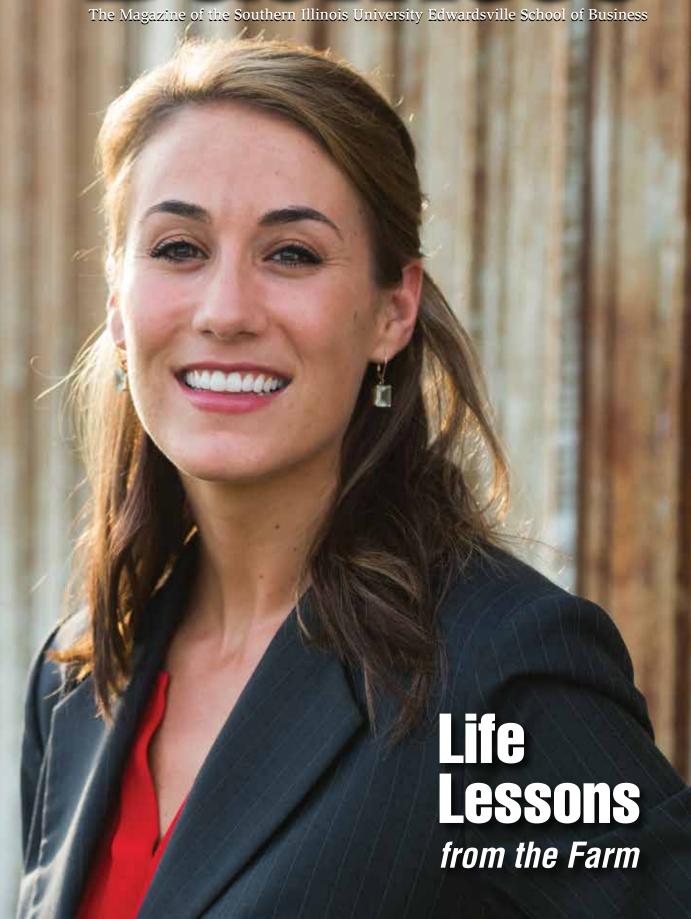
EDWARDSVILLE

SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

BUSINESS



About the SIUE School of Business

Our Vision

The SIUE School of Business will be an internationally recognized premier business school that develops highly skilled and innovative professionals who, through achieving their full potential, enhance businesses, organizations and communities.

Our Mission

Engage in high-quality learning experiences, research and service to develop current and future business professionals, scholars and leaders. These efforts add value: for students, by facilitating and enhancing their career prospects; for organizations, by developing business professionals who meet their needs and stimulate innovation; for the university, by collaborating across the community; and for business disciplines, by producing and disseminating timely and relevant scholarship.

4 Undergraduate Programs

BS Accountancy

BS Business Administration

BS Business Economics and Finance Entrep

BS Computer Management and Information Systems

Faculty

52 Full-tim

16 Part-time



9 Undergraduate Business Administration Specializations

Economics

Entrepreneurship

Finance

General Business Administration

Human Resource Management

International Business

Management

Management Information Systems
Marketing

5 Graduate Programs

Master of Business Administration

Master of Marketing Research

MS Accountancy

MS Computer Management and Information Systems

MS Economics and Finance



National Recognition 70p 5%

The School of Business is among an elite five percent of business schools worldwide that have earned the prestigious accreditation from the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB International). This accreditation represents the highest standard of achievement for business schools worldwide. Less than 25 percent of AACSB accredited schools also hold the accounting accreditation. The School of Business has been accredited by AACSB since 1975, and the accountancy program achieved separate accreditation in 1987.

Ranked

The economics and finance graduate

program is ranked 12th in *The Financial Engineer's* 2015 Financial Economics Rankings. Overall scores are based on the program's acceptance rate, incoming students' undergraduate GPA and GMAT scores, employment after graduation, and starting salary.

Business Analytics Specialization offered in all graduate programs

Signature Courses

Business Transitions I: Planning for Success **Business Transitions II:** Commitment Beyond College



300

Employers recruited SIUE business students through on-campus career fairs last year

10 Years

For the 10th consecutive year, the School of Business is named an outstanding business school by *The Princeton Review*. "The Best 295 Business Schools: 2016 Edition" by *The Princeton Review* recommends the School as one of the best institutions in the U.S. from which students can earn an MBA.

From the Dean

Welcome to the 2015 edition of SIUE Business. The 2015-2016 academic year is shaping up to be an exciting one for students in the School of Business. We have many new and innovative things on the horizon — it will definitely not be business as usual here. This fall we launched a new data analytics specialization which allows any of our graduate students to earn a specialization in data analytics. Next fall we are looking forward to launching a specialization in data analytics for undergraduates.



