A note from the Office of Non-Traditional Student Services/Single Parent Programs

WELCOME BACK FOR ANOTHER GREAT SEMESTER!!

FAMILY CARNIVAL!! We kicked off the semester with the Family Carnival on January 28th at the SIU Recreation Center. Our thanks to the Rec Center in collaboration with over 30 departments/organizations, and businesses for another great day!! Among the attendees were Woodsy Owl and SuperWHY (see pictures above)...more pictures from the day are inside.

WE HAVE A WINNER!! Congratulations to Winnie Howell for correctly identifying the Rec Center as the location featured in the January newsletter. Your student fees cover your membership to the Rec Center so take time out to use the great facilities that you have available to you. If you have never been to the Rec Center, staff would be happy to provide you with a tour! Also, if you have children, you can obtain a dependent membership for ONLY $15.00 per semester (the $15 fee covers ALL of your children—no matter how many). This is a great deal and a service that is rare on college campuses—take advantage of it! Go to reccenter.siu.edu for more information on programs and memberships.

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
I hope this finds you all doing well and settling in to the spring semester. As a student myself, it always takes me a few weeks to become acclimated to my new classes and to get into a ‘rhythm’. I’m now starting to settle in so I hope you are too.

This month’s newsletter is once again full of information that we hope you will find valuable. Don’t forget to check out the scholarships that you qualify for...I don’t really know anyone who would pass up some extra assistance these days. If you are near the main SIU campus, take a look at some of the other happenings we have highlighted this month. If you are a student parent, you might be interested in the FREE DENTAL CARE for children on February 3rd. The 50th Annual International Festival is also an event that you will want to take time out to visit. If you are planning to graduate this spring, you will definitely want to mark your calendar for the Grad Fest on February 16th (lots of prizes and you can take care of all of your graduation arrangements in one stop!!). I know we all have very busy schedules but I encourage you to pick an activity this month and just take a few minutes to check it out. I think you will be pleasantly surprised at how much you might enjoy getting involved.

Also this month, I begin introducing you to three graduate students who will be assisting in the office of Non-Traditional Student Services/Single Parent Programs this semester. Summer King, Dex Johnson, and Kate Infusino have joined me in prioritizing ideas and projects that will further assist SIU’s adult student population. We are excited about moving forward and helping to make advancements in programs and services for YOU!

Lastly, we are excited to announce that a newly formed student organization is developing just for adult students! We invite you to join us for free lunch/discussion on Sunday, February 12th to provide input on what YOU think would be beneficial and to help us shape the organization for the future. For more details, see page 4. Best wishes to you for a successful semester.

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 will be assisting the office of Non-Traditional Student Services/Single Parent Programs during the spring semester. Summer King, Dex Johnson, and Kate Infusino will be assisting with programs and initiatives to advance services on the SIU campus for the adult student population. Help me welcome them to the team!!

I began my postsecondary career at Kaskaskia College as a high school senior in 1994, and returned in 1997 as a student/parent in search of a career path. With the help of need-based aid, scholarships, low-cost, on-campus daycare, and student loans, I completed my Associate’s Degree in Arts. By graduation, I had established an educational and professional goal to earn my Ph.D. in English and teach college-level literature. So, I enrolled in the English program at SIU in 2000, and, again with the help of need-based aid, took the next four years both to complete my BA on a part-time basis, and to re-pay my community college student loans in full. I graduated with honors in the summer of 2004, and the following fall, I began full-time graduate coursework in English at St. Louis University.

Untimely health problems forced my withdrawal from the university before I could complete even one semester there. At the time, I was devastated that so much of my hard work had resulted in so little. I considered returning to graduate school in English part-time but, without an assistantship, the cost proved prohibitive. Frustrated by the rigid nature of humanities graduate school programs and limited assistance options, I entered the private sector in 2005 and began working full-time for a family business. During the next several years, I found myself by happenstance engaged in conversations with fellow adult students that often returned to themes of unmet needs, confusing practices and policies, and frustrating enrollment and registration procedures. Finally, in 2010, I returned to graduate school. I chose to study Educational Administration and Higher Education in part because I wanted to better understand my own experiences as a non-traditional, first-generation student, and in part because I wanted to dedicate the next stage of my professional life to improving the postsecondary experience for all students. I expect to graduate in May 2012 with a Master's of Science in Education.

Please join me in welcoming Summer.

Next month we will introduce you to Dex Johnson and Kate Infusino.

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!
The SIU Family Carnival is held at the beginning of the fall and spring semesters as a way to provide a family-friendly event full of fun activities, food, and information about on-campus and off-campus resources that might be helpful. Our thanks to the SIU Recreation Center in collaboration with over 30 departments/organizations, and businesses for another great day!! (see complete list below).

Photos: (top row) Participants play a game sponsored by SIU’s International Programs & Services; Wendy Weinhold (Coordinator, GLBT) and her team provide face painting—a very popular activity for the day; a participant enjoys some snacks. (middle row) WSIU and SuperWHY make a visit to the carnival; participants show off their completed ‘passports’ after travelling through the Wide World of Activities; Woodsy Owl came along with the Shawnee Forest group. (bottom row) Lots of prizes were given out at the carnival and the Hashim family won the kick bike donated by the Rec Center; thanks to all of our volunteers for helping the event to be such a success!!

