyle Dennis, a senior in business from Blue Springs, Mo., won an invitational round-robin style tournament at Point Loma Nazarene University. The duo followed it up by winning an open debate tournament – the Sunset Cliffs Classic – that same weekend in February, making SIU the first university to win both tournaments. In December, Calderwood and Dennis also won one of two tournaments hosted by California State University Long Beach, beating out nearly 40 other teams. They tied for third in the other tournament.

Alumni Achievements

Southern alumnus Sister Janice Bader, a member of the Sisters of the Most Precious Blood of O’Fallon, Missouri, was named director of the National Religious Retirement Office in November.

Electro Scientific Industries, Inc., a leading provider of world-class photonic and laser systems for micro-engineering applications, announced the appointment of its newest member, SIU graduate Edward C. Grady, to its Board of Directors.

SIU alumnus Colleen Mini has been promoted to fleet/lease manager of the Greater Rockford Auto Auction.

San Diego, Calif.-based Cylene Pharmaceuticals has appointed SIU graduate Dr. Kenna Anderes as vice president of Cancer Biology.

Paul Guest, a 1999 MFA-creative writing graduate, was one of 10 Whiting Foundation Fellowship winners for 2007. The annual award comes with a \$50,000 prize.

Southern graduate Jeremy Griffith helped create commissioned art for an award presented as a part of the 75th anniversary celebration for international charity Save the Children in September. He worked with famous designer Stephen Burlingham and assisted with finishing touches to the design.

USA Today recently profiled SIU graduate Vijay Eswaran, an MBA alumnus and CEO of QI Group, a company less than 10 years old that is approaching \$1 billion in annual sales.

Alejandro Figueroa, a December marketing graduate who overcame a brain injury, was the topic of a segment on the NBC program “The Today Show” on Dec. 25. In 2000, Figueroa was involved in a near-fatal automobile accident in North Carolina, where he was stationed in the U.S. Marine Corps. Figueroa suffered a traumatic brain injury and lay in a coma for six weeks.

SIU alumnus and Alumni Association National Board member Lowell Keel received the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics Hap Arnold Award for Excellence in Aeronautical Program Management. The annual award is given for outstanding contributions in the management of a significant aeronautical program or project.

Chris Platzer of Chicago, a 2006 marketing graduate, is the newest marketing data analyst at PETCO Animal Supplies Inc.

MBA alumna Karina Belache is the executive meeting manager for the Hilton at the Ballpark in St. Louis.

SIU graduates Robert and Roberta Hursthouse, owners of Hursthouse Company, were featured on *Landscapers' Challenge*, an HGTV series, that aired in November.

The Southern Illinois University Board of Trustees has approved the following honors:

- **Eunice Kennedy Shriver**, the driving force behind the creation of Special Olympics, will receive an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree from SIU's College of Education and Human Services during its commencement ceremony May 10. Shriver attended summer courses at SIU taught by the late William H. Freeberg, founder of an innovative camping program for the mentally challenged, currently known as Camp Little Giant.
- **Hedayat Amin-Arsala**, an SIU alumnus and a senior minister of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, will receive an honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from the SIU College of Liberal Arts. Amin-Arsala earned a bachelor's degree (1968) and a master's degree (1969) in economics from SIU. In 2006, the SIU Alumni Association named Amin-Arsala a Distinguished Alumnus.
- **David L. Briscoe** will receive the SIU Distinguished Service Award during graduate school commencement ceremonies in May. Briscoe is a tenured sociology professor at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. He was chosen for his devotion to community service, including the Boy Scouts of America. In 2000, the Arkansas House of Representatives appointed him to the Arkansas Martin Luther King Jr. Commission, where he helped plan the state's 2000 and 2002 National Youth Assemblies.
- Academy Award-winning film editor and sound designer **Walter Murch** will receive an honorary Degree of Fine Arts during the College of Mass Communication and Media Arts commencement ceremony in May. The Board of Trustees recommendation notes that Murch is the only person in the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences history to receive an Oscar for both film editing and best sound (design) in the same year, 1997, for "The English Patient." He also shared an Oscar in 1980 for best sound (design) for "Apocalypse Now."

