

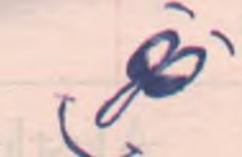


Pharmacy

# The Alestle

Alton - East St. Louis - Edwardsville

Vol. 61 No. 63



CLASS  
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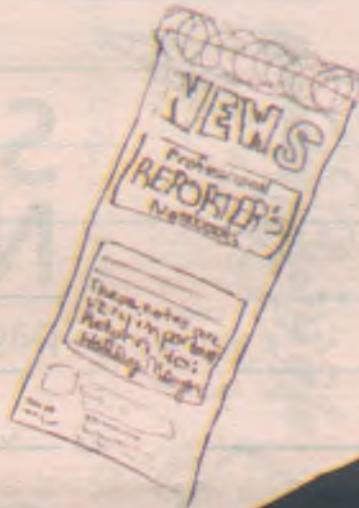
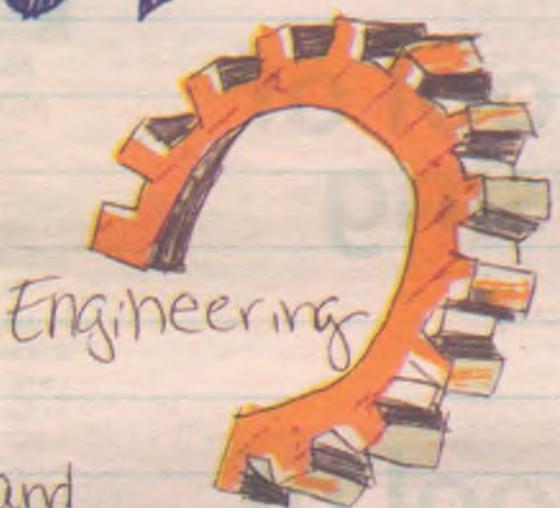
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Mon - 10:00 - 11:40 History

Wed - 9:00 - 9:40 Graphics

12 - 1:40 - Music

Thurs - 2:00 - 3:40 - Cyber Arts



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Books! \*

Arts and Sciences



Megan's Grad Party  
Sun 4pm

Holly's Grad Party  
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Business



MAY 2009 GRADUATE  
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All hard copy letters should be typed and double-spaced. Letters should be no longer than 500 words.

Please include phone number, signature, class rank and major.

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The Alestle is a member of the Illinois College Press Association, the Associated Collegiate Press and U-WIRE.

The name Alestle is an acronym derived from the names of the three campus locations of Southern Illinois University Edwardsville: Alton, East St. Louis and Edwardsville.

The Alestle is published on Tuesdays and Thursdays during fall and spring semesters and on Wednesdays during summer semesters. For more information, call 650-3528.

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The Alestle

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## Goodbye SIUE, hello recession

Many graduating seniors can probably identify with this situation. You run into someone (family friend, professor, old acquaintance, etc.) and make small talk. Small talk, inevitably, turns into that person asking when you graduate.

"Here in a few days," you reply.

Then, of course, the conversation turns to post-graduation plans. If you are going on to higher studies or have already accepted a job – (lucky!) – this part of the conversation is easy.

For those who are still looking ... well, not so easy. After announcing that, no, you don't know what happens after next weekend, chances are you're met with a reaction mixed with crestfallen awkwardness and sympathetic assurance. Then comes The Statement:

"You know, this is a terrible time to graduate."

So true.

In fact, I myself have had this very conversation many times before. Too many times, really. Graduating in the middle of a recession is not an easy thing to do, but we seem to have drawn the short straw on this one. There is no way we could have known this was how our college careers would end. With graduation being less than a week away, reality is about to shake our hands and usher us off the commencement platform.

So, where to go from here? Some of my friends are going on to graduate school or have landed permanent jobs. For others, myself included, that isn't in the cards right now.

Instead of dwelling on our bad fortune, I propose we seize this chance to take whatever opportunities life hands us. For me, this apparently means moving to rural Texas for a year (long story) ... for you, this may mean something slightly less obscure, but equally as unexpected.

This may be the greatest real-life learning opportunity we will ever face. The jobs will come – eventually – but until then, we may as well enjoy the ride.

