

econnection

The Magazine for Southern Illinois University Edwardsville Alumni Association & Friends

THE TIME IS NOW

Defining SIUE's Future, Together



SIUE
ALUMNI
ASSOCIATION

50 YEARS

1972-2022



“Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.”

— Helen Keller

The University's inaugural One Day, One SIUE day of giving on April 21 raised more than \$668,000 thanks to the generosity of 822 members of the SIUE community. Read more on page 14.

On the cover



James T. Minor, PhD, became SIUE's 10th chancellor on March 1. Learn about his bold vision for the future of SIUE and the role alumni will play on page 4.




YOU'RE READING AN AWARD-WINNING PUBLICATION!


The 2021 eConnection was honored with the following:

- 2022 Educational Advertising Awards Silver Award, Direct Mail



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We welcome your comments and suggestions. Senior Director of Constituent Relations
Cathy Taylor: cattayl@siue.edu • 618-650-5176

The following alumni have contributed to the production of this magazine:

Heather Kniffel, '95, '13 • Megan Wieser, '17
Nick Niemerg, '15 • Cathy Taylor, '15

Meet CHANCELLOR MINOR



James T. Minor, PhD, began his appointment as SIUE's 10th chancellor on March 1. His bold leadership is propelling the University forward as he develops a collective focus on strengthening student success, enhancing faculty excellence, and engaging alumni and community partners to advance regional impact.

Q WHAT ATTRACTED YOU TO SIUE?

Institutions like SIUE represent the most consequential sector of higher education in America. In every community, whether rural or metropolitan, there is a shortage of individuals between the ages of 25 and 64 with a college degree. Our economy and the strength of our democracy depend on the ability to provide degree opportunities to individuals who have historically not participated in higher education.

The gains the nation needs to experience will not happen at the 200 most selective institutions in the country. That growth and degree of productivity will happen at institutions that are committed to both quality and access, like SIUE.

Q WHAT MADE THE UNIVERSITY STAND OUT DURING YOUR INTERVIEW PROCESS?

The people in this community are amazing. Every day there is a new discovery of impressive teaching and learning, research, and community engagement, all of which involve high-caliber faculty and staff.

I also felt a sense of readiness at SIUE to more powerfully advance its mission. Most people who have been part of the SIUE community have a historical reference point. We know what the University was like one, two or three decades ago, but fewer people are able to articulate what it will become going forward. I am interested in the ability to collectively define the future of this institution. It is an intriguing, beautiful opportunity.

Q WHAT IS YOUR VISION FOR SIUE?

I have been unapologetic about my ambition for this institution: to be first and best in class for providing students from all backgrounds with high-quality, affordable degree opportunities that change their lives.

Part of my early commitment has been to do as much listening as possible and to talk with various constituency groups about refining the strategic plan so it tactically moves us from where we are today in the direction of realizing that vision.

I am asking pointed questions regarding how we improve student success, support faculty excellence, and more effectively engage alumni, donors and community partners.

Q HOW WILL YOU FOSTER THE ADVANCEMENT OF EQUITY, DIVERSITY, INCLUSION AND ANTI-RACISM AT SIUE?

Rhetoric on this matter is no longer sufficient. I believe there are three elements that are important for advancing equity, diversity, inclusion and anti-racism goals at SIUE:

1. A declaration of our values: Are we, as a community, clear and resolute in what we promulgate as institutional values? It is important that our messaging clearly and consistently signals to stakeholders our values.
2. Principled action that aligns with institutional values: Do we have decision-making criteria that is principled and consistent with our values?
3. The ability to measure our progress and create a framework of institutional accountability: Do we have measurable, observable, quantifiable goals we can point to as a community to measure and publicly report our progress?

Q WHAT ROLE DO OUR ALUMNI PLAY IN HELPING ADVANCE THE INSTITUTION?

Alumni involvement is essential to building a base of support for current students that progressively enhances the educational experience. One key way these improvements are made is through a growing base of alumni who are giving back to an academic department, student organization or athletic team they were part of as students. This is vitally important for enhancing the qualitative elements of the undergraduate experience and creating a noticeable margin of excellence.

Engaging alumni also maximizes the network of individuals who are leaders in every field of human endeavor to serve as mentors and connectors for our students and graduates, regardless of their field of study or career choice. I want SIUE graduates to enjoy the benefits of a strong alumni network.

Q HOW CAN SIUE INCREASE ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT?

Alumni engagement is a critical component of a thriving and vibrant institution. We send alumni out into communities, not only in this region but across the country and around the world, as ambassadors for this institution.

As I speak with alumni, I commonly hear of the wonderful experience they had at SIUE and how the opportunity to earn a degree changed their life. Yet, it seems that all too often those alumni have not remained connected with the University. Now is the time to rebuild those relationships and that network of reciprocal influence and support.

