Dear Colleagues,

A college’s ability to attract and recruit new students may be greatly increased by the visibility and involvement of students in student organizations, which are referred to as “RSOs” at SIU, Registered Student Organizations. Many of CASA’s more visible student organizations, including the Flying Salukis, Security Dawgs, Project Management Group, Healthcare Management Association, and Fashion Design and Merchandising Association, lead summer camps and show displays at Open House, New Student Orientation, and other recruiting events throughout the academic year. Many students have been serving as student diplomats and/or ambassadors to host tours and speak to prospective students and parents. These CASA student organizations help to recruit students by promoting the College and providing information to campus visitors. The array of academic and cultural organizations active within our College allows us to demonstrate a diversity of interests and opportunities for our student population.

Student organizations also help improve retention in our College. Elaine Atwood, Chief Academic Advisor, has recently shared data reflecting the CASA overall retention rate of 77.73%. Comparing fall 2014 with fall 2015, the retention of First Time Full Time (FTFT, true freshman) students increased 5%, while the retention of new transfer students (Trans) improved by 3%. As shown in the table below through a school-by-school retention matrix, where SOA is School of Architecture, SAH is School of Allied Health, ISAT is School of Information Systems and Applied Technologies, and SOT is School of Transportation, the CASA student retention rate is trending favorably.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School</th>
<th>Enrolled 201360</th>
<th>Returned 201460</th>
<th>201460 %</th>
<th>School</th>
<th>Enrolled 201460</th>
<th>Returned 201560</th>
<th>201560 %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SOA</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>60.78%</td>
<td>SOA</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>73.52%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAH</td>
<td>162</td>
<td>127</td>
<td>78.40%</td>
<td>SAH</td>
<td>146</td>
<td>127</td>
<td>86.98%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISAT</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>82.22%</td>
<td>ISAT</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>75.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOT</td>
<td>216</td>
<td>162</td>
<td>75.00%</td>
<td>SOT</td>
<td>242</td>
<td>185</td>
<td>76.44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CASA</td>
<td>570</td>
<td>425</td>
<td>74.56%</td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>CASA 548</td>
<td>426</td>
<td>77.73%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FTFT</td>
<td>245</td>
<td>167</td>
<td>68.16%</td>
<td></td>
<td>253</td>
<td>185</td>
<td>73.12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trans</td>
<td>325</td>
<td>258</td>
<td>79.38%</td>
<td></td>
<td>295</td>
<td>241</td>
<td>81.69%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As shown in the table, the School of Allied Health (SAH) has produced an excellent retention rate in programs such as, The Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) program with a 100% retention rate, and Dental Hygiene (DH) with a 93% student retention rate. We know that academic performance and retention are positively associated with the involvement with faculty, and involvement with student living and learning communities and peer groups. On numerous occasions, I have seen SAH faculty involved with students outside of class through such events as Give Kids a Smile, Give Adults a Smile, the Dental Sealant Grant Program, Healthcare Executives Forum, and other community service initiatives.

Educational experts have long pointed to the importance of academic and social integration for enhancing student retention. A wide range of studies have confirmed that the more frequently students engage with faculty, staff, and their peers, the more likely they will be to persist and graduate. We need to take an integrated approach in retention efforts, incorporating both academic and non-academic factors into the design and development of programs. This will create a socially inclusive and supportive academic environment across CASA which addresses the social, emotional, and academic needs of all students.
Tracking of student cohorts and the analysis of college trends will continue to comprise a substantial part of the projects undertaken by the Dean’s Office. In addition, we will continue to implement and improve the college-wide *NEAT Initiative*, assisting academic departments and schools as they attempt to better understand the students with whom they work and the factors affecting them and their success at SIUC.

