

## CASA Dean's MMU (Monday Morning Update)

Monday, May 16, 2016

Dear Colleagues,

Commencement is one of our favorite times of an academic year! It is always exciting to celebrate new graduates embarking on the next phase of life. It represents the culmination of extraordinary commitment and effort by our students and, at the same time, the dedicated faculty and staff, as well as the support of family and loved ones. It is incredibly affirming to see the graduates and their families and friends celebrating the outcome of their efforts. On Saturday, May 14, 2016, the College of Applied Sciences and Arts graduated 376 students, which is 19.35% of the overall SIUC undergraduate students who were receiving their diplomas that day. Among these 376 graduates, 345 received bachelor's degrees, 14 received master's degrees, and 17 received associate degrees. CASA is not only graduating students in quantity, but also with top quality. During the 140th Annual Commencement, more than 103 students wore special medallions and honor cords reflecting significant academic achievements earned. Among the 103 students earning recognition, 64 received *Cum Laude* distinction, signifying a cumulative GPA of 3.5 to 3.749; 28 received *Magna Cum Laude* distinction, signifying a cumulative GPA of 3.75 to 3.899, and 11 students received *Summa Cum Laude* distinction, carrying a cumulative GPA of 3.9 to 4.0. There were also several students in the University Honors Program who maintained an average GPA of 3.3 or better, and more than 35 students with multiple degrees. Many of last weekend's graduates probably have read the recent news that members of the Class of 2016 are entering [the best job market since the recession](#). We wish them successful careers and bright futures!

Joan Higginbotham, a 1987 SIU Carbondale graduate and former astronaut, was the commencement speaker and she shared many insights to encourage and inspire our graduates to capture the amazing opportunities life will bring them and to never give up when faced with obstacles. As Joan shared: "All my life I was told the sky is the limit, but I disagree. I'm here to tell you the sky is no longer the limit and I know because I have literally been above and beyond." Joan's talk was positive, encouraging and inspirational, and I think it was one of the best commencement speeches in the past few years.

**John Dobbins, Michael Behrmann, Faith Miller, and Jennifer Sherry** were faculty marshals, and **Austin H. Mulcahy**, Automotive Technology (AUT) program graduate, was CASA's Gonfalon Carrier. **Jared Stern**, Undergraduate Student Government president and Aviation Management junior, was honorary student marshal and carried the University Charter and the inspirational message that was written by the late Charles D. Tenney, SIU professor and Distinguished Service Award recipient. The message is displayed on the south wall of Morris Library's Hall of Presidents and Chancellors.

Other faculty and staff members who also attended the commencement last Saturday, including: **Sam Chung, Bradley C. Hagy, Sam Pavel, Sandra N. Beebe, Michael Grey, Craig Anz, Shannon**

**McDonald, David Gilbert, Neil Black, Charla J. Lautar, Danna Cotner, Sandra Watts, Elaine Atwood, Jill Mueller, Jasmine Winters, Becky Robinson, Mary Nemetsky, and Tracey Logeman.** Our students' accomplishments are remarkable. Commencement honors our collective commitment to learning and building a sense of community within our College and University. Thank you so much for your participation and congratulations to all!

## **FINAL GRADING**

Official grade submission is done online using Self-Service Banner (SSB) after logging into [SalukiNet](#). The primary instructor for a course is responsible for the final grade submission. The detailed guide of the grading process may be found at <http://registrar.siu.edu/faculty/webgradinginfo.html>. Please note that grades are due by 8:00am on Tuesday, May 17, 2016. Tomorrow morning, Elaine Atwood (Chief Academic Advisor) will receive a fax with the list of CASA courses that have NRs (Not Reported). Those instructors will have an additional day to enter grades. On Wednesday at 8:00am, the system locks and rolls. Then each student's academic standing is calculated. Once that happens, a grade change card is required to enter or change a grade. Please make sure you submit your final grade in time.

## **NOTES ON SUMMER & FALL**

1. The deadline of submitting an abstract to ASA Research Symposium this year is May 27, 2016.
2. 2016 4-week summer intersession starts today and ends June 10, 2016.
3. 2016 8-week summer session starts Monday, June 13 and ends Friday, August 5, 2016.
4. During summer intersession and normal summer session there will be no MMU newsletters. The MMU resumes on August 15, 2016.
5. The first day of classes for Fall 2016 semester is Monday, August 22, 2016.

