



**Southern**  
Illinois University  
**Carbondale**

# College of *Agricultural Sciences*

Spring 2006 Newsletter

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## Upcoming Alumni Events

- Agriculture Industry Day,  
April 22
- Alumni Outing – Gateway  
Grizzlies Baseball, July 20
- Alumni Breakfast at the  
Illinois State Fair in Springfield,  
August 15
- Backyard BBQ at the  
DuQuoin State Fair, August 29
- Homecoming - SIUC vs. Western  
Illinois, October 7



Agriculture student Fahran Robb is congratulated by Chancellor Walter Wendler for being named to the *USA Today's* 2006 All-USA College Academic Team. Fahran is joined by her parents Sam B.S. '68, M.S. '75 and Myrna Robb B.S.'94.

## Dear Alumni and Friends:

It's hard to know where to start. And I say that because there are so many good things happening in the College. There is a great deal of energy and anticipation in the air this spring semester.

As I write I am returning from a week of national agriculture policy board meetings at the University of Connecticut and a day with our Illinois legislators and Farm Bureau in Springfield. And, I can tell you the stature of the College of Agricultural Sciences at SIUC is growing.

We have everything in place for the 2nd Annual Agriculture Industry Day program on April 22nd. We are also referring to this year's event as a "College Day Program" for prospective students. The program is on the back cover. You will note our great new President Dr. Glenn Poshard and outstanding alum Ken Maschhoff will speak. Outstanding Senior Megan McCallister will share her student experience. In the afternoon, 27 of our faculty will conduct hands-on, real world laboratory classes.

Our Leadership Board is set to meet April 21st. We have recently welcomed 30 new members bringing our membership to 85. This year the Board has been involved in reviewing our undergraduate curriculum, our facilities, and our research focus areas. And, our Board members participated in the SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats) analysis for our strategic plan.

We are making excellent progress on our new strategic plan and will share specifics with you in the fall, including a new vision and mission statement and our priority areas and goals. The strategic plan will guide our teaching, research and outreach programs well into 2010.

*Continued next page...*

I am also pleased to report that our Ph.D. degree program proposal has been approved at the University level and is in the hands of the Illinois State Board of Higher Education for external review. To date we have heard nothing but excellent comments about the quality of the proposal and the need for a Ph.D. graduate program in the College. The caliber of our faculty, their research productivity, and the student demand are the driving forces behind the importance of having this in place by 2007.

Another major accomplishment in the College is our success in hiring 12 outstanding new faculty and staff. We have filled positions in Dietetics, Human Nutrition Obesity, Beef Forage Nutrition, Energy Policy, Rural Economic Development, Water Quality, Student Recruitment and Placement, Development, Dairy and Equine Farm Managers, Administrative Assistants, and Chair of the Department of Plant, Soil and Agricultural Systems. And only one retirement, long-time, valued Administrative Assistant, Connie Shafer. I look forward to having you meet our outstanding new hires and I know you will be as impressed as I am.

I am also pleased to announce the College has just received a \$100,000 contribution from Mr. David DeLaney '83, PSAS. This was a great way to kick off our "College Campaign" as part of the University's Commitment to Excellence fund raising effort. Our new development officer, Rebecca Stenhaus will be contacting you soon asking for your support for this very important effort. Private donations are critical to the future success of our teaching and research programs especially those that support our faculty and students. Stephen Scates '59 is the College chair for the University campaign.

Recruiting has picked up steam and enrollment is beginning to turn around and numbers are going up. We have published a new brochure "We're more than meets the eye!" If you would like a copy please email lmaxwell@siu.edu Lucas Maxwell, Coordinator of Recruitment, Retention, and Placement. The centerfold of this newsletter contains articles and photos from the overflow of the brochure.

And many of you have been helping us recruit. You have brought students to campus and you have phoned, written, and emailed to tell us about students we should contact. Thanks to those of you who are helping us. That's what we need – names of prospective students – and we'll take it from there.

We had a first for Southern with one of our students. *USA Today* selected Fahran Robb, a junior in Agricultural Systems as one of 60 students from across the country for the All-USA Collegiate Academic Team. Fahran was the only Agriculture student selected on entire team. Congratulations to Fahran and her family for this outstanding accomplishment.

There is much more, but I have run out of space. How have we gotten to this point? It's because of you, our alumni and friends. You are interested in what we do, you want us to do well, and you give us ideas and support. From all of us in the College, thank you.

