

SI Bridge Newsletter

SI Bridges to Baccalaureate

3/8/2017

Volume 1, Issue 1

4th Annual Inauguration Ceremony



Past and Incoming cohorts.

The Southern Illinois Bridges to Baccalaureate program at SIUC greeted a new cohort of scholars at the 4th annual inauguration ceremony that took place on Jan 28th, 2017. The ceremony was an outstanding gathering of faculty, past scholars, friends, and family to welcome the newest member of the program and celebrate the recent achievements of past SI Bridges scholars.

SI Bridges to Baccalaureate is an NIH-funded program, promoted by the union between two colleges - John A. Logan at Carterville and Shawnee community college at Ullin that aim to provide the skills, and mindset for its underserved students interested in

biomedical & behavioral sciences. The goal of the program is to facilitate resources and research training to the students so as to succeed and excel at a baccalaureate-granting institution in STEM disciplines.

also like to thank SIUC- Dr. James Garvey (Vice Chancellor for Research), Dr. Rodrigo Carraminana (Director of CURCA), Dr. Laurie Achenbach (Dean of COS) and Dr. Meera Komarraju (Dean of COLA) for their generous financial support

"I have never felt as alive, engaged, and empowered as I do in a research laboratory, and that is where my work in SI Bridges has placed me, most likely until the end of my career."

-Lauren DeRossett (cohort 2 scholar)

The program would like to thank Dr. Jessica Lucas and her staff for organizing a fantastic ceremony. It is a lot of work and effort to coordinate all the little details that go into running such a show. The program would

and mentors for giving our scholars the opportunity of working in their lab to pursue their research interest. We would also like to extend a special thank you to JALC and SCC community college

administrators for all the support of that is instrumental in the success of this program.

Prof. Karen Renzaglia, the director of the program kick-started the ceremony by educating the audience about the history of SI Bridges followed with our guest speaker, Dr. James Garvey. He discussed the importance of research and presented the various opportunities of research at SIUC. Vice presidents of JALC and SCC, Melanie Pecord and Vickie Artman respectively talked about how the program is helping their students and the community. Past scholars, Lauren DeRossett, Tasha Sweeney and Aaron Brenningmeyer also spoke passionately about their experience and how the program influenced their academic life.

Nine community college students were inducted during the ceremony. Melody Bohl (majoring in Physics), Blaise Davis (engineering), Dustin Bierbaum (science), Alysha Giltner (counseling psychology) from Shawnee community college and Katrina Lemoine-Beaver (pre-physician assistant), Cassandra Meadows (science), Garrett Murry (biological sciences), Samuel Ramirez (engineering) and Kayla Stuthers (practical nursing) from John A. Logan community college represented SI Bridges cohort 4. These scholars are

"The SI Bridges program has fostered my growth as a scientist and helped me to discover that I really can accomplish anything."

-Tasha Sweeney (cohort 2 scholar)

currently part of the connecting life workshop at SIUC campus. The workshop is conducted every Saturday and runs from Feb-May, 2017. During which the scholars learn about DNA and proteins through sophisticated techniques like microscopy, GMO detection, and pGLO transformation. More details about the connecting life sessions will be covered in future newsletter.

The ceremony also highlighted the many achievements of scholars that transitioned to SIUC after completing their training in our program. These students are consistently taking advantage of the numerous fellowships on campus ranging from McNair Scholarship, REACH Awards, Undergraduate Assistantships, and Bridged Leadership Fellows. The success of the program can also be measured with the example of scholars like Kesia McClellan and Darmez Nelson on receiving their

baccalaureate degrees last year and Europe Doan and Austyn Frassato who will be graduating this spring.

To summarize, the ceremony is a platform to showcase our Scholars for their excellence in academic and research to faculty, community, and incoming scholars. Baylen Earles (cohort 1) expressed "It makes me incredibly happy to be in a room so full of collective passion for science. The ceremony has gotten better each year, and I'm glad how it has come to reflect how much of a big deal being in SI Bridges is because it is important for the young scholars to realize the caliber of the opportunity so that they are best prepared to seize it."

To learn more about the SI Bridges to Baccalaureate program, please visit sibridges.siu.edu or contact your community college representatives-Lori Armstrong for SCC and Donna Ford for JALC.

"I am now working in a lab side by side with a mentor. Not only am I participating in research but I am active in advancing the research in the lab and I have become a part of the lab."

