

The Monthly Good News January, 2024

Accreditation

Awards and Honors

School of Automotive

During a recent national conference, Sean Boyle was honored with the award of “Outstanding Commitment to Education” from the Automatic Transmission Rebuilders Association. This award recognizes his longstanding commitment of preparing young people for successful careers.

School of Justice and Public Safety

Jose Jacobo (PSM) was named St. Charles (IL) Police Department Officer of the Year. From the commendation: “Detective Jacobo displayed exceptional skill, determination, and commitment throughout the course of this complex investigation. The arrests made by Detective Jacobo not only rescued victims from a life of unimaginable suffering, but also assisted Homeland Security Investigators with identifying over 45 sex trafficking locations across the nation.”

School of Psychological and Behavioral Sciences

Denise Croft was hired as Director of the Center for Autism Spectrum Disorders, effective December 1, 2023.

Rachel Weisbecker, Psychology graduate student, was awarded the Illinois Psychological Association Graduate Student (IPAGS) Award for her poster presentation entitled "*Children's Comfort in a Novel Setting Predicts Play Behaviors*," co-authored with Callie Willett (Psychology undergraduate student), Kara Fehr, Ph.D., and Lisabeth DiLalla, Ph.D. The poster was presented to IPA in October in Skokie, IL.

Books/Book Chapters

School of Justice and Public Safety

Sanders, M. J., McKenna, K., Mejia, A., American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons, National Association of EMS Physicians (U.S.), & Tan, D. K. (2024). *Sanders' paramedic textbook* (Sixth ed.). Burlington, MA: Jones & Bartlett Learning. [Published]

Events

School of Health Sciences

Jennifer S. Sherry, Associate Professor, Dental Hygiene, and senior dental hygiene students Alyssa Steinkamp and Sharon Collins provided a hands-on learning opportunity entitled, "The Sky's the Limit in Dental Hygiene" as part of SIU's "Expanding Your Horizons" program.

School of Human Sciences

On January 4, 2024, Joseph Harper hosted the Grand Opening of the Living Room Program at the Comprehensive Behavioral Health Center in St. Clair County. It is the only such program in Southern IL. The Living Room is an alternative to hospitals for individuals experiencing a crisis and is funded by a grant from the IL Department of Mental Health.

Grants (submitted and funded)

School of Health Sciences

Organization: Illinois Department of Health/ Illinois Certification Board
Total Funding: \$186,000
Title: CADCC Workforce Expansion Program Phase 2
Role: Jane L. Nichols, PI; Lisa Vinson, Co-PI
Duration: November 2023 – August 2024
Status: Funded

School of Psychological and Behavioral Sciences

Organization: APA Division 41: Research to Enhance the Impact & Diversification of Psychology & Law Research
Total Funding: \$49,683
Title: Coproducing solutions with justice-involved persons: What can be leveraged in existing social networks to maximize re-entry success in the Southern Mississippi Delta region?
Role: Tamara Kang (PI); Daryl Kroner (co-PI)
Duration: 5/15/2023-11/14/2024
Status: Submitted

Patents

Presentations (presented)

Press Releases

School of Automotive

Nathan Bulthuis, from the School of Automotive, was chosen to represent SIU and the United States at the 2024 Automotive World Skills Competition taking place in France later this year. Press release linked here: [Automobile Technology Competitor from Illinois to Represent the U.S. at World Event – WorldSkills USA](#)

Publications (in-press and accepted)

School of Health Sciences

Minjee, L., Gerend, M. A., Whittington, K. W., Cheng-Chia, C., Villegas, J., Collins, S. K., McKinney, S. L., Franca, M. C., Boyer, V. E., McKinnies, R. C., & Boakye, E. A. (2023). Factors associated with HPV-associated sexual risk behaviors among sexually active college students. *Journal of Behavioral Medicine*. DOI 10.1007/s10865-023-00463-1 [Accepted]

School of Human Sciences

Null, D. C., Hurst, K, Duram, L. (2023) Beyond the classroom: Influence of a Sustainability Intervention on University Students' Environmental and Climate Knowledge and Behaviors. *Journal of Environmental Education*. [Accepted December 2023]

School of Justice and Public Safety

Narag, R. (2023). Drug arrest and jail and prison congestion: Search for alternatives [opinion]. *Rappler*. <https://www.rappler.com/voices/thought-leaders/opinion-drug-arrest-jail-prison-congestion-search-alternatives/>