What is data analytics? Data analytics is the collection, analysis and utilization of extremely large data sets. For example, when you go to the grocery store, they record information about your purchases as items are scanned. The stores quickly gather information regarding exactly which items, sizes, quantities and brands you purchase. This information allows vendors to form consumer profiles. These profiles may be used to tailor advertisement, incentives or feature products that complement your other purchases. A whole new industry has evolved to analyze these large data sets and use that information to make strategic decisions.

Data analytics is not only used to analyze consumer behavior. It is also extremely useful in cyber security, financial analysis and market analysis. Providing our students with data analytics skills will help them stand out even more as they enter the competitive job market.

Contributions of the exceptional alumni, students, faculty and staff of SIUE's School of Business help to keep our curriculum and programs new and relevant. One of the great benefits of this magazine is that it allows us to share the outstanding accomplishments of those who help the School move forward.

In this issue, we profile some extremely successful and accomplished alumni — those at the beginning of their careers, such as Beth Sheley, as well as those who have had longer distinguished careers, such as Al Hagemann. We appreciate that our alumni have been incredibly generous in terms of their time

and dedication to SIUE, the community and, in particular, the School of Business. We highlight how our current students are making their mark on the business world and among their peers.

Also in this edition, Distinguished Research Professor Dr. Rik Hafer, Department of Economics and Finance, discusses his research examining the importance of higher education on economic prosperity. His article is extremely important and timely as state support for higher education across the country continues to decline.

Thank you, to each of you, for helping to shape the success of the School of Business. I hope you enjoy this edition of *SIUE Business*, and I look forward to hearing from you.

Dei

John C. Navin, PhD

Alumnus Inspired by Commitment from Two Former Professors

At 20 years of age, Alfred C. "Al" Hagemann, BS '63, CPA, was a first-generation college student with a drive to succeed. Hagemann chose SIUE because it was close to home and affordable, but it was two caring professors who would ultimately change his life.

Accounting faculty Richard Milles and the late Dr. Norbert Schmitt provided Hagemann with confidence and guidance at pivotal points in his academic career. When reflecting on his professional experience and success, he recognized that his time at SIUE gave him that foundation.

"At the end of my career, I began to think about those who influenced and supported me. My family has always been there for me, but SIUE gave me the opportunity to succeed," Hagemann said. "Giving back to my alma mater through time, talent and financial support was—and still is—the right thing to do."

Hagemann's professors helped identify his natural aptitude for, and his interest in, accounting. They offered him guidance in his classes and cultivated the confidence he needed to succeed as a certified professional accountant (CPA).

Success came early and continued throughout Hagemann's career. After graduation, one of the Big Eight CPA firms of the time, Arthur Andersen LLP, hired him as a CPA. A decade later, he was named partner, and in 1978, he was promoted to oversee the tax division in Kansas City, Mo.

Over the decades, Hagemann and his wife, Dee, have been generous to SIUE. Their financial support has helped the School of Business continue to improve its national rankings. Their generosity led to the creation of the Hagemann Tax Learning Center, the Hagemann Leadership Center and the Hagemann Endowed Scholarship Fund.

"Not only has Al Hagemann donated time and resources to the School of Business, he's also been a great source of counsel," said School of Business Dean John Navin. "Al's really there for our School and actively participates in what we do. That's the model alum.'

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Today, Hagemann is co-chair for the SIUE Foundation finance and investment committee. He is leading a High-Impact Campaign to raise money for the Business Transitions courses, which focus on developing students' soft skills in writing, career planning, networking, professional etiquette, ethical behavior, global awareness and community involvement.

"I was a student when the School of Business was still in its infancy. It has been amazing to see SIUE develop into the recognized and reputable university it is today, I hope alumni recognize that, as SIUE prospers, the value of an SIUE degree becomes more meaningful."

-Alfred C. "Al" Hagemann, BS '63, CPA



SIUE Prepares COUNTRY Financial's Leaders of Today and Tomorrow



Kurt Bock, MBA '84

COUNTRY Financial knows it can count on SIUE to prepare its next generation of leaders. In fact, SIUE already prepared its chief executive officer, Kurt Bock, MBA '84. Bock attributes his current success at COUNTRY Financial to an SIUE professor who not only provided him with a great foundation in accounting, but also encouraged him to obtain his PhD.

"That was one of those moments where having a great faculty mentor made a lasting impact on me. But then again, that happens all the time at SIUE," Bock said.

SIUE's School of Business values its partnerships with local businesses, such as COUNTRY Financial. These partnerships are critical to the University in preparing high-quality graduates. Many of COUNTRY Financial's employees credit their professional success to their time at SIUE.

