

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
EDWARDSVILLE
COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

DEAN'S REPORT

2020

Dean's Column



The College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) endured rapid and dramatic change in 2020. As the COVID-19 pandemic struck Illinois in March, CAS faculty retooled their face-to-face courses and taught remotely through the end of the spring semester. Important events such as CAS Honors Day and spring commencement were reimagined as virtual events rather than in-person celebrations, and most faculty and staff continued to work remotely through the summer.

Throughout this pivotal process, a change in leadership took place as Greg Budzban, PhD, retired from his post, and I began my position as dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. This transition has been anything but ordinary.

While I settled into my new role, many CAS faculty spent the summer redesigning courses and developing their ability to teach online, and CAS advisors guided students via virtual advising sessions. Several courses were piloted to allow for face-to-face learning experiences in the fall for disciplines that simply cannot be taught online.

I want to take this opportunity to introduce myself and discuss my priorities as CAS dean. Before coming to SIUE, I served as professor and chair in the Department of History at Middle Tennessee State University beginning in 2017. Prior to that, I was chair of the Department of History at Western Washington University for six years.

About a month before I arrived at SIUE, the killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis sparked renewed activism and gave new urgency to calls for racial justice in the United States. The resurgence of this movement challenges all of us to confront policies and actions that perpetuate racism. The CAS strategic plan, approved in 2019-20, commits CAS to improving recruitment and retention of diverse faculty, staff and students. This is my highest priority, and I am working with faculty and staff to pursue this goal.

In my first year as dean, I plan to focus on listening, learning as much as I can and getting to know CAS well. I do not want to impose my ideas, but yet encourage others to ask questions such as, "Why are we doing it this way?" and "How can we more effectively serve our students?"

Despite the tremendous disruption that occurred in 2020, CAS faculty and staff remain committed to excellence in teaching, research and creative activity. In this issue of the *Dean's Report*, I invite you to learn about several CAS highlights over the past year. Some of those achievements include redesigning a planned gala into a virtual celebration of the CAS 25th anniversary; notable faculty, student and alumni successes; and several community outreach projects, which allow CAS to continue to create change and impact future generations.

Thank you for your commitment to our students, faculty and programs!

Kevin Leonard, PhD
Dean



SIUE received the 2020 Higher Education Excellence in Diversity (HEED) award from *INSIGHT Into Diversity* magazine, the oldest and largest diversity-focused publication in higher education. SIUE joins a select group of 33 institutions that have earned the distinction for at least seven consecutive years.

Programs and Degrees

Undergraduate

Anthropology
Applied Communication Studies
Art*
Art and Design
Biological Sciences*
Chemistry*
Criminal Justice Studies
Economics
English*
Environmental Sciences
Foreign Languages and Literature*
Geography*
History*
Integrative Studies
International Studies
Liberal Studies
Mass Communications
Mathematical Studies*
Music*
Philosophy
Physics
Political Science*
Social Work
Sociology
Theater and Dance*

Graduate

Applied Communication Studies
Art and Design Studio
Art Therapy Counseling
Biological Sciences*
Chemistry*
Creative Writing
Criminal Justice Policy

English*
Environmental Science Management
Environmental Sciences
Geography
History*
Integrative Studies
Mathematics*
Media Studies
Music*
Public Administration
Social Work
Sociology
**Teacher Licensure Available*

Graduate Certificates

Integrative Studies

- Environmental Management
- Marketing and Public Relations
- Sustainability

Literature
Media Literacy
Museum Studies
Piano Pedagogy
Teaching English as a Second Language
Teaching of Writing
Vocal Pedagogy

Doctoral

Cooperative PhD programs with SIU Carbondale

- Environmental Resources and Policy
- History

About the College of Arts and Sciences

The College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) is committed to a mission of intellectual transformation for our students in which they explore a rich tapestry of ideas, experiences and people.

CAS fulfills this mission with our exceptional teacher-scholars, who provide innovative experiential learning opportunities; our excellent degree programs; and the outstanding liberal arts and sciences foundation we provide for undergraduate students across the University.

CAS promotes scholarly and creative activity, community engagement and public service, and cultural and arts programming, all of the finest quality.