*Megan McClure is a senior mass communications major from Taylorville. She can be reached at [mccclure@alestlelive.com](mailto:mccclure@alestlelive.com) or 650-3527.*



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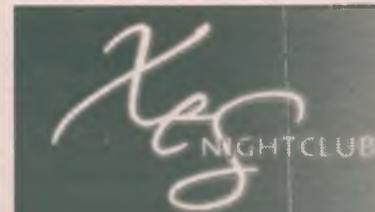


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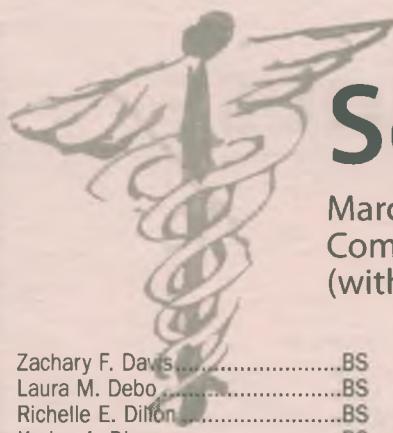
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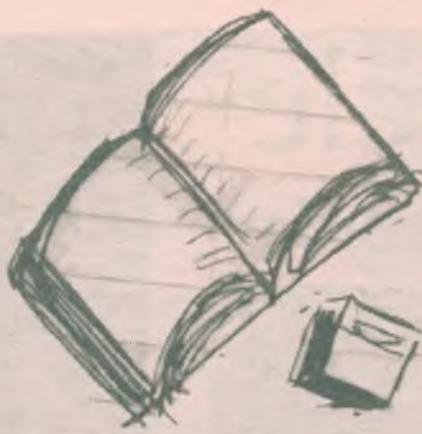
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Christine M. Bacus .....	BS	Courtney D. Edwards .....	BA	Grace C. Johnsen .....	BS	Ashley M. Olson .....	BS	Ryan K. Smith .....	MA
Robert R. Baird .....	MSED	Laura J. Elam .....	BS	Michelle L. Johnson .....	BS	Ashley M. Oneal .....	BS	Kaci L. Snyder .....	BS
Erin R. Baker .....	BA	Christine A. Elkins .....	BS	Stephanie M. Johnson Schmulbach .....	MSED	Kathryn E. Orzechowski .....	MS	Maria Sommerhof .....	MSED
Brittany L. Ballentine .....	BS	Angela T. Engle .....	MSED	Tracie L. Jones .....	MSED	Nicole J. Osborn .....	BS	Stephanie A. Springer .....	BS
Lisa E. Ballinger .....	BS	Benjamin L. Englert .....	BS	Allison L. Jouett .....	MSED	Emeka K. Ozonwankwo .....	BS	Matthew E. Sprong .....	BS
Amanda L. Bane .....	MSED	Justine E. Enloe .....	BS	Jennifer A. Kates .....	BS	Ashley E. Pallante .....	BS	Alison J. Stambaugh .....	BS
Amanda J. Banks .....	BS	Katie J. Ernst .....	BS	Amanda L. Kellar .....	BS	Krystin L. Parker .....	BS	Jessica N. Stapleton .....	BS
Michael A. Barker .....	BS	Zachary D. Everist .....	BS	Andrew J. Keller .....	BS	Cassie L. Pavlovic .....	MS	Cassandra R. Starbuck .....	MS
Whitney L. Barlow .....	BS	Casey C. Fagin .....	MA	Norma J. Kelley .....	BS	Diane M. Peach .....	MSED	Whitney A. Stephenson .....	BS
Mical E. Barnes .....	BS	Vanessa M. Fantauzzi .....	BS	Dana L. Kelting .....	MSED	Erin A. Peak .....	BS	Kristina M. Stiles .....	BS
Kimberly L. Barnum .....	BA	Jenna L. Farmer .....	MA	Dana F. Kirk .....	BS	James B. Peck .....	BS	Jane E. Stilwell .....	BS
Abbi K. Barton .....	MSED	Shelbe R. Farrar .....	BS	Lauren K. Kirk .....	BS	Tessa F. Peterein .....	MS	Linda M. Stone .....	MSED
Elizabeth A. Bauer .....	BS	Cari R. Feco .....	MSED	Deborah L. Kirsch .....	BS	Heather M. Petry .....	BS	Michael D. Strok .....	BS
Laura L. Bauer .....	PM	Lisa C. Ferguson .....	BS	Patricia E. Klaus .....	SD	Caitlin M. Phillips .....	SD	Paul E. Stuart .....	MSED
Debra B. Bayne .....	MSED	Brooke E. Ferrero-Baker .....	SD	Kyle M. Koelker .....	BS	Alison L. Pierce .....	BS	Dennis Sturgeon .....	BS