"What I gained most from SIUE was experience working on projects with executives of banks and management companies in St. Louis. That exposure gave me a lot of confidence,"

"I can't say enough good things about my experience at SIUE and the School of Business."

> -Kurt Bock, MBA '84 CEO. COUNTRY Financial

said John Merkle, BS '89, MBA '93. "I knew I could compete with anyone." Merkle has been with COUNTRY Financial for 19 years and is currently a property claims manager for the insurance and financial services organization.

Geoffrey Darmstaedter, MBA '14, recently joined COUNTRY Financial in April 2015 as a securities compliance specialist within COUNTRY Financial Capital Management Company.

"In SIUE's MBA program, they challenge you to do a lot of different things that I'm now called upon to do every day in my career," Darmstaedter said. "The classes were relatively small for a big school, allowing professors to really make time for you."

Since 1925, COUNTRY Financial has grown from its modest roots as a group of Illinois farmers providing fire and lightning insurance to a company of 3,000 employees and 2,000 financial representatives offering a range of insurance and finance products and services throughout the nation. The company offers a wide variety of career opportunities that range from actuarial science to IT to compliance and more.

"I can't say enough good things about my experience at SIUE and the School of Business. The faculty, several of whom I still keep in contact with 30 years later, were not just great in the classroom, but also great mentors," Bock said. "This is one of the reasons I loved my time on campus and why we at COUNTRY Financial benefit from recruiting our next generation of leaders from there.'



John Merkle, BS '89, MBA '93



Geoffrey Darmstaedter, MBA '14

Alumna Challenges Students to Take Risks, Leave a Legacy

For young professionals, success means facing challenges head-on and overcoming adversity. According to Tania Seger, BSA '87, MBA '96, that is when most learning and personal development occurs.



Seger, the vice president of Commercial Finance-North America for Monsanto, delivered this message in April to 50 high-potential students during the School of Business Power Breakfast. She focused on three key takeaways in her speech.

"Learn to take risks, seek out a mentor and identify your personal legacy," Seger said. "By engaging in these three activities, you'll create experiences, personally and professionally, that build your confidence as a leader."

Of the 1,400 students enrolled in the School of Business each year, 50 are personally selected by their professors to attend the annual breakfast. These students develop their networking skills and gain industry knowledge from alumni, community partners and faculty.

Seger shared with the attendees that her route to the top of one of the country's largest and most influential companies was not easy. She began her finance career as one of a few women at United Van Lines. It was there she learned finding a mentor would be necessary to her success as a woman in the workplace.

"It's important that you find a mentor who is right for you in the context of where you work and where you are in your career," Seger said. "At that time in my career, I needed a male mentor who could help me navigate the organization and advocate for me."

Next, she took a professional risk by stepping out of her comfort zone and working for Ameritech, where she did everything from finance to sales. By taking on new roles, Seger was able to build her confidence and stretch herself.

Seger admitted that it took a few years before she discovered her own personal legacy of being recognized as a great leader.

"At Monsanto, your leadership ability is something that defines you, and I knew becoming a good leader was something I could be passionate about," she added.

Seger's message clearly resonated with attending students. "It's uplifting to hear the stories of successful alumni," said business student Alex Buehne. "Her challenge to us to identify our legacy really struck home with me. Every interaction I have and every choice I make will impact my legacy. I hope to leave a good one."

Mentorships Foster Success and Increase Career Satisfaction

When recent graduates enter the workforce, it is not uncommon for them to experience feelings of uncertainty, anxiety or even fear failure. They are new to the work environment, the culture and the people — and need a little guidance. Frankly, even the most seasoned professionals who transition to new roles or start a new job can feel this way.

It is moments like this when Dr. Janice Joplin, associate dean and professor for the School of Business, encourages students to seek out a mentor; someone who can serve as an experienced and trusted professional advisor.

"A mentor can add value to your career experiences by advocating for you and helping to run interference when you're in a difficult

situation," Joplin said. "Mentors are also there to provide counsel when you just need someone to talk with."

Joplin has had the pleasure of serving as a mentor to a number of students over the years, including Tania Seger, vice president of Commercial Finance-North America for Monsanto. When her mentees step out into the workforce, Joplin counsels them to create new mentorships with those who can help them navigate their new company or career.

"I find the most successful mentoring relationships are those you happen upon rather than those created as part of a formalized program," Joplin said. "Many times, I encourage students to spend some time getting the lay of the land and understanding how they can contribute to their work environment, and then seek out individuals who will support those contributions.

"Mentoring relationships don't just fall from the sky," Joplin said. "The mentor and mentee both need to have a clear understanding and expectations of the relationship to make it successful."

In Joplin's experience, good mentees exhibit an openness to learn and challenge themselves in their role. Mentees also take the time to ask good questions — an area where Seger excelled, Joplin said.

