YEAR in REVIEW

With finals approaching and the year coming to an end, we take time to reflect back on 2012! It has been a wonderful, busy year for us. We welcomed new Salukis and connected with potential recruits, awarded scholarships, showcased the children’s poems from our “BIG THINGS WITHIN REACH” contest, began a new student organization and celebrated National Adult Student Recognition Week. Our goal is to connect members of the University’s non-traditional student population and assist them however we can as their success is important to us!
Hello Everyone,

As I take a moment to reflect back on 2012, I think of all the students like Kathryn and April who pursued their passion and earned a college degree. I think of students like Katie, Dexter, and Summer who pursued advanced degrees and graduated this past year. And, of course, I think of students like Cathrine, Kim, and Prince who are just getting started on a new chapter in their life and in the life of their family as students at SIU.

I also think of one of the first students featured in our newsletter, Judy Summers. Although Judy’s battle with cancer ended her life prematurely, her family was proud to receive her diploma which was awarded posthumously by Chancellor Cheng in December 2011. Judy not only balanced school and family but fought for her life at the same time. We can all be inspired by her faith and determination.

So, no matter where you are on your journey to earning your degree, we hope you remember to overcome challenges, pursue your dream, discover your passion, and never give up!

Finish the semester strong,
Deborah

2012 Student Highlights

Here are just a few of the many inspiring stories of non-traditional students at SIU Carbondale that we highlighted this year.

Some of our first highlights were students who served as interns with NTSS in the spring and graduated in May 2012 with a master’s degree from SIU’s College Student Personnel Program.

KATIE INFUSINO, DEXTER JOHNSON, & SUMMER KING each had their own inspiring stories which shared a common thread… OVERCOMING CHALLENGES IN PURSUIT OF A DREAM!

KATHRYN PAYNE added school to a long list of responsibilities including work and family and has now earned another title... COLLEGE GRADUATE!

Like many in this economy, APRIL BROCKETT used a job change as the chance to DISCOVER HER TRUE PASSION!

CATHRINE WHITE returned to finish her degree and is excited about the journey of STARTING A NEW CHAPTER IN HER LIFE!

KIM KENNEDY, JALC transfer student, reminded us that IT’S NEVER TOO LATE!

As a husband, father, and graduate student, PRINCE F. ROBERTSON inspired us to always be READY TO TAKE ON A CHALLENGE.

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 (3rd floor) to share your story/accomplishment or to share a story about someone you know (we will get their permission before featuring them as a Student Highlight)
YOUR VOICE COUNTS

Our spring 2012 survey of SIU Carbondale’s non-traditional students was consistent with previous research indicating that many adult students feel most connected to campus when they are in the classroom. Of course, our instructors are vital to helping students feel connected.

During National Adult Student Recognition Week in November, students took time during THANK YOU THURSDAY to express appreciation to faculty/staff through a note of thanks. Here are comments we received from an instructor and a student.

Just want you to know that I received your letter and a thank you note from one of my FDM (Fashion Design & Merchandising) students today. This has really made my day! Unexpected ‘rewards’ such as this are so uplifting.
- Keith McQuarrie

My Spanish instructor said she cried (when she received the note of thanks)! She even wore her “I Love Teaching” pin today! My English professor said it was a lovely note, and she was very grateful for having a very dedicated student. My Education instructor was very grateful as well, and I learned he is retiring at the end of this year....so he really appreciated the note!
- Cathrine White, student

SCHOLARSHIP Applications Now Available For...

Piper-McMahan Endowed Scholarship
Non-Traditional Student Services Scholarship

Applications available at the office of Non-Traditional Student Services or from nontrad.siu.edu. Applications due March 1, 2013.

Testimonial from 2012 scholarship recipient, Heather Will:
I am greatly honored to be the 2012 Piper-McMahan Endowed Scholarship recipient. This scholarship has helped me financially with my college expenses as I balance multiple jobs, kids, a household, and my college career. The scholarship has renewed my determination to not only obtain a college degree, but to do so with the highest of honors. Being a non-traditional student can prove difficult at times and I am forever grateful for the Piper-McMahan Endowed Scholarship.

For a complete listing or to conduct a scholarship search, visit scholarships.siu.edu

Association of Non-Traditional Students

SIU students, including some members of the Association of Non-Traditional Students, volunteered on Saturday, November 17 to unload and shelve more than 1,000 food items collected by local Boy Scouts for the Good Samaritan Food Pantry housed at University Baptist Church in Carbondale. It was a great day to help a great cause. The food pantry is open each Monday and Friday from 9 - 11 a.m.

JOIN US FOR OUR FINALS WEEK EAT AND GREET!
Tuesday, December 11, 5 - 6 p.m. Faner 2367

For upcoming meetings and events through the association, join the group at orgsync.com, join us on Facebook, or visit nontrad.siu.edu and click on Adult Student Organization. There are LOTS of ways to stay in touch.
This Month’s Contest

Do you want to win a $50 giftcard to the University Bookstore? For this month’s contest, provide your feedback on the new NTSS website and you will automatically be entered to win!

Each month you have the opportunity to win prizes just by reading the newsletter. Last month, we asked you to identify the location of a photo taken in the CENTER of campus where students, faculty, staff, and community members can be ‘crafty’.

Congratulations to VICKI ELLISON who correctly identified the location as SIU’s Craft Shop!
Vicki will receive a prize redeemable at the Craft Shop which is located in the basement of the Student Center and is a great place to de-stress with crafts, group activities, and walk-in activities including mosaics, origami, jewelry making, painting, and more! Check it out in person or online at studentcenter.siu.edu/things-to-do/craft-shop.

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