



2021  SIUE
Golden
GRADUATES

50th Reunion

The following pages contain notes and words of wisdom from some of the 2021 Golden Graduates. Thank you to those who provided responses.

We hope you enjoy reading about the accomplishments of your classmates as part of your SIUE Golden Graduation Virtual Reunion.



Linda Aud, '70, '99

Hometown: Granite City, IL

Current or Most Recent Position Held:

I am a retired teacher. I was employed at both Granite City and at Edwardsville School Districts.



Fondest Memory of SIUE:

I enjoyed being with my old friends and making new friends. I met my husband at SIUE. We got married before I graduated and have been in love for 54 years now. SIUE is a special place for us as we have reminisced our many wonderful experiences at this campus throughout the years. We have participated in many activities at SIUE throughout the years. We have many fond memories of SIUE. Our education at SIUE has shaped our lives.

Proudest Accomplishments Over the Last 50 Years:

My proudest accomplishments include being a mother and a teacher, and later a grandmother. I taught elementary education, both regular education and special education and Sunday school. I loved teaching children, my own and all my many students. In my retirement, my husband and I have worked on environmental justice and social justice. We want the world to be a better place for all children and people.

What advice do you have for the SIUE Class of 2021?

Continue to learn and grow in knowledge. Chose love over hate and to strive to improve our world environmentally, socially and intellectually for future generations.

Juanita Brown, '71, '75

Hometown: Fairview Heights, IL

Current or Most Recent Position Held:

I taught school for 34 years, retiring in 2005.

I retired from School District 189 in East St Louis.

Fondest Memory of SIUE:

It was a fun campus with lots of activities. The students were all friendly. Lots of learning took place. I remember the musical festivals.

Proudest Accomplishments Over the Last 50 Years:

Being a successful Educator.

What advice do you have for the SIUE Class of 2021?

Set goals for yourself and try to accomplish each one.



Linda Carolyn Wolf Brown, '70, '71

Hometown: Bunker Hill, IL

Current or Most Recent Position Held:

Taught music in Jerseyville for 31 years and then moved to Wichita to be close to my son and his family. Taught in Haysville for 10 years with the band and orchestra and accompanied the chorus. I am still the organist for the Haysville Presbyterian Church.

Fondest Memory of SIUE:

Since I started my education at SIUE in 1966 I enjoyed seeing all the buildings going up and moving from the Peck building to our own music building. The closeness of the kids and lasting friendships and the wonderful music faculty we had at the time. Also, being a graduate assistant in 70-71 was really wonderful. The concerts and the MRF summers were really the best.

Proudest Accomplishments Over the Last 50 Years:

Being named to the "Who's Who Women in America" book. Also, my family and especially my granddaughter and grandson, a fine Christian family with faith in the Lord and his teachings. Their baptism ceremonies were meaningful and very important to them.

What advice do you have for the SIUE Class of 2021?

Work hard at whatever you have selected as a career and always care about others. If this virus has taught us anything, always respect the rights of others, their safety and welfare.



Kirk Davis, '69

Hometown: McKinney, TX

Current or Most Recent Position Held:

Creative Director, Stanford Financial Group,
Creative Communications.

Fondest Memory of SIUE:

The thrill of learning, the friendships made (some for LIFE!). The Fine Arts program gave me the necessary skills and essence of what it's like in the "real world," which I applied shortly after my return from Vietnam and used that acquired background and discipline to continue my career in the creative field.

Proudest Accomplishments Over the Last 50 Years:

Working in the commercial field, and having the opportunity to apply those skills and seeing my art used in Projects that were seen around the world, from Europe, and England, and the entire Western Hemisphere.

What advice do you have for the SIUE Class of 2021?

Apply yourself and work diligently. Once you acquire your skill sets at SIUE, you'll find a job/career to your liking by keeping an open mind. By being a hard worker, honest and ethical, you'll enhance your chances of moving to the top of your chosen field. Always keep your mind open to new ways of thinking. Future employers value all these traits in in their employees.



Barbara Fleming, '71, '76

Hometown: Centreville, IL

Current or Most Recent Position Held:

Retired elementary educator of 34 years from the East St. Louis School District #189.