Benjamin Percy, who earned a master of fine arts degree in creative writing in 2004, was a featured subject in the November-December issue of *Poets and Writers*, a 70,000-circulation, national bi-monthly trade journal for creative writers.

SIU alumnus Teresa Hudson Williams has been named vice president of diversity and multicultural initiatives at Time Warner Inc., in New York City.

SIU graduate Ken Hannah has been named one of America's Top 40 executives in 2007 by *Treasury & Risk*, a leading business magazine. He is also the subject of an October issue on "Making Outsiders Insiders." Hannah is CFO of MEMC, a semiconductor and solar wafer manufacturer in St. Peters, Mo.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency has appointed Southern alumnus Patrick Massey as the new federal preparedness coordinator for FEMA Region X, a jurisdiction which includes the states of Alaska, Idaho, Oregon and Washington. The new position is designed to enhance regional preparedness capabilities.

Southern graduate Richard A. Navarre has been named president and chief commercial officer of Peabody Energy. He is a member of the College of Business Hall of Fame, Dean's External Advisory Board and the School of Accountancy Board of Advisors.

***Mergers & Acquisitions* magazine recently published an article by John M. Collard, finance alumnus, Dean's External Advisory Board member and Hall of Fame inductee.**

Marketing alumnus Adolph G. Letke has joined the Structured Finance Group of Fifth Third Bank.

Southern graduate Holly Kylberg has become co-managing editor of Denver-based *Shine* magazine, which published its first issue in September.

SIU alumnus Dr. Amjad Waheed, National Fullerton Asset Management Limited CEO, gave a presentation on investment climate at the Lahore (Pakistan) Stock Exchange in November.

SIU graduate Dale Black has been appointed as senior vice president and chief financial officer for Isle of Capri Casinos Inc., a developer of gaming facilities.

Southern alumnus Ron Shank has been named vice president and group publisher of Reed Business Publishing Group, which includes *School Library Journal*.

SIU graduate Steven K.C. Poh has been named Princeton Premiers Honored Member in Business. He is the executive director and chief executive officer for I2 Media Incorporated.

Narine H. Persad of Trinidad, an MBA alumnus, joined the Geology, Geophysics and Engineering team at EOG Resources Trinidad Limited.

SIU alumnus E. Scott Geller, Virginia Tech Alumni Distinguished Professor and director of the Center for Applied Behavior Systems, delivered the keynote address at Virginia Tech's Fall 2007 University and Graduate School Commencement ceremonies.

MBA graduate Daniel Malt is CEO of Plaut Switzerland in Zurich. Plaut is an international management and IT consulting business.

SIU graduate Alain Honliasso of Lome, Togo, an MBA graduate, is marketing director of Ecobank, an African banking company serving 20 countries in West and Central Africa.

Business administration alumnus Ken VanCleave was elected president of Ameritas Group, a division of Ameritas Life Insurance Corp.

Brandon Swarms, a 1998 marketing graduate, is vice president of sensor networks and IT for ParkingCarma Inc., of Flint, Mich.

Southern graduate Greg A. Lee has been named senior vice president of human resources for Motorola, Inc.

Judy and Tye Campbell were named Conservation Partners of the Year at the 63rd annual meeting of the Livingston County Soil and Water Conservation District. Tye Campbell is an SIU graduate.

Southern graduate Tim Lindgren, an executive with Hyatt Hotels and Resorts, was inducted into the Atlanta Hospitality Hall of Fame.

SIU alumnus Sean Osborn, a professional clarinetist, made his Seattle Chamber Music Society debut in January. He is also on the faculties of the University of Washington and Cornish College of the Arts, teaches privately, composes, records, tours and appears in concerts.

Wireless Capital Partners, LLC, the leading provider of financial solutions to cellular real estate landlords, announced the appointment of SIU graduate William K. Komperda as Managing Director of Capital Markets and Lending.

SIU School of Medicine graduate and board-certified plastic surgeon Allan Parungao, MD, became a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons at the annual Clinical Congress in New Orleans.

