

SIU WOMEN'S CLUB CELEBRATES SCHOLARSHIP, LEADERSHIP AND CONNECTION AT SPRING MEETING



The SIU Women's Club welcomed 53 attendees to its annual Spring Business Meeting and Scholarship Reception on Thursday, April 30, at the Glenn Poshard Transportation Education Center in Murphysboro. The evening brought members together for a meaningful time of connection, celebration and reflection on the club's continued impact.

The event began with conversation and cocktails, followed by a program featuring guest speaker Alyssa Connell, manager of the Southern Illinois Airport, who shared insights from her leadership experience and connection to the region. The evening also highlighted one of the club's most important traditions, the recognition of student scholarship recipients. This year's honorees included Nikki Coffey and Roma Tamang, recipients of the Joyce Guyon Non-Traditional Student Scholarship, and Shamyah Taper, recipient of the Dorothy Morris Traditional Student Scholarship.



SPRING BUSINESS MEETING CONT.



President April Teske opened the program and later led the business meeting, where she presented a year in review and recognized the dedication of the 2025–2026 Board of Directors. Additional reports and acknowledgments were shared by Treasurer Monica May, Program Director Vanessa Sneed and Interest Group Director Pam Altman, each reflecting on the strength and engagement of the organization over the past year.

A highlight of the evening was the recognition of President Teske’s service and the celebration of the board’s collective contributions. Members also participated in the election of the 2026–2027 Board of Directors, led by Past President and Nominations Committee Chair Nancy Mundschenk.

We welcomed our newly elected 2025–2026 Board of Directors:

- President: Lisa Knight
- President-Elect: Carly Holtcamp
- Past President: April Teske
- Secretary: Lisa Price
- Treasurer: Susan Walch-Pimentel
- Program Director: Michelle Snyder
- Program Co-Director: Lyn Bame
- Communications Director: Stellan Nakiranda
- Communications Co-Director: Jaclyn Durcholz
- Technology Director: Evelyn Aden
- Interest Group Director: Pam Altman
- Scholarship Director: Amber Rivers
- Membership Director: Casey Parker
- Historical Director: Ann Norris-Price

Thank you to everyone who made this evening meaningful. Your continued support is the heart of our mission, and we look forward to another impactful year together!

INTEREST GROUPS BRING CREATIVITY AND CONNECTION

This spring, SIU Women's Club interest groups continued to offer meaningful opportunities for members to connect, create and share new experiences together.



On Saturday, March 21, several members gathered at the General John A. Logan Museum to participate in a gourd painting fundraiser. The event combined creativity with community service, as participants transformed natural gourds into unique, decorative pieces. Tables were filled with a variety of designs, including vibrant patterns, seasonal motifs and even whimsical figures. Members enjoyed the hands-on activity, sharing ideas and encouraging one another as their projects came to life. The atmosphere was relaxed and engaging, with plenty of conversation, laughter and smiles throughout the afternoon.

The photographs from the event highlight the creativity on display, with painted gourds ranging from simple and elegant to colorful and playful. Members worked side by side, carefully painting, detailing and finishing their pieces while enjoying the opportunity to connect in a casual, welcoming setting.

In another recent outing, members from three interest groups, the Newcomers Club, Suitcase Sisters and Cultural Events of Southern Illinois, came together for an evening that blended dining and the arts. The group began with dinner at Rip's Pizza in Carbondale before heading to Shryock Auditorium for a performance by the SIU Wind Ensemble.



The evening held special significance, as it marked the 114th Wind Ensemble performance conducted by Dr. Morehouse at SIU, as well as his 140th Wind Ensemble concert overall. It was also his final performance with the ensemble before departing to return north and focus on teaching and inspiring high school musicians. Members in attendance recognized the moment as both a celebration of his contributions and a meaningful farewell.



Get Involved: Join an Interest Group!

SIU Women's Club Interest Groups are a wonderful way to connect with fellow members through shared interests, friendship, and fun. To join a group, simply reach out to the Interest Group chair listed on the Membership Application. Scan the QR code to view the list. We hope you'll find a group—or two—that's just right for you!

SIU WOMEN'S CLUB CELEBRATES THE 2026 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

The SIU Women's Club proudly recognized three outstanding students as recipients of its 2026 scholarships, honoring their dedication, leadership and commitment to making a difference.

Dorothy Morris Traditional Student Scholarship Recipients



Shamyah Taper, Interior Design

Shamyah Taper is a first-generation college student majoring in interior design at SIU. She is passionate about creating spaces that positively impact people's lives and remains deeply committed to her education. Taper serves as president of the university's only community service organization, where she leads efforts to give back and encourage involvement. She notes that receiving this scholarship will ease financial stress and allow her to stay focused on her academic goals while continuing to serve others.

Joyce Guyon Non-Traditional Student Scholarship Recipients

Nikki Coffey, Elementary Education

Nikki Coffey is balancing life as a full-time student at Southern Illinois University Carbondale while raising her two children, Wesson and Dyson, who serve as her daily inspiration. She is pursuing a bachelor's degree in elementary education and looks forward to entering the classroom after graduation. Coffey hopes to inspire not only her own children, but many others, to reach for their dreams.



Roma Tamang, Nursing

Roma Tamang is an undergraduate nursing student at SIU Carbondale and an international student from Nepal. With experience as an ophthalmic assistant and participation in rural outreach eye clinics, she brings a strong commitment to healthcare access and community service. Tamang is actively involved in campus leadership as a senator in Undergraduate Student Government and a member of the International Student Council. She aspires to become a compassionate and impactful healthcare professional.



Support Student Scholarships

Your generosity can help empower SIU students to achieve their dreams and create lasting change in their communities. Make a gift today by visiting siuf.org/give and entering **SIU Women's Club Scholarships Fund** in the designation field. Or simply scan the QR code with your smartphone to give directly.

MEMBERS MATTER: REMINDER TO RENEW YOUR SIU WOMEN'S CLUB MEMBERSHIP!



As we prepare for another year of connection, service, and fun, we want to remind our valued members that the SIU Women's Club membership renewal cycle begins **October 1**. Your involvement makes all the difference—and we truly appreciate you.

Membership for 2026–2027 opens **July 1**. If you joined before June 1, 2026, please complete a renewal form and submit your membership fee to remain active and be included in the Member Directory. Renew by October 31, 2026, for directory inclusion. If you have not yet provided a photo for the directory, photos can be taken at club events. Please ask the Communications Director for assistance.

Because members matter, we want to make it easy for you to stay connected. Renewing ensures continued access to everything you love—Interest Groups, special events, and the friendships that make our club so special.



Renew online by clicking JOIN at womensclub.siu.edu or scan the QR code to renew online.

Prefer a paper form? Email siuwomensclub@siu.edu to request one by mail.

Thank you for being part of the SIU Women's Club. We're grateful for your membership and excited for the year ahead!