Dear Alumni and Friends:

This past year has been a most enjoyable and successful year for the College of Agricultural Sciences at Southern Illinois University Carbondale. We are blessed with outstanding faculty, staff, students, alumni, and industry clientele.

The best time was spent visiting with each of our faculty members when I first got to campus. It was an eye opener to get acquainted with the outstanding teachers and researchers in this College. I knew they were good, but now I know they are extraordinary.

I became equally impressed with the bright and talented student body we have in the College. They not only excel academically but professionally and have a great work ethic. The main thrust needs to be an increase in the enrollment of undergraduate and graduate students in the College.

The College is also blessed with an outstanding alumni and industry clientele. Traveling the state meeting with alumni and commodity groups made it clear to me that our future in the food, agriculture and natural resource industries is unlimited. We have graduates in leadership positions throughout the state, nation and around the world. And, they are very supportive and willing to help us improve and grow the College.

Now, I would be amiss if I didn’t tell you about several major accomplishments that have occurred in the College this past year.

To begin with, we hosted the first Agriculture Industry Day Program at SIUC with Senator Barack Obama as keynote speaker and over 750 in attendance. Agriculture Industry Day will become an annual event to showcase the faculty, students and our attendant teaching and research programs. The 2006 program will focus on youth and our teaching programs.
Second, the College established a new Leadership Board to help guide and support the College. During our first meeting at SIUC, the Board agreed to help us increase student enrollment, strengthen ties with our stakeholders, focus our teaching and research programs, and improve our facilities, farms, laboratories and classrooms. They also agreed that a new Agriculture Building should be a priority.

Third, the College established a new Coordinating Counselor Advising System and Recruitment Manual with Fact Sheets for our 20 specialty areas to help strengthen our recruitment, advising, and placement efforts. We also hired an outstanding individual, Lucas Maxwell, as Coordinator of Recruitment, Retention, and Placement.

Fourth, the College received a $500,000 endowment from the Illinois Soybean Program Operating Board to support our soybean scientists and their research. We also received a new faculty position from the Provost to hire a Director for the Center of Excellence for Soybean Research, Teaching, and Outreach. In concert, this will make SIUC a national leader in meeting the needs of soybean producers and related industries in Illinois and the United States. The result is a model partnership between industry and academe.

Fifth, we established a new College “Hall of Fame” and inducted Stephen Scates as the first Outstanding Alumni and the Maschhoffs as the first Service Awardees to have their portraits hung in the Hall.

Sixth, under the direction of Dr. John Russin, Associate Dean for Research, we have conducted a thorough review of our 2,000 acre research and educational farms and initiated a cleanup and renovation program for the beef, dairy, equine, swine, agronomy, and horticulture centers. This will take time but will significantly improve the teaching and research programs conducted at those locations.

And, seventh, and most importantly, the College is in the process of hiring eight new faculty members for positions in Animal Science Beef Forage Nutrition, Agribusiness Energy Policy, Forest Water Hydrology, Food and Nutrition Obesity, Food and Nutrition Dietetics, Food and Nutrition Public Health, Agribusiness Rural Economic Development, and Plant and Soil Science Soybean Research. Hiring and retaining the most talented faculty is imperative to our future success.

Against that background, the College of Agricultural Sciences has tremendous potential to grow our enrollment, research productivity, industry relations, and national stature. We have the faculty, students, alumni, industry clientele, and the university to make it happen. Your guidance and support with these efforts are greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Gary L. Minish, Dean
Dr. Williard’s research program focuses on investigating Best Management Practices to improve stream water quality in agricultural and forested watersheds. With the advent of Total Maximum Daily Loads and impending nutrients standards for all surfaces of waters, it is imperative that the agricultural community take a proactive approach in addressing water quality at the local watershed level.

The major thrust of our research has been quantifying the water quality benefits of riparian buffer zones in row crop agricultural areas in southern Illinois.

Dr. Williard said the findings indicate that relatively narrow (10m) riparian buffer zones significantly reduced (70-97%) nutrient and sediment inputs from adjacent agricultural fields and both giant cane, a native bamboo species, and forest buffers provided significant water quality benefits.

