Dear Alumni and Friends:

Hello from Carbondale and Southern Illinois University! It has been about a year that I have served the SIUC College of Agricultural Sciences as its 9th Dean. The year has gone by very quickly for my family and me. Although the University has suffered through the bad financial situation in the state of Illinois and transitions in the University administration, I’m proud to say that our College has remained strong and vibrant.

Highlights are as follows:

Enrollment remains strong at nearly 960 students. The College is no longer the smallest on campus surpassing both Mass Communications and Media Arts, and Engineering. COAS continued to maintain a high level of research productivity ($17.1 million in grants), especially in the areas of Soybean Production, Water Quality, Energy Policy and Human Nutrition and Obesity. We currently have eleven students in our new Ph.D. Degree in Agricultural Sciences. The first graduates should be hooded in 2011. We now have a new Master’s graduate program in Hospitality and Tourism Administration. Both Human Nutrition and Dietetics, and Forestry received 10 year accreditations for their programs in 2010.

Three faculty (Dr. Andrew Carver, Forestry; Alan Walters, Production Horticulture; and Karen Jones, Animal Science) were promoted to Full Professor in 2010. Four new faculty members were hired in the areas of Forest Recreation and Park Management (Dr. Logan Park), Forest Wildlife (Dr. Clay Nielson), Aquaculture (Dr. Brian Small), and Animal Physiology (Dr. Eduardo Gastal). Two students finished

Agbassadors present Ag Industry Day speakers with gift baskets and personalized SIU College of Agricultural Sciences jackets. Ag Industry Day is just one of the many events throughout the year that Agbassadors take part in. They play a key role in recruitment and student involvement in the College.

Pictured from left: Kelsey Graber, Mary-Grace Bell, Kristen Woods, Jessica Smith, Kelsey Doss, Rich Guebert, Julianna Wessels, Beth Raymond, and Kevin Fry.

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terms as President of National Organizations- Jessica Smith (Human Nutrition and Dietetics) national undergraduate President of the Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources and Related Sciences (MANNRS); and Blake Welge (Plant and Soil Science) national President of the Postsecondary Agricultural Students (PAS). Thomas Marten (Ag. Ed.) is currently serving as Student President of Alpha Tau Alpha Agriculture Education Honorary. The Forestry Conclave team won the Midwest Contest for the 18th year in a row, and Kory Garrie won the Midwest ESPN/ Stihl Timbersports Competition. We have re-started our Livestock Judging Team with a 1st Place Individual by Ryan Kinney (ANS) in the Carload contest at the Western National; and our Horse Judging Team received a 1st with Alex Rauk (ANS) in Halter at the Arabian National. The Collegiate FFA Parliamentary Procedure Team placed first at the National Alpha Tau Alpha Conclave.

We continue our international activities with the Afghanistan Water, Agriculture, and Technology Transfer (AWATT) program; a Panama Forest Research Project; and a Hospitality Student Exchange with Taiwan. We received two major bequeaths totalling approximately $2 million to support scholarships in the College from the Dr. Walter Wills and the Harold Kuehn estates. Lastly, we initiated renovations to the current Agriculture Building including construction of SIU’s first Green Roof, and gained SIUC’s momentum toward building a new Food, Agriculture, and Natural Resources Building at Southern Illinois University Carbondale. Reconstruction continues at the SIUC Farms and Forest after the May 2009 Super Derecho.

I thank Dean Emeritus, Dr. Gary Minish, for leaving the College in such great shape. I promise to keep up the momentum and maintain the SIUC College of Agricultural Sciences in high standings as an academic and research leader nationally and internationally. We thank all of you for your continued support. The future remains bright.

Best Wishes,

Todd A. Winters, Ph.D.
Professor and Interim Dean

Farm Tours: A Hit With Kids

Approximately 800 students ranging from kindergarten through high school attended last spring’s University Farm Tours. Students from the College shared with the visitors about the different aspects of agriculture. Michelle Sullivan, Coordinator for Recruitment Retension and Placement, organized the event.

“The kids were able to touch all of the animals, run, play and experience a slice of farm life outside.” Sullivan said that the farm tours will be offered again this spring. To learn more about this year’s University Farm Tours, contact Michelle Sullivan by email at sully@siu.edu or by phone at (618)453-3080.

Heather 3rd Grade
DuQuoin Backyard BBQ Fun

Dr Cheng Speaks

Welcomed as our honored guest, Chancellor Rita Cheng, spoke of the impact agriculture made on her life as a dairy farmer’s daughter growing up in Wisconsin at the DuQuoin Alumni BBQ held August 31, at the DuQuoin State Fairgrounds.

