We’re Gearing Up for Fall 2015

Excitement is in the air as we prepare for the fall semester! We look forward to welcoming new students just getting started on their degrees, transfer or returning students who chose SIU to continue their education, and online or off-campus students moving one step closer to degree completion.

If you are near the Carbondale campus, be sure to take advantage of Weeks of Welcome activities. With so many exciting opportunities happening across campus, our welcome activities are not just one week, but three!

Check out details and complete schedule at wow.siu.edu. Download the Guidebook App and search for “SIUC” to create your own personalized schedule of welcome programs.

Scan for SIU’s Week of Welcome Guidebook (download app, then search for “SIUC”).
A NOTE FROM NTSS

For nearly four years I have had the privilege of serving and advocating for the growing population of nontraditional students at SIU. I have taken advantage of every opportunity to “take a seat at the table” to keep student needs at the forefront of conversations. As a result, we have seen much progress, but we can always improve.

Here is where I need YOUR help!

I am pleased to announce that SIU’s Undergraduate Student Government (USG) recently designated a USG senate seat specifically for nontraditional student representation! This new senate structure is a great step to better representing and reflecting the undergraduate student body.

If you meet the following qualifications and are interested in the USG nontraditional student seat, contact me right away at dbarnett@siu.edu or 618/453-7521, as we must notify USG of your interest early in the fall semester.

Senator qualifications and restrictions are:
1. A full-time undergraduate student.
2. Have and maintain a minimum 2.5 cumulative GPA.
3. Remain in good standing with student rights and responsibilities.
4. Cannot have been impeached from the Undergraduate Student Government in the last semester.

This senate seat is an important role and is crucial to continued advocacy and education. I appreciate your consideration of helping to carry on these important efforts on behalf of your fellow students, both current and future.

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

Student Highlights

So many students this summer chose to move ahead in their degree programs by taking summer classes, but classes were not the only thing happening on campus this summer. There were many out-of-class opportunities for learning and professional development.

On July 24, a group of students on campus had the unique privilege of engaging Dr. Ronda Dunn in conversation about women in leadership. Dr. Melinda Yeomans organized the afternoon discussion as Dunn offered transparent advice. The discussion resulted from the class Yeomans taught this summer titled “How Great Women Lead.”

Students presented quotes from leadership books they have read this summer along with follow-up questions. We have included a group photo from the session, along with some of the quotes that might encourage you as you prepare for the fall semester.

“Leadership is about making others better as a result of your presence, and making sure that impact lasts in your absence.”

In “Lean In” by Sheryl Sandberg

“Forget about the fast lane. If you really want to fly, just harness your power to your passion.” Oprah Winfrey

Front row, left to right: Shay Frailey, Dianna Balan, Dr. Ronda Dunn, Ticara Wicks, Yahaira Heller, Dr. Deborah Barnett, Dr. Melinda Yeomans. Back row, left to right: Mary Margaret Kelly, Arianne Smith, Kelly Meloy, Lori Stettler, interim vice chancellor for student affairs, and Savannah McCord.
ATTENTION CHILD CARE RESOURCE and REFERRAL RECIPIENTS

Because of significant projected fiscal year 2016 funding shortfalls, new guidelines for the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) were implemented July 1. Eligibility guidelines for acceptance into the program and the copay amounts have changed significantly. These changes will directly affect students who are new applicants or have been inactive 30 days or more.

If you will need child care this fall, IT IS VERY IMPORTANT that you immediately contact your child care provider and Child Care Resource and Referral to determine eligibility. Applicants not meeting the new qualifications will be denied. For more information, visit the CCR&R website and see the July 2 release.

NEW THIS FALL:
Spouse and Dependent Health Insurance Available

Starting with the fall 2015 semester, SIU’s Student Health Services is pleased to announce the availability of a fully ACA compliant health insurance plan with the added option of obtaining health insurance for a student’s spouse or dependents (not available for Medicaid recipients). Health insurance options are available to part-time and full-time students.

Complete information about spouse/dependent insurance benefits and premium rates will be available before the fall semester by visiting the Student Health Services website at shc.siu.edu and selecting the “Insurance” tab.

SIU’s Learning Support Services to offer
GRE Prep Services

Is graduate school in your future? If the GRE is required for admission to your graduate program, preparation is vital!

