

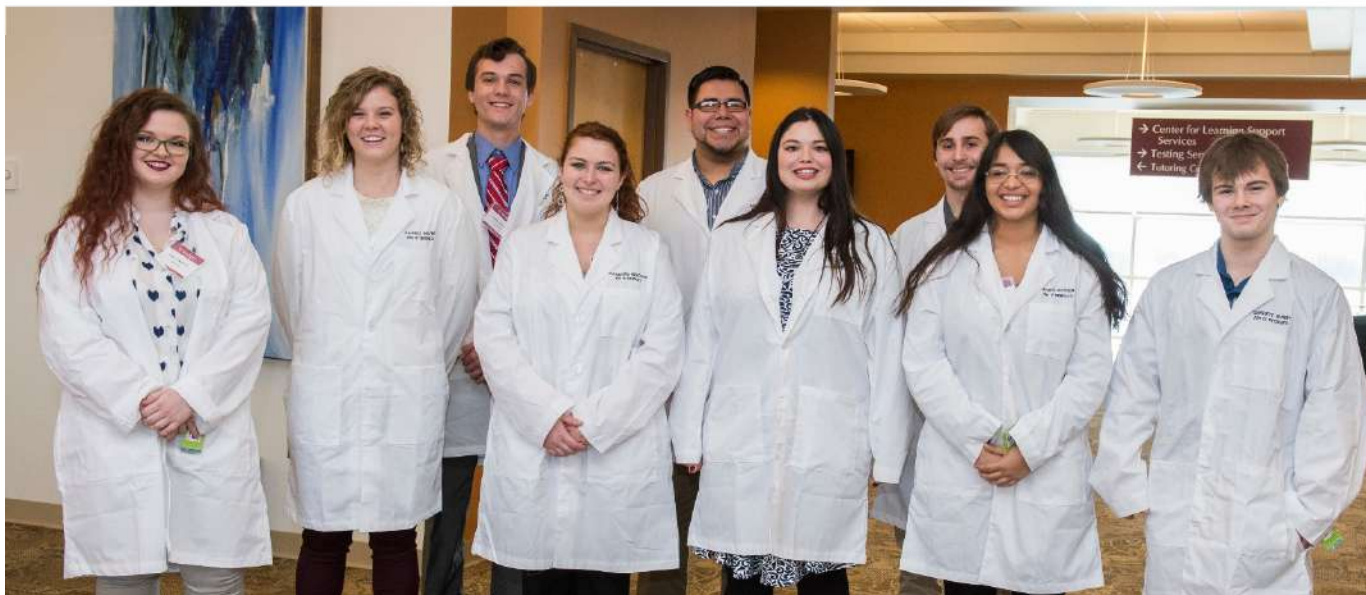
SI Bridge Newsletter

SI Bridges to Baccalaureate

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SI Bridges scholars start research training



Newest SI Bridges to Baccalaureate Program students from left- Kayla Stuthers, Katie Beaver, Dustin Bierbaum, Cassandra Meadows, Samuel Ramirez, Melody Bohl, Blaise Davis, Alysha Giltner and Garrett Murry.

Nine students from John A. Logan College (JALC) and Shawnee Community College (SCC) are participating this year in the SI Bridges to the Baccalaureate Program at Southern Illinois University Carbondale (SIUC). The students received white lab coats during the 4th annual inauguration ceremony, as they begin their biomedical and behavioral science research training.

The training is part of Summer Research Institute (SRI) an intensive, full-time,

eight-week program. During this time, the students will develop intellectually and receive strong training in genetics and molecular biology. This exposure will prepare them for Fall 2017 when they transition to a research lab under an SIUC faculty in areas of their interest.

The SRI is held in the Plant Biology Department at SIUC, started on May 22, 2017, is run by Dr. Jessica Lucas along with three graduate assistants, Kristina Jordan, Laxmi Sagwan and Shayla Gunn.

Newest students to the SI Bridges program, along with their college and major are: **Katrina Beaver**, JALC, Pre-Physician Assistant; **Dustin Bierbaum**, SCC, Biological Science; **Melody Bohl**, SCC, Physics; **Blaise Davis**, SCC, Engineering; **Alysha Giltner**, SCC, Psychology; **Cassandra Meadows**, JALC, Biological Science; **Garrett Murry**, JALC, Biological Sciences; **Samuel Ramirez**, JALC, Engineering; **Kayla Stuthers**, JALC, Nursing.



During their first week, the SI Bridges students participated in professional development activities where they learned strategies to improve their communication and academic skills. They also learned the importance of organization and time management.

In successive weeks, the SI Bridges scholars will be working together towards a research project. They will learn and utilize molecular biology techniques such as DNA extraction, PCR set up, agarose electrophoresis,

sterile techniques and microscopy methods. The focus of their research will be on understanding the function of kinesin proteins in the model plant, *Arabidopsis thaliana*. Each scholar would be working on a kinesin protein of their choice and at the end of their training will represent their research poster at SI Bridges Summer Research Symposium scheduled for July 14, 2017.

Alysha Giltner shared her experience "The first two weeks of Bridges, has taught me that being a skilled researcher hasn't been entirely about having a successful

Polymerase Chain Reaction. It also calls for dedication to re-run experiments, safety ethics, and professionalism; in and out of the lab. I am eagerly looking forward to all that I can learn!"

