The semester is quickly winding down and some of you will be graduating in May...congratulations on earning your degree!! For those of you who will be continuing on in the summer and fall semesters, we wanted to remind you that registration has started. Registration at SIU Carbondale is easy through SalukiNet. If you have never used SalukiNet to register online or need assistance with knowing which classes you need to register for, contact the academic advisor for your program.

Also, the Bursar’s office is now REQUIRING direct deposit for all financial aid refunds (beginning with the Summer 2012 semester). There are multiple benefits to having your refund directly deposited to your account. Visit bursar.siu.edu for details and to sign up. SIU Carbondale also offers convenient payment plans to help students budget and pay for education expenses. Again, visit bursar.siu.edu for enrollment deadlines/information.

Lastly, inside you will find information that we hope you find helpful. You will learn about how we are reshaping SIU Carbondale’s adult student organization; meet one of our interns; find information about tutoring services, jobs on campus, and FAFSA info; find information about the Student Center’s Coffee House Series; learn about a poetry contest for children (grades 2nd—12th); find a list of important dates and upcoming events; learn how to receive FREE income tax preparation assistance on campus; find out about child care registration and other resources for adult students; and, lastly, you will have the opportunity to WIN prizes simply by casting your vote to name our new adult student organization!!

As always, help us to help you by staying in touch and sharing ways we can provide support as you move toward degree completion.

Deborah
Student Highlight: Meet the Interns

This month’s Student Highlight features one of three students from SIU’s College Student Personnel program (College of Education) who are assisting the office of Non-Traditional Student Services/Single Parent Programs during the spring semester: Summer King, Dex Johnson, and Kate Infusino. We are all working hard on programs and initiatives to advance services on the SIU campus for the adult student population. Last month, you met Summer and this month we introduce you to Kate. Help me welcome them to the team!!

Statistically, I should not be pursuing my master degree. I dropped out of high school my junior year, immediately enrolled at College of DuPage (COD) and gave up a few weeks into the quarter. I did this multiple times and finally decided I would not go back until I was serious. I worked full-time at various retail jobs. In 2003, I had my son and I knew that retail was not going to be financially adequate for survival, especially when I had to pay for daycare. I enrolled at Northwestern Business College, a for-profit college, in 2004 and successfully started my post secondary path. I transferred back to COD and completed my Associate Degree in Arts. Financially this was difficult. I received need-based aid, daycare subsidy, and worked part-time to afford my education and life responsibilities.

Upon graduating, I enrolled in the finance program at DePaul University. DePaul is programmed around traditional students. I did not continue at DePaul, my children had to spend twelve hour days in daycare because of my class and work schedule, and the commute to and from the city. I enrolled in the adult finance program at Benedictine University the following summer. It was helpful to have night classes but with being a recent single-parent with two children, financially pursuing my education and/or working part-time for COD was not cost-effective for living in the Chicago metropolitan area. A friend from Carbondale had suggested that I come to SIU because they had family housing. I had never left the west suburbs of Chicago, so it was a difficult decision to make, but it was one of the best decisions I have ever made. I started as a finance major, switched to economics, and finally graduated in 2010 with a B.A. in Sociology. Because of the experience I had gained from working with students at COD and SIU, I enrolled in the College Student Personnel program here for my master’s degree. Currently, I will be graduating in May 2012 with my M.S. degree in Education, College Student Personnel and I look forward to assisting and encouraging future students in their educational journeys.

Kate

Each month we want to take time out to highlight the stories and accomplishments of SIU’s non-traditional students. If you have an inspiring story or have a recent accomplishment you would like to share, please pass it along. If you know of someone that we can feature, please let us know that as well. The SIU campus needs to hear from you, so don’t be shy. Email dbarnett@siu.edu or stop by my office in the Student Center to share your story/accomplishment or to share a story about someone you know (we will get their permission before featuring them in the Student Highlight section). Thanks!

Deborah

Adult Student Organization and Student Survey!!

As mentioned in the February and March newsletters, progress is being made toward reshaping a student organization on campus with the intent of building community for the adult student population through scholarship, support, and service. In March, several students submitted ideas to name the organization and we want YOUR INPUT!! See the MONTHLY CONTEST on page 4 to cast your vote and enter to win a prize. Once the organization has been named, we will use the summer months to establish leadership and to plan for the 2012-2013 academic year. Be thinking about how you might get involved and be a part of this growing group of adult students.