Sincerely,



Gary L. Minish, Dean

**COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES**

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LUCAS MAXWELL, COORDINATOR OF RECRUITMENT, RETENTION, PLACEMENT  
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JOHN PHELPS, CHAIR, FORESTRY  
BRIAN KLUBEK, CHAIR, PLANT, SOIL AND AGRICULTURAL SYSTEMS  
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# Research on Horseradish and Weed Management



Dr. Alan Walters-Department of Plant, Soil and Agricultural Systems

Dr. Walters has recently taken on the responsibility of horseradish breeder for the Horseradish Growers of Illinois. Illinois is the leading producer of horseradish grown in the U.S., supplying over 50% of the U.S. demand. The primary horseradish production areas in Illinois are in the Mississippi River Valley region adjacent to East St. Louis. The Horseradish Growers of Illinois have one of the most active industry groups in the state and are very interested in research that will make their product the best possible to compete in the U.S. and world markets.

Internal root discoloration (IRD) complex caused by numerous soil-borne pathogens have growers concerned. Often times when a horseradish root is cut in half, little black spots, called ‘peppering’, may be observed or the entire interior of the root may be blackened; and, growers understand this problem may be solved through breeding for IRD resistance.

The primary focus of Dr. Walters’ traditional breeding program is to take the IRD complex resistance from several resistant wild horseradish germplasm clones and develop commercially acceptable horseradish cultivars; but, it’s going to take four or more years to come up with something the growers can use. The horseradish industry understands the development of new cultivars with outstanding quality, yield, and disease resistance characters are essential to sustaining their important industry in the state.



Dr. Bryan Young-Department of Plant, Soil and Agricultural Systems

Dr. Young’s research program focuses on the development and implementation of weed management strategies in a variety of sites, with an emphasis in agronomic crops. Over the last decade, there has been a major shift in weed control tactics as a result of the widespread adoption of glyphosate-resistant (Roundup Ready) soybeans and corn. The use of glyphosate-resistant crops has improved overall weed control and the opportunity for greater profits. However, how long will growers be able to sustain the greatest benefits associated with glyphosate-resistant crops?

As growers become increasingly dependent upon glyphosate (Roundup type products) for weed control, concerns have surfaced that weeds are adapting to glyphosate-based systems and, as a result, weed control may become a significantly greater challenge in the future. A large-scale research project has been initiated at SIUC to evaluate how crop rotation and the use of other herbicides with glyphosate may influence the long-term utility of glyphosate. Field studies are being conducted at nearly 30 sites throughout Illinois to measure weed population dynamics over several years as an indicator of glyphosate performance and successful weed management.

The goal of the research is to develop sound recommendations for growers to implement in their weed management practices that allow for the continued use of glyphosate while maintaining the level of weed control and profitability that growers currently experience.

# Undergraduate Experience:



Hospitality and Tourism students attend the Las Vegas International Hotel and Restaurant Show



SIUC Fireawgs get instruction from Forestry professor Dr. Charles Ruffner before participating in a controlled burn



Students in the Agriculture Systems major construct a shed



Animal Science instructor Stephanie Speiser works with a student at the SIUC Equine Center during a riding class

Over the past few months we have been designing new recruiting materials for the College. One of our first steps was to ask current students some questions.

For example: What is the most interesting class you have taken in the College? What are some of the best qualities of your professors? How have you used the College farms, greenhouses, test kitchens and research labs in your classes? What is the most interesting field trip you have taken? What makes your major unique?

Invariably our students responded with something real-world and hands-on. And we received many more responses than we could use in the new recruiting materials so we thought we would share some of the examples with you.

Craig Herzog, senior in Plant and Soil Science from Prairie du Rocher, Illinois recently had the chance to spend a couple hours on the University Farms examining building structures. “Looking at pictures on a PowerPoint presentation in a classroom is one thing, but actually going out and seeing it first hand helps to better understand how the design fits the use,” says Craig when asked about his experience in Dr. Richard Steffen’s Introduction to Physical Principles in Agriculture class. “Dr. Steffen is a great teacher. He has field experience so he always has personal experiences to share.”

On April 26-28, 2005, Hospitality and Tourism students traveled to Las Vegas, Nevada to attend the Las Vegas International Hotel and Restaurant Show. This event was held at the Mandalay Bay Convention Center. Students met vendors and learned about new products and services, talked about job related skills and opportunities, and participated in educational seminars and demonstrations. Professor T.C. Girard, Hospitality and Tourism, arranged tours of front-of-house and back-of-house operations. Students also had the chance to learn about the infamous Bellagio fountain and how it is operated and maintained.

In Dr. Dwight Sanders’ Agricultural Price Analysis and Forecasting class students participate in a Price Analysis Project. Through this project students study a particular market and share their knowledge with a group. “This class has really been able to help me in the

# Real-World and Hands-On

workforce, especially when dealing with customers and the information that other businesses give me,” says Wendy Harper from Johnston City, Illinois. Wendy is currently a graduate student in Agribusiness Economics, while working at her family’s feed store.

