

SCHOOL OF PHARMACY

Dean's Report 2024

SCHOOL OF PHARMACY
SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
EDWARDSVILLE





Message from the Dean

As we reflect on the past year and look forward to the future, I am filled with immense pride and excitement for the remarkable achievements and ongoing advancements within the SIUE School of Pharmacy.

This year we celebrated some exceptional achievements by our students who demonstrated a wonderful blend of academic excellence and personal interests in their pursuits. Their dedication and successes as innovators, scholar athletes, researchers, or finalists in skills competitions are each testimony to the well-rounded education, support, and opportunity we strive to provide here at the School.

In addition to these personal achievements, we are thrilled to announce the on going progress with the construction of our new Health Sciences Complex. This state-of-the-art facility will mark a significant milestone in our efforts to advance innovative education, service and scholarship programs. The new complex not only enhances our educational environment but also expands our research capabilities, fostering innovative collaborations across disciplines.

Our faculty members continue to shine with their unwavering commitment to excellence. Their groundbreaking research, inspiring leadership and passionate advocacy play a crucial role in advancing our field and enriching the learning experiences of our students. We are incredibly fortunate to have such a distinguished team dedicated to pushing the boundaries of pharmacy practice and education.

This year also marks a significant milestone in our history as we celebrate 15 years since graduating our first class. Our alumni have made an indelible impact on the field of pharmacy, and their continued engagement and support are a powerful reminder of the strength of our community. The record level of alumni involvement we've seen this year underscores the lasting connections and the collective success we share.

As we move forward, I am confident that the innovations and advancements we continue to make will further solidify our position as a leader in pharmacy education and research. Together, let us embrace the opportunities that lie ahead and remain committed to excellence in all that we do.

Thank you for your unwavering support and dedication to the SIUE School of Pharmacy. Here's to another year of success, growth and collaboration!

Warm regards,

Mark S. Luer, PharmD, FCCP
School of Pharmacy Dean and Professor

School of Pharmacy By the Numbers



We're #1!

Our 2023 graduates' NAPLEX exam pass rates continue to rank #1 in Illinois and have exceeded the state and national average for every year since 2014.



96%
Overall graduation rate

Graduation Rate (2009-2024)

90% On time
96% Overall



30%

Curriculum dedicated to experiential education



Total alumni:
1,224

8:1 Student-to-faculty ratio

13 National pharmacy organization student chapters

Class of 2027

- ✓ Pre-pharmacy average GPA: 3.53
- ✓ Pre-pharmacy average math and science GPA: 3.44
- ✓ Matriculation average cumulative GPA: 3.55



93%

Class of 2024 graduates pursuing a residency who receive a match

Residence (Class of 2027)

