



# IMAGiNE 2030

PROGRESS REPORT 2024



Southern Illinois University  
CARBONDALE









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**As we reflect on the year gone by**, we are reminded of the remarkable achievements, challenges, and growth that define our university community. This year has been one of transformation, resilience, and innovation. From the continued success of our academic programs to the expansion of research initiatives and the unwavering dedication of our faculty, staff, and students, we have made significant strides toward advancing our mission.

In this report, we highlight the milestones that shaped our journey in the past year and the impact they have had on our academic excellence, student success, and community engagement.

As we look forward to the future, we remain committed to fostering an environment where knowledge, creativity, and critical thinking thrive, preparing our students to be leaders in a rapidly changing world.

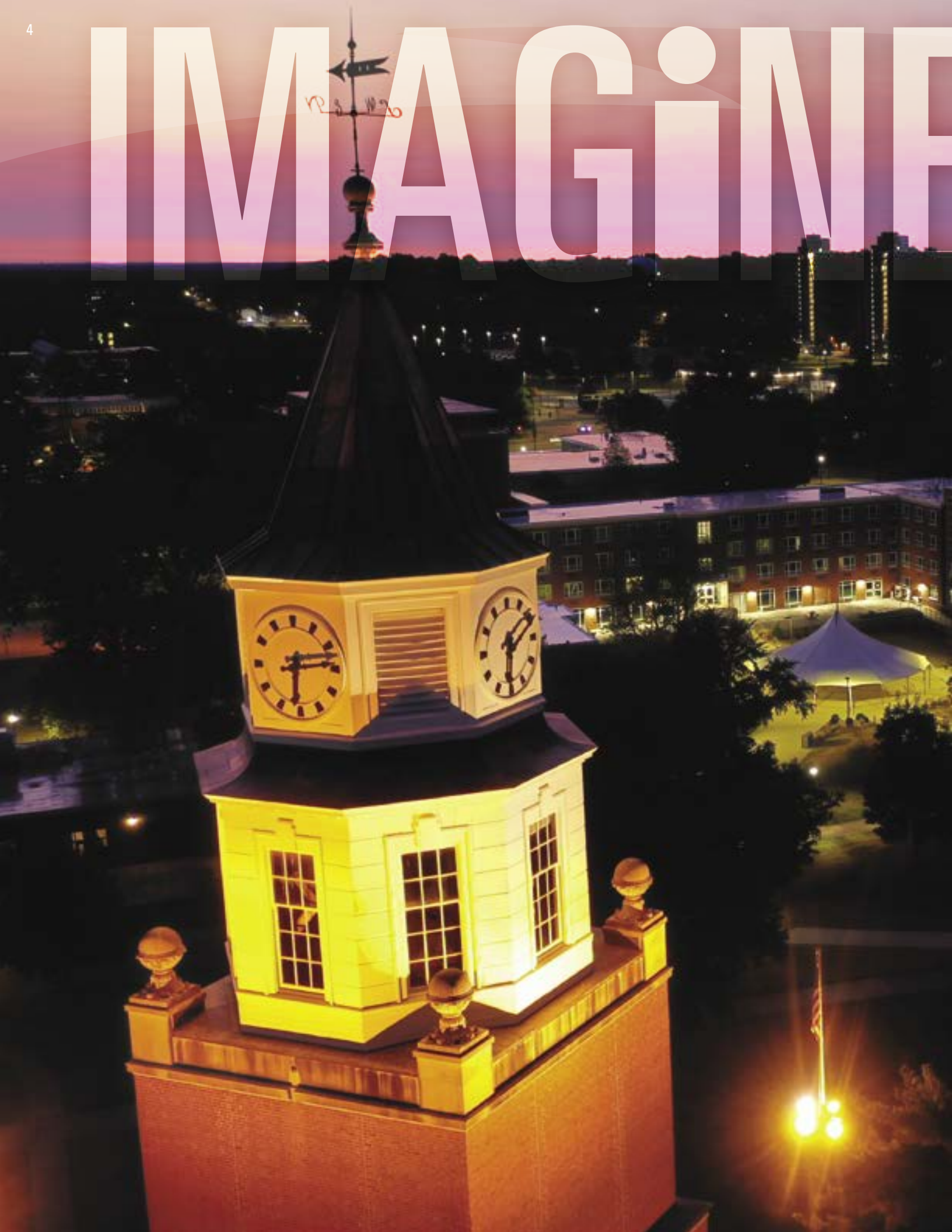
We invite you to explore the achievements, challenges, and opportunities that define our institution as we continue to build a brighter, more inclusive future for all.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which reads "Austin A. Lane". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "A" and "L".

Austin A. Lane  
Chancellor



# IMAGiNE



# 2030



STUDENT SUCCESS & ENGAGEMENT



RESEARCH & INNOVATION



BRANDING & PARTNERSHIPS

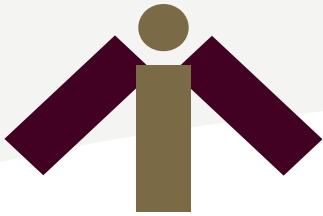


DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION



SUSTAINABILITY





## STUDENT SUCCESS & ENGAGEMENT

**30 Objectives Achieved**

**57 Total**

**Accomplished 53%**

**In Progress 47%**

## THE PACK IS STILL GROWING.

- Enrollment has risen for the second year in a row for the first time since 2000.
- The freshman class increased for the fifth consecutive year.
- This is the highest overall boost since 1991, and the highest percentage increase since 1987.

