Dear Alumni and Friends:

It has now been five and a half years since I came to Southern Illinois as your Dean. When I interviewed I recall saying I would stay three to five years. The years came and went like a flash and that is a good sign.

As I look back the easy part was recruiting students – they love us when they find us. And the industries we serve welcomed the College with open arms. Alumni in leadership positions throughout the state, region, nation and world quickly reconnected and supported the College. And, the new Ph.D. in Agricultural Sciences has been a monumental addition to our academic programs.

A bit more challenging was to clean up and upgrade our 2,000-acre farm centers and we had almost reached our goals when we got a setback on May 8 when the very unusual ‘inland hurricane’ tore up buildings and fences. We regrouped and started the process again and I am pleased to report we have made excellent progress. The farms are the hub of our research, teaching and outreach programs and have been instrumental in the growth of all areas.

The most disappointing and most challenging is the Agriculture building and the other buildings which house College faculty, staff and students. In spite of strong support from industry and alumni we have made limited progress. The economic and budgetary situations have resulted only in a new roof – for which

The 2007-2008 Agbassador Team was a huge help with the 5th Annual Agriculture Industry Day. At the conclusion of the morning program the Team presented the speakers with SIUC hospitality baskets. More information on the day long event, including the speakers, FFA judging contest, exhibits, afternoon programs and demonstrations, barbecue, and entertainment is on pages 4-5.
we are thankful. The good news is the building has recently been moved up on the list of University capital projects and the President is very supportive of a new Agriculture Building at SIUC.

So you ask what does the future look like for the College of Agricultural Sciences and what should we focus on? I offer the following:

• Set our immediate sights on a goal of 1,000 undergraduate students, then 1,200, etc. All very achievable.

• Continue the dialogue with our alumni and industry clientele – the College Leadership Board and Ag Industry Day.

• Continue to grow and focus our research programs on solving the problems and meeting the needs of our stakeholders.

• Study the future career paths in agriculture and related areas and the knowledge and skill sets required. Based on this information we should continually revise our majors and curricula to produce graduates for the future careers.

• Assess the economic and environmental issues and problems of producers in our state and region and address them in our research and teaching programs.

• Let taxpayers know the value we add to the state through their tax dollars.

• Design an Agriculture Building and Farm Centers for use in the next 50 years from 2010 to 2060.

• Select a new leader who is grounded in agriculture and who sees and can guide the College well into the future.

With this issue and at the end of Fall Semester, I am leaving my post as dean. I have thoroughly enjoyed the time and effort during my tenure at SIUC. It is you the people who made it all worthwhile and I thank you for your support. I feel very good about what we have done together and I am confident the future will be even brighter for the College and University.

Thank you and best wishes.

Gary L. Minish, Dean
College Welcomes New Students at Picnic

On a beautiful afternoon the second week of school, 13 student organizations and teams in the College set up tables, displays, exhibits, and demonstrations to welcome new students and to introduce them to the many extra-curricular opportunities in the College.

New students looking into the MANRRS organization enjoy the barbecue. Left: Taylor Kelly, Agribusiness Economics major, Demetria Davis, Human Nutrition and Dietetics major, and DeLandre Dennis, Pre-Major.

Dr. Rebecca Atkinson, Beef Cattle Specialist, helped other faculty and staff members serve students a barbecue dinner prepared by Tom Welten, Farm Mechanic, and crew.

A new student signs up for the Pre-Vet Club at the New Student BBQ. Upcoming events for the Pre-Vet Club include sponsoring an activity with the Living Learning Community.

SNAC President, Jill Shunk, senior studying Human Nutrition and Dietetics shares information about upcoming activities for SNAC. Upcoming events for SNAC include an Etiquette Dinner on October 21st.

The conclave team demonstrated their winning techniques for the annual Conclave competition. The Forestry Conclave team has won this competition for 18 years in a row. Members include from left: Beth Raymond, Josh Nickelson, Wade Bloemer, Joe Andres, Vince Hamer, Eric Sumner, Matt Ragle, and Christy Ford.

The collegiate FFA club members Mary-Grace Bell and Sara Conner compiled a list of students who expressed interest in receiving emails about club meetings and events. Upcoming events for the collegiate FFA include traveling to the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, sponsoring an activity with the Living Learning Community in Steagall Hall, a trip to Lambert’s restaurant and a shopping trip to Sikeston, Missouri, and helping judge district FFA contests.

Members of the Ag Systems Technology club brought out their ASABE Quarter Scale Tractor. SIUC builds a tractor every year and competes in a yearly competition which is held in Peoria. Pictured left: Jared Eichelberger, Colburn Dittmer, Phil LaScola, and Advisor Myron Albers.
5th Ag Industry Day Attracts 554 Prospective Students

Dr. Brad Taylor gives a presentation on Viticulture Canopy Management. Individuals that attended this afternoon program discovered southern grape varieties and were able to taste award winning wines from Southern Illinois. Members of the Shawnee Hills AVA Association assisted with the demonstration.