Giant cane, within its native range, should be considered for inclusion in recommended riparian buffer planting guidelines. Also, establishing conservation practices such as riparian buffers through voluntary government cost share programs can be a cost-effective means to combat non-point source nutrient and sediment pollution to streams and lakes.

Future research includes process-level studies of factors controlling nitrogen and phosphorus attenuation in riparian buffer zones.
College Receives $500,000 Endowment
Money to fund research, retain young faculty at University

The Illinois Soybean Program Operating Board presented the College of Agricultural Sciences a check for $500,000 on March 21, to establish an endowment for soybean research at SIUC.

Lyle Roberts, executive director for the board, presented the check and said the endowment was given to the College to recognize and validate leadership on campus, to pull together a shared vision of soybean farmers and researchers at SIUC.

“This is a commitment to continue research and retain quality faculty so we can continue through this next decade and on forward,” said Gary Minish, dean of the College.

Chancellor Walter Wendler said this donation demonstrates the board’s commitment to SIUC’s advancement in excellence. “It’s reinforcing to us when organizations outside say, ‘We like what you are doing and we are going to invest in it,’” Wendler said.

Wendler said the money will also help push the University and the agriculture college toward achieving the goals of “Southern at 150,” which is the University’s long-range plan to become a top 75 public research institution by its 150th birthday in 2019.

Provost John Dunn said the endowment also shows the College is moving in the right direction. “The gift helps validate the quality of work that is going on here,” Dunn said.

Board Chair Stephen Scates said the organization has worked particularly closely with the University in research that solves problems farmers face with soybean production and harvesting. “This is a part of the soybean farmer’s commitment to keeping quality staff at SIU,” Scates said.

Bryan Young, Associate Professor in Plant, Soil and Agricultural Systems, said this is a clear message from the soybean board saying it believes in SIUC and the faculty members and what can be accomplished.

In addition to Roberts and Scates, board members Ken Dalenberg, Wally Denzer, David Harthe, and Carol Meyer presented the check.

* from Daily Egyptian, pg. 1, March 22, 2005, Matthew McConkey and from Southern Illinoisian, pg. 1B, March 22, 2005, Caleb Hale.
College Names New Leadership Board

A new initiative for the College of Agricultural Sciences is a Leadership Board which held its first meeting Friday, April 22, the day before Agriculture Industry Day. The 50-plus member board listed below was named to help guide and support the teaching, research, and outreach programs in the College. In welcoming the board Dean Minish said the formation of the Leadership Board is critical to the success of the College and the industries we serve.

The agenda for the meeting focused on acquainting the board members with the current state of the College. Board members learned the College mission and priorities and received an inventory of programs, personnel including the open faculty and administrative positions, facilities, and budget. Members toured departments and facilities and learned more about departmental teaching and research and outreach programs from department chairs, faculty, and students. The board reconvened after the tours to report the strengths of the departments and College and to begin to identify the future challenges the board will help meet. At noon a buffet luncheon enjoyed by all was planned, prepared, and served by Hospitality and Tourism students. Hospitality students and faculty shared information about their major with the board. Dr. John Dunn, Provost and Vice Chancellor, met the board for dinner at Bogey’s Restaurant at Stone Creek Golf Course. In his remarks Dunn thanked the board for their service to the College and University. On Saturday board members participated in Agriculture Industry Day.

The next meeting of the Leadership Board is this fall in Springfield. If you are interested in serving on the Board or if you would like to nominate someone, please contact Dean Minish at minish@siu.edu or 618-453-2469. Members should be committed to expanding the influence of the College of Agricultural Sciences at SIUC, increasing student enrollment, strengthening ties with our stakeholders, improving facilities, and assisting with innovative ways to support the SIUC agriculture, food, and forestry programs and the industries we serve.

