

Note from the Dean

“Character is the architect of achievements.” —Mark Twain

The origin of the word “character” comes from ancient Greek, meaning “engraved mark” or “distinctive quality.” It implies a consequence of experience and an obvious impact on our surroundings. I’ve heard the word applied in wildly different ways: “He’s such a character.” or “Do it, you’ll build some character.” We use the term in the more general sense in writing as how an author reveals personality through traits, dialogue, action, or relationships. Whatever it is, character building is another intangible or peripheral quality of an education—something rarely “taught” as having personal value.

I contend that yet another value of a liberal arts education is how it helps shape one’s character. Samuel Eliot Morison famously said that “members of the same collegiate community, in a close and constant association with each other and with their tutors” earned students “the priceless gift of character” (*Founding of Harvard College*, 1935). The Liberal Arts do precisely that. We are architects. Our courses and curricula, but also our extracurricular experiences, build character and lead to achievement.

College Meetings

Directors meetings take place the second Thursday of every month at 3pm, Dean's Conference room, Faner 2408.

Undergraduate Program Coordinators meetings take place the fourth Tuesday of every month at 3pm, Dean's Conference room, Faner 2408.

CoLA Student Advisory Council meeting will take place Wednesday, October 15, at 1pm, Dean's Conference room, Faner 2408.

CoLA Advisory Committee meeting will take place Monday, October 20, at 11am, Dean's Conference room, Faner 2408.

Retention Committee meeting will take place Monday, October 27, at 11am, Dean's Conference room, Faner 2408.

[CoLA Events Calendar](#)

[CoLA Faculty & Staff
Calendar](#)



Upcoming Deadlines

Sabbatical Requests due to the college on October 24.

Assessment questionnaires due to APAP office on November 1 (please cc Benjamin [Bricker](#) when submitting).

Recent Accomplishments

Graduate Students

We're proud to celebrate our outstanding students recognized at the Annual Graduate School Fellowship Reception for their excellence and dedication.

Doctoral Fellowship

- **Erin Henkel** – School of Communication Studies

Master's Fellowship

- **Eve Jacobson** – School of Literature, Writing, and Digital Humanities
- **Anastasia Simms** – School of Literature, Writing, and Digital Humanities

Graduate Dean's Fellowship

- **Kaylee Salazar** – School of Literature, Writing, and Digital Humanities

Dissertation Research Assistantship Award

- **Oleg Golishnikov** – School of Anthropology, Political Science, and Sociology
- **India Hagen-Gates** – School of Communication Studies
- **Franklin Kimmell** – School of Communication Studies
- **Ozge Kulak** – School of History and Philosophy
- **Joy Ofuokwu** – School of Anthropology, Political Science, and Sociology

Alumni

Congratulations to our **2025 SIU Distinguished Alumni Award Recipients.**

Tim McCarthy (Political Science, '87) and **Teresa McCarthy** (College of Arts & Media) and **Mark “Matt” Jennings** (Political Science, '90) – recipients of the Volunteer Excellence Award.

SIU Day



Thank you to all faculty and staff who helped participate in SIU Day this year. In total, SIU welcomed over 900 high school students to campus on September 24th. Sessions for CoLA included: Archaeological Dig in Thompson Woods with CAI; Exploring AI, AR, and VR in CVeX; The Sociological Imagination in Everyday Life (Sociology); Techniques of Characterization in Fiction Writing (English/Creative Writing); and Language and the Law (Linguistics). Participating faculty and staff for the sessions included Ryan Campbell, Ayla Amadio, Toby Merriman, Rachel

Whaley, Chris Wienke, Robert Frase, Dustin Hoffman, Jeff Punske, and Mike Olsen. We appreciate these important outreach efforts that help welcome prospective students. Thank you!

Important Information

The University Honors Program Call for Course Proposals: Fall 26–Spring 27 Due: Wednesday, November 5, 2025. Results will be announced by December 3, 2025.

Theme: Southern Illinois Legacy Builders—embracing our history and legacy as we move into the future. For the 2026–2027 year, we’d like to focus on Southern Illinois, its rich cultural history and biogeography – and use it as a springboard to imagine our future. We invite SIUC faculty to propose seminars that deepen connections with Southern Illinois:

- delve into its deep history – human and/or preceding it
- engage with historical artifacts and places – Native American Mound Builders and Geodesic Domes
- consider the mix of rural and urban, local and global – Cairo Il and St. Louis
- appreciate the significance of riches like the Mississippi river and the Shawnee National Forest
- learn about the legacy of our thinkers and creators -- Buckminster Fuller, Alan Schoen, Katherine Dunham, Eugene Redmond, Elijah Lovejoy
- reflect on social movements around race, labor, and the University's own history

We especially welcome the use of archival materials held by the museum and Morris library and inclusion of local authors/artists/activists in your proposed seminar.