### By the numbers:

Overall enrollment grew to 11,790

+3.8%

+431 students

1,758 new freshmen +8.45%

+13.6% enrollment from Southern Illinois region

+10% new undergraduates from the state of Illinois

New students with a GPA of 3.0 or better have increased 8.4% over last year

New transfer student enrollment increased about 2%

Diversity increased.

+9% Black students

+12% Hispanic students

+2.5% International students

**The growth keeps going.** Spring 2025 enrollment is up 3.3%, or 344 students, compared to last year. The increase – the second year in a row of over 3% – follows a fall that saw the highest overall boost in the number of students in 33 years.

- Undergraduate enrollment – up 3.6% compared to spring 2024
- Including a 4% increase in transfer students
- Graduate student enrollment rose 2.5%
- Fully online new and transfer students increased 24%

- Continuing students rose 11%

More Illinois students are choosing Southern! More than 7,800 Illinois residents come here, up 5% from last year.

### Opening doors.

- Saluki Commitment / Saluki Transfer Commitment. Funded by state's AIM HIGH program, these initiatives close the gap between financial aid and tuition and fees. Last year, we raised the family income limit to \$103,040.
- Since 2020, we've joined the Common App and signed agreements with several schools and youth organizations in the Southern Illinois region and the Metro East.
- Saluki Step Ahead agreements with community colleges pave the way for seamless transfer and online opportunities.
- The Dr. Seymour Bryson Future Scholars summer program gives a jumpstart to qualifying students.

*"As Salukis, we're showing the power to imagine ambitious goals—even those that defy the odds—and then achieving them. I thank my fellow Salukis for all their hard work to make this historic moment happen."*

**Chancellor Austin A. Lane**



**The ultimate hands-on journalism lab.** Presidential inauguration? Been there, done that. A team of journalism students were on-hand to cover the 2025 inauguration and related activities. From left are Dominique Martinez-Powell, Carly Gist, Lylee Gibbs, Ryan Grieser, Enan Chediak and Will Elliott.



**SUCCESSFUL SALUKIS SHARE DISTINCT QUALITIES** that separate them from successful students at other colleges. They have grit. They are willing to venture outside their comfort zones. They boldly seek new experiences. They go off-script. **They have the mettle that comes from experience, and the confidence that arises from a supportive community.**

**OUT IN FRONT.** Saluki Success Stories.

- **\$4.2M.** The Saluki Student Investment Fund, working on behalf of the SIU Foundation, hit a record high for the portfolio, and out-performed the S&P 400 Midcap Index benchmark by 1.35%.

**SALUKI SHOUT-OUT** The SIU Alumni Association awarded \$59,288 to 46 new and returning Salukis for the fall 2024 semester. Salukis help Salukis.

- **Saluki Air Space.** SIU Aviation’s Flying Salukis hosted the National Intercollegiate Flying Association Region VIII championships. They dominated the competition, winning each of the nine events in which they were entered. And clinched their 13th straight NIFA Region VIII championship. But that’s not enough for our team. They went on to take second-place overall in the National Intercollegiate Flying Association championships. Flying Saluki co-captain Dayne Snodgrass won the top pilot award.
- **Cyber Strong.** The SIU Security Dawgs clinched the top spot at the Illinois State Collegiate Cyber Defense Competition.
- **Dawgs on the Catwalk.** The Student Showcase and Runway Fashion Show is the highlight event for Fashion Studies students, who bring creativity, sustainability, and social consciousness to the fashion world.
- **Student Employee of the Year.** Pearl Williams, a Fashion Studies major employed by Rainbow’s End Child Development Center, is the student employee of the year for 2023-24. Williams is a consistent dean’s list student, a member of the homecoming court, a Sigma Kappa sorority leader, and a community volunteer.



**Auto Worldwide.** Automotive major Nathan Bulthuis was on the nine-member 2024 WorldSkills USA team competing in Lyon, France in 62 skills challenges across a range of technology, engineering, creative arts, transportation and more.



**Rising star.** Morgan Klover, a senior in civil engineering is named one of the New Faces of Civil Engineering-College by the American Society of Civil Engineering.



**Saluki Legacy.** Zeneya J’Claire Scott is the 11th in her family to graduate from SIU. A McNair Scholar in the University Honors Program, she graduated *cum laude* with a bachelor’s in political science, specializing in pre-law.





## R1 FOR EVERYONE

### IN THE BIG LEAGUE FOR RESEARCH

With our designation as R1 by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Higher Education, we join elite company.

### HERE'S WHAT IT TAKES:

On average, in a single year:

**\$50M+** in research expenditures

**70+** doctoral degrees awarded

**Higher ed's in-crowd.** Less than 3% of all post-secondary institutions in the U.S. are designated R1.

**A dynamo for the region.** As the only R1 university within 100 miles, SIU is a research powerhouse for the Southern Illinois – and neighboring – regions.

**Only a few in the state.** In Illinois, SIU is just one of just five R1 universities and the only R1 in a rural area.

**Winning support with a proven track record.** In fiscal year 2024, SIU earned \$80M in research, training, service and other grants and contracts.



### WHAT DOES R1 MEAN FOR SIU?

**More graduate students.** Ambitious students know that R1 status ensures support for research. And they know we'll have the faculty brain power to mentor and encourage their loftiest goals.

**Research funding.** R1 means we have a solid track record. Government agencies, not-for-profit organizations, and corporate interests know we are reliable and results-oriented.