**CONGRATULATIONS**

- **Faith Miller**, Associate Professor and Program Director for the Dental Hygiene program, has been selected to receive the prestigious Judge William Holmes Cook Professorship. She will be recognized at the 20th Annual Celebrate Women Scholarship Luncheon on March 3rd, 2016. The luncheon will begin at 11:30am in Ballroom D or the Student Center. The program will follow at noon during which the special recognition event will take place. Congratulations!

  Ms. Miller has been outstanding in teaching, research and service. One of her most notable accomplishments in the research/grant arena is the Dental Sealant Grant Program (DSGP). Since 2001, this grant has been renewed each year by the Illinois Department of Public Health/Division of Oral Health. This year’s award included $20,600 for the work to be performed in 2015-2016 fiscal year. Through her work with the DSGP, many community children have been able to receive free dental care at local schools across southern Illinois. Congratulations!

- The SIU Automotive Technology Advisory Board met at the Transportation Education Center (TEC) on February 25 – 26, 2016. Automotive and ground transportation executives from across the U.S. gather at SIU each year to conduct a general open session with the Automotive Technology Department faculty, staff, students, and SIU administration. In addition to the open session, the Board also conducts a closed door private meeting with students, a closed door private meeting with faculty, a closed door private meeting with the Department Chair, and a Business meeting with the Department faculty, staff, and University administration.

This strong national board is responsible for numerous gifts to the University in support of the Automotive Technology (AUT) program annually. The Board spearheaded the idea, concept and initial support for the development of the Transportation Education Center at SIU. And through the guidance and support of this Board, SIU Automotive Technology has grown from being one of CASA’s very first degree granting programs in 1952, to being recognized as this nation’s premier Automotive Technology program. Congratulations to all involved with this achievement!
At this event, 22 student scholarships were presented totaling $18,000. Many of the scholarships are funded by industry and various Department endowments. At the event, Joseph M. Morehead was recognized as the 2015 outstanding student. Congratulations!

Please join me in congratulating Dr. Scott Collins and all Radiologic Science faculty and staff on their accreditation success! The program was evaluated according to the Standards for an Accredited Educational Program in Magnetic Resonance. After review of the requested progress report, the continuing accreditation status of the baccalaureate degree magnetic resonance program sponsored by Southern Illinois University Carbondale was considered at the February 16, 2016 meeting of the Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology (JRCERT). Our Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) program received three-year re-accreditation by JRCERT. Please note the maximum duration that may be awarded by the Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology in the MRI category is three years, and our program received the maximum accreditation. The JRCERT is the only agency recognized by the
United States Department of Education (USDE) for the accreditation of traditional and distance delivery educational programs in radiography, radiation therapy, magnetic resonance, and medical dosimetry. Specialized accreditation awarded by the JRCERT offers institutions significant value by providing peer evaluation and by assuring the public of quality professional education in the radiologic sciences. Congratulations!

- This past Saturday, SIU Automotive Technology (AUT) and Aviation Management and Flight (AVMAF) offered programs for the Greater St. Louis Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America. This event was in coordination with other academic areas at the University to offer STEM U at SIUC.

Scouts from the area spent the entire day at the Transportation Education Center (TEC) earning merit badges in Automotive Maintenance and Aviation. Numerous TEC faculty and students volunteered to help with this outreach and educational event. Special thank-you to Dr. Dave Gilbert and Jeff Hayes for their hard work to make this event a great success. Congratulations!