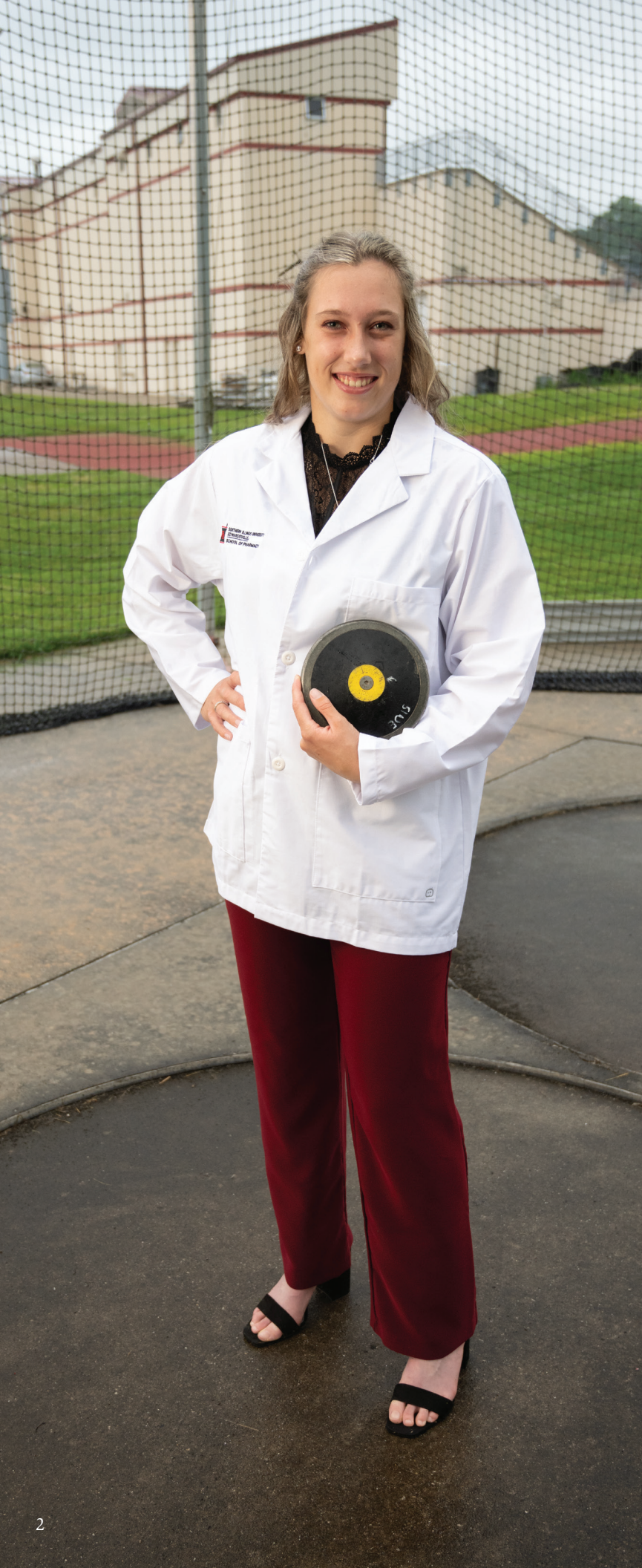
81%
Illinois

Southern Illinois: 59%

Central Illinois: 24%

Northern Illinois: 17%

19%
Out of state



Balancing the Fields of Pharmacy and Track

When imagining what career she would pursue, the field of pharmacy always stood out for Allison Sanders. Growing up, the second-year pharmacy student was inspired by her aunt, who is a pharmacist. Sanders knew she also wanted to help people, make a positive impact on the community and be challenged in her education. Pharmacy was a perfect fit.

When it came time to choose a pharmacy program, SIUE was the clear choice.

“As soon as I drove into campus, I knew SIUE was the place for me. SIUE has one of the best pharmacy schools and it was the school where I would have an opportunity to compete on the track and field team.”

Allison Sanders, P2 student, Jonesville, Mich.

Last year was Sanders’ third season as a student-athlete but the first year of being a pharmacy student, and she excelled at both.

“I set personal records last year in hammer and weight throw,” she said. “I was able to make a lot of technical improvements in all of my events and be more confident in myself.”

She says managing the balance between being a pharmacy student and a student-athlete comes easy to her, in part thanks to the support she receives from the SIUE community as she pursues her passions.

“My professors and coaches have been great advocates for me to be able to be a part of the team and be a School of Pharmacy student,” Sanders concluded.



Advocacy in Action

Jessica Icenogle, who earned a PharmD in May 2024, represented the School of Pharmacy at the National Association of Chain Drug Stores (NACDS) RxIMPACT Capital Hill Day last spring. She joined other pharmacy professionals from around the country to advocate for issues relevant to community pharmacy and healthcare policy.

“Engaging with senators and house representatives highlighted the profound impact pharmacists can have on shaping our profession,” said Icenogle. “I was struck by the tangible impact that advocacy exerts on healthcare policy.”

“I will remain vigilant about key issues, actively participate in advocacy initiatives, and work collaboratively with colleagues and legislators to advance the profession and improve patient care.”

Jessica Icenogle, PharmD '24

The NACDS RxIMPACT event was an opportunity to discuss key issues affecting pharmacy practice, patient care and equitable access to medications. This year, the main issue addressed was the need for Pharmacy Benefit Manager (PBM) reform, accountability and transparency.

“Cultivating relationships with not only policymakers but also within our tight and expansive network of pharmacy has emerged as an essential element in successful advocacy and career progression,” Icenogle continued. “Opportunities like this promote my drive to become a dependable member of my profession.”

