

## Find an expert

The Speakers Bureau at Southern Illinois University School of Medicine provides a variety of speakers to community groups for programs about medical information, medical careers or updates on the medical school. A new video program about educating medical students, *One Foot in the Future* is also available.

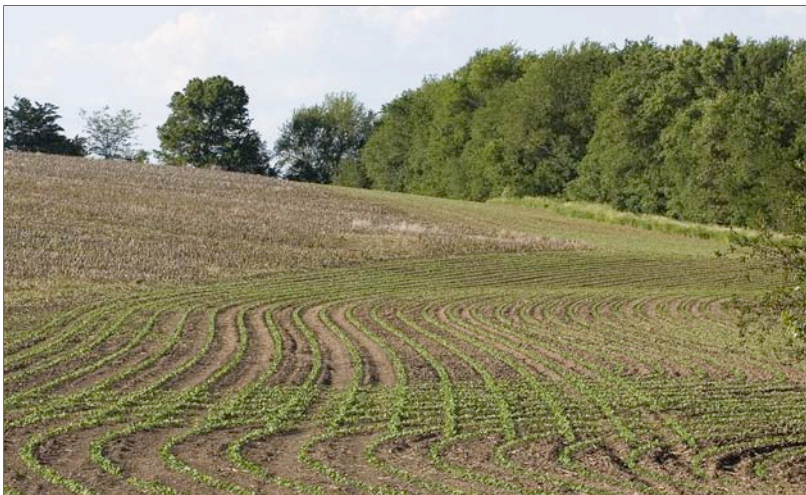
Possible topics include wellness and prevention, specific disorders and diseases, special topics for men, women and seniors, and general topics like an overview of the SIU medical school. Recent speakers have talked about women's health news, stress reduction, healthy eating, the Simmons-Cooper Cancer Institute at SIU and St. John's Children's Hospital, a joint with St. John's Hospital. To arrange for a speaker as well as tours of the medical school, call Merle Shiffman at 217-545-5616 weekdays (mshiffman@siumed.edu) or visit [www.siumed.edu/news/tours.htm](http://www.siumed.edu/news/tours.htm).

## Landecker Memorial Award given

Kendra Woods received a monetary award from the Dr. Hildegard C. Landecker Memorial Endowment Fund at the School of Medicine. Woods is the 24th recipient of the award, given annually to a freshman female medical student with high academic standing.

Woods is the daughter of Gary and Linda Woods of Pittsfield. She is a graduate of Pittsfield High School (2002) and Truman State University in Kirksville, Mo., where she earned her bachelor's degree in biology (2006).

The Landecker fund was established in 1982 by Manfred Landecker, Ph.D., emeritus professor of political science at SIU Carbondale, in memory of his mother, a pediatrician.



## Public health curriculum in the works

*SIU only Midwest school to receive national grant*

SIU School of Medicine is one of 11 U.S. medical schools to receive funds from the Association of American Medical Colleges and the Centers for Disease Control as part of a national effort to improve the teaching of medical students about the public health needs of rural Americans. The School has received two years of

*SIU School of Medicine has always had a rural focus.*

funding, totaling \$100,000.

The focus of the grant is to develop a specific curriculum in public health, population health and prevention that can be used throughout all four years of training for medical students. SIU is the only Midwest school funded.

"This grant will help us give the areas of public health and prevention more attention and thereby better meet our mission to serve the rural downstate population," said Sharon K. Hull, M.D., associate professor and interim chair of medical humani-

ties and the grant's principal investigator. "SIU is like most U.S. medical schools in that we offer some training in public health but we need to do more in today's changing health care environment. With emerging infectious diseases and more man-made and natural disasters, we need to have a broader curriculum in this area."

Hull has included officials from the Illinois Department of Public Health and county public health departments, schools of allied health and other health professionals in grant activities. Eventually, the curriculum will provide both classroom and field experience in public health for all SIU medical students.