I feel strongly the responsibility is on us to give alumni a reason to return to campus. We need to build pathways for alumni to reconnect and create additional opportunities for alumni to engage with their alma mater. In doing so, we will proudly support and generate new partnerships with SIUE ambassadors who make positive impacts in their communities and as industry leaders.

I already have met many wonderful alumni from every decade of SIUE's existence. I look forward to connecting with others in person at Homecoming or other upcoming University events, or even on social media.

Learn more about Chancellor Minor, and discover opportunities to connect with him and the University.

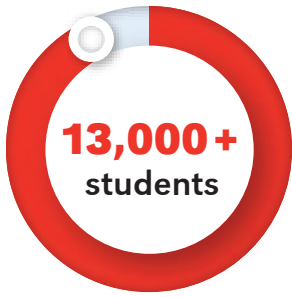


siue.edu/chancellor 

Engage with Chancellor Minor on Twitter and Instagram.

 @JT_Minor

 @jt_minor10



Students come from



BEST ONLINE MS NURSING PROGRAM

The Princeton Review, 2022

Nurse Educator, Healthcare and Nursing Administration

Areas of Study

350+

Student-to-faculty ratio

15 : **1**

100%
PASS RATE

Integrated National Board Dental Exams

School of Dental Medicine
DMD graduates



Edwardsville/Glen Carbon is ranked
18th in the nation

HIGHER EDUCATION EXCELLENCE IN DIVERSITY



INSIGHT Into Diversity, 2021

One of only 11 schools in the nation to receive this award for
8+ consecutive years

\$160,000,000+

FINANCIAL AID administered last year

BEST BANG FOR THE



Washington Monthly, 2021

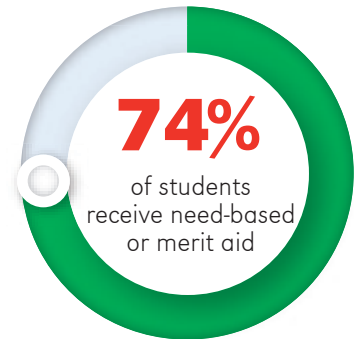
BEST BUSINESS SCHOOLS



The Princeton Review, 2022

#1 IN ILLINOIS AND MISSOURI

NAPLEX Exam Pass Rates
School of Pharmacy PharmD graduates



More than 120,000 SIUE students have had the chance to cross the commencement stage, whether at the Mississippi River Festival Amphitheater, on the lawn between Peck and Rendleman Halls, or in the First Community Arena at the Vadalabene Center. No matter when you graduated, you are a lifetime member of the SIUE Alumni Association.

Check out pages 21-22 for information on upcoming events, resources and benefits for SIUE alumni!



SIUE Celebrates Historic Enrollment Increases

The 2021-2022 academic year saw the largest first-year class in six years and the most diverse student body in SIUE's history. Master's and doctoral degree program enrollment reached 3,043 students, the largest total in 44 years. Plus, international enrollment soared, growing 48% to 536 students, matching the largest number in University history.

“The mix of growth from domestic and international students at both undergraduate and graduate levels exemplifies the innovation and agility of our academic deans, faculty and staff throughout the University.”

— Denise Cobb, PhD

Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs



CODES Program Introduces Underserved Students to Digital Community Engagement

SIUE is launching the Community-Oriented Digital Engagement Scholars (CODES) program in fall 2022 to provide underserved students the opportunity to replace their general education coursework with hands-on learning experiences, such as mapping, data visualization and online communication, for credit.

Through a \$100,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, participants are awarded full tuition and fees.

“Designed for first-generation, Black, Latinx and/or Pell-eligible students, CODES aims to help students understand the integral role of the humanities in transdisciplinary problem solving at the earliest stages of their college careers.”

— Jessica DeSpain, PhD

Professor of English, SIUE IRIS Center Co-Director



SIUE Named a Bicycle Friendly University

The League of American Bicyclists has recognized SIUE's dedication to welcoming cyclists on campus by naming it a Bicycle Friendly University in the bronze category. The designation, through 2025, celebrates SIUE's bike lane designations, paved recreational paths and off-road mountain bike paths, and free bike rental program for students, along with its free public bike repair stations located across campus.

“This award is a testament to the campus and community partnerships we've developed, including Madison County Transit and Gateway Off-Road Cycling, to welcome cyclists on campus and to connect SIUE with the broader community.”

— Dave Hagedorn

Assistant Director, Campus Recreation



Dental Medicine Students Achieve 100% Board Pass Rate

Despite the challenge of the COVID-19 pandemic affecting both their third and fourth year of dental clinical education, the Southern Illinois University School of Dental Medicine (SIU SDM) class of 2022 achieved a 100% first-time pass rate on the new Integrated National Board Dental Exam. This is the second consecutive year for SDM students to achieve this honor.

“The SIU SDM Class of 2022 has worked tremendously hard to excel in their coursework and exams while also effectively caring for their patients. We are so proud of them.”

