CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR DECEMBER 2011 GRADUATES!!

In this issue, you will find an inspirational story of one graduate who persisted through many obstacles to further her education with a goal of earning her degree, helping her family, and touching the lives of those around her. As you read her story, we hope you are inspired to persevere as you move through your own program of study.

You will also find information about resources that can support you as a student: scholarships, childcare/activities for children (if you are a parent), upcoming events, opportunities for student development, and a little bit of fun with our monthly contest (Congratulations to our December winner of the $20 Starbucks gift card—Amber Wille).

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
Well, a lot has happened since the last newsletter on December 1st. Another semester has come to an end (I hope you all finished strong!) and a new semester is just around the corner. In addition to my role as Coordinator, Non-Traditional Student Services/Single Parent Programs, I am also a student myself so I can relate to all of those projects, exams, etc. that we, as non-traditional students, ADD to our already busy and sometimes complicated lives.

One of the most rewarding experiences in this new role so far is that I have been inspired on a daily basis by those of you who have shared your stories of why you chose to further your education and the challenges that you may have had to overcome in the process. I applaud you for your perseverance and tenacity and encourage you to keep moving forward—you can do it!

On this note, it is my honor to recognize Judy Summers in the Student Highlight section this month. I consider it a privilege to have known Judy personally and was deeply moved by the Chancellor’s kind words and respect for Judy and her family when awarding her posthumous degree during the graduation ceremonies on December 17, 2011. When I think of perseverance and tenacity, I think of Judy. I would dare say that, despite the obstacles that you or I might face, we would be hard-pressed to find someone who has experienced greater challenges than Judy. She was a woman whose love of family and whose strong faith helped her through even the most difficult of times.

After an illness, Judy passed away on April 17, 2011 at the age of 52. She leaves behind her husband Mark (also an SIU student) and 3 children (Isaac, Caitlin, and Levi). Her family was honored to receive the diploma on her behalf and continue to persevere as Judy would have done.

I hope her story inspires and touches you as it has me. If she can do it, surely we can too!

Best wishes to you for a successful semester,

Deborah

The Summers Family

From left to right: Judy with her daughter, Caitlin; Deborah Barnett with the Summers family following the December 2011 Commencement; Judy and her husband, Mark.

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!
Saturday Young Artists Workshop

The Saturday Young Artists Program began in 1998 at Southern Illinois University. Each Saturday pre-service art education students prepare and teach art lessons to children and youth from the Greater Carbondale community. Our program has been expanding and accommodates up to 50 young artists. Art instruction is offered to students from kindergarten (five years old) through middle school. Information on our spring 2012 program is listed below.

Spring workshop
Meet the Masters runs February 4, 11, 18, 25 and March 3, 24.
Art Exhibit closing is March 31 from 9:30 – 10:30.

Who Can Attend? Children in Grades K - 8

The benefits of this program are two-fold: (1) pre-service art teachers gain knowledge and experience in teaching art to children prior to student teaching, and (2) children from the community obtain art instruction with a student - teacher ratio that encourages personal hands on art instruction.

Our programs are fully inclusive for students experiencing significant disabilities. Click on the following link to register: http://www.arted.siuc.edu/SYAWregistrationform_000.pdf

Students will meet in the Allyn Building, Room 102. Cost is $35 for one, $60 for two in a family. Scholarships are available with a phone call or email from your art teacher to: Barbara Bickel at (618) 453-5580. bickel@siu.edu

Register early to reserve your space!

Please mail a check to SIUC and the attached application form to:
The Saturday Young Artists Program
School of Art and Design
Mail Code 4301
Southern Illinois University Carbondale
100 South Normal Avenue
Carbondale, Illinois 62901
Phone: (618) 453-4335

Did you know???

Kids who are involved in the arts are:

- 4 times more likely to be recognized for academic achievement
- 3 times more likely to be elected to class office within their schools
- 4 times more likely to participate in a math and science fair
- 3 times more likely to win an award for school attendance

Source: http://www.artsusa.org/Public_awareness/
Mark Your Calendar...

Upcoming Events & Academic Calendar

⇒ Holiday: Martin Luther King Jr.’s Birthday (January 16th)
⇒ Spring Semester Begins (January 17th)
⇒ RSO Fair: Student Center Ballrooms (January 19th, 5-7 p.m.) Get Involved!!
  *Stop by and visit us at the Non-Traditional Student Services/Single Parent Programs table. We will have candy for the kids and a drawing for gift certificates to area restaurants!
⇒ Family Carnival: SIU Rec Center (January 28, 2012, 3:00—5:00 p.m.) see flyer
⇒ SIU International Festival 2012 (starts February 13th) sponsored by International Student Council (look for the event on facebook)
⇒ Spring All Majors Job Fair: Student Center Ballrooms (February 22nd, 9 a.m.- 2 p.m.)

Other Campus and Community Resources:

- 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.)
- Saluki Athletics Calendar of Sporting Events: http://www.siusalukis.com/calendar/events/2011_201112.html

This Month’s Contest

Each month you will have the opportunity to win prizes just by reading the newsletter. We will be providing “zoomed in” photos of places across the SIU campus that help non-traditional students to succeed. If you think you know the place we are featuring in the picture to the left, click HERE to submit your answer. All correct answers submitted by January 15th will be entered into a drawing for $20 in supplies to help you start the spring semester from the SIU Bookstore located in the Student Center. GOOD LUCK!

Congratulations to Amber Wille who was drawn as the winner of the $20 Starbucks giftcard for correctly guessing the Morris Library Family Study Room as the location of the picture in the December newsletter. Visit the library circulation desk to obtain your keycard for access to the Family Study Room for the spring semester! Thanks to all who participated in the December contest...good luck this month!