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Ensuring Academic Excellence During the Pandemic

In the middle of the spring semester, the global pandemic took faculty, staff, administrators and students on an academic journey unlike any other in the history of SIUE or the College of Arts and Sciences.

Transitioning to Remote Instruction

With the safety of the campus community in mind, the University announced in March that all on-ground and hybrid courses would switch to an online and remote format through the end of the spring semester. Spring break was extended by one week to allow faculty to digitally transition their course materials.

Faculty and staff throughout CAS worked together to create online materials; learn new technology, digital systems and software; and rethink classroom activities that were seemingly impossible to complete without face-to-face meetings. Here are just a few examples:

- Social work students met virtually and acted as each other's patients, using the stress caused by the pandemic as a way to learn and make a difference.
- The international studies program formulated a creative opportunity to allow its students to complete their study abroad experiences virtually by giving them opportunities to connect with experts from around the world.
- Biological sciences labs utilized the time to breed flies carrying specific mutations and transgenes needed for future experiments.
- Art and design faculty developed a virtual exhibition to showcase the creative talents of Bachelor and Master of Fine Arts candidates, such as Craig Reis, BFA '20, whose piece, "Bombs Away," is pictured below.



Academic Advising at a Distance

The transition to online courses and stay-at-home orders occurred in the middle of registration for fall courses. In order to ensure CAS students were prepared for the upcoming academic term, the CAS Advising staff shifted all in-person advising appointments to phone or web-based meeting platforms. Advisors also supported students who, for many reasons, didn't have the resources necessary to continue their courses online.

"We provided students with information about obtaining a laptop or tablet, gaining access to internet service and mobile hotspot providers, and applying for funding from the CARES Act and the SIUE Student Emergency Assistance Fund," said Director of CAS Advising Brian Hinterscher.





Virtual Honors Day and Commencement Celebrations

With the pandemic preventing large gatherings, CAS Honors Day and spring commencement—the two largest SIUE events celebrating student achievements—shifted from in-person to virtual ceremonies.

The virtual Honors Day ceremony celebrated this year's record number of student honorees with a website featuring an official program, photos and details of the students' achievements. Among the honorees was CAS commencement speaker Hayley Smith, who earned bachelor's degrees in political science and philosophy this spring. The virtual commencement ceremony allowed Smith to address her fellow graduates through a pre-recorded speech.

"We've experienced highs and incredible lows, smooth transitions and major drops," Smith said. "Throughout it all, we have continued to thrive. We have such amazing strengths. We are proving we can thrive in the hardest of times. We have and will continue to persevere."



Hayley Smith '20, CAS commencement speaker and Honors Day recipient of the Philosophy Senior Assignment Award and the Lloyd "Curly" Harris Award in Government

View virtual Honors Day
siue.edu/artsandsciences/honors-day

Watch the virtual commencement ceremonies
siue.edu/commencement

Adapting for the Future

Preparing for the fall 2020 semester presented new challenges for maintaining high-quality educational instruction while working to keep the campus community safe. Additional online classes were added to the schedule, socially-distanced classrooms were created utilizing unconventional campus spaces, and the decision was made to continue courses fully online after fall break.

We may be unsure of what the future holds, but one thing is certain—CAS remains inspired by the perseverance and determination of our students, and we will continue to stand together with the SIUE community in this unprecedented moment in time.

For spring 2021 plans and other pandemic updates, visit siue.edu/coronavirus.





Earl Lazerson, SIUE president from 1979-93, addressed attendees during the CAS 25th Anniversary virtual celebration in June.

College of Arts and Sciences Celebrates 25th Anniversary with Virtual Event

In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, event cancellations forced universities across the country to reimagine traditional gatherings. What was originally planned as an evening gala in June to mark the 25th anniversary of the College of Arts and Sciences became a near hourlong virtual celebration of CAS' rich history and its vision for the future.

Former SIUE President Earl Lazerson, PhD, kicked off the presentation by discussing his decision to consolidate the schools of Fine Arts and Communications, Humanities, Sciences and Social Sciences into what is known today as the College of Arts and Sciences. Founding Dean Sharon Hahs, PhD, and Associate Deans Dixie Engelman and Dave Steinberg, PhD, joined the event live to provide insight into the early days of bringing the academic units together and turning Lazerson's vision of unity into a reality.