**Faculty prestige.** We are nothing without our people. Our faculty are dedicated to teaching by doing, and that means research. The more we accomplish, the more top faculty we attract.

### WHAT DOES R1 MEAN FOR OUR STUDENTS?

**Opportunity.** Bigger reputation means more resources. Even more research activity. Opportunities are around every corner!

**Reputation.** We're on the level with the Ivy League and flagship universities. We've believed in ourselves. And now we have the credentials to back it up. As early as Day One. Why let the professors have all the fun? We're serious about experiential learning. We've made it a habit to offer even first year students opportunities often reserved for graduate students elsewhere. Come here ready to go all in.

**FROM PHOTOGRAPHY TO PHOTOSYNTHESIS.** Not just for the sciences! Research is for seekers and creators as well as investigators, problem-solvers, inventors and discoverers.





## DEFY THE NARRATIVE

### OPPORTUNITY UNIVERSITY

This is what we mean when we say “for everyone.” The Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Learning, the same organization that declares SIU a top 5% research university, honors us with another coveted designation: Opportunity University.

**Higher Access, Higher Earnings.** Only 16% of institutions nationwide are on the list of Opportunity Colleges and Universities – Higher Access, Higher Earnings.

#### Here’s why:

- 37% of our students receive Pell Grants, MAP funds and other forms of financial aid
- About 2 in every 5 of our Salukis are First Gen – meaning they are the first in their families to earn a bachelor’s degree.
- Almost 40% of SIU students are ethnic minorities
- Earnings after graduation. A recent community impact study shows that Saluki alumni earn almost \$3 for every dollar they invested as students.







**R1** TOP-TIER RESEARCH UNIVERSITY











## RESEARCH & INNOVATION

**7 Objectives Achieved**

**12 Total**

Accomplished

**58%**

In Progress

**42%**

### WE EMBRACE A BROAD DEFINITION OF RESEARCH.

Visual artists research as they create, musicians as they inhabit a composition, poets with every line. **With such devotion to knowledge creation and discovery**, it's only natural that every building with classrooms also houses at least one laboratory. Our campus itself is an outdoor lab. Our community provides still more opportunities for testing hypotheses and applying theories—for learning by doing. Our students, even as freshman, have available to them experiences often reserved for graduate students or upperclassmen at other universities. **WE DO.**

### A CAMPUS CULTURE OF DISCOVERY. We R1.

**\$64.4M** SIU Carbondale faculty

**\$16.2M** SIU School of Medicine-Springfield faculty

**\$80.6M.** Research, training, service and other grants and contracts

**Federal grant funding includes:** U.S. Department of Health and Human Services • National Science Foundation • U.S. Department of Agriculture • NASA • U.S. Army Corps of Engineers • U.S. Department of Education

**State of Illinois grant funding includes:** Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity • Illinois Board of Education • Illinois Department of Human Services • Illinois Department of Natural Resources

**Private industry grants:** \$4.7M

**More.** SIU researchers named as principal investigators in significant federal research grants

FY 2021: 18

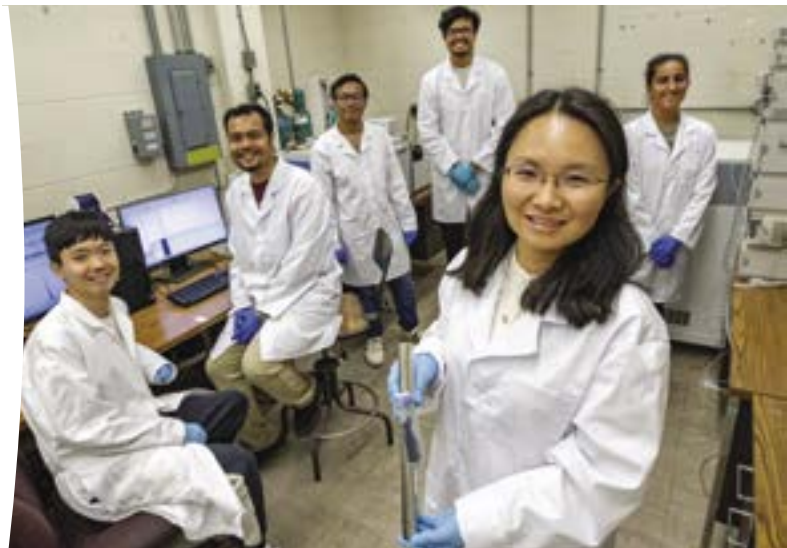
FY 2022: 19

FY 2023: 29

*“Our researchers and professionals continue to pursue grants and other funding opportunities that lead to innovative solutions and increasing our understanding of how the universe works. Our students, the Southern Illinois region, the state and our society reap the benefits.”*

**Costas Tsatsoulis, Vice Chancellor for Research, and Dean of the Graduate School**

**RIBBON CUTTING.** Funded in part by a \$2.7 million grant from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity Wet Lab Program, **BioLaunch** is the newest addition to the Illinois Food, Entrepreneurship, Research, and Manufacturing (iFERM) Hub, a state-of-the-art research and training suite for faculty use, students, start-up companies and private firms in the region. iFERM capitalizes on the university's research and innovation into food, fermentation and biotechnology.



**Grant-funded research.** Jia Liu, foreground, associate professor of Civil and Environmental engineering, works with students in her lab at SIU. Liu's work investigating using magnetic nanomaterials to treat groundwater contaminated with per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, or PFAS, is one of many research projects funded by outside sources during the last fiscal year.