SIU alumnus Beverly Raphael, president and CEO of RCC Associates Inc., was named the 2007 winner of the Sun-Sentinel Co.'s Excalibur Award as Small Business Leader, Broward County (Florida).

Southern graduate Subo Guha has joined Marlboro, Mass.-based Egenera, a leading infrastructure virtualization company, as senior vice president of Business Development.

Faculty and Staff Honors

Dr. Dwayne G. Summers of West Frankfort, director of the SIU School of Allied Health's Dental Hygiene Program, and Dr. Danna P. Cotner, who works in private practice in Cape Girardeau and is a clinical assistant professor in dental hygiene at SIU, were awarded the inaugural Healthy Smiles Hero Award. The award, given by the State of Illinois, is for giving free and reduced-cost dental services to needy families.

Cross Country head coach Matt Sparks was named the MVC Men's Cross Country Coach of the Year after the conference championship in October. The men's cross country team won its 11th conference championship in school history at the 2007 State Farm MVC Championships.

Pinckney Benedict, professor of fiction writing, collected a 2008 Pushcart Prize for "Mercy," his fictional story about family conflicts that arise on a miniature horse farm.

Mark R. Dixon, director of the Gambling Intervention Program at SIU's Rehabilitation Institute, along with former graduate student Matthew D. Stieg, took a close look at a handful of Texas Hold'em players before and after a local tournament in the winter of 2005. Their findings appeared in the Fall 2007 issue of the *European Journal of Behavior Analysis*.

Karen R. Lips, associate professor of zoology, received a grant of almost \$265,000 from the National Science Foundation in November to continue research on how the decline in various frog populations is affecting the food web. Matt R. Whiles, associate professor of zoology, also will work on the project.

Joseph A. Schafer, associate professor with the Center for the Study of Crime, Delinquency and Corrections, is part of the Futures Working Group, a collaboration between the FBI and the Society of Police Futurists International. He recently edited two national reports prepared by the FWG – "Policing 2020: The Future of Crime, Communities and Policing," and "Policing Mass Casualty Events."

Ira J. Altman, an agribusiness economist at SIU, was awarded a \$120,000 grant from the Council on Food and Agricultural Research to conduct a study on alternate energy sources from crops.

Brad Colwell, professor and chair of the Department of Educational Administration and Higher Education, was elected 2008 vice president at the Education Law Association's 53rd Annual Conference in San Diego.

Dr. Deliang Cao, Ph.D., assistant professor of medical microbiology, immunology and cell biology and member of the SimmonsCooper Cancer Institute at SIU, has been awarded a two-year federal grant from the National Cancer Institute. The grant is for the study of how a normal protein interferes with the successful treatment of liver cancer. The project has a total budget of \$317,900.

Saluki volleyball coach Brenda Winkeler was inducted into the NJCAA Volleyball Coaches Association Hall of Fame.

Peggy Stockdale, a professor of applied psychology and the director of the applied psychology program, has been named a Fellow of the American Psychological Association.

Mark Kittleson, professor in Health Education and Recreation, has been selected as the recipient of the 2008 American Association for Health Education Scholar Award.

Rolando Bravo, associate professor of civil and environmental engineering, inaugurated a project in November with Universidad Alas Peruanas in Peru, Peruvian government agencies and local communities. The project will assemble a baseline of water resource information for the area from scattered sources. They hope to learn more about water use for agriculture, which is experiencing an unexplained shortage.

In November, Kounosuke Watabe, professor of medical microbiology, immunology and cell biology at the School of Medicine, was awarded two five-year federal grants from the National Cancer Institute. Co-investigators for the grants are Yin-Yuan Mo, associate professor of medical microbiology, immunology and cell biology; and Vickram Ramkumar, associate professor of pharmacology. The grants, both for more than \$1 million, will study genes that suppress the spread of cancer.

Carolyn B. Smoot, director of paralegal studies, is president-elect of the American Association for Paralegal Education.

Former Saluki head football coach Jerry Kill was named Division I-AA 2007 Liberty Mutual Coach of the Year in a special presentation on ABC. The winner was chosen from a combination of fans' votes and a selection committee.