Ideal mentors, on the other hand, take interest in the growth and development of their mentee.

They are confident enough in their own role to put their needs aside and advocate for someone else's success.

"It is so rewarding to see your mentees move on and experience success in their careers," Joplin said. "As you go through life, it is important to step back and look at the individuals who have helped and supported your career, and who you have helped and supported. These individuals become part of your lifelong portfolio of supporters and are a tribute to your success."

"As you go through life, it is important to step back and look at the individuals who have helped and supported your career, and who you have helped and supported."

—Janice Joplin, PhD Associate Dean and Professor, School of Business



Cost-Effective Manufacturing Takes Right Strategy, Team and Tools - Not Cuts from the Top

By Raj Kumar, MBA '85, Director, Operations Performance, Nestlé Purina

Today's manufacturers face unprecedented challenges, including the depletion of natural resources, increasing regulations, global competition, demands from stakeholders for increased transparency, and changing customer expectations in the form of societal and environmental impact. Companies must meet these expectations while at the same time maintaining profitability to continue their operations.

Companies can meet all of these demands – and return manufacturing jobs to the U.S. - by improving manufacturing productivity in the right way. It's critical that the next generation of business leaders learn how to address these challenges as they look for new ways to grow American jobs, improve profitability and increase market share.

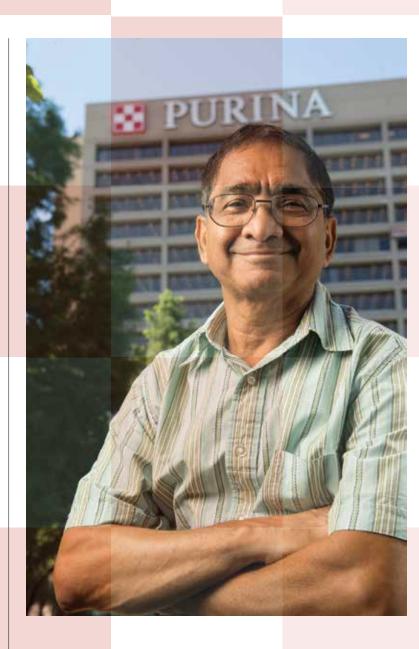
As director of operations performance for Nestlé Purina PetCare Company in St. Louis, I've led a focused continuous improvement program that is making our production facilities more productive and more profitable while better meeting stakeholder expectations. We embrace environmentally sustainable business practices for the good of the environment and society, but also to streamline our operations, create efficiencies and cut costs by reducing waste.

I'm fortunate to have been asked by School of Business Dean John Navin to help integrate environmental and sustainability concepts into the MBA curriculum, and share experiences and perspectives from the corporate world with the MBA students in the SIUE School of Business. The goal is to help students understand that productivity and sustainability can go hand in hand.

During my meetings with students, I've shared that too many companies turn to simple cost-cutting approaches to improve the health of their manufacturing business. These superficial, shorter-term cost-cutting strategies likely hurt, rather than help, the health of their operations.

At Nestlé Purina, we deploy an arsenal of continuous improvement tools to achieve long-term cost reduction and improved productivity. Over the last 15 to 20 years, we've significantly reduced our energy consumption, our water withdrawal and direct greenhouse gas emissions. In 2010, we turned our focus to total waste (food waste and non-food waste), with the goal of zero waste to landfills by 2020.

We know such a step would mean a lot to our customers who are increasingly interested in buying from sustainable businesses, but it also will have a significant impact on reducing our operating costs, which is critical to our shareholders.



"Adding an environmental sustainability component to the SIUE MBA program is a win-win-win.

- MBA graduates will stand out in the competitive job market
- · Manufacturing companies that hire SIUE alumni can benefit from environmentally sustainable waste reduction projects and reduced operating costs
- Most importantly, society will benefit from the reduced impact on its fragile environment."

-Raj Kumar, MBA '85 Director, Operations Performance Nestlé Purina





The roof of Nestlé Purina's newest Gold LEED building in downtown St. Louis houses rows of solar panels which help partially provide energy for lighting and water heating for the building.

When we look to improve our manufacturing productivity, we follow a three-step process:

Step 1: What needs to be improved? To begin, we select a manufacturing productivity metric to understand how the production facility is performing, and how it compares against other world-class manufacturers. We use Nestlé's version of Overall Equipment Effectiveness (OEE), an indicator which is the product of multiplying three key pieces of production data (after considering all operational losses):

- availability of production assets
- performance of assets
- quality of products produced

Research shows that world-class manufacturers operate at more than 85 percent total OEE – or 90 percent availability of assets, 95 percent performance of assets and 99 percent quality of products.

