

# Southern Highlights

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



Southern  
Illinois University  
Carbondale

## University Accolades

The magazine "Diverse: Issues in Higher Education" ranked SIU Carbondale 24th among traditionally-white institutions for total bachelor degrees awarded to African-American students; last year, the University came in 27th in this category. Among all institutions, including historically-black colleges and universities, SIU ranks 38th, compared to 42nd a year ago. Southern was also ranked 28th among traditionally-white institutions for the number of degrees awarded to African-American students in health professions and related clinical sciences and 40th in total minority health professions and related clinical sciences degrees. SIU ranks 35th among all universities for the number of degrees awarded to African-American students in English language and literature/letters. The University also logged in at 100th in the rankings on total minority degrees awarded in all academic disciplines.

This semester, the University is hosting 52 Fulbright Scholars, including graduate students and faculty members. The foreign scholars represent 28 countries and are the largest such group on campus in recent memory. The number is about 50 percent higher than the norm. In addition to 36 continuing scholars, 16 new ones began their stays this fall.

## College of Agricultural Sciences

### Faculty and Staff Honors

**Karl W.J. Williard, associate professor of forestry**, has been elected to the Board of Directors of the American Water Resources Association, a multidisciplinary group of professionals focusing on water resources education, management and research. His three-year term begins in January.

### Program Awards

**The nation's first cane production plant** went into the ground at SIU in June. The goal of the plant is to produce giant cane propagules (bits of the plant that will produce new plants) for riparian filter strips or habitat restoration while continuing research on planting methods, fertilization and biofuel potential, according James J. Zaczek, a forest ecologist.

## College of Applied Sciences and Arts

### Program Awards

A new program at SIU will allow freshmen to take part in hands-on research previously reserved for upperclassmen, graduate students, and faculty. Students chosen for the first class of the program, called **Research Rookies**, will be matched with faculty mentors and will design a research project. During the spring semester, the student will conduct the research under the direction of the faculty mentor, making a presentation in July at the annual McNair Scholars symposium. Each student who successfully completes the Research Rookies program is eligible for \$500 in awards and scholarships.

**The SIU Community Dental Center** was the recipient of the Illinois State Dental Society President's Award in recognition of its teamwork and efforts to provide oral health care to underserved Southern Illinois residents.

Microsoft is providing software and technical support with a combined fair market value of \$725,773 to SIU's School of Information Systems and Applied Technologies. **Stephen C. Shih, associate professor and associate director of the School of Information Systems and Applied Technologies**, wrote the proposal that earned SIU membership in the Microsoft Dynamics Academic Alliance program and the significant gift.

**The Dental Hygiene Program** won first place in the individual/small group division of the Illinois State Dental Society's 15th annual National Children's Dental Health Month Awards for its sixth annual Give Kids a Smile Day at SIU.

## College of Business

### Student Accomplishment

**Henry J. Rehn Professor of Finance Wallace N. Davidson and doctoral student Vaibhav Sharma** earned awards at the 2008 Academic Business World International Conference in Nashville, Tenn. Sharma, whose paper is entitled "Executive Compensation Following Spin-Offs," and Davidson won the Best Paper and Best Presentation awards.

### Faculty and Staff Honors

**Henry J. Rehn Professor of Finance Wallace N. Davidson, Assistant Professor of Finance David A. Rakowski and former doctoral students Yixi Ning and Ehab Elsaid** were profiled in the "Journal of Management and Governance." The published work,

entitled “The Antecedents of Simultaneous Appointment to CEO and Chair,” covers the issue of duality.

**Professor of Management Steven J. Karau, Associate Professor of Management Michael D. Michalisin, management alumnus Abdel Elsaid, and management doctoral students Bryan Stinchfield, Andrew J. Setterstrom, and Matthew S. Wood** presented papers at the Academy of Management Conference in Anaheim, Calif., in August. The AoM Conference is the premier conference in management research.

## College of Education and Human Services

### Program Awards

The **School of Social Work** will receive the Partners in Advancing Education for International Social Work Award from the National Council on Social Work Education this fall. The award is for the school’s contributions, demonstrated engagement, and leadership in the field of international social work.

**SIU Carbondale’s Head Start** program was the recipient of a 2008 Champions for Healthy Kids grant. The funds will help staff become healthier, increase the amount of planned physical activity in the classrooms, and enhance nutrition education.

