

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

DEAN'S REPORT 2019



SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
EDWARDSVILLE

COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES



Dean's Column

The College of Arts and Sciences celebrates its 25th anniversary this academic year, and the quality of our students, faculty and programs has never been better. From the cutting-edge research of our faculty to the innovative classroom experiences of our students, encompassing the community engagement work in between, the College has an enormous impact in our region and beyond. Add our outstanding alumni to that creative mix, and it is no wonder SIUE continues to shape a changing world. In this issue of the Dean's Report, you will read about some of these remarkable individuals.

With the history of the College at the forefront this year, read about Jackie Johnsen Hammer. Her father was involved in the creation of SIUE, and her passion for students and programs led to the creation of two new scholarships.

Read about students excelling in their pursuits and experiencing international travel study. Mohamed, Dalia and Youssef Hassan are siblings who all decided to attend SIUE and study science. Historical studies major Nathan Head experienced summer in Italy, assisted by his receipt of the Tony DiPaolo Travel Study to Italy Award, funded by the Matt Melucci Italian Studies Committee.

Dr. Danielle Lee in the Department of Biological Sciences is having an impact nationally by connecting to the next generation of students. Dr. Lee is a TED Fellow and a National Geographic Emerging Explorer.

One of the joys I have as dean is meeting our alumni and hearing their memories of SIUE and the impact the University had on their lives. Recent graduate Lindy Noel, BS speech communication '11, MPA '14, started her career off with a sprint and is now marketing for organizations such as the St. Louis Blues. Our two newest Alumni Hall of Fame inductees, Dave Johnson, BA history '66, and Mark Von Nida, BA government '85, both credit much of their success to the solid foundation of their SIUE educations.

Of course, innovation demands continual updating of our facilities, including renovations to our botanical research facilities with the Greenhouse Project. This will double the existing space, creating a state-of-the-art site with four distinct climate zones. Your support of this important venture will be instrumental in keeping the College of Arts and Sciences the best value in Illinois higher education.

Thank you for your passion and commitment for our students, faculty and programs!

Best wishes,

Gregory Budzban
Dean, College of Arts and Sciences

Programs and Degrees

Undergraduate Majors

* Teacher Licensure Available

Anthropology
Applied Communication Studies
Art*
Art and Design
Biological Sciences*
Chemistry*
Criminal Justice Studies
Economics
English*
Environmental Sciences
Foreign Languages and Literature*
Geography*
History*
Integrative Studies
International Studies
Liberal Studies
Mass Communications
Mathematical Studies*
Music*
Philosophy
Physics
Political Science*
Social Work
Sociology
Theater and Dance*

Graduate

Applied Communication Studies
Art and Design Studio
Art Therapy Counseling
Biological Sciences*
Chemistry*

Creative Writing
Criminal Justice Policy
English
Environmental Science Management
Environmental Sciences
Geography
History*
Integrative Studies
Mathematics*
Media Studies
Music*
Public Administration
Social Work
Sociology

Graduate Certificates

Integrative Studies
• Environmental Management
• Marketing and Public Relations
• Sustainability

Literature
Media Literacy
Museum Studies
Piano Pedagogy
Teaching English as a Second Language
Teaching of Writing
Vocal Pedagogy

Doctoral

Cooperative PhD programs with SIU Carbondale
• Environmental Resources and Policy
• History

About the College of Arts and Sciences

The College of Arts and Sciences is committed to a mission of intellectual transformation for our students in which they explore a rich tapestry of ideas, experiences and people. The College fulfills this mission with our exceptional teacher-scholars providing innovative, experiential learning opportunities and excellent degree programs, in addition to the outstanding liberal arts and sciences foundation for undergraduate students across the University. The College promotes scholarly and creative activity, community engagement and public service, and cultural and art programming, all of the finest quality.

Scholarship Reflects Donor's Dedication and Values



Jackie Johnsen Hammer, whose father played an important role in establishing SIUE, has strengthened her ties to the University by creating two new scholarships.