A BIG THANKS TO...Boy Scouts; Boys & Girls Club; Carbondale Park District; Carbondale Public Library; Green Earth; Jackson County Health; Shawnee Adolescent Health Services; Shawnee Forest; SIU Black Resource Center; SIU Family Housing/ Evergreen Terrace; SIU GLBT; SIU Hispanic Resource Center; SIU International Programs & Services; SIU Museum, SIU Non-Traditional Student Services/Single Parent Programs; SIU Recreational Sports & Services; SIU Service Learning & Volunteerism; SIU Student Health/Wellness; SIU Student Support Services; SIU University Housing; SIU Veterans Center; WSIU; Hunan Restaurant; Moe’s Southwest Grill; Pacific Cycles; SIU Bowling; SIU Craft Shop; University Bookstore; and University Housing Dining Services/Chartwell’s

WE APPRECIATE YOU!!

Resources

GIVE KIDS A SMILE!!
February 3, 2012
8:30—4:30 p.m.

Featuring FREE dental education and preventive dentistry to uninsured children ages 1-14 (exams, x-rays, cleanings, fluoride, sealants).

Location: 1365 Douglas Drive
(Across from arena on SIU campus)

CALL 453-8826 for appointment

Sponsored by:
SIU Dental Hygiene Program
Southern Illinois Dental Society
Southern Illinois Dental Hygiene Society

SCHOLARSHIPS

Don’t forget to check out potential scholarships that you might qualify for. In addition to the scholarships listed in the December & January newsletters, Student Life & Intercultural Relations offers:

Piper-McMahan Endowed Scholarship ($500)

Non-Traditional Student Service Activity Scholarship ($500)

Also, scholarships offered through the SIUC Women’s Club include:

SIUC Joyce Guyon Non-Traditional Scholarship ($2000)

These and other scholarships are listed on the website for Non-Traditional Student Services at nontrad.siuc.edu

For a complete scholarship listing, search the Financial Aid website at fao.siu.edu

We had a blast at the
SIU FAMILY CARNIVAL
Wide World of Activities

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Mark Your Calendar...

Upcoming Events & Academic Calendar

⇒ Give Kids A Smile
   February 3, 2012  8:30—4:30 p.m.
   1365 Douglas Drive (Across from SIU Arena)
   Call 453-8836 for appt.

⇒ SIU International Festival 2012
   Starts February 15th—look for the event on Facebook

⇒ Attention Spring Graduates! Grad Fest ‘12
   Thursday, February 16th
   11 a.m.—4 p.m. (Student Center Ballrooms)
   *Submit graduation application (due Feb. 17th); order cap, gown, invitations; discuss continuing education opportunities; visit with Career Services; and more.
   FREE FOOD & OVER $1,000 IN PRIZES
   For more info: www.siualumni.com/gradbash

⇒ Spring All Majors Job Fair:
   February 22nd, 9 a.m.- 2 p.m. *Student Center Ballrooms

⇒ Career Services:
   *Resume Writing Presentation: Career Services, Woody B204 (February 14th, 2:00—2:50 p.m.)
   *Resume Blitz: Student Center (February 15th-17th, 10:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.) *Held by Career Services
   *Interview Skills Enhancement Presentation: Woody B204 (February 21st, 2:00-2:50 p.m.)

Did you know that 70% of today’s college students balance some combination of work, school, & family? (Complete College America, 2011)

As the population of adult students grows at SIU, the opportunity exists to join others who are balancing life just like you!

Join us for lunch and discussions on Sunday, February 12th in the Student Center (1st floor dining area/Cambria room—look for signs). Lunch will be provided between 12:30 and 1:00 with discussions about a newly forming adult student organization beginning at 1:00.

Bring your ideas and, if you are a parent, bring your kids! There will be lunch and activities for them as well.

WHAT: Lunch/Discussions—Adult Student Organization
WHEN: Sunday, Feb.12th (lunch between 12:30 & 1:00)
WHERE: Student Center 1st Floor Dining Area/Cambria Room
   (look for signs)

Help us plan...click HERE if you are coming for lunch or want more information.

Adult students building community through scholarship, support, and service.

Students with Children RSO would like to thank Southern Illinois Youth Football and Cheerleading for their generous donation this past fall. With the donated funds, the RSO was able to host a dinner to celebrate SIU families as well as provide items for our dessert social and study break. S.I. Youth Football and Cheerleading operates in Johnston City and serves youth from JC as well as from various neighboring towns. This organization does an exceptional job supporting their communities’ youth and families and Students with Children were fortunate to have been able to experience a day with them. Thank you Jeremy Anastasi, Dave Frick, Mike Frick, Bill Matyi, Sean Newell and Tenille Bullock for your support and doing such great service for community youth and family. For more information about S.I. Youth Football and Cheerleading, check out their Facebook page.

NOTE: This is designed to be an e-newsletter. If you received it in print form and need to access the “click here” links, go to nontrad.siuc.edu and click on Monthly Newsletter.