Each fall semester Dr. Gary Apgar, Animal Science professor, leads students through a “Pig Watch” activity for the Livestock Production Laboratory class. This activity involves quantifying pig behavior by obtaining piglet weights every 30 minutes for 12 hours. When asked of the student’s requirements for Pig Watch Dr. Apgar replied with, “old clothes and an open mind.” Pig Watch provides ample opportunity for pig-human interaction, as well as interpretation of research data. Data and conclusions are presented in a poster format to faculty, staff and students.

A similar hands-on and real-world project experienced by equine science majors is the “Foal Watch” in Dr. Sheryl King’s Stable Management class. Students have the responsibilities for monitoring the progress of the pregnant mare and assisting with foaling if required. They must record various landmarks of the birth and the first few hours of the foal’s life. Students also perform imprinting, desensitizing, on the newborn foal.



Wendy Harper, Agribusiness Economics student presents her price analysis project



Food and Nutrition student Miriam Tcheng works at a computer as part of her dietetics internship

## Agbassador® Team Travels to University of Florida

Under the supervision of Lucas Maxwell, Coordinator of Recruitment, Retention and Placement, the College of Agricultural Science’s Agbassador team traveled to the sunshine state of Florida in January for the Annual Agricultural Ambassador Conference. This conference consisted of exploring methods of recruitment for agriculture, listening to outstanding keynote speakers and interacting with 36 other Agriculture Ambassador Teams from across the country. Nick Martin, senior in Plant and Soil Science says, “Of all the leadership workshops and team building activities I have participated in, this one stood out above them all. It was very unique.”



Back row: Lucas Maxwell, Advisor; Curtis Fry; Fahran Robb; Nick Martin; Tyler Brown; Matt Payne; Robert Owens  
Front Row: Amanda Barczewski; Ashley Stockamp; Megan McCallister; Kara Ballinger; Tiffany Ochs; Jamie Bartosik, Graduate Coordinator

# Industry Provides Career Opportunities for Students

On October 11 and 12, 2005, sixteen agriculture companies from across Illinois and Missouri participated in the College Job Fair. As companies arrived Tuesday evening they were greeted by students, faculty and staff members at a Meet and Greet Session held in the agriculture building. "The session gave students an opportunity to become familiar with employers in a casual setting before the actual Job Fair on Wednesday," says Lucas Maxwell, Coordinator of Recruitment, Retention and Placement.



Steve German, of GROWMARK, Inc., speaks with students at the Meet and Greet Session.

The event continued the following day as employers and students were reacquainted in a professional setting. During the Job Fair students were able to learn more about the opportunities offered by the companies, share resumes, and set up interview times. Agribusiness Economics graduate student Jeremy Stone admits, "Starting your career can be a very overwhelming time, so I really appreciate agriculture companies coming to our College."

To make this an annual event, plans are already underway for the 2006 College of Agricultural Science's Job Fair to be held on October 3 and 4. If you or your company would like to send a representative to the Job Fair, please contact Lucas Maxwell at 618.453.3080 or lmaxwell@siu.edu.

*"The Meet and Greet session really stood out, I had never seen that before. The number of students that attended was fantastic and they were so at ease. Being able to walk away with six December graduates, 15 students for internships and 18 students for May interviews says it all right there!"*

- Steve German, GROWMARK, Inc.

## Special Thank You to these companies for participating in the Job Fair:

AgriGold Hybrids  
Archer Daniels Midland Company  
Crop Pro-Tech, Inc.  
Effingham Equity  
Farm Credit Services of Illinois  
GROWMARK, Inc.  
Illinois Environmental Protection Agency  
Missouri Conservation Service  
Munie Green Care  
Natural Enrichment Industries (NEI)  
Rich Connell Agri-Search, Inc.  
Schaeffer Oil  
Syngenta  
The Brickman Group  
The Maschhoffs, Inc.  
USDA – NASS Illinois Field Office

## Upcoming Alumni Events: Mark Your Calendars and Join Us



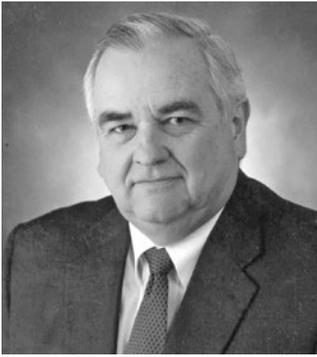
**Complimentary Breakfast**  
Tuesday, August 15th, 2006  
8:30 a.m.  
on the Director's Lawn  
Illinois State Fairgrounds



**Annual Backyard BBQ**  
Tuesday, August 29th, 2006  
5:30 p.m.  
on the Governor's Lawn  
DuQuoin State Fairgrounds

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, Assistant Dean for External Affairs, at jwetste@siu.edu

## Larry Fischer '68 is 2006 Outstanding Alumnus Awardee



Larry Fischer has been devoted to helping others achieve their potential all his life. He grew up on a grain and livestock farm near Quincy, Illinois and was active in 4-H and FFA as director and vice president.

