

FOUNDATION

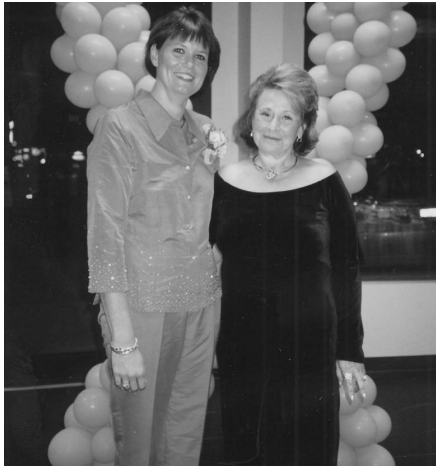


Row 1: Amy Turner-Welch, Ann Collins and Eric Huber get into the spirit of Denim and Diamonds.

Row 2: Curt Vorachek and committee member Patty Hagner; The Reaveys, the Aiellos and the Pecoris show off the Isringhausen Imports Mercedes that was auctioned off for weekend use; Committee member Gloria Henkle shows off Stout & Lauer Jewelers jewelry to Dee Gallo (l) and Linda Eagleton (r). The jewelry was part of the auctioned items.

Row 3: Alyssa Kuhn checks out the auction items as Brian and Mickey Lauer of Stout & Lauer Jewelers let committee member Letitia Anderson model a bracelet.

Row 4: Sue Isringhausen and Rita Victor were this year's co-chairs of Denim & Diamonds.



Denim and Diamonds doubles total

In just a few hours, approximately \$50,000 was raised at the third annual Denim and Diamonds gala, an impressive achievement that doubled last year's total.

The sold-out event, which benefited The Breast Center at SIU School of Medicine, hosted approximately 280 guests at Isringhausen Imports in Springfield and included a buffet dinner and both a live and silent auction for a variety of items, including condo packages, artwork and jewelry. Guests were invited to dress either in denim attire or formal wear.

Major sponsors were Bank of Springfield, Curtis Tillet and Rita Victor, Isringhausen Imports, Memorial Medical Center, National City Bank, Stout & Lauer Jewelers, Wine & Spirits Charities, the SIU Foundation, and the SIU Cancer Institute. A 25-member committee, co-chaired by Rita Victor

and Sue Isringhausen, coordinated the arrangements for the event.

All proceeds from this year's gala will be used to expand the SIU Breast Center's support group program for breast cancer patients. The Breast Center at SIU is an inter-disciplinary clinic for women with breast disease. It provides women with a timely, accurate diagnosis and treatment plan, often all in one visit. Since opening its doors three years ago, The Breast Center has screened more than 1,000 women for breast disease and treated more than 200 women for breast cancer. To learn more about The Breast Center, call 217-545-7432.

Next year's Denim and Diamonds, already in the planning stages, will again be held at Isringhausen Imports. For more information on Denim and Diamonds, contact the Foundation at 217-545-2955. ■

SIU Mourns Loss of Renowned Microbiology Professor

Lonnie Dee Russell, Jr., Ph.D., professor of microbiology at the School of Medicine in Carbondale, died Wednesday, July 11, 2001, at his vacation home in Brazil.

Dr. Russell, who joined SIU-Carbondale's Department of Physiology in 1978, focused his world-renowned research in microbiology and the male reproductive system. In Carbondale, he was best known for a National Institutes of Health funded project focusing on spermatogonial transplants in mice. The project involved transplanting the germ stem that produces sperm from one animal to another. Dr. Russell's work is widely referenced, and he was nationally and internationally recognized as a leader in microbiology.

Dr. Russell was editor-in-chief of the international journal *Tissue and Cell* and published nearly 200 scientific articles and numerous textbooks, including *Microbiology Made Simple and Fun*. He also started his own publishing company, Cache River Press.

Surviving Dr. Russell are two daughters, Lau-



Lonnie Dee Russell, Jr., Ph.D., professor of microbiology

ren Russell of Carbondale and Julie Ripper of Raymore, Mo.; his mother, Jean Russell; and a sister, Terri Epstein of St. Louis, Mo.

To honor Dr. Russell, the Lonnie D. Russell Jr. Memorial Fund in Physiology has been established at the School of Medicine. Donations may be mailed to the SIU Foundation, P.O. Box 19666, Springfield, IL 62794-9666. n

A Time of Need

The Foundation office wishes to thank all its donors who have given generously throughout the year to help the School meet the health care needs of central and southern Illinois residents.

However, the need continues, as does the amazing work being done at the School of Medicine. With your contribution, you can be a part of that endeavor, directing your gift to support specific programs, research efforts, or you may choose to honor past professors, friends or family with a donation in their name.

Your gift, which can range from cash and securities to complex trusts, insurance or land donations, are tax deductible in many cases. Due to the complex nature of some gift transactions, it's important to plan your year-end giving as soon as possible.

If you would like additional information about charitable gift planning, contact the SIU Foundation office at 217-545-2955. ■