Dear Alumni and Friends:

When I mention in a quandary you know what I mean. We’ve all been there. A quandary describes perfectly the situation we were in when the winter weather in Southern Illinois closed the University and cancelled our All-Ag Banquet.

Although very disappointed, the only thing to do was to regroup and look at alternatives. We decided to recognize the outstanding students, faculty, advisor, and club awards at Honor’s Day. The results will be reported in the Fall Newsletter.

The Outstanding Alumnus, Service to Agriculture, and Young Alumnus Awards will be presented at our College Leadership Board dinner. As in previous years, the recipients are featured on page 7 of this newsletter.

The cancellation of the Banquet left me without a time and place to present my welcome and comments; consequently, I decided to make my prepared remarks the centerpiece of my message in this issue.

“On behalf of the College, I want to welcome you to the 2008 All-Ag Awards Banquet. First, I want to thank Brock Waggoner, President; Amanda Lawson, Banquet Chair; and the entire Ag Council for all the time and talent they put into planning and conducting this important event.

Next, I would like to introduce some very special guests: Dr. Fernando Treviño, our new SIUC Chancellor; Dr. Don Rice, Interim Provost and Vice Chancellor and Dr. Pru Rice, Associate Vice Chancellor for Research and Director of the Office of Research, Development and Administration; Dr. Rickey McCurry, Vice Chancellor for Institutional Advancement and Sandra McCurry; Mr. Jeff Lorber, Associate Vice Chancellor for Institutional Advancement; Ms. Pat McNeil,

The SIUC Illinois Beta Chapter of Alpha Zeta initiated 41 new members last October which is the largest pledge class in the nation this academic year.
Assistant Dean of the Graduate School; Tuesday Ashner, Assistant Director of Alumni Services; Kappy Scates and Betsy Hall from Senator Durbin’s Office; Katie Pennell from Senator Obama’s Office; and Bob Hall, Executive Director of Jackson and Union County Farm Bureau.

This College is blessed with outstanding alumni and industry clientele, faculty and staff, and students. Because of all of you, we have had an exceptional year in the College of Agricultural Sciences at SIUC.

1) Enrollment increased by 7%, the highest of all the colleges at SIUC.

2) Two new majors were added in Human Nutrition and Dietetics and Hospitality and Tourism Administration.

3) Major improvement of our 2,000 acre Research and Teaching Farm Centers took place.

4) Our College Leadership Board grew to 100 members.

5) We hosted a highly successful 3rd Annual Agriculture Industry Day with over 750 in attendance.

6) Our new website, lobby display boards, landscape garden, and strategic plan are up and running.

7) We hired seven outstanding new faculty and staff.

8) Faculty received over $4.0 million in new research grants this past year.

9) The College received two major bequests from a former alum and emeriti faculty.

10) And, our new Ph.D. degree in Agricultural Sciences was approved by the Illinois Board of Higher Education on December 4th and will be ready to enroll students in the fall of 2008.

That said, it is now my pleasure to recognize the College of Agricultural Sciences 2008 Outstanding Alumnus, Tim Southey; the 2008 Outstanding Industry Service Recipient, Lyle Roberts; and the 2008 Young Alumnus, David Hartke.” All of whom are recognized on page seven.

Also in this issue you will find an informative Q and A on our new Ph.D. degree; an interesting feature on student engagement, an important consideration for prospective students as they decide where to enroll; a photo of our new Dairy Facility; and a special thank you to the Delaney’s for their significant gift to the College.

In closing, I look forward to seeing you at our 4th Annual Agriculture Industry Day on Friday, April 18th. Please note we have moved to Friday to accommodate an increased number of high school prospective students. It will be a great event for all.

Sincerely,

Gary L. Minish, Dean
Q & A on the New Ph.D. Program

Through the efforts of Drs. John Haller, Rob Jensen, Gary Minish, John Preece and countless others, a Ph.D. program in the College of Agricultural Sciences has become a reality with candidates enrolling Fall 2008. To find out more about the new Ph.D. program we interviewed Dr. John Preece, Director of Graduate Studies.

Q: Why would a college and/or university decide to add a Ph.D. program?
A: We wanted a Ph.D. to add depth to our existing graduate programs. A Ph.D. program means we will have more senior graduate students who will add expertise to our research and teaching efforts. And, Ph.D. research tends to address more fundamental questions with emphasis on the “how and why” of biological, physical and social science inquiry. Also, the College waited until our faculty had established a very strong research reputation before initiating the Ph.D. program.

