

*Faner Courtyard during Eclipse*

# CoLA Lowdown

## A NOTE

### *From the Dean*

#### State of the College

I intended to give the “State of the College” address at the eclipse event, but few faculty were in attendance so I’ll do that here.

First, give a hand to Layla and her team for her planning and execution of the CoLA Eclipse Reception. Many were very pleased with the excellent event.

Once again, I’m proud to report, the State of CoLA is Excellent

- Student enrollment for SP24 is up 2.6% higher than last year; from FA23 it’s up 14%;

## College Calendars

[CoLA Events Calendar](#)

[CoLA Faculty & Staff Calendar](#)

## College Committees

[CoLA Committees](#)

- The overall number of undergraduate majors is higher, as is our graduate enrollment;
- Student retention is also higher: for fall 23 to spring 24, SIU's retention was 84%—for CoLA it was 94%; for fall 23 to fall 24 SIU's retention was 64%; for CoLA it was 81% (see attached);
- It's no secret that we are in lean times this year with the budget; even so, we will hire 5, possibly 6, new TT faculty who will begin in August;
- The new Center for Virtual Expression officially had its grand opening; the graduate council has voted yes and the faculty senate also voted (unanimously) in the positive. We are now waiting for the Chancellor to sign the RME and send it to IBHE for approval;
- CoLA has signed MOUs with Poland and Lithuania that will increase our international partnerships and faculty/student exchanges;
- All new operating papers for the college and all of our units are expected to be finalized this semester;

[Webpage](#)

The CoLA Committees webpage lists all the committee meeting minutes.

So thank each and every one of you, from student, to faculty, to alum, to friends of the College. Don't forget to donate to our 80th Anniversary, "[Planting the Roots of Legacy](#)" oak tree fund—and here's to a successful Spring 2024 semester in CoLA.

## 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 Council/OP Committee** meeting will take place Thursday, April 17, at 4pm, Dean's Conference room, Faner 2408.

**College Advisory Committee** meeting will take place Wednesday, May 1, at 9am, Dean's Conference room, Faner 2408.

## Upcoming

# Deadlines

April 19: NTT Workload assignments

May 15: NTT Annual Performance Review

May 15: GA performance evaluations

## Share Your News

Do you have news to add to an upcoming CoLA Lowdown? Submit [\*\*this form\*\*](#) to share news, events, awards, and more with the rest of the College.

## Recent Accomplishments

### Faculty

**Pinckney Benedict**, Interim Director of the Center for Virtual Expression ([CVeX](#)), is one of the winners of the SIU Foundation Research and Creative Activities Awards. His proposal titled "The Classroom of Tomorrow: Revolutionizing Learning with Augmented Reality" has been approved for funding.

Two CAI/Anthropology field school projects are featured in the latest edition of the [Society for Historical Archaeology \(SHA\) newsletter](#). These include a project the CAI is conducting for the state of Illinois, part of which involves researching the Civil War-era Cairo Contraband Camp in Cairo Illinois. The short article (pages 31-32) features a photograph of **Dr. Mark Wagner**, Director, Center for Archaeological Investigations, with **George Hunt**, PhD student in History, on page 31 looking at maps of the contraband camp. The second article (pages 32-34) is on the SIUC field school investigations of the home site of an abolitionist missionary—Reverend James West—who was driven out of the region by a pro-slavery mob in 1861. His home site is now located on Forest Service land in Pope County. This past summer the Anthropology Department archaeology field school class participated in the initial investigation of this site along with Forest Service archaeologists and tribal youth from the United Ketoowah Cherokee band who were in southern Illinois as a part of a Forest Service outreach project.

The field school class is going to assist the Forest Service and UKB youth in further investigation of this site this summer.

**Dr. K. Allison Hammer**, Assistant Professor and WGSS Coordinator, has been selected for the SIU Inclusive Excellence Award.

## **Recent Events**

### *SLL Preview Day*

The School of Languages and Linguistics held their second annual Preview Day on Friday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> for prospective and admitted students. These students are high school and community college students who have expressed an interest in attending SIU and majoring in an SLL program. Following a Meet & Greet in the morning, students attended mini-classes hosted by SLL faculty and graduate students. After lunch, students were able to visit more SLL programs and student clubs. The 23 students included visitors from local schools such as Carbondale, Marion, Herrin, Johnston City, and Massac County. Other guests traveled from Waterloo, Belleville, Evanston, and Memphis (TN). Thank you to all of the SLL faculty who participated and helped to make this year's event a success!

### *Southern Regional Competition for Illinois History Day*



*Carbondale Middle School participants with teacher Morgan Spenser.*

This year's competition was held on Saturday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> in the SIU Student Center. The National History Day theme for this year was *Turning Points in History*. Local middle school and high school students submitted projects including documentaries, exhibits, papers, performances, and websites. Close to 150 students brought or performed submissions that were judged by SIU History faculty and graduate students, and those who scored high enough, will attend the State of Illinois competition in late April.

## High School Outreach





Lourdes Albuxech (Associate Professor, Spanish), along with Tatiana Burgos, have visited numerous high school classes this semester to do folkloric workshops in which students are introduced to Latin dances. These photos were from a visit to Vienna High School.

## Important Information

On April 24, the Emergency Operations Center will hold active threat exercises from 8 a.m. to noon to see how its teams work together in responding to an emergency and to analyze strengths and areas for improvement. For most of the campus community, it's business as usual; people who are involved will be notified in advance. Faculty, staff and students may notice increased activity at the Student Center and more messaging via email and text from the university. Unlike previous years, the 2024 exercises will focus on hours 4 through 8 of an active shooter scenario, continuing from where we left off last year. [SIU Today article](#) has more information.

Students will be registering for Summer and Fall 2024 classes soon! CoLA highlights courses on the [Electives Webpage](#) that students within CoLA, and across the university, may be interested in taking. The focus is on courses at the 200/300/400 level that do not require a prerequisite. Faculty teaching special topics courses, new courses, or classes that have not been offered lately, are especially encouraged to submit their courses so that students and advisors can

see more information about those courses. Please see the current webpage for examples. If interested in submitting info for the website, please contact Rachel Wolters ([rachelw@siu.edu](mailto:rachelw@siu.edu)).

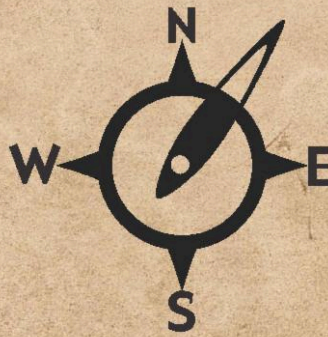
**Honors Day Ceremony** will take place on Saturday, April 13 at 1:00pm, in Shryock Auditorium. Reception will follow. Faculty from all Programs are encouraged to attend in order to help congratulate award recipients.

**College of Liberal Arts Commencement** will be held Saturday, May 11, 9:00am, at the Banterra Center. Faculty information can be found [here](#).

## *Upcoming Events*

# Español

en todos los  
**SENTIDOS**



¡Celebra con SIU el día del Idioma  
Español!

- Lectura de piezas literarias
- Bailes hispanos
- Karaoke en español
- Música en español

Hablar

Ver

Escuchar

Sentir

**23 abril**

12 - 3 pm

**Brown Auditorium  
(Parkinsons 124)**



**SIU** Southern Illinois University  
CARBONDALE



