Dear Alumni and Friends:

I am writing this the day after we learned our men’s basketball team is a number four seed in the NCAA Tournament. At this time of the year, it all comes down to wins/losses, rankings, and RPIs.

It all makes me think “How do we measure up in the business we are in?” Our business at SIUC is producing graduates and research for the food, agriculture, and forestry industries and agencies we serve. To gauge our success, we are compared to like-kind universities. And ultimately, it is the industries and agencies we partner with who decide our effectiveness.

I am very familiar with agriculture programs nationwide and when it comes to non-land grant universities we rank at the top in terms of research productivity, and in competitiveness and success of our graduates in the work force.

A good example of our product is the four students pictured above. They represent the best of our senior and junior classes and have been recognized as some of the best nationally. This year’s outstanding senior Fahran Robb was again recognized on the USA Today All-USA College Academic Team.

Research productivity was up 20% last year with over $8.7m in active grants equating to over $200,000 per FTE research faculty member. Included are two federal grants faculty received from USDA/NRI and the Department of Energy. We rank among the best of all agriculture colleges in the U.S. and on campus we continue to be one of the most productive year in and year out.

And it’s good news that it appears we have finally turned around the declining enrollment trend and we are anticipating the first substantial increase this

Continued next page...
fall. We still need your help. Please send the names of prospective students to our Coordinator of Recruitment, Lucas Maxwell, at lmaxwell@siu.edu or 618-453-3080.

We continue to hire outstanding faculty. Currently, we are interviewing for positions in Hospitality and Tourism, Soybean Breeding and Genomics, and Forest Resource Management.

We are reinstating the intercollegiate livestock judging program and have named Eric Brunton as coach. Burton was named the high individual at the National Western and the American Royal intercollegiate judging contests. Our new Horse Judging Team had a very successful first year. Please see pages 4-5 for a photo of the team and their ribbons.

And talk about winning streaks: The Forestry Conclave Team has placed first in national competition for 15 years straight. See pages 4-5 for a photo of this year’s winning team at the competition on the University of Minnesota campus.

Plans are in place for another successful Agriculture Industry Day program on Saturday, April 21. As you recall last year, our new President Glenn Poshard gave a very convincing keynote address on why SIUC is the right choice. This year, we are looking forward to hearing Mr. Philip Nelson, President of the Illinois Farm Bureau, speak on major issues facing food and agriculture industries.

In the afternoon, we are offering five clinics on topics including horsemanship; lawn, tree and shrub care; vine to wine production; livestock selection; and soybean pest management. The two-hour sessions will provide an opportunity to cover in more depth the latest information and technology.

Lunch is our traditional complimentary beef and pork barbecue. We invite you to bring a car or van load. We know you will enjoy the day and learn more about the College.

In closing, I think you will agree our business is in good shape. We have a strong base and we continue to build with new successes. And just like a winning basketball team we need fan support to keep us going and to celebrate with us. For all of you who rally around us, who give us ideas and help, who send us students, and who support us financially, we say “Thank You.”

To sign off, I wanted to share with you a photo of Dr. Scott Hinners taken with me at the recent All-Ag Banquet. Dr. Hinners and I were talking about the fact he was the second student manager of the All-Ag Banquet while we were at the 56th All-Ag Banquet. For those of you who don’t know, Dr. Hinners was a renown faculty member in Poultry Science at SIUC and he has continued to be a strong supporter of our College.

I look forward to seeing you on April 21st.

Sincerely,

Gary L. Minish, Dean

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**College of Agricultural Sciences Administration**

- Gary L. Minish, Dean
- John Russin, Associate Dean for Research
- Sharon Brooks, Administrative Assistant
- Julia Wetstein, Assistant Dean for External Affairs
- Michele Rushing, Assistant to the Dean for Financial Affairs
- Charlotte Gibson, Assistant to the Dean for Student Affairs
- Lucas Maxwell, Coordinator of Recruitment, Retention and Placement
- Rebecca Stenhaug, College Development Officer
- Steven Kraft, Chair, Agribusines Economcs
- Todd Winters, Interim Chair, Animal Science, Food and Nutrition
- John Phelps, Chair, Forestry
- Brian Klusek, Chair, Plant, Soil and Agriculture Systems
- Paul Pinson, Superintendent of SIUC Farms
- Fahran Robb, Student Editor, COAS Newsletter

**Board of Governors**

**SIUC Agriculture Alumni Society**

- Tim Southey, President; Bloomington
- Alan Edmundson, Vice President; Edwardsville
- Tom Toohill, Secretary; Mt. Pulaski
- Dr. Matthew Rendleman, Treasurer; Makanda
- Kevin Koenigstein, Past President; Columbia
- Larry Fischer, SIU Alumni Association Liaison; Pittsfield
- Clint Cissell, Lombard
- Toby Wiley, Arthur
- Jim Zaczek, Makanda
Research on Soybean Plant Genomes and Public Policy Issues

In ongoing genetics and genomics projects, the identification of mutant alleles is required to study the function of plant genes. Complementation analysis, known as plant transformation, is the approach of choice when testing for gene function; however, the technology has been subject to public criticism and rejection in many countries.