### Faculty and Staff Honors

Three counselor educators from SIU were honored in Indianapolis by the North Central Association for Counselor Education and Supervision. **Kimberly K. Asner-Self** won the outstanding mentor award, **Tracy A. Stinchfield** received the outstanding supervisor award, and **Brett E.D. Zyromski** earned the outstanding professional teaching award.

**Joyce V. Fetro, professor in the Department of Health Education and Recreation at SIU,** was named the American Association for Health Education’s 2009 scholar. She will be honored April 3, 2009, during the group’s annual conference in Tampa, Fla.



Joshua Sheehan

### Student Accomplishment

**Joshua P. Sheehan, a senior majoring in recreation at SIU,** has won a \$500 scholarship from the National Recreation and Park Association, to be presented in early October in Baltimore, Md., at the group’s annual meeting. Sheehan is the first student at Southern to receive the award.



Yoginder Paul Chugh, right, professor of mining and mineral resources engineering, works with researcher Harrold Gurley as they use models to demonstrate several configurations of a new mine support system.

## College of Engineering

### Faculty and Staff Honors

**Yoginder Paul Chugh, professor of mining and mineral resources engineering,** invented a new technology aimed at ensuring miners’ safety as they brace the roofs of mine shafts. The new braces, called Atlas Cribs, are comprised of a mix of hardwoods and include a main lateral element made from a board with shorter boards nailed on both sides at both ends. Several area mines are testing the braces and lumber yards are experimenting with manufacturing the new devices.

## College of Liberal Arts

### Student Accomplishment

**Charles D. Harris, a doctoral student in political science at SIU,** was awarded the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship award. He will study the ongoing political evolution of Romania and serve as a Fulbright English Teaching Assistant, working to improve the English skills of Romanian students and their knowledge of the United States.

**Richie Neil Hao, a doctoral student in the Department of Speech Communication,** won the 2008 Carl J. Couch Internet Research Award for his paper, “Virtually Tsinoy: Performing and Negotiating Diasporic Hybridity Online.” Hao received a cash award and the opportunity to present his paper at the Association of Internet Researchers annual conference in October in Copenhagen, where the Couch Center will present the awards.

### Faculty and Staff Honors

**Mark Wagner, an archaeologist with SIU’s Center for Archaeological Investigations,** will have a volume published on the Rhoads site in the University of Illinois’ “Studies in Archaeology.” The work is based on his study of Kickapoo artifacts found at the site and will be the most complete work available on the archaeology of the Kickapoos in Illinois.



A book edited by philosophy professors Auxier and Anderson.

SIU Carbondale philosophy professors **Randall E. Auxier and Doug Anderson** contributed essays to one of the latest releases in the Open Court Publishing Co.'s Pop Culture and Philosophy series, entitled, "Bruce Springsteen and Philosophy: Darkness on the Edge of Truth." The pair also edited the book and assembled essays submitted by other philosophy professors and assorted intellectuals.

**Marianne Webb, Distinguished University Organist and a professor of music**, accepted the Edward A. Hansen Leadership Award from the American Guild of Organists at its national convention on June 25 in Minneapolis. The award is given biennially to an individual with proven outstanding leadership in the AGO.



Marianne Webb

**Allison Joseph, director of the creative writing program at Southern**, won the grand prize at the 2008 Dancing Poetry Contest, sponsored by Artists Embassy International. She read her poem, "Xenophilia," on Sept. 27 at the Bay-side Florence

Gould Theater in the Palace of the Legion of Honor Art Museum in San Francisco. In addition to her reading, the performance included a dramatic reading of the poem accompanying a choreographed dance routine offering an interpretation of the poem.

### Program Awards

**The School of Music** now offers a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Musical Theater. The degree program replaces a specialization in musical theater previously available as part of a Bachelor of Arts in Music degree.

**University Museum** was awarded a \$149,962 federal grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services. The grant will help the museum continue the standardization of museum collection records.

"**Crab Orchard Review**," the literary journal published by the Department of English, is in the "Literary Spotlight" of "The Writer Magazine's" July 2008 issue.