— Saulius Drukeinis, DMD
Associate Dean for Academic Affairs

SIUE Nationally Recognized for Supporting Military-Connected Students

The Office of Military and Veteran Services' commitment to military-connected students has garnered national recognition with SIUE's designation as a 2022-2023 Military Friendly® School. The University's promotion to gold award status recognizes its dedication to helping military-connected students successfully transition to the civilian world through a broad array of programs ranging from affinity groups to book clubs and gathering spaces at the Military and Veteran Resource Center.

"Our office is committed to eliminating roadblocks to education for our military-connected population," said Kevin Wathen, director of the Office of Military and Veteran Services. "While our service begins at the point of application, it does not end until the student completes their educational goal."



SIUE's Robotic Dog Headlines Charter High School's STEAM Day

The School of Engineering's state-of-the-art robotic dog, Bode, helped kick off the SIUE East St. Louis Charter High School's (CHS) STEAM Day in March. Amid activities and games featuring science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics, CHS students watched Bode in action and learned about the career opportunities available in engineering and technology.

“Our main objective is to get CHS students excited about engineering. We want them to see engineering is part of real life. Robots are used on construction sites, in search and rescue endeavors, and more.”

— Cem Karacal, PhD
Dean, School of Engineering



Red and Black Benefit Raises \$286,694 to Benefit Student-Athletes

More than 350 friends of Cougar Athletics attended the 2022 Red and Black Benefit in March, raising a record-setting \$286,694 to support the student-athlete experience. This event marked the fifth year the benefit had been held and the first time since 2019 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"I am overwhelmed by the generosity shown toward our student-athletes and the support for our department," said Tim Hall, director of Athletics. "I thank everyone who attended, donated and made the night such a success. Thanks as well to our sponsors and to our staff who worked hard in putting on such a successful event."

Intercollegiate Athletics Launches Dr. Venessa A. Brown Leadership Development Program



During a surprise presentation at the 2022 Red and Black Benefit, the Department of Intercollegiate Athletics unveiled the Dr. Venessa A. Brown Leadership Development Program in honor of Associate Athletic Director for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and Chief Diversity Officer Venessa Brown, PhD (seated at right).

The program will provide student-athletes with networking opportunities and the tools needed for success after graduation, including financial literacy, leadership skills and professional etiquette.

"Our student-athletes make sacrifices to win," said Brown, who was humbled by the announcement. "They deserve our support, and the leadership program is another way to provide that support. We're in it to win it."

For more information and to support the program, visit siue.edu/give-now/athletics. 



then **&** *now*

The 1972 College World Series third-place baseball team (above) and the 1972 national champion men's soccer team gathered earlier this year to celebrate their accomplishments from 50 years ago.





Celebrating Our GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY

Over the past 50 years, the SIUE Alumni Association has made great strides in its mission to establish, nurture and maintain the relationship between the University and its alumni. The organization is more focused now than ever on reconnecting and engaging with all of SIUE's alumni who are paving the way for future generations of Cougars.



1972

The Alumni Association is incorporated and a volunteer board of directors is appointed, with SIUE's first graduate, Gail Buenger '58, serving as the first president.



1983

For the first time since 1963, the spring commencement ceremony takes place on the lawn space between Peck Hall and Rendleman Hall instead of at the Mississippi River Festival (MRF) Amphitheater. This change marks a permanent shift away from using the MRF site.

1974

The Alumni Association creates two alumni awards: Alumna of the Year and Outstanding Young Alumna. The awards are presented to Margaret Blackshere '65, '72 (right), and A. Kent Reed '68, respectively, at SIUE Alumni Day at the St. Louis Cardinals game.



1973

The first alumni magazine, Alumnus, is released in January.



1999

A groundbreaking ceremony is held for the new building that will house the Alumni Association and SIUE Foundation offices. B. Barnard Birger Hall is dedicated a year later.



The MRF Commemorative Committee, a joint effort of the Alumni Association and SIUE Foundation, hosts a plaque dedication ceremony on the MRF site and unveils a historical marker bestowed by the Illinois State Historical Society. The event also celebrates the MRF's 40th anniversary.

2009



2006

The alumni publication is renamed the eConnection and converted to a magazine format.



2008

Thirteen graduates are inducted into the Alumni Hall of Fame during its inaugural ceremony. The Alumni Hall of Fame replaces the Distinguished Alumni of the Year program.



2011

The first SIUE Alumni Association License Plate Scholarships are awarded using proceeds from the collegiate license plate program through the Office of the Illinois Secretary of State.



Approximately 280 students, faculty and alumni take part in the inaugural Cougars Unleashed Homecoming Run, raising \$10,000 for the Alumni Association Scholarship Fund and The Gardens at SIUE.

2016

2013

All SIUE alumni become automatic members of the Alumni Association with the discontinuation of annual dues.



2017

The Alumni Association initiates the tradition of recognizing Golden Graduates – those who graduated 50 or more years ago – during spring commencement exercises.



2017

The Chicago chapter of the Alumni Association is established for the approximately 4,000 alumni living in the Chicago area.