Amber N. Beaty .....	BS	Matthew R. Fischer .....	BS	Hanna E. Koenig .....	BS	Andrea M. Pierson .....	BA	Laurie L. Sullivan .....	BS
Dayna L. Becker .....	BS	Kelly L. Flounders .....	BS	Stacey L. Kohl .....	BS	Kelsey E. Pirok .....	BS	Bethany S. Sunderlik .....	BS
Megan C. Becker .....	BS	Elizabeth A. Foley .....	BS	Kimberly A. Kolweier .....	BS	Aimee L. Platt .....	BS	Sandra J. Suraud-Kauzlarch .....	BS
Dana M. Berg .....	BS	Phillip J. Foley .....	BS	Natalie Kopriva .....	BS	Shannon J. Pliego .....	BS	Natasha A. Sweeney .....	BA
Christopher R. Berghoff .....	MA	Kellie J. Fraher .....	BS	Rachael M. Kotlarczyk .....	BS	Tara C. Poindexter .....	BS	Whitney N. Taphorn .....	BS
Allison M. Bergmann .....	BA	Emily A. Frank .....	MS	Jennifer M. Kratzer .....	BS	Crystal D. Poirot .....	BS	Mistie A. Tennant .....	BS
Kelle J. Bess .....	MSED	Stephanie A. Frazer .....	BS	William D. Krause .....	BS	Marion M. Poole .....	BS	Lenora M. Tetzner .....	BS
Whitney A. Bichsel .....	BS	Julia A. Froebel .....	MS	Kristin L. Kribs .....	MS	Michael A. Poole .....	BA	Stephanie M. Thomas .....	MA
Tiffany D. Blaylock .....	BS	Jared M. Fryman .....	BS	Kaitlin M. Krueger .....	BS	Jennifer M. Posey .....	BS	Matthew R. Thorpe .....	BS
Melissa E. Bleich .....	BS	Alicia A. Fuhler .....	BS	Frank J. Kusiak .....	MSED	Stacey D. Posey .....	MSED	Amy M. Timmermann .....	BS
Kristen K. Bloch .....	BA	Bradley A. Fulk .....	MSED	Hunter H. Larson .....	MA	Alison K. Priest .....	BS	Angela V. Tourville .....	SD
Scott M. Block .....	BS	Zachary C. Fulmer .....	BS	Jeffrey A. Lattimore .....	BS	Anne E. Pulliam .....	BS	Zhalih I. Travis .....	BS
Leigh A. Bluhm .....	BS	Breann L. Furfaro .....	MSED	Mindi M. Lembcke .....	MSED	Amber L. Radcliff .....	BS	Bianca C. Trejo .....	BS
Krysti L. Boden .....	MA	Loren C. Galbreath .....	BS	Laci S. Lewis .....	BS	Mallory R. Rahm .....	BS	Bruce A. Trickel .....	BS
Denise L. Boente .....	MSED	Tommy R. Galloway .....	BS	Robert B. Lewis .....	BS	Kelsey M. Rakers .....	BS	Andrew S. Tucker .....	MSED
Nicholas L. Borkowski .....	BS	Robert A. Galvan .....	BS	Brandi S. Lich .....	BS	Susan M. Ratkewicz .....	BS	Phyllis L. Turner .....	MSED
Kristen L. Boss .....	MSED	Casey A. Garms .....	MSED	Renee R. Lider .....	BS	Jacob P. Ratz .....	BS	Troy E. Ufert .....	MSED
Tanya R. Bovinette .....	BS	Joel S. Gherardini .....	BS	Jenna B. Little .....	MS	Sarah E. Rausch .....	BS	Michelle R. Urke .....	BS
Laura B. Brasses .....	MSED	Jessica J. Gibbs .....	BS	Heather D. Long .....	BS	Deneen T. Redd .....	BS	Elizabeth M. Valenti .....	BS