“It is remarkable to see so many positive changes in such a short amount of time, which leads me to trust in the fact that great things are on the horizon for the COAS.” — Sarah Ochs, Chair, Applied Science, Rend Lake College

James Anderson, Williamson County Farm Bureau; Marion
Trey Anderson, Hickory Ridge Golf Course; Carbondale
Stephen Bailey, Illinois Nurserymen’s Association; Cobden
Scott Becker, Deere and Company; Waterloo, IA
Susan Browning, Garfield’s; Carbondale
Rollo Burnett, Illinois Farm Bureau; Metropolis
John Caupert, National Corn Growers Association; Chesterfield, MO
Bill Courtney, Heldtech; Belleville
Jim Craft, Illinois Association FFA; Springfield
Stan Curtis, Carbondale Veneer Company; Carbondale
Lee Denzer, Black Hawk College; Kewanee
Dean Dittmar, FCAE; Belleville
Larry Fischer, John Wood Community College; Quincy
Wally Furrow, Furrow Vineyard and Winery; El Paso
Jeff Galle, John Wood Community College; Perry
Scherrie Giamanco; Office of Dick Durbin; Springfield
Steve German, GROWMARK; Bloomington
Melanie Givens, Eli Lilly and Company; Louisville, KY
Bob Hall, Jackson and Union County Farm Bureau; Murphysboro
Richard Guebert, Jr., Illinois Farm Bureau; Ellis Grove
Greg Gundlach, The Bridges Golf Club; Columbus
Maralee Johnson, Illinois Beef Association; Springfield
Stan Jones, Dippin’ Dots; Paducah, KY
John Kaban, Vocational Instructor; Scheller
Jim Kaitchuk, Illinois Pork Producers Association; Springfield
Peggy Kaye-Fish, Farm Credit Services of Illinois; Champaign
Angela Kazakevicius, Illinois Department of Agriculture; Carbondale
Donald Kloth, Anheuser Busch; St. Louis, MO
Kevin Koenigstein, COAS Alumni Association; Columbia

Daniel Koons, Funk Farms Trust; Shirley
Gary Lee, Prairie Farms Dairy, Inc.; Carlinville
Art Lehmann, Illinois Pork Producers Association; Strawn
Dick Little, Illinois Forestry Development Council; Pleasant Plains
Connie Lohr Bussard, Dietetics Consultant; Springfield
Kenneth Maschhoff, Maschhoff Pork Farm; Carlyle
Wayne McGee, McGee Limousin; Tunnel Hill
Debbie Moore, Carbondale Convention and Tourism Bureau; Carbondale
Dave Moreland, Illinois Beef Association Board; Anna
Phil Nelson, Illinois Farm Bureau; Bloomington
Sarah Ochs, Rend Lake College; Ina
Jean Payne, Illinois Fertilizer and Chemical Association; Bloomington
Rudy Rice, National Association of Conservation District; DuQuoin
Domingo Riego, Monsanto; Carmel, IN
Curt Rincker, Illinois Beef Association; Shelbyville
Lyle Roberts, Illinois Soybean Program Operating Board; Bloomington
Kenneth Robinson, Archer Daniels Midland; Decatur
Jay Runner, FCAE; Rantoul
Stephen Sates, Soybean Board, C-FAR Board; Shawneetown
Wayne Sires, Rendleman Orchards; Alto Pass
Bruce Slover, Forest Service; Creal Springs
Tim Southey, Green View; Normal
Gordon Stine, Illinois Farmers Union; Springfield
Dennis Thompson, Illinois Crop Improvement Association; Champaign
Kraig Wagenecht, C-FAR; Urbana
William Wagner, First Mid Illinois Bank and Trust; Highland
Glenn Webb, GROWMARK; Tunnel Hill
Donald Wittnam, Wittnam Family Foundation; Greeley, CO
Unusually cold and windy weather on Saturday, April 23 did not deter a large crowd of approximately 750 from participating in the 1st Annual Agriculture Industry Day sponsored by the College of Agricultural Sciences. The morning program included a welcome from Dean Minish and the introduction of many special guests including legislators, Mayor Brad Cole, SIU Board of Trustees, and SIUC academic and athletic administrators.

Jerry Kill, Head Football Coach at SIUC, spoke on the close comparison of the work ethic of people in agriculture and a winning football team. Kacy Baugher, President of the Illinois FFA, captured everyone’s attention as she spoke on the future of youth in agriculture. Both Kill and Baugher set the tone for what was to follow.