The Springfield Area Chapter of the Alumni Association is established for alumni living in the Springfield, Ill., area.
The SIUE Young Professional Network of St. Louis is founded to connect recent graduates living in the St. Louis region.

2021



2017

The Alumni Association launches the Senior Campaign, giving graduating students the opportunity to make their first philanthropic gift in the amount of their graduating year and wear a designated cord during commencement.

2022

More than 500 graduates and their guests celebrated the class of 2022 at the Alumni Association's annual Always a Cougar Graduation Celebration during commencement week — one of the largest crowds in history.



University Advancement



Dear Alumni and Friends,

I contend that in today's hyper-busy world, where so many resources compete for our time, talent and treasure, we must analyze how best to place our efforts. I can say that through engagement at SIUE, your investment will impact our students, faculty, staff and community. Throughout this issue of the eConnection, you will read about alumni who have engaged and

invested in SIUE, and we are proud of how those investments have made an impact on our University community.

We invite you to engage and learn about the numerous opportunities for connecting, volunteering and philanthropy throughout the upcoming weeks as we celebrate the Alumni

Association's 50th anniversary. This year, we are seeking the largest showing of alumni support in SIUE history! We ask that each alumnus considers participating in the Alumni Association's 50th Anniversary Campaign. Contributions of all sizes are important. These resources will provide immense support to the students, faculty and staff on campus!

I arrived at SIUE just a few weeks ago and am lucky to have already met many of you. I can see how much SIUE means to each of you. I look forward to meeting even more members of the University community at our events and programs this fall.

GO COUGARS!

Seth Walker

Vice Chancellor for University Advancement
CEO, SIUE Foundation

Inaugural One Day, One SIUE Day of Giving Raises \$668,369



SIUE lit up red with Cougar pride on Thursday, April 21, in celebration of its inaugural One Day, One SIUE day of giving. The event raised \$668,369 from 822 donors to support scholarships, faculty research, Cougar Athletics and more. One Day, One SIUE culminated with an evening celebration on the Quad featuring food, music and a glow party.

"On behalf of the entire University, I want to thank you for your generosity and for your continued partnership," said Chancellor James T. Minor. "Each of our donors and partners plays an important role as we develop a bold vision for this university. This is just the beginning of what we will achieve as we chart the path forward, together."



SAVE THE DATE FOR

GIVING TUESDAY

Mark your calendars for November 29, 2022, and pledge your support for SIUE during this annual worldwide day of giving.



Contribute to our

\$50 for 50 CAMPAIGN



In honor of the SIUE Alumni Association's 50th anniversary, give \$50 in support of the Alumni Association Scholarship fund! The organization awards more than \$20,000 each year to deserving students thanks to the generosity of SIUE alumni and friends. Your donation will allow us to continue providing financial assistance to Cougars for generations to come.

Inspire your fellow alumni, students, faculty and friends to make the Alumni Association's next 50 years even better than the first. Consider doubling your donation and give \$50 for the past and \$50 for the future!



Make your gift at sue.edu/give-now/alumni or by using the QR code. 



The Presidential Scholarship, known today as the Meridian Scholarship, played a critical role in Brian Henry's success while earning a bachelor's in mass communications in 1995. Today, the senior vice president of communications at 3M is supporting the next generation through his own endowed scholarship, the Rising Communicators Scholarship.



Rising Communicators Scholarship

Senior mass communications major Ahmad Lathan was the 2022 recipient of the Rising Communicators Scholarship. According to Lathan, the scholarship is meaningful because, "It's a reflection of the hard work I have put in throughout my years at SIUE and the Department of Mass Communications' belief in my potential going forward in the media industry."

CELEBRATING OUR ALUMNI THROUGHOUT THE DECADES

SIUE is proud of the countless accomplishments its 120,000 alumni have made in nearly every sector of society. In honor of the Alumni Association's 50th anniversary, this section highlights the work of alumni from each of the past five decades. Use the QR code to view the full articles or visit siue.edu/econnection-alumni-profiles.



1970s: A Voice for Presidential Politics

PETER MAER

As a longtime White House correspondent for CBS News, Peter Maer was a voice for national news for more than a quarter century. From 1986 until his retirement in 2015, Maer covered everything from presidential politics to major national and international disasters.

Maer has been cited for his commitment to integrity and to advancing public dialogue on controversial and divisive issues. He is a recipient of the Interfaith Alliance Walter Cronkite Faith and Freedom Award, three Edward R. Murrow Awards, five Merriman Smith Awards for Presidential Coverage Under Deadline Pressure and the Overseas Press Award.

Despite covering some of the nation's most important news stories of the day, Maer, who was a member of the first class of SIUE mass communications graduates, has remained connected to his alma mater. SIUE honored him as its Distinguished Alumnus of the Year in 1995 and awarded him an honorary doctorate of humane letters in 2007. Maer was inducted into the SIUE Alumni Hall of Fame in 2012.

