Kudos to our Students!

Congratulations to our College Student-Athletes for a Successful Saluki Athletic Year!

Basketball
Anthony Boyle

Softball
Cassidy Scoggins

Volleyball
Erika Bartruff

Baseball
Daniel Etienne
Ryan Terry

Swimming & Diving
Kyle Carevic
Kristina Palacios

Caitlin Foglesong

25 Most Distinguished Seniors Award and Service to Southern Award Winner
Fahran K.J. Robb

$1,500 REACH Award Winners
Four of SIU’s 20 Research Enriched Academic Challenge (REACH) Grants were awarded to students in the College of Agricultural Sciences.


Russell McKeith, Animal Science, “Can We Use ‘Arm and Hammer’ Better Pork Products? Using Sodium Bicarbonate to Alter pH in Hot Dogs.”


Benjamin Vandermyde, Forestry, “Biological Alternative to Herbicide for the Control of Invasive Shrubs.”


Dear Alumni and Friends:

As I think about the fall semester, I think of the changes occurring on campus and in the College of Agricultural Sciences. I am reminded of a speech about change I heard a few years ago. I remember the theme, but do not recall the reference. It went like this. Times change. Places change. People change. Programs change. Priorities change. Focusing on change seems to be an appropriate theme for my message this fall.

I will start with people. The University is welcoming a new Chancellor, Dr. Fernando Treviño, who comes to us from the University of North Texas in Fort Worth. Dr. Treviño brings strong leadership, vision, and a working style to help us turn the tide on enrollment and retention at the University, to move forward the building and renovation plans for campus, and to keep our research productivity at a high level. We look forward to having him visit us in the College and to get to know our faculty, staff, students, alumni, and industry clientele. He is a great leader and I know you are going to like him.

In our College, we said farewell and thank you this summer to Lucas Maxwell who is starting a doctoral program at the University of Florida. Lucas has been our Coordinator of Recruitment, Retention, and Placement for the past two years and was instrumental in helping us turn around our enrollment decline. As we go to press, we are expecting a 10% increase in enrollment compared to last fall. We are also in the midst of interviewing candidates for the position and the pool looks promising. Our plans are to have someone in place when classes start in August.

Continued next page...
We have several outstanding new faculty who have recently joined the College. On page 6, you will find information related to seven recent hires. I will single out one as an example of how times change and programs change. For many years, SIUC had a very active and competitive Intercollegiate Livestock Judging Team. Then, as did other universities, the College discontinued the program. Now, because of expressed interest by students and alumni, and because we found the right person to coach, Eric Brunton, we will again field a competitive team. Former team members and coaches were some of the first to hear the announcement at a reunion held in conjunction with Agriculture Industry Day. See pages 4-5 for the story.

We have other program changes as well. Research productivity increased by 21% to over $9.2 million in active grants. Our Ph.D. degree proposal has received very positive external reviews with strong indications of approval this fall by the State Board of Higher Education. We received approval for two new majors in Human Nutrition and Hospitality Tourism Administration. Our scholarship program continues to grow with Farm Credit awarding five new annual $1,000 scholarships. And the third annual Agriculture Industry Day program was another huge success with over 700 in attendance. See pages 4-5.

It is interesting when I think of priorities and change. For us in the College, I don’t see wavering in our quest to enroll more students, to continue to update our curricula, to improve our University Research and Teaching Farm Centers, and to continue to strengthen the College stature on and off campus. We are also making a few aesthetic changes in the entrance to our campus building and we are moving forward with resolutions from our stakeholders to obtain planning monies for a new Agriculture Building, a facility critically needed to recruit and retain outstanding students and faculty, and to grow our teaching, research, and outreach programs in the College.

People, Programs, Places, Priorities, Times change. What is our approach to all of this in the College of Agricultural Sciences? We embrace change and we welcome your ideas, counsel, and support in helping the College move to the next level.

I look forward to seeing you at our fall events and at our 4th Annual Agriculture Industry Day on Saturday, April 19, 2009.

