Can you believe that 2015 has come and gone? We are taking the month of January to reflect on opportunities we had to connect with so many nontraditional students through programs, office visits, phone calls and emails, not to mention Facebook! We would like to remind you that our goal is ensuring you reach yours!
EXPERIENCE THE SIU ADVANTAGE

As we turn the corner on a new year, SIU students have opportunity for an extra advantage! We all know that, in addition to outstanding academics, SIU offers many programs and experiences that enhance your education and can give you an edge on the competition after graduation.

Starting this spring, the SIU Advantage program will help you document these experiences through a co-curricular learning resume. You’ll be able to demonstrate knowledge and skills in four key areas that employers regard as critical.

CULTURAL COMPETENCY:
Includes valuing cultural and human differences, as well as developing a sense of global consciousness as a member of a global population.

INTELLECTUAL AND PROFESSIONAL SKILLS:
Offers students opportunity to develop skills in areas such as teamwork, leadership and professional/career development.

INTRAPERSONAL AND INTERPERSONAL DEVELOPMENT:
Strengthens interpersonal communication, self-awareness, advocacy, and personal health and wellness.

PERSONAL AND SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY:
Focuses on areas of student engagement, sustainability, financial responsibility, ethics and integrity, and personal responsibility.

Want to know more? Check it out here and, if you’re near the Carbondale campus, look for the SIU Advantage table at the Spring Involvement Fair, Thursday, Jan. 21, from 5-7 p.m. at the SIU Student Center Ballrooms.

Look for more details in the February newsletter issue.

Deborah Barnett, Ph.D.
Non-Traditional Student Services

Student Highlight

It’s the time of the year to focus on scholarship applications and FAFSA completion. This month we highlight a student who returned to college to pursue the dream of becoming a funeral director. To help offset the cost, she immediately pursued scholarship opportunities and has already earned a $500 scholarship. The following is a glimpse into her story:

Ewa Krawczyk, a returning adult studying mortuary science, recently earned a $500 scholarship from the Egyptian Funeral Directors Association!

“It was an honor to meet the interviewers and I will do my part to make them proud,” Krawczyk said. “What is priceless to me is the engagement of fostering new relationships that could last a lifetime and could open new doors that we could not have imagined opening up before.”

After graduation, she hopes to serve the Carbondale community and surrounding areas.

She said she never thought she would be back in school again after completing her doctorate degree in 2007. But she accepted her calling into public service by investing the majority of her savings to move to from Chicago to Carbondale to enroll at SIU.

She offers this advice to other students who might benefit from scholarship assistance to help fund their education:

“If we do not ask, we do not receive. Sometimes it may seem tedious and time-consuming to fill out a scholarship application, but it is certainly worth it. There are so many scholarships to choose from, covering every potential major and interest group.”

When Krawczyk learned that she was one of the scholarship finalists to be interviewed, she admitted that the process was a bit intimidating, but worth it.

“We have to keep in mind that, at one point in time, the interviewer was the interviewee and was sitting in our place,” she said.

Krawczyk encourages all students to pursue their educational goals, and to search for help through scholarships and other funding sources.

SIU makes it easy to apply for scholarships. Simply complete the general scholarship application at scholarships.siu.edu. This single application automatically matches students to scholarships for which they qualify.

Deadline is Feb. 1.
News and Resources

Get Organized in 2016!
If you missed our Technology and Time-Saving Strategies webinar, it will be worth your time to view it over the winter break. You’ll learn simple tips for managing your time and staying organized using the campus’ Office 365 email tool. You’ll also learn an easy way to complete group projects or share class notes. Office 365 – it’s not just for email!

DON’T FORGET: It’s FAFSA time!
You can begin filling out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) as of Jan. 1. Visit fafsa.ed.gov to get started.
You will need:

- Your Social Security number.
- Any previous year W-2 forms.
- Your tax records.

Note: State financial aid awards are made until funds are depleted. Apply early! If you have not completed your 2015 taxes, don’t worry. You can list estimates, then update when your tax return is complete. To learn more about the FAFSA process, visit fao.siu.edu.