Cheng made light of the hard work, dedication and values learned on a farm and gave notice to progress being made in the world of agriculture.

Special notice was given to the millions of dollars of research that are acquired by the College of Agricultural Sciences each year. Cheng identified with the value of education being provided in the College and praised the high quality of our graduates.

The College is enthused about having a chancellor who understands the values, concerns, and importance of agricultural education.

Judging Fundraiser

This year’s DuQuoin State Fair Backyard BBQ brought out over 250 people. At this event the crowd enjoyed a delicious steak dinner donated by Illinois Beef Association and served by the College’s Block and Bridle Club.

This year as a pre-dinner event, alumni and guests were invited to judge a pre-selected class of breeding ewes as a fundraiser for the Livestock Judging Team. The team then gave reasons for their correct placings of the class and the winner of the contest was named.

Mt. Vernon High School Agricultural teacher and FFA Advisor, John Kabat, a 1984 and 1985 double alumni, was awarded as the winner.

Kabat donated his winnings back to the Livestock Judging Team.
First of its kind in the region, the College of Agricultural Sciences is the new home of a green roof. As the roof on the south part of the agricultural building was replaced, a portion of it was built strong enough to hold 25 pounds per square foot.

For the project, Karen Midden, professor in the Department of Plant and Soil Sciences had a vision. She knew that a green roof would be a wonderful teaching, research, and environmental tool. Through research and much help from expert Tom Cooper of Green Roof Solutions of Chicago, Illinois, Midden was able to study the different types of green roof systems available and decide what would be most beneficial to the goals of our green roof.

SIUC green fee money was provided in addition to College funds to help set this project into motion.

Tom Cooper, who became acquainted with the horticulture program at SIUC after employing a horticulture graduate, was able to recommend the type of system that would best accommodate learning opportunities, assisted with ordering of materials needed, and mechanics of the operation. SIU horticulture alum Mike Curry of Midwest Trading Company of Chicago was able to provide expertise on the best type of media to use. Another alumnus, Grace Koehler from Pizzo Native Plants of Chicago, helped choose the appropriate native plants and grasses for the roof.

The roof was assembled in one week and was installed by 150 students with the help of faculty members and volunteer laborers from the University Physical Plant, Curry, Koehler, and Cooper.

Currently there are three parts to the roof: a standard sedum mat (a type of vegetative cover) native plants and grasses, and an area for research. The roof is being used as an interdisciplinary educational experience for everyone involved and is designed to improve storm runoff and water quality. It is used as a teaching tool, demonstration area and outdoor laboratory.

Green roofs are becoming more common in urban areas for the uses of growing food and flowers as well as urban forestry. Currently the research portion is focused on lettuce and radish production, as well as assessing each crop’s nutritional values. Midden would like to expand the uses of the green roof more into urban agriculture and possibly begin work with the HTA culinary class.
Growing Experiences

Donated Pavers Give Eco-Friendly Makeover

Karen Midden, horticulture professor in the Department of Plant and Soil Sciences, has been making strides toward improving the College’s involvement in the University-wide green initiative. Middens strides started with the development of an ag patio using bricks made from donated pavers.

It all started when Karen Midden attended the Mid-American Horticulture Trade show. Each year the College of Agricultural Sciences Horticulture specialization is represented with a booth. Last year a company by the name of CALSTAR based out of San Diego, California approached Midden in the quest to have SIUC be the “kickoff” location for their product.

CALSTAR’s product was a fly ash paver, which looks and feels just like bricks but has a low carbon footprint because less energy is required to make them. In addition to this, they are constructed from coal by-products.

Midden found a patio in disrepair behind the Agricultural building. She and her students wanted to bring it back to life. It became a class project to tear out the old patio, and prepare to lay the donated pavers.

In combination with improving the area, and student participation this project qualified for the use of some of the first green-fee project money. A representative from the CALSTAR company travelled to Carbondale to watch the classes install their product.

SIUC was the honored recipient of the very first shipment of pavers CALSTAR delivered.

Now pictures of the patio created behind the agricultural building, in what was once an eye sore, are being used as advertisements for the CALSTAR company.

Since the initial setting of the patio, a dry creek has been added to improve drainage away from the patio. Dr. Paul Henry’s classes have finished pathways to the patio and Amy Boren’s classes have focused on planting flowers and beautifying the landscape around the patio.

A table and chairs donation in memory of Mike Wolff and a bench in memory of Karra Greunenfelder overlooks the new and beautiful site.