Fondest Memory of SIUE:

One of my fondest memories was being inducted into Kappa Delta Pi (KDP) an honor society in education as an undergraduate.

Proudest Accomplishments Over the Last 50 Years:

My proudest accomplishments were inspiring a desire for learning, seeing the progress of individual students or a class by the end of a academic year.

What advice do you have for the SIUE Class of 2021?

Continue to strive to be the best you can be.

John Goodwin, '70

Hometown: Millstadt, IL

Current or Most Recent Position Held:

Circuit Judge, 20th Judicial Circuit, State of Illinois.

Fondest Memory of SIUE:

Working in Student Government and participation in University Center Board activities.

Proudest Accomplishments Over the Last 50 Years:

My three children, five grandchildren and serving my community through the Judiciary.

What advice do you have for the SIUE Class of 2021?

Look forward to 2071. It will be here faster than you think!



Camilla Bruch Granger, '71

Hometown: Mt. Olive, IL

Current or Most Recent Position Held:

Executive Director for
Choices in Living Counseling Centers

Fondest Memory of SIUE:

Working at the Scheduling Office

Proudest Accomplishments Over the Last 50 Years:

Helping others become aware of the dangers of alcohol and drug abuse.

What advice do you have for the SIUE Class of 2021?

Make goals and check them regularly.



Martha Harris, '70, '71

Hometown: Edwardsville, IL

Current or Most Recent Position Held:

Associate Professor of Education at St. Olaf College, Northfield, MN from 1999-2004;
High School English Teacher in Minneapolis Public Schools from 1971-1999.



Fondest Memory of SIUE:

The excitement of a brand new campus; the wonderful professors in the English department; incredible professors such as Gertrude Drake, Jules Zanger; and the MRF, of course!

Proudest Accomplishments Over the Last 50 Years:

Being a part of the Teaching Shakespeare project of the Folger Library since 1984.

What advice do you have for the SIUE Class of 2021?

Talk to your professors about your questions and your plans; use the library; keep your focus on your classes.

Kermit Hellrung, '70

Hometown: Alton, IL

Fondest Memory of SIUE:

When I started food was in the bottom of Lovejoy Library and Servomation in machines is how we purchased our food. Spent the first year at Shurtleff College or SIU-e Alton campus and played tennis every morning weather allowing. Helped start Delta Sigma Pi - eta sigma chapter as only fraternities and sororities were allowed to play intramural sports. Delta sigs teamed up with Gamma sigs and won several events. Saw the student union, Administration buildings get built. Knew the Chimega girls that walked Chimega. Boated on campus lake and saw the dorms being built, then how about MRF. There was a lot, how about the Edwardsville locals coming to Campus to stop the hippies from taking down the flag. Campus police calmed that down. I had a great time, learned alot and used my degree all my life.

Proudest Accomplishments Over the Last 50 Years:

Participated in a leveraged buyout of a 100 million dollar plus corporation and served as Vice President and Treasurer. Provided for 1,000 jobs and had over a million square feet under roof. Borrowed over 25 million dollars.

What advice do you have for the SIUE Class of 2021?

There is nothing you can't do, go chase your dreams and use your education to advance.



Edward Huneke, '71

Hometown: Glen Carbon, IL

Current or Most Recent Position Held:

Soccer coach at SIUE.

Fondest Memory of SIUE:

Too many to list, but among the top are living at Tower Lake, the MRF and playing soccer for SIUE.

Proudest Accomplishments Over the Last 50 Years:

Well, there was a lot accomplished that warranted placement in four Hall of Fames, and I had two coaching jobs throughout 33 years and never got fired - which most coaches do. But my greatest accomplishment is my family! Things really turned out well.

What advice do you have for the SIUE Class of 2021?

Be good and nice with all people. Those interns sometimes become presidents.



Ruth Hunter, '68, '76

Hometown: The Villages, FL

Current or Most Recent Position Held:

Retired as a Service Line Nurse Executive from the Department of Veteran's Affairs Medical Center in St. Louis.

Fondest Memory of SIUE:

I had many great memories even though I was always a commuter. I had classes on all 3 campuses in the 60's, I was an orientation leader as an undergrad and the night-time MBA was a terrific experience with lots of great teachers. There were always spots where you could find fellow students having fun and I made so many connections.