**Gower Translational Research Center.** The facility formerly known as the McLafferty Annex has a new name in honor of SIU alumni, Dr. Bob and Beth Gower. The couple donated \$2.5M to advance and support research at SIU. They have already established the Bob G. and Mary Beth Gower Scholarship Endowment in SIU’s School of Chemistry and Biochemistry, which has benefited more than 50 students.

**WHEN WE SAY RESEARCH, HERE’S WHAT WE MEAN.** A sample.

**THE WORLD AROUND US**

• **Illinois Gray Fox Project.** Already more rare than its red cousin, the Midwest gray fox population is in decline. SIU doctoral students Max Larreur and Nadine Pershyn want to know why.

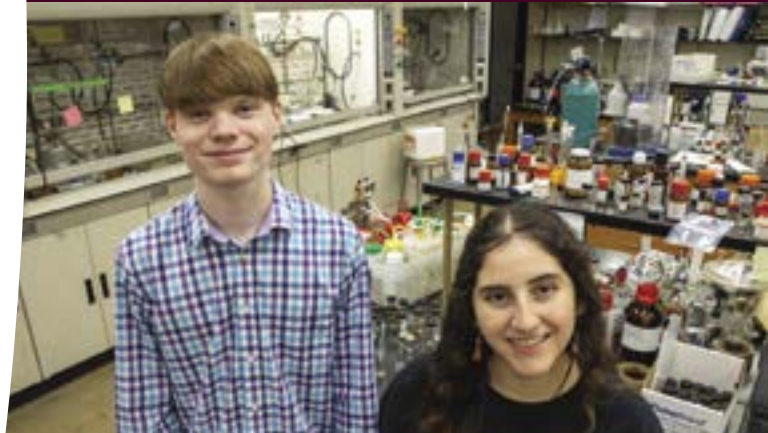


**HEALTH**

- **Defeating supergerms.** Punit Kohli, professor, is leading a team of SIU research professionals and students as they investigate how to zap anti-biotic resistant bugs using electrically polarized nanoscale metallic technology-- electricity on the nano scale.
- **AI for food-poisoning prevention.** Anas Alsobeh, assistant professor, is using a \$150,000 grant from the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture to find ways to use AI-based rapid detection systems to keep salmonella out of the food supply.

**SALUKI SHOUT-OUT**

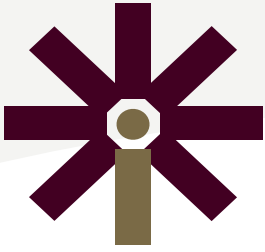
**Research Fellows!** NSF Graduate Research Fellowship recipients Elijah “Eli” Jones and Aleida Iriarte, have been accepted into the NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program. The five-year fellowship provides three years of financial support, including an annual stipend of \$37,000.



**TECHNOLOGY**

- **Robotics.** Engineering students Curtis Shuman and Cameron Schwartzberg built a robot designed to monitor the health of soybean plants.
- **AI.** Gayan Aruma Baduge, associate professor, is leading an international team to integrate AI into next-gen wireless technology.
- **Ahmed Imteaj,** assistant professor, is improving AI crime analytics capabilities and fostering multi-agency collaboration.





## DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION

**5 Objectives Achieved**

**7 Total**

Accomplished

**71%**

In Progress **29%**

### CELEBRATE THE WINS

**Lifetime Achievement.** Pamela Smoot, assistant professor of history, received honorable mention for the SIU system's Dr. Wesley G. Robinson-McNeese ADEI Lifetime Achievement Award. Smoot was honored for her extensive on-campus involvement and countless hours advocating for students from all backgrounds.



The award is named for the founder of SIU School of Medicine's Office of Diversity, Multicultural and Minority Affairs, established in 2001, Dr. Wesley G. Robinson-McNeese.

## OPEN-DOOR UNIVERSITY

Growth — personally, and as an institution — is why we embrace diversity. It's part of what gives a university its purpose. Inclusion is part of diversity. We've always been fair-minded — and that leads to an understanding of opportunity as equity and success for every Saluki. We have room for everyone at SIU.

### A LEGACY OF WELCOME

**Milestone anniversary.** At 60 years old, SIU's Center for English as a Second Language is the third-oldest intensive English program on a university campus. Command of the English language is a prerequisite at most American universities. CESL has helped about 30,000 students from about 100 countries prepare to earn their degrees.

**Friends of the Fulbright Foundation.** A CESL partnership with FAF brought 13 vocational and technical college students from Columbia to campus this past spring to help them learn English. CESL hosted a variety of social and cultural activities to enhance the experience. Here's to partnerships!

**New citizens.** We are proud to be part of welcoming new citizens to the United States! SIU's Simmons Law School hosted a naturalization ceremony for 60 of the country's newest citizens.



**Diversity Week.** When you've got a mountain to climb, it's important to note how far you've come. Hence, Diversity Week, held in the beginning of the academic year to set the tone on the theme of Creating a Culture of Belonging for All. A popular feature event — Diversity is... , a design project which gives everyone a say.

**National First-Generation Celebration Day, x3.** Turning a one-day national recognition into a three-day celebration, SIU and our First Saluki Center honored first-generation students with social and professional activities just for them. First-generation students are those whose parents have not earned a bachelor's degree. They are and always have been an important part of our Saluki community.



