2006 COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES: Commencement exercises for the 32nd graduating class will be held in Springfield Saturday, May 20. SIU President Glenn Poshard, Ph.D., will confer the degrees. J. Kevin Dorsey, M.D., Ph.D., dean and provost, will award the diplomas to the graduates and Wesley Robinson-McNeese, M.D., Diversity/Minority Affairs, will introduce them. Carl Faingold, Ph.D., Pharmacology, will present the doctoral candidates and John Koropchak, Ph.D., SIUC vice chancellor for research, will present their diplomas. The graduates have honored two with roles during the ceremony - Andrew Varney, M.D., Medicine, will read the Hippocratic Oath and Erik Constance, M.D., Student Affairs/Medicine, will hood the graduates. The class previously honored David Wade, Ph.D., now retired, as the Carbondale Teacher of the Year for his efforts their first year. Other faculty to be honored are Randy Kienstra, M.D., Pediatrics, who receives the Golden Apple Award for outstanding teaching and Reginald Bulkeley, M.D., Anesthesiology, who receives the Alpha Omega Alpha Volunteer Faculty Award.

INTERIM OB/GYN CHAIR NAMED: William Schultz, M.D., has been named interim chair of obstetrics and gynecology, succeeding Kofi S. Amankwah, M.D., who is retiring this summer. Schultz joined the SIU faculty in 2001 after 26 years in private practice. He also served on the volunteer teaching staff at SIU (1975-2000). Schultz completed his residency in obstetrics and gynecology at the University of Illinois Hospital in Chicago (1972). He earned his medical degree from the University of Illinois College of Medicine (1968) and bachelor’s from Northwestern University (1964). He is certified by the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology and is a fellow of the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology. Amankwah returned to SIU in 2002, after having left as professor in 1990 to join the faculty at the University of Toronto. He first joined SIU’s faculty in 1973. Erica Nelson, M.D., Obstetrics/Gynecology, has been named director of the department's residency program, succeeding Amankwah. Katherine Hild-Mosley, M.D., Obstetrics/Gynecology, is now assistant residency director.

EMPLOYEES HONORS: Two employees were honored during an employee recognition luncheon May 5 in Springfield. Debbie Kemper, Surgery, (right) was named the 2005 Employee of the Year. Her nominators said “she consistently completes every task and new assignment. Debbie is fair-minded and brings wisdom and insight to her job.” Monty Webber, Capital Planning/Service Operations, (left) is the 2005 Supervisor of the Year. His nominators said “he maintains a delicate balance between what is best for the School and getting the best from his staff.”

The first Group Quality Award was given to the General Internal Medicine Project Team including Robert Bussing, M.D., Maureen Francis, M.D., Waneta McKemie, Stefanie Slighton and Andrew Varney, M.D., all Medicine, and Kathy Mahaffey and Brenda Vilayhong, both SIU P&S. Also honored were 62 employees recognized for five years of service to the School, totalling 310 years of service, as well as the 11 other Civil Service Employees of the Month and four A/P Employees of the Quarter. Congratulations to all.

LECTURES & SYMPOSIA: Murray Raskind, M.D., professor of psychiatry and behavioral sciences at the University of Washington, will present “Pharmacotherapy of Cognition and Behavior in Alzheimer’s Disease” at 3 p.m. Tuesday, May 30, in Memorial Medical Center, room G10A. For information, call Stacey Dill, Neurology, 545-0168.
HONORS: Gregory Brewer, Ph.D., Medical Microbiology/Immunology/Cell Biology, and Donald Caspary, Ph.D., Pharmacology, were featured as Life Science Innovators and Andrzej Bartke, Ph.D., Medicine, as a SAGE Expert, all at the Illinois Biotechnology Industry Organization in Chicago in April, which featured leading researchers in the Midwest.

Victoria Nichols-Johnson, M.D., Obstetrics/Gynecology, served on a peer review panel for the Center for Disease Control and Prevention to evaluate grant applications on breastfeeding promotion and support programs in April in Atlanta, Ga.

Michael Bonkowski, Medicine, was one of 20 chosen to receive a fellowship to attend the “Molecular Biology of Aging” course sponsored by the Ellison Medical Foundation this summer in Woods Hole, Mass.

Caren (DeGiacinto) Schaecher, senior, has been named one of five semi-finalists for the 2006 Dr. John Gusdon Memorial New Investigator of the Year Award from American Society for Reproductive Immunology. Schaecher will present her work in a 15-minute oral presentation during the 26th annual meeting of the American Society of Reproductive Immunology in Nashville, Tenn., in June. She worked in the lab of Donald Torry, Ph.D., Medical Microbiology/Immunology/Cell Biology.

Robert McLafferty, M.D., Surgery, received the outstanding volunteer in Public Health Advocacy Award from the Illinois Public Health Association at an awards luncheon in Springfield in April. This award acknowledges his advocacy for passing a smoke-free law in Springfield.

Carmel Fratianni, M.D., Medicine, is now a fellow of the American College of Endocrinology.


Abigail Arthur, Residency Affairs, presented “If the Program Coordinator is Happy…” and Karen Broquet, M.D., Residency Affairs, presented “Addressing Resident Impairment: Institutional Responses to Physician-Patient Boundaries and Disruptive Behavior” both at the American Academy of Medical Colleges/Group on Resident Affairs annual meeting in Austin in April.

Gary Dunnington, M.D., Surgery, presented “Good to Great Surgical Skills Training” and “Education, Research and Leadership” at Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, Va., in May.

Andrzej Bartke, Ph.D., Medicine, presented “Altered Growth Hormone and Insulin Signaling Extends Life” at the VISN research conference on Aging, Age-related Disease and Cellular Signaling in San Antonio, Texas, in April.

Lisabeth DiLalla, Ph.D., Family/Community Medicine-Carbondale, organized, chaired and presented “Genetic Influences on Cognitive and Social Development Across the Life Span” at the conference on human development in Louisville, Ky., in April.


STAFF UPDATE: Welcome to Sherrill Beaty, nurse, SIU P&S; Carol Forestier, office systems specialist, Alzheimer’s Disease Center; Melinda Conlee-Stevens, education writer, Medical Education; and Evan Wilson, director of admissions, Student Affairs. Farewell to Cindy Crouch, Obstetrics/Gynecology, and Penny Spears, Surgery.