Hammer's history is tightly intertwined in the origins of SIUE. Her father, Norman Johnsen, was an urban renewal planner who helped develop the plans for the University prior to its construction. He later became a faculty member at SIUE, teaching earth sciences, geography and planning. Hammer fondly remembers watching SIUE be built as a young child.

"I was dressed in my Sunday best for the opening of Lovejoy Library ... for all of the building openings, in fact," Hammer said. "John Rendleman (former SIUE president), Arthur Grist (professor emeritus of curriculum and instruction), Delyte Morris (the SIU System's longest serving president)—I knew each and every one of them. I love how this has kind of come full circle."

In honor of her late husband, Hammer created the Jeffrey S. Hammer, MD, Memorial Scholarship. Jeffrey was a prominent psychiatrist in the region and leader in healthcare informatics who took photographs at local events to financially support himself through medical school. The scholarship in his honor is available for undergraduate or graduate students majoring in art and design with a specialty in photography/digital arts. The first scholarship recipient was selected in 2019.

"Jeff believed education is paramount," Hammer said. "With my ties to the University since I was a child and having the assets to give, what better thing to do than to educate and help someone who cannot afford it otherwise?"

A second scholarship, the Jackie Johnsen Hammer and Jeffrey Hammer Memorial Scholarship, was created through a planned gift to support graduate students majoring in healthcare informatics.

"The criteria for the awards reflect the traits and values embodied by both Jackie and Jeffrey," said Kyle Moore, director of development for the College of Arts and Sciences. "Jackie's planned gift will change the lives of aspiring students and make the world a better place."

**"I hope to inspire someone else to give back to education. That would make me a very happy person."
Jackie Johnsen Hammer, Donor**



The Greenhouse Project: Re-imagining Research at SIUE

The greenhouse at SIUE is a versatile educational resource that supports the University's value of excellence and its emphasis on high-quality learning within and beyond the classroom. The current building has been in place since 1997 and is now in need of modernization and expansion to better serve faculty and student researchers in biological sciences, environmental sciences and chemistry.

The Greenhouse Project includes renovating the existing 1,500-square-foot facility, adding a 1,500-square-foot wing, and constructing a 600-square-foot head house to serve as a workspace and control center. The enlarged facility will create a state-of-the-art greenhouse containing four distinct plant environments. One portion of the renovated space can be set up like a rainforest, for example, while another section can mimic a desert.

"Students and faculty researchers can use the enhanced space to focus on conservation efforts aimed at rare and local species, international pollution challenges, green roof studies, and further understand the effects of light, temperature and gravity responses in a controlled environment," said Kelly Barry, PhD, associate professor in the Department of Biological Sciences.

A large portion of the Greenhouse Project costs have been acquired internally and through state funds set aside for the construction of Science West and renovation of Science East. However, more than \$175,000 must be raised externally through private donations to fully fund the initiative.

"For faculty, we see the greenhouse renovation as vastly impacting both teaching and research," Barry said. "For teaching, we'll have the capacity to maintain an extensive collection of diverse plant forms from varied regions of the world."

The combination of faculty research, student research and faculty-student mentoring that happens in the greenhouse is a textbook example of the teacher-scholar model, one of the cornerstones of the SIUE experience.

"Renovation of the greenhouse will not only meet the demands of a rapidly expanding area of study, it will also help our program mature into one that can better compete for grants on a national level while training qualified, highly desired students for professions in ecology, conservation biology and botany," said Vance McCracken, PhD, chair of the Department of Biological Sciences.

The fully renovated greenhouse is anticipated to open in the summer of 2021.

To make a gift to the Greenhouse Project and help advance SIUE's research capabilities, contact Kyle Moore, director of development for the College, at 618-650-5048 or kymoore@siue.edu.



A Modern Production on a Timely Subject

This spring, the Department of Theater and Dance presented *Are U R?*, a production inspired by Czech playwright Karel Čapek’s *R.U.R. (Rossum’s Universal Robots)*. Čapek’s four-act science fiction play premiered in 1921 and first introduced the idea of artificial intelligence (AI), stimulating a range of thought-provoking questions and controversy at the time.