If our production plants are lagging behind in one of those three operational measures, we concentrate our efforts there because it gives us the greatest opportunity for improvement, and it helps us to prioritize our limited resources.

Step 2: Involve the full team. After selecting a focus, we identify a cross-functional plant team to tackle the project. Unfortunately, cost cutting at many companies happens at the top behind closed doors. Executives may not know where the exact waste occurs, but the people who work with the systems on the shop floor often do.

At Nestlé Purina, our programs have been effective because we empower everyone at our production facilities to proactively develop and share ideas for improvements and waste reduction. We also incorporate incentives into the processes, providing team and individual rewards when efficiency measures are achieved. We have made tremendous progress so far, but we have a long way to go to call ourselves world-class manufacturers - it's a journey that we have just started with our employees.

Step 3: Pick the right tool. After we identify a metric that needs improvement and involve the team in how to address the issue, we select from a variety of tools - including Six Sigma, Total Performance Management (TPM), Lean Manufacturing and many others – to make continuous improvements.

The Six Sigma approach and its DMAIC (Define, Measure, Analyze, Improve and Control) methodology help us identify the root causes of waste and develop targeted improvement plans and execute solutions that make permanent improvements to our processes and results. Many companies have these data-driven quality improvement tools at their disposal and the key is to deploy them in the right setting to achieve the desired goals.

I'm looking forward to sharing more of these insights with the School of Business students. Understanding how to reduce costs while improving production in a sustainable way will allow them to be fully prepared when they enter or return to the workplaces of tomorrow.

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Investing in Education Unleashes Economic Growth

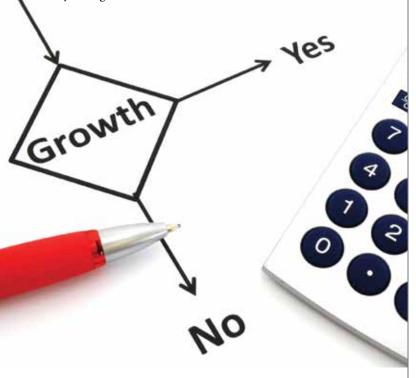
It is a question that has puzzled politicians, business leaders and employers alike: Why do some countries or states or individuals tend to become more economically successful over time than others?

Dr. Rik Hafer, distinguished research professor of economics and finance, is looking for the answer. After accounting for obvious economic factors, such as differences in taxes or investment spending by businesses, the key variable that explains economic success is education. Whether it is education in the classroom or from on the job experiences, building up "human capital" is crucial in predicting future economic success.

Experiences gained from education, lessons learned on the job or having a mentor in your life can help make individuals more successful. Hafer's research shows the more of these experiences the entire population of an area has, the more economic success that population will achieve.

"Every community would like to be the next Silicon Valley or have the kind of economic growth they're seeing in Austin, Texas," Hafer said. "But those outcomes just don't happen

everywhere. The research does show that a key element in the economic success of those areas and others like them is the fact that they have great educational institutions to draw from."





The more people in an area who receive a quality education is often the biggest difference between an area with a successful economy and areas that lag behind. In short, quality educational opportunities and outcomes improve human capital and enhance chances for faster economic growth.

Hafer's research focuses on educational outcomes, looking at measures such as degree attainment and quality measures of education, and whether they affect future economic growth. One of his studies was published by the Show-Me Institute, a Missouri-based, free-market think tank that focuses on research that will help increase economic opportunity in the state. Based on graduation rates and scores on standardized tests, Hafer found Missouri ranked in the lower third of states for academic achievement. Using previous research as a guide, Hafer argues that Missouri's relatively poor educational outcome helps explain why Missouri also has one of the lowest growth rates of all the states in terms of producing goods and services over the past decade.

Research like this shows legislators in Missouri and other states that if they want to improve the economy, finding ways to improve educational outcomes is critical. Hafer concluded that higher levels of investments in quality educational outcomes—from preschool to college—result in a stronger local and regional economy.

"There's a big externality to education: the more educated the workforce, the more productive the workforce is," he said. "The more products and services we produce, the better our economy is."

Professor John C. Navin Named Dean of School of Business

John C. Navin joined SIUE as an assistant professor of economics and finance in 1991. He chaired the Department of Economics and Finance and served as the program director for both the bachelor's program in economics and finance, and the bachelor's program in economics prior to being named interim dean in June 2013. Dean Navin, who officially became dean in July, discussed the impact SIUE is making on the regional economy and how the School of Business is helping prepare graduates for the evolving workforce.

Now that you have moved into the role of dean, what is your vision for the School moving forward?

Ensuring we build our reputation, both nationally and internationally, is very important. I also want the School to be seen as a strong community partner and resource for everyone from entrepreneurs to senior citizens looking for tax advice from our accounting students in the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program.

