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 U.S. 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, Assistant Professor Sun Kyoung Kim assumed that role in the fine metals program.

PROGRAM SUMMARY
METALSMITHING AND BLACKSMITHING SPECIALIZATIONS
Both metalsmithing and blacksmithing programs emphasize development of hand skills, and 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 using traditional forms and materials to more modern experiential approaches. Learning these skills produces artists and craftspeople with a highly developed understanding of their craft and creativity.

The program environment is one of diversity, seeking students with a range of interests, backgrounds and goals for achievement. The metals program at SIUC has developed links in Europe, Pacific Rim and Mexico and attracts students from all over the world. In 2011, an exchange with Steneby at the University of Gothenburg, 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 BFA NEWS
ARTISTS FROM SIU
Logan Hirsh – Studio assistant, Claudio Batera Studio, Italy
Hana Hong – Externship, Bazz de Gant Jewelers, Brooklyn, NY
Shana Loconsole – Studio Assistant, Joanna Gollberg Designer Jewelry, Ashville, NC
Work-Study Scholarship and Studio Assistant Scholarship, Penland School of Crafts, Penland, NC

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, fabrication, as well as electroforming capabilities. Standard machinery, such as two drill presses, a band saw, belt sander, blasting cabinet, stomp shear, drawing bench, slip roller, hydraulic press, box banding brake, and an 8 ½” 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.

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 auction go to support Metals/Blacksmithing Program throughout the year, to keep fees affordable for students in the program. To find out more about the next conference and auction, please email RHSotforged@gmail.com.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
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