School of Pharmacy Student Achievements

Third Place

American College of Clinical Pharmacy Clinical Research Challenge
Jarret Morgan, Dakota Tucker and Noah Sutliff
Faculty advisor: Mark Ruscin, PharmD

Top 10 Finalists

American Society of Health-System Pharmacists Clinical Skills Competition
Khusali Sarnot and Jillian Thro

Innovative Programming Award Nominee

American Pharmacist Association Academy of Student Pharmacists
Sam Despines and Darby Hobbs



New Health Sciences Complex to Enhance Learning and Research

Construction is underway of the new Health Sciences Complex. The 115,000 square foot structure will connect two existing buildings at 200 and 220 University Park Drive, weaving together the School of Pharmacy and the School of Nursing.

Along with the already existing labs, three new research labs will be housed in the new building along with new research equipment. The School of Pharmacy is excited to expand its research efforts with new synthetic and computational medicinal chemistry, pharmaceuticals, and cell biology/molecular pharmacology labs.

“The building and equipment provide a specific identity for pharmaceutical sciences,” said Michael Crider, PhD, chair and professor in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences and associate dean of research. “The equipment will allow for cutting-edge research and an expansion of our graduate program. It will also be a major recruitment tool for new faculty.”

For pharmaceutical sciences faculty like Joseph Schober, PhD, professor, and Bhargav Patel, PhD, assistant professor, access to the new equipment will expand their research capabilities as they work to discover treatments for a variety of cancers. The duo is working to develop new drugs that target amino acid transporters and oncogenic protein called eIF4E.

“The equipment will help us determine which drug-like structures are active against cancer cells,” said Schober. “It will show us which drugs bind to the target. Once a promising drug structure has been identified, we can refine and optimize it, with the goal of advancing it to the next phase of drug discovery.”

“Our lab will find a permanent space in the new state-of-the-art Health Science Complex,” Patel added. “I am looking forward to moving to the new lab space, which will allow the research students and faculty members to collaborate effectively.”



“Pharmacy students learn how to be better pharmacists when they are put in context with other members of the team.”

*Jennifer Hookstra, PharmD
Professor and Chair of the Department of Pharmacy Practice*

Enhancing Patient Care through Interprofessional Education Collaboration

Recognizing the impact of interprofessional collaboration on positive healthcare outcomes, the School of Pharmacy’s curriculum includes opportunities for students to learn and practice interprofessional collaboration with SIUE’s other healthcare programs.

“As the healthcare system continues to get more complex, the importance of professions working together to decrease healthcare redundancies, reduce medical errors and support patients through the healthcare process by improved communication and teamwork is paramount in order to improve patient care and outcomes,” said Katie Ronald, PharmD, BCPS, director of assessment and clinical associate professor.

Current interprofessional education activities in the School of Pharmacy are robust and include collaborating with SIUE’s Dental Medicine, Nursing, Speech-Language Pathology, Public Health, and Nutrition and Dietetics programs, as well as the SIU School of Medicine, St. John’s College of Nursing and Lincoln Land Community College Paramedic program.

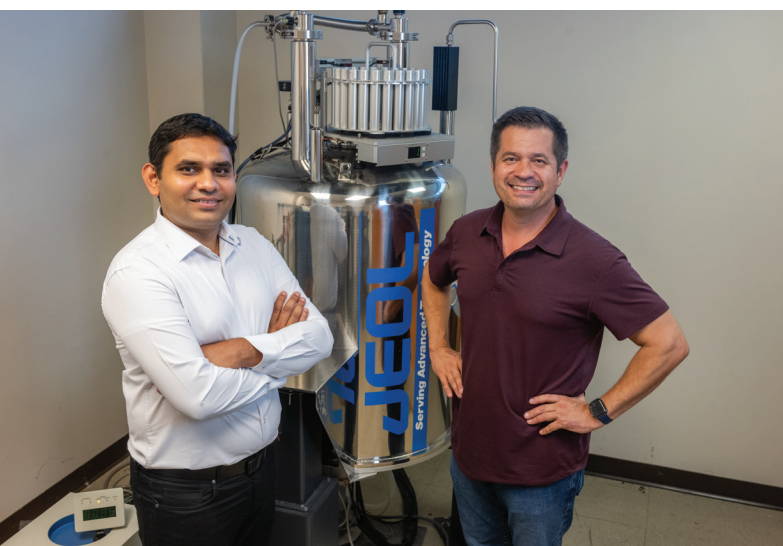
The Schools of Pharmacy, Dental Medicine and Nursing developed a simulation exercise focused on medication error disclosure to allow students the opportunity to practice their skills. Students investigate and disclose medication errors to simulated patients and family members portrayed by fellow students. This year, the three Schools created a new simulation relating to an orofacial pain case. The teams of students collaborate to determine possible diagnoses and the best treatment plan.