-Aaron Brenningmeyer (cohort 3 scholar) on his transformation from student to a researcher under SI Bridges.

Moments of the inauguration ceremony



SIU Darwin Week Keynote Lecture by Dr. Joel Brown



SIU Darwin Week is an annual celebration of the life and work of Charles Darwin. The event started from Feb 15-17 with Dr. Joel Brown as keynote speaker. Dr. Brown is a distinguished professor of Biology at University of Illinois, Chicago. On Thursday, Feb.16, he gave an interesting lecture titled "Why Darwin would have loved Game Theory." His talk advocated how game theory can be used for understanding and modeling natural selection.

At the start of the presentation, he engaged the audience in a simple game to help understand the concept of game theory and later challenged them by correlating examples in nature that display this concept. One can learn more about this fascinating theory and more in his recent review article in <http://rspb.royalsocietypublishin>

g.org/content/royprsb/283/1838/20160847.full.pdf.

The SI Bridges scholars got an opportunity to interact with Dr. Brown after the presentation over pizza and drinks. They continued their discussion and asked him questions about his career and his research interests. The entire experience can be encapsulated by this quote from cohort 4 scholar, Cassandra Meadows "His lecture was compelling but

what made it even more incredible was being able to discuss it with him after. His passion for science really shined through and made me even more determined to becoming an amazing scientist and vet." Another scholar, Melody Bohl recalls an inspiring statement from the presentation "Evolutionary games can promote speciation biodiversity and sophisticated mechanisms of coexistence."



Announcements

Creation of SI Bridges RSO

The SI Bridges is forming a registered student organization (RSO) under the guidance of Dr. Jessica Lucas for all SI Bridges scholars including transfer and/or non-traditional students at SIUC. Dr. Lucas said "The group is going to be great! Through the group, we can build a helpful community that helps itself in issues that are unique to bridging students. Moreover, we can get money to do fun things."

Europe Doan (cohort 1) and Lauren DeRossett (cohort 2) has helped set up the RSO and is currently in the process of being registered on OrgSync.

Public Astronomy Observation

For all the aspiring physicist and astronomers, the SIUC Physics Department is hosting a public astronomy observation on April 2nd (Sunday) from 8:30 -10 pm at the top of the Necker's observation deck. Visible that evening will be the Moon, Mars, Jupiter, and Orion. The observation will also include a presentation on the night sky. Entry is free, and everyone is welcome.

The observation deck will have these badass 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>.

SIUC Biodiversity scholarship program

The Upper Delta Region Biodiversity Scholarship Program is a three-year cohort system established between Arkansas State University (A-state), Murray State University (MSU) and Southern Illinois University (SIUC). The program is currently accepting undergraduate and graduate students for its Fall 2017 recruitment. Sophomores majoring in biology (with an emphasis in ecology), plant biology or zoology is eligible for the program. If accepted, you will receive \$3200 scholarship per semester. Similar to SI Bridges, this scholarship program provides financial assistance as well professional development opportunities and mentorship to each student in the program. More information about the program can be found at <http://www.astate.edu/a/biodiversityscholar/siuc#>.

SIUC McNair Scholars Program

The McNair program helps students realize their full potential by providing enriching educational experience for low-income, first-generation college students and members of underserved groups in higher education. It is an excellent opportunity for preparing students for graduate school and later achievement of Ph.D.

Baylen Earles from cohort 1 and William Browning from cohort 3 are current McNair scholars. The program is accepting applications for Spring semester. The deadline for submitting an application is March 9, 2017. The application can be downloaded at <http://mcnair.siu.edu/common/documents/application.pdf>.

