EMPLOYEE HONORS:  Waneta McKemie, Medicine, is the A/P employee of the 2nd quarter. Her nominators say “although she runs a large clinic, she always has time to answer questions or help solve problems. She is kind and courteous to both employees and patients.” Congratulations, Waneta.

Three employees have been Caught in the Act of Excellence. Phillip Alphin, Central Services, “voluntarily helped to solve a patient’s wheelchair problem.” Ryan Mahan, Medicine, “showed compassion when he helped an elderly patient avoid a visit to the ER by contacting the appropriate nurse.” Brenda Joyce, Comptroller’s Office, “offered to help a co-worker find several needed files quickly and efficiently.”

HERRIN OBSTETRICIAN NAMED MENTOR OF THE YEAR: Paul Cruz, M.D., has been recognized as the Mentor of the Year for the 2003-04 academic year by the School’s first-year students. “Dr. Cruz shared his time and experience and was an enthusiastic example for his assigned students, providing them with valuable experience in clinical medicine. We greatly appreciate his contribution along with the 51 other volunteer mentors,” said William Hamilton, M.D., Pediatrics, in announcing the award. Hamilton directs the doctoring committee for year one. The medical students nominating Cruz, who supervised two students during the year, said he “stressed that we needed to treat each patient with respect…and that there is nothing more important than giving your patients the respect they deserve.” Dr. Cruz showed us it is important to make time in life to learn about the people you are caring for and also to make an effort to learn about your fellow health care workers.” An obstetrician and gynecologist, Cruz practices at Rea Clinic in Herrin. He was one of 13 area physicians nominated.

PATIENTS NEEDED FOR TINNITUS STUDY: Patients are being recruited by otolaryngology head and neck surgery as part of a clinical trial for the treatment of tinnitus, or ringing in the ears. This study is evaluating the efficacy and safety of gabapentin on the sensation and impact of tinnitus. Carol Bauer, M.D., Surgery, is directing the study. To be eligible for the study, patients must be between the ages of 18 and 70 and have tinnitus that has been present and bothersome for at least a year. For information, call Bauer at 545-5140 or 545-6150 or e-mail her at cbauer@siumed.edu.

LECTURES & SYMPOSIA: Jeff Karnes, M.D., Surgery, will present “What’s New with Incontinence Treatment” at Lunch with the Doctor noon, Tuesday, July 27, at Prairie Heart Conference Center, 619 E. Mason St., Springfield. The first 15 people to register will receive a free lunch; all other lunches are $5. To RSVP, call Carol Thomas, Surgery, 545-7133.

Frank Lynn Meshberger, M.D., from Anderson, Ind., will present “Michelangelo and the Brain: Decoding the Creation of Adam” at 6 p.m. Monday, August 23, in the South Auditorium, 801 N. Rutledge, Springfield. SIU Medical Humanities and Friends of the Pearson Museum sponsor the annual lecture in honor of Emmett Pearson, M.D. For information, call Medical Humanities, 545-4261.

“Internal Medicine and Geriatrics: Issues in Primary Care” is the topic for the CME conference 11:45 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. Thursday, August 19, at John A. Logan College, 700 Logan College Road, in Carterville. The course directors are David Steward, M.D., and Stephen Goetter, M.D., both Medicine. For information, call Continuing Medical Education, 545-7711.
COMMUNITY CORNER

CMN FUNDRAISER: Illinois State Fair one-day tickets, which includes admission and all rides, are on sale for $20 per ticket at the Security Office, 801 N. Rutledge (1st floor). Proceeds from sales benefit the Children’s Miracle Network. For information, call SIU Development, 545-2955.

ENOS UPDATE: It’s time to begin our annual support of our School-Business partner, Enos School. Many of the 250-some students need our help in getting off to a good start in the new school year, which starts August 25. SIU’s Adopt-A-School committee is collecting school supplies because many families can’t provide them – 90% of the students come from economically disadvantaged homes. Deliver your donation or checks (payable to SIU Foundation Acct. 12-02420) to Public Affairs by August 20 or look for the Blue Enos bins throughout the School.