Wade Bloemer demonstrated a two-man buck-berjacking Exhibition. The SIUC Conclave team remained the champions for 18 years in a row. The team demonstrated match split, underhand chop, speed chop, and one-man buck-berjacking.

Dr. Ken Diesburg gave an afternoon program on Spring Landscape and Lawn Care. Dr. Diesburg and Ms. Karen Midden presented weekend project ideas, creative design, and basic instruction on successful landscape and lawn care.

At the podium Co-Superintendents of the FFA Livestock and Dairy Judging Contests (left to right) Sam Robb, COAS Class of ’75, Pinckneyville, and Glen Hamilton, COAS Class of ’77, Sesser, announce the individual and team winners. Todd Winters, Associate Dean, hands out the ribbons while Gary Minish, Dean, congratulates the winners.

In the exhibit area Wesley Wright, ’74 alum of the COAS, (center) and David Yandell, ’08 alum of the COAS, explain the products and services of Eli Lilly and Company.

High school students are waiting for the signal to start judging a ring of swine. In addition to three classes of swine the students also judged three classes of cattle and two of sheep in the livestock contest. In the dairy contest the students judged five classes of dairy cows and dairy heifers. FFA teams from throughout Illinois competed in the event.

Speakers for the morning program (left to right) Todd Marlo, University Distinguished Senior Award Recipient and Animal Science major from Marion, spoke on “What it’s Like to be a Student at SIUC,” Vern McGinnis, Illinois Farm Bureau and former GROWMARK executive from Bloomington, spoke on “The Future of Illinois Agriculture.” Dale Lennon, Head Football Coach at SIUC, spoke on “Predictions for the 2009 Season.” David Delaney, President PCS Sales, Potash Corporation, and ’83 alumnus of the COAS, spoke on “What Made SIUC the Right Choice.” Gary Minish, Dean, is at the podium.
5th Ag Industry Day Attracts 554 Prospective Students

Iga Opanowicz came to SIUC from Poland to major in the Equine Science Program. Iga helped with the Advanced Horsemanship Program at the 5th Annual Ag Industry Day. Mr. Mark Schwarm conducted the Advanced Horsemanship program demonstrating horse care, training, and riding using a holistic approach.

SIUC students, Phillip Holthaus, Kathleen Carmack, and Rebecca Carmack all members the band Concordia provided entertainment at Ag Industry Day. Kathleen is a senior studying Plant and Soil Science.

Blake Brown, Ahmad Leeri, Brandyn Cline, Chelsey Westbrook, Jill Shunk, and Brandon Ridings all Human Nutrition and Dietetics majors helped put on the presentation for Good Nutrition: Choice or Chance. The session was a fun way to make sense of nutrition topics, dispel fad diets, and explain the cost of playing dangerous nutrition games. Faculty members Dr. Sara Long and Ms. Dawn Null worked with the students to prepare for this workshop.

Participants enjoyed the noon Saluki Barbecue compliments of Illinois Beef and Pork Producers. Sigma Alpha Professional Agricultural Sorority helped serve the BBQ meal.

Wesley Wright, ‘74 alum of the COAS, and David Yandell, ‘08 alum of the COAS, explain the products and services of Eli Lilly and Company.

Pike saw during the Lum-berjacking Exhibition. The SIUC Conclave team remains the cham-pions for 18 years in a row. The team demonstrated match split, underhand chop, speed chop, and one-man bucksaw.

High school students are waiting for the signal to start judging a ring of swine. In addition to three classes of swine the students also judged three classes of cattle and two of sheep in the livestock contest. In the dairy contest the students judged five classes of dairy cows and dairy heifers. FFA teams from throughout Illinois competed in the event.

Congratulations to the winning teams and individuals

Top Livestock Teams
1st Altamont
2nd Paris
3rd Bluford
4th Highland
5th Waltonville

Top Dairy Teams
1st Trico
2nd Nashville
3rd Central
4th Massac Co.
5th Dieterich

Top Livestock Individuals
1st Logan Farnham
2nd David Ammann
3rd Kane Austin
4th Kyle Kuhns
5th Keifer Camp
6th Clay Lunsford
7th Rob Fulton
8th Jaisun Burg
9th Coty Compton
10th Tyler Gross

Top Dairy Individuals
1st Zach Henson
2nd Mitchell Eickmeyer
3rd Buddy Bridges
4th Joe Leubbers
5th Tyson Minor
6th Luke Stanhouse
7th Nick Walquist
8th Lindsay Francis
9th Adam Henson
10th Abby Kern

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Congratulations to the winning
College Receives $1 Million Endowed Gift
by Greg Scott

Walter J. Wills, professor emeritus of agricultural economics, bequeathed more than $1 million to the University’s College of Agricultural Sciences. This gift will support various areas within the College of Agricultural Sciences and endow scholarships according to the specifications and wishes of the estate. Students who major in Animal Science, Plant and Soil Science, Ag Mechanization, and Agribusiness Economics will benefit from these scholarships.