Students and faculty are seen throughout the day eating lunch, studying and enjoying the beauty of the site.

At front, Kyle Gingerich sets the grade using a transit. In back, Joe Klump and Greg Schweitzer work with Karen Midden laying pavers. Aaron Word works to commute pavers from the stack. John Magill and Evan Grandimas watch pavers being laid, learning the correct approach to laying.

Teamwork increases the learning experience for all involved in a project of this magnitude.
The College of Agricultural Sciences has undergone some changes since newsletter time last year. Some changes have only affected the college while others are felt campus wide. These new changes all began after the December retirement of Dr. Gary Minish, Emeritus Dean of the College.

**Interim Dean**

Former Associate Dean, Todd Winters took position of Interim Dean and moved into the Dean’s office on March 1, 2010. Dr. Winters has been in the College of Agricultural Sciences for 16 years and has served as Chair of the Department of Animal Science Food and Nutrition.

Winters has prioritized maintaining research and increasing enrollment for his term as dean. He hopes to continue the fundraising campaign toward a new agricultural building and is seeing through the restructure of University farms after the damage caused by the storms of 2009.

**Acting Associate Dean**

Dr. Karen Jones took stride as Acting Associate Dean of the College on December 1, 2010.

The Associate Dean has a wide variety of duties that range from coordinator for research, to director of the Ph.D. program, to overseeing University Farms, as well as Dean’s delegate as needed.

As acting associate dean, Jones has set the goals of increasing grant generated funds by developing internal and external teams. She hopes to increase enrollment in the new Ph.D. program, which will have its first graduates in May, and help secure resources for Ph.D. programs and assistantships. Creating Standard Operating Procedures for the farms, that all of the faculty and staff follow, is another top priority for Dr. Jones.

She will maintain a teaching appointment within her tenured department.

**Department Chair**

After two years as Interim Chair, Dr. Jim Zaczek was named the Chair of the Department of Forestry in October.

The department is ranked fourth in the nation for undergraduate forestry degrees and has had a 22 percent increase in enrollment over the past two years. While the incline in enrollment looks optimistic, Zaczek has targeted recruitment and retention as a continued area of focus for the department and recognizes the challenge of growing a department while maintaining quality education.

Zaczek is proud of the outstanding faculty, staff, and students that have made SIU Forestry one of the top educational and research programs in conservation and sustainability of natural resources in the country.

Zaczek looks forward to continued success throughout the Department of Forestry and it’s alumni.

**Remembering Friends**

Three dedicated emeriti passed away last year. We miss their big hearts and love for their respective fields.

OVAL M. MYERS JR.  
Plant and Soil Sciences

H. DEE WOODY  
Animal Science

SCOTT HINNERS  
Animal Science

**COME VISIT US!**

We welcome the opportunity to show you all the great things that are happening because of your support!
Southern Illinois University has rekindled its Livestock Judging Team. The team participated in five different competitions this past year starting in January, and going through November.

The National Western Stock Show at Denver, Colorado was the first stop. While in Denver, the team found success and ended up 10th overall in the carload contest with team member Ryan Kinney being high overall individual.

Other contests attended were the Dixie National in Jackson, Mississippi; Premier Sockman in Columbia City, Indiana; American Royal in Kansas City, Missouri; and the North American International Livestock Exposition in Louisville, Kentucky.

Overall, the team was satisfied with their year and hopes this will give lead to others in the quest to help rebuild the SIUC’s livestock judging legacy.
Bull Test Station Prepares for 36th Annual Sale

Southern Illinois University Carbondale’s Bull Test Station has been reaching out to serve producers and buyers within the 150 mile radius for 36 years. The goal of the Bull Test Station is “to evaluate the ability of bulls to gain rapidly, measure true feed intake, to measure feed efficiency, provide a location where cattle breeders can purchase superior performance tested bulls with excellent genetics.”

All bulls within the test must meet a list of requirements to participate, and another set of performance qualifications to be entered in the sale. Animals are put into the test by consignors who serve on an advisory board and have full input on how the station is operated and the diet consigned bulls are fed.

SIUC’s Bull Test Sale is unique in comparison to many other co-signer cattle sales because it allows producers and buyers access to test driven data that has measured average daily gain (ADG), feed to gain ratio (F:G), residual feed intake, pelvic measurement, scrotal circumference, intramuscular (IM) fat, rib fat, and rib eye area (REA). The station also conducts breeding soundness exams. SIUC offers the only bull test station within 200 miles.