## College of Mass Communication and Media Arts Student Accomplishment

"**Alt.news 26:46**," SIU's half-hour alternative TV news magazine, received 14 Emmy nominations in 11 categories from the 2008 National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences Mid-America Regional Chapter Emmy Awards in St. Louis. Timothy P. Wilkerson of Crystal Lake and Sean Q. Brown of Deerfield earned four nominations a piece. Jay B. Carey of De Soto, Scott W. Blair of Glenview, Todd M. Cima of Cantrall, and Andrew D. Kastler of Waterloo, Iowa, earned three nominations each. James L. Milner of Springfield received two nominations. Jonathan R. Gravatt of Carbondale, Kelly E. Reed of Grayslake, and Adam L. Slutsky of Deerfield received one nomination.

### Faculty and Staff Honors

A collection of photographs taken by **SIU photography professor Dan Overturf** were hung in the international terminal of Chicago's O'Hare International Airport. The photographs are taken from a book featuring Overturf's work, entitled "A River Through Illinois."

**John Downing, director of SIU's Global Media Research Center**, was named vice president for the International Association for Media and Communication Research during the organization's annual meeting in Stockholm. The organization, with members throughout the world, works to improve media communication research, policy and practice, and provide a forum where researchers and others involved in media and communication can meet and exchange information about their work.



John Downing



Jacob Podber

A book entitled "The Electronic Front Porch: An Oral History of the Arrival of Modern Media in Rural Appalachia and the Melungeon Community," by **Jacob J. Podber, an associate professor in SIU's Department of Radio-Television**, received the 2008 Ray and Pat Browne Literary Book Award for the Best Focused Study in Popular and American Culture. The Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association presented the award.

### Alumni Achievements

**Whit Vogel, a radio-television graduate** and former co-executive producer of "alt.news 26:46," helped bring SIU to the small screen. A character in NBC's new drama, "My Own Worst Enemy," is an SIU alumnus. On the show, the character is a strategic management consultant for a multi-billion dollar Los Angeles-based firm. He keeps his

college diploma on his office wall. Vogel is an art department coordinator for NBC Studios, Inc., which allowed her to incorporate the diploma into the scenery.



Hilla Medalia

**Southern graduate Hilla Medalia's** documentary, "To Die in Jerusalem," earned three nominations at the News and Documentary Emmy Awards. The film was nominated for Best Documentary, Outstanding Informational Programming Long Form, and Outstanding Individual Achievement in a Craft: Music and Sound.

### Program Awards

An SIU School of Law recruitment DVD produced by **WSIU Public Broadcasting's David Kidd** received industry-wide recognition at the Videographer Awards. The DVD earned an Award of Excellence in the competition's marketing category. Only 14 percent of the approximately 2,100 entries from throughout the United States earned the Award of Excellence designation. The award is given to projects that judges "deemed were written, produced, shot and/or edited in an exceptional manner," according to a news release on the awards.

## College of Science Student Accomplishment

**Southern student Timasha Udogama** is the 2008 Peter Buchanan Scholarship winner. He is the first student in the state of Illinois to claim the prestigious award.

### Faculty and Staff Honors

**Clay K. Nielsen, assistant scientist at the Cooperative Wildlife Research Laboratory at SIU**, was featured on the Discovery Channel's show, "When Animals Strike." Nielsen addressed the series of human-deer encounters that occurred on campus during the summers of 2005 and 2006.

A study completed by **Michael T. Madigan, a professor and distinguished scholar in the Department of Microbiology at SIU**, and SIU doctoral student Marie Asao, was published in the leading journal "Science" in August. They worked on a multi-disciplinary team examining a microorganism found in Mono Lake, an alkaline lake in California. The team also included aquatic microbiologists from the University of Georgia and geochemists from the U.S. Geological Survey. The study involved a type of bacteria that appeared to use a different substance to achieve photosynthesis. Within a year, Madigan and Asao showed that the substance was an ancient form of photosynthesis not previously discovered.



Jay C. Means

**The Center for Advanced Friction Studies** was featured on the History Channel's "Modern Marvels." Researchers were interviewed for a show titled "Super Hot," which looks at extreme temperatures and how researchers create and study them. The show aired on June 9 and 10.

A research project co-conducted by **Jay C. Means, dean of the College of Science at SIU**, won the Chandler-Misener Award by the publishers of "The Journal of Great Lakes Research" for being the most influential work published in the journal that year. The project is based on a ground breaking, seven-year study of the lake, which plays a crucial role in the fresh water supply of much of North America. The research combined satellite imagery with field sampling and carefully designed algorithms to determine the meaning of the data in relations to the lake's water quality.