Sarah J. Bray .....	BS	Amber L. Giesecking .....	BS	Pamela R. Love .....	MSED	Erin E. Reeb .....	BS	Erin N. Varvil .....	BS
Alison L. Brendel .....	BS	Heidi M. Gifford .....	MA	Kalie R. Lusch .....	BS	Jayne M. Reif .....	MSED	Josh D. Veath .....	BS
Tatyana B. Brickler .....	MA	Julie K. Gilbertson .....	MS	Ronald N. Madlock .....	BS	Conni A. Reitz .....	MSED	Shauna M. Veath .....	BS
Sarah E. Brokering .....	BS	Jill M. Graham .....	MSED	Randall S. Mahring .....	BS	Amanda K. Reynolds .....	BS	Robyn L. Vernier .....	BS
Heather M. Brosch .....	MA	David A. Grammer .....	BS	Melissa A. March .....	BS	Jared M. Reynolds .....	BS	Brittany M. Villard .....	BS
Courtney P. Brown .....	BS	Terrence Gray .....	MSED	Heather N. Markowski .....	BS	Kristopher J. Riskovsky .....	BA	Jason S. Voegle .....	BA
Laura A. Bruce .....	BS	Nicole L. Green .....	BS	Amber L. Markus .....	MSED	Damian R. Rivera .....	BS	Angela M. Vollmer .....	MSED
Lee A. Bugger .....	BS	Angela L. Greene .....	MS	Angela K. Marvin .....	BS	Raymond J. Robertson .....	BS	Lora A. Wagner .....	MSED
Matthew S. Burke .....	BS	Matthew B. Greene .....	BS	Michael R. Massoglia .....	MSED	Britany D. Robson .....	BS	Kristy L. Wakefield .....	MS
Kyle J. Cameron .....	BS	Amy L. Gresham .....	MSED	Jessica M. Masters .....	BA	Whitney A. Rowe .....	BS	Jessica N. Warden .....	BS
Sandra R. Campbell .....	BS	Erin J. Grimmer .....	BS	Bethany J. Mathis .....	BS	Rhonda L. Roy .....	BS	Sarah E. Warner .....	MSED
Christina E. Carpenter .....	BS	Margaret M. Gunn .....	BS	Lauren E. May .....	BS	Haley J. Rubenacker .....	BS	Candice M. Watts .....	BS
Asaki S. Carr .....	BS	Keteria N. Hadley .....	BS	Amanda L. McAllister .....	BS	Elisa D. Ruden .....	MS	Nicole D. Webb .....	MSED
Angela M. Carroll .....	BS	Melony F. Haerr .....	MSED	Cassandra L. McCallister .....	BS	Katelyn M. Rudofski .....	MS	Kerri L. Weber .....	BS
Maureen A. Carty .....	MSED	Michael S. Halford .....	BS	Matthew C. McCallum .....	MSED	David C. Ruvolo .....	BS	Brian W. Weiser .....	BS
Laura M. Cepicky .....	BS	Raegan E. Hanne .....	BS	Andrea M. McMillan .....	BS	Frances R. Rynders .....	BS	Ashley M. Weiss .....	BS
Heather L. Chapman .....	MSED	Mary K. Harbaugh .....	BS	Ashlie K. McNicol .....	MS	Megan E. Sage .....	BA	Michael G. Wenzel .....	BS
Leslie L. Chapman .....	BS	Kelly R. Hardiek .....	BS	Jessica A. Meyenburg .....	BS	Vincent G. Salmieri .....	BS	Kristina M. West .....	BS
Caitlin P. Churchill .....	BS	Heath M. Hargan .....	BS	Julia A. Meyer .....	BS	Justin D. Sanders .....	BS	Ashley C. Westbrooks .....	BS
