



Note from the Dean

In my final Dean's Note to everyone in CoLA, I just want to express how grateful I am to have served you all in this role. The vast majority of my experience here as Dean has been one of awe as I've witnessed how you all have turned around from what I observed was a fairly downtrodden and demoralized group to one of great optimism and hope for the future. With your tireless advocacy and sense of social justice, I know the Liberal Arts will continue to thrive at SIU.

I also know that Jennifer and Ben will do their best to keep the momentum going as you all continue to look at the horizon, rather than down. I have no doubt that CoLA will continue to strive for student success and faculty greatness.

Thanks to each and every one of you.

I leave you with the philosophical lyrics of the great band, INXS: "Sometimes you kick, sometimes you get kicked."

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 Events Calendar](#)

[CoLA Faculty & Staff
Calendar](#)



Lilia Angel-Post, Assistant Director of the Center for English as a Second Language (CESL) and **Laura Leidy** of SIU's Latin American Student Association (LASA) visited Bibi Eaton's Spanish classes at Carterville High School on December 1. **Dr. Lourdes Albuixech** also visited Bibi's classes in November. Thank you to everyone who continues to engage with our local high schools.

Recent Accomplishments

Faculty

Nilanjana Bardhan, Professor in the School of Communication Studies, had the pleasure of virtually interacting with students in an international public relations class at Massey University, Wellington, NZ, which is being taught by Dr. Mimi Hodis, a CMST alum and former doctoral advisee of Dr. Bardhan. She spoke about public relations in the U.S. and shared insights from her recent co-authored book *The Role of Leadership in Building Inclusive Diversity in Public Relations*.

Father Joseph Brown, Professor and Director of the School of Africana & Multicultural Studies, is highlighted in the current U.S.Catholic magazine. You can read the article [here](#).

Michelle Freeman's, Assistant Professor of Classics & History, article, "Local Patterns of Relic Veneration in Late Antiquity: Reassessing Alleged Distinctions between Greek and Roman Customs" won the 2025 Sidney E. Mead Prize from the [American Society of Church History](#). The award is granted to an advanced graduate student or recent PhD for the best unpublished article stemming from

dissertation research that contributes significantly to its field and to the history of Christianity more broadly.

Jonny Gray, Associate Professor in the School of Communication Studies, gave a talk, "More than Visibility: Community Service and Engagement for LGBTQ+ Southern Illinois," at Rend Lake College. Gray also coordinated the visit of Dr. Desiree Rowe, who offered a workshop on qualitative research and her performance, "Wave 1.12.22," the first weekend of October.

Undergraduate Students

First-year student **Kenna Morton** from the School of Languages and Linguistics has had two of her poems accepted for publication in *Grassroots*.

Important Information



Commencement will be held Saturday, December 13th, 9:30am, at the Banterra Center. Faculty Information can be found [here](#). Ceremonies last approximately 2–2.5 hours. The Academic Excellence Ceremony is scheduled for Friday, December 12 at 7pm – the evening prior to commencement.

Information from Events and Outreach:

Volunteers

All members of the SIU community (students, faculty, staff, alumni) are invited to serve as commencement volunteers. Volunteer may use our [Commencement Volunteer](#) sign up or visit our [volunteer webpage](#).

Faculty Involvement

One of our continued goals is to increase faculty participation in Commencement. There are two ways for faculty to participate in Commencement (outside of those who are hooding doctoral students or serving in another special individual role):

1. Commencement Marshals – we have space for 12 marshals. Faculty or staff who wish to serve as marshals can fill out our online [Commencement Marshal](#) form. Graduate marshals will lead the processional of Master's students into the ceremony; other marshals will assist with seating on the floor. All marshals will assist when students cross the stage, and during the recessional.
2. Faculty processional and section – Faculty who are not hooding doctoral students or serving as marshals may process in and be seated in the faculty section. The faculty section is the front/bottom rows of the padded chair seats closest to the floor. This section gives faculty a front-

row seat to congratulate their students and engage in the ceremony. Faculty who wish to participate are asked to complete a brief (3 question) [**Faculty Participation**](#) form, to assist with planning. This is not a required registration, so if someone decides to participate last minute, they are welcome to show up.

Regalia

All members of the platform party, marshals, and faculty processional must wear academic regalia. Individuals who own regalia from their alma mater may wear it (SIU regalia is not required). Those who do not own regalia may rent from the University Bookstore. We also have a limited supply in our office, and they are welcome to contact us at events@siu.edu to inquire about borrowing regalia.

Upcoming Events



SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY CARBONDALE
COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

Individuals with disabilities are welcomed.
Call 618-453-5738 to request
accommodations

Carbs and Caffeine

WEEK (DECEMBER 8 - 12)

Panera, bagels, coffee, fruits
snacks served every day
7:45am-2pm (While supplies
last)

Schedule:

Monday- Yummy Donuts

Tuesday- Ninas Mexican Bakery

Wednesday- Get Dipped Pastries

Thursday- Kozy Cakes cookies

Friday- Bunmakers cinnamon rolls

Second floor of Faner

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.