The University Honors Program invites SIUC faculty to propose courses for our Fall 26–Spring 2027 UHON 351 seminars. Honors students take these UHON seminars to fulfil their University Core requirements. The goal is to introduce students to the foundations of intellectual enquiry in a comprehensive research university within the seminar–style model of collaborative learning. Seminars are dialogic. Faculty and students engage in debate and discussion grounded in texts and materials that the class is considering.

We encourage experimental and interdisciplinary approaches that integrate theory and practice, the university and the community, and foster habits of critical thinking. These foundational courses are not surveys in specific disciplines. Rather, the objective is to engage students in exploring the big questions embedded in discipline/s, approaches or methods, and to deepen and broaden their ability to untangle major problems that confront us.

In developing your course proposal, please consider: How does the course introduce students, especially non–majors, to the significance of your field or study? How does your method of analysis and research help examine how knowledge shapes our world and is shaped by it? How does your pedagogy engage students in experimenting with and communicating concepts such that they make deeper connections with each other and faculty? How does your subject help students feel some sense of control over their lives?

All SIUC faculty are encouraged to apply. You may submit individually or in pairs. Please submit your proposal using this [Course Proposal Form](#).

Remuneration:

- Faculty incentive, i.e., \$5000 in salary, if taught in addition to regular teaching duties

- College Signature Courses, taught on-load by the faculty member (no renumeration to College or faculty)

The **Public Relations Student Society of America (PRSSA)** – Raymond D. Wiley Chapter – is excited to invite you to **LinkedIn & Lattes**, on Wednesday, November 5, from 11:30 AM to 2:30 PM in Student Center Ballroom B. LinkedIn & Lattes is a campus-wide networking event designed to help students and faculty *brew connections, build their brand, and boost their network*—all in a relaxed, café-style environment. Attendees can enjoy a custom latte while participating in:

- A **keynote presentation (TBA)** and an expert panel discussion
- **LinkedIn and résumé workshop tables** for personalized feedback
- **Free professional headshots** for LinkedIn profiles
- A **networking lounge** to connect with peers, alumni, and professionals
- Fun **swag, giveaways, and refreshments**

This event offers an inclusive, engaging space for students of all majors to strengthen their professional presence and gain confidence in digital networking. Faculty can benefit from LinkedIn & Lattes by connecting with colleagues, engaging with students in a professional setting, and exploring new ways to use LinkedIn Learning in the classroom. The event also offers a chance to strengthen their own professional presence, build campus partnerships, and model the value of networking and lifelong learning.

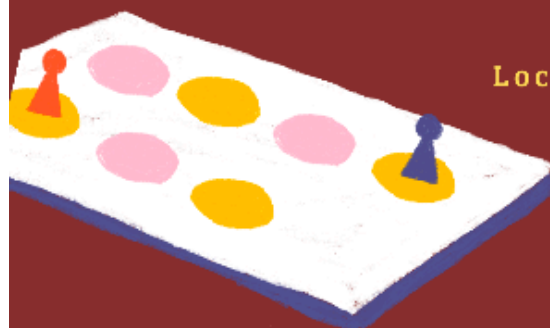
Link to RSVP is [here](#).

Upcoming Events



SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY CARBONDALE
COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

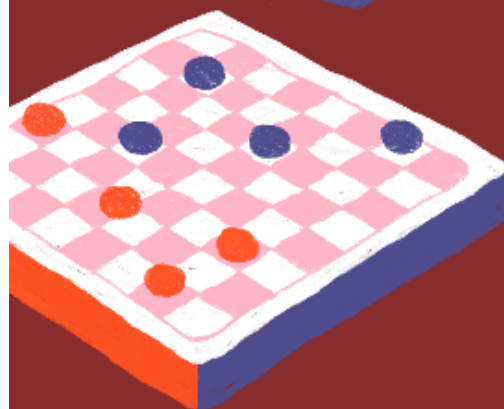
CoLA Board Game Night



Location: Faner Atrium, outside CoLA
Dean's Office (Faner 2427)

Date: Wednesday, October 15th

Time: 5:00-7:00pm



***CoLA LLC, RSOs, and any
CoLA majors are invited!***



• *Snacks Provided*

Register here!

