YOU are a Vital Part of the Saluki Community!

We hope you had the opportunity to participate in the celebrations during the 2012 International Festival (see photo above). I have to admit that this was the first time I was able to participate and it was AMAZING!!! This will definitely be an annual event on my calendar and I hope you feel the same. Our international students are such an integral part of the Saluki family and it was exciting to share in these celebrations with them.

As an adult student, you are also a vital part of the Saluki family! I hear from students frequently that they sometimes feel out of place because other students in their classes might be younger or they find themselves feeling a bit disconnected because they are busy balancing all of their other life responsibilities. If this sounds like you, we are here to help you reconnect!! Look inside to see the many services available to you and how you might get involved.

Also, be sure to find out how to join in on the conversation with other adult students in your Saluki family who are seeking to support one another and to truly make a difference through a new adult student organization (see monthly contest on page 4)!

And, 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
Student Highlight: Meet the Interns

This month’s Student Highlight features one of three students from SIU’s College of Education who are assisting the office of Non-Traditional Student Services/Single Parent Programs during the spring semester: Summer King, Dex Johnson, and Kate Infusino. We are all working hard on programs and initiatives to advance services on the SIU campus for the adult student population. Last month, you met Summer and this month we introduce you to Dex. Help me welcome them to the team!!

I returned to college in hopes of earning a college degree and affording myself the chance to maximize any opportunities that may come my way. Also, I did not want to be that person who had potential but for whatever reason(s) was not able to reach that potential. So I am back at SIUC.

There were a few concerns I had before returning. For me, the most important concern was time. This meant would I have enough time to work full-time, keep the family life intact, and stay involved in community functions while handling the demands of college?

Another factor was money. Did I want to have the burden of paying back a portion of a student loan, after so many years away from college? Furthermore, would I receive a suitable return on my college investment to justify going back in the first place?

Last but certainly not least, the desire to return and be successful was never a question in my mind, the concern was could I do the work after being admitted and gone for so long. So after several years (almost 15) of thinking and not thinking about it, investigating all the questions above, being encouraged by my family, and now my two grown twenty-something daughters and son, I returned. The decision was tough but we went with it.

My reason was simple; life is temporary. You are promised two things in this life, birth and death. I told myself to go for what I want and if I failed, so what! In my opinion, there is never any shame in trying. We have heard words such as these before, so nothing I have said here should surprise anyone. Sometimes one must hear the same message from a different voice before it clicks.

Oh, how am I doing since returning to college in the fall of 2009? I am scheduled to graduate in May 2012 with a Master’s degree in Education! This does not make me any better than you; it is not easy, I just want it!

Life happens, enjoy it.

Dex Johnson

JOIN IN ON THE CONVERSATION!!

As mentioned in the February newsletter, progress is being made toward reshaping a student organization on campus with the intent of building community for the adult student population through scholarship, support, and service. On Sunday, February 12th, a group of students met to begin discussing how we could better support one another as students with multiple responsibilities, what services might be needed to help us succeed, and how we could give back to the institution and to the community as a whole.

We had a lot of good discussion and focused on a few key areas: (1) establishing more of a presence for new, incoming students and to the university community; (2) promoting family-friendly activities to foster a sense of belonging; and (3) focusing on the advancement of services and resources for adult students to ensure that needs are met and they can focus on the task at hand—degree completion! Help us name the organization—see page 4.

We also want continued input on the resources and support that might help you succeed. Look for our Adult Student Survey to be emailed just after spring break. Thanks in advance for your valued input and participation!

Deborah

April is National Poetry Month! Help us celebrate with our theme …

Big Things Within Reach

At Southern Illinois University Carbondale, we believe that big things are within reach! We believe that initiative is rewarded. We believe that students should dream of a future that knows no bounds. This is what SIU Carbondale is all about and we encourage children of SIU students (current and alumni) to participate in National Poetry Month by submitting poetry that speaks to their own futures and the BIG THINGS WITHIN REACH!

More information to come in the April newsletter or go to nontrad.siu.edu for entry form

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!
First, we’ll look at shield art from the ancient Melanesian culture of Papua New Guinea (a large island near Australia). Then we’ll design exciting ceremonial shields of our own using the symbols and shapes found on Melanesian shields.

We create mini theaters that are perfect for puppet actors! You can act, direct, or both - the curtain is always up at the Puppet Show Theater!

Using objects from the world around us, we create everything from jewelry to picture frames!
Mark Your Calendar...