Q: How will this Ph.D. program affect the College and its current students and faculty?
A: The program will increase research efforts for the College and improve teaching by the addition of more mature and experienced graduate students. The current faculty will be able to direct Ph.D. degree students, adding strength and depth to their research programs. Current students may consider continuing on to earn this degree and become some of our first, new Ph.D. degree students.

Q: When will the first Ph.D. candidates be enrolled and what fields of study and areas of concentration will be available?
A: We are enrolling students for Fall Semester 2008. The fields of study will reflect our graduate faculty makeup in the College and basically be similar to the concentrations offered throughout the College and include the biological, physical and social sciences.

Q: How will the program be organized?
A: Students will take core courses and develop a research project with their major professor and graduate committee. The program requires a minimum of 60 semester hours of coursework, including 24 hours of research dissertation. Courses consist of 36-39 structured hours in statistics, research and teaching communications, and emphasis area courses. The emphasis courses will be determined by the students’ graduate committee and will be selected to enhance the students’ expertise in their specific area of focus. The remaining two semester hours will be in graduate seminars.

Q: What are the prerequisites for entrance into the program? In other words, what background should a person have to qualify and be successful?
A: Criteria for admission include an official transcript or graduate dean’s letter indicating a master’s degree was awarded, letters of recommendation, minimum 3.25 GPA, and GRE scores. The graduate committee in the College must approve admission to the Ph.D. program in Agricultural Sciences. Approximately five to 10 candidates will be accepted each year.

Q: What types of assistantships will be available? In other words, how will students be funded?
A: Students will compete for assistantships. Faculty and administrators determine who will be offered assistantships. Most Ph.D. students will be funded on research assistantships from grant dollars generated by the faculty.

Q: What career opportunities await a successful Ph.D. graduate?
A: Completion of a Ph.D. degree in Agricultural Sciences will expand and enhance employment opportunities in the academic, private and government sectors. Numerous individuals employed in the agricultural, food, and forestry industries and academia have indicated they would like to enroll in our new Ph.D. program to advance their education and careers. Those who come from the private and government sectors will have opportunities to advance within their respective industries and agencies. Those who come from academia will have opportunities to advance within their colleges and universities. The Ph.D. degree is required and/or preferred for most academic and administrative leadership positions.

If you have any questions regarding the Ph.D. program in Agricultural Sciences at SIUC, please contact Dr. John Preece at jpreece@siu.edu.
Student Engagement is a High Priority in the College

Most likely you are asking, “What is student engagement? And what makes it so important?” USA Today recently published a feature on the subject that described experiences and opportunities known to benefit students. Five benchmark categories were identified.

We in the College of Agricultural Sciences at Southern believe we measure up well against the benchmarks. Students are our number one priority and we strongly encourage students to become actively involved with their studies, professors, and campus community so that they make the most out of their Southern experience. Here’s a closer look at the quality of our College using the USA Today benchmarks.

**Level of Academic Challenge.** According to USA Today, one of the best ways to measure the level of academic challenge is whether the “coursework emphasizes things like synthesizing ideas or applying theories to practical problems.” University Educational and Research Laboratories offer students the opportunity to apply and put into practice information gained in the classroom.

Four of SIUC’s 20 Research Enriched Academic Challenge Grants were awarded to students in the College. Additionally, several of our students challenge themselves academically through the University Honors Program, prepare for graduate studies through the McNair Scholar program, or help faculty with their research through Undergraduate Research Assistantships.

**Active and Collaborative Learning.** We know students learn more when they are involved in their education such as when working with classmates outside of class to prepare assignments or discussing ideas from readings outside of class. Starting in Fall 2009, the College of Agricultural Sciences and University Housing will provide agriculture students the opportunity to live, learn, and study together in a “Living Learning Community.” Participating students will be housed in Steagall Hall which is located in Thompson Point and is only a five minute walk from the Agriculture Building. This Living Learning Community will help create a supportive atmosphere and facilitate interaction between students of similar interests, and allow even greater access to faculty, academic resources, and specialized programs.