Make Your Winter Break Productive!
Start by completing the SIU scholarship application. The general application is a single application that automatically matches you to scholarships for which you qualify.

Health Insurance – Dependent Coverage
Did you know that SIU offers health care coverage to student dependents? According to the plan benefits summary, covered students may enroll their lawful spouse or same-sex domestic partner, and dependent children up to the age of 26. Visit shc.siu.edu for details and enrollment deadline.

Health Insurance Refunds
If you already have health insurance, you can request a refund of your $585 student health insurance fee. The refund application deadline for the spring semester is Jan. 29. For details, or to submit a request, visit shc.siu.edu. If you already submitted a refund request in the fall semester, you are exempt for one entire year.

Campus Safety: Be Prepared!
The following is a summary of important safety information distributed to the campus community by Interim Chancellor Brad Colwell.

Campus safety requires the partnership of everyone in the SIU community. Here are a few resources provided by the Department of Public Safety to better prepare you in the event of an emergency:

- **Print out the one-page guide** that tells you what to do in the event of a campus emergency, such as a tornado, active shooter, fire or natural disaster.
- **Sign up for SIU Alert** to receive text messages of campus emergencies, closures and other important information. Follow the directions posted at siu.edu/emergency.
- The U.S. Department of Homeland Security has online resources for what to do in the event of an active shooter:
  - A downloadable booklet on active shooter response.
- **The Department of Public Safety is now providing in-person violence prevention training** to members of the campus community on the first Wednesday of each month. Visit the DPS website to learn how to sign up.

All members of our community should take an active role in the safety and security of our campus. We encourage you to recognize potential threats and report them immediately. Our ultimate goal is to prevent violence before it occurs. Please be aware of your environment, whether you are in a classroom, office or outdoor space, and report anything unusual by calling 911. Thank you for all you do to preserve the safety and security of SIU Carbondale.
January 2016

1  University closed
18  Martin Luther King Jr. Day (university closed)
19  Spring semester begins
21  Involvement Fair, 5 p.m., Student Center Ballrooms
   Check out ways to get involved on campus, discover areas to volunteer and learn about the SIU Advantage!
28-30  SPC Film “Goosebumps,” Student Center Auditorium.
       Visit spc.rso.siu.edu for showtimes.
31  Last day to drop a full-term course (to be eligible for a credit/refund)

TIPS FOR A SUCCESSFUL SPRING SEMESTER!

1. Get to know your professors from the get-go.
   Perhaps one of the most important (and least utilized) resources afforded to college students is also one of the
   most accessible: their professors. It can be hard in large lectures, but try to make a solid effort to get to know
   your instructors from the first day of class. This includes going to office hours, asking questions and discussing
   coursework after class. They will appreciate the interest!

2. Make at least one friend in each class.
   Missing class at least once during the semester is inevitable, but that doesn’t mean you have to miss crucial
   information. Make friends within the first few weeks and exchange contact information to stay caught up with what is going on, while also building a
   study group. Want to be the class MVP? Start a shared document using your Office 365 OneDrive — it’s the easiest way to compile everyone’s notes in
   one place, and it can be shared with as many people as you like. (If you don’t know about OneDrive, see page 3 for details.)

3. Schedule required study times.
   When selecting classes for the upcoming semester, it’s important to pencil in some study times. Let’s be honest: Constantly s
   aving homework to do at night usually leads to binge-watching Netflix documentaries, or giving up and going to bed abnormally early. A good rule of thumb is to carve out about
   30 minutes every day for each class you are taking.

4. Begin healthy, daily habits.
   Of course, college is about much more than just sitting through lectures and studying every day. Maintaining good habits from the very beginning, such
   as getting enough sleep and eating the right foods, has been proven to help stimulate brain activity.