Following his retirement, Maer has begun creating a special collection at Lovejoy Library of memorabilia, press passes and notes from his time at CBS News. "So much of my journalism adventure started at SIUE," said Maer. "I hope my papers and souvenirs of my travels with six U.S. presidents will inspire students as they begin their own career journeys."



1980s: From Open Mic Nights to Sold Out Theaters

KATHLEEN MADIGAN

The Detroit Free Press has described Kathleen Madigan as "one of the funniest stand-up comedians of her generation." After more than three decades in the industry, Madigan continues to sell out theaters across the country and around the world with her stand-up act during which she has "all but perfected the art of crafting and delivering a perfect joke," according to the Chicago Tribune.

But Madigan didn't always aspire to be a comedian. When she attended SIUE in the 1980s, she had plans to be a journalist. After earning a bachelor's in mass communications in 1988, she was hired to write the Missouri Athletic Club's magazine. Occasionally, she and her friends would attend the St. Louis Funny Bone Comedy Club's open mic nights. When Madigan eventually decided to try it herself, she was a hit. Before long, she was performing at Funny Bone Comedy Clubs across the country.

Fast forward to today, and Madigan is still traveling the country 250 nights a year while squeezing in appearances on late night talk shows, cruising with Jerry Seinfeld on his Netflix show, "Comedians in Cars Getting Coffee," and performing at international comedy festivals. Madigan has released five highly-rated comedy specials, including her most recent Netflix special, "Bothering Jesus." Her album of this latest special was the highest selling comedy album and most played comedy album on streaming services since 2014. Madigan's sixth comedy special will be released in early 2023.

While Madigan's wildly successful career as a stand-up comedian may have strayed from her original career ambitions, she undoubtedly uses the writing skills she gained at SIUE. "For stand-up comedy, editing is one of THE most important things if you want to succeed and although I learned it through journalism, it was helpful for stand-up after all of those years of editing unnecessary words in articles," said Madigan.

"I also had a way better press kit than other comedians at my level thanks to journalism!"



1990s: Enhancing Cybersecurity for Organizations Around the World

ANGELA HEISE

Angela Heise has dedicated her career to securing organizations through information technology and advanced cybersecurity programs. She currently serves as corporate vice president of defense and intelligence for the Microsoft Corporation. In this role, she works with defense and intelligence agencies to advance their missions to promote stability and security for residents, nations and multinational alliances.

Heise graduated from SIUE in 1996 with a bachelor's in computer science and joined Lockheed Martin as a software engineer in 1997. She rose through the ranks to become vice president of Lockheed Martin Commercial Cyber before joining Leidos Civil as its president in 2016.

In 2018, Heise completed Harvard's Advanced Management Program, was named to Washington Exec's Top 25 Executives to Watch list and was inducted into SIUE's Alumni Hall of Fame. Heise currently serves on the board of directors of Essent Guaranty, as well as the advisory board for the SIUE School of Engineering. She values supporting women in STEM leadership roles, and to this end, she has pledged a sizable gift annually for four years to support SIUE's computer science development initiatives and computer science scholarships that give preference to female and minority students. Microsoft has agreed to match her annual contributions.

"SIUE gave me an unbelievable gift," said Heise, who recalls being one of two females in her courses. "My professors always called on me when I raised my hand. They always made sure I had a voice, and they encouraged me constantly to use it and share my perspective in class."

"I want to thank SIUE for that gift," she continued, "because it meant that every job I took, I raised my hand and always used my voice. Today, I give my employees the same sense of inclusion and encourage them to use their voice to make the world better."



Angela Heise, BS Computer Science '96



Jessica McCaskill, BA Mass Communications '06

2000s: Ruling the Boxing Ring

JESSICA MCCASKILL

Professional boxer Jessica "CasKILLA" McCaskill became the unified and undisputed welterweight champion in 2020. She was one of only three female fighters in the world to hold the undisputed title at that time.

With this level of success, it may come as a surprise that only after she earned a bachelor's in mass communications in 2006 did McCaskill first try the sport of boxing. She started boxing purely for fitness and had her first amateur bout in 2009. After making her professional debut in 2015, it took McCaskill only three years to become the World Boxing Council's Super Lightweight Champion.

In 2018, Ring Magazine named McCaskill its Most Inspirational Fighter. She was also featured in the 2018 Amazon Prime documentary, "Making McCaskill." McCaskill became the unified World Boxing Council and World Boxing Association Super Lightweight Champion in 2019 before moving to the welterweight division.

As a first-generation college student at SIUE, McCaskill quickly learned to take advantage of the resources needed in order to be successful. She asked questions, visited office hours and got involved in extracurriculars while earning her degree. McCaskill's strong work ethic is one of many reasons why she has seen unprecedented success throughout her boxing career.

"I have definitely used those standards of 'show up early, leave late, work hard every single day, push yourself, motivate other people' in everything I've done — whether it was classes in college, a corporate job and now into boxing."