The keynote speaker Senator Barack Obama was introduced by Chancellor Walter Wendler. The crowd gave Obama a standing ovation. Obama quipped about his experience in agriculture having come from the south side of Chicago. In his remarks he clearly demonstrated he knows and values agriculture and the people who work the land and produce the food and those in academe who teach and whose research finds solutions to basic and complex challenges in agriculture. He mentioned several areas the College excels in including human nutrition and foods as having implications far beyond southern Illinois.

Obama’s remarks were met with another standing ovation. Student leaders, the Agbassador Team (pictured on front cover) stepped into the sales ring under the podium to present Senator Obama with a basket of products from southern Illinois and a SIUC College of Agricultural Sciences jacket with his name embroidered. Senator Obama wore the jacket for the remainder of his visit.

A generous, authentic, and complimentary BBQ lunch was enjoyed by all. The BBQ committee was chaired by faculty member Gary Apgar and prepared by Tom Welten in the College. The College and
An Overwhelming Success

crowd thanks the sponsors (listed on this page) for their contributions to the event.

During lunch students on the College Equitation Riding Team and the Forestry Conclave Team demonstrated their skills to those who braved the cold and wet conditions.

The afternoon program was revised to move programs to inside spaces and people continued to stay enjoying and learning from the presentations. Presentations were on the following topics:

- Natural Horsemanship and Training
- Home Gardening, Fruits and Vegetables
- Selecting Herd Bulls
- Weed Control
- Diet and Obesity
- Fire Restoration
- Landscape Design and Construction
- Farm Machine Safety
- Food Safety Tips
- Managing Fescue for Beef Cattle and Horses
  - Lawn Care
  - Soybean Rust and Early Detection
  - Illinois Premium Pork Product
  - Soy in the Diet
  - Water Quality Issues
  - Alternative Energy Sources
  - Acceptance of Genetically Modified Crops
  - Growing Grapes and Making Wine
  - Ornamental and Floral Design

All in all, the day was deemed an overwhelming success. The planning and preparation by the faculty and staff paid big dividends. “We connected with our stakeholders and people on campus and in the community. They now know more about what we do and the importance of our efforts. Everyone now sees agriculture at SIUC in a new light,” commented Gary Minish, Dean.

Next year’s Agriculture Industry Day will be Saturday, April 22. The day will have something for everyone and will specifically focus on student programs. Plan now to attend and to bring a carload of prospective students.

Thank you to our sponsors...
Dippin’ Dots Inc.
Farm Credit Services of Illinois
GROWMARK, Inc.
Illinois Beef Association
Illinois Corn Marketing Board
Illinois Nurserymen’s Association
Illinois Pork Producers Association
Illinois Soybean Checkoff Board
Prairie Farms Dairy, Inc.
The Maschhoffs, Inc.
Students Receive Recognition

The 2005 Outstanding Club Award was earned by Sigma Alpha Sorority. This award is sponsored by Farm Credit Services. Pictured above, from left to right, is Dr. Gary Minish; Susan Dallas, Sigma Alpha Advisor; Myla Munro, President; and Peggy Kaye-Fish of Farm Credit Services.

Drew DeReimacker, center, was awarded the 2005 Outstanding Junior Herb Otjen Award. Drew is pictured with the Noble Ruler of Alpha Gamma Rho Fraternity, Patrick Chase. Alpha Gamma Rho sponsors this award each year.

Christina Goldstein, center, is joined by her parents at the awards banquet where she was recognized as one of SIUC’s Top 25 Most Distinguished Seniors. Christina was a Forestry major.

Fahran Robb, a junior double majoring in Agricultural Systems and Political Science, proudly displays her many academic achievement awards. Her awards include Dean’s Certificate of Distinction, Scholastic Honors of SIUC Junior Class, Delyte Morris Scholarship, and Who’s Who Among American Universities and Colleges. Fahran is also currently serving in her second year as an Agbassador.

The 2005 Outstanding Club Runner-Up Award was earned by the Agriculture Education Club. Pictured above with Dr. Minish is Jamie Bartosik, the 2004-2005 Agriculture Education Club President. Jamie is also serving as the Student Editor for the COAS Newsletter.