Jeremy R. Clarke .....	BS	Nora C. Harm .....	BS	Kendra L. Meyer .....	BS	Carolyn S. Sandifer .....	MSED	Cori Wheeler .....	BS
Kendra G. Clevenger .....	BS	Timothy A. Harmon .....	BS	Meredith R. Middleton .....	BS	Mandi J. Sawlaw .....	MS	Emily R. Whelan .....	BS
Kelli M. Comer .....	BS	Dustin T. Hatton .....	MSED	Jessica L. Miller .....	BS	Lindsay M. Sax .....	BA	Brent D. Whipple .....	BS
Sarah C. Corbin .....	BA	Nicole Heard .....	BS	Miranda K. Miller .....	BS	Katherine C. Scheiwe .....	BS	Anjanette White .....	MSED
Kayla R. Crawford .....	MS	Brian K. Heggemeier .....	BS	Teresa C. Miller .....	BS	Samantha A. Scher .....	BS	Ashley E. Williams .....	MS
Kristopher B. Crosby .....	MSED	Mindy R. Heitkamp .....	MSED	Amy E. Million .....	BS	Dene K. Schickedanz .....	MSED	Kenneth J. Williams .....	BS
Emily E. Cross .....	BS	Robin C. Helling .....	BS	Jill M. Mitchell .....	MSED	Tina K. Schickedanz .....	EDS	Megan C. Williams .....	BS
Lydia M. Crouse .....	BS	Michael B. Hemphill .....	BS	Heather D. Moles .....	BS	Lauren E. Schlemer .....	BS	Rocky J. Williams .....	BS
Bryan D. Cummiskey .....	BS	Erica R. Henderson .....	BS	Jacquelyn M. Moll .....	BS	Andrew M. Schneider .....	BS	Jennifer L. Willman .....	BS
Kathryn M. Danks .....	BS	Kim L. Henderson .....	MSED	Sara A. Mollet .....	BS	Scott M. Schneider .....	MA	Apryl E. Wilson .....	BS
Stacy L. Darr .....	SD	Jessica R. Henry .....	MA	Robert D. Monroe .....	BS	Samantha J. Schulte .....	BS	Ericka L. Wise .....	BS
Michael J. Daum .....	BS	Carrie L. Heyen .....	BS	Sarah A. Mooney .....	BS	Eric R. Schultz .....	MSED	Allison E. Wobbe .....	BS
Lynne M. Davidson .....	BS	Melissa R. Hillery .....	MS	Angela M. Morris .....	BS	Sarah C. Schureman .....	BS	Charlene M. Wolfbrandt .....	MSED
Jill M. Davis .....	BS	Jessica M. Hinkamp .....	BS	Brendan N. Morris .....	BS	Catherine B. Schwantes .....	SD	Kyle D. Wood .....	MSED
Mallory J. Davis .....	BS	Sarah R. Hoffmann .....	BS	Cynthia A. Morris .....	MS	Nina M. Scoles .....	MS	Tanya Woodcock .....	EDS
Jolan J. Dawson .....	MA	Tara A. Holbrook .....	MSED	Elyse C. Morris .....	MSED	Pamela S. Sellers .....	BS	Amber K. Woods .....	MS
Thomas H. Dawson .....	BS	Amanda K. Holmann .....	MSED	Katie M. Mosher .....	BA	Kirsten J. Sengpiel .....	BS	Tatum J. Wooley .....	BS
Bailey L. DeBlaey .....	MS	Rebecca R. Holle .....	MSED	Carrie A. Mowen .....	BS	Ashley M. Shambro .....	BS	Christopher M. Wright .....	BS
Colleen M. Delmore .....	BS	Alan D. Holtgrewe .....	MSED	Nicole T. Mueller .....	BS	Leann Shearburn .....	BS	Drew W. Wyant .....	MSED
Amanda M. Dent .....	BS</td								