Upcoming Events & Academic Calendar

MARCH IS WOMEN’S HISTORY MONTH!
Check out Women’s History Month 2012 at SIU on Facebook

March 10-18  Spring Break
March 20th  Registration begins for Summer & Fall
March 29th  2012 Minority Student Leadership Conference
    Empowering Minds for 2030 (Applications due March 9th)
April 15th  Honors Day
April 17th  Research Town Meeting
    SIU Student Center Ballrooms
    12:00-4:00 p.m.
    Visit researchtownmeeting.siuc.edu for agenda/registration

The SIU Wellness Center has some great workshops this semester including: A
    Good Night’s Sleep, Super Seven Fatigue Busters, and Final Success
    (taking the stress out of finals!). Check out the complete list HERE!

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.siu.edu and click on Monthly Newsletter.

BUILDING COMMUNITY...UPCOMING EVENTS

March 4th:  Saluki Family Floor Hockey
    2:00-4:00 p.m. Pulliam Gym
    Cost: FREE
    *Sponsored by SIU Student Recreation Center in
    collaboration with Non-Traditional Student Services

April 1st:  Saluki Family/Student Bowling
    2:00-4:00 p.m. Student Center Bowling
    Admission per person: Only $1 shoe rental plus 1 canned
    good to be donated to SIU Wesley Council Food Pantry
    (cost of games sponsored by Non-Traditional Student Services)

*Coming soon—Saluki Family Kickball/Softball/Whiffle Ball

Adults and children are welcome! Help us plan… CLICK HERE to sign up!

This Month’s Contest

Each month you have the opportunity to win prizes just by reading the newsletter. This month, rather than identifying a photo, we wanted to give you the opportunity to help name our newly forming adult student organization on the SIU campus. This organization will provide an avenue in which adult students can build community through scholarship, support, and service. We are looking for an organizational name that will reflect this mission and the professionalism that our adult students represent. CLICK HERE to enter your idea for the new name of our adult student organization. All entries received by March 15th will be entered into a drawing for a gift certificate to Quatro’s Pizza!

Congratulations to James Anderson who was drawn as the winner of Dinner & A Movie ($30 gift card to an area restaurant and 4 movie tickets)!!! Along with dozens of other students, James correctly identified the picture in the February newsletter as the Study Lounge in the Student Center (second floor). Some of you mentioned that you use this space regularly as this is a great, quiet place to study. Many adult students have expressed a need for a study lounge for non-traditional students. Did you know that SIU has multiple study lounges across campus including the space in the Student Center which has over 40 study desks? Students have also found the International Lounge area (also on the 2nd floor of the Student Center) to be a great place to study. Check it out!!

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.siu.edu and click on Monthly Newsletter.
As we were preparing to finalize this month’s newsletter, we learned of the terrible tragedy that occurred in the southern Illinois region, specifically the community of Harrisburg, Illinois. In the early morning hours of Wednesday, February 29, 2012, tornado sirens sounded across the region. National Weather Service representatives who spoke at a news conference on Wednesday afternoon commented that preliminary assessments indicate that an EF-4 tornado ripped through the community of Harrisburg with winds up to 170 mph. This was a deadly tornado that killed six and injured nearly 100. Dozens of homes and businesses were destroyed.

Chancellor Rita Cheng along with other SIU administrators, faculty, staff, and students are stepping up to help. Here are ways that you can join your Saluki family in assisting other families who are in great need at this time.

**Immediate needs are:** bottled water, non-perishable food items, towels, shampoo, soap, toilet paper, toothpaste, and other hygiene items for both children and adults.

**SIU Carbondale Campus donation drop-off locations:**

- **Donation boxes available at:** Agriculture Building Room 200; Rehn Hall Room 113; Student Center, under the north escalator (across from the Information Center); Student Recreation Center, near the equipment desk; Trueblood Hall, near the dining room; Lentz Hall, near the dining room; Colyer Hall on Greek Row; and Evergreen Terrace, near the laundry room. (Source: Saluki Times at news.siu.edu)

- Newman Catholic Student Center located at S. Washington (near the Rec Center)
  *Open Thursday, Friday and Saturday 9 am to 9 pm, Sunday 10 am – 8 pm.

**Other drop-off locations in southern Illinois:**

- Legence Bank: located at 946 4th Street in Harrisburg. Phone # 618-272-2271
- Fowler Heating and Cooling: located at 423 S. Court Street in Marion. *accepting bottled water, Gatorade, soap, laundry soap, food vouchers, shampoo, individual bagged snack items this week from 8 a.m.—5 p.m.
- Salvation Army (Harrisburg) 618-252-2680, Saline Pantry (Harrisburg) 618-252-2374 and the Harvest Center (Harrisburg) 252-0009 are all accepting toiletries and non-perishable food items.

**Monetary donations can be mailed to:**

- American Red Cross
- Little Egypt Chapter
- 665 N. Airport Road
- Suite 112
- Murphysboro IL 62962
- 618-529-1525 *In the memo section of the check, please write Southern Illinois Relief Effort.*

**THANK YOU FOR JOINING THE SIU COMMUNITY IN MAKING A DIFFERENCE**