While Engelman displayed an original T-shirt with CAS' desired characteristics printed on the back, alumnus Brian Henry, BS mass communications '95, held up his diploma signed by Engelman during her last semester serving as interim dean.

The anniversary celebration coincided with the last official day as CAS dean for Greg Budzban, PhD, giving him the opportunity to pass the proverbial baton to his successor, Kevin Leonard, PhD. Leonard spoke about the experiences that motivated him to become dean and his vision for the future of CAS.

Budzban closed the event with an excerpt from his dean application essay. "True excellence has the power to transform the world. Excellence in research transforms our vision of reality. Excellence in the arts transforms the observer and their emotions. Excellence in education transforms both the student and the instructor. But the pursuit of excellence requires determination and persistence." He continued, "May this pursuit of excellence continue to inspire us all. May the next 25 years continue the rich legacy of the College of Arts and Sciences."



Other Notable Anniversaries

- 10th** Anniversary of Xfest
- 35th** Anniversary of *Arts & Issues* Series
- 50th** Dance in Concert
- 50th** Mass Communications Alumni Evening
- 50th** Anniversary of Department of Geography



Criminal Justice Policy Master's Program Celebrates Inaugural Graduating Class

The SIUE Department of Criminal Justice Studies celebrated the inaugural graduating class of its criminal justice policy master's program in December 2019.

"We established this program to give students the opportunity to further their studies of criminal justice policy specifically," said Kevin Cannon, PhD, associate professor and department chair. "We believe the program will help students improve their prospects for promotion and leadership positions in criminal justice agencies."

The program, which launched in fall 2018, provides students with a strong foundation in criminal justice theory and methods, while also teaching them about innovative initiatives and focus areas.

"I would recommend this program to others in my field," said Courtney Jarrell, BS criminal justice studies '18, MS criminal justice policy '19. "The faculty is fantastic, you can move at your own pace, and you can earn a master's, which may help you move up in your department within a year or two."

Student Transfer Process Streamlined

Pathway Programs allow students to follow a specific curriculum while attending community college in order to efficiently progress toward completion of a bachelor's degree when they transfer to SIUE. CAS began offering the following Pathway Programs this fall:

Southwestern Illinois College

- Applied Communication Studies
- Political Science

Lewis and Clark Community College

- Criminal Justice Studies
- Political Science

Learn more at siue.edu/pathway.



Online Degree Completion Programs

CAS launched three fully online undergraduate degree completion programs in the fall of 2020 designed to serve students who have some college experience but have not earned a degree:

- Applied Communication Studies–Public Relations Track
- Criminal Justice Studies
- Integrative Studies–Emphasis on Leadership in Organizations

Learn more at siue.edu/degree-completion.

Enduring Value of Scholarships

During its virtual 2020 Honors Day program, the College of Arts and Sciences celebrated the record 289 students who received 335 scholarships and awards. These scholarships not only reward student achievement, but they also bridge the gap for students with financial need. During the next five years, CAS seeks to increase scholarship opportunities across all disciplines to meet the changing needs of our students.



“Our students receive awards and scholarships ranging from \$100 to \$5,000. For some students, the money is a deal maker because without it, they’d either have to drop out or accumulate debt.”

Musonda Kapatamoyo, PhD

Associate Professor and Chair, Department of Mass Communications

“This award has reignited my determination and ambition to succeed in the end of my college career. It will also help me achieve future success in my career field to serve others.”

Dalia Hassan

BS Chemistry '20

Dr. Emil Jason Memorial Award in Chemistry

“Our students work with marginalized populations, and many of our students have experienced their own financial challenges or other sources of stress. The scholarships they receive help them to meet their needs in order to successfully complete their degrees.”

Jill Schreiber, PhD

Associate Professor and Chair, Department of Social Work



To learn more

about creating a scholarship for College of Arts and Sciences students, contact Kyle Moore, director of development.

