**Holiday Greetings From Our SIU Women’s Club Leaders**

Marsha Ryan, SIU Women’s Club President, stated: “The year has been one of false starts and innumerable changes of plans, but throughout, we have tried to remember what’s important: Friends. Care for others and for ourselves. Hope for the future. Contentment with less than we have been used to. Appreciation for things we have taken for granted. Compassion for those whom this pandemic has hit particularly hard. Affection for one another.

We should raise a glass to the things that 2020 has taught us. And another for a 2021 that builds on those discoveries. Happy Bright, Shiny New Year to one and all.”

Michelle Rust, SIU Women’s Club President-Elect, added: “I would like to wish you all a wonderful holiday filled with positive vibes for a bright 2021. I am happy to serve as your President-Elect, and I look forward to the time when we can all gather again in-person. In the meantime, please stay safe and well.”

**Chancellor Austin A. Lane to Address SIU Women’s Club on January 5, 2021, 5 – 6 p.m.**

Dr. Austin A. Lane became SIU’s chancellor on July 1, 2020. He will give a special presentation via Zoom to SIU Women’s Club members on Tuesday, January 5, 2021, from 5 – 6 p.m. He is interested in learning the ongoing role of the SIU Women’s Club in the mission of Southern Illinois University. We know he will be delighted to learn about our scholarship program and the generosity of our members in supporting the program. Zoom information is provided on the following page—mark your calendars now.

**Point of Pride for SIU**

- Zoe Jensen, a 2017 SIU musical theater graduate, has the lead female role in the national tour of the musical “Hamilton”. She plays the role of Eliza Hamilton, wife of founding father Alexander Hamilton. Jensen credits her early success to mentors in the Department of Theater who taught her, provided her with professional opportunities to perform at McLeod Summer Playhouse, and encouraged her to pursue her performance dreams upon graduation.
More News for SIU Women’s Club Members

- If you have not yet renewed your SIU Women’s Club membership, this is the very last chance for you to receive SIU Women’s Club communications and information—your name will be removed at the end of the year if you do not renew now. The Membership Application form is located at: [https://womensclub.siu.edu/membership/](https://womensclub.siu.edu/membership/)

- To join Chancellor Lane’s presentation on Tuesday, January 5, 2021, 5 – 6 p.m., go to:
  - Join Zoom Meeting
    [https://zoom.us/j/96112733310?pwd=L0dialFINkxjaEVaeGIpZGZGb1lhZz09](https://zoom.us/j/96112733310?pwd=L0dialFINkxjaEVaeGIpZGZGb1lhZz09)
    Meeting ID: 961 1273 3310
    Passcode: 895344
    One tap mobile
    +13126266799,,96112733310# US (Chicago)
    Dial by your location
    +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
    Meeting ID: 961 1273 3310
    Find your local number: [https://zoom.us/u/abUIEJKEV](https://zoom.us/u/abUIEJKEV)

- Please note the phone number change for Sue Whitlock to 618.534.2476.

- Here’s a screenshot of SIU Women’s Club members enjoying the recent presentation by Pinckney Benedict, Professor of Creative Writing in the SIU Department of English, and Amy Etcheson, Interim Co-Director of SIU University Press, on the new audio books podcast initiative, “Blanket Fort Radio Theater.” In this cooperative project, Benedict’s graduate creative writing students create audio book podcasts from selected books at SIU Press to be released by WSIU. With students having to return home during the pandemic, they had to create makeshift studios for podcast recording in their homes. To achieve better sound, a student draped a blanket over her kitchen table for her recording studio—thus the name “Blanket Fort Ratio Theater.”

SIU Women’s Club Scholarship Update

The SIU Women’s Club Scholarship program was a bright spot in 2020, with a record-breaking total of $8,000 awarded to four recipients. Women’s Club members have been generous again this year, with over $6,000 in scholarship donations so far. Applications for the 2021 scholarships are due February 1 and must be submitted online through the SIU Financial Aid Office’s Academic Works website. All female undergraduate students enrolled in a degree program on campus at SIUC who have a cumulative GPA of at least 3.0 and a minimum of 24 credits earned at the university are eligible to apply. Preference is given to applicants who will have senior status at the conclusion of the spring 2021 semester. Please encourage eligible students to apply. For more information, contact Susan Pearlman, SIU Women’s Club Scholarship Director, at [siuwcscholarships@gmail.com](mailto:siuwcscholarships@gmail.com), or by calling 618.534.3448.
Susan Pearlman, as Scholarship Committee Director, has been in contact with our 2020 scholarship recipients and reports the following information on their status:

**Dana Pietrusiak**, recipient of the Joyce Guyon Non-Traditional Scholarship, sent an update: “The fall semester went well. My most proud accomplishment was my final term paper for one of my economics courses. It was about the economic history of Morocco from its beginning up to the present day, including structural systems and some of the challenges it faces. I also began the design program this fall, and I hope to continue. I will complete the economics program in May of 2022 so I can graduate with at least one bachelor's degree by then. I hope you are all doing well and look forward to meeting one day. Thank you for your interest and support!”

**Destini James-Bryant**, winner of the Dorothy Morris Traditional Student Scholarship, wrote: “The past months have been a trying time for me and my family. I finished the spring semester like thousands of other students by using online instruction. This process was challenging at first, but with fellow classmates we got through it. Despite the current circumstances of trying to adjust with our new normal of masks, gloves and social distancing, I am working hard and staying safe. My plans remain the same, hoping for graduation in the spring. I believe the challenges that I have faced will give me the strength to prepare for the next journey in my life, to graduate from college, have a career and a family.”