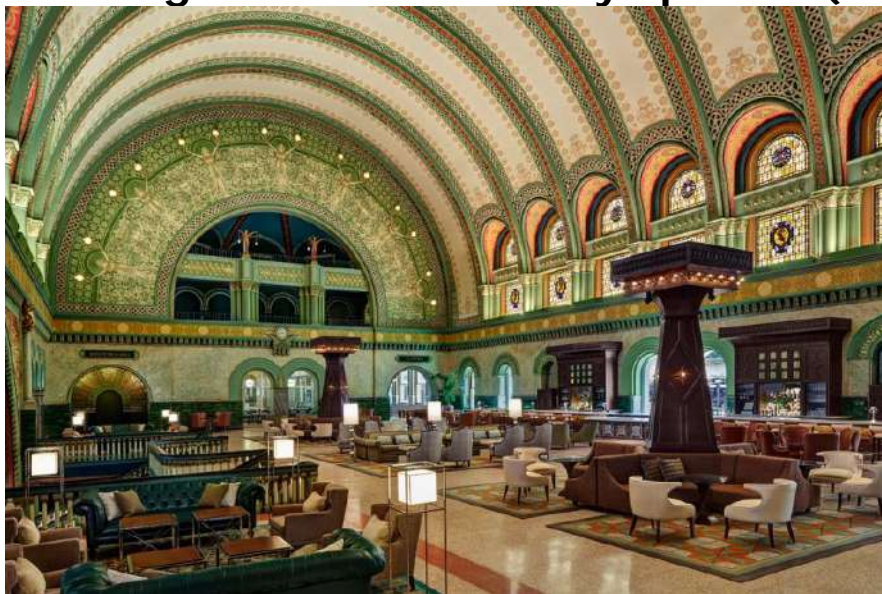
Upcoming Events

SIU Day of Giving

A promotional banner for SIU Day of Giving. The background is a gradient of orange and yellow. On the left, there is a dark purple square containing the text "03.01.17 #SIUDAY OF GIVING" and a white door icon. To the right of this square, the text "WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1, 2017" is displayed in a dark purple font. Below that, "SIU DAY OF GIVING" is written in a larger, bold, dark purple font, followed by the tagline "OPEN THE DOOR TO OPPORTUNITY" in a smaller, dark purple font. At the bottom of the banner, there are two dark purple rectangular boxes with white text: "GIVE NOW: SIUF.ORG" on the left and "SIUDAY.SIU.EDU" on the right.

Open the door to opportunity by donating to any areas of the University. Your gift will help open doors for current and future Salukis. To donate please visit, <https://www.siuf.org/making-a-gift/give-online/>.

St. Louis Area Undergraduate Research Symposium (STLAURS)



Date: April 1, 2017
Location: ST Louis Union Station
Time: 8:30-4:00 pm

Undergraduate and Graduate Creative Activities & Research Forum poster presentation

A wonderful platform to display your research to SIU faculty and students.

CURCA is still accepting abstracts for the undergraduate and graduate forum till March 10th, 2017. Visit <http://curca.siu.edu/> to submit your abstracts. They also offer poster printing services.

Prices: \$25 for students within CURCA programs (REACH, Saluki Rookies, UGA, McNair, ILSAMP) for poster printing, up to 44x48; beyond 44x48 it is \$10 per linear foot. \$10 per linear foot for anyone not within any of the CURCA programs listed above.

To request poster printing, please contact the CURCA department by mail at curca@siu.edu, by phone at 453.4433, or come visit us in person at 1263 Lincoln Drive, Student Services Building, Room 126.

Creative Activities & Research Forums

The Undergraduate and the Graduate & Professional Creative Activities and Research Forums are held each spring to celebrate the research, scholarly, and creative activities of SIU Carbondale's undergraduate and graduate students in all disciplines.

Undergraduate MONDAY, APRIL 3, 2017

in the 2nd floor Student Center Ballrooms

For submission guidelines, go to:
ucarf.siu.edu/ForumInformation/index.html
For more information, please email us at UCARF@siu.edu
or call 618-453-4433



Graduate & Professional TUESDAY, APRIL 4, 2017

in the 2nd floor Student Center Ballrooms

For submission guidelines, go to:
curca.siu.edu/Forum/graduate-forum/abstract_guidelines.html
***Please declare oral or poster submission**
For more information, please email us at GPCARF@siu.edu
or call 618-453-4433

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

Top presentations win monetary awards!

SIU Carbondale students who have conducted an original research, scholarly, or creative project are invited to present in their respective forum.

DEADLINE:
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2017



Presented by The Center for Undergraduate Research and Creative Activities, along with The Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research. Co-sponsored by The Chancellor, The Provost, and The Graduate School

SIU CENTER FOR UNDERGRADUATE
RESEARCH & CREATIVE ACTIVITIES



DA VINCI DAYS
Creating Research & Creative Activities

In April 2017, SIU students, faculty, and staff will be joined by local community members, potential students, and others to celebrate the diverse research and creative activities that define SIU.



For more information, visit:
<http://vcresearch.siu.edu/da-vinci-days/>