This is the second year that the test has had a junior and a senior bull division. Junior bulls are tested for 112 days on Purina Impact Grower diet with hay. Senior bulls are tested for 85 days on the same diet and are stepped down on protein and are given an increase in hay so that they are ready for the breeding season after the sale.

Feed intake is measured using the Calan gate system. Each bull is given an identifier necklace which opens the gate to feed. Bulls are cared for by an undergraduate assistant, student employees, the facility manager-George Weidlocher, and facility supervisor Rebecca Atkinson.

All consignors are responsible for feed and care costs of animals while they are at the station. This year 45 bulls arrived on September 30, 2010 and will be sold on Friday, March 11, 2011.

Another special feature offered at the SIUC Bull Test Station is that a sale index is provided which is based on 30% EPD, 60% Performance, and 10% Carcass characteristics. This index is included in the annual sale catalog which goes out to interested individuals approximately two weeks before the sale.

To learn more about the SIUC Bull Test Station, how to become a consignor, track this year’s bulls progresses, or become a member of the mailing list, visit www.bulltest.siu.edu, contact facility manager, George Weidlocher at 618-201-6838 or facility supervisor, Rebecca Atkinson at 618-453-5000.

The sale this year will be held at the Bull Test Station located at 628 Rowden Road, on Friday, March 11, 2011, at 6:30 pm.
Ag Industry Day Becomes 2 day Event

Ag Industry Day was first founded to invite students and community members in to showcase the College of Agriculture’s students, research, and industry innovations.

The single day event has hosted livestock judging and dairy judging contests for the last few years. This year the contests will be expanded to also include the SIUC Invitational Horticulture Contest.

The horticulture contest addition to the event list to encompass more of what the vast agricultural field has to offer.

Last year, over 700 students participated in the livestock and dairy judging contests. A 20 percent participation increase is anticipated with the horticulture contest addition.

With such concentration based around contests on Friday, the College is dedicating another day, Saturday April 16, 2011 to the community with an agricultural showcase for the public.

Attendees can expect to be entertained by various professors and industry experts as they give talks and demonstrations on areas ranging from home gardening to global positioning satellite usage.

The College hopes that the additional day will allow both student and community participants to enjoy the event to it’s fullest.

Top Livestock Teams
1st Mt. Vernon FFA
2nd Highland FFA
3rd Altamont FFA
4th Madison 4-H
5th Goreville FFA

Top Dairy Teams
1st Goreville FFA
2nd Newton FFA
3rd Diedrich FFA
4th Red Bud FFA
5th Wesclin FFA

Waterloo FFA senior, Dustin Lutman studies the class of market pigs before marking his placings card.

Livestock Judging was one of the two contests held at last year’s Ag Industry Day.

Galatia FFA members try out the two man bucksaw at a booth set up by College’s Forestry Club Conclave Team.

2009-2010 National FFA Eastern Region Vice President, Kelsey Dawess, delivers a motivational speech.

The complementary pork BBQ meal is a favorite for many who attend each year.
Guard Trains with COAS Faculty

Illinois Army National Guard prepared their Agriculture Development Team for their upcoming deployment to Afghanistan at Southern Illinois University Farms this fall. This unit, comprised of soldiers who bring experience in Illinois agricultural practices, came to get their hands dirty in agricultural education by faculty members of the College of Agricultural Sciences. The training at SIUC taught them some of the specific differences they will encounter working in agriculture in Afghanistan. The team will work in Kunar Province in far eastern Afghanistan.

Topics ranged from vegetable production, control of weeds, and sampling soils to livestock handling and management. Faculty members emphasized areas of agriculture that would be applicable to areas in Afghanistan where this team will be focusing their time and efforts.

The development team’s mission will be to provide local agriculture extension agents and the farmers they serve with knowledge and skills they can use for years to come. While in country, they will demonstrate practical knowledge lost during the decades of conflict as well as introducing improved practices and appropriate technologies to interested Afghans.

Dr. John Groninger, co-director of international programs for the College of Agricultural Sciences at SIUC, coordinated the training. Groninger, a Professor in the Department of Forestry, has been to Afghanistan four times in the past year working on watershed rehabilitation. With his base knowledge of the country and their current agricultural capabilities, he was able to assemble a team who could educate the soldiers on topics where they sought additional training.

“The conditions the team will face in Kunar could not be much more different from what they are used to in Illinois. I thought the college faculty really rose to the challenge of making the training relevant.”

Soldiers in the training agreed. The Illinois National Guard has asked to come back for similar training when similar units muster in the future. Once the unit deploys this spring, COAS faculty will continue to support their work, both via the internet from Carbondale and through temporary duty assignments with the team in Kunar Province.