Regarding the economic impact study you co-authored, what are some key findings on SIUE's regional impact?

SIUE is a major economic engine in the Metro East, particularly in the state budget environment. For every dollar we have in state appropriations, SIUE generates \$8.60 in economic activity. We're the second-largest employer in the Metro East, second only to Scott Air Force Base. We also attract visitors to the area—not only students, but their families—and those visitors stimulate local economic activity.

How do you see the School of Business evolving to meet the future needs of students?

We are evolving from the traditional classroom experience by offering more online courses and hybrid learning environments to accommodate student learning preference. We also have a lot of nontraditional students returning to college, so there is greater need and opportunity for flexibility to ensure degree completion.

What are the biggest changes happening in the business world, and how is the School changing its approach to help students prepare for those changes?

I'm seeing two themes emerge. One is big data. With the quantity and availability of data, the ability to analyze and use that data will be key skills. We have set up a specialization



in our graduate programs that specifically deals with data analytics and how to use data sets and their applications.

The second theme is the emphasis being placed on work experience. Firms are very interested in test-driving students through internships and co-ops. We are spending a lot more time helping students find the right opportunities.

Prior to becoming dean, you were a professor for almost 25 years at SIUE – how has teaching impacted you?

I love teaching; it's the reason I'm where I am today. During the last 25 years, I have had past students reach out to me for support or to request student resources for their businesses. It has been one of the great returns for me. These relationships were all fostered in the classroom and through advising. As dean, I know I will still have an impact on students by helping shape the future of the School of Business.

What do you want your legacy to be at the School of Business?

I hope when I leave, the School of Business has an excellent reputation and is in an even better place to work and learn.

Young Alum's Winning Combination: Business and Social Prowess



When Olivia Parker Phipps, BS '15, entered the School of Business, she knew she wanted to work in finance and make a positive impact in the community, but she wasn't sure how to combine those passions.

Inspiration struck when she participated in a workshop offered through her employer about community development. Phipps realized she could pair her interest in business with social impact by pursuing a career in community finance, which focuses on providing credit and financial services to underserved markets and populations.

"At SIUE, our curriculum focused on corporate and community finance, but community finance really spoke to my passion for helping my neighbors."

-Olivia Parker Phipps BS '15

As a testament to her passion for service and community, Phipps received the SIUE 2015 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Scholarship because of the promise she displayed as a dedicated, communityminded leader.

The scholarship recognizes one SIUE undergraduate student each year who exemplifies Dr. King's leadership skills, teachings and principles. Phipps was chosen because of her commitment to humanitarian ideals, leadership experience and community service.

"Winning this scholarship meant a lot to me," Phipps said. "Like Dr. King, everything I do is inspired by my faith and belief that our communities are our neighbors."

She valued the leadership experience she gained at SIUE through organizations such as the inter-denominational Christian group, Cru; the Economics and Finance Club; and the Organization of Minority Business Students (OMBuS).

"Olivia's work with OMBuS was instrumental in helping the organization achieve its mission of providing networking and professional support for minority business students, "said Dr. Robyn Berkley, associate professor of management and marketing, and OMBuS faculty advisor. "I am always impressed with the impact OMBuS has on building strong relationships among its members at SIUE, and within the business community at large. They take their role of being role models for other minority students very seriously. Olivia exemplifies all that is good about OMBuS."

"SIUE and the School of Business helped me become comfortable in a professional setting and learn how to engage those around me," Phipps said. "These are skills that will be especially important to me as I set out to work in the community."

Since graduating in May, Phipps has focused her time on working and getting involved in nonprofit organizations. "I plan to explore the field of social work by volunteering with local nonprofits, and if all goes well, enroll in the social work graduate program next fall," she said. "I would love to combine these two degrees and work with a community development financial institution where I can help the underserved."

AMA Students Cultivate Marketing Skills Through Community Service

Students in SIUE's chapter of the American Marketing Association (AMA) don't just learn about the theory of developing great marketing programs, they also learn about the importance of giving back to the community.

Each year, AMA student members identify a charitable cause to which they will donate their time and talents, and they use that experience to enhance their education. Last year, students selected the Pax2Pax Bike Ride, a fundraiser created in honor of Johnny Strong, a Marine who was killed in action, which raised money for Child's Play. The Washington-based nonprofit provides toys and video games to children being treated within their network of more than 70 hospitals.

School of Business alumnus and former Marine, Jay Knight, BS '13, and his Pax2Pax teammate, Denny Salisbury, rode from Boston to Seattle in 145 days and visited 24 children's hospitals in 2014. With a stop planned in the St. Louis region, they reached out to the student chapter ahead of time and asked for their help in marketing Pax2Pax fundraisers in the region.