“Diagnosis errors have risen to the top of the priority list of concerns in the healthcare system,” Ronald continued. “Learning to work together to identify the most accurate diagnosis is key to assuring patients get the care they need as physicians are no longer diagnosing a patient alone.”

“We can solve problems for patient care with better information and better clinical decisions when we work together in ways that honor the expertise of all involved,” added Jennifer Hookstra, PharmD, professor and chair of the Department of Pharmacy Practice. “We enjoy our careers more and patients get better care – our students see this firsthand when they work with others outside of the pharmacy silo.”

Advancing pharmacy research with new equipment:

- Liquid chromatograph-mass spectrometer
- UV-Vis spectrometer
- Infrared spectrometers
- Surface plasmon resonance
- Polymerase chain reaction
- Confocal microscopy





Alumni Giving and Engagement

As the SIUE School of Pharmacy celebrates the 15th anniversary of its first graduating class, we reflect on the incredible journey and accomplishments of our alumni. Your ongoing engagement with the School is essential, as it helps build a robust network of support and mentorship. Staying connected ensures that the bonds formed during your time at SIUE continue to thrive, enriching both your professional life and the experiences of current students.

Sharing your achievements and milestones not only highlights the impact SIUE has had on your career but also serves as an inspiration to the next generation of pharmacists. Your stories of success and perseverance demonstrate the value of a SIUE education and encourage current students to strive for excellence. By sharing your accomplishments with us, you contribute to the rich legacy of our institution, showcasing the diverse paths our graduates have taken.

Moreover, giving back to the School of Pharmacy is a powerful way to support its continued growth and success. In the last academic year alone, **over 300 alumni (25% of total alumni)** engaged with the School in various capacities, whether guest lecturing, serving as preceptors, volunteering as mentors, prospective student interviewers, being a part of the Pharmacy Advisory Board or contributing financially. Your involvement makes a significant difference. By investing in the future of the SIUE School of Pharmacy, you help ensure that the School can continue to provide top-notch education and resources to its students.

Let us celebrate your successes and contributions together. Share your accomplishments with us today at siue.edu/alumni/stay-connected.

Nick Niemerg '15
Director of Development
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Make a gift to a pharmacy fund of your choice today at connect.siue.edu/g/pharmacy



connect.siue.edu/g/pharmacy

Join the SIUE School of Pharmacy Dean's Circle!

Help sustain and strengthen the SIUE School of Pharmacy by becoming a member of the Dean's Circle. The Dean's Circle recognizes those who contribute \$1,000 or more annually (\$84/month).

Your support and impact in the Dean's Circle is seen in the growth of academic excellence, the enrichment of student opportunities and the strengthening of the school's reputation within the healthcare community.

Donate today at siue.edu/pharmacy/alumni-giving

Celebrating 15 Years of the Class of 2009

The School of Pharmacy is celebrating the 15th anniversary of its inaugural graduating class. The Class of 2009 consisted of 80 students who set a precedent for future cohorts.

As the School of Pharmacy and its alumni celebrate this milestone, they honor the trailblazing efforts of its inaugural class and look forward to continuing the tradition of excellence in pharmacy education.



"Being part of the first graduating class was truly an honor. It's a memorable and impactful experience that set us apart in our professional journey and started a legacy as we built the foundation and traditions for future classes."

*Brandi Strader, PharmD '09
System Pharmacy Director, Hospital Sisters Health System*



"The biggest thing that stood out to me at SIUE was the dedication of the faculty and staff to the future pharmacists they were preparing. I was, and still am, in awe of the amazing faculty our School has attracted and what top-tier educators they are. The experience and confidence that the School of Pharmacy instilled in me has — and will — carry me through my current role and many more to come."