“This scholarship helps to alleviate some of the financial burden and the worry about if I can afford another semester or not. Every little bit helps, and had things worked out differently, this scholarship could have been the defining factor in allowing me to continue my academic career.”

Hope Krisko

Sophomore, Anthropology and French
Mikkilineni Family Scholarship for the College of Arts and Sciences

“Not only is this scholarship a luxury to have, but it is also a motivating factor for me to be the best individual and musician I can be because I know there are people who are supporting me.”

Daniel Day

Junior, Jazz Performance
St. Louis Jazz Club Bev Elliot Award, Department of Music

“Without awards like this I would not be able to create and fund the work I produce. They truly influence which shows I have been accepted into, residency opportunities and graduate school opportunities.”

Joseph Ovalle

Bachelor of Fine Arts '20
Thomas and Carol Gipe Award in Sculpture

New College of Arts and Sciences Scholarships

Akhunkhail Family Scholarship

\$1,000 gift
\$1,000 scholarship for social work majors

David A. Harrison Scholarship

\$5,000 gift
\$200 scholarship for social work majors

Ann L. Banduhn Memorial Scholarship

\$15,000 gift
\$500 scholarship for mathematics and statistics and business majors

Mikkilineni Family Scholarship for the College of Arts and Sciences

\$1,500 gift
\$500 scholarship for CAS undergraduate majors
\$1,000 scholarship for CAS graduate majors

Michael, Al, Rich, Len, Fred, David Bernard Scholarship Endowment

\$25,000 gift
\$1,000 scholarship for CAS majors

Shirley Motley Portwood and Harry Michael Portwood Scholarship

\$500 gift
\$500 scholarship for history majors

Jeffrey S. Hammer, MD, Memorial Scholarship Endowment

\$500,000 gift
Full-ride scholarship for healthcare informatics majors

SIR Foundation Scholarship

\$1,000 gift
\$1,000 scholarship for social work majors

Support the Legacy of Shirley Portwood



The SIUE Department of History has established the Shirley Motley Portwood and Harry Michael Portwood Scholarship to honor SIUE alumna, professor emerita and former SIU Board of Trustees member Shirley Portwood, PhD.

This scholarship will be available to full-time students majoring in history, with preference given to Black students. A committee of Department of History faculty members will select the first recipient in spring 2021 based on the excellence of the student's work and his/her desire to become active in politics or education in the future.

Our goal is to raise \$25,000 in order to permanently endow this scholarship. Please help us acknowledge and reward Dr. Portwood's legacy by doing what she loves most: helping students achieve their educational aspirations.

To make your gift, visit siue.edu/give and enter the scholarship name in the Fund Designation box, or contact Kyle Moore, director of development, at 618-650-5048 or kymoore@siue.edu.

@ kymoore@siue.edu

📞 618-650-5048

Give online

🌐 siue.edu/give



Bradford Chosen as Harris-Stowe State University's 20th President

SIUE alumnus Corey S. Bradford Sr., PhD, '93, '95, returned to his native St. Louis in May to become the 20th president of Harris-Stowe State University (HSSU), the region's only historically Black college and university. Bradford previously served as senior vice president for business affairs at Prairie View A&M University in Prairie View, Texas. He began his 26-year career in higher education in the Southern Illinois University System, where he held several leadership positions during his 16-year tenure.

"I am beyond excited for the opportunity to return to my hometown and lead Harris-Stowe State University as its 20th president," said Bradford, who holds a bachelor's in mathematical studies/statistics and a master's in mathematics from SIUE. "I have great admiration for what the university has achieved in its 163 years, and I am excited to be a part of the university's bright future."

Arriving at HSSU amid a global pandemic, Bradford immediately began working with his colleagues to develop a framework for how they would safely continue educating their students. He also started to lay the foundation for his plans to move the university forward.

Bradford's vision for the future of HSSU includes an increased focus on student success and retention through tutoring programs, internships, study abroad opportunities and faculty-led student research programming, to name a few. Bradford is committed to ensuring HSSU is a place where current and future students will continue to thrive for many years to come.