Proudest Accomplishments Over the Last 50 Years:

My family will always be number one and both of my children have multiple degrees and great professional careers. I put together with some fellow nurses a Nurse Recruiter program for the VA that was used nationwide. I ran a program that always had high employee satisfaction and mentored great nurses along the way.

What advice do you have for the SIUE Class of 2021?

Remember that you cannot control what happens to you or the circumstances you find yourself in, but you can always control how you respond to it. Know that the direction you are heading today may not be where you are in the end, be flexible and enjoy the ride.



Carolyn Johnson, '64 '72

Hometown: Shiloh, Illinois

Current or Most Recent Position Held:

Retired in 2005 as a principal in East St Louis School District 189.

Fondest Memory of SIUE:

I have always enjoyed music and playing an instrument. My first year at SIUE, I played in the university band.

Proudest Accomplishments Over the Last 50 Years:

I consider it an accomplishment to have completed my four years of college after high school without interruption. After a successful career, I was able to build my dream home.

What advice do you have for the SIUE Class of 2021?

Continue challenging yourself!



Lora L. Valley Jones , '70

Hometown: O'Fallon, IL

Current or Most Recent Position Held:

Teacher, Elementary School Principal in Cahokia School District; Retired after 36 yrs); After retirement, hired by the district as Reading Consultant (100 day position) and again as Principal (2 years) at the Early Childhood Center. A very good, productive, rewarding experience in all positions.



Fondest Memory of SIUE:

As a graduate student, traveling to campus after a long day at work watching for and avoiding the deer as I drove onto the campus.

Proudest Accomplishments Over the Last 50 Years:

Over the past 50 years, I have been blessed with many proud accomplishments (1)Co-authored writing and coordinating a State Funded Summer School Program, initially for five school districts, that was later accepted and funded as a very successful State wide summer school program known as “Summer Bridges”. The purpose was to provide a different, fun learning experience for students who needed it. (2)Working for almost ten years in the Education Department at SIUE, as a Partnership Supervisor, teaching and supervising elementary education Student Teachers. A wonderful experience helping to prepare students in becoming great educators. Loved it!!!

What advice do you have for the SIUE Class of 2021?

These are challenging times for all of us. There are so many changes that have occurred normally and some forced upon us. We are living in and learning to conform to the virtual world. Don't be discouraged; keep a positive attitude, be willing to accept both successes and challenges to conform and pray often with the anticipation of “I can conquer this.” Congratulations and best wishes for a successful career.

Dr. Frances Karanovich, '71, '74

Hometown: Washington Park, IL

Current or Most Recent Position Held:

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville,
Educational Leadership, 2007-2012. Retired 2012.



Fondest Memory of SIUE:

Walking the beautiful campus and watching the buildings go up. Peck Hall was so big to me and made me feel like I was really “going to college.”

Proudest Accomplishments Over the Last 50 Years:

Serving as Illinois K12 Unit District Superintendents in Putnum County, Olympia, and Macomb. Named the Illinois Association of School Administrators’ 2005 Superintendent of the Year, hired in 2007 to teach at SIUE, being inducted into the first SIUE Alumni Hall of Fame and then serving on the Alumni Board of Directors.

What advice do you have for the SIUE Class of 2021?

Always do what is right, even when it’s not the easiest. Work hard and follow your dreams. God has a plan for your life. Jeremiah 29:11.

Dr. Trannie E. Keely, '69

Hometown: Ozark, IL

Current or Most Recent Position Held:

I retired from public education after serving as special educator, psychometric and counselor.



Fondest Memory of SIUE:

I loved the excitement when we moved from Alton campus to Edwardsville for the first time. I drove through the country to Edwardsville through Poag, IL. They often had wonderful fruits and vegetables at outdoor stands on my route. They were fresh tasting and wonderful!

Proudest Accomplishments Over the Last 50 Years:

I concentrate on giving back what I have learned. My children and grandchildren have been taught to do the same. I have many organizations that I love to support with my time and skills. Here is a partial list: United Methodist Church; Quilts of Valor; Daughters of American Republic; Booneslick Quilter's Guild; Seventh Day Baptist Church; Alpha Delta Kappa; Columbia Garden Club. Favorite charities are Foodbank, St. Jude's, Assistance League and Alzheimer's.