The items needed are –
- backpack or book bag
- large box of tissues
- scissors (3.45 or 6 inch)
- white glue sticks
- pencil/supply boxes
- crayons (24 ct)
- box of wet wipes
- colored pencils (8 ct)
- 2-pocket folders, no clasp
- expandable folder w/14 pockets

For information, call Mary Aiello or Tracey Smith, Education/Curriculum; Rebecca Antonacci, OB/GYN; Cathy Brower and Erin Paris, both Medicine; Karen Filer, ITEC; Cheryl Meyer, Purchasing; Julie Robbs, Family/Community Medicine; Susan Helm, Surgery; Karen Torricelli, Management/Budget; Lisa Waldeck, Medical Humanities; or Merle Shiffman or Nancy Zimmers, Public Affairs.

RESEARCH GRANTS: Fifteen grants were awarded to SIU faculty and staff from the Central Research Committee. The grant individuals and teams are -- Lydia Arbogast, Ph.D., Physiology; Brent Bany, Ph.D., Physiology; George Dunaway, Ph.D., Pharmacology; James LaGuardia, M.D., Neurology, and Gregory Brewer, Ph.D., Medical Microbiology/Immunology/Cell Biology; Mary McAsey, Ph.D., Obstetrics/Gynecology, and Robert Struble Ph.D., Alzheimer Disease Center; Stephen Milner, M.D., Satyanarayan Bhat, Ph.D., and Salil Gulati, M.D., all Surgery, Nancy Khardori, M.D., and Mohamed El-Azizi, Ph.D., both Medicine, and Steven Verhulst, Ph.D., Statistics/Research Consulting; Geunyong Pyo, Ph.D., Robert Pary, M.D., and Kasturi Kripakaran, M.D., all Psychiatry; Vickram Ramkumar, Ph.D., Pharmacology; Sophia Ran, Ph.D., and Yin-Yuan Mo, Ph.D., both Medical Microbiology/Immunology/Cell Biology; Krishna Rao, M.D., Medicine; Laura Rogers, M.D., Medicine; Akshay Sood, M.D., Beth Dawson, Ph.D., Naveen Fajoli, and Billie Edson, all Medicine; Donald Torry, Ph.D., Medical Microbiology/Immunology/Cell Biology; and Bradon Wilhelmi, M.D., John Fortune, M.D., Michael Neumeister, M.D., Chris Chambers, Ph.D., and Arian Mowlavi, M.D., all Surgery.

HONORS: David Resch, M.D., Medicine, has been elected chair and Gary Dunnington, M.D., Surgery, has been elected vice-chair of the SIU P&S board, effective immediately. Both will serve two-year terms.

BENEFIT CHOICE PART 2: Employees will have a second opportunity to make changes to their insurance programs and the flexible spending program (MCAP) from July 26 thru August 20. A Benefit Choice Options Booklet will be sent to their home in late July or go to http://www.benefitchoice.ill.gov. For information call, Vicki Benson, 545-8035, Lisa Adams, 545-7570 or Gloria Fader, 545-5641, all Human Resources.

SIU STATS AVAILABLE: The quarterly update of SIU Stats is available. This listing is maintained by Public Affairs and listed quarterly. STATS is also available on the SIU home page under About SIU and on the News & Information page. For information, call Merle Shiffman, Public Affairs, 545-5616.

IDPH CELEBRATION: The Illinois Department of Public Health celebrates 100 years of service to the citizens of Illinois with a ceremony and reception 2 p.m. Monday, August 9, at 825 N. Rutledge, Springfield and 1155 S. Oakland, Carbondale. For security reasons, RSVP to either 217-782-6562 or 618-457-5131 by August 2.

NEWS BRIEFS


PRESENTATIONS: Susan Hingle, M.D., Medicine, presented “Volunteering as a Physician-Opportunities, Challenges and Rewards” at the American College of Physicians meeting in April in New Orleans.

Kathy Mahaffey, SIU P&S, presented “Benchmarking for Success-Academic Best Practices” at the Medical Group Management Association meeting in May in Seattle, Wash. At the same meeting she was elected vice president of the academic practice assembly.

Wesley McNeese, M.D., Diversity/Minority Affairs, lectured on “Erectile Dysfunction” at the Union Baptist Church in July in Springfield.

STAFF UPDATE: Welcome to Regina Boros, medical assistant, Surgery; Shari Cholar, office systems specialist, Pediatrics; LaVeta Jenkins, account technician, Comptroller’s Office; Brenda Sternitzke, nurse, Pediatrics; and Vicki Tryon, account technician, Pediatrics. Farewell to Jennifer Hall, Surgery; Alice Lucchesi, Obstetrics/Gynecology; and William Piper, Patient Business Services (retirement).