The 2005 Outstanding Senior Award was earned by John Klemm. John is pictured with Tom Fox, Jackson County Farm Bureau Vice President. John was an Agricultural Systems major.

Drew DeReimacker, center, was awarded the 2005 Outstanding Junior Herb Otjen Award. Drew is pictured with the Noble Ruler of Alpha Gamma Rho Fraternity, Patrick Chase. Alpha Gamma Rho sponsors this award each year.

Christina Goldstein, center, is joined by her parents at the awards banquet where she was recognized as one of SIUC’s Top 25 Most Distinguished Seniors. Christina was a Forestry major.

Top 5 Graduating Grade Point Averages
Christina Marley, Agricultural Systems, 3.974, Ramsey
Christina Goldstein, Forestry, 3.899, Effingham
Lyndsey Erica Eckel, Agribusiness Economics, 3.863, Olney
Lacie Diane Hawkins, Food and Nutrition, 3.851, Mt. Vernon
Jeremy Schmidt, Plant and Soil Science, 3.837, Peoria
Graduation is a Time to Celebrate

Outstanding Senior John Klemm, top center, is joined by his family in celebration of the COAS Senior Night. John graduated from the Plant, Soil and Agricultural Systems department. Klemm's 97 year old grandfather Fred Tesnow, bottom center, was in attendance for the graduation celebration.

Graduating senior, Burt Bickett, alongside his father, are getting ready to enjoy the BBQ dinner at Senior Night. Burt graduated from the Animal Science, Food and Nutrition department.

Christina Marley, Matt Vineyard and Jason Conner, all Agriculture Education graduates, share a moment backstage before the graduation ceremony.

Sarah Wetzel, graduate of the Forestry department and Dr. John Burde, Professor of Forestry, share smiles on graduation day.

Nelson Van Mere, a graduating senior from Animal Science, Food and Nutrition department, visits with Dr. Steven Kraft, Chair of the Agribusiness Economics department.

Dietetics major and graduating senior, Sheree Ledwell, from the Animal Science, Food and Nutrition department, was all smiles as she registered to be an SIUC Alumni Association Member.

Dr. Gary Minish, left, and Dr. John Dunn, right, accompany Stephen Scates, center, on graduation day. Stephen Scates was awarded the Alumni Achievement Award and was speaker at Commencement.

A group of Food and Nutrition graduates pose for a picture after the graduation ceremony.
Faculty Receive University and College Awards

Dr. Jeff Beaulieu of the Agribusiness Economics department was awarded the 2005 Outstanding Teaching Award at the SIUC Excellence Through Commitment Awards Program and the College of Agricultural Sciences All-Ag Banquet. Currently Dr. Beaulieu teaches undergraduate commodity and agribusiness marketing and undergraduate statistics. His past teaching assignments have included introductory agribusiness economics, agricultural policy at both the undergraduate and graduate level, and graduate statistics. Dr. Beaulieu is pictured with Chancellor Walter Wendler.

Amy Boren, Instructor in the Department of Plant, Soil and Agricultural Systems, was awarded the Outstanding Term Faculty Teaching Award through the SIUC Excellence Through Commitment Awards Program. Boren earned this award because of her commitment to the students, her outreach work with the Farm Bureau and elementary school teachers in Illinois, and the expertise, experience, and creativity she brings to the department. Ms. Boren is pictured with Dr. Gary Minish.

Dr. Karen Jones, Associate Professor, Department of Animal Science, Food and Nutrition, was awarded the Faculty Service Award at the All-Ag Banquet. Dr. Jones earned this award based on performance in her teaching, research, and service. Dr. Jones received her Ph.D. from Texas A & M University. Dr. Jones is pictured with Dr. Gary Minish.

Dr. Bryan Young of the Plant, Soil and Agricultural Systems department was awarded the 2005 Outstanding Scholar Award at the SIUC Excellence Through Commitment Awards Program. Young earned this award because of his outstanding contributions to soybean research within the Plant, Soil and Agricultural Systems department. Dr. Young is pictured with Chancellor Walter Wendler.