**CLEAR SKIES, SALUKIS SOARING**

**Saluki Aces, Air Dawgs and Tall Tails.** Those are the names of the three two-pilot SIU teams flying in the 47th Air Race Classic. The four-day, 2,268-nautical-mile journey celebrates the history of women in aviation. The race route changes each year. In 2024, it started in Saluki Country, from the Southern Illinois Airport, home to the SIU Aviation program.



**Team Saluki.** Three sets of SIU Carbondale School of Aviation certified flight instructors and students will take part in the 47th Air Race Classic. From left are Graci McDaniel, Grace Gray, Gabrielle Loeb, Heidi Hightower and Ranier FullerMoore. Not pictured is Maya Marenda. (Photo by Russell Bailey)

**SALUKI SHOUT-OUT**

**We made the honor roll!** SIU is listed on Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society’s 2024 Transfer Honor Roll, which recognizes excellence in the development and support of dynamic and innovative pathways for community college transfer students. This is the second year in a row for our appearance on the list.

An important part of our transfer student service is Saluki Step Ahead, our partnership with a growing number of community colleges in Illinois, Kentucky, Missouri, Tennessee and Texas that helps students glide easily into select online SIU bachelor’s degree programs.

**Best Online Program.** Congratulations to our online Business and Administration program, which claimed a spot on the U.S. News & World Report 2025 Best Online Programs rankings. We are in the top 25%, tied for No. 54.

**Able Flight.** SIU partnered with Able Flight, a national nonprofit scholarship program for people with disabilities to become licensed pilots certified to operate light sport aircraft. Five

students enrolled this first year, learning from the expert faculty in SIU Aviation. Able Flight provided SIU with two planes with adaptive controls. Able Flight-founder Charles Stites praised SIU for settling the Able Flight students into appropriate housing, and also for the quality of instruction. Progress like this “can only happen when a university like SIU opens its doors to people who just want an equal opportunity to prove they belong in aviation,” Stites said.

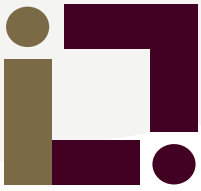
**PRIDE**

**New name. Legacy of Pride.** Welcome to the Paulette Curkin Pride Resource Center. The center formerly known as the LGBTQ+ Resource Center is newly named in honor of Curkin, who helped found it. Curkin, an alumna, worked in University Housing, as a student development coordinator, and a voluntary advisor for the Saluki Rainbow Network. She won the Lindell W. Sturgis Memorial Public Service Award in 2002, and the Administrative/Professional Staff Outstanding Service Award for 2005-2006.



**KEEPING A PROMISE TO HIS MOTHER.** Earl Henderson earned his SIU bachelor’s degree in Organizational Learning, Innovation and Development during the December 2024 commencement — at 72 years-young! “My mom made me promise I would earn my degree,” Henderson said. “I was in my early 30s when I made that promise, and as I got into my 70s, I thought it was time to keep that promise.” Henderson earned his credits through SIU’s Online and SIU Extended Campus, mostly. “I truly do appreciate SIU and the assistance I’ve received from everyone there,” he said. **We appreciate you, too, Earl!**





## BRANDING & PARTNERSHIPS

**13 Objectives Achieved**

**24 Total**

Accomplished **54%**

In Progress **46%**

**THE IMAGINE 2030 STRATEGIC PLAN** is key to our mindful growth. The Branding and Partnerships Pillar is the part of the plan that supports who we are, and strengthens our resolve to reach higher, do more, and to be our best selves together as a university and as the Saluki community.

**WE R1 FOR EVERYONE.** It's official. We R1.

**RELENTLESS.** Our dedication to research and learning is as strong as ever.

**NOW IT'S DESIGNATED.**

SIU joins the elite company of highest-level, top-research institutions in the nation.

**R1 – VERY HIGH RESEARCH ACTIVITY.**

We're on the same level as the Ivy League and flagship universities.

See more about this Pillar-based accomplishment on pages 16-17.

**WHO WE ARE.**

**DISCOVER YOUR UNEXPECTED.** We create a safe environment for bold ambition—for innovative research and fearless creativity. We challenge our students to be unafraid, and we give them the community support they need to discover within themselves the capacity for accomplishments they barely dared to dream.

**DEFY THE ODDS.** Salukis past and present have the confidence that comes from knowing we are part of a supportive community. Salukis try—and try again until we succeed. Our history is full of *only* and *first*. And we're never more proud than when we accomplish things that nobody else expected,

or thought of, or did before. We're here to make our mark on the world.

**SALUKIS DON'T STOP.** We're the ones standing out, standing up, digging in. When the odds seem against us, that's when we shine. That's when we come together. When we win national collegiate competitions. When we grow a better grape or a stronger soybean. When we explore a microscopic tool to reduce plastics waste. We maximize momentum when we join forces. All in, all the time. That's a Saluki.

**IMAGINE. Everything is possible.** It's imagination that makes us reach outside our comfort zones. It's vision that makes us see a better future. And it's grit that makes us put in the work to make it happen. We know that before we can chase down our goals and build our exceptional lives, we need a place with the people, the resources, and the opportunities to shift dreams into reality. That place is SIU.

### ELEMENTS

**Hmm, that looks familiar...** Notice how we are framing our photographs? That curved line isn't random. It's pulled from the Saluki in our logo. The swirly lines? Again, not random. They are pulled from SIU topographical maps. Uniquely ours.

**Brand training.** The SIU brand belongs to SIU. University Communications and Marketing hosted brand-training sessions for faculty and staff who want to learn more about it.