## **CONGRATULATIONS**

- A total of 128 CASA students received special medallions and honor cords during the 2016 Academic Excellence Recognition Ceremony on May 13, 2016 in the SIU Student Center Ballrooms. Among them, 79 received *Cum Laude* distinction, signifying a cumulative GPA of 3.5 to 3.749; 31 received *Magna Cum Laude* distinction, signifying a cumulative GPA of 3.75 to 3.899, and 18 students received *Summa Cum Laude* distinction, carrying a cumulative GPA of 3.9 to 4.0. Two students had completed an honors thesis:
  - Heather Ashley Zutten: "Is Closure Real? A Closer Look at Dealing with the Death of a Loved One."
  - Lauren K. Ovca: "Disaster Relief Housing: A Passive Design Approach."

Congratulations!

- The Flying Salukis were amazing for another fantastic collegiate aviation performance this year. They came in 2nd place in the nation at the National Intercollegiate Flying Association SAFECON 2016 Competition in Columbus, Ohio. In addition, the Top 1st and 2nd "Pilots in the Nation" honors went to our Aviation seniors, George Nimmer and Davin Miles, respectively. The final results in all categories are posted at the following site and showcase many other outstanding Flying Saluki performances:

[http://nifa.us/SAFECON\\_2016\\_Results.html](http://nifa.us/SAFECON_2016_Results.html) .

Go Flying Salukis!



- **Mike Burgener**, Chair of Aviation Technologies (AVT), has been approved by Interim Chancellor Colwell to serve as management's representatives on the upcoming Aviation Flight contract negotiations. Congratulations!
- 64 on-campus and 7 off-campus students graduated this past weekend from the SIU Automotive Technology program. Most of the 71 graduates participated in the commencement ceremony with 5 of the 7 graduating off-campus students traveling to SIU Carbondale for their very first time. 42 of the SIU Automotive Technology May 2016 graduates gathered for a class photo. Congratulations!



- **Special Olympics Special Smiles: May 6, 2016**

Approximately 31 third-year students and faculty volunteers, **Jennifer S. Sherry**, Associate Professor, and **Jennifer Meyer**, Assistant instructor from the SIU Dental Hygiene program provided oral cancer evaluations and oral health education to the athletes and other participants at the Special Olympics Special Smiles event on May 6, 2016. Dr. Ralph Kimbrough, a volunteer dentist from Shawnee Dental in Carbondale, IL provided oral cancer evaluations and helped to assess the athletes. A total of 38 athletes and 12 other participants attended this event. Data will be presented to the Special Olympics in Washington, DC. Thank you to all who participated in this great event at Lew Hartzog Track and Field Complex, Carbondale, IL. Congratulations and thank you to all for serving on this successful community service event!





- Interim Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, Dr. Susan Ford, attended an off-campus graduation ceremony at Pensacola, FL. The picture below shows some of our off-campus students at the graduation ceremony. Congratulations!



- The Department of Aviation Management and Flight (AVMAF) hosted a continental breakfast for AVMAF students during final exam week. The event was financed with personal donations from AVMAF Faculty and Staff. The breakfast was held from 8:00 AM - 11:00 AM, Monday - Thursday of final exam week. The event was suggested and coordinated by Mrs. **Michelle Parker-Clark**, AVMAF Academic Advisor. Michelle was assisted by Mrs. **Marsha Morgenstern**, Administrative Aide to the AVMAF Department Chair. Thank you for helping our students during the final week. Congratulations on a great event!





