CALLING ALL GRADS!

It’s that time again! At NTSS, we partner with you to provide resources and support to help you succeed – and we always look forward to celebrating your success.

For those of you graduating this May, we want to hear from you. Simply email your name, hometown, degree, what your degree means to you, and your photo to nontrad@siu.edu. We will recognize you in an upcoming newsletter and will proudly display your accomplishment in the NTSS office for all to see!

Also, if you’re a graduating senior who has contributed to Southern Illinois University through service, see page 3 for information about the Service to Southern Award, the highest honor awarded to an SIU student leader.
At the end of each fall semester, NTSS sends a satisfaction survey to students who received services from the NTSS office. This survey gives students the opportunity to weigh in on how we’re doing – and also to let us know how we can better assist them. The response was overwhelmingly positive! Here are just a few of the comments that help us know that we are making a difference, one student at a time!

“My first semester at SIU as a nontraditional student was rough. I went through a lot, and NTSS was there for me. As an older student, I simply could not achieve my goals without NTSS.”
– An undergraduate student studying criminal justice

“NTSS provided me with the networking opportunity to interview for my assistantship. I was able to afford to complete my master’s degree with the assistance of NTSS.”
– A graduate student studying public health

“I am really grateful for the support received for me and my family. Thanks very much!”
– A graduate student studying curriculum and instruction

“I am thankful that NTSS cares so much. I am pleased to be a part of this mentoring environment and this university. Thanks!”
– An undergraduate student studying philosophy

Students also suggested that NTSS help provide more career-focused resources, including possible avenues for hiring prospects and career assistance. You spoke, and we listened! See page 3 for upcoming career-focused opportunities in collaboration with SIU’s Career Services.

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

Student Highlights presents WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

This month we continue to take a look back at our previous student highlights and ask “Where are they now”? Here are just a few we caught up with.

Ryan McKennedy, B.S. in Social Work
McKennedy was featured in the November 2013 newsletter – and, like then, continues to be involved in serving veterans. When we caught up with McKennedy, he said, “I graduated in May of 2013 and I am currently pursuing my Master of Social Work degree through University of Southern California’s Virtual Academic Center. I will be finished in August 2015. I am currently completing my field education at the Marion VA Medical Center. I work in the Mental Health Intensive Case Management Program, and our goal is to assist veterans who have severe mental illness become more independent. I am still serving in the Army National Guard, and in March 2015 I will have eight years of service. I spend a lot of my time with Team Red, White & Blue Carbondale, attempting to enrich the lives of America’s veterans through physical fitness and social activities. After graduation I hope my full-time career will include working with veterans and service members currently serving.” Congratulations, Ryan, and thank you for your service!

Summer (King) Mattina, M.S. in Education, College Student Personnel
Mattina was featured in the February 2012 newsletter and graduated with her master’s degree in May 2012. When we caught up with Mattina, she said, “Since graduating from SIU’s College Student Personnel program, I have worked primarily as an academic advisor. I currently serve students in Saint Louis University’s Parks College of Engineering, Aviation and Technology. I am grateful and humbled to work in higher education; I truly believe it is one of life’s greater privileges to do work you love. I consider it an added bonus that my work with students challenges me to be a better person on a daily basis.”

She added: “My time at SIU is really what made this possible, and I am appreciative of the faculty, staff and students who contributed to my education. I feel more whole as a person and professional, more engaged as a citizen, and more fully equipped to deal with life’s challenges as a result of my time as a student.”

To read more about Summer’s story including her 10-year, non-traditional path to earning a bachelor’s degree and her current goal of earning a doctoral degree, visit nontrad.siu.edu and select Student Highlights.

Scott Schackmann, B.S. in Arts, Spanish and Foreign Language and International Trade
Schackmann was featured in the August 2014 newsletter following his study abroad trip to Argentina. “Since obtaining my two bachelor’s degrees (FLIT & Spanish), I have been very fortunate to have been awarded a graduate teaching assistantship in the department of Languages, Cultures and International Trade as a Spanish instructor for Elementary Spanish (SPAN 140a),” he said. “With this position, and the fears and excitement of beginning my first semester as a graduate student, I’m extremely optimistic that I will gain the skills necessary to further my chosen career path and eventually earn my Ph.D. to become a Spanish professor.” We spoke to Schackmann after the start of the spring semester and learned that his class is completely full. He loves teaching and thinks he has found his true calling in life. Congratulations, Scott, we agree!
Southern Illinois University is committed to providing a safe, healthy and supportive environment. By now, many of you have participated in training to help identify and protect yourself and others from potentially unsafe situations. If you have not participated in the Salukis Step UP! series and HAVEN training, we encourage you to visit safe.siu.edu for upcoming dates and online training.