**SHINING A LIGHT.** SIU invites area high school students for a taste of R1 Saluki Style. Events for high school students prepare the way for future Salukis. Here are some of the events that brought high school students to campus.

- FFA Career Day • SIU Education Day • SIU Brass Day • Illinois Design Educators Association Regional Competition • SIU’s Accounting Challenge • SIU Math Field Day

**SALUKI SHOUT-OUT** SIU’s Illinois Small Business Development Center is the 2024 Illinois SBDC of the Year, as named by the U.S. Small Business Administration.



**BAD AXE LADIES JOB SHADOWING PROGRAM.** SIU’s Public Health program teamed up with the Carbondale Fire Department to offer an experiential learning opportunity for female students from any major. The Bad Axse Ladies visited the fire department, discussed public service, and even went along on fire-calls. For the finale, they donned full firefighting gear for a training exercise. Now that’s something that’s not on every resume!

**OUR IMAGINE SIU IN 2030 FUNDRAISING GOAL: \$500M**  
**WHERE WE ARE: \$381M**

**BUILDING A LEGACY.** Historic donation.

**\$10M** to the newly renamed Southern Illinois University Simmons Law School

**\$10.2M** to the Simmons Cancer Institute, established in 2001, at the SIU School of Medicine in Springfield.

*“This mission is aligned with my personal and professional value system,” said John Simmons, a member of the SIU Board of Trustees and founder of the Simmons Hanly Conroy law firm. “We are proud of this school and what it stands for. I owe a lot of my success to SIU and what it has given to my family. It has sent me on my way to success, expanded my world, my horizons, my view on life and my role in supporting my community.”*



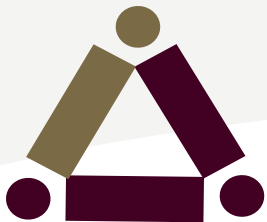
**DEDICATION TO JUSTICE**

- \$250,000 to the Simmons Law School to establish the Sen. John G. Gilbert Impact Fund, from his son, Judge Phil Gilbert, a member of the SIU Board of Trustees. This gift will directly support students with scholarships and research initiatives. The law school unveiled the newly named Sen. John G. Gilbert Administrative Suite this spring.

**BUILDING COMMUNITY**

- **Illinois TRIO Conference.** More than 200 high school and university students came together to celebrate 50 years of TRIO, and to learn how the next 50 years will help students succeed.
- **Southern Illinois Hemp and Cannabis Symposium.** Hosted by our Cannabis Science Center, this showcase helped area businesses imagine more ways for the hemp and cannabis industry to become an economic driver in the region — and how we can help.
- **Serious business.** The John Allen Symposium brought at least 100 SIU recreation students and alumni for a day featuring career development, networking, awards and current research.
- **Honors Council of the Illinois Region Student Symposium.** Honors students from throughout Illinois brought their creative and research works to SIU.





## SUSTAINABILITY

**6** Objectives Achieved

**19** Total

Accomplished **32%**

In Progress **68%**



## BLEEDS MAROON, THINKS GREEN.

A beautiful campus. Laboratory research that reaches the world. Real-world experience that comes to the classroom. Blooming creativity. Responsible community. There's a place for forward-thinking, future-hopeful, nature-mindful scientists and artists, leaders and learners. **That place is SIU.**

**SPACE-AGE CROPS.** Student research. A student team, led by Illinois Researcher to Know Scott D. Hamilton-Brehm, are using microalgae to grow crops in regolith, which mimics the surface of the moon. The AlgaeUnlocked team is: Hannah Phillips, Alex Bechtel, Chetan Singh, Danielle Snyder and Alyssa Zhan.

### SAVING THE OCEAN FROM INSIDE CORN COUNTRY.

Scientists at SIU's Center for Fisheries, Aquaculture, and Aquatic Sciences have been eager to grow coral as a learning lab experiment. A side benefit of growing coral is providing coral for home aquarium enthusiasts, thus reducing wild coral harvest.



**SOLVING TWO PROBLEMS AT ONCE.** What do you get when you take waste biomass and plastic and turn it into a slurry with yeast? Protein! And what do you get if you 3D-print that protein into cookies and other foods?  $\mu$ Bites! (That means "microbites.") Lahiru Jayakody, assistant professor, is leading research funded by NASA's Deep Space Food Challenge.

### HOW WE ARE CHANGING OUR WORLD.

It starts at SIU.

- **Removing forever chemicals from groundwater.** Jia Liu, associate professor, is using magnetic nanomaterials to treat groundwater contaminated with PFAS, or "forever chemicals."



**Saluki Aquarium coral project.** Ashlynn Shea, a Zoology major and president of the Saluki Reefers RSO. "The work I am doing here at SIU gives me the experience that I will need in my selected field. It's getting me experience that no one would have expected coming from Illinois."





- **Keeping a food supply from eating itself.** An interdisciplinary research team led by Jim Garvey, director of the Center for Fisheries, Aquaculture and Aquatic Sciences, and Habibollah Fakhraei, assistant professor, are looking for way to improve farm-raising largemouth bass—a popular sport fish and increasingly important as a food fish.
- **Winning with Zero Waste.** SIU is a national winner in the Campus Race to Zero Waste 2024 competition, Green Events category.



range expansion, and he’s using a cool new technique to do it — a detection dog! He’s also using environmental DNA — eDNA — collected from waterways to look for nutria genetic material.