2010s: Providing Life-Saving Care a World Away

MAJ. MICHAEL JOHNSON

Maj. Michael Johnson, PharmD, chose to pursue a career in pharmacy, in part, because of the positive impact he could make on the lives of others. He chose SIUE's School of Pharmacy because of its thoughtful approach to the education of each student. He later came to appreciate the thorough understanding of his craft he would gain, which allowed him to think and act quickly and courageously in key life-saving situations.

Johnson joined the U.S. Air Force following graduation in 2016, and since that time, he has filled several key roles. Johnson's greatest challenge to date, however, came on August 26, 2021, when a suicide bomber carried out an attack at Hamid Karzai International Airport (HKIA) in Kabul, Afghanistan. Johnson was the sole pharmacist remaining in the country responsible for providing care to coalition forces under dangerous circumstances.

Johnson had been in Afghanistan since March 2021, first overseeing pharmacy services at Bagram Air Base before its closure, and then moving to HKIA. Following the terrorist attack, Johnson's hospital received an influx of 62 patients in need of life-saving medications and supplies. "I ran from patient to patient, assessing the injuries, leaving behind necessary medications for each medical team to stabilize their patients and providing tactical combat casualty care to those in immediate need," Johnson explained.

He made frequent trips to the ICU and operating rooms, assisted in delivering a baby, and worked closely with the aeromedical evacuation teams to supply and conduct the largest aeromedical evacuation in U.S. history. "Having now made it home safely, I take great pride in the work our military members and coalition forces were able to perform in the constraints we were in," said Johnson. "This was a dangerous operational environment requiring the use of true, expeditionary medical skills, but I am grateful for the opportunity to have served in this capacity."



Maj. Michael Johnson, PharmD '16



2020s: Embodying the True Spirit of the Nursing Profession

DOMONIQUE DONES

Inspired to help people through some of their most difficult times, alumna and current doctoral candidate Domonique Dones chose to pursue a career in nursing. "Nurses have nurturing hearts that help to heal, whether someone is sick physically or emotionally," Dones said. "The diversity in patients one can see and the lives one can impact is truly inspirational."

When Dones graduated from SIUE in December 2021 with a bachelor's in nursing, she was honored with the School of Nursing's Student Leadership Award. This award recognizes a student who has demonstrated extraordinary leadership qualities by embodying the true spirit of the nursing profession and helping others realize their goals. As an undergraduate, Dones illustrated these characteristics through her involvement within the School and on campus. She served as president of the Student Nurse Achievement Program and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority; was a liaison for the School's Alumni Advisory Board; and was a member of the Student/Dean's Advisory Board, Black Student Union, and National Society of Leadership and Success.

Following graduation from SIUE, Dones accepted a position as a graduate nurse in the intensive care unit at SSM Health St. Mary's Hospital-St. Louis. She is thankful for the variety of hands-on learning opportunities she gained during her undergraduate studies at SIUE, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic. Dones is eager to become an even better nurse through the School's doctor of nursing practice-family nurse practitioner program (DNP-FNP).

"I decided to enroll in SIUE's DNP-FNP program because I wanted to have an impact in the minority community and encourage other minorities to advocate for their health," said Dones. "As a minority nurse, it is extremely important for me to advocate for patients and encourage them to utilize all healthcare resources."



Domonique Dones, BS Nursing '21

A Night Among the Stars

2022 Alumni Hall of Fame Ceremony | Friday, September 23

As part of Homecoming Week, SIUE will honor 10 remarkable alumni during the 2022 Alumni Hall of Fame Ceremony, "A Night Among The Stars." Through their leadership, character and hard work, these impressive alumni have made exceptional contributions in their chosen fields, in their communities and at SIUE. Register to attend at siue.edu/alumni-hall-of-fame or by using the QR code.



Terry Ganey
COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
BA Mass Communications '70
Retired Journalist and Bestselling Author



Scott Miller
SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING
BS Civil Engineering '96
VP, Global Structural System Technology,
MITek, Inc.



Kathleen Madigan
COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
BA Mass Communications '88
Critically-Acclaimed Stand-Up Comedian



Kyle Griffith
SCHOOL OF NURSING
MS Nurse Anesthesia '05
Co-Owner and VP, Business Development,
G&G Anesthesia, PLLC



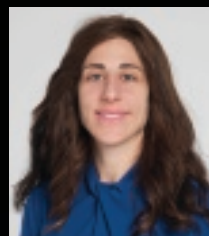
Damon Harbison
SCHOOL OF BUSINESS
Master of Business Administration '04
President, SSM Health St. Mary's
Hospital - Centralia



Frank Grasso
SCHOOL OF NURSING
BS Nursing '06
MS Nurse Anesthesia '10
Co-Owner and VP, Clinical Strategy
and Practice, G&G Anesthesia, PLLC



