Save the Date—Special Presentation by Chancellor Austin A. Lane
January 5, 2021, 5 – 6 p.m.

Dr. Austin A. Lane became SIU’s chancellor on July 1, 2020. He was president of Texas Southern University, based in Houston, from 2016 to February 2020. Prior to his presidency at Texas Southern, Lane was executive vice chancellor for academic and student affairs for the 90,000-student Lone Star College System in Texas in 2015 and 2016. He served as president of Lone Star College-Montgomery from 2009 to 2015 and executive vice president for student affairs for Tyler Junior College in Texas from 2005 to 2009. He worked at the University of Texas at Arlington from 1995 to 2005 as a counselor, assistant dean of students and director of judicial affairs, and dean of students.

Lane holds a bachelor’s degree in psychology from Langston University in Oklahoma, a master’s degree in human relations from the University of Oklahoma, and a doctor of education degree in higher education administration from the University of Alabama.

Chancellor Lane 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.

Membership Renewal Reminder

This is the last chance for you to renew your SIU Women’s Club membership to be listed in the 2020-21 Membership Directory. The Directory will be sent to members shortly after November 1. The Membership Application form is located at https://womensclub.siu.edu/_common/documents/membership-form.pdf Please complete and send to Deborah Corker (phdcorker@gmail.com) immediately. If your photo isn’t listed in the current Directory, also provide your photo for Deborah to include.
Women’s Club Members Having Fun and Learning

Above--Newcomer’s Group share an outdoor lunch; Adventure Gals enjoy a ride at the stable; and members view SIU from atop its Power Plant.

And, here is a screen shot of members participating in John Jackson’s current lectures for Women’s Club members on “Selecting a President in the Age of COVID-19 and Major Civil Unrest.” Deborah Corker is Zoom coordinator.

Adventures and Recognition—Mary Beth Aguilar

SIU Women’s Club Member Mary Beth Aguilar is a traveler—a woman who takes every opportunity to discover new places, revisit places she delighted in previously, and return home to consider the possibility of her next adventure. She is a Carbondale resident and retired Murphysboro Middle School paraprofessional. Little did she know that her last trip prior to an emerging pandemic would lead to spearheading a local group that has since received national recognition - The Carbondale-Murphysboro Fabric Mask Response Team.

Her original itinerary was to land in Ethiopia on February 1 and spend two months tent camping throughout Africa starting in Tanzania and ending in South Africa. As she exited the plane that day, she was surprised to see that computers were scanning passengers as they passed the gate testing body temperatures. Officials were all fully dressed in PPE attire, and everyone in the airport wore masks. “This was my first notice and awareness of COVID-19 as a true pandemic being aggressively addressed.” Because of the way she was traveling, she did not have access to Internet, TV, or any news.

As she crossed every border within Africa, officials documented her temperature, where she had been, and the dates she had been there. Tents were set up with staff members fully dressed in PPE attire. She started noticing postings on windows of the border control offices of the countries that were being affected by COVID-19. (story continues on next page)
On March 16, she heard that the border of South Africa was going to be closed to all people starting March 18. Fortunately, she made it to the border of South Africa two hours before the office closed and where she stayed until managing to get the last flight out of South Africa at the end of March. Her flight home to the U.S., which was supposed to be a direct flight, took 42 hours--five flights all within the U.S. She observed that not one time in the U.S. was her temperature checked, her whereabouts documented, or was she questioned about potential contact with COVIΔ19 - nor was anyone wearing masks. Because of her experiences for the past two months throughout Africa, she already was wearing a mask at all times. When she finally arrived home, she self-quarantined for 14 days because she was aware of what needed to be done from traveling throughout Africa, not because of any directive from U.S. officials or health departments.