The National Research Council selected **Nicholas Pinter, professor of geology in the College of Science at SIU**, to serve on its Committee on Missouri River Recovery and Associated Sediment Management Issues. The Council's Water Science and Technology Board will oversee the ad hoc committee, which will examine issues associated with the Missouri River basin sediment and how it influences water management decisions throughout the greater Mississippi River watershed.

**Christopher C. Kohler, professor and outgoing director of the Fisheries and Illinois Aquaculture Center at SIU**, received four awards from four different organizations in the last few months. The awards include:

- The Stephen A. Forbes Award of Excellence from the Illinois Chapter of the American Fisheries Society. The award recognizes Kohler's lifetime contributions and achievements in fisheries sciences.
- The Distinguished Alumnus Award from St. Mary's College of Maryland, where Kohler earned his Bachelor of Science.
- The Gerald H. Cross Alumni Leadership Award from the College of Natural Resources at Virginia Tech University, where Kohler earned his doctorate.
- The Award of Excellence in Fisheries Education from the American Fisheries Society. The award, given to one fisheries

educator in North America each year, recognizes Kohler's contributions to teaching and mentoring graduate students and for a textbook he coedited.

### Program Awards

SIU hosted more than 100 malacological scientists and researchers from all over the world in June. The group came to the University for the 74th Annual American Malacological Society Meeting. AMS is an international society of individuals and organizations involved in the study and conservation of mollusks of all types.

## School of Law

### Faculty and Staff Honors



Cindy Galway Buys

**Cindy Galway Buys, an associate professor with the SIU School of Law**, traveled to Lithuania in July to present a lecture on human rights through a Fulbright Senior Scholars Grant. Buys' presentation was part of a 12-day Human Rights Summer School at Mykolas Romeris University's law school in Vilnius. She presented "Bringing Human Rights Home: A Comparison of How International Human Rights are Incorporated into Domestic Legal Systems," on July 24.

**SIU School of Law associate professor Alice M. Noble-Allgire** was one of three recipients of the Illinois State Bar Association's Board of Governors Awards. Professor W. Eugene Basanta, co-director of the law school's Center for Health Law and Policy, received the ISBA Austin Fleming Award, the highest honor given to newsletter editors. The faculty members were awarded at the association's annual meeting in June.

### Program Awards

The Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs presented the law school with a \$100,000 grant to start the Veteran's Legal Assistance Program. Second- and third-year law students will provide pro bono legal services to veterans who cannot afford or do not have access to legal representation in appealing service-connected disability claims.

## Athletics

### Student Accomplishment

**Allison L. Cornman, an SIU junior** from Bloomingdale who has been riding since she was 4, qualified for the Intercollegiate Horse Show Association's national championship show, held at the Los Angeles Equestrian Center in May, with high scores in both its regional and zoned competitions.

The **SIU women's tennis team** was recognized as an All-Academic Team by the Intercollegiate Tennis Association. In addition to the team's honor, Michela Cruise and Martina Ce were named ITA Scholar-Athletes.

**SIU linebackers James Cloud and Chauncey Mixon** were named to the Sports Network Football Championship Subdivision Preseason All-America team. Cloud and Mixon each earned third-team honors.

**SIU senior running back Larry Warner** was one of 22 student-athletes named to the Allstate Insurance Company and American Football Coaches Association Good Works Team. The two 11-member teams - one composed of players competing in the NCAA Football Bowl Subdivision (I-A) and a combined team representing the NCAA Championship Subdivision (I-AA), Divisions II, III and the NAIA - honor players that embody the true spirit of "teamwork" and "giving back" through selfless contributions and commendable acts of kindness.



Allison Cornman

### Faculty and Staff Honors

**Women's golf head coach Diane Daugherty** won the 2008 LPGA Midwest Section Senior Championship in Cincinnati, Ohio, in August. Daugherty ended with a 145 (74-71) to take home the senior division win.

### Program Awards

**The SIU volleyball team** was awarded the American Volleyball Coaches Association Team Academic Award for the 2007-08 school year. This is the third season the team has received the award. They carried a 3.48 team grade point average.