**RESEARCHING WHAT WE WANT. AND WHAT WE DON’T WANT.**

**What we want: giant cane,** a bamboo species once common in the area and an important mitigator of agricultural run-off. Jim Zaczek, professor, and graduate student Thanchira “M.J.” Suriyamongkol, with the Cooperative Wildlife Research Laboratory, are ready to recommend management to help bring cane back.

**What we don’t want: nutria.** An invasive, semiaquatic mammal is moving in, and bringing habitat destruction with them. Graduate Zoology student Derek Whipkey is investigating the



**SALUKI SHOUT-OUT**

The inaugural Southern Illinois Outdoor Summit. A free event for community partners and businesses, agencies, not-for-profit organizations, educators and outdoor enthusiasts with the goal of fostering growth in the region’s outdoor industry.



## CAMPUS MASTER PLAN

Southern Illinois University Carbondale is developing its first campus master plan in nearly two decades. As part of the Imagine 2030 strategic plan, this initiative will shape the university's campus spaces and experience for the long-term future, enhancing education, research, sustainability, and infrastructure.

## FACILITIES MASTER PLAN GUIDING PRINCIPLES

# 1

### Foster a Vibrant, Inclusive Experience

Create a vibrant, inclusive experience by elevating student and residential life, improving campus navigation, and embodying the brand to foster a deep sense of belonging among students, staff, faculty, and alumni to the SIU community and campus.



STUDENT SUCCESS & ENGAGEMENT



BRANDING & PARTNERSHIP

## PROJECT LAUNCH



### DISCOVER

#### Spring 2025

- › Understand the state of our buildings and spaces
- › Schedule fall listening sessions

#### Summer 2025

- › Facilities condition assessment

### DEVELOP

#### Fall Semester 2025

- › Define comprehensive campus space needs
- › Conduct listening sessions



### We want to hear from you!

Engage with students, faculty and staff to understand needs and priorities



**2 Next Generation Campus**  
 Boldly respond to the diverse needs of the evolving student population by planning for top-tier academic and research facilities, technology, and infrastructure to drive innovation and creativity.

**3 Doing More with Less**  
 Evolve infrastructure to optimize facilities, meet sustainability goals, reduce energy use and costs, while preserving the campus's unique setting and enhancing spaces that enrich the user experience.



DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION



RESEARCH & INNOVATION



SUSTAINABILITY

**DETAIL**

**Spring Semester 2026**

- › Develop campus options
- › Understand cost impact
- › Develop phasing plan
- › Choose preferred campus option

**DELIVER**

**Summer 2026**

- › Finalize plan
- › Approve plan
- › Prepare to present to BOT in September



**Exciting updates ahead!**

Share out plan with students, faculty, and staff

## UNLEASHED

SIU embraces a unique tradition of access and opportunity, inclusive excellence, innovation in research and creativity, and outstanding teaching focused on nurturing student success. As a nationally ranked public research university and regional economic catalyst, we create and exchange knowledge to shape future leaders, improve our communities, and transform lives.



### SIU FOUNDATION

**WE'RE PLANTING THE SALUKI FLAG.** The SIU Foundation took Southern on the road and brought it back home with the **Saluki Takeover Tour**. Events in Chicago, St. Louis, Hollywood,

Memphis, Houston, Dallas, and sites in Florida featured record attendance **and raised more than \$1.2 million in donor support** for SIU.

Led by Chancellor Austin Lane, leaders from SIU visited high schools and community colleges, building partnership and recruiting new Salukis. This year, **the takeover tour traveled through Southern Illinois**, including more than 20 school visits and receptions in Harrisburg, Metropolis, Alto Pass, Carterville, Mount Vernon and Du Quoin. With incredible energy, the Saluki Takeover Tour keeps growing and excitement is already building for the next round of stops!

**IMAGINE SIU.** Those who give back to their university form a bond that extend generations. "Each step through campus tells stories of previous generations – generations that were strong enough to bear the name: the Saluki name." – Chancellor Austin A. Lane

- 26,161 gifts to the SIU Foundation
- \$46.8M+ raised
- 1840+ — a record number of scholarships awarded
- **\$5,308,583** scholarship dollars awarded
- >16% of all SIU students received an SIU Foundation scholarship in FY24
- \$370M+ raised since 2017
- Goal: \$500M by June 2028

### SALUKI BALL: A CAMPAIGN FOR STUDENTS

**Black tie and maroon.** More than 520 alumni and friends gathered for the second annual Saluki Ball in Chicago. Together, they raised hundreds of thousands of dollars to bridge the gap for SIU students,



providing valuable funds that help keep students enrolled. **Saluki Lifetime Achievement Awards.** During the ball, three of Southern's biggest supporters were honored for their dedication to the university. Greg Cook, Scott Moller, and Toni Williams were recognized for their philanthropy, professional success, and support of SIU programs and students.

**When you think of one, you think of the other.** Dr. John Jackson and the Paul Simon Public Policy Institute are a pair in the minds of many Salukis. That association is more firmly established with the dedication of the John and Nancy Jackson Lobby at the institute. Nancy is an alumna and a community educator. John has been part of SIU in various capacities, including interim chancellor and several top administrative roles – and, of course, visiting professor at the institute.