What advice do you have for the SIUE Class of 2021?

Continue to learn every kind of skill that you can. Broaden your scope to include all parts of your life and try all kinds of new things. Be cynical and verify every so called fact. Everyone is biased either consciously or unconsciously, so adjust yourself to your own and others' biases when making plans.

Helen King, '70

Current or Most Recent Position Held:

Retired RN at Anderson Hospital, Maryville, IL.



Michael Kovarik, '70, '74

Hometown: Edwardsville, IL

Current or Most Recent Position Held:

I am retired from Teaching in the Collinsville School District after 34 years at North Junior High School and Webster Junior High School. At present, I am sexton and President of Buck Road Cemetery in Maryville, Illinois. I have been doing this work since 1983 and plan to continue in this position until...yes until!

Fondest Memory of SIUE:

I was given the opportunity to work in a number of venues while a student: the research department in Lovejoy Library coincided nicely with my History and Social Studies Bachelor degree. I also had the opportunity to work in the Geography Department, which also fit nicely into my degree program.

Proudest Accomplishments Over the Last 50 Years:

My wife, Linda, and I have been married going on 52 years (high school sweethearts). We have 3 wonderful children, 6 grandchildren and now our first great granddaughter. I am most proud of my teaching career. Though I am not in the classroom, I am still a teacher at heart. That is one of my passions. Another is my work as President and sexton of the Cemetery. It allows me to assist families and friends in a most difficult time. I take this responsibility quite seriously.

What advice do you have for the SIUE Class of 2021?

Find your passion. Follow your dream. When you find the career, profession, opportunities, that give you your greatest satisfaction, it is not work. It is never work. It is living life to the fullest. Read everything you can. Study everything you can. Write your memories to share with family and friends. Share a recipe. Share your life with that one special person that without her, there is a hole in your life. With her, your life is complete. What is your most valuable asset? TIME! Share your life with those you love and cherish.



Lois Lynch, '71

Hometown: Granite City, IL

Current or Most Recent Position Held:

Teacher for El Paso Independent School District.

Fondest Memory of SIUE:

Working and learning all about being an educator.

Proudest Accomplishments Over the Last 50 Years:

Being named Teacher of the Year twice while with district and teaching in a foreign country.

What advice do you have for the SIUE Class of 2021?

Go for what you enjoy and live every moment because it goes faster than you can know.



Robert Maguire, '71

Hometown: Wood River, IL

Current or Most Recent Position Held:

Art instructor Cahokia High School,
Southwestern Illinois College, Educational
Grant consultant for Lilly Endowment

Fondest Memory of SIUE:

Working food service and the MRF.

Proudest Accomplishments Over the Last 50 Years:

ISBE Illinois Teacher of the Year. Having Art work displayed
at the Art Institute of Chicago and the Illinois Arts Council.

What advice do you have for the SIUE Class of 2021?

Be a life long learner and embrace new opportunities.



John Mareing, '70

Hometown: Edwardsville, IL

Current or Most Recent Position Held:

Director of Horticulture General Growth Properties, Saint Louis Galleria retired in 2011. I held the position from April 1986 through September 2011.

Fondest Memory of SIUE:

Working in Lovejoy Library Humanities and Fine Arts Department.

Proudest Accomplishments Over the Last 50 Years:

Being organized and operating artistically and economically.

What advice do you have for the SIUE Class of 2021?

Broaden your horizons, learn as much as possible and take responsibility.



Gerald Maxim, '71

Current or Most Recent Position Held:

I'm a retired CPA. I was the Managing Principal at Rice, Sullivan & Co., Ltd CPA's in Swansea Illinois

Fondest Memory of SIUE:

In 1971 SIUE was a commuter campus. I was in class Monday through Thursday from 8:30 to 12:30. Then, I had to be at the Belleville News Democrat by 1:00 for my job. I didn't have time for any other interaction other than class. I was very motivated between the two which made me a very responsible person throughout my working career.

Proudest Accomplishments Over the Last 50 Years:

Of course, my wife (a registered nurse) & my two sons, a broker with Stifel & a CPA & Principal with Rice, Sullivan & Co. After that, earning my CPA & being the Managing Principal of my firm.