# SOP comes full circle

## Inaugural PharmD class to graduate Saturday

by Neal Gough  
Aleste Reporter

The culmination of a decade of planning will come to fruition Saturday when the School of Pharmacy's first class graduates.

School of Pharmacy Dean Phil Medon said the idea of the school first came about in 2000 when SIUE was looking into additional programs for the university.

Medon said the graduation of the first class is the "final step" in the accreditation process that began when the first class began in the fall of 2005. Over the last four years, Medon has seen the school grow from 80 to 320 students, and from 19 to 45 faculty members.

Once the graduating class passes the licenser test, the school will be fully accredited.

"It's really a tremendous feeling," Medon said. "These first students were pioneers for SIUE."

One of these graduating "pioneers" is Trenton Grimm from West Frankfort. He will give the commencement speech at the school of pharmacy graduation ceremony at 5 p.m. Saturday in the Vadalabene Center.

"It is an extreme honor to be chosen out of the School of Pharmacy to speak at graduation," Grimm said.

Grimm said that his speech will be loosely based upon a saying his family uses: "Remember who you are and where you are from." Grimm said this is important for students to remember when starting their new journey. He will also add to the saying, calling on students to also remember where they are going.

Grimm said he was proud to be part of the first class to come out of the School of Pharmacy.

"There was a lot of passion from students and instructors to make a name for the school," Grimm said. "It has been one of the greatest experiences of my life to have been taught by these instructors."

Grimm said knowing that people's wellbeing is in his hands has made him work even harder to learn everything he could.

Grimm's classmate, Ben Irwin of Flora, who will speak at the hooding ceremony for the School of Pharmacy at 11 a.m. Saturday in the Meridian Ballroom, also echoed those thoughts, but said the



Derrick Hawkins/Aleste

**The SIUE School of Pharmacy's first class will graduate at 5 p.m. Saturday in the Vadalabene Center. Trent Grimm, one of the "pioneer" students of the school, will speak at the ceremony, which also features the School of Engineering and graduate students from the College of Arts and Sciences.**

school is not the end of his education.

"One of the things that I learned in pharmacy school is that the learning never stops, especially in the health care field," Irwin said. "You really are a life-long learner."

According to Irwin, being the first class to experience the pharmacy school presented a lot of interesting challenges.

"There were a lot of unique experiences because a lot of things we were doing were brand new for the students, as well as the instructors," Irwin said. "You take each new challenge as it comes."

Because of the newness, Irwin said their input was incorporated to make the courses better for the next class.

According to Medon, the School of Pharmacy has plans to expand, including planning for future masters and doctoral programs. However, Medon said it will be at least three to five years before students can be in these programs.

Neal Gough can be reached at [ngough@alestelive.com](mailto:ngough@alestelive.com) or 650-3527.

## McCallister practices what she will teach

by Rosie Githinji  
Aleste Reporter

Community health major Cassandra McCallister practices what she was taught and what she plans to teach.

After she graduates Saturday, McCallister plans to become a childbirth educator, instructing in the Bradley Method of Natural Childbirth.

McCallister has personal experience with natural childbirth, as she gave birth to her now-5-month-old daughter, Ayla, in her home with her partner, computer science major Shaun Martin, by her side.

"Ayla was born over Thanksgiving Break, which was really nice since both of us were taking courses last semester," McCallister said. "Now that I am graduating, my most important priority is taking care of my daughter."

McCallister said the Bradley Method is a 12-week course that teaches expecting couples about proper nutrition and what positions to use during labor, among other things. She said she will attend a teacher-training course in Chicago after graduation and plans to teach childbirth education from her home.

McCallister will speak at the School of Education graduation ceremony at 9 a.m. Saturday in the Vadalabene Center.

Martin and McCallister met during their junior year when they were both living in Evergreen Hall. Both of their roommates are part of a service fraternity on campus and they used to go with their roommates

on service projects.

"She is really into giving back to the community," Martin said. "Before I met her I didn't go to Goodwill or recycle plastic bags to go grocery shopping with."

Martin said he is proud of McCallister and what she has accomplished, and her awards are numerous, including the Meridian Scholarship, the Phi Kappa Phi Study Abroad Scholar in Costa Rica in 2007, the Martha Welch Women's Studies Award in 2008, the Outstanding Student in Health Education and Dean's Scholarship in Kinesiology and Health Education in 2009.

McCallister's interest in health goes further back than her college years. She said she chose to major in health because of her high school cheerleading coach, who was also a health teacher,

"I realized while spending time in her classroom that health education incorporated all of the issues I really cared about like sexuality education, child development and environmental issues," McCallister said.

Professor of health education Nicole Klein recommended McCallister for speaking at graduation because she believes McCallister is a good representative of health education.

"This is the first time I've recommended anyone to speak at graduation," Klein said. "With Cassandra, one of the main parts with her is she lives her values."