As part of the training, 10 key themes are emphasized. Each month, this section of the newsletter will be dedicated to providing information and resources related to a key theme.

This month’s theme:
What is Consent?

The first step in ending sexual assault is to recognize unsafe situations. Step UP! if someone is unable to give consent.

This two-minute video will change the way you think about consent!

Looking for a computer lab to study for midterms? Check out the comprehensive list at oit.siu.edu.

Income Tax Assistance
The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program, sponsored annually by Beta Alpha Psi, is available on Saturday mornings from 8 a.m. until noon in Rehn 117 (except for March 7 and 14). This offer runs until April 11. No appointments necessary.

*Bring W-2 forms and Social Security card.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Having It All: Navigating the Reality and the Myth
April 1, 5:30-6:30 p.m., Student Center Missouri/Kaskaskia Room
Featuring a panel of women leaders, including Deborah Barnett, Tracey Glenn, Marianne Lather, Casheena Stephens, Rosslind Rice, Arden Lockwood, Casey Rolape and Tarnisha Green. This event concludes Women's History Month.

Landing Your Dream Job in Turbulent Times
April 23, noon-1 p.m., Student Services building, room 489
Lunch and Learn Series sponsored by Non-Traditional Student Services and Veterans Services in collaboration with Career Services. Lunch provided. Space is limited. Reservation required. Please email nontrad@siu.edu to reserve your spot.

Applications Now Available - Service to Southern Award
The Service to Southern Award is presented annually to an outstanding graduating senior for his/her participation and service contributions to Southern Illinois University Carbondale. The award includes a monetary gift of $1,000. To apply, you must be a full-time undergraduate SIU Carbondale student and provide the necessary information as stated in the application. The completed application is due by 4:30 p.m. Monday, March 16 to Fraternity & Sorority Life in Student Center room 305.

Coming in April
Salary Negotiation and Mastering the Interview
Visit careerservices.siu.edu for details, professional development opportunities and upcoming career fairs. Also, check out job listings at Career Services’ Saluki Recruiting system.
Mark Your Calendar

EVENTS & ACADEMIC CALENDAR

March is Women’s History Month
Visit the Women’s Resource Center for a complete listing of the month’s events.

MARCH

1 Big Muddy Film Festival, 10 a.m., Student Center Auditorium
The Whipping Man, 1 p.m., McLeod Theatre
6 *Saluki Baseball vs. Western Kentucky, 3 p.m., Itchy Jones Stadium
7-15 Spring Break
13 Late Graduation Application Deadline
14 Saluki Softball vs. Bradley, noon, Charlotte West Stadium
15 Saluki Softball vs. Bradley, noon, Charlotte West Stadium
16 Pizza and Politics with Terri Bryant, Illinois State Representative,
4 p.m., Paul Simon Public Policy Institute
20 Friday Fun at the Rec, 5 p.m., Student Recreation Center, Upper Level Studio 7
   *Saluki Baseball vs. Wichita State, 6:30 p.m., Itchy Jones Stadium
23 Texas State Sen. Wendy Davis, 6-8 p.m., Student Center Ballroom D
   Red Cross Blood Drive, 10 a.m., Student Center Renaissance Room
29 Public Astronomy Observation, 8 p.m., Neckers Rooftop
30 Speaker: Congressman James Clyburn, 7 p.m., Student Center Auditorium

*NOTE: Veterans Services and Non-Traditional Student Services are partnering to offer a free cookout at Friday home baseball games on Mar. 6 and 20, Apr. 3 and 17, and May 8. Please join us on the hill at Itchy Jones Stadium! Families welcome.

Please Join Us...
FIRST-GENERATION STUDENT AWARENESS WEEK ACTIVITIES

Monday, Mar. 2
“This is My Story” documentary of SIU’s first-generation college students, 5-6:30 p.m.,
Student Center Auditorium

Tuesday, Mar. 3
Professional Development Dialogue, noon-2 p.m.,
Morris Library, third floor, American Heritage Room

Wednesday, Mar. 4
First-Generation College Student Financial Literacy Fair,
noon, Student Center Illinois Room
AND First-Generation Film, 5-7 p.m., Morris Library,
Guyon Auditorium

Thursday, Mar. 5
Career Speed Dating, noon-2 p.m., Student Center
Mississippi Room
*See flier with details on page 5

Did you know that Southern Illinois has transit routes that travel daily to the SIU campus from the north, south, east and west?

