

Commencement Ceremony Spring 2017



Commencement is a time of celebration! It's a time where family and friends join students to recognize their academic accomplishments. Some students are setting an example as the first in their families to earn a college degree. For others, the degree meets a longtime personal goal, or provides opportunity for career change or advancement.

On May 13, students studying workforce education and development (WED) joined their fellow Salukis for commencement on the Carbondale campus, where more than 2,100 students earned degrees. In addition to the spring commencement, the Carbondale campus hosts a December commencement, and ceremonies also take place at SIU's off-campus locations throughout the year.

The Extended Campus site at Naval Air Station Pensacola held its graduation ceremony May 6 at the Naval Aviation Memorial Chapel. Look for the NAS Pensacola site, along with graduation photos, to be featured in the July 2017 newsletter.

Congratulations, graduates!

Alumni Association Promo (Grads and Current Students)

Did you know that the SIU Alumni Association is not just for graduates? That's right. Current students can get a head start and receive all of the SIU Alumni Association's benefits and advantages for \$15 annually. Memberships for graduates include one-year, three-year, or lifetime options. Join today by selecting "membership" at sialumni.com.

Attention, spring graduates! The SIU Alumni Association has a gift for you! Redeem your one-year complimentary membership at sialumni.com/newgrad.

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The Chair's Message



I am excited to present to you our first edition of this monthly newsletter!

The purpose of the online newsletter is to let all of our current students and alumni know what we are doing, what we plan to do in the Department of Workforce Education and Development (WED), job opportunities in our field, and to feature stories of current students and recent graduates. We also have some very exciting news to share with you in this newsletter. Our biggest announcement is a [new delivery site](#). As you know, our department expands well beyond the border of the Carbondale campus. Our undergraduate and master's degree programs are available to students all

across the country through off-campus programs delivered at military and civilian sites from coast to coast, as well as courses that can be completed online. We are excited to announce that we will be adding to our delivery capability by offering an undergraduate weekend program in the specialization of organizational training and development at [John A. Logan College \(JALC\)](#) in Carterville, Illinois. So far, WED faculty and staff have received an overwhelming response from students at JALC interested in continuing beyond the associate degree to earn a bachelor's degree in WED.

Please enjoy this newsletter, and those that will follow each month!

C. Keith Waugh

Show Your Creativity and Win a Prize!

WED opened a contest to invite you to create a new name for this WED e-newsletter. The contest is open to our WED students, alumni and staff. To enter, create a name (no more than three words) that represents the WED spirit, and submit it through the online entry form by June 12.

All entries received by the deadline will be reviewed, and the winner will be announced in the July 2017 newsletter. Good luck!

[Submit your entry form](#)

Discover the Carbondale Campus and Its Surroundings



From Campus Lake to Touch of Nature, SIU offers great possibilities for outdoor recreation.



WED is located directly below the majestic and distinctive clock tower in Pulliam (1954).

SIU is privileged to have a beautiful campus and to be located at the edge of the [Shawnee National Forest](#). From Campus Lake to [Touch of Nature](#), SIU offers great possibilities for outdoor recreation. Those who walk on campus encounter nature and art. The campus abounds with beautiful buildings, from the oldest and newly renovated Altgeld Hall (1896) to the newest state-of-the-art Student Service Building (2013) and the newly renovated Pulliam wing that houses the School of Social Work and a section of the School of Art and Design. WED is located directly below the majestic and distinctive clock tower in Pulliam (1954), where we enjoy the bells that chime on each quarter-hour and some music during the holidays.

Travel just a few miles south of Campus, and you're in the heart of the [Shawnee National Forest](#), which retains its beauty throughout all four seasons. Visitors from across the country come every year for outdoor sports, to immerse themselves in its splendorous sunrises and sunsets, or to drive the meandering roads of the [wine trails](#) that enjoy national recognition. There is always a place to stop for a bite or quench your thirst – and if you have not developed a palate for wine, you can always make a detour to visit the popular new craft breweries ([Scratch Brewing](#) and [Big Muddy Brewing](#)). And if you're lucky, you might experience a music gig.

See you in Carbondale!