Sussman Tockstein Makes Her Mark on the World

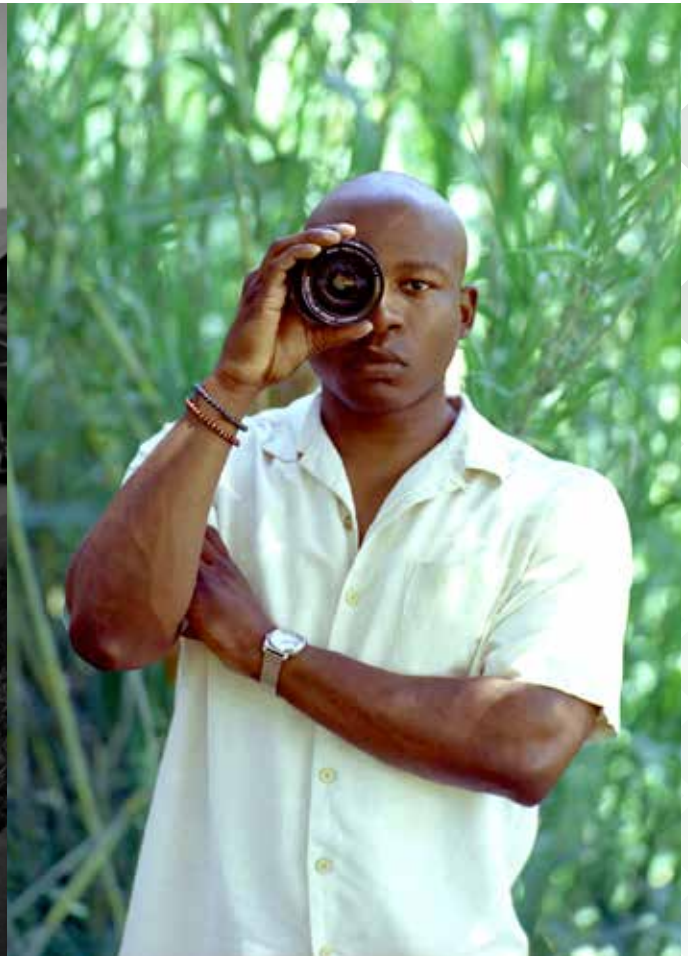
In less than a year after graduating from SIUE with a bachelor's in international studies, Diana Sussman Tockstein, '19, landed her dream job as the development coordinator for Junior Chamber International (JCI), presented workshops in four countries, and was promoted to the organization's partnerships manager.

JCI is a nonprofit of young, active citizens from around the world who are committed to creating impact in their communities. In her current role, Sussman Tockstein manages partnerships with like-minded organizations and develops relevant programs and projects that align with JCI's mission. She also presents workshops in person and online to audiences around the globe.

According to Sussman Tockstein, the knowledge and experience she gained while at SIUE allowed her to dream big—and to successfully fulfill those dreams upon graduation.

"One of the main questions I received when pursuing my degree was, 'what can you actually do with a liberal arts degree?'" Sussman Tockstein said. "The answer, I came to find out, is—anything! My well-rounded education helps me every single day, professionally and personally."





Left Photo: A portrait from Lee’s “Cancelled Prom” photo essay included in *Rolling Stone* and *National Geographic*
Right Photo: Christian K. Lee, BS Mass Communications ’18

Lee Uses Photography to Share Stories Across America

Christian K. Lee, '18, has been bringing images of life across the U.S. to readers since 2013, when he began showcasing SIUE campus life as the photo editor of *The Alestle*, SIUE’s student newspaper. Since then, Lee, who earned a bachelor’s in mass communications, has gone on to capture everything from Black Lives Matter protests for The Associated Press to the impacts of COVID-19 in his photo essay entitled “Cancelled Prom,” which has been featured in *Rolling Stone* and *National Geographic*.

“My camera and I have ridden all over the country making photos together, from as far east as D.C. with *The Washington Post* to as far west as L.A. with the *Los Angeles Times*,” notes Lee, who is also a full-time commissioned officer with the U.S. Army. “My work is not about me, it’s about others. I have utilized my camera as a tool to learn about people from all over.”