Wills was hired in 1956, just a year after the University established its College of Agriculture. He chaired the agricultural industries department for 15 years and served the University for 27 years until his retirement in 1983. Wills was also a veteran, having served as an Army lieutenant during World War II.

He served in the 3rd Army under General Patton.

The Beecher City, IL, native was a member of the First Christian Church and Carbondale Rotary. He died in 2000 at the age of 84.

Gary Minish, Dean of the College of Agricultural Sciences, says Wills’ gift is significant and will provide educational opportunities for students who might not have been able to attend or afford College.

“Dr. Wills certainly had a major impact during the early years of our College. He was revered by his students and fellow faculty,” Minish says. “His gift allows us to provide major scholarship support for our students – who are always a priority. The College of Agricultural Sciences will benefit from Dr. Wills’ passion for students and production agriculture for years to come. We are truly grateful for his commitment and generosity to our students and for his strong loyalty and support for the College of Agricultural Sciences at Southern Illinois University Carbondale.”

“His gift allows us to provide major scholarship support for our students – who are always a priority.”
– Gary Minish, Dean

Congratulations. . .

At the SIUC Excellence Through Commitment Awards Ceremony three faculty members received awards. Karen L. Jones, Animal Science, Food, and Nutrition, was named Outstanding Teacher in the COAS; Karl W. J. Willard, Forestry, Outstanding Scholar in the COAS; and Kim S. Harris, Agribusiness Economics, University Outstanding Teacher. In an interview with Harris he said, “the approach that works best for me, and the one I rely on most often is creating enticements to learning instead of penalties for not learning. I also enter into a partnership with my students; a partnership in which I convey to them a sense of my personal involvement and commitment to their well-being.”

... and best wishes to Dr. Steven Kraft, retiring Professor and Chair, Agribusiness Economics. Thank you for your many contributions over the past 29 years.
Class of ’59 Celebrates 50-Year Reunion at DuQuoin State Fair
Annual Ag Alumni Society Backyard BBQ on the Governor’s Lawn

Members of the COAS Class of ’59 assembled for a group photo. Fifteen alumni from the class traveled to DuQuoin from four states. The reunion program was co-chaired by Dr. Gil Kroening, Carbondale and Steve Scates, Shawneetown. Also in the photo are SIUC Chancellor Sam Goldman, Former Dean Wendell Keepper, and Current Dean Gary Minish.


Riemond Rippel, Class of ’59, Burlington, WI comes through the line.

Dr. Gil Kroening, Class of ’59, Carbondale visits with Hoble Usherwood, Class of ’59, Madison, GA.

From left to right three members of the Class of ’59 Robert Francis, Jackson, MO; Steve Scates, Shawneetown; and Eugene Milleville, DuQuoin look over items for sale in the auction which each year supports the College Ag Alumni Society.

The first Dean of the College and the Dean in 1959 Dr. Wendell Keepper received a new COAS cap from current Dean Gary Minish. Dr. Keepper lives in Makanda and turned 99 this year.

Paul Gill of Bloomington shared memories of what it was like to be at SIUC in the late 50’s.

Ronald Schubert of Trenton also shared stories about fellow students, classes, and faculty.
SIUC and Kendall College: Farm to Table Dinner II

~ Menu Fall 2009 ~

Passed Canapes
Brut Cavee (Seyval, Two Oaks Vineyard), August Hill

Pit Roasted Prawns over Alan Walter’s Warm Nicoise in a Citrus Butter Sauce Cardonel, Starview

Field Greens with Dr. Taylor’s Roasted Norton Grapes, Carr Valley Benedictine Cheese, Spiced Pecans, and Truffle Vinaigrette Frontenac Sparkling, August Hill

Sweitzer’s Fresh Cucumber Mint Granita

Bass Farm’s Sirloin Tip Roast, Sweet Corn and Okra Polenta, with Farmer Brown’s Summer Vegetable Ragout Norton, Hickory Ridge (Governor’s Cup)

Southern Illinois Jonathan Apple Tarte Tatin with Prairie Farms Crème Fraiche and Buttermilk Peach Fritters drizzled with Lavender Honey Late Harvest Vignoles, Owl Creek

The Farm to Table Dinner is a celebration of local foods grown and produced in Southern Illinois by local farmers and was the culmination of a week of farm tours by the visiting Kendall College students from Chicago learning more about the process of agricultural food production. The six-course dinner was planned, prepared, and served by SIUC Hospitality and Tourism Administration students and Kendall College student chefs. Seventy guests enjoyed the dinner.

Special thanks to Bass Farms, Bison Bluff Farms, Illinois Beef Association, Illinois Pork Association, Prairie Farms, SIUC Aquaculture Center, SIUC Dining, and SIUC Horticulture Center for their generous donations.