We also want to encourage your participation in the Adult Student Survey which you should have received via email near the end of March. The input received from this survey will be instrumental in shaping services and support for adult students in the future so please let us hear from you. If you did not receive the survey, you can access it here or if you are receiving this newsletter in print form, contact me at dbarnett@siu.edu for a link to the survey. Thanks in advance as we value your input and participation!

Deborah
Resources

Finish the Semester Strong

Extra Help/Tutoring
Academic coaching and tutoring are available through Learning Support Services. To learn more or to set up a tutoring session go to tutoring.siu.edu

NOTE: James Anderson, our February newsletter contest winner, is also available to tutor in Biology/Plant Biology or Chemistry? Contact James at jasper@siu.edu for info.

Looking for a Job and Help with Tuition??

Offices across campus are beginning to post jobs to begin with the summer or fall semester. Check out student work opportunities and assistantships at http://www.siu.edu/jobs/

Need Help Paying for College??
It’s FAFSA Time!!!

www.fafsa.ed.gov

The FAFSA application is used to calculate the Expected Family Contribution (EFC) and determine the eligibility for most federal, state and institutional financial aid programs. For more information or for assistance, contact the SIU Financial Aid office 618/453-4334

April is National Poetry Month!

We are looking for 2nd-12th grade students to help celebrate our theme ...

Big Things Within Reach

At Southern Illinois University Carbondale, we believe that big things are within reach! We believe that initiative is rewarded. We believe that students should dream of a future that knows no bounds. This is what SIU Carbondale is all about and we encourage children of SIU students (current and alumni) to participate in National Poetry Month by submitting poetry that speaks to their own futures and the BIG THINGS WITHIN REACH!

Go to nontrad.siu.edu for more information and for official entry form. Deadline is April 15th

Reception & Awards—April 29th, 2:00 p.m., Morris Library
April 3  Asian American Heritage Month Begins
April 13  Morris Library Edible Books Festival
April 15th  Honors Day
April 15th  National Poetry Month Month Deadline
April 16th  Groundbreaking Ceremony—New Student Service Building (construction site next to Student Center at 10:30 a.m.)
April 17th  Research Town Meeting
  SIU Student Center Ballrooms
  12:00-4:00 p.m.
  Visit researchtownmeeting.siu.edu for agenda
April 29th  National Poetry Month Reception & Awards
  Morris Library 2:00 p.m. Visit nontrad.siu.edu for details

Stay informed about the latest news and events by subscribing to The Saluki Times. This daily publication keeps students, faculty, and staff up-to-date on the latest happenings on campus including Fliers Row which lists campus fliers for upcoming events. Visit news.siu.edu to subscribe (bottom right of page).

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program
Final days to receive help with your taxes from the Beta Alpha Psi chapter of the SIUC School of Accountancy’s Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program
Saturday, April 7th and Saturday, April 14th
8 a.m.—Noon (Rehn Hall)
*Bring W-2 forms and social security card.

For information about other childcare resources, area schools, family housing options, and other areas of assistance, check out Non-Traditional Student Services COMPLETE RESOURCE GUIDE at nontrad.siu.edu

Click on Resources: Students with Children

This Month’s Contest
Each month you have the opportunity to win prizes just by reading the newsletter. Last month we asked you to submit ideas to name the newly forming adult student organization on the SIU Carbondale campus. This organization will provide an avenue in which adult students can build community through scholarship, support, and service. We received LOTS of submissions and narrowed the list to the top 10 that we felt most appropriately represented SIU’s adult student population as a whole…now it’s TIME TO VOTE. To see the list of names and cast your vote CLICK HERE. Cast your vote by April 15th to be entered into a drawing for a gift card to Barnes & Noble!

Congratulations to SWAN PARSONS who was drawn as the winner of Quatro’s gift certificate. Along with many other students, SWAN entered the contest in the March newsletter by submitting an idea to name the adult student organization. Don’t forget to cast your vote of the top 10 submissions!!

NOTE: This newsletter is designed to be electronic. If you received it in print form and need to access links, go to nontrad.siu.edu and click on Monthly Newsletter.