EMPLOYEE HONORS: Laurie Jessen, Medicine, is the April employee of the month. Her nominators say “she always exhibits a level of professionalism that personifies the term professional. Laurie approaches her job with a sense of humor and a positive can do attitude.” Congratulations, Laurie.

Sonja McGrath, Obstetrics/Gynecology, has been named the A/P employee of the quarter for the first quarter. Her nominators describe “how instrumental she was in seamlessly merging two practices. Sonja consistently provides expertise and leadership necessary to keep Obstetrics/Gynecology running smoothly.” Congratulations, Sonja.

Five employees have been Caught in the Act of Excellence. Angie Doolin and Vicki Morris, both Surgery, “helped solve a missing resource problem and kept a training program on time. They both are a great example of service from one department to another.” Kristina Blisssett, Medicine, “went above and beyond to drive a patient who was unable to walk to her appointment in another building.” Stacy Miller, Medicine, “is always eager to answer and help solve computer questions. Her enthusiasm makes her an invaluable member of the department.” Julie Rhodes, Pediatrics, “is consistently professional with staff and patients. Julie is a joy to work with.” Congratulations, Angie, Vicki, Stacy, Kristina and Julie.

HEAD AND NECK CANCER SCREENINGS: James Malone, M.D., and Thomas Robbins, M.D., both Surgery, will perform free head and neck screenings 8-11 a.m. Saturday, April 17, and 4-7 p.m. Monday, April 19, both at the Surgery Clinic, fifth floor, St. John’s Pavilion, 301 N. 8th St. The screening is part of National Oral Head and Neck Cancer Awareness Week. For information, call Pam Ray, Surgery, 545-6150.

AOA MEMBERS TO BE INDUCTED: Seven new members of the Alpha Omega Alpha (AOA) Honor Medical Society will be inducted into the Eta chapter at SIU. Inductees from the class of 2005 are Dary Costa, Wheaton; Kevin McKian, Chicago; and Morgan Wilson, Jacksonville. One new member elected from the residency program is Shyam Bhat, M.D., Medicine/Psychiatry. Robert McLafferty, M.D., and Jacqueline Quin, M.D., both Surgery, were elected honorary faculty members; Donna Sweetland, M.D., a community physician in Springfield and class of 1991, was elected volunteer clinical faculty; and Marty Luchtefeld, M.D., community physician in Grand Rapids, Mich., was elected an alumni member from the class of 1982. Election to AOA is based on integrity, leadership, compassion and fairness, as well as scholastic excellence. New members will be initiated at the spring banquet on April 16.

LECTURE AND SYMPOSIA: The 8th International Alzheimer Therapy Symposium will be held April 14-17, in Montreal, Canada. There will be presentations by 120 speakers and 85 poster exhibits on a variety of Alzheimer topics. The bi-annual meeting is organized by the School, along with Geneva University Hospitals in Geneva, Switzerland, and McGill University in Montreal, Canada. The course director is Ezio Giacobini, M.D., Ph.D., emeritus professor of pharmacology. For information, call Continuing Medical Education, 545-7711.

The Combined Research Symposium will be held 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Wednesday, April 14, in the Pearson Museum and South Auditorium, 801 N. Rutledge. The Alpha Omega Alpha Student Research Fellowship presentation will be held at 10:45 a.m. A reception and awards presentation will begin at 4:30 p.m. For more information, call Nancy Austin, Research/Faculty Affairs, 545-7936.
COMMUNITY CORNER

ENOS UPDATE: The committee is beginning to collect children’s books for distribution at the end of school. Send them to Public Affairs, MC 9621 or look for the blue Enos bins.

CHILD ABUSE AWARENESS: Five hundred and eighty six blue ribbons will be scattered throughout the 801 courtyard representing the number of child abuse and neglect cases reported in Sangamon county in FY2003. The ribbons will be placed by SIU students in recognition of the Blue Ribbon Campaign in April to raise awareness of the importance of child abuse prevention. To report child abuse or neglect, call the Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Hotline, 1-800-25-ABUSE.

INTERPRETERS: Interpreters for patients are available from the Jacksonville Community Center for the Deaf. Go to the Human Resources intranet site and click on “Resources for Supervisors” for the procedures. For additional information, call Tammy Lawrick, Human Resources, 545-7311.

HONORS: Joni Clark, M.D., Neurology, received the Heart Stroke Champion award at the American Heart Association’s annual gala in Springfield in March for her efforts in educating the community about the importance of learning about stroke.

John Record, External/Health Affairs, has received an eight-month health leadership fellowship beginning this spring from the Department of Family/Community Medicine at Duke University Medical Center.

Stephen Stone, M.D., Medicine, was elected president-elect of the American Academy of Dermatology and American Academy of Dermatology Association at their annual meeting in February in Washington, D.C. His one-year term as president begins in 2006.

PRESENTATIONS: Elizabeth Peralta, M.D., Surgery, presented twice in March – “Intestinal Bypass for Obesity” at Prairie Cardiovascular Consultants Conference on Obesity in St. Louis, and “Vitamin E Acetate Decreases Tamoxifen in Human Breast Cancer Xenografts” at the Society of Surgical Oncology Cancer Symposium in New York.

Penny Tippay, M.D., Chris Null and Leigh Ann Keyser, all Family/Community Medicine-Carbondale, presented “Got a Scheduling Nightmare? Try Web-Based Schedule Integration” at the Residency Assistance Program conference in March in Kansas City.

Jerry Colliver, Ph.D., Statistics/Research, presented “What Have We Learned from Research on Problem-Based Learning? A Good Question” at the AAMC Council of Academic Societies in March in Santa Monica, Calif.

Stuart Massad, M.D., Obstetrics/Gynecology, presented “Management of Women with Cervical Cytological Abnormalities” at Trinity Medical Center of the Iowa Health System in March in Rock Island, Ill.

Kevin Dorsey, M.D., Ph.D., dean and provost, Karen Broquet, M.D., Graduate Medical Education, Phillip Davis, Ph.D., External/Health Affairs, Sherry Robinson, Ph.D., Medicine, Thomas Robbins, M.D., Surgery/Cancer Institute, Debi Andrews, Education/Curriculum, Hans Suchy, Surgery, Andrzej Bartke, Ph.D., Medicine, Merle Shiffman and Nancy Zimmers, both Public Affairs, participated in the day-long program for Leadership Springfield in March.


STAFF UPDATE: Welcome to Dale Abeln, Jr., building service worker, Capital Planning/Service; Beth Caselton, social worker, Pediatrics; Janet Cole, office systems specialist, External/Health Affairs; Nick Fogelman, researcher, Medical Microbiology/Immunology; Kelly Vinzant, nurse, Surgery; Myra Weir, nurse, Medicine; and Terri Wilson, medical laboratory technician, Medicine. Farewell to Cecelia Fox, Family/Community Medicine; Sylvester Meredith, Psychiatry; and Barbara Nelson, Surgery (retirement).