The 2017 Total Solar Eclipse

Carbondale will be the place to be Aug. 21. The solar eclipse will reach its point of greatest duration (2 minutes and 38 seconds) at Cedar Lake, which is located about 9 miles south of the SIU campus. If you are thinking of coming to Carbondale for the event, make plans now! There are lots of activities planned that will make your experience unforgettable. Find all about the eclipse events at eclipse.siu.edu.

Graduates in the Spotlight – Carbondale Campus



Nicole Mathis, B.S. in Workforce Education and Development.

After being out of school for 27 years, Nicole Mathis decided to obtain her bachelor's degree. After two years of amazingly hard work as an administrative assistant to the dean of Student Services, as a term faculty instructor at John A. Logan College, and as a mother and grandmother, she completed her bachelor's degree in WED. She thanks her family and friends for their love and support, and also Dr. Hagler, Dr. Barnett, Dr. Eversden and Dr. Blackstone for their support through the program. Mathis is taking a well-deserved vacation on the beach before returning to the master's degree program in WED!



Aspen D'Costa, Ph.D., with his wife, Jennifer D'Costa.

During his Ph.D., Aspen D'Costa worked full time with SIU Carbondale's IT department,

after which he went on to work with Newell-Rubbermaid as an engineering manager. "There were many times I wanted to quit during the dissertation process," he said, but he added that he had continual support from his wife, Jennifer, his family and his friends. He thanks them, and also Dr. Waugh, Dr. DeRuntz, Dr. Hagler, Dr. Sims and Dr. Freeburg for their support, encouragement and feedback to see him through the Ph.D. program. He celebrated with friends and family, and will continue his celebration in Las Vegas!



Casheena Stephens, Ph.D., with (l-r) professor Cynthia Sims, Carolyn Bates-Harris and Michael Stephens.

Throughout her doctoral journey, Casheena Stephens always worked at least part time while also juggling other responsibilities as a community member, a mother and a wife of a pastor. She thanked her husband, Michael Stephens, her mother, Carolyn Bates-Harris, and friends Terry, Amanda and Margaret (to name a few) for their constant love, support and prayers. She added: "Mainly my relationship with Jesus and his church is how I managed to successfully complete the WED master's and Ph.D. programs." Her husband and friends (Leslie

and Ashley) planned an amazing celebration, which will continue when she travels with her spouse to Cabo San Lucas in Mexico this summer!



Michael Robertson, Ph.D., with his wife, Jill Robertson, and children Jack and Molly.

Michael Robertson is an associate professor in the SIU Department of Aviation Management and Flight at SIU, and he has been a flight instructor since 1999. He said he could not have completed his Ph.D. without the support of his family, friends, colleagues and professors, and especially his parents, who have always encouraged him to challenge himself and have supported him to achieve his goals. His father was an SIU professor for 32 years. To celebrate, he said, "My friends and family threw me a surprise party that they had been planning for months. It was a perfect celebration, and I wouldn't change a thing."

June 2017 — Important Dates

Monday, 6/4	SIU Day at Wrigley Field
Friday, 6/9:	Summer Intersession ends
Monday, 6/12:	Eight Week Session Begins
Saturday, 6/24:	Summer second half of OCDP begins

For SIU events, click on [Events Calendar](#).

Jobs of the Month

- Training Specialist – Houston Methodist, Houston [Read more](#)
- Training and Development Specialist – Tradition Spirits, Norman, Oklahoma [Read more](#)
- Technical Product Training Specialist – Hunter Industries, San Diego [Read more](#)
- Talent Acquisition Manager – ExecuSource, Atlanta [Read more](#)
- Senior Training and Development Manager – Sally Beauty, Denton, Texas [Read more](#)
- Manager Instructional Design – Arizona State University, Tempe, Arizona [Read more](#)
- Human Resources (HR) Manager – Office Team, Clayton, Missouri [Read more](#)
- Learning and Development – Randstad USA, Mebane, North Carolina [Read more](#)

"This (WED) program was a perfect fit for what I wanted to accomplish. Another reason was because it was conveniently located for me to attend classes." — Nicole Mathis, administrative assistant to the dean of Student Services and term instructor at John A. Logan College in Carterville, Illinois

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Department of Workforce Education and Development
Southern Illinois University Carbondale
Pulliam 212
Carbondale, IL 62901
(618) 453-3321

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