Bruce Rotter
SCHOOL OF DENTAL MEDICINE
Doctor of Dental Medicine '82
Retired Dean,
SIU School of Dental Medicine



Diana Isaacs
SCHOOL OF PHARMACY
PharmD '09
Endocrine Clinical Pharmacist and
Remote Monitoring Program Coordinator,
Cleveland Clinic



Franklin Boster, PhD
SCHOOL OF EDUCATION, HEALTH
AND HUMAN BEHAVIOR
BA Psychology '72
MA Behavioral Science '75
Internationally-Recognized Expert on
Social Influence and Group Dynamics



Senator Christopher Belt
GRADUATE SCHOOL
Master of Public Administration '02
State Senator, Illinois' 57th District

From Your Alumni Association Board President



As a tour guide during my years as a student, I loved getting prospective students as excited about attending SIUE as I was. But many of my favorite conversations on the tours were with their parents and family members who had themselves attended SIUE. As I shared my excitement for the shiny new Engineering Building and the new Bluff Residence Hall, they shared their memories of a time before Founders and Alumni Halls, of a "bubble gym," and of the Mississippi River Festival. Now, as I listen to the stories of our Golden Graduates – alumni who graduated 50 or more years ago – and how they watched the construction of the campus core itself, I realize just how far our alma mater has come in such a short time.

Like campus, the Alumni Association continues to grow and evolve. Despite the pandemic, we continue to gain momentum in our mission to engage with all SIUE alumni. We are eager to hear your voices and ideas as we work to reconnect with our alumni with whom we have lost touch.

We are excited to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Alumni Association this year. To help us celebrate, I encourage you to share stories and photographs of your time at SIUE on social media and let us know how SIUE helped shape the person you are today!

Finally, the Alumni Association extends our warmest welcome to Chancellor James T. Minor and Vice Chancellor for University Advancement Seth Walker. We also want to thank Dr. Randy Pembroke '78, '79, '80 for his leadership and service to the University during his five and a half years as chancellor.

It's amazing to see and share all that SIUE and the Alumni Association have accomplished in the last 50 years. I don't know what exciting new changes the next 50 years will bring, but I know we're just getting started!

Andrew Ravanelli, PhD

BS Biology '04

President, SIUE Alumni Association Board of Directors

2022-2023 BOARD MEMBERS

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Eileen Martindale '08
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Dr. Maggie Krumwiede '05, '09
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Dillon Santoni '16
Brad Sauer '15
John Siampos '16, '19
Todd Sivia '01
Terri Svehla '13
Zachary Yoder '11



Pictured left to right. First row: Terri Svehla, Sherry Mancewicz, Raffi Mikaelian, Stephanie Cann, Jill Essner, Millie Clark, Luke Jansen, George Ladd and Eileen Martindale
Second Row: Dr. James T. Minor, Nick Niemerg, Dr. Andrew Ravanelli, Victor Hicks, Dr. Maggie Krumwiede, Dr. Chris Bosworth, John Siampos, Dr. Rachelle, Phillips, Ashlee Peno and Cathy Taylor
Third Row: Ryan Bundy, Jason Frazier and Marc Kinnear

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ALUMNI AFFAIRS



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Mark your calendars for
HOMECOMING WEEKEND
 September 23-24

Make plans to return to your alma mater for Homecoming 2022. We have several annual traditions planned as we celebrate Homecoming and the Alumni Association's 50th anniversary. We hope to see you at one (or all!) of the events during Homecoming weekend.

A Night Among the Stars

Friday, Sept. 23
5:30 p.m.
Meridian Ballroom
Morris University Center

SIUE will honor 10 remarkable graduates at the 2022 SIUE Alumni Hall of Fame ceremony, "A Night Among the Stars," for their exceptional contributions in their chosen fields, in their communities and at SIUE.

COUGARS UNLEASHED
Homecoming Run 2022

Virtual: Week of September 17-24
In Person: Saturday, Sept. 24, 9 a.m.
B. Barnard Birger Hall, SIUE Campus

Join the SIUE Alumni Association for the seventh annual Cougars Unleashed Homecoming Run. The in-person run will be followed by a pancake breakfast provided by Chris Cakes and post-run beer (for runners ages 21 and over) provided by Recess Brewing. The virtual run can be completed anytime and anywhere between September 17-24. All proceeds benefit scholarships for SIUE students.

ALUMNI AND FRIENDS TENT
 AT COUGAR FAN ZONE AND MEN'S SOCCER GAME

Saturday, Sept. 24
4-7 p.m.
Korte Stadium East Parking Lot
7 p.m.
SIUE Men's Soccer vs. Belmont University

The first 250 alumni and friends who check in at the event will receive a \$5 voucher to be used at any of the food trucks, a drink ticket to be used for any of the beer vendors and an exclusive gold mini-drink tumbler commemorating the Alumni Association's 50th anniversary! The event will include live music from Dirty Muggs, yard games, prize giveaways and a Family Fun Zone featuring a Bubble Bus, inflatables, face painting, balloon artists and more!