What advice do you have for the SIUE Class of 2021?

Work hard & stay the course in everything you do. Graduating from SIUE is a big accomplishment but just the start of your professional career. You never quit learning and will undoubtedly have many more satisfying accomplishments.



Caroyln Mitchell-Perkins, '71, '75, '83

Hometown: East St. Louis, IL

Current or Most Recent Position Held:

I am a retired Elementary School Teacher for East Saint Louis School District 189. I worked in this position for 38 years.



Fondest Memory of SIUE:

The day I became a member of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc.

Proudest Accomplishments Over the Last 50 Years:

Seeing my students learn.

What advice do you have for the SIUE Class of 2021?

The rewards of success come not to those who wish it, but to those who work for it.

Sandra Mosley, '71, '83



Fondest Memory of SIUE:

Going to the Mississippi River Festival.

Proudest Accomplishments Over the Last 50 Years:

Retirement and one lovely granddaughter.

What advice do you have for the SIUE Class of 2021?

Always believe in yourself!

Bessie Bennett Peabody, '63, '67, '71

Hometown: East St. Louis, IL

Current or Most Recent Position Held:

Lead Education Advisor at
Northern Illinois University in DeKalb, IL.

Fondest Memory of SIUE:

Classes in the Peck Building.

Proudest Accomplishments Over the Last 50 Years:

Supervisor of Intermediate Education Grades 4-6, Principal in schools/ K-6, Administrative Director in charge of Education K-6, Interim Superintendent of Schools K-12.

What advice do you have for the SIUE Class of 2021?

Know your purpose, Set your goals, and Implement!
Don't Quit! Success is the Key!



Carol Perry, '70

Hometown: Fairview Heights, IL

Current or Most Recent Position Held:

Retired from teaching second grade in Collinsville Community Unit #10 in 2004.

Fondest Memory of SIUE:

Being a part of KAMS sorority.

Proudest Accomplishments Over the Last 50 Years:

40 years of marriage and raising two great children.

What advice do you have for the SIUE Class of 2021?

Be kind and helpful to others.



Gerald Rains, '71, '88

Hometown: Dupou, IL

Current or Most Recent Position Held:

Retired from School District #201 (Belleville) as Principal of Belleville East High School.

Fondest Memory of SIUE:

The first days on the Edwardsville campus from the East St. Louis Center (10th Street Tech) as is was referred to frequently.

Proudest Accomplishments Over the Last 50 Years:

Having had the experience of assisting numerous students prepare themselves for life after high school.

What advice do you have for the SIUE Class of 2021?

SIUE is a great institution and does a super job of preparing you for whatever career path you may select.



Karen (Fischer) Rains, '68. '93

Hometown: Dupou, IL

Current or Most Recent Position Held:

Retired teacher from Dupou School District 196.

Fondest Memory of SIUE:

Graduation day and entering my career as a teacher.

Proudest Accomplishments Over the Last 50 Years:

Being able to help many students with their education.

What advice do you have for the SIUE Class of 2021?

SIUE is a great place to get an education and to try to go far in life.



Tommie Randolph, '69, '73

Hometown: Centreville, IL

Current or Most Recent Position Held:

School District 189 Physical Education Instructor and Track and Field coach for 34 years, retired. Presently, I am a line dance instructor, 16 years at the East St. Louis City Hall.



Fondest Memory of SIUE:

My fondest memory was attending the East St. Louis campus, which was small. Everybody knew everybody. It was like a big happy family. Everyone (99.9%) was kind, thoughtful and generous.

Proudest Accomplishments Over the Last 50 Years:

I became a member of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. 55 years ago reaching the highest status of Cultured Pearl, married to Calvin Randolph for 53 years, two children Robin and Cory, 7 grandchildren and attend St. Paul Baptist Church.

What advice do you have for the SIUE Class of 2021?

Whatever you do in life, do the best you can do every day.

Carolyn Scurlock-Spencer, '70, '77

Hometown: Florissant, MO

Current or Most Recent Position Held:

Teaching for SIUE in the Upward Bound program.