Sincerely,
Gary L. Minish, Dean
P.S. See our new College website coas.siu.edu.

Faculty Awards

Dr. Gary Appar, associate professor in the Department of Animal Science, Food and Nutrition, was awarded the 2007 Outstanding Teaching Award at the SIUC Excellence Through Commitment Awards Program. He teaches swine management, feeds and feeding, and an introductory level course for which he restructured its lab position to provide students a hands-on, real-world experience. He is currently developing a course on animal nutrient management. Appar, an SIUC faculty member since 1998, has been selected twice by students to receive the College’s Donald M. Elkins Excellence in Education Award for his teaching and service to students. Dr. Appar is pictured with Interim Chancellor John Dunn.

Dr. She-Kong Chong, professor in the Department of Plant, Soil and Agricultural Systems, was awarded the 2007 Outstanding Scholarship Award at the SIUC Excellence Through Commitment Awards Program. Chong has studied the best way to measure water infiltration through the water’s surface since his arrival to campus in 1979. He has made research contributions by designing and developing new instruments to find ways to estimate infiltration, hydraulic conductivity, wetting front suction, soil compaction, and surface runoff potential. He recently assisted in a project which used worms to turn food waste from residence halls into compost. Dr. Chong is pictured with Interim Chancellor John Dunn.

Promotions in the College

Dr. Dexter Wakefield, Plant, Soil and Agricultural Systems, to Associate Professor with Tenure
Dr. Todd Winters, Animal Science, Food and Nutrition, to Full Professor
Dr. Bryan Young, Plant, Soil and Agricultural Systems, to Full Professor

Congratulations and best wishes to our new retirees.

Dr. John Burde, Professor of Forestry, 32 years
Dr. Mike Schmidt, Associate Professor of Plant and Soil Science, 28 years

Thank you for your many contributions!
New Faculty Join the College

Ira Altman, received his Ph.D. from the University of Missouri-Columbia and in Spring 2006 joined the faculty as Assistant Professor in Agribusiness Economics, specializing in rural development, renewable energy, and organizational economics.

Rebecca Atkinson, received her Ph.D. from the University of Wyoming and in Fall 2006 joined the faculty as Assistant Professor in Animal Science, Food and Nutrition, specializing in beef forage and ruminant nutrition.

Eric Brunton, received his B.S. from Western Illinois University and in Fall 2007 started his graduate studies in Animal Science and is the SIUC Intercollegiate Livestock Judging Team Coach.

Eric Holzmüller, received his Ph.D. from the University of Florida and in Fall 2007 joined the faculty as Assistant Professor in Forestry, specializing in forest ecology and management.

Sharon Peterson, received her Ph.D. from Penn State University and in Fall 2006 joined the faculty as Assistant Professor in Animal Science, Food and Nutrition, specializing in community nutrition issues.

Erin Seekamp, received her Ph.D. from the University of Idaho and in Fall 2007 joined the faculty as Assistant Professor in Forestry, specializing in human dimensions of natural resources.

Sylvia Smith, received her Ph.D. from the University of Tennessee-Knoxville and in Fall 2007 joined the faculty as Assistant Professor in Animal Science, Food and Nutrition, specializing in hospitality and tourism, food safety, special events marketing, and consumer behavior.

Invest in the College’s Future

Are You in a position to take part in the future of the College?

The aspirations of the College today mirror those of Dean Keeper and so many others when the College was founded some fifty years ago. Today, we are at a similar crossroad. In many respects, we need to build anew. And that is what we are doing. We are working hard to recruit students and to improve our facilities.

A resolution seeking planning monies from the State for a new Agricultural Building was unanimously supported by the College Leadership Board and the many agricultural commodity groups that the College works with. In conjunction with State funds, the College must secure private donations.

Private donations to the SIU Foundation will impact the recruitment of our students and the quality of our education and research programs. Specifically, the College seeks major contributions for Endowed Scholarships, a new Undergraduate Teaching and Research Greenhouse, and a Multi-purpose Livestock Teaching Arena. Charitable contributions can take on many forms other than cash such as securities, planned gifts, and real and personal property.

