The metalsmithing and blacksmithing programs emphasize development of hand skills, and both programs work to enhance the student’s aesthetic values, critical thinking and dialogue abilities, as well as their technical skills. Students learn a broad spectrum of skills and techniques while using traditional forms and materials to more modern experiential approaches. Learning these skills produces artists and craftspeople with a highly developed understanding of their creativity.

The program environment is one of diversity, seeking students with a range of interests, backgrounds and goals for achievement. The metals program at SIU Carbondale has developed links in Europe, the Pacific Rim and Mexico, and it attracts students from all over the world. In 2011, an exchange with Steneby at the University of Gothenburg in Sweden was established for blacksmithing. Graduates of the program have gone on to highly successful careers in academia and museum work, as well as that of a self-sustaining independent artist.

**METALS & BLACKSMITHING FACULTY**

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**FACILITIES**

**PULLIAM HALL**  
Metalsmithing and blacksmithing studios are located in Pulliam Hall Industrial Wing, along with the glass and ceramics studios. This proximity encourages interdisciplinary research and a more fluid exchange of ideas. The blacksmithing studio, dedicated after its expansion in 2001 as the L. Brent Kington Smithy, now offers five coal forges, three gas forges, four power hammers, an ironworker, blast cabinet, lathe, milling machine, english wheel, 100-ton hydraulic press and a bridge crane, in addition to standard equipment used for welding, cutting, grinding and finishing.

The metalsmithing studio is equipped for forming, raising, casting, etching, enameling and fabrication, as well as electroforming. Other standard machinery includes two drill presses, a band saw, belt sander, blasting cabinet, stomp shear, drawing bench, slip roller, hydraulic press, box banding brake and an 8.5-inch power rolling mill. This studio has a highly efficient dust-collecting system attached to buffing and grinding machines. Studio space for senior BFA and MFA students is located near Pulliam Hall.

**HISTORY**

**A BLACKSMITHING LEGEND**  
The metals programs have a long and distinguished history at SIU. Professor Emeritus L. Brent Kington is credited with reintroducing blacksmithing as an art form to the United States. His efforts brought the blacksmithing program, the only university program in the United States to offer a Master of Fine Arts degree in blacksmithing, to prominence over his 35-year teaching career. Upon his retirement, Rick Smith, a former student, took over the program.

Kington was one of the founders of the Artist Blacksmith Association of North America and the Society of North American Goldsmiths. In 1978, Kington was joined by Richard Mawdsley, professor emeritus. Specializing in highly narrative work, Mawdsley built the fine metals program and attracted students from all over the world. In 2009, Sun Kyoung Kim assumed that role in the fine metals program.

**METALS STUDENT CLUB**

**SOUTHERN ILLINOIS METALSMITHING SOCIETY**  
The Metals Student Organization, SIMS, hosts an annual conference and fine art auction fundraiser every fall. The proceeds from this fundraiser go to support the metals/blacksmithing program throughout the year, and to keep fees affordable for students in the program. To find out more about the next conference and auction, please email rshotforged@gmail.com.

**METALS BFA NEWS**

**ARTISTS FROM SIU**  
**Sophia Park** - Assistant professor, Kutztown University of Pennsylvania  
**Daniel Widolff** - Studio assistant, John Rais Studio (Milford, Pennsylvania)  
**Timothy Schaeffer** - Blacksmithing apprentice, Metal Museum (Memphis, Tennessee)
For complete course titles and descriptions, please visit: registrar.siu.edu/pdf/ugradcatalog1415.pdf