Fondest Memory of SIUE:

Hanging out in the student union with friends, waiting for SIUE Cougar to come out and take a walk, watching student organizations impromptu perform and step on the quad, the study session and parties, singing in and travelling with the Concert Chorale choir with Dr. Van Camp and joining the Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority.

Proudest Accomplishments Over the Last 50 Years:

My proudest accomplishment was being the first in my family to graduate from college. Inspiring and teaching young and old minds for 43 years. Dance performances at Forest Park Theatre from 1990 to 2018. Starting several Praise Dance Ministries. Sponsoring four girls in a dance Studio for nine years. Three of them are now instructors and choreographers. For the last ten years, sponsoring a very successful Praise Dance Concert and Brunch every October, for Breast Cancer fundraiser until the pandemic. And becoming a Cultured Pearl and Life Member of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority.

What advice do you have for the SIUE Class of 2021?

Always be kind, always be optimistic and always be YOUR best.

Jacqueline Gaiter Settles, '72, '88

Hometown: East St. Louis, IL

Current or Most Recent Position Held:

I retired from the Illinois Department of Corrections in 2002 as the first African American Assistant Warden of Programs at Southwestern Illinois Correctional Center in East St. Louis.

Fondest Memory of SIUE:

I enjoyed my Sociology classes and pledging my sorority Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. 1970. My sorority adopted a program in East St Louis called the "Breakfast Program". Every Saturday from 1970 to 1972 we served inner city youth with breakfast and Black history. We took them on field trips and taught Black Pride!

Proudest Accomplishments Over the Last 50 Years:

Rising through the ranks in the Department of Corrections from Counselor to Assistant Warden. I was recognized by several organizations over the years. I am proud to have a daughter who graduated from West Point, my husband who became Asst. Chief of Police in ESL and now becoming a grandmother of a SLU honor student.

What advice do you have for the SIUE Class of 2021?

Stay the course, get your graduate degree, be true to yourself and others. Give generously to others and bring them forward as you advance. Trust in God and remind yourself each day what a great person you are, will be and can be!



Elaine Shipcoff, '66, '83

Current or Most Recent Position Held:

I taught middle school in Madison, Illinois from 1966 to 2005, when I retired. I then taught part time during the 2005-2006 school year.

Fondest Memory of SIUE:

Getting my master's degree from SIUE.

Proudest Accomplishments Over the Last 50 Years:

Being a role model, and helping my students succeed.

What advice do you have for the SIUE Class of 2021?

Never give up!



Sheila Walker Slaten, '71, '73

Hometown: Brooklyn (Lovejoy), IL

Current or Most Recent Position Held:

Associate Principal and Interim Principal at Normandy High School in St. Louis County.

Fondest Memory of SIUE:

My outstanding and dedicated teachers — Gene Houser, Rudy Wilson, and Patricia Patsloff to name a few.

Proudest Accomplishments Over the Last 50 Years:

Reconnecting with former students who shared with me how I have positively influenced them. Retiring after 34 successful years in education.

What advice do you have for the SIUE Class of 2021?

Lean not to your own understanding, but in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will direct your path.



Ric Stephenson, '70, '75, '77

Current or Most Recent Position Held:

Retired as a Regional Director with the Illinois Education Association.

Fondest Memory of SIUE:

Being on the first SIUE cheerleading team and socializing with Chimega.

Proudest Accomplishments Over the Last 50 Years:

Being the father of four children, one son retired from the Navy and now working for the National Geospatial Intelligence Agency, one son who is a doctor at the Mayo Clinic, and two daughters who are attending SIUE, one majoring in Early Childhood Education and another in Physical Therapy. I'm also proud of having served in public education for over 40 years, as a social science teacher, counselor, and union business manager.

What advice do you have for the SIUE Class of 2021?

In your life and professional journeys, be open to change and new opportunities. If you can make the difference in the lives of others, do so.



Jack L. Strader, '65, '72

Hometown: Alton, IL

Current or Most Recent Position Held:
1999-2016 CEO, Strader Vocational &
Rehabilitation Services

Fondest Memory of SIUE:
Graduation!

What advice do you have for the SIUE Class of 2021?
Do your best!



Richard Strode, '71

Hometown: East St. Louis, IL

Current or Most Recent Position Held:
Deputy Area Director, Social Security
Administration; retired November 2012.