The chapter planned promotional events around Edwardsville in the months leading up to the bike ride to build awareness and anticipation for Pax2Pax's stop in the region. They also scheduled

fundraisers and appearances by Knight and Salisbury during their five-day stop that culminated with a visit to St. Louis Children's Hospital, which receives games and toys from Child's Play. Thanks to the help from the SIUE AMA chapter,

the duo raised more than \$15,000 during their cross country trek.

"These community service activities help students see the outcome of the work they are doing and connect it to their coursework," said Dr. Edmund Hershberger, associate professor of marketing and faculty advisor for SIUE's chapter of the

American Marketing Association. "They are learning how to apply their marketing education in a real-world setting.

"The experiences have lasting impact on the students who participate in the service activities. I have watched many students continue to be engaged with certain charities and nonprofits after they graduate because of the connection they made while they were here."

SIUE's AMA community service work for Pax2Pax was recognized at the 2014 American Marketing Association International Collegiate Conference in New Orleans (pictured below).



Back row standing: Kevin Buensuceso, Justin Wood, Matt Jones. Adam Collins Front Row seated: Christian Fawns. Megan Splittstoesser, Katelyn Salzman, Kate Jurovic



What is Freshman Select?

Freshman Select is a unique program for high achievers launched by the SIUE School of Business in 2013. The program offers early admission to candidates with an ACT score of 27 or higher, and gives these high-potential freshmen early access to the School of Business faculty and resources, professional networking opportunities, and social events they would otherwise not benefit from until their junior year. The intent is to help Freshman Select fellows build a connection with the School and decide to major in business. Freshman Select gives the School a competitive advantage in attracting high-achieving students.

Accounting Connects Freshman Select Fellows

In Dr. Linda Lovata's spring Introduction to Accounting class, the lessons were more than cash flow, assets and liabilities. The students also learned about each other and how to push themselves—both key elements of understanding the expectations and opportunities that come with being a Freshmen Select fellow.

For the first time since the launch of Freshman Select three years ago, the incoming fellows took a class together, taught by Lovata, professor of accounting and coordinator/coach for the Freshman Select program.

School of Business students typically wait until their junior year to start taking courses in their major, but the Freshman Select program allows direct entry into the School of Business to high-potential freshmen. They're the type of students who appreciate the high bar set by the program.

"This class is definitely a good kind of challenge," said Luke Jansen of Effingham, Ill. "We are held to a higher standard, so we are forced to work a little harder, which I appreciate because it will help me further down the road."

The students' sense of camaraderie shows up not just in the class-room, but also doing homework together in the residence hall. The majority of Freshman Select fellows live on the same floor.

"All of the students are highly motivated," Lovata said. "They work well in teams and bring different perspectives to the discussion."

In addition to exposing freshmen to business classes, Freshman Select facilitates the transition into the School of Business and the business profession through fun social events, networking opportunities with alumni and donors, and seminars on useful topics. Students learn how to make the most of a mentoring relationship and how to master business etiquette and communications skills.

"We hope that by helping Freshman Select students make friends with similar interests and getting to know the School of Business faculty in formal and informal settings, they will choose to stay with us and major in business," said Lovata. "We want Freshman Select to become the tipping point for high-potential students who are considering SIUE versus other institutions."

Freshman Select Events

- Freshman Select fellows are paired with business alumni or professors for the Power Breakfast, a premier event of the School of Business for selected students, faculty and alumni, where a distinguished alum is the invited speaker (turn to page 4 to read about last spring's Power Breakfast speaker)
- The Dean's Society Dinner, which is attended by alumni and friends of the Business School
- Exclusive seminars and presentations offered specifically for Freshmen Select students on a broad range of business topics
- Activities with more-senior business students to gain insight on succeeding in the School of Business
- Access to School of Business
 Advisory Board members and
 donors at professional and social
 networking events, such as the
 cooking class pictured below.

Freshman Select by the Numbers

Average class GPA: 3.835

Founding year: 2013

Total number of students: 36

2014-2015 Freshman Select Class: 15

Average ACT class score: 28.65

In the Words of the Freshman Select 2014-2015 Class

"For me, Freshman Select was the deciding factor in choosing SIUE. I knew I would be making a lot of great connections through the School of Business, which helps professionally with networking and finding a job after college."

-Luke Jansen, Effingham, III.

"Being part of Freshman Select has pushed me to ask questions and find out what I want to pursue in life and in my career. The bonds I've built with the professors here have increased my confidence and will encourage me to persevere and be successful."

-Courtney Richards, Valmeyer, III.