TILLING (Targeting Induced Local Lesions IN Genomes) is an alternative technology developed in model plant organisms. The system is based on 1) the production of mutations in the genome using Ethylmethanesulfonate (EMS), and 2) the rapid systematic screening of the developed EMS plant collections for identification of mutations in target sequences.

In Dr. Meksem’s lab, his research team has optimized TILLING as a high-throughput genomics tool for functional analysis of soybean genes. The team is also establishing an open access soybean TILLING central facility at SIUC. Funding was provided by the USDA-NRI Plant Genome program under the title “Tilling: A Community Oriented Reverse Genetics Tool in Soybean.”

The long term goal of the project is to be able to provide soybean researchers with an allelic series of soybean genes. Having access to a large allelic series will provide for functional analysis of soybean genes and for soybean biotechnology without transgenesis.

Watersheds in working agricultural landscapes produce traditional commodities such as corn, soybeans, vegetables, dairy products, meat, and fiber in addition to valuable ecosystem services. Ecosystem services play a critical role in pollution control, nutrient recycling, and flood mitigation; however, these services usually do not pass through organized markets and hence have no market prices assigned to them. The result is limited incentives to maintain the ecosystems.

The efficient use of resources at the watershed level to produce both adequate amounts of traditional agricultural commodities and ecosystem services is an important public policy issue. Dr. Kraft and an interdisciplinary team of researchers at SIUC received funding from the National Science Foundation to address this policy issue through use of the Big Creek subwatershed within the Cache River watershed of southern Illinois.

Researchers studied the nature of interrelationships and trade offs among the production of agricultural crops and ecosystem services. The team is using a modeling approach based on watershed planning that incorporates faux-farms distributed across the landscape whose resources reflect those of regional farms and farm operators. Genetic algorithms are used to determine the impacts on land use, farm income, flows of ecosystem services, and yields of traditional agricultural commodities.
Ag Clubs Take Pride in New and Continued Traditions

The 2006-2007 academic year has been a year of many firsts and also a year of continuing many traditions our College holds sacred. As the typical student walks through the halls of the Agriculture Building, one can not miss the sense of unity in our College. Our students take pride in our “Southern Home” community and they have several reasons to be proud.

Four newcomers to the College include the Soil and Water Conservation Society; American Water Resources Association; Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Related Sciences; and the Horse Judging Team.

The school year was kicked off with over 250 students attending the New Student Cookout and Club Fair. Free BBQ was a hit among students and representatives of the 24 registered student organizations in the College of Agricultural Sciences.

Four weeks later, Ag Council hosted a Homecoming Roundup BBQ in the breezeway on Friday of Homecoming Week. Various clubs provided food for almost 100 students, faculty, staff, and administration who attended the event. SIU President Glenn Poshard and Dean Gary Minish visited with several students at the event. On Saturday, Sigma Alpha, a professional agricultural sorority, received 2nd place in the small float division in the SIUC Homecoming Parade.

In October, the Agbassador® Team reinstated Fall Follies, a favored pastime full of plenty of food; music by Leland Bunting, an Agribusiness Economics student; and Ag Olympic games. Games ranged from a pie eating contest, chore run, sack race, and board walk. In April, the Agbassador® Team will be hosting a similar event called Spring Fling. Students will also be looking forward to Ag Council’s Slow Pitch Softball Tournament.

In November, six SIUC students, Amanda Barczewski, Alicia Garcia, Chris German, Jessica Grammer, Nick Santamaria and David Yandell, attended the Agriculture Future of America Leaders Conference in Kansas City, Missouri. Ag Council hosted a College-wide Thanksgiving Food Drive for the community of Carbondale.

Over Christmas Break, three Alpha Zeta members, Curtis Fry, Christa Mahnken, and Fahran Robb, participated in a 6-day Gulf Coast Work Trip where they assisted farmers around Abbeville, LA, who were hit hard by Hurricane Rita.