Fondest Memory of SIUE:

My mentors and the epiphany that "Yes I Can" thrive amongst the best and the brightest. Developing a social conscience which obligates me to give back to the community.

Proudest Accomplishments Over the Last 50 Years:

Faith, Family, Nearing Golden Anniversary (married 48 years), Leadership positions which provided me opportunities to reach back and help others.

What advice do you have for the SIUE Class of 2021?

Blossom where you are planted until you find your passion. Rarely will you find the perfect job but there may be some elements of the job which may be perfect for you. Always give your best effort because that reflects your personal integrity. It is an often repeated cliché--be the person you would work for.

Joyce Bates Waters, '69

Hometown: Galesburg, IL

Current or Most Recent Position Held:

I am currently retired. I worked as a school psychologist for 26 years in the East Baton Rouge Parish public schools. Other experiences included working as a psychologist, counselor, and rehabilitation counselor in Illinois, Mississippi, Alabama, and Louisiana.

Fondest Memory of SIUE:

Attending psychology and vocational rehabilitation classes, along with interactions with teachers and other students.

Proudest Accomplishments Over the Last 50 Years:

My work as a school psychologist is my proudest accomplishment.

What advice do you have for the SIUE Class of 2021?

Study and work hard but take time out for fun activities too.



Dr. Thomas Waters, '66, '69

Hometown: Alton, IL

Current or Most Recent Position Held:

I was Supervising Psychologist at Hunt Correctional Center in St. Gabriel, LA, where I compiled psychological assessments of inmates, supervised psychological services, directed LPC services, directed the intern program and was a formal member of the LA Risk Review Committee.

Fondest Memory of SIUE:

I was Student Senate President at SIUE from 1965-66. I attended conferences in Oklahoma, at Fordham University in New York and at SIU Carbondale in the role. I was also the musical director of the Delta Kappa Tau Fourth Spring Variety Show on the Edwardsville campus. On Dedication Day, May 13, 1966, I was a member of the DKT fraternity. I was filmed giving a speech on Dedication Day, which was broadcast on television.

Proudest Accomplishments Over the Last 50 Years:

I graduated from the University of Southern Mississippi in 1974 with a PhD in Psychology. I was married to Joyce Bates at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Edwardsville and have one daughter and one grandchild, who live near us in Baton Rouge

What advice do you have for the SIUE Class of 2021?

Hang in there! Worship God and always do what you can, where you are, with what you got!



Charles "Joe" Weaver, '63

Hometown: Jefferson City, MO

Current or Most Recent Position Held:

Regional Accounting Manager
Chesebrough/Unilever Tech

Fondest Memory of SIUE:

Dr. Blackledge's classes. The classes of the Sjerseth's.
Lots of fun learning at the Alton center.

Proudest Accomplishments Over the Last 50 Years:

Teaching accounting classes at the university level.

What advice do you have for the SIUE Class of 2021?

Study and play.



Bette Welch, '71

Hometown: East Alton, IL

Current or Most Recent Position Held:

Since 1998, I have owned and operated my own CPA firm.



Fondest Memory of SIUE:

Throwing sorority sisters into the pond when they got engaged.
Playing concerts with the Symphonic Band in the Communications Building Theatre.

Proudest Accomplishments Over the Last 50 Years:

Being recognized by the Missouri CPA Society for 35 years of membership.

What advice do you have for the SIUE Class of 2021?

Follow your heart. Find a career that is a joy, not a chore.

Nola Jones Williams, '70

Hometown: Edwardsville, IL

Fondest Memory of SIUE:

In spring 1968 I was initiated into Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, the East St. Louis alumnae chapter—as an undergraduate. The love and friendship that the graduate AKAs bestowed upon us is unsurpassed. Then, in 1969, we chartered an undergraduate chapter—Epsilon Iota Chapter which is now an on-campus organization.

Proudest Accomplishments Over the Last 50 Years:

Family relationships, friendships, service within community, opportunities—work and travel, writing and art creation.

What advice do you have for the SIUE Class of 2021?

Remember to give back to the University! Trust in the Lord, tell the truth, always make your family a priority, reach for the stars and take care of your health!





Congratulations!



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