- Mid-America Transplant announced last week that it will offer up to 15 scholarships of up to \$500 per semester for students in the final two semesters of a post-secondary funeral service industry program. The Foundation is committed to the ongoing development of a strong, skilled workforce in their designated services area and is always exploring new opportunities to support students. The SIU Mortuary Science and Funeral Services (MSFS) senior students are eligible to apply this scholarship. More information is available at [the Mid-America Transplant website](#). Congratulations!
- Please join me in congratulating School of Allied Health (SAH) Radiologic Sciences (RAD) program for its articulation agreement with John A Logan College (JALC). The agreement has been signed by Dr. Susan Ford, Interim Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, for Interim Chancellor Brad Colwell. According to the agreement, all graduates of John A Logan College with an Associate of Applied Science (A.A.S.) degree in Diagnostic Cardiac Sonography and meeting SIU Carbondale admission requirements will be considered for admission into SIU Carbondale's Bachelor of Science (B.S.) degree in Radiologic Sciences (RAD): Diagnostic Medical Sonography Option and Education and Management Option in the College of Applied Sciences and Arts based upon the Department's enrollment criteria and space availability. Congratulations!
- Please join me in congratulating the School of Information Systems and Applied Technologies (ISAT) Information Systems Technologies (IST) program for its articulation agreement with John A Logan College (JALC). The agreement has been signed by Dr. Susan Ford, Interim Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, for Interim Chancellor Brad Colwell. According to the agreement, all graduates of JALC with an Associate of Applied Science (A.A.S.) degree in Cyber Security / Information Assurance and meeting SIU Carbondale TRM program admission requirements will be considered for admission into our IST program based upon the program enrollment criteria and space availability. Congratulations!



- Please join me in congratulating School of Allied Health (SAH) Radiologic Sciences (RAD) program for its articulation agreement with Sauk Valley Community College. The agreement has been signed by Dr. Susan Ford, Interim Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, for Interim Chancellor Brad Colwell and the counterpart of Sauk Valley Community College. According to the agreement, all graduates of Sauk Valley Community College with an Associate of Applied Science (A.A.S.) degree in Radiologic Technology and meeting SIU Carbondale admission requirements will be considered for admission into SIU Carbondale's Bachelor of Science (B.S.) degree in Radiologic Sciences (RAD): *Education and Management Option* in the College of Applied Sciences and Arts based upon the Department's enrollment criteria and space availability. Congratulations!
- Please join me in congratulating School of Allied Health (SAH) Radiologic Sciences (RAD) program for its articulation agreement with Rend Lake College. The agreement has been signed by Dr. Susan Ford, Interim Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, for Interim Chancellor Brad Colwell and Terry Wilkerson, President of Rend Lake College. According to the agreement, all graduates of Rend Lake College with an Associate of Applied Science (A.A.S.) degree in Certified Medical Assistant and Health Information Technology and meeting SIU Carbondale admission requirements will be considered for admission into SIU Carbondale's Bachelor of Science (B.S.) degree in Health Care Management (HCM) in the College of Applied Sciences and Arts based upon the Department's enrollment criteria and space availability. Congratulations!

## **AD STAFF MEETING**

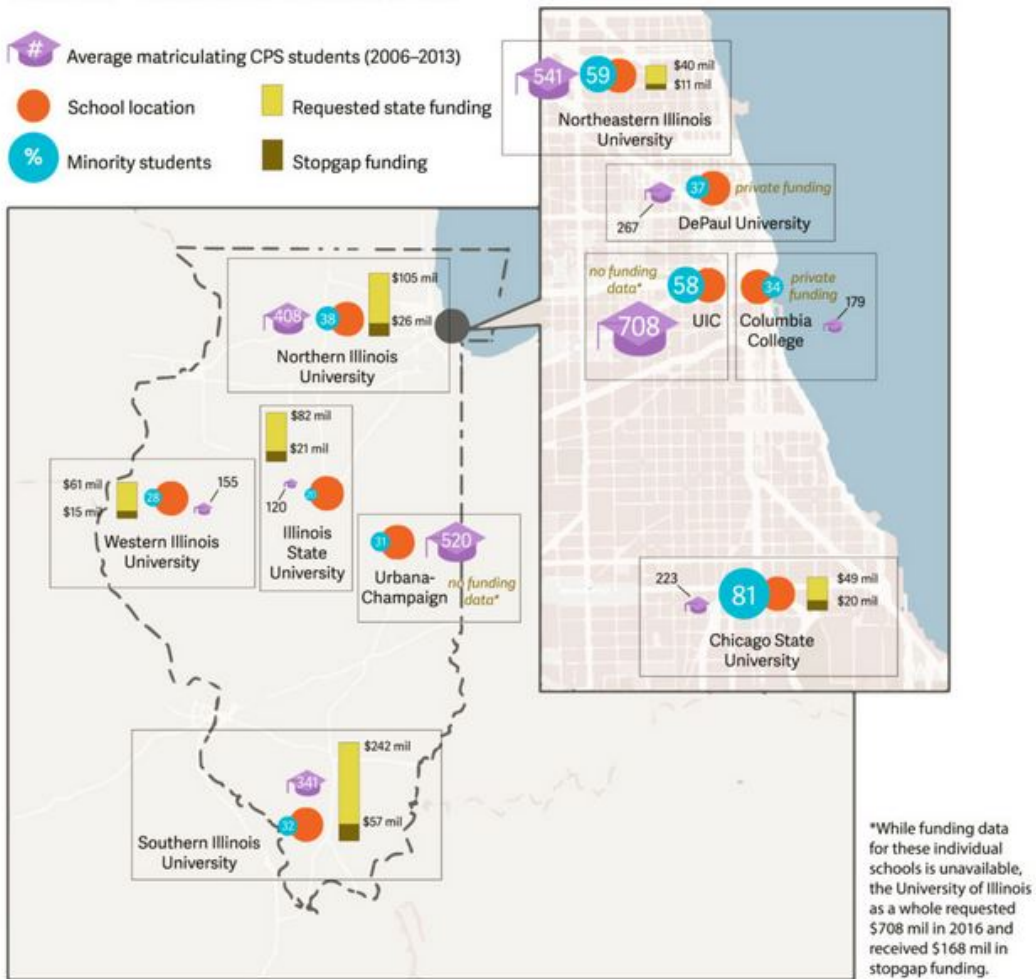
The Administrative (AD) Staff will meet on Wednesday, May 18, 2016, 9:00am - 11:30am in the Dean's Conference Room. The tentative agenda of the meeting is below:

1. Welcome, Open Forum, and Dean's Update
2. FY 2017-18 Budget Reduction Implementation
3. Fall 2016 Weeks of Welcome Events
4. Fall 2016 Kick-Off Meetings
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, 5/17/2016. All faculty and staff are invited to the open forum section of the Administrative Staff meeting from 9:00am - 9:30am.

## **UNDERFUNDED HIGHER EDUCATION**

## How much “stopgap” funding will CPS grads’ top 10 colleges receive – and who will it serve?



Sources: Chicago Consortium on School Research, Illinois Board of Higher Education, Illinois Office of Management and Budget, Columbia College, Southern Illinoisian. Data Visualization by Jean Cochrane

## VIRTUAL TA

On April 26, 2016, a Georgia Tech professor announced to the 300 students in his online course that one of the nine teaching assistants (TA) this semester, Jill Watson, was not a real person but a virtual TA. Students were astonished because Jill had been performed so well that students could not tell her from the other eight human TAs who are performing the same duties!

More information about this story is available here: <https://www.inverse.com/article/15395-georgia-tech-professor-used-ibm-watson-a-i-as-online-ta-successfully-foole-students>.

Is it possible to have a virtual teacher or virtual professor? We have seen that computers or robots have outperformed human counterparts in many service and manufacturing jobs, even defeated human in chess

and Go games. Is being a teacher a profession that will disappear soon? This challenges teachers to master the art of human connection, empathy, and compassion for others which a robot can't as easily replace.

## **MMU WILL TAKE A BREAK**

This is the last issue of Monday Morning Update (MMU) prior to the start of Fall 2016. MMU will take a break during summer and resume on Monday, August 15, 2016.

Wishing everyone a great summer and looking forward to welcoming students back to our campus after summer! See you on August 15, 2016 for the start of the *Weeks of Welcome*.

## **ON THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR**

- Monday, May 16, 2016: 2:00pm, Avidyne & ADS-B Fundraising Meeting, Dean's Conference Room.
- Tuesday, May 17, 2016: 10:00am - 12:30pm, Deans Council Meeting, Anthony Hall Balcony Conference Room.
- Wednesday, May 18, 2016: 9:00am - 12:00pm, Add Staff Meeting, Dean's Conference Room.
- Thursday, May 19, 2016: OVCR Research and Funding Meeting, Morris Library 331A; 9:00am – 10:30am, Gena Stack leads NSO tour of TEC and ASA facilities.
- Friday, May 20, 2016: 9:00am, Freshman NSO Program, Student Center.

## **AND FINALLY ...**

If you see something in this update that you want to comment on, please send an email to my SIU email [awang@siu.edu](mailto: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