### SIU FOUNDATION RESEARCH AND CREATIVE ACTIVITIES AWARD

**Funding innovative projects in the humanities and the arts. \$46,500 in grants.**

- **Pinckney Benedict**, professor of creative writing and former director of the Center for Virtual Expression, "The Classroom of Tomorrow: Revolutionizing Learning with Augmented Reality."
- **Finley Freibert**, assistant professor, "Behind the Pseudonyms: A Genealogical Approach to Queer Media History."
- **Isaac Lausell**, associate professor and director of jazz studies, and Rossana Cauti, assistant professor and director of the SIU String Orchestra, "SIU Strings Project."
- **Julia Rendleman** and **Molly Parker-Stephens**, assistant professors, "The Saluki Reporting Lab."



**THE SIU ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**

- \$59,288 in total student scholarships
  - Individual awards up to \$5,000
- SIU Alumni Association** awarded 25 regional and legacy scholarships + 20 textbook awards  
 45 Events Alumni Engagement Events  
 Over 4,000 Event Attendees  
 \$534K Invested in Alumni and Student Programs  
 3.12 million reach across the Alumni Association communications platforms

Welcome to the SIU Alumni Association National Board of Directors!

- **Meredith S. Hudgens**
- **Vance Sawyer**
- **Terita M. Walker**



**GO DAWGS!**

**Record-setting.** The Dawg Pound and all SIU fans turned up at Saluki Stadium in record numbers for the War for the Wheel against Southeast Missouri State University.  
**13,421 Saluki fans.** Highest-attended game since opening night for Saluki Stadium in 2010.  
**\$145,803.** All-time highest single game ticket revenue.  
**\$80,000.** Concessions gross revenue record shattered by at least \$20,000. We're still counting.  
**Thanks to Saluki Nation for your continued support.**



## NOT ON THE PORCH

Salukis are Big Dawgs.



### LEGACY

**Jim Hayes Stadium Club.** Jim Hayes came to Southern in 1961 on a football scholarship. His son and daughter-in-law, Jamie and Netta Hayes, strengthened their family's ties to Saluki Athletics with a \$1M gift. SIU Director of Athletics Tim Leonard announced the stadium club's new name in honor of Jim Hayes and in

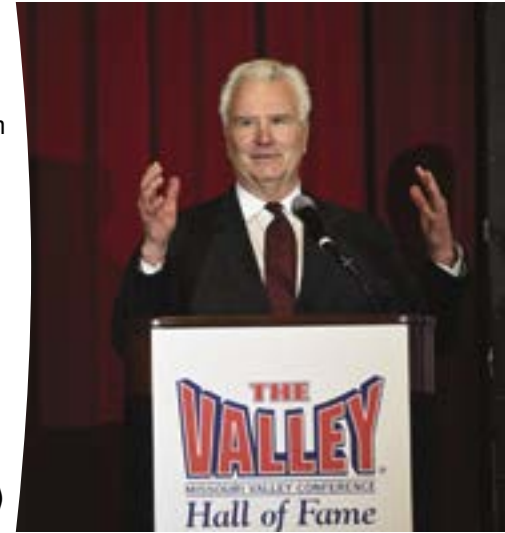
gratitude for his family's continued support. Some of the funds will be used to revitalize the space.



### HALL OF FAME

**Saluki Hall of Fame welcomes six.** New Saluki Athletics Hall of Famers, 2024: Jorge Delgado (Swimming), Korey Lindsey (Football), Rick Murray (Baseball), Rishonda Napier (Women's Basketball), Sally Perkins (Athletic Trainer) and Rick Walker (Swimming & Diving Coach).

**Missouri Valley Conference Hall of Fame inducts Bruce Weber.** Coach Weber led SIU to a 103-54 overall record (.656) in five seasons — from 1998-99 through 2002-03. There's more! He brought SIU to two MVC regular-season titles (2002 and 2003) — and two NCAA



Tournament appearances (2002 and 2003). The 2002 team reached the Sweet 16: one of three Sweet 16 appearances in SIU history. The 2002 team was ranked 22nd nationally in the final USA Today/ESPN poll of the season and is the second winningest team in SIU history (28 victories).



### WE HAVE THE BEST FANS

The Big Dawg Leadership Society launched September 2024 to recognize Saluki Athletics' most resolute supporters, and give them distinct access and opportunities to enhance the fan experience. By making annual gifts to support Saluki Athletics and commitments to the Pride of Little Egypt (the athletic department's name, image and likeness program) fans can make a transformative impact on student-athletes, coaches, and the university.



**ALL-AMERICA and OLYMPIC DEBUT**

Celia Pulido, swim team, debuted in the Olympic Games Paris 2024. She finished 21st in the 100-meter backstroke. She was the fifth woman from our Saluki swim and dive program to compete in the Olympics, and the first since 2012. There’s more! She earned First Team All-American status in the 100-yard backstroke, setting a program and conference record with a time of 49.77.



**BEST IN CLASS**

Saluki Athletics posts a 3.299 departmental GPA last fall and a departmental cumulative GPA of 3.289. Sixty-seven student-athletes recorded a 4.0 GPA, while 46 percent were above 3.5. Of SIU’s 15 programs, 13 had a team GPA above 3.0.



**Cole Rushing is a Men’s Track & Field athlete.** He’s a double major in Accounting and Financing. He served as an Accounting intern for Wipfli, a top 25 accounting firm in St Louis in Summer 2023 and a Finance intern for Wells Fargo in St Louis in Summer 2024. He is a member of Beta Alpha Psi, an Accounting, Finance, and Business Analytics honor society. As a member of Beta Alpha Psi, members provide free tax services. He earned the Outstanding Senior in Finance College of Business award in 2024 and the SIU Accounting Society Outstanding New Member award.