The soldiers felt that SIU provided them with a good base of knowledge and application practices to kick off their experience. They will be coordinating with other state’s agricultural teams for more training. The Illinois National Guard has asked to come back for similar training in the future.

Dr. Nancy Henry, DVM talks to soldiers about care and management of goats during the College’s National Guard Afghanistan Training while Dr. Rebecca Atkinson displays proper handling.
Honoring Their Legacy

By Greg Scott

A very generous gift left to the SIU Foundation by the late Harold and Nora Kuehn brings education and research opportunities for the College of Agricultural Sciences.

The gift includes the Kuehn’s farmland located in Dowell, just 15 miles north of Carbondale. In accordance to the estates wishes, a portion of the property was sold for the purpose of funding scholarships in support of students pursuing degrees in Plant and Soil Sciences and Animal Science, Food and Nutrition.

The remaining acreage has been named The Kuehn Research and Education Center. This land will allow for large scale experiments.

Dean Winters says, “We are in the beginning stages of providing larger scale research to southern Illinois farmers. In the years to come, it will become a very beneficial center. Our plan is to make it a focal point for research and education.

Whether we are educating our students or hosting a field day for local farmers so they can see our research first hand; it’s an opportunity to educate the farm community on new and upcoming products. This farm honors the legacy of Harold and Nora Kuehn.”

Harold Kuehn, an Elkville native who received a bachelor’s in agriculture from Southern in 1951, became the first president of the Ag Alumni Society of SIU. He served on the board of directors for the SIU Alumni Association and was a SIU Foundation board member for over a decade. Harold received distinguished service awards from both organizations, in addition to the Alumni Achievement Award from the College of Agriculture in 1996.

Harold was a career farmer who produced grain and livestock, and was recognized with an Illinois Master Farmer Award. He was president of the Illinois Soybean Association in 1968 and was one of its founders.

Kuehn’s leadership went beyond the State of Illinois. Harold travelled to 49 countries doing market development for the Foreign Agriculture Service in USDA and American Soybean Association, including the first trade mission to Russia in 1972 as the American Soybean Association President.

Nora worked at Croessman Wholesale Co. for 25 years before retiring and selling the business. She was a member of the First United Methodist Church in DuQuoin. She often accompanied Harold to university events and particularly enjoyed baseball and basketball. The Murphysboro native travelled alongside her husband to 38 countries during her husband’s service to agriculture.

Illinois Soybean Association Awards Scholarship

Illinois Soybean Association (ISA) has initiated a scholarship program for all state universities offering a Bachelor of Science degree program in crop production. The ISA Crop Production program is open to incoming freshmen and transfer students entering the Bachelor of Science degree program in Plant and Soil Sciences with an emphasis on crop production.

This particular scholarship program must be applied for separately from the College’s Heritage Scholarship, and is different because the funding is committed for multiple years and the students must provide evidence of their interest in crop science. It continues to pay throughout the remainder of the student’s undergraduate career, based on availability and funding.

Scholarship recipients are selected based on academic achievement, experience or interest in applied crop sciences, and professionalism. The candidate must also possess educational and career goals that are consistent with the disciplines within crop science that can advance the future of soybean or crop production.

Last year, overall the ISA Crop Production Scholarship program committed $45,000 for the first round of six recipients at SIUC.

The program at SIUC is committing $120,000 for students that begin enrollment in Fall of 2011.
7th Annual Agriculture Industry Days

Friday, April 15, 2010 • 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. • Saturday, April 16, 2010 • 9:00 a.m.- 3:00 p.m.

University Farms  Southern Illinois University Carbondale

FRIDAY

4-H and FFA Judging Contest
8:30 am Horticulture Registration
9:00 am Livestock Registration at University Bull Test
9:00 am Dairy Registration at University Dairy Farm
11:30 am Why SIUC College of Ag- Michelle Sullivan
11:45 am Official Placings for Livestock and Dairy Contests
12:00 pm Pizza Party
1:00 pm Presentation of Awards

COAS students and clubs will showcase their programs within the college, and be available for questions.

SATURDAY

Ag in the Atmosphere

We welcome you to a county fair atmosphere filled with events for people of all ages. Come see and take part in the many presentations, demonstrations and displays. Expect to be enlightened on topic areas in agriculture, natural resources, and nutrition. For lunch, enjoy a complementary pork barbeque meal.

Featuring:

- Landscape Design
- Petting Zoo
- Forestry Demos
- Animal Care Demos
- Global Information Systems
- Beef Ultra-sounding
- and much much more...


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