IT’S EASY. Just hop on the bus and ride (you can even study for that morning quiz on the way!).
IT’S ECONOMICAL. Monthly passes save you gas money, and vehicle wear and tear.
IT’S ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY. Just imagine the fuel saved from 10-20 people riding ONE bus, rather than individual vehicles.

When you arrive on campus, you can ride the Saluki Express around campus and throughout Carbondale just by swiping your student ID!
For a complete listing of routes, visit nontrad.siu.edu and select the Commuter Tips page.

MONTHLY CONTEST

Congratulations to Hank Webb for answering of February’s trivia question! The names of the children in the fountain statue outside Shryock Auditorium are Paul and Virginia. According to Betty Mitchell’s book “A Pictorial History,” the statue was a gift from the class of 1887.

This month we continue our SIU history trivia with this question: What historic piece of furniture was once in the Old Main building – but, because it was moved to Morris Library in 1950, was spared from the 1969 fire? This item was used by President Daniel Parkinson, one of the “founding fathers” of the university who held his presidency for 16 years! (For a hint, stop by our office and check out the Southern Alumni magazines, or click HERE. If you know the answer, email nontrad@siu.edu to be entered to win this month’s prize.

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.
MAKING MY FAMILY PROUD!
I’M THE FIRST TO GO TO COLLEGE!

SHOW YOUR SUPPORT AND LEARN MORE ABOUT SIU’S FIRST-GENERATION STUDENTS!

#SIUC1stGenWeek

FEB. 28 - MARCH 5 SIUC CELEBRATES FIRST-GENERATION COLLEGE STUDENT AWARENESS WEEK

- SATURDAY, FEB. 28 — First-Generation College Student Awareness Week kicks off with the SIU vs. Drake men’s basketball game. Tipoff time is 3:05 p.m. at the SIU Arena.

- MONDAY, MARCH 2 — A screening of “This is My Story,” a documentary of Southern Illinois University Carbondale’s first-generation college students. This documentary features the students’ life stories, challenges and accomplishments from attending college. Student Center Auditorium (5:030 p.m.).

- TUESDAY, MARCH 3 — Professional Development Dialogue. This dialogue encompasses faculty, staff and students who will discuss how generational status affects college success. Morris Library, third floor, American Heritage Room (noon-2 p.m.).

- WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4 — Financial Literacy Fair. This event will feature Old National Bank, Regions and SIU Credit Union representatives who will provide tips on personal budgeting, responsible borrowing, setting financial goals and understanding credit cards. Don’t miss the chance to experience Old National’s “Money Cage.” Student Center Illinois Room (noon-2 p.m.).

- “FIRST GENERATION” DOCUMENTARY — Narrated by Golden Globe nominee Blair Underwood, “First Generation” tells the story of four high school students—a inner-city athlete, a small-town waitress, a Samoan warrior dancer and the daughter of migrant field workers—who set out to break the cycle of poverty “and bring hope to their families and communities” by pursuing a college education. Guyon Auditorium (5-7 p.m.).

- THURSDAY, MARCH 5 — Career Speed Dating. Modeled after speed dating, Career Speed Dating will provide an opportunity for students to connect with a major or Southern Illinois University Carbondale professionals in their career fields of interest to gain advice about aspirations. Student Center Mississippi Room (noon-2 p.m.).

Sponsor: University College
Co-sponsors: Student Support Services, McNair Scholars, First Scholars, Upward Bound and Non-Traditional Student Services.
MARK YOUR CALENDAR

YOU’RE INVITED!

Join us this spring for Saluki baseball at Itchy Jones Stadium.

Free cookout for veteran and non-traditional students on
Friday, Mar. 6 (3 p.m.)
Friday, Mar. 20 (6:30 p.m.)
Friday, Apr. 3 (1 p.m.)
Saturday, Apr. 11 (12 p.m.)

Softball double-header at SIU’s Charlotte West Stadium
Friday, Apr. 17 (6:30 p.m.)
Friday, May 8 (6:30 p.m.)

Sponsored by SIU’s Veterans Services and Non-Traditional Student Services. Families welcome.

Visit siusalukis.com for ticket information.