Congratulations to December contest winner Tequila Young! With the Saluki basketball season in full swing, the contest question was,
“Which former Saluki basketball player advanced into a Hall of Fame career – and, in 1997, received the honor as one of the 50 greatest players in NBA
history?” The correct answer is Walter Frazier.

HELP US CLOSE OUT 2015 BY GIVING US A FRESH START!

To kick off 2016, we want to be sure that Non-Traditional Student Services is providing the services and support that you need to succeed! We want to
hear from you. Tell us what we are doing well, how we can improve, or what additional programs or services would be helpful. Simply email your
suggestions to nontrad@siu.edu or send us a message on Facebook with the subject line “2016,” and let us know what we can do to help you!
NEWS AND RESOURCES

OUTDOOR ADVENTURES
BIG BEND NATIONAL PARK
Winter Break Backpacking Trip
Jan. 9-17, 2016

$450
Travel Included
Food Included
Lodging Included
Gear Included

INFO-MEETING:
Tues., Dec. 15th
6:30pm
AT SIU REC CENTER
REGISTER BY: Jan. 5, 2016

EVERYONE IN THE COMMUNITY IS WELCOME TO SIGN UP!
Contact Touch of Nature at 618-453-1121 or
Email sheylambert@siu.edu for questions.

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR SIUC FEMALE STUDENTS

$1,500
SIUC WOMEN’S CLUB DOROTHY MORRIS TRADITIONAL STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP

$1,500
SIUC WOMEN’S CLUB JOYCE GUYON NON-TRADITIONAL STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP

Basic Requirements:
- Female undergraduate
- 3.0 (A=4.0) cumulative GPA
- Must be enrolled in an undergraduate degree program
- Minimum of 24 credits earned at SIUC
- Must complete at least one semester during the next academic year

Preference Will Be Given To:
- Juniors who will have completed 86 credit hours by the end of spring 2016

To Access Applications: Complete the SIU General Scholarship Application and then apply to the SIU Women’s Club Scholarship opportunities

APPLICATION DEADLINE IS FEBRUARY 1, 2016

EMERGENCY RESPONSE CHECKLIST

ENGLISH

EMERGENCY RESPONSE CHECKLIST

TORNOADO
- SEEK OYSTER OR BUNKER
- Take shelter under a solid table or desk
- Use sturdy desk, chair for protection
- Stay away from windows, walls
- Do not attempt to leave building

HAZARDOUS SPILLS/ CHEMICALS
- CALL 911
- Identify type of chemical and possible exposures
- Evacuate area
- If chemical comes in contact: remove contaminated clothing; rinse eyes with water for at least 15 minutes; rinse mouth with water; then wash with soap and water
- Do not attempt to clean spill

FIREE
- EVALUATE IMMEDIATELY
- Assist anyone in need
- Do not use elevators
- Pull fire alarm on your way out
- CALL 911
- Pin down, keep door closed and send 911
- Open window to signal for help

BOMB THREAT
- GET AS MUCH INFORMATION AS POSSIBLE
- Without is by phone, hard phone line open, do not hang up
- You another line to call 911 if possible
- Call 911 if a suspicious package
- After building, safety person to evacuate building

EARTHQUAKE
- SEEK COVER
- Get under a desk or table or under a sink in a interior room
- Cover yourself
- Remain low and under table
- Do not use elevators
- Do not use stairs
- Be aware of falling debris as you exit

ACTIVE SHOOTER
- CALL 911
- Try to escape safely
- If escape is not possible, go to nearest room and lock or barricade door
- Close windows, turn off lights, keep quiet, silence cell phones
- Pose as a hostage
- Remain in place until authorities arrive

SUSPICIOUS PACKAGE
- CALL 911
- Do not handle the package
- Leave room and close the door
- When you have handled package, identify and isolate area in contact with package

PUBLIC SAFETY

BLACK HISTORY MONTH
Sites of African-American Memory
FEBRUARY 2016

SIU CENTER FOR INCLUSIVE EXCELLENCE
618-453-3740
INCLUSIVEEXCELLENCE.SIU.EDU