Lee’s work first drew public acclaim in 2015 when he displayed his exhibit “Ferguson Unrest” at SIUE following the fatal shooting of Michael Brown. Since then, Lee has continued to bring coverage of Black Lives Matter protests to readers across the country.

Lee was inspired to develop his “Cancelled Prom” photo essay in the spring of 2020 after learning about the high school seniors in his central Texas community who didn’t have the opportunity to attend their senior prom due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Lee’s photos caught the attention of *Rolling Stone*, which published a slideshow of his work in June. His photo essay was also featured in *National Geographic* magazine’s November special issue focused on the pandemic.

In addition to taking time to document the lives of his neighbors and community members, Lee plans to continue traveling the country, using his camera to tell the stories of others.

“I learned photography just as one would learn to ride a bike,” Lee said. “Sometimes you fall, but all the falls are worth the ride, and I’m having a great ride.”

View Lee’s work at
christianklee.com.



DiSalvo Honored for Contributions to Research, Educating Next Generation

Susanne DiSalvo, PhD, assistant professor in the Department of Biological Sciences, has gained a strong reputation for her research contributions and dedication to educating the next generation of researchers. These efforts were formally recognized when she earned the SIUE Graduate School's 2020-21 Vaughnie Lindsay New Investigator Award.

DiSalvo's research focuses on the process of symbiosis, an interaction of two different organisms living together in which relationships can be neutral, positive or negative. By studying these relationships, she hopes to further the understanding of this symbiotic spectrum by studying the intimate interactions between amoeba hosts and their bacterial symbionts.

"I was thrilled to receive this award," said DiSalvo, who joined the SIUE faculty in 2016. "It has provided me with the resources to propel my research forward, generate preliminary data to apply for competitive grants, and help me train and fund phenomenal SIUE student researchers in the lab."

DiSalvo received a combined \$12,500 from the Graduate School and the College of Arts and Sciences to support her research project, "Connecting Unique Outcomes with Dynamic Infection Processes in an Emerging Microbial Symbiosis System."

"My lab works to highlight the diverse consequences that bacterial symbionts impart to their hosts and how environmental context modifies these consequences," said DiSalvo. "Currently, we have made good headway on describing these interactions. The work enabled by receiving this award will begin us on our trajectory of dissecting the molecular mechanisms that mediate the infection process."

"Dr. DiSalvo's fundamental research in microbial symbiotic relationships will lead to new knowledge and understanding of infection processes and, more importantly, new treatments for infections," said Jerry Weinberg, PhD, associate provost for research and dean of the Graduate School. "Our current situation clearly shows how important her work is to our future."

While DiSalvo's research doesn't relate directly to the coronavirus, she can make several connections that may prove beneficial to fighting the virus in the future. Among these connections is her research on bacteriophages, which are viruses specific to bacteria.

"Although these are not eukaryotic viruses like coronaviruses, there are similarities between the infectious cycle for all viruses. Much of the information gained from studying bacterial viruses can be applied to human viruses," said DiSalvo. "In my lab and in my virology class, we conduct research with bacteriophages that ultimately teaches students techniques that are relevant to all fields of virology."



Student Boosts Edwardsville Public Library's Outreach During Pandemic

Brejani Owens, BSW '19, MSW '20, was drawn to the field of social work because of her commitment to helping disadvantaged, underrepresented and oppressed populations. She was able to put these passions to work when she became the Edwardsville Public Library's first social work intern in January 2020. Library Director Jill Schardt developed the position in response to the growing social service needs of patrons and area residents.

"We try to serve the needs of everyone who enters our library, but there are some needs we are not equipped to handle," Schardt said. "It is important to treat people with respect and listen to their voices, yet still be grounded in how we can assist. Brejani brought a wonderful combination of empathy and clear thinking to her role."

During her first several weeks on the job, then-graduate student Owens hit the ground running, meeting with local social service agencies to learn about the resources they offer and how they could support the library's patrons. She held office hours at the library and hosted a meet-and-greet event to introduce herself and her role to the community. Owens modified her day-to-day activities while maintaining her growing involvement in the community when the COVID-19 pandemic caused the library to temporarily close in March.