After receiving his Bachelor of Science in Agriculture Education from SIUC he taught in Hannibal, Missouri and Pike County, Illinois. Mr. Fischer earned his Masters degree from the University of Illinois. In 1976, he was named Director of Agriculture Programs at the new John Wood Community College. In 2002, he was named Vice President for Instruction at John Wood, the position he currently holds.

Mr. Fischer's programs and students have received many awards and recognitions. In 1983, he was named Outstanding Agriculture Teacher in Illinois and in 1987, his swine management program was named the Best Agriculture Technology Instructional Program in the U.S.

Several organizations have benefited from Mr. Fischer's outstanding leadership. He has been a director on the SIUC Alumni Association Board and president of our College Alumni Society and the University of Illinois Agriculture Alumni. He is on the Board of Directors for Farm Credit Services and Illinois Council on Food and Agriculture Research.

Larry Fischer and his wife Tammy reside in Quincy, and have three sons and five grandchildren. Mr. Fischer's portrait will be in the College of Agricultural Sciences new Hall of Fame.

## GROWMARK, Inc. Receives 2006 Agriculture Service Award



In addition to CEO Bill Davisson and Vice-President Dennis Farmer pictured with Dean Gary L. Minish, the College of Agricultural Sciences has a close association with GROWMARK employees Vern McGinnis, Vice President of Strategic Planning and Corporate Services; Rick Wills, Corporate Communications Manager; Steve German, University Relations and Member Employment Manager; and Christine Duryea, University Relations and Member Employment Coordinator.

Mr. German serves on the College of Agricultural Sciences Leadership Board and is on the SIUC campus several times a year to inform students about the opportunities at GROWMARK and to interview interns, scholarship applicants and full-time employees. This year Ms. Duryea also participated in the student selection process on the SIUC campus.

Each year four SIUC students majoring in agriculture receive \$1,000 scholarships at the annual meeting in Chicago. Several SIUC students are selected each year as paid summer interns. The interns present the findings of their research projects at corporate headquarters in Bloomington to staff, other interns and university representatives. Over the years GROWMARK has hired many SIUC interns and graduates.

GROWMARK is a major agriculture member cooperative operating in 31 states and Canada and is a "model partner" with agriculture producers, industry and academia. The GROWMARK corporate photo will hang in our new Hall of Fame.



## Josh Bushue '98 is 2006 Young Alumnus

Josh is a College of Agricultural Sciences graduate from the Agriculture Education and Mechanization department, now known as Agriculture Systems Technology. He is a Regional Operations Superintendent for ADM, the Archer Daniels Midland Company, and is responsible for 25 facilities and over 75 employees. His former professor, Dr. Richard Steffen had these words, "He has been a tireless supporter of the College, encouraging the hiring of SIUC graduates and assisting those individuals with their careers at ADM. He is an all around outstanding graduate and supporter."



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## 2nd Annual Agriculture Industry Day Come. Learn. Eat. Visit. Enjoy.

**Saturday, April 22, 2006**  
**9:00 am - 3:00 pm**

at  
**University Farms**  
**Southern Illinois University Carbondale**

### **Morning Program**

- ✓ **Go Salukis! Athletics Update**  
Mr. Paul Kowalczyk, Athletic Director
- ✓ **What it's Like to be a Student at SIUC**  
Ms. Megan McCallister, Senior in Food and Nutrition
- ✓ **How to Take a B.S. Degree Corporate**  
Mr. Ken Maschhoff, President & CEO of The Maschhoffs Inc.
- ✓ **What Makes SIU the Right Choice**  
Dr. Glenn Poshard, President of Southern Illinois University
- ✓ **Beef and Pork Complimentary Barbeque Lunch**

### **Afternoon "College Day" Classes**

**Session I: 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.**

*Choose to attend one of six classes*

- SIUC 101 **Companion Animal Care**
- SIUC 102 **Eat Right or Die(t)**
- SIUC 103 **Reintegrating Fire into Ecosystems**
- SIUC 104 **Landscape Design and Construction**
- SIUC 105 **Outdoor Recreation and Park Strategies**
- SIUC 106 **Agriculture Sales and Marketing**

**Session II: 2:00 – 3:00 p.m.**

*Choose to attend one of six classes*

- SIUC 201 **Genetics, Genomics and Biotechnology**
- SIUC 202 **Equine Reproduction**
- SIUC 203 **Trading Commodities and Futures**
- SIUC 204 **Culinary Methods: Chili Cook-Off**
- SIUC 205 **Application of Automation Technology**
- SIUC 206 **Soil and Water Quality**

For additional information, please contact the College of Agricultural Sciences at 618.453.2469, or  
[www.siu.edu/departments/coagr](http://www.siu.edu/departments/coagr)