Nearly a century later, and with AI no longer fiction but now a reality, three SIUE professors from different departments embarked on a transformative journey over the course of a year, exploring the pressing topics of AI.

Starting out as an idea, *Are U R?* quickly deviated from a simple concept to an expanded project that fostered collaboration across disciplines. The modern adaptation was conceived by:

- Eric W. Ruckh, PhD, associate professor, Department of Historical Studies and director, University Honors Program
- Charles Harper, MFA, professor and chair, Department of Theater and Dance
- Igor Crk, PhD, associate professor and chair, Department of Computer Science

“We spent countless hours in the Dunham Hall dance studios mining our collective physical imaginations and creating an utterly new world inspired by the ideas and images that Čapek laid out 100 years ago,” Ruckh said.

The adaptation was written by Harper and Ruckh, with Crk helping frame the overall message. The production involved more than 50 people from multiple departments and consisted of a full complement of professionals and students alike. The end product, which was staged April 24-28, was an irreverent and provocative mash-up of humor and horror, philosophy and science fiction, pop culture and faith that explored the nature of artificial intelligence and human consciousness.

“Everyone had to step out of their comfort zone to make the production possible,” Crk said.

“*Are U R?* certainly provoked a range of questions surrounding artificial intelligence and what truly defines a human being,” Ruckh said. “But even more, the production represented a model for what liberal education can do and why educational institutions should be doing more interdisciplinary work.

“Students need to create a product with high stakes where failure is real,” he said. “We need to create spaces where there are real consequences that take us into the world, because what the world needs is collaboration to fix it.”



Bret Hartman TED 2019

Explorer, Biologist and Outreach Scientist

“I am still doing science for the young girl inside of me who always enjoyed being outdoors and around animals,” said Danielle N. Lee, PhD, assistant professor in the Department of Biological Sciences. “I am really interested in the pouched rat’s social organization. Are they social or not? How do they live their lives?”

Lee’s research focuses on how ecology and evolutionary components contribute to the behavior of animals. Her research on rodents has the potential to save hundreds of lives each year. She works with trainers in Tanzania to study the behavior of African giant pouched rats, which are used to sniff out abandoned landmines. These weapons of war, which can still be found in approximately 60 nations, kill or maim more than 5,000 people annually.

Lee’s research and scholarship led her far and wide during the 2018-19 academic year. She was featured in a TED Talk in Canada in April on “How hip-hop helps us understand science.” In May, she discussed how “Science is a verb because it’s something we DO” at National Geographic Headquarters in Washington, D.C. She ventured back to Tanzania in June to conduct research on the African giant pouched rat, which she has studied since 2012. Despite seeming to live out of her suitcase at times, Lee still manages a classroom and lab, while mentoring undergraduate and graduate students.

Lee has woven a rich and vibrant tapestry of experiences so far in her career, but one common thread through it all is access. Access to knowledge, opportunities and, most importantly, science.

An advocate for diversity and inclusion in the sciences, Lee is well-known for her outreach efforts through social platforms. She blogs about urban ecology through “The Urban Scientist” at *Scientific American*, and is the co-founder of the National Science & Technology News Service, a media literacy initiative that brings science news to African-American audiences and promotes science news source diversity in mainstream media. Lee is a TED Fellow and a National Geographic Emerging Explorer, and was named one of *EBONY* magazine’s Power 100 and a White House Champion of Change in STEM Diversity and Access.

Lee recently assumed the role of co-principal investigator for the Louis Stokes Alliances for Minority Participation Program, a STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) pathways program offering mentorship, STEM experience and professional development to minorities.

“The sciences should be accessible, and I am passionate about helping students find their on-ramp to science outdoors and around animals.”

Danielle N. Lee, PhD, Assistant Professor, Department of Biological Sciences

25th Anniversary of the College of Arts and Sciences

College of Arts and Sciences formally established, merging the Schools of Fine Arts and Communications, Humanities, Sciences and Social Sciences.