Is it important to You that the College grow to provide talent and solutions to the evolving world of Agriculture?

Contact Rebecca Stenhagen, Associate Director for Institutional Advancement, at (618) 453-1848 or stenhagen@siu.edu to discuss how You want to impact the future of the College.

Research on Plant Disease and Soy Oil

Dr. Fakhoury’s research program focuses on studying several fungal species at the molecular level to understand what makes these organisms pathogenic on important crops. In soybeans, Dr. Fakhoury is developing tools to investigate the fungal pathogen Fusarium solani Lsp. glycines which causes Sudden Death Syndrome. In corn, Dr. Fakhoury’s research involves studying the regulation of the biosynthesis of altotoxin, a carcinogenic compound, by the fungus Aspergillus flavus.

Ochratoxin is another carcinogenic compound he is researching. Ochratoxin is often found as a contaminant of commodities such as coffee beans, grape juice, and wine. His research focuses on identifying fungal genes involved in the biosynthesis of ochratoxin by the fungus, Aspergillus ochraceus. He is also studying the fermentation process in Baker’s yeast with the goal of generating strains of the fungus with improved tolerance to stresses encountered during the fermentation process.

Understanding the interaction between fungal pathogens and their plant hosts will contribute to Dr. Fakhoury’s long-term goals of controlling disease in plants, improving food and feed quality, and generating better yeast fermentors. These goals will benefit producers and consumers by increasing production profit margins and improving the quality of the commodities produced.

Dr. Ajawon is looking at novel cardiovascular benefits of oil components of foods. Specifically, Dr. Ajawon has been examining the effects of soy-derived omega-3 and omega-6 fatty acids in ameliorating diabetes and cardiovascular diseases. Soy is enriched in highly beneficial components such as soy protein, soy isoflavones, and polyunsaturated fatty acids, which are known to have cardiovascular benefits.

Of all these three major components of soy, only the oil appears to be a regular ingredient in American diets. Most people in this country do not consume soy proteins or isoflavone-containing products such as tofu, but we regularly use soy oil in our homes and in restaurants. Therefore, soy oil can be used advantageously to improve our overall health.

Dr. Ajawon is also interested in conducting research into the added benefits of enriching soy oil with soy isoflavones. The typical soy oil is very low in soy isoflavones due to the extraction process that leaves most of the isoflavones in the protein portion.

By enriching soy oil with isoflavones, we will be able to produce value-added soy oil that will have even more cardiovascular benefits compared to either the oil or the isoflavone component separately. This strategy may help to enhance the value of soy and soy oil and help Illinois soybean producers develop value-added products.
3rd Ag Industry Day Repeats Success and Adds Features

As we planned the third annual Agriculture Industry Day, we wanted to build on the successes of our previous events. First, we wanted dynamic speakers who would draw a crowd and who would have a message for the food, agriculture, and forestry industries in the College of Agricultural Sciences.

We accomplished our goal in keynote speakers Philip Nelson, 14th President of Illinois Farm Bureau, and Greg Webb, Vice President Public Affairs of Archer Daniels Midland. Nelson spoke about what it is going to take to be successful in Agriculture. He delivered a forceful, fact-filled, inspiring, and entertaining presentation. Nelson’s son, Kendall, was on campus for his first official College visit.

Webb, an alumnus of the College, constructed his presentation around the letters in SALUKI and in doing so was methodical and convincing in building a case for the College of Agricultural Sciences at SIUC. He also said we in agriculture today have a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to be involved in something great — invigorating the industry of agriculture. Webb has wholeheartedly accepted the challenge in his professional life and through his strong support of the College.

Also, we wanted to showcase our students, faculty, and staff. We accomplished our goal with Amanda Barczewski, senior in Agribusiness Economics, speaking during the morning program. Amanda impressed the crowd with her polished and professional presentation. She told us about coming to SIUC and getting involved in extra-curricular activities in the College that in turn led to a part-time job in the College. She told about her internships with Cops Pro-Tech, The Maschhoffs, and Syngenta.