It was during her quarantine that she became involved with a mask-making project that was starting in Marion, Illinois. Because she was in quarantine and did not want to handle material, she started calling around the Southern Illinois area to see where there was need for face masks. Responses were so overwhelming and Mary Beth realized there was no way one group would be able to fulfill all of these orders. She knew she needed to reach out to another region to help fulfill the almost 10,000 orders that had already been recognized by that time. This is when the Carbondale/Murphysboro Fabric Mask Response Team was formed due to her quick response to a growing need. And, 236 members later, over 18,000+ masks were donated to first responders and health care workers, the first priority. Later, as they started to increase production, they expanded to many other organizations such as the Women’s Center, Migrant workers, the Warming Center, placing the masks in local food bags, detention centers, and even reaching out to other states such as the Apache and Navajo reservations, such countries as Brazil, Haiti, and Africa, and, finally ending with supplying teachers and students as they returned to school.

On August 13, Congressman Mike Bost met with Mary Beth at Turley Park and presented her with a copy of a Congressional recognition. The team is now registered into the Congressional Record. Aguilar said Congressman Bost was impressed by the way Southern Illinoisans have stepped up to help those in need.

And, the SIU Women’s Club is proud that she is a member and representative of our group and an example of the good we share with the SIU community.

“I would also like to express how the entire community has donated all of the supplies, money, time, and everything that it took to make this mask making project possible. I was so deeply touched by how caring, loving, and giving our community is during this time of need of this awful pandemic of COVIΔ-19. It truly does take a village.” Mary Beth Aguilar
SIU Women’s Club Interest Groups
November 2020

Interest Group Director, Julie Bohnsack (jaweibrenner@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
   Donna Wilson 559-0830
dmwilson@siu.edu

Antiques and Collectibles
   Meets 1st Tuesday, 1:30 p.m.
   Hope to resume in the spring
   Carol O'Donnell 549-2287
odonnellcj@yahoo.com
Vivian Ugent 457-5258
vivianugent@gmail.com

Book Discussion
   Meets 2nd Thursday, 1 – 3 p.m.
   November 12, meeting via Zoom, The Last Painting of Sara de Vos”
   by Dominic Smith.
   Discussion Leader: Susan Swisher; Zoom Coordinator: Deborah Corker
   Janet Earnest 549-0416
jandae Earnest@gmail.com

Breakfast Group
   Meets 3rd Friday, 7:30 a.m., at Denny's Restaurant
   Janet Banerjee 687-3582
janet.banerjee@gmail.com

Bridge - Afternoon
   Meets 1st and 3rd Wednesdays, 1 - 3 p.m., in members’ homes
   Olga Weidner 549-7527
oweidner@siu.edu

Bridge - Couples Evening
   Meets 3rd Saturday, 7 p.m., Faculty House
   Kitty Tresco 203-1807
tresco@midwest.net
Peter Gregory 541-602-6732
peterg@humidtown.com

Cooking Lunch with Friends (First Group)
   Meets 4th Wednesday, four times a year in members’ homes
   Sue Whitlock 534-3932
kirkman061056@gmail.com
A.M. Hamilton-Brehm 702-419-2493
amhamib@gmail.com

Cooking Lunch with Friends (Second Group)
   Meets 1st Thursday, four times during academic year
   Lyn Knowles 529-3229
lknowles114@gmail.com

Evening at the Cinema
   Meets 1st Thursday at local theaters
   Wednesday, November 5. Details are yet to be decided
   and will be sent to group members the week before the meeting.
   Laura Helsel 559-4541
lahelsel@yahoo.com

Gentle Toning, Stretch and Yoga Techniques (GTSY)
   Meets every Thursday, 5:45 p.m., First United Methodist Church
   Nelda Hinckley 549-5588
neldahinckley@jalc.edu

Knitting and Stitching
   Meets 4th Thursday, 1 - 3 p.m., in members' homes
   Zoom meeting is being held to receive feedback
   on how to proceed for the year
   Sue Burroughs 203-2360
newmyerburroughs47@frontier.com
Lee Swayze 549-1017
lswayze1200@gmail.com
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<td><strong>Travel—The Suitcase Sisters</strong></td>
<td>Julie Bohnsack</td>
<td>534-4618</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:jaweilbrenner@gmail.com">jaweilbrenner@gmail.com</a></td>
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**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