

# COLA LOWDOWN

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# Note from the Dean

**Welcome** to the 2025–2026 academic year. CoLA is fortunate to be onboarding 6 new faculty this fall.

- Weining Ai, Asst. Professor, SAPSS (political science);
- Brody Bluemel, Director of SLL, Professor;
- Renee Branum, Asst. Professor, Creative Writing (fiction), SLWDH;
- Dustin Hoffman, Assoc. Professor, Creative Writing (fiction), SLWDH;
- Holly Lewis, Professor, Director of CVeX, Professor (philosophy);
- Joseph Wager, Asst. Professor, SLL (Spanish).

Please help us extend a warm welcome to everyone new here to SIU and to Southern Illinois.

## 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.

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

**CoLA Advisory Committee** meeting will take place Monday, September 22, at 12pm, Dean's Conference room, Faner 2408.

[CoLA Events Calendar](#)

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[Calendar](#)



## Upcoming Deadlines

**Textbook adoption reminder:** Please remember to submit all book orders for Spring 2026 courses. Send textbook adoption orders and inquiries to the bookstore at [0625txt@follett.com](mailto:0625txt@follett.com), or use the online [ordering form](#). Please ensure that all courses you are scheduling for the Spring semester have course materials, where appropriate, ordered no later than **September 15**. This applies to all course packets as well.

**Form 90/90A and Form 100s** due to the college on September 24.

**Sabbatical Reports** due to the college on October 3.

**P&T Dossiers** due to the college on October 5.

**Assessment questionnaires** due to APAP office on October 15 (please cc Benjamin [Bricker](#) when submitting).

**Sabbatical Requests** due to the college on October 24.

## Recent Accomplishments

### Faculty

**Michelle Freeman**, Assistant Professor, Classics and History, recently had an article published in Church History journal. Title, "Local Patterns of Relic Veneration in Late Antiquity: Reassessing Alleged Distinctions between Greek and Roman Customs".

**Dustin Greenwalt**, Assistant Professor, School of Communication Studies, recent publication titled "Optimism" in the forthcoming edited volume, *Ecological Feelings: A Rhetorical Compendium*, edited by Joshua Trey Barnett and published by Michigan State University Press (2025). 209–228.

**Shelby Swafford**, Assistant Professor of Practice, School of Communication Studies, received the Outstanding Book Chapter Award from the Central States Communication Association.

**Katie Moore**, Assistant Professor, School of Languages and Linguistics, was awarded the Isabelle Calvacca Award this past summer for her service with American Sign Language Teachers Association as Professional Development Director. In addition, Dr. Moore was recently interviewed by Brian Sapp of WSIU. The story will be available through WSIU the week of September 8th.

## Graduate Students

**Reza Shirmaz**, Teaching Assistant, School of Communication Studies, is having his play "Muzzled" produced at the prestigious Chopin Theater in Chicago by the Theater of the Absurd, May 2 – 25, 2025.

## Undergraduate Students

The Illinois Archaeological Survey (IAS) is awarding this year's IAS Public Service award to SIU undergraduate **Abigail Henry** for rescuing Jon Muller's Mud Glyph Cave material. Ms. Henry worked with Professor Emeritus Mark Wagner, the director of the Center for Archeological Investigations on the project.

## CESL's Community Engagement Program





The **Center for English as a Second Language (CESL)** had another busy summer, with international students volunteering at several local organizations. CESL is one of the centers in CoLA housed within the School of Languages and Linguistics. Each summer, CESL offers the Community Engagement Program to our students as a way for them to practice their English and for the community to enjoy the benefits of having this diverse group of students in Southern Illinois.

# Important Information

**CoLA Electives Webpage** – CoLA is looking to highlight courses for Summer and Fall 2025 that majors across the university can take as electives. We're looking for courses that do not require a prerequisite and are likely 200/300/400 level courses. These courses will be included on the CoLA Electives Webpage and sent out to advisors across the university. Courses that are not taught often, are new, or are Special Topics courses are especially encouraged. Students begin meeting with their advisors to plan for Spring semester after Week 5 of the Fall semester. If interested, please send a course flyer to Rachel Wolters ([rachelw@siu.edu](mailto:rachelw@siu.edu)).

Faculty are encouraged to monitor class attendance using the new software available in D2L called **You-Attend**; enables the use of reports if you have tracked your attendance using the tool.

Consider leveraging your expertise to create a **Continuing Education and Professional Development course**. These courses can provide extra revenue for faculty and for the college.

**Focus 2 info:** Focus 2 is a career development platform available to all CoLA students. Please see our [Career Development webpage](#) to read more about its benefits for our different groups of students housed in CoLA. If you would like to encourage your majors, or a class, to use the assessments within the program, and see the results, contact Rachel Wolters ([rachelw@siu.edu](mailto:rachelw@siu.edu)) to be added as a sub-admin in the platform.