David H. Carlson, dean of library affairs, has been elected by his peers to serve through December 2010 on the Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition (SPARC) steering committee. The Association of Research Libraries founded SPARC as an advocate and educational organization to promote scholarly publication and open access.

Beth E. Dallas, a communications services specialist with SIU's Information Technology, was elected to a one-year term on the INSIGHT100 Board of Directors.

SIU professor Tony Fleege gave the presentation "Survival and Mortality in the Civil War: Dawning of the modern U.S. Healthcare and Funeral Business" at the Cape Girardeau Civil War Roundtable in January.

David A. Lightfoot, a biotechnologist in the College of Agricultural Sciences, received a patent for a lab test that unerringly detects Sudden Death Syndrome, a costly fungal disease in soybean seedlings, which will allow the university to negotiate with private companies to license it. Once commercialized, its use will help breeders produce SDS-resistant soybean varieties more quickly.

Yvonne Williams, associate director of the SIU Center for Academic Success, and Linda McCabe Smith, interim associate dean in the College of Mass Communication and Media Arts, completed the HERS Bryn Mawr Summer Institute for Women in Higher Education Administration.

The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers recently honored Ramanarayanan Viswanathan, professor of electrical and computer engineering at SIU, as a fellow.

Julie Payne Kirchmeier, director of University Housing, will present “Get in the Game – Negotiate Like a Champion,” at the 2008 Annual Conference of the Association of College and University Housing Officers – International next June in Orlando, Fla. Her presentation won the top programming award at Great Lakes Association of College and University Housing Officers in October at South Bend, Ind., which qualified her to speak at the international conference.

The American Physical Society elected F. Bary Malik, professor emeritus in the Department of Physics, as a fellow. The group honored Malik for his extensive contributions to atomic and nuclear physics, mathematical physics and for developing physics research programs around the world.

Dr. Penny K. Tippy, professor of family and community medicine and director of the SIU family practice residency program in Carbondale, was awarded the Rosemary Berkel Crisp Award at the 21st annual Southern Illinois Women’s Health Conference in September.

Scott E. Ishman, associate professor of geology at SIU, returned from his eighth trip to Antarctica in January. He is working with ANDRILL, an international group of more than 150 scientists who investigate Antarctica’s role in global environmental change.

Track and Field head coach Connie Price-Smith was inducted into the National Throwing Coaches Association Hall of Fame. She has also been selected as a finalist for the USA Track and Field Hall of Fame and will serve as an assistant coach for the 2008 Olympic Games.

Glen P. Aylward, professor of pediatrics and psychiatry and director of developmental and behavioral pediatrics at the SIU School of Medicine, was elected to a one-year term as president of the Society for Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics at its annual September meeting in Providence, R.I.

Lisabeth A. DiLalla, Ph.D., professor of family medicine at the School of Medicine, has been awarded fellow status by the Association of Psychological Science.

Dr. Regina A. Kovach, associate professor of internal medicine at SIU School of Medicine, in October received the Ruth-Marie E. Fincher, M.D. Service Award at the Clerkship Directors in Internal Medicine national meeting in Pennsylvania.

A textbook co-authored by Albert P. Melone, political science professor emeritus, and Allan Karnes, professor of accountancy, “The American Legal System: Perspectives, Politics, Processes and Policies,” is now available in its second edition through Rowman and Littlefield Publishers.

Ajay M. Mahajan, professor of mechanical engineering and energy processes, won first place in the medical division of Create the Future Contest. He won for his 3-D Ultrasonic Neuro-Navigation System for Real-time Brain Surgery. The system can help brain surgeons determine the location of their surgical instruments down to one millimeter in accuracy.

MorrisAnderson & Associates, Ltd., in Chicago has announced that Southern graduate Larry Hennessy has become its chief financial officer.

Two research papers by Dr. Wallace N. Davidson, Henry J. Rehn Professor of Finance, are among the most downloaded papers on the Social Science Research Network.