In January, six Block and Bridle members, Amanda Lawson, Christa Mahnken, Chelsie Marti, Russell McKeith, David Yandell, and Megan Yarcho, and two advisors, Drs. Gary Apgar and Rebecca Atkinson, attended the national convention in Kissimmee, Florida.
Ag Clubs Take Pride in New and Continued Traditions

Clubs came together in early February to raise $500 for a scholarship which was awarded to a high school student at the FFA / Farm Bureau Acquaintance Day. The Agbassador® Team held their annual Agbassador® Auction on February 8th at which time they raised over $1,400 by selling five hours of labor to various faculty, staff, and administration. Sigma Alpha Sorority and the Equestrian Team have been raising funds for Relay for Life.

In March, three Alpha Zeta members, Alyssa Rider, Fahran Robb, and Kate Tallcott, attended the 50th Biennial Conclave / National Agricultural Leadership Conference in St. Louis, MO.

Fahran Robb was named Alpha Zeta’s 2006 Burkett-Cunningham-Dennis Scholar, the highest national scholar award a member can receive. Christa Mahknen, Fahran Robb, and Kate Tallcott were named National Sigma Alpha Emerald Scholars.

Collegiate FFA has been busy throughout the year hosting events for area FFA chapters such as the Greenhand Workshop, FFA / Farm Bureau Acquaintance Day, and the Livestock Judging, Dairy Judging, Public Speaking, Parliamentary Procedure, and Forestry Career Development Events.

The Horticulture Association holds several seasonal fundraisers from selling pumpkins for Halloween, wreaths before winter break, to roses on Valentines Day. Also, approximately 15 members attended each of the following events: Illinois Landscape Contractors Association Challenge Day, Mid-America Trade Show, and Green Industry Conference.

For the past two years, Sigma Alpha has been named the Outstanding Club in the College of Agricultural Sciences. This year at Ag Council’s 56th Annual All-Ag Banquet, the Horticulture Association clinched the title.

Our Forestry Club placed first for the 15th consecutive year at the Midwestern Forester’s Conclave held at the University of Minnesota.
College Leadership Board Grows to 95 Members

In less than three years, the Leadership Board has grown from 50 to 95 members and will hold its fifth meeting on April 20th. The Board has been a significant help in guiding and supporting the teaching, research, and outreach programs in the College.

The Board has inspected the condition of the farm centers and on-campus facilities, critiqued the undergraduate curriculum, provided names and strategies for our recruitment and retention programs, provided input on the mission and goals of the College for the new strategic plan, learned about our research programs and suggested industry applications, identified critical development needs, and initiated and supported Agriculture Industry Day.

For all of this, the College would like to take this opportunity to say ‘thank you’ to the Board members listed below for the many ways they have expanded the influence and stature of the College of Agricultural Sciences on the SIUC campus and throughout Illinois and the Heartland.

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.