"I had a list of patrons who were 65 and older. I called and checked on them, asked if their families needed anything, and shared resource information," said Owens, whose list contained 1,000 names. "I also called to be a listening ear."

An important aspect of Owens' work from the outset was to learn where gaps existed in the social services provided for Madison County residents. According to Owens, the pandemic made these voids easier to identify.

"Even with the struggles the pandemic has provided, I saw how the community came together to provide for that gap in services," she said. "It was easier for me to identify the real needs of the community."

While Owens' internship ended in August when she graduated from SIUE, her dedication established a solid path forward for the library to continue providing additional social services for its patrons.

"I want to help as many people as possible," Owens added. "I expect the library to continue this extremely important work well into the future."



From left, Robert Dixon, PhD, associate professor in the Department of Chemistry; Kevin Tucker, PhD, assistant professor in the Department of Chemistry; and Courtney Breckenridge, educational outreach specialist; are among the faculty and staff leading this project.

Increasing Water Security Through Public Awareness, Knowledge and Professional Development

A \$100,000 environmental education grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is allowing a team of SIUE faculty, staff and students to address critical water issues within local and regional waterways.

The team is specifically targeting emerging pollutants, such as pharmaceuticals and personal care products, and regulated pollutants, such as phosphates and nitrates. Illinois' proximity to major waterways and the rust and corn belts uniquely positions SIUE to tackle such issues throughout the region.

The project involves training undergraduate students to collect field water samples and assess water quality through chemical testing. Then, research findings will be used by local partners to create interactive displays and conduct local training events.

Kevin Tucker, PhD, assistant professor in the Department of Chemistry, is the project's principal investigator (PI). Co-PIs include Robert Dixon, PhD, associate professor in the Department of Chemistry; Matthew Maas, director of the Environmental Resource Training Center at SIUE; Educational Outreach Specialist Courtney Breckenridge; and Connie Frey Spurlock, PhD, associate professor of sociology and director of the SIUE Successful Communities Collaborative.

"We will provide region-specific data to inform decisions made in the greater St. Louis area by industry, agriculture and residents alike," Tucker said. "Considering the mighty Mississippi to the west and Lake Michigan to the north, the 'freshwater' resources available to Illinois could make it a leader in water supply, provided that the pollution of our water is managed."



Bringing Opera to Local Schools

For many people, exposure to classical music forms such as opera come much later in life than elementary school. Thanks to a partnership between the SIUE Department of Music and local arts organization Opera Edwardsville, more than 1,000 local elementary students experienced opera last fall in the form of the beloved children’s story, “Pinocchio.”

Led by Professor of Voice Marc Schapman, DM, and Opera Edwardsville Artistic Director Chase Hopkins, a cast of SIUE graduate and undergraduate vocal students put their own spin on the children’s classic and performed at elementary schools throughout the Edwardsville School District.

The Opera Workshop Project was made possible by a Meridian Grant awarded to Schapman and Hopkins by the SIUE Meridian Society. As an auxiliary organization of the SIUE Foundation, the Meridian Society promotes women’s leadership and invests in SIUE community-based projects. The Opera Workshop project was the first of what Schapman hopes will be many opportunities to partner with Opera Edwardsville in the future.

“We forged a strong connection with Opera Edwardsville through this program, and I look forward to many more collaborations in the future,” Schapman said.



SIUE Madison Historical Team Teaches Eighth-Graders to Become Archivists

A team of SIUE students and staff spent three days teaching eighth-graders in the Edwardsville School District how to use digitized artifacts to analyze the local history of Madison County. The lesson was held in conjunction with *Madison Historical: The Online Encyclopedia and Digital Archive for Madison County*, a project coordinated by the SIUE Department of History to document, preserve and share the county’s rich history.

“For many students, this was an excellent opportunity to make real-world connections between what they are learning in the classroom and the significant archival resources available in their community for the first time,” said Shannan Mason, a history doctoral student who led the team of SIUE archivists.

The project also gave students a chance to work as real historians by bringing in artifacts from home, writing the associated metadata and aiding in their digitization. The eighth-graders’ projects are now included in *Madison Historical’s* online database and published on the site.

View the project at madison-historical.siu.edu.

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