**Student-Faculty Interaction.** In our College, professors take time to get to know students. When walking down the hall, professors say “hi” and ask how are you. We place emphasis on advising and our Coordinating Counselor system in the College is unique on campus. Our faculty members are highly qualified individuals who love what they do, are very approachable with an open door policy, and are willing to help students develop to their fullest potential.
High Priority in the College

Students interact with faculty outside of the classroom on a regular basis whether it is as an advisor of a registered student organization, over lunch or dinner at a COAS event, or as participating team members at various social activities such as Fall Follies, Spring Fling, or Donkey Basketball.

Enriching Educational Experiences. Students build leadership and teamwork skills by choosing to get involved in some of SIUC’s 400 plus registered student organizations. There are 25 registered student organizations in the College of Agricultural Sciences that cover diverse interests in the agricultural industry. Students participate in various leadership, fellowship, professional, and service events both on and off campus, out-of-state, and internationally.

This year will mark the Fourth Annual Agriculture Industry Day. This year’s keynote speaker is U.S. Senator Richard J. Durbin. Past keynote speakers include U.S. Senator Barack Obama, SIU President Dr. Glenn Poshard, and Illinois Farm Bureau President Mr. Phillip Nelson. Our students assist the College in running this event, enjoy industry and student club exhibits, and mingle with prominent industry leaders and alumni.

Supportive Campus Environment. Dean Gary Minish is highly visible and interacts with students frequently in our College. The College and Ag Council host a New Student Cookout and Club Fair each fall. A group of 10-12 outstanding students called the Agbassador™ Team and Kristy Bender, Coordinator of Recruitment, Retention, and Placement, actively recruit students. Students have access to several computer labs, the Writing Center, University Career Services, SIU Alumni Association’s Externship Program, and fall and spring College and University Career Fairs where students can seek jobs and internships. Additionally, SIUC awarded financial aid to 77% of its students.

A 100 member College Leadership Board representing all segments of the global agriculture, food, and forestry industry helps to guide and support our teaching, research, and outreach programs ensuring that the College of Agricultural Sciences remains one of the top programs in the nation. At SIUC, we truly care about our students and building a strong foundation for their future.
George Delaney Endowed Scholarship

The College is very pleased to announce the Delaney family recently created a $100,000 endowment to honor the late George Delaney. Mr. Delaney, an individual of great integrity and optimism, was a high school agriculture education instructor and FFA advisor in Eldorado and Harrisburg for 15 years, served on the school board and city council, and was a deacon of his church. Mr. Delaney grew up on a farm in Porum, Oklahoma, where he learned the value of an honest day of hard work. While Mr. Delaney himself was a graduate of Oklahoma State University, all three of his children are graduates of SIUC. The George Delaney Endowed Scholarship will award four $1,000 scholarships each year to a student in the College of Agricultural Sciences. Additional consideration will be given to students who are residents of Southern Illinois and possess a solid academic standing.

This year’s Delaney Scholarship recipients are Jacqueline Crosser, a junior from Anna majoring in dietetics; Daniel Etienne, a sophomore from Eldorado majoring in agribusiness economics; Scarlett Horton, a freshman from Eldorado majoring in agricultural communications; and David Yandell, a sophomore from Tunnel Hill majoring in agribusiness economics.

Legacy Endowment

A new endowment was recently established by Dr. and Mrs. James Legacy in support of scholarships for FFA students enrolled in the College of Agricultural Sciences. Dr. Legacy will match all donations to this endowment up to $10,000. Dr. Legacy served 25 years as professor of agriculture education at SIUC. The College is grateful for Dr. Legacy’s dedicated service and his commitment to education.

Call Rebecca Stenhaug, Associate Director for Institutional Advancement, at (618) 453-1848 or stenhaug@siu.edu, to take part in the Legacy Endowment.

New Dairy Dome

As part of the College of Agricultural Science’s clean up and renovation initiative at the University Farm Centers, two new Hoop structures were constructed at the Dairy Center. They provide an environmentally friendly facility for our dairy cows, faculty, staff, and students. This has allowed us the opportunity to increase our milking herd size to 60 cows. It has also contributed to a substantial increase in milk production and quality from a more content cowherd.

Congratulations and best wishes to our new retirees.

Dr. She-Kong Chong, Professor of Plant and Soil Science, 29 years

Dr. John Phelps, Chair of Department of Forestry, 19 years

Thank you for your many contributions!
Tim Southey B.S. ’80 is 2008 Outstanding Alumnus

Tim Southey was born in Peoria, Illinois, and he graduated from Southern Illinois University Carbondale in 1980 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Plant and Soil Science.