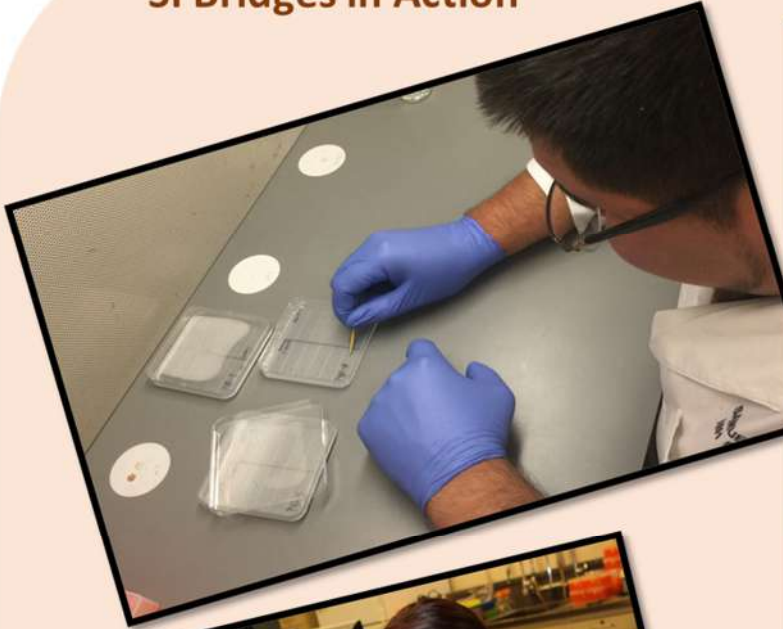
Kayla Stuthers also summarized "SI Bridges has been a wonderful experience thus far. I am constantly improving my critical thinking skills and learning new research techniques."

"I never saw a career in science as a possibility despite my desire to learn about and respect nature. SI Bridges is the opportunity I needed to show me that its more than just possibility but an eventuality for me to do the things I love."

-Dustin Bierbaum
(SCC student)



SI Bridges in Action



SI BRIDGES SCHOLAR FEATURE: EUROPE BAILEY DOAN



Europe Bailey from Carterville participated in the SI Bridges program in 2014 while a JALC student. After graduating from JALC with Associates in Science, she transferred to SIUC in Fall 2015. During her time in SIUC, she conducted research under the mentorship of Dr. Judy Davie, investigating the protein TCEAL7 as a tumor suppressor in Pediatric Cancer, Rhabdomyosarcoma. Europe graduated in Spring 2017 with B.S. in Chemistry (Biochemistry concentration) and Minor in Math. She is accepted in the Doctoral program in Immunology in Duke University, starting from Fall 2017.

She had her first brush with research during the SI Bridges Connecting Life workshop where she worked on a project to understand the process of phagocytosis with *Tetrahymena*. She has since presented her research at numerous undergraduate research forums like STLAURS, UCARF-SIUC, ILSAMP. She won the best poster presentation in Molecular Biology at the ILSAMP Symposium in 2016. She also won the competitive Research-Enriched Academic Challenge Award (REACH)-2016.

Besides research, Europe also led many leadership positions like President and Founder of SIUC Science Student Council, Chair for Internal Affairs in Undergraduate Student Government Executive Board, Saluki Science Ambassador, and President of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society (2014-2015).

Announcements

Join the SI Bridges RSO



This RSO aims to welcome and support students who transfer to SIU from community colleges. To take benefits of the numerous opportunity from this organization, join at

<https://orgsync.com/155871/chapter>

Public Astronomy Observation



For all the aspiring physicist and astronomers, the SIU Physics Department is hosting a public astronomy observation on July 9th (Sunday) from 9:30 -11 pm at the top of the Necker's observation deck. Visible that evening will be the Moon, Jupiter, Saturn, and the Ring Nebula. The observation will also include a presentation on the night sky. Entry

is free, and everyone is welcome. The observation deck will have these telescopes set up for viewing purposes. You can learn more about the event at the Physics Department website:

<http://www.physics.siu.edu/events/astronomy.php>.

Transfer Student Scholarship

For any SI Bridges student that plan to come to SIUC in Fall 2017, there are two exciting scholarships.

1) Dean's Transfer Scholarship-

Eligibility- A cumulative grade-point average of at least 3.50 GPA (4.0=A). Awarding begins November 1 and continues until all funds have been awarded.

Deadline for application- 06-31-2017

Award amount: \$2500/year (total value of \$5000).

2) Phi Theta Kappa Scholarship-

Transfer students who have been members of Phi Theta Kappa for one academic year and will transfer with at least a 3.50 GPA (4.0=A) are eligible to compete for the PTK Scholarship Award.

Awarding begins April 1. To be considered for the PTK award, you must first be awarded the Dean's Transfer Scholarship.

Award amount - \$500 for the first year

More information about these scholarships and other can be found at:

<http://scholarships.siu.edu/types/transfer/>

Upcoming Events

Southern Illinois University Summer Research Symposium

A wonderful platform for our SI Bridges students to display their research to SIU faculty, students, friends and family. After completion of their SRI training, our scholars from the SI Bridges program will come together to present their research in the form of a poster at the Southern Illinois University Summer Research Symposium. Scholars from the McNair Program will also orally present their summer research at this meeting.

Location: John C. Guyon Auditorium and Rotunda, Morris Library

Date: July 14, 2017

Time: TBA

The Symposium is open to all SIU students, faculty, friends and family. Light refreshment will be provided.