"It was a really big deal when I found out that I got in. One of my favorite things is that I have advisors from the School of Business in my first year, whereas most freshmen just have general advisors. I also love all the events we get invited to, like the Power Breakfast or the cooking class. It makes for really great connections and networking."

-Jess Striler, St. Louis, Mo.

"We get to meet people working in business and accounting. We have had various speakers come in to talk to us and I feel like I am getting to learn things earlier than I would otherwise."

-Vincent Mahr, Macomb, III.

"Being in Dr. Lovata's Accounting class is a great opportunity to bond with other Freshman Select fellows. We are all dedicated to our school work and this allows Dr. Lovata to go into more depth and make the class more challenging."

–David Wise, Nokomis, III.

"I have learned how to build professional relationships and how to maintain them during my time at SIUE and beyond."

-Stephanie Estabrook, Springfield, III.



Bountiful Harvest Encourages Philanthropy: Life Lessons from the Farm

Plant in the spring; harvest in the fall. Who knew the lessons learned on a farm in Edwardsville would be applicable for managing nearly half a billion dollars in assets?

Certainly not Beth Sheley, BSA '05, vice president and portfolio manager at Morgan Stanley Wealth Management. Sheley never thought the years of planting and harvesting would translate to the corporate world. "A consistent level of planning, self-sufficiency and dedication are a natural part of being a farmer," she said. Today, she draws inspiration from the entrepreneurial and life skills learned on the farm.

She has applied the years of hard work and patience to her career as a financial planner. It helped her become one of the St. Louis region's top young business leaders. Sheley was recently honored as one of St. Louis Business Journal's 30 Under 30.

"In today's world, it's all about instant gratification," Sheley said. "As a financial advisor, it takes an incredible amount of work to stay afloat in the beginning and bring in client assets; I needed patience to understand that the activities I perform today often don't yield results for months — and sometimes, years down the road."

As she built her financial planning business, Sheley noticed that clients prioritized financial security and independence, but once those needs were met, they wanted to use their success and resources to help others. It inspired her.

As a founding member of the St. Louis Learning Disabilities Association Young Professionals Board, Sheley leveraged her professional success to help the group raise more than \$30,000 over three years through new fundraising events.

"Serving on this board helped me discover how wonderfully rewarding it is to give back and help improve the lives of others, and it has really sparked my interest in supporting children who learn differently," Sheley said.

Clearly, Sheley advocates for education. She serves as a member of the SIUE Foundation Board of Directors, SIUE Alumni Association, and SIUE Meridian Society, a group of women who provide leadership through



Seated App Hopes to "Unseat" Restaurant Reservation Services

If it does not exist, build it yourself. That was the motivation for Wade Berner, BS CMIS '15, to create Seated, an app for the restaurant industry that customers can access from any mobile browser.

Personally frustrated by hustling to get ready to go out for dinner or drinks, only to have a hostess inform him of a 30-minute wait, Berner decided to build an app that enables patrons to add their name to a wait list from anywhere. He hopes to help restaurants end that hurryup-and-wait scenario, resulting in more satisfied customers and a better experience for all.

"I am trying to replace the dynamic that exists in the front of the house at a restaurant by letting users anticipate their wait using the Seated app," he said. "Restaurants have a better understanding of their capacity, and customers can plan accordingly."

Berner is a one-man team developing the app, building the business plan himself and outsourcing the coding development to another company. SIUE's computer management and information systems program helped him learn how to balance managing a business while growing his technical knowledge in areas such as database design and SQL.

"I couldn't really find that degree anywhere else," Berner said. "At other schools, you get a business degree or you get a technical degree. SIUE has a great blend of educational opportunities in technical aspects of business."

He was named runner up and received \$5,000 at the 2014 Highland Gigabit Challenge, a live pitch event at The Korte Company in Highland, Ill. He also took second place and \$3,000 at TheOther40 competition, an event sponsored



by the School of Business student group Collegiate Entrepreneur Organization, where students pitch their business plans to a panel

Edwardsville is quickly becoming recognized as a hot spot for new restaurants and for a growing entrepreneurial community. Berner's next steps are to take advantage of that environment by continuing to develop the first version of his app and focus on growing the service in Edwardsville.

"The Small Business Development Center at SIUE helps students and anyone in the community with developing business plans, marketing and some of the legal aspects of opening a business," Berner said. "A lot of people are making a conscious effort to leverage the entrepreneurial environment at SIUE."

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The School of Business works closely with the business community in order to provide the very best business expertise to develop programs that provide a foundation for students to become leaders in their chosen careers. The commitment of these advisory board members to lend their expertise and to serve the School of Business as ambassadors in the business community is gratefully recognized and appreciated.

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With gratitude, John C. Navin, Dean, School of Business

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