Following graduation Southey joined Green View Companies where he has held the positions of Landscape Design Consultant, Landscape Manager, and Division Manager at their Bloomington/Normal location. Today, his position is that of Vice President of Landscape Operations which oversees design, landscape installation, and landscape maintenance departments at all five Green View locations throughout Illinois.

Southey is President of the SIUC Agriculture Alumni Society and is a member of our College Leadership Board. He serves on the SIU Alumni Association Board, on the Illinois Vision for Agriculture Committee and has served as president of the Bloomington/Normal Sunrise Rotary.

He is an Illinois Certified Nursery Professional, a Registered Landscape Architect, and a multiple national American Landscape Contractors Award Winner.

Southey and his wife, Mary Kay, also a graduate of SIUC, reside in Bloomington, and have three children.

Tim Southey’s portrait will hang in our new Hall of Fame and he will be our College Commencement speaker on May 10.

W. Lyle Roberts, Jr. Receives 2008 Service Award

W. Lyle Roberts, Jr., of Bloomington, has served as the Chief Executive Officer of the Illinois Soybean Program Operating Board and the Land of Lincoln Soybean Association since June of 1990. Roberts is a veteran employee of soybean groups, first serving as Director of Operations for two years and as Chief Operating Officer for three years.

As Chief Executive Officer, Roberts is responsible for administering the Illinois Soybean Checkoff Program; developing and implementing educational and promotional programs for the Illinois Soybean Association; and coordinating programs and activities between the state soybean groups, United Soybean Board, and American Soybean Association.

Roberts was a founder and served on the Board as the first Chair of the Illinois Council on Food and Agricultural Research (C-FAR) and was founding chair and served on the Board of the Illinois Biotechnology Industry Organization (IBIO).

Roberts currently serves as Chair of the Soy 20/20 Vision Committee and is on our College Leadership Board. He has also worked as Director of Sales and General Manager of the Illinois Agricultural Service Company’s Export Division, Chief Underwriter for Country Mutual Insurance Company, and as an Animal Health Product Manager for FS Services, Inc.

W. Lyle Roberts, Jr. is the recipient of our 2008 Service to Agriculture Award. His portrait will hang in our new Hall of Fame.

David Hartke ’93 is 2008 Young Alumnus

Hartke has a B.S. degree in Swine Production and he and his family currently operate a 1400-acre corn, soybean, and wheat farm along with his father. They raise 175 head of feeder finish cattle and have a 12,000 head wean-to-finish hog operation.

Hartke is serving a second term as the District 14 Director of the Illinois Soybean Association (ISA) and in August was elected to serve as the ISA Chair. He has also been an active member of Alpha Gamma Rho Beta Alpha Chapter Alumni Association, Effingham County Farm Bureau Young Leaders, and the Effingham County Chamber of Commerce.

Hartke met his wife Korrie at SIUC and they have quadruplets, Alexander, Dustin, Garrett, and Taylor Krystine.
4th Annual
Agriculture Industry Day

Friday, April 18, 2008 • 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. • University Farms
Southern Illinois University Carbondale

Morning Program
• 4-H and FFA Judging Contest

• “What It’s Like to be a Student at SIUC”
  Ms. Jenna Wicks, Sophomore in Agriculture Education

• “What Made SIUC the Right Choice”
  Mr. Lucas Maxwell, University of Florida

• The Voice of Illinois Agriculture “In Person”
  Mr. Orion Samuelson, Farm Broadcaster, WGN Radio

• “Energy and Climate Change”
  Invited Speaker, Senator Richard J. Durbin,
  U.S. Congressman

• Complimentary Beef and Pork Barbecue

Afternoon Workshops
AG 201: Become a Landscape Designer
AG 202: Stop Horsing Around!
AG 203: Over the River & Through the Woods
AG 204: Cooperation in Cooperatives
AG 205: Researching the Future of Agriculture
AG 206: The Truth About Cats and Dogs
AG 207: Men…and Women in Trees
AG 208: Good ‘Ole Southern Hospitality
AG 209: My Meat Comes from Where?!?
AG 210: Shawnee Hills…Tourism at its Best!
AG 211: Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?


For additional information, please contact the College of Agricultural Sciences at 618.453.2469 or visit http://coas.siu.edu