Karen Amling, Illinois Department of Agriculture (retired); Pana
James Anderson, Illinois Farm Bureau; Thompsonville
Trey Anderson, Hickory Ridge Golf Course; Carbondale
Stephen Bailey, Illinois Nurserymen's Association; Colodon
Scott Becker, Deere & Company; Waterloo, IA
Sarah Bond, Rend Lake College; Ina
Brian Borkowicz, Davey Tree; East Dundee
Philip Bradshaw, Illinois Soybean Checkoff Board; Griggsville
Susan Browning, Garfield's; Carbondale
Rollo Burnett, Illinois Farm Bureau; Metropolis
John Bushue, Archer Daniels Midland; Altamont
John Caupert, National Corn-to-Ethanol Center, SIUE; Waterloo
Bill Courtney, Helitech; Belleville
Jim Craft, Illinois Association FFA, Springfield
Stan Curtis, Carbondale Veneer Company; Carbondale
David Delaney, Potash Corporation; Lake Forest
Lee Denzer, Black Hawk College; Kewanee
Dean Dittmar, FCAE; Belleville
David Downs, C-FAR Board; Allerton
Larry Fischer, John Wood Community College; Quincy
Wally Furrow, Furrow Vineyard and Winery; El Paso
Jeff Galle, John Wood Community College; Perry
Paul Gregory, Allendale, Inc.; McHenry
Steve German, GROWMARK; Bloomington
Scherrie Giamanco, Illinois State Farm Service Agency; Springfield
David Gillespie, Illinois Forestry Association; Chatham
Melanie Givens, Eli Lilly and Company; Louisville, KY
Bill Grade, USDA NRCS; Champaign
Richard Guebert, Jr., Illinois Farm Bureau; Ellis Grove
Greg Gundlach, The Bridges Golf Club; Columbia
Bob Hall, Jackson and Union County Farm Bureau; Murphysboro
Glenn Hamilton, Freeman Coal Company; DuQuoin
Brenda Hill, Brookport
Jack Huggins, Watersheds Program Director; Peoria
Mike Jerina, Longview Animal Nutrition Center; Gray Summit, MO
Maralee Johnson, Illinois Beef Association; Springfield
Stan Jones, Dippin' Dots; Paducah, KY
Col. William Jones, Illinois State Police; Geneseo
John Kabat, Vocational Instructor; Schererville
Jim Kaitschuk, Illinois Pork Producers Association; Springfield
Peggy Kaye Fish, Farm Credit Services; Champaign
Angela Kazakevicius, Illinois Department of Agriculture; Carbondale
Craig Keller, Kelller Farms, Inc.; Collinsville
Robert Kershner, FASCO, Inc.; Tampa, FL
Donald Kloth, Anheuser Busch; St. Louis
Kevin Koenigstein, COAS Alumni Association; Columbia
Ken Konsis, Vermilion County Conservation District; Danville
Daniel Koons, Funk Farms Trust; Shirley
Gilbert Kroening, Dean Emeritus; Carbondale
Dean Kyburz, Main Street Wealth Management; Decatur
Gary Lee, Prairie Farms Dairy, Inc.; Carlinville
Art Lehmann, Illinois Pork Producers Association; Strawn
Dick Little, Illinois Forestry Development Council; Pleasant Plains
Karen Little, C-FAR Board; Pleasant Plains
Connie Locher Bussard, Dietetics Consultant; Springfield
James Lynch, Rend Lake Projects; Benton
Julie Maschhoff, The Maschhoffs, Inc.; Carlyle
Kenneth Maschhoff, The Maschhoff’s, Inc.; Carlyle
Wayne McGee, McGee Limousin; Tunnel Hill
John Moody, Dow Elanco (retired); Carmel
Debbie Moore, Carbondale Convention and Tourism Bureau; Carbondale
Dale Morland, Illinois Beef Association Board; Anna
Philip Nelson, Illinois Farm Bureau; Bloomington
Rich Nichols, Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts; Springfield
Jean Payne, Illinois Fertilizer and Chemical Association; Bloomington
Jake Rendleman, John A. Logan College; Carterville
Michael Reuter, The Nature Conservancy; Peoria
Stephanie Rhodes, So. IL Tourism Development Office; Whittington
Rudy Rice, National Association of Conservation Districts; DuQuoin
Domingo Riego, Monsanto; Carmel
Curt Rincker, Illinois Beef Association; Shelbyville
Sam Robb, Vocational Instructor (retired); Pinckneyville
Lyle Roberts, Illinois Soybean Association; Bloomington
Kenneth Robinson, Archer Daniels Midland; Decatur
John Rombach, Dow AgroScience, Illinois Department of Agriculture; Fishers, IN
Anna Ruman, Illinois Department of Agriculture; Springfield
Jay Runner, FCAE; Urbana
Kappy Sates, Office of Senator Durbin; Marion
Stephen Stages, Illinois Soybean Board, C-FAR Board; Shawneetown
Cliff Schuette, Illinois Beef Association; Breese
Wayne Sirles, Rendelleman Orchards; Alto Pass
Bruce Slover, Forest Service (retired); Great Springs
Tim Southey, Green View; Normal
Karen Stallman, Southwestern Illinois College; Red Bud
Gordon Stine, Illinois Farmers Union; Springfield
Bill Stiegler, Bayer CropScience; Normal
Dennis Thompson, Illinois Crop Improvement Association; Champaign
Kraig Wagenecht, C-FAR; Urbana
William Wagner, First Mid Illinois Bank and Trust; Highland
Glenn Webb, GROWMARK (retired); Tunnel Hill
Gregory Webb, Archer Daniels Midland; Decatur
Rodney Weinzierl, Illinois Corn Marketing Board; Bloomington
Donald Wittman, Wittman Family Foundation; Greeley, CO
Steven Wayt, USDA Statistics Division; Washington, D.C.
Bradley Wolter, The Maschhoff’s, Inc.; Carlyle
Karen Little B.S. ’69 M.S. ’84 is 2007 Outstanding Alumna Awardee

Karen Little’s career has been dedicated to helping people of all ages and health conditions improve their nutritional status. She has worked in hospitals in Texas and Illinois, at the SIU School of Medicine, and for the Illinois State Board of Education. In 1999, she was named Corporate Dietitian for Robert’s Sysco Food Services, Inc. in Springfield.