**Katherine Mazdra**, co-recipient of the Southern at 150 Scholarship, sent us a photo of her at work in Dr. Scott Hamilton-Brehm’s Microbiology Lab. Katherine is a Microbiology major and hopes to graduate in spring 2021. She received a REACH award for the 2020-2021 academic year; the Research-Enriched Academic Challenge program gives undergraduate students at SIU the opportunity to work with a faculty member on an independent research study.

**Leah Sutton**, co-recipient of the Southern at 150 Scholarship, has served as the Photo Editor for the *Daily Egyptian* this fall. She wrote that “It is my hope to go to graduate school in order to expand on my journalistic knowledge and to add to my qualifications that will, hopefully, get me noticed by *National Geographic Magazine*. So far, I have started applications at Savannah College of Art and Design for a Master of Fine Arts in Writing and at Northwestern University for a Master of Science in Journalism with a specialization in Magazine.” To see samples of Leah’s work, go to her online portfolio at: [https://leahsuttonphotography.com](https://leahsuttonphotography.com).
SIU Women’s Club Interest Groups
January 2021

Interest Group Director, Julie Bohnsack (jaweilbrenner@gmail.com)
The Faculty House, 810 South Elizabeth Street, Carbondale

Most Interest Group meetings are on hold due to the COVID-19 Virus Outbreak (We care about your health and safety)

Adventure Gals
Next date, time, and location to be announced

Antiques and Collectibles
Meets 1st Tuesday, 1:30 p.m.
Hope to resume in the spring

Book Discussion
Meets 2nd Thursday, 1 – 3 p.m.
January 14, meeting via Zoom, A Place for Us by Fatima Farheen Mirza.
Discussion Leader: Debbie Gunter; Zoom Coordinator: Deborah Corker

Breakfast Group
Meets 3rd Friday, 7:30 a.m., at Denny’s Restaurant

Bridge - Afternoon
Meets 1st and 3rd Wednesdays, 1 - 3 p.m., in members’ homes

Bridge - Couples Evening
Meets 3rd Saturday, 7 p.m., Faculty House

Cooking Lunch with Friends (First Group)
Meets 4th Wednesday, four times a year in members’ homes

Cooking Lunch with Friends (Second Group)
Meets 1st Thursday, four times during academic year

Evening at the Cinema
Meets 1st Thursday at local theaters
Thursday, January 7, 7 p.m., Zoom meeting to discuss a movie that is yet to be selected.

Gentle Toning, Stretch and Yoga Techniques (GTSY)
Meets every Thursday, 5:45 p.m., First United Methodist Church

Knitting and Stitching
Meets 4th Thursday, 1 - 3 p.m., in members' homes

Donna Wilson 559-0830
dmwilson@siu.edu

Carol O'Donnell 549-2287
odonnellcj@yahoo.com

Vivian Ugent 457-5258
vivianugent@gmail.com

Janet Earnest 549-0416
jandaearnest@gmail.com

Janet Banerjee 687-3582
janet.banerjee@gmail.com

Olga Weidner 549-7527
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Kitty Trescott 203-1807
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Peter Gregory 541-602-6732
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Sue Whitlock 534-2476
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A.M. Hamilton-Brehm 702-419-2493
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Lyn Knowles 529-3229
lknowles114@gmail.com

Laura Helsel 559-4541
lahelsel@yahoo.com

Nelda Hinckley 549-5588
neldahinckley@jalc.edu

Sue Burroughs 203-2360
newmyerburroughs47@frontier.com

Lee Swayze 549-1017
lswayze1200@gmail.com
Meet ‘n Eat
Meet 2nd Wednesday, Noon, at various local restaurants
Tedda Becker
457-8903
beckertedda02@gmail.com

Monthly Dinner Group
Meets in members’ homes—next gathering to be announced
Sue Whitlock
534-2476
kirkman061056@gmail.com

Newcomers Dinner Group
Meets 4th Thursday in homes and restaurants
Amelia Ketzle
924-0145
aketzle@siu.edu

Opera Group
Selected Saturdays in Cape Girardeau
Olga Weidner
549-7527
oweidner@siu.edu

Quilting
Meets 2nd Wednesday, 1 - 3 p.m., in members' homes
Pat Tindall
549-2427
dp.tindall@outlook.com

Scrabble
Meets 3rd Thursday, 2 p.m., at the Faculty House
Mary Pohlmann
549-5077
maryp@siu.edu

Secrets of Ethnic Cuisine
Meets 4 times a year to prepare unique dishes
Olga Weidner
549-7527
oweidner@siu.edu
Amelia Ketzle
924-0145
aketzle@siu.edu

Travel—The Suitcase Sisters
Meets 1st Monday, 5:15 p.m., at Pagliai’s Pizza, Carbondale
Julie Bohnsack
534-4618
jaweilbrenner@gmail.com

SIU Women’s Club Scholarship Fund Donations

Scholarship donations are always encouraged to meet our annual minimum $4,000 goal to fund two $2,000 scholarships. Scholarship donations may also be made as memorials.

Name ___________________________________________________________ Phone ____________________
Street Address _______________________________________________________________________________
City, State, Zip ______________________________________________________________________________
Email Address _____________________________________________ Check Amount $___________

Return form with check (SIU Women’s Club) to:
SIU Women’s Club, P.O. Box 1226, Carbondale, Illinois 62903-1226