SIU’s Learning Support Services, located on Morris Library’s seventh floor, offers GRE prep services for the quantitative and verbal sections at a fraction of the cost of other programs, which can exceed $1,000 for one-on-one tutoring.

Group and individual tutoring is available with flexible scheduling to accommodate your busy life.

Group Workshops
10 hours of tutoring – only $50*

Individual Sessions
10 hours of one-on-one tutoring – only $150*
*Cost includes materials.

For information or to register, contact Alannah McGill at mcgill@siu.edu or Lisa Peden Blair at lisa.blair@siu.edu.

IMPORTANT NOTICE!!

DID YOU KNOW?
If you are already enrolled under another insurance policy and meet the minimum requirements, you may receive a refund of the SIU Student Health Insurance Plan. The refund request deadline is Friday, Sept. 4.

For details, visit shc.siu.edu and select Insurance.

SMART TUITION PAYMENT OPTIONS

If you will owe a tuition balance after financial aid is applied, then take advantage of SIU’s installment payment plan. It allows for automatic payments over the course of the semester. In addition to helping you budget for tuition expenses, the payment plan also ensures that you do not accumulate a balance that prevents you from registering for the spring semester.

Important note: If you are not on the payment plan and your balance is greater than $200, you will not be able to register for the spring 2016 semester or make changes to your schedule.

Make the smart choice and enroll in the installment payment plan today!
AUGUST

10  Tuition and fee payment deadline for first bill charge  
(visit bursar.siu.edu for installment payment options)
20-22 Saluki Startup
23  2015 Weeks of Welcome (WOW) begin and continue through Sept. 12
23  Veteran, Transfer and Non-Traditional Student Family Cookout, 
12:30-2 p.m., Student Services Building Pavilion 
(rain or shine; indoor space available)
23  Watermelon Fest, 2-3:30 p.m., Morris Library front lawn
24  Fall semester begins
27  Get Involved: Transfer and Commuter Social, 3:30-5 p.m., 
Student Center Old Main Lounge
27  Involvement Fair, 5-7 p.m., Student Center Ballrooms
29  SIU Family Carnival presents “Launch Your Semester: Out of this World!”, 
3-5 p.m., Student Recreation Center west gym
30  Deadline to register, add a course or change sections 
of full-term courses (without dean’s signature)
Sept. 6 Last day for students to drop a full-term course (to be eligible for credit/refund)

*Items in MAROON sponsored or co-sponsored by Non-Traditional Student Services

MONTHLY CONTEST

Congratulations to Arianne Smith, the winner of July’s newsletter contest. Arianne wins an SIU prize package to show her Saluki pride this fall!

All of our contest entrants indicated that they engage in volunteerism ranging from once a week to once each month. Respondents listed a variety of causes to which they are connected, including Girl Scouts, Strong Survivors (cancer rehabilitation), 4-H Club and the Gift of Love charity. Students also expressed interest in joining other students to represent SIU on coordinated volunteer days. We hope to provide an opportunity to do so this fall.

To enter this month’s contest, simply attend any Week of Welcome event sponsored or co-sponsored by Non-Traditional Student Services as highlighted in maroon above. Bring your student ID to “swipe” in to the event, and you’ll be entered into a drawing for one of five Starbucks gift cards to get your semester off to a great start!

If you’re an online or off-campus student, you can enter, too. Email your name, degree program and location to nontrad@siu.edu so we can officially welcome you to the fall semester and all that SIU has to offer!

NOTE: This newsletter is designed to be electronic. If you received a copy in print form and need access to links, visit nontrad.siu.edu and click on Staying Connected.
MARK YOUR CALENDAR

SCAN FOR SIU’S WEEK OF WELCOME GUIDEBOOK (DOWNLOAD APP, THEN SEARCH FOR “SIUC”).
CAMPUS HAPPENINGS

COMING IN SEPTEMBER

1, 2 Commuter Grab-N-Go, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., Student Center 1st floor
1 Cupcakes and Careers, 4 p.m., Student Services Building 150
(sponsored by Career Services)
2 Milk and Cookies at Morris Library, 3-5 p.m., Morris Library first floor
3 Saluki Sense – Thrifty Thursday, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Student Center
4 Where’s Grey Dawg?, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Morris Library
(Follow clues and get acquainted with your library)
6 Last day for students to drop a full-term course (to be eligible for credit/refund)
7 Labor Day holiday (university closed)

25-27 Family Weekend