REGISTER TODAY!

siue.edu/homecoming/events





Golden Graduates: Save the Date for 2023

SIUE welcomed its alumni who graduated 50 or more years ago back to in-person commencement ceremonies in May 2022 for the first time in three years due to the pandemic. Ninety-five Golden Graduates participated in commencement weekend with a virtual kickoff ceremony, in-person campus tour and reception, and other events prior to the commencement ceremony.

All Golden Graduates, including members of the class of 1973, are encouraged to save the date for next year's Golden Graduation festivities during the week of May 1, 2023. Watch your email for additional details.

Update your contact information at siue.edu/alumni/stay-connected. 

Start Saving Today with SIUE Alumni Perks

The SIUE Alumni Perks program can save you up to 50% off on top brands, retailers, restaurants, entertainment and recreation in your area and nationally. Simply search by zip code or by type of discount online or on the mobile app and start saving immediately.

Visit siuealumni.enjoymydeals.com, register using your information, choose your password and use the registration code SIUEPERKS. Once registered on the site, you can also download the My Deals app and log in to start saving today.

Lifelong Learning with the Alumni Learning Consortium

SIUE alumni can continue learning about a wide variety of topics long after graduation with the Alumni Learning Consortium! As a member of the Alumni Association, you have access to webinars offered several times a month, providing opportunities to learn from experts and best-selling authors.

Check out the free upcoming webinars at alumlc.org/siue.

Mix and Mingle with Your Fellow Alumni!



Stay in touch with your former classmates and make new connections through the SIUE Alumni Association's chapters and networks. Chapters are established based on geographic location, while networks are created around a common degree focus, shared interest, etc. You're invited to join our current chapters and network listed below:

- **Chicago Chapter**
The first and largest regional chapter
- **Springfield Area Chapter**
Established for alumni in the Springfield, Ill., area
- **Young Professional Network—St. Louis**
Composed of graduates from the last 10 years who reside in the St. Louis or Metro East area

Get involved in these groups by checking them out on Facebook or start your own by emailing siuealumni@siue.edu.

SIUE Proud

In celebration of the Alumni Association's 50th anniversary, we asked alumni why they are proud to call SIUE their alma mater.

“

I completed the program off site at Dover Air Force Base. It served as a basis for three careers: therapist, teaching social sciences at Delaware Tech and finally as a pastor.

— JOSEPH ALLMOND
MSEd Counselor Education '75

”



“

I'm proud to be an alum of SIUE because the system took a chance on me. The faculty and staff believed in me, which gave me back my purpose.

— AMANDA DEPEW
BSW '20, MSW '21

”

“

SIUE is full of beauty both in its campus and its alumni. Being part of an educational establishment that went from 'commuter school' to top notch university in such a short time makes me proud.

— STACEY (BAIMA) HESSLER
BS Speech Communication '04

”

“

I learned from some really impressive professors. They were well-known scholars in their fields, and I was always wowed by how much they knew. Their vast knowledge and expertise made me want to learn more and be just like them some day. And now I'm a professor at a college not terribly different from SIUE back when I was a student there.

— GLENN STEINBERG
BA English '84

”

“

One of my favorite memories during my undergrad years was attending the various International Nights. I learned so much about Asian and African culture during those events. It was awesome to see classmates showcase their heritage and share their traditions with the rest of us.

— MARLANA (HAIRSTON) STRODE
BS Business Administration,
Human Resource Management '98
MA Public Administration and Policy Analysis '01

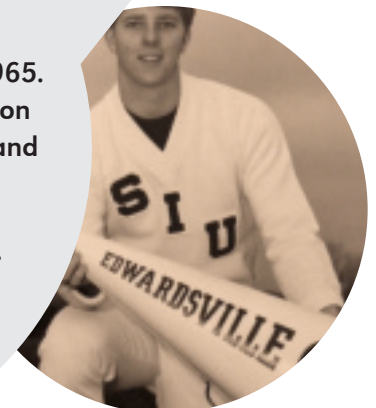
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“

After camping out in front of the Registrar's Office, I was the second student to enroll at SIUE in August of 1965. The university established the foundation upon which I would grow and develop and for which I will forever be grateful.

— RIC STEPHENSON
BA Government '70, MSEd Counselor Education '74,
Education Specialist '77

”





50
YEARS
1972-2022

Join the Alumni Association in celebrating our 50th anniversary!

YOU CAN TAKE PART IN TWO WAYS:



Mark your calendars for
HOMECOMING WEEKEND
September 23-24

Plan to return to your alma mater for a special anniversary celebration.

Visit siue.edu/homecoming for more information.



Contribute to our

\$50 for 50
CAMPAIGN

Your \$50 gift to the Alumni Association Scholarship fund in honor of our 50th anniversary will help to support future generations of Cougars.

To donate, visit siue.edu/give-now/alumni.

Watch your inbox and our social media pages for more details!