Klein, who has invited McCallister to speak in many of her classes, said



photo courtesy Cassandra McCallister

**Cassandra McCallister, pictured with her partner, Shaun Martin, and their daughter, Ayla, plans to become a childbirth instructor. She will speak at the School of Education commencement at 9 a.m. Saturday in the Vadalabene Center.**

McCallister represents her values every day of her life, and, in terms of health education, she lives what she professes.

Klein said McCallister is a great representative of how a scholarship can help students.

"Cassandra is a real success story for the university," Klein said.

Rosie Githinji can be reached at [rgithinji@alestelive.com](mailto:rgithinji@alestelive.com) or 650-3527.



Senior Alex Trepka works in the control room in commencement at 1 p.m. Saturday in the Vada

## That Mass com to speak

by Rachel Carlson  
Aleste Reporter

While being recognized on stage at the Midwest Emmys is not quite the same thing as being recognized at SIUE's graduation ceremonies, senior mass communications major Alex Trepka can say he has accomplished both.

Trepka said he was told at the end of March that faculty members recommended he be the student commencement speaker for the College of Arts and Sciences' graduation ceremony on Saturday. Trepka said he is excited to speak in front of faculty, peers and his family.

"It still has yet to sink in, but I'm ready," Trepka said. "I'm really honored that I got nominated."

Trepka has spent his four years at SIUE immersed into the mass communications program. He has contributed his time and talents to WSIE, Global Village and served as vice president for the Web Radio program.

Trepka was given the 2008 National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences Mid America chapter's Walter Cronkite Scholarship. Trepka received \$750 toward his tuition and was able to go to the Midwest Emmy awards in St. Louis to be recognized on stage for his achievements.

"It still h



In Dunham Hall's TV studio. Trepka will speak at the College of Arts and Sciences undergraduate commencement ceremony at 1 p.m. Friday in the Vadalabene Center.

# It's a wrap for student Alex Trepka at CAS commencement

Mass communications professor Ralph Donald taught Trepka in his advanced broadcast writing and advanced TV production classes. Donald said he recommended Trepka for the scholarship because of his overall excellence in mass communications.

"He was a real strong student, and I thought he had a good chance of winning," Donald said.

Another of Trepka's mass communications professors, Riley Maynard, was on the board of directors for NATAS. Maynard said Trepka was one of the best applicants in a five state region for the Walter Cronkite Scholarship.

"He's dedicated," Maynard said. "He likes to think things out. He's more of a planner than most students."

When he was not focusing on academics, Trepka worked part time at Ace Hardware and other occasional odd jobs. He also held an internship at Technisonic Studios this semester, trying his hand at whatever tasks the studio handed to him.

Trepka said he has enjoyed the past four years at SIUE, but is excited for the future.

"It's coming to a close, but I don't have any regrets," Trepka said.

After graduation, Trepka plans on applying for an internship for NATAS in Los Angeles



As a broadcast student, Trepka worked with the television program SIUE Global Village.

and working in the television writing and producing industry. If his internship does not work out, he plans on working for the summer and then moving to the west coast.

The ceremony for the College of Arts and Sciences is at 1 p.m. May 9 in the Vadalabene Center.

Rachel Carlson can be reached at [rcarlson@alestelive.com](mailto:rcarlson@alestelive.com) or 650-3527.

**as yet to sink in, but I'm ready."**

-Alex Trepka, mass communications senior  
College of Arts and Sciences commencement speaker



Derrick Hawkins/Alestelive

Maria Leitheiser, a senior nursing student, was described by one of her professors as "a very bright light" in her nursing class. Leitheiser will speak at the School of Nursing and School of Business commencement ceremony at 7 p.m. Friday in the Vadalabene Center.

## 'A bright light' Leitheiser looks to career in healthcare

by Aren Dow  
Alestelive Reporter

Choosing a major was never a problem for nursing student Maria Leitheiser.

From an early age, Leitheiser said, she always knew nursing was what she wanted to pursue in life, particularly after seeing how other nurses helped her family members who were in the hospital.

"I wanted to be a nurse to help other families," Leitheiser said. "It's also nice to have that kind of job security."

When she first began college-hunting