Lisa Hartline, Office Systems Specialist II, in the Department of Plant, Soil and Agricultural Systems, was awarded the Outstanding Civil Service Teaching Support Award through the SIUC Excellence Through Commitment Award Program. Ms. Hartline’s willingness and professionalism toward the college and the students contributed to the earning of this award. Ms. Hartline has been the heart and soul of the undergraduate and graduate teaching program in the Department of Plant, Soil and Agricultural Systems for the past 26 years. Ms. Hartline is pictured with Dr. Gary Minish.

Dr. Kim Harris of the Agribusiness Economics department was awarded the 2005 Donald M. Elkins Award at the College of Agricultural Sciences All-Ag Banquet. This award is given each year to an outstanding individual who goes above and beyond their expected duties as an educator or staff member. Nominations and selection for this award are done by the students. Dr. Harris is pictured with Dr. Donald Elkins, to the right.

Promotions in the College

Dr. William Banz, Food and Nutrition, to Full Professor
Dr. Karen Jones, Animal Science, to Associate Professor with Tenure
Dr. Kahlid Meksem, Plant, Soil and Agricultural Systems, to Associate Professor with Tenure
Dr. Charles Ruffner, Forestry, to Associate Professor with Tenure
Dr. Karl Williard, Forestry, to Associate Professor with Tenure
Faculty and Staff Highlights

New Faculty and Staff

Dawn C. Null, a Registered Dietician, received her M.S. degree in Food and Nutrition from Southern Illinois University Carbondale. She has joined the Animal Science, Food and Nutrition department as an Instructor and Director of the Dietetic Internship Program.

Jon Schoonover, received his Ph.D. from Auburn University and joins the faculty as Assistant Professor in Forestry, specializing in Physical Watershed Science.

Sheila Puckett, received her M.S. degree from Southern Illinois University Carbondale and joined the Animal Science department as the Equine Herder Foreman.

Stephanie Speiser, received her M.S. degree from Southern Illinois University Carbondale and serves as Instructor for the Equine Riding Program.

Lyubov Kurkalova, received her Ph.D. from Iowa State University and joins the faculty as Assistant Professor in Agribusiness Economics, specializing in Energy Policy.

Kolapa Ajuwon, received his Ph.D. from Purdue University and will join the faculty as Assistant Professor in Animal Science, Food and Nutrition, specializing in Food and Nutrition Obesity.

Lucas Maxwell, received his M.S. degree from Southern Illinois University Carbondale and serves as the Coordinator of Recruitment, Retention, and Placement.

Congratulations and best wishes to our new retirees.

Dean Keepper, who served as Dean of the College from 1950-1974, is greeted by former Associate Dean Dr. William Doerr. Looking on is Holly Immel, Dean Keepper’s daughter. Holly delivered the keynote address for her father at this year’s All-Ag Banquet celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the College.

Former Deans of the College gathered to be introduced at the 50th Anniversary All-Ag Banquet. Pictured above left to right are Dr. David Shoup, Dr. Robert Arthur, Dr. Gilbert Kroening, Dr. William Herr, and Dr. James McGuire. Not pictured is Dr. James Tweedy. Dean Keepper is in photo above.

Dr. Hea-Ran Ashraf, Professor of Food and Nutrition 25 Years

Dr. Trish Welch, Chair of Animal Science, Food and Nutrition 23 Years

Dr. Dee Woody, Associate Professor of Animal Science 26 Years

Dr. Jeannette Endres, Professor of Food and Nutrition 30 Years

Janet Sundberg, Instructor of Food and Nutrition 18 Years

Thank you for your many contributions!
Join us for two upcoming Agriculture Alumni Events

Complimentary Breakfast
Tuesday, August 16, 2005
8:30 am on the Director’s lawn
Illinois State Fairgrounds

Ag Day at the Illinois State Fair

Annual Backyard BBQ
Tuesday, August 30, 2005
5:30 pm on the Governor’s lawn
DuQuoin State Fairgrounds

Tickets go on sale on August 1st

For more information or to R.S.V.P. and purchase tickets, contact the College of Agricultural Sciences Dean’s office at 618.453.2469 or email Julia Wetstein at jwetste@siu.edu