Siva K. Balasubramanian, Henry J. Rehn Professor of Marketing, was named the North American Regional Editor of the *British Food Journal*, which is highly respected worldwide for its broad and unique interdisciplinary coverage of food-related research.

Cheng-Yao Lin, assistant professor in Curriculum and Instruction, presented a paper on “The Effect of Web-based Instruction on Preservice Teachers’ Knowledge of Fractions” at the 2008 Joint Mathematics meeting in San Diego in January.

Dr. Cynthia G. Thomas, assistant professor of family and community medicine at SIU School of Medicine, was honored as one of 42 national finalists for the 2007 Humanism in Medicine Award at the annual meeting of the Association of American Medical Colleges in Washington, D.C.

Finance assistant professors Drs. Xiaoxin Wang and David Rakowski will have their article “Decomposing Liquidity along the Limit Order Book” published in an upcoming issue of *The Journal of Banking and Finance*, a top-ranking publication of world economic and financial research.

SIU associate professor and chemist Yong Gao has patented two chemical processes that could result in the construction of a biodiesel plant in southern Illinois that would be partially owned by the University. One of Gao’s patented processes involves taking grease drippings from fried food and converting it into biodiesel fuel, which can be used in biodiesel engines that propel trucks, planes and maritime vessels and can also be used as heating oil. The second process involves adding a soybean oil derivative that acts as an anti-gelling additive and lowers the fuel’s freezing point.

William Recktenwald, senior lecturer and journalist-in-residence at Southern, recently earned a Fulbright Senior Specialists Award from the U.S. State Department and the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board. He will spend six weeks teaching journalism classes in Uganda.

Dr. Terry Clark, chair of the Department of Marketing and director of Barking Dawg Productions, SIU’s in-house marketing group, is garnering national attention for his innovative television spots that have appeared on ESPN.

Roberta J. Ogletree, professor in Health Education and Recreation, served as editor for the Eta Sigma Gamma 40th Anniversary issue of *The Health Educator, Journal of Eta Sigma Gamma*.

The American Society of Civil Engineers featured Sanjeev Kumar, professor of civil and environmental engineering, in its “Diversity Limelight” section on its website, which features professionals who make significant contributions to the civil engineering profession.

Emily J. Carter, director of Entrepreneurship and Business Development at SIU's Dunn-Richmond Economic Development Center, and Kimberly J. Sanders, director of the University Entrepreneurship Center, a Centralia-based partnership between SIU and the University of Illinois, each received a \$400 Coleman Foundation professional scholarship. The award enabled them to participate in the United States Association for Small Business and Entrepreneurship Conference in San Antonio, Texas. The conference focused on the latest entrepreneurial research and educational trends, giving participants knowledge and expertise that they can use to help the businesses they work with on a daily basis.

Dr. Susan Hingle, associate professor of internal medicine, is governor-elect of the Illinois southern chapter of the American College of Physicians. She begins her term at the annual ACP meeting in May.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the National Safety Council recently appointed Paul Restivo, director of the SIU Center for Environmental Health and Safety, to help develop the first formal Business Emergency Communications Network. The network will be an alert system that contacts employers and subsequently millions of employees in the case of a pandemic, natural disaster, terrorist attack or other emergency.

Places

Southern's Morris Library marked its 75th year participating in the Federal Depository Library Program with a November celebration at the McLafferty Annex.

SIU's School of Medicine has been awarded a \$203,405 shared instrumentation grant from the National Institutes of Health. The money is being used to purchase a bioluminescence imaging system that will allow researchers to study the development, growth and spread of cancers and other diseases.

The "Made in Southern Illinois Showcase" by the SIU Illinois Small Business Development Center at the 2007 Du Quoin State Fair received the Program Excellence Award. They received the award in December at the Illinois Entrepreneurship and Small Business Growth Association Fall Conference in Peoria.

The American Institute of Hydrology is moving its headquarters to Southern. In addition, Rolando Bravo, associate professor of civil and environmental engineering, is the new executive director of the institute. The initial length of the arrangement is five years, meaning SIU will be an epicenter of the hydrology and water resources field at least through 2012.