*Travis Willeford, PharmD '09
Pharmacy Operations Professional, SIU School of Medicine*



"The School of Pharmacy taught me all of the necessary skills to successfully work across many different sectors of the healthcare ecosystem, but above and beyond that, the faculty and staff instilled in me empathy, responsibility, and a sense of duty to do what I can to improve the quality of care for all patients, especially those with the greatest health disparities."

*Kelly Kleeman, PharmD '09
Medical Affairs Leader, Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation*





Faculty Excellence

The School of Pharmacy continues to distinguish itself as a leader in the field, earning numerous accolades and appointments.

National Recognition

American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy

- **Best Social Administrative Science Research Publication Award 2023-24**
Radhika Devraj, PhD, Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences
- **Leadership Special Interest Group 2023 Best Paper of the Year Award**
Radhika Devraj, PhD, Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences, and Terri Porrier, PharmD, MPH, FASHP, FCCP, BCPS, Emeritus Professor of Pharmacy Practice
- **Innovation in Teaching Award**
Kate Newman, PharmD, Director of Experiential Education, Clinical Associate Professor of Pharmacy Practice, and Tessa Keys, MA, ImPaCT Coordinator

American Pharmacist Association Academy of Students

- **2024 Carol Kimmel Leadership Award**
Jessica Kerr, PharmD, Associate Dean of Professional and Student Affairs, Professor of Pharmacy Practice

Leadership and Advisory Board Appointees Board of Pharmaceutical Specialties Council for Pain Management

- **Inaugural Board Member**
Chris Herndon, PharmD, Professor of Pharmacy Practice

Radhika Devraj, PhD
Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences

- Best Social Administrative Science Research Publication Award 2023-24
- Leadership Special Interest Group 2023 Best Paper of the Year Award
- Incoming Chair-Elect, Social and Administrative Sciences Section

American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy

- **Incoming Chair-Elect, Social and Administrative Sciences Section**
Radhika Devraj, PhD, Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences
- **Outgoing Chair, Council of Faculty and Board of Directors**
Jennifer Hookstra, PharmD, Professor and Chair of Pharmacy Practice
- **Incoming Chair-Elect, AACP Laboratory Instructors Special Interest Group**
Stephanie Hunziker, PharmD, BCMTMS, Director of Pharmacy Skills and Simulation, and Clinical Associate Professor of Pharmacy Practice
- **Incoming Chair, AACP Experiential Education Section**
Kate Newman, PharmD, Director of Experiential Education, Clinical Associate Professor of Pharmacy Practice
- **Advisory Board Appointee for the ACCP Academy Program on Billing and Contracting for Outpatient Clinical Pharmacy**
Jenny Rosselli, PharmD, BCPS, BCACP, BC-ADM, CDCES, Clinical Professor of Pharmacy Professor

University Recognition

- **Distinguished Teaching Award**
Keith Hecht, PharmD, BCOP, Associate Professor of Pharmacy Practice
- **Distinguished Service Award**
Lisa Lubsch, PharmD, BCPPS, Clinical Professor of Pharmacy Practice
- **Paul Simon Outstanding Teacher-Scholar Award**
Cathy Santanello, PhD, Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences

New Faces, Faculty Promotions, Retirements

New Faces



Jennifer Hookstra
PharmD, MBA, CDCES, FNAP
Chair and Professor
Department of Pharmacy Practice



Anna Munson
Office Manager
Office of Professional
and Student Affairs

Retirement



Denyse Anderson
Office Manager
Office of Professional
and Student Affairs
Nine Years of Service

Promotions: Department of Pharmacy Practice



Trina Kiel
Office Manager
Experiential Education

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Refer a Future Pharmacist

Do you know someone who wants to pursue a pharmacy degree and would be a great candidate for the SIUE School of Pharmacy?

We want to know! Referrals from our alumni and friends help to ensure our School's enrollment remains strong.

Scan the QR code to refer a future pharmacist.



siue.edu/refer-a-pharmacist



SIUE is proud to support responsible use of forest resources.

Printed by authority of the State of Illinois, 10/24, 2,050, 25070007