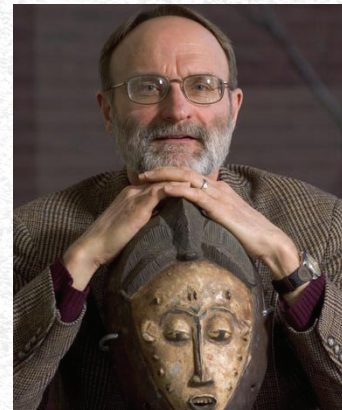


Administrators of the newly formed college: Dixie Engelman, associate dean, Sharon K. Hahs, PhD, dean, Dave Steinberg, associate dean

Department of Art and Design initiates the Sculpture on Campus program, an annual showcase of original, student-created, large-display art pieces installed across campus.



The first William and Margaret Going Endowed Professorship is awarded to Ronald Schaefer, PhD, professor of English language and literature.



Department of Theater and Dance stages first Xfest, a "festival of theatrical experimentation."



Peter Cocuzza and Chuck Harper, founders of the Xfest and Theater and Dance professors

The University Museum acquires almost 500 pieces of art valued at more than \$465,000 from a foundation established by the late Cuban artist Emilio Sanchez.



Renovated student media integration lab goes online in the Department of Mass Communications with sophisticated, integrated technology. The lab commemorates two late founders of the department: Professor Bill Ward and Professor Emeritus Jack Shaheen, PhD.

1995

1999

2001

2005

2006

2009

2010

2011

2012

2017

2018

2020

Artist-in-Residence Lisa Colbert establishes the Black Theatre Workshop as an avenue for students to create and perform works of the African-American theater canon.



Ground is broken for the new, 138,000-square-foot, \$46.2 million Science West Building.



Illinois Gov. Rod R. Blagojevich announced nearly \$3 million in funding for plans to renovate the existing Science Building and construction design of a new science laboratory building.

Construction begins on the new, 29,000-square-foot, \$9 million Art and Design West building.



First day of fall semester coincides with total solar eclipse. Department of Physics spearheads viewing sessions at Korte Stadium and at the main SIUE campus for thousands of students, employees and community members.



25th Anniversary of the College of Arts and Sciences





Study Abroad Further Ignites Student's Passion for History

Study abroad is more than a resume builder. It's a learning adventure that broadens worldviews, expands experiences and leaves participants forever changed.

Over the summer, historical studies major Nathan Head of Edwardsville, along with seven other students, went on a month-long study abroad trip to Florence, Italy.

The University partners with Santa Reparata International School of Art to offer the study abroad opportunity. Participating students take part in multiple field trips to Rome, Venice and other cities rich in history and culture.

"The most rewarding thing for me was visiting museums and art galleries and actually seeing first-hand some of the artworks and structures that I've learned about all my life," Head said.

Head earned six credit hours for the study abroad course, which marked his first trip outside the United States.

Head's trip was assisted by his receipt of the Tony DiPaolo Travel Study to Italy Award, funded by the Matt Melucci Italian Studies Endowment. He was nominated for the award through his participation and work in Renaissance and reformation classes with Carole Frick, PhD, professor in the Department of Historical Studies.

"Nathan brings a sincere interest and passion for history to the classroom," Frick said. "His enthusiasm for the cultural significance of early modern European history made him the logical choice to receive the DiPaolo Award. Unfailingly upbeat and contributive to the daily excursions and also to his fellow travelers, Nathan helped to provide a once-in-a-lifetime experience for everyone on the trip."

"It took me out of my comfort zone and made me adapt to a change in place, language and culture."

Nathan Head, Edwardsville, Historical Studies Senior

Head's award was funded by the Matt Melucci Italian Studies Endowment, which honors the late Matt Melucci. Melucci served as the circuit clerk of Madison County, Ill., for more than two decades and was proud of his Italian heritage. He was passionate about promoting the Italian language, which he saw as a gateway to understanding Italy's people and culture. After his death in 2012, friends, family and community members collaborated to form a committee that provides funding for Italian Studies at SIUE as a tribute to him.