In the afternoon, faculty offered hands-on, two-hour clinics at the University farm centers that were very well received.

- SIUC 701 Horsemanship Clinic
- SIUC 702 Lawn, Tree & Shrub Care Clinic
- SIUC 703 From the Vine to the Wine Clinic
- SIUC 704 Livestock Judging Clinic
- SIUC 705 Soybean Pest Management Clinic

Another goal for the event was to plan something people would enjoy and again the goal was achieved. The crowd enjoyed seeing the Saluki dogs shown by Don and Karen Magee ’63, Kevin Roth and Dr. Sara Long.

SIUC Athletic Director, Mario Moccia, shared insights about the competitive excellence of our athletes in the classroom, in the community, and in their respective sports. A listing of athletes in the College is on page 8.

Lunch was a delicious and generous complimentary barbecue prepared by Tom Welten and served by our students and staff.

In addition to ensuring those successes, we also wanted to add something to draw a wider and expanded audience. We moved the 4-H and FFA livestock judging contest traditionally held at another location on campus to the site of the Agriculture Industry Day event. This gave our audience an opportunity to watch the students judge and for participants (former judging team members) to officially judge the livestock as well. The results of the 4-H – FFA contest were announced during the barbecue lunch and trophies and plaques were handed out. 104 individuals participated in the event.

This year Agriculture Industry Day did not end with the faculty clinics, but continued at 5 p.m. under the tent with a reception and steak dinner for former SIUC Intercollegiate Livestock Judging Team members and coaches. The Department of Animal Science, Food and Nutrition and the College hosted the event. Everyone enjoyed the evening with "A Walk Down Memory Lane." Tom Saxo, 1963 team member, was masterful in getting everyone to tell the best stories of their time on the judging team. The results of the morning judging contest were announced with Bill Wagner, 1973 team, as the winner, and Don Knepp, 1964 team, as second place.

All in all, the day went beyond our expectations. Our planning paid handsome dividends for the College. And, we are already planning next year’s event. Senator Dick Durbin is the invited keynote speaker.

What Made SIUC the Right Choice, Mr. Greg Webb, Vice President Public Affairs – Archer Daniels Midland.

4-H and FFA members judge swine at SIUC Livestock Judging Contest.

Former SIUC Intercollegiate Livestock Judging Team Members join young students at judging contest.

4 H and FFA members judge swine at SIUC Livestock Judging Contest.

Lucky students receive Sierra Swiss Cheese and financial assistance to attend the SIUC Industry Day.

What’s like to be a Student at SIUC, Amanda Barczewski, Senior in Agribusiness Economics.

F.FA Livestock and Dairy Judging CDE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Livestock</th>
<th>Dairy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Top Teams</strong></td>
<td><strong>Top Teams</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Pinckneyville</td>
<td>1. Olbaisk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Shreve</td>
<td>2. Texco</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Trico</td>
<td>3. Mt. Vernon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Top Individuals</strong></td>
<td><strong>Top Individuals</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Adam Bippel, Pinckneyville</td>
<td>1. Eric Kranz, Cerro Gordo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Jonathan Taylor, Shreve</td>
<td>2. Zach Galie, Marion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Tyler Hagston, Pinckneyville</td>
<td>3. Mark Hornbostel, Texco</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4-H Livestock Judging Contest

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Junior Division</th>
<th>Senior Division</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Top Teams</strong></td>
<td><strong>Top Teams</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Marion County</td>
<td>1. White County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Hamilton County</td>
<td>2. Union County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Randolph County</td>
<td>3. Hamilton/Wayne County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Top Individuals</strong></td>
<td><strong>Top Individuals</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Kaine Austin, Marion County</td>
<td>1. Robbi Fulton, Marion County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Kae Burns, Randolph County</td>
<td>2. Austin Taylor, Marion County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Levi Laird, Marion County</td>
<td>3. Evan Barnhart, Union County</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>