Little has two degrees from the College of Agricultural Sciences at SIUC, a B.S. in Human Nutrition Dietetics and an M.S. in Nutrition Science. Little is a Registered Dietitian and a Licensed Dietetics Nutritionist.

Karen Little has been a leader in her field serving as President of the Capital District Dietetic Association and President of the Central Illinois Chapter of the American Society of Healthcare Food Service Administrators.

Currently, Little serves on our College Leadership Board and is on the Board of Directors and Legislative Committee Chair for C-FAR.

Little lives in Pleasant Plains with her husband Dick (an alumnus of our Department of Forestry). They have four sons and three grandchildren.

Karen Little’s portrait will hang in our new Hall of Fame and she will be our College Commencement speaker on May 12.

Peggy Kaye Fish Receives 2007 Agriculture Service Award

Agriculture has been at the core of Peggy Kaye Fish’s career in broadcasting and public relations. Peggy has been Farm Director for WDZQ in Decatur, and WTAX and WFMB in Springfield. In 1995, she was named Vice President Public Relations for Farm Credit Services of Illinois.

Peggy grew up in Sullivan where she had the opportunity to work with her three brothers on the nearby farms of her grandparents and an aunt and uncle.

She has served in a leadership capacity on many committees, councils, and foundations. She has traveled overseas representing Illinois agriculture in China, Australia, New Zealand, USSR, and Guatemala. And Fish has been the recipient of numerous leadership awards.

Peggy Kaye Fish is a very strong and ardent supporter of the College of Agricultural Sciences, including the Outstanding Club at the All-Ag Banquet, SIUC Cooperative Youth Conference, Agriculture Industry Day, Belleville Field Day, College Leadership Board, College Job Fair, and hosting students as externs at Farm Credit Services of Illinois.

Peggy Kaye Fish is the recipient of our 2007 Service to Agriculture Award. Her portrait will hang in our new Hall of Fame.

Alan Edmondson ’00 is 2007 Young Alumnus

Alan has a B.S. degree in Forestry. For the past seven years, he has been an Environmental Protection Specialist for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers where he serves as the Team Leader of the River/Corps Section. In 2006, he received a Letter of Appreciation from the Department of Army for his assistance with Hurricane Katrina cleanup efforts. He currently serves as Vice President of the Alumni Society Board of Governors.

Edson Lobato Named World Food Prize Winner

Edson, who received his M.S. degree in Agronomy from SIUC in 1973, was named one of three World Food Prize winners for his work in Brazil this past June. He helped to transform the Cerrado region from only 200,000 hectares of arable land in 1955 to 40 million hectares of cultivated land by 2005. His assistance in soil fertility and soil management research contributed greatly to this accomplishment.
3rd Annual
Agriculture Industry Day
Saturday, April 21, 2007 • 9:00 am – 3:00 pm • University Farms
Southern Illinois University Carbondale

Morning Program
✓ 4-H and FFA Judging Contest
✓ Go Salukis! Athletics Update
  Mr. Mario Moccia, Athletics Director
✓ What it’s like to be a Student at SIUC
  Ms. Amanda Barczewski, Senior in Agribusiness Economics
✓ What Made SIUC the Right Choice
  Mr. Greg Webb, Vice President Public Affairs, Archer Daniels Midland
✓ Major Issues Facing Food & Agriculture Industries
  Mr. Philip Nelson, President, Illinois Farm Bureau
✓ Beef and Pork Complimentary Barbeque Lunch
  Compliments of Illinois Beef and Pork Producers

Afternoon Program  1:00 – 3:00 pm
SIUC 701  Horsemanship Clinic
  Dr. Sheryl King, Ms. Stephanie Speiser,
  Ms. Sheila Puckett
SIUC 702  Lawn, Tree & Shrub Care Clinic
  Dr. Ken Diesburg, Dr. Paul Henry,
  Dr. John Groninger
SIUC 703  From the Vine to the Wine Clinic
  Dr. Brad Taylor
SIUC 704  Livestock Judging Clinic
  Dr. Roger Hunsley, Mr. Eric Brunton
SIUC 705  Soybean Pest Management Clinic
  Dr. Bryan Young, Dr. Jason Bond

For additional information, please contact the College of Agricultural Sciences at 618.453.2469, or www.siu.edu/departments/coagr