Faculty of relevant courses nominate exceptional students who intend to participate in the study abroad program in Italy and would benefit from additional financial support. The travel study award also recognizes Tony DiPaolo, a long-time Italian instructor at SIUE who was instrumental in establishing the Melucci committee and accompanying fund. DiPaolo died in 2016.

"The opportunity to study abroad in Italy adds significant depth to students' language learning," said Douglas Simms, PhD, professor of German and chair of the Department of Foreign Languages and Literature.



The Hassan Family

Siblings often share bedrooms, wardrobes, dinners and holidays, but when it comes time to attend college, they usually decide to go their separate ways. That wasn't the case for Mohamed, Dalia and Youssef Hassan. The three siblings decided to attend SIUE.

Born in Alexandria, Egypt, the Hassan family moved to Springfield, Ill. in 2003. When it came time for each sibling to select a college, Mohamed, Dalia and Youssef all chose SIUE, but each for their own reasons.

After completing an associate degree at a community college, Mohamed selected SIUE for its strong academic reputation. Dalia knew the University was right for her just moments after stepping foot on campus. "I fell in love with the location, scenery and atmosphere," she said.

As younger siblings often follow in the footsteps of their older brothers and sisters, Youssef chose SIUE because Mohamed and Dalia already had familiarity with the campus. "My siblings have been very helpful. They made my transition from high school to college much easier," Youssef said.

For the Hassan siblings, having each other around has been an invaluable experience as they navigate college. "It was great to attend college with my siblings," Mohamed said. "We get along very well and it was helpful to have them around."

Mohamed graduated with a bachelor's degree in physics in May and began a graduate program at Michigan State University this fall. Dalia, a senior, and Youssef, a junior, are both majoring in chemistry.



“Getting to participate in the parade and see everyone was breathtaking. I want to do it again and again!”

Lindy Noel, BS Speech Communication '11, MPA '14

Alumna Contributes Behind the Scenes to St. Louis Blues

“Ain’t it funny how life changes.” The lyrics of country music star Thomas Rhett’s hit song *Life Changes* leave many people considering where they thought they may be someday and where they are now. It’s a fitting verse for Lindy Noel, BS speech communication '11, MPA '14, and maybe even a line she used to promote Rhett’s September concert at the Enterprise Center in downtown St. Louis.

Promoting such events and handling media relations are just a couple of the items on Noel’s to-do list as a marketing and communication manager for the St. Louis Blues, Enterprise Center and Stifel Theatre.

“Working with all three entities is exciting, because I get to have my hands on a variety of things all the time,” Noel said. “One day I’m working Blues public relations, the next I’m pitching an interview for a comedian coming through Stifel Theatre, and the next, I’m handling credentials for Braggin’ Rights, the annual men’s basketball contest between Mizzou and the Fighting Illini.”

Noel’s professional role is filled with both responsibilities and opportunities, the most recent of which involved the excitement of the St. Louis Blues’ historic Stanley Cup championship.

During playoffs, the professional communicator handled all early morning non-player media. She worked with in-game hosts to promote special playoff gear, the Stanley Cup Final outdoor parties and the watch parties held at the Enterprise Center during away games.

“This was my first season with the team making it to the playoffs, so it was a truly exciting time,” Noel said. “The Stanley Cup victory parade and civic celebration in downtown St. Louis were unbelievable. We have the best fans in hockey.”

Noel is a proponent of being your own brand ambassador. With that mindset and armed with the tremendous academic preparation she received in her degree programs at SIUE and her growing and varied work experiences, Noel is working toward her professional goals of being named to the SIUE Alumni Hall of Fame and achieving a spot on the esteemed *St. Louis Business Journal’s* 40 Under 40 list.

Her advice for others advancing through life’s changes: “Whether you’re in school or 30 years into your career, don’t be afraid to step outside your comfort zone. Play nice, make friends, have mentors. They can be your biggest cheerleaders and best references.”