The new curriculum also could become a model for other U.S. medical schools and a resource for other health professions schools in the region. Hull says SIU is well suited to this grant because it has a long track record in developing integrated, small-group and experiential learning activities in its curriculum. It also has always had a rural focus.

## Care-A-Van receives \$20,000 grant

The Care-A-Van (featured in the autumn issue of *ASPECTS*) received a \$20,000 grant from the Illinois Department of Human Services, thanks to the recommendations of state Sen. Gary Forby and state Rep. John Bradley.

The van provides primary care and counseling to Franklin County students. The funds will be used for operational expenses, including medical supplies, educational materials and van maintenance, according to Robynn Nawrot, field representative for the SIU Center for Rural Health and Social Service Development.

SIU President Glenn Poshard noted that education and health care are two major issues facing school districts in southern Illinois. "The Care-A-Van helps meet both of those needs," he said.

Sen. Forby agreed. "The Care-A-Van is a fantastic program, and John and I will do whatever we can to keep this project funded."

Rep. Bradley spokesman Jim Kirpatrick said, "Representative Bradley thinks this is a very important program for Franklin County and is happy to be a part of it. Representative Bradley will do everything he can to help."

## Service to Seniors

Three central Illinois health care providers were honored for their service to patients with dementia by the School of Medicine and the Illinois Department of Aging. The individuals were selected for their commitment to care-giving, particularly making seniors feel important, cared for and worthwhile.

SIU named Doris Oliver, a certified nursing assistant (CNA) at the Family Visiting Nurses in Decatur, Caregiver of the Year 2006. Kathy "Gertie" Griffith, a CNA at the Clay County Hospital in Flora, and Brooke Eves, a CNA at Apostolic Christian Nursing Home in Eureka were the runners-up.

This was the eighth year for the award, which is given by SIU's Alzheimer Center, the Dementia Caregivers Network and the Illinois Department on Aging. The awards were presented at the School's eighth annual conference for CNA's and in-home health aides, held in November in Springfield.



### ***You've worked here how long?***

The School of Medicine honored nearly 100 employees this fall in Springfield, Carbondale, Decatur and Quincy for their years of service.

Thirty-year awards went to Peter Borgia, Jr., Ph.D., professor of medical microbiology, immunology and cell biology; Peter Cadwell, financial officer for SIU Physicians & Surgeons; Katherine Grubb, systems analyst in information services; Larry Holman, assistant grounds gardener in capital planning and services; Gail Lott, office systems specialist in obstetrics and gynecology; Victoria Nichols-Johnson, M.D., associate professor of obstetrics and gynecology; John Record, assistant dean for rural health and alumni affairs; and Hans Suchy, scientific analyst in plastic surgery.

There also were 13 twenty-five year, 16 twenty-year, 22 fifteen-year and 37 ten-year awards.

## C.J., Joey new reps for St. John's Children's Hospital

C.J. and Joey, a pair of kangaroos, are the winners of the "Great Mascot Election" held this past fall in Springfield. The two will represent St. John's Children's Hospital in educational materials and in person at various events.

The new SJCH mascots ran on a platform encouraging kids to jump into action (exercise), eat vegetables, be safe when traveling and spend time together as a family.

Area children were invited to vote for their favorite candidate for two weeks, online or at local events. More than 8,300 votes were submitted, with C.J. and Joey receiving 77% of the votes in the race against Bernie the St. Bernard.

C.J. and Joey were nominated by Joe Dobbins, a fifth grader at Dubois Elementary and the son of Mary I. Dobbins, M.D., assistant professor of child psychiatry at SIU. Joe says he picked the name C.J. after learning the children's hospital is located in the Carol Jo Vecchie Women and Children's Center.

St. John's Children's Hospital combines the faculty resources of SIU School of Medicine with the pediatric facilities and services of St. John's Hospital. The mascot election occurred one year after St. John's Children's Hospital was recognized by the National Association for Children's Hospitals and Related Institutions (NACHRI). The Children's Hospital Web site is [www.sjchildrens.org](http://www.sjchildrens.org).



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