- Michael Schofield, a 2005 Fire Service Management (FSM) graduate, was named last Tuesday as the Orland Fire Protection District’s new fulltime fire chief effective March 1st, 2016. Mr. Schofield became Interim Fire Chief in August, and served as a Battalion Chief and managed the Orland Fire Protection District’s Operational Services before being named interim chief. Services included Suppression, Emergency Medical Services, Specialty Teams, as well as Training with each area managed by a lieutenant who reported to Schofield. Congratulations!
On February 22nd, 45 students from the on-campus and online Health Care Management (HCM) program traveled with Sandy Collins and Kyle Chamness to the Mid-America Health Care Executives Forum meeting in Urbana, Illinois. The meeting was attended by top-ranking Chief Executive Officers from multiple hospitals and other healthcare facilities. Topics included Patient Centered Medical Homes, a CEO round table discussion, and population/community health management. During the round table discussion, the CEOs acknowledged the HCM students by initiating a round of applause for their attendance. The event produced new networking opportunities for the HCM program and discussions between faculty and several of the health care executives on ways to strengthening the program's population health, public policy, and leadership aspects are being scheduled. The Mid-America Health Care Executives Forum is a chapter of the American College of Healthcare Executives. Congratulations!
Here are a few photos of our Fashion Design and Merchandising (FDM) students at NYC Fashion Week (February 12 - February 16, 2016). Our students have stated that this opportunity was a wonderful experience. Brooke Cleary has even communicated with the owner of Banson NYC, Holland Grumieux, President and Founder, who is interested in coming to SIUC to speak with our students. Congratulations!
AD STAFF MEETING
The Administrative (AD) Staff will meet on Wednesday, March 2, 2016, 9:00am - 11:30am in the Dean’s Conference Room. The tentative agenda of the meeting is below:
   1. Welcome, open forum, and Dean’s Update
   2. Program Review Committee Progress Report (Faculty Senate/Grad Council Reps)
   3. Summer Model and Schedule Discussion
   4. Center for International Education Presentation
   5. Round Table Discussion and Other Business
If you have any specific items that you feel the Administrative Staff should consider at the meeting, please send me your suggestions before 1:00pm Tuesday, 3/1/2016. All faculty and staff are invited to the open forum section of the Administrative Staff meeting from 9:00am - 9:30am.

HOUSING CONTRACT FOR RETURNING STUDENTS
The University Housing is offering returning students $0 down to renew for Fall 2016 this week on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Students were sent this information last week. It will be in Lentz Hall and Trueblood Hall on Wednesday and Thursday from 12:30 to 3:30 to answer any questions or help them with their renewal. A laptop will be provided for those who want to contract on site. There will also have some prizes for those who will complete a very short survey.

Please tell any students you know who are thinking about returning to the residence halls and your LLC for Fall 2016 about this 3-day event. They are able to do this at any time online beginning tomorrow through Thursday.

ON THIS WEEK’S CALENDAR
- Monday, February 29, 2016: 2:00pm - 4:30pm, Non-Traditional/Veteran Career Fair, Student Services Building Multi-purpose Room.
• Tuesday, March 1, 2016: 10:00am-12:30pm, Deans’ Council Meeting, Anthony Hall Balcony Conference Room; 6:00 – 7:00pm SIU CASA Externship Pre-Launch gathering in the SIU Student Center; followed by the Intern Queen presentation in the SIU Auditorium (7:00pm).
• Wednesday, March 2, 2016: 9:00am - 11:30am, Ad Staff Meeting, Dean’s Conference Room.
• Thursday, March 3, 2016: 8:00am-10:00am, Graduate Council Meeting, SSB 150-160; 10:00am – 2:00pm John A. Logan CASA Recruitment table.
• Friday, March 4, 2016: 9:00am – 2:00pm, School of Architecture Transfer Day at Quigley Hall; 12:00pm - 1:00pm, EAB Retention Webcast, Anthony Hall Balcony Conference Room; 1:00pm - 2:00pm, DE Meeting.
• Saturday, March 5, 2016: 11:00am - 1:30pm, St. Louis: Saluki Celebration, Ballpark Village, St. Louis.

AND FINALLY …
If you see something in this update that you want to comment on, please send an email at my SIU email awang@siu.edu; or call me at 618-536-6682. Also, if you know of anyone interested in receiving the CASA Dean’s MMU, please ask them to send me an email and we will gladly add them to our mailing list. If you prefer not to receive the CASA Dean’s MMU, please let me know, as well. Thank you.

Andy Ju An Wang, Ph.D.
Dean, College of Applied Sciences and Arts