• *You may bring your own board games.*

COLA CAREER WEEK

WITH ALUMNI

OCTOBER 20-24, 2025

Fourteen alumni from across our majors will give talks about their careers, and how their College of Liberal Arts degree helped to provide the foundation for their current positions. Talks are paired with certain CoLA classes, and they are also open to ALL SIU students, faculty, and staff.



MAGGIE MCKINNEY
Associate Fixed Income Analyst
Moneta



EDWARD QUIGLEY
Operations Officer
U.S. Army, Camp Atterbury



JULIA ROUNDTREE LIVINGSTON
Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Manager
Illinois Supreme Court Commission on Professionalism



KATE GRINDSTAFF
Education & Outreach Coordinator
Seward House Museum



KRISTA DANIEL
Senior Scientific Specialist
Illinois State Archaeological Survey,
American Bottom Field Station



KENDRA GREGORY
Public Information Specialist
Rend Lake College Marketing
& Communications Department



LORAINA



CORY THAMES
President & CEO, Thames Strategies
Thames Strategies



SIMBA WOODARD
Teacher and Community Organizer
Metro Nashville Public Schools



DOUG BITNER
Attorney
Stoll Keenon & Ogden



JODI GOLDEN
Director of Business Development
Egis in the USA, Indianapolis, IN



ASHLYN EGE
Marketing Strategist
St. Louis Cardinals



SHEKINAH REED
College Publishing Sales Representative
W.W. Norton Inc.



ALEX JONES
Legal Assistant and Docent (Volunteer)
Lowenhaupt & Chasnoff (Legal Assistant);
Salem's Art Museum (Docent Assistant)



**LORRINE
TRUJILLO**
Associate Attorney
Brown, Hay, and Stephens

ST. LOUIS ART MUSEUM (DOCENT PROGRAM)



SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY CARBONDALE
COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

**SCAN FOR
MORE INFO
AND TO
REGISTER**

For disability
accommodations
call 618/463-5738.



Food Drop-off

Clearing out your pantry? Have extra fruit or vegetables? The Faner Atrium will have a tray next to the microwave beginning 10/20 for fruit, vegetables, non-perishable, and microwavable items.

Suggested items include oranges, apples, bananas, baby carrots, ramen cups, and anything that students can easily eat for lunch.



⚠ CAUTION: CHALLENGING IDEAS AHEAD ⚠

THAT BOOK IS DANGEROUS!

Literary Freedom in the Age of Social Media

A Lecture by Adam Szetela



Adam Szetela explores how efforts to diversify children's and YA literature, while well-intentioned, has also created unexpected challenges for literary freedom. Drawing on interviews with top publishing executives, authors, agents, and sensitivity readers, Szetela reveals the tension between inclusion and censorship in today's publishing world.

Date: **Tuesday, October 21, 2025**

Lecture and Q&A: **4:30-6:00 PM**

Via Zoom: <http://bit.ly/4gX7UGn>



Sponsored by Heterodox Campus Community. Contact: Jonathan Bean (jonbean@siu.edu) For more on Heterodox Campus Community SIUC, go to <https://heterodoxacademy.org/campuses/southern-illinois-university-carbondale/>

heterodox  academy
or
Southern Illinois University - Carbondale



SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY CARBONDALE
COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

Back-to-Class

**October 24th (Friday
of Homecoming Week)**

5:30-8:00pm

Connect with the College of Liberal Arts by going 'back to class' with current SIU COLA faculty.

REGISTER FOR BACK-TO-CLASS HERE.

<https://siuf.org/events/back-to-class-cola.php>



Faner Hall Door 6 Lobby

1000 Faner Drive Carbondale, IL 62901

5:30-6:15: Reception with appetizers and beverages

6:15-7:00: First Class

7:15-8:00: Second Class

*Attendees will choose two of the following classes:

"What is Race? Histories, Identities, Implications" by Dr. Ted Cohen (Africana Studies & Historical Studies)

"Education is Life or Death" or "My Quest to See My 60s" by Dr. Joshua Daniel (Rhetoric/Composition)

"The Hidden Diversity of Faith in Southern Illinois" by Dr. Tobin Grant (Political Science)

"Beyond Sound: What Deaf Culture Teaches Us

THE COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS
PRESENTS

EMPOWERING STUDENT SUCCESS THROUGH FOCUS 2

Join Dr. Rachel Wolters on October 29th
at 2:00 p.m. as she discusses how
instructors can integrate Focus 2 into
their courses.

Focus 2

- ✓ Ranked the #1 career and major exploration system in the U.S.
- ✓ Provides self-assessments to guide decision-making.
- ✓ Bridges a student's interests, major, and career paths for success.

Register Today!



SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY CARBONDALE

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

<http://bit.ly/4mYbud5>