**A student training for Focus 2 will take place in Morris Library 752/754 on September 15th from 3:30–4:30, and faculty are welcome to join.**

Additionally, you can check out the following webinars, hosted by **Focus 2**:

- [Thursday, Sept 4, 2025 Time: 3:00 – 3:45 PM EST](#) – FOCUS 2 Course Plan to use in FYE and other Courses
- [Tuesday, Sept 9, 2025 Time: 1:00 – 2:00 PM EST](#) – FOCUS 2 CAREER: A 60 Minute Overview of the Student and Administrative sites
- [Wednesday, Sept 17, 2025 Time: 1:00 – 2:00 PM EST](#) – FOCUS 2 CAREER: A 60 Minute Overview of the Student and Administrative sites
- [Friday, Sept 19, 2025 Time: 1:00 – 1:45 PM EST](#) – FOCUS 2 Course Plan to use in FYE and other Courses
- [Wednesday, Sept 24, 2025 Time: 2:00 – 2:30 PM EST](#) – FOCUS 2 CAREER: A 30 Minute Tour of the Student Website

**Volunteer for SIU Day** – SIU is looking for volunteers to assist with SIU Day. This event brings hundreds of local high school students to campus. Students attend morning and afternoon sessions, and the majority of the positions involve walking a group from the Student Center to their session location, staying with them

throughout the session, and then walking them back to the Student Center.

Volunteer signup: [SIU Events and Outreach: SIU Day Volunteers 2025](#)

**Student Success Retreat** for all faculty to attend is scheduled for October 10, 8:00am – 12:00pm. More info, contact the Associate Provost for Student Success, [Shelly Gehrke](#).

**[Honorary Degree and Distinguished Service Awards](#)** – nominations deadline is Wednesday, October 15, 2025. To be considered, all letters of nomination must be accompanied by a 2–3 page resume, or curriculum vita, and/or a biographical sketch (e.g. an entry in *Who's Who in America*) of the candidate that includes a description of the unique contributions of the nominee. The Committee may request additional supportive materials, such as letters of recommendation and copies of representative publications or works, after the initial submission of a nomination. Please direct all inquiries to the Director of Events and Outreach, Sarah VanVooren ([svanvoo@siu.edu](mailto:svanvoo@siu.edu)).

**Fellowship opportunity** at The New York Public Library – The Dorothy and Lewis B. Cullman Center for Scholars and Writers is an international fellowship program open to academics, independent scholars, journalists, creative writers, translators, and visual artists whose work will benefit directly from access to the collections at NYPL's Stephen A. Schwarzman Building. Fellows receive a \$90,000 stipend, the use of a private office with a computer, and full access to the Library's physical and electronic resources. Applications for the 2026–2027 Fellowship are open until September 26th. More [details](#).

CVeX AI Talk



## Upcoming Events

Faculty are invited to participate in any CoLA Living Learning Community activities. Please contact Rachel Wolters with any questions.





SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY CARBONDALE  
**COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS**

# LLC EVENTS

## **Donut Mondays (8:30-10:30) in Schneider Lobby**

September 8th  
October 6th  
November 3rd  
December 1st  
January 12th  
February 2nd  
March 2nd  
April 6th

## **CVeX Nights (Tuesdays, Fall) 6:30- 8:30pm**

September 2nd  
September 16th  
September 30th  
October 14th  
October 28th  
November 18th  
December 2nd

## **Lunches, Mondays/Tuesdays (12:00- 1:00pm) in Trueblood**

August 25th  
September 23rd  
October 27th  
November 18th  
January 27th  
February 23rd  
March 24th  
April 20th

## **Monthly Events**

August 14th, 1:00-2:00pm: LLC Kickoff Event  
in Schneider Hall Lobby.

September 9th, 4:00-5:00pm: Rec Center  
Tour.

October 8th, 4:00-5:00pm: Wellness and  
Health Presentation, Schneider Conference  
Room.

November 12th, 4:00-5:00pm: Campus Lake  
Group Walk.

February 4th, 3:00-4:00: HEROES and Food  
Pantry Tour

April 4th: The Big Event Participation

April 14th, 4:00-5:30pm: Scavenger Hunt.

Students will receive email reminders about these events.

The monthly events might include registration, and that information will  
be emailed and available through QR codes on flyers that will be hung  
within the LLC. Due to unforeseen circumstance, some events might be  
adjusted at a later date.

# CoLA Pop-Up Store!

Order by September 4th.  
Pick-up in Faner, or  
Shipping available.

<https://shopsilkworm.com/index.php/siucola/>



# Bodega at SIU

Famous New York Art Rock Band  
Bodega is coming to discuss the  
Philosophy behind their music on  
September 25!

They will also play a concert at the  
newly re-opened Hangar 9 on  
September 26!



Bodega Talk: September 25, 6 pm, Guyon  
Auditorium in the Library

Bodega Concert: September 26 @ Hangar 9  
511 S. Illinois Ave, Carbondale, IL





Southern Illinois University | College of Liberal Arts 1000 Faner Dr | Carbondale, IL 62901 US

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