2019 Alumni Hall of Fame Honorees

On September 27, two remarkable alumni from the College of Arts and Sciences were honored at the Alumni Hall of Fame Ceremony, “A Night Among the Stars.” Through their leadership, character and hard work, these impressive alumni have made exceptional contributions in their chosen fields, in their communities and at SIUE.



Dave Johnson, BA History '66

Johnson has been a thoroughbred and standardbred horse racing broadcaster and journalist for more than 50 years, serving as track announcer for Hialeah Park race track, Santa Anita Park, Aqueduct Racetrack, Belmont Park, Saratoga Race Course and the Meadowlands Racetrack. His voice can be heard on hundreds of national commercials, sitcoms and films. Through ABC Sports, he called the Triple Crown for more than a quarter century. In 2005, he joined Sirius XM satellite radio as co-host of “Down the Stretch.”

In Johnson’s days as a student at SIUE, he was in pursuit of a liberal arts education with intentions of going on to law school when he began working at Fairmount Park and Cahokia Downs race tracks. After that, Johnson said he never looked back.

“I loved that work so much that it was not like working for a living,” he said. “But it was the solid liberal arts background that gave me the foundation that has helped me through the past 50-plus years. I tell youngsters today that a solid background in liberal arts is the best way to ease into adulthood.”

Mark Von Nida, BA Government '85

During his 30-year career with Madison County, Ill., Von Nida developed a reputation as an innovator. In the prosecutor’s office, he helped create the nation’s first locally funded drug court. A four-term county clerk, he was awarded a U.S. patent for developing the means that guaranteed secrecy as voters fed ballots into tabulators. He was later elected to two terms as circuit court clerk and led efforts to modernize the court system by digitizing records and expanding public access to the judicial system.

Von Nida, who is retiring at the end of his term as Madison County circuit clerk in 2020, said his SIUE classes in political science and speech communication (now applied communication studies) prepared him well for his career.

“I was able to tailor my education and present myself as a knowledgeable professional in the field of campaign consulting,” he said. “More generally, a liberal arts education helped me become a lifetime learner. As my career evolved, I was able to adapt because I had learned how to learn.”





Evolution of Honors Day

Each spring, the College of Arts and Sciences recognizes and applauds student achievement at its annual Honors Day ceremony. This event celebrates the scholarships and awards received by outstanding students throughout nearly two dozen departments and programs within the College.

A centrally organized Honors Day convocation involving students and faculty from across the University had been part of the culture of SIUE for many years. As academic units, programs and scholarships continued to expand, it became increasingly difficult to coordinate one inclusive ceremony. Each individual academic unit began holding its own student recognition ceremony in 2007.

The first Honors Day for departments and programs within the College was held April 15, 2007, and recognized 209 students who received 229 awards and scholarships. The CAS Honors Day program has grown to be the largest gathering outside of commencement that recognizes student achievement at the University. In 2019, 279 students were recognized with 336 awards and scholarships.

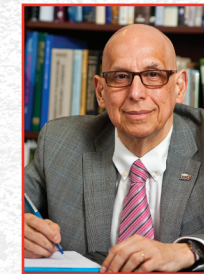
Student scholarship and award recipients attend a reception directly following the Honors Day ceremony so they can meet their sponsors. This event allows the donors to meet the students who are benefitting from their generosity and carrying on their legacy through their educational achievements. Through this personal interaction students gain a better understanding of philanthropy and have the opportunity to personally thank their sponsors for their support.



College of Arts and Sciences Leadership



Sharon K. Hahs, PhD
Dean
1995-2000



Aldemaro Romero Jr., PhD
Dean
2009-2014



Dixie Engelman
Acting Dean
2000-2001



Steve Hansen, PhD
Interim Dean
2015



Kent Neely, PhD
Dean
2001-2008



Gregory Budzban, PhD
Dean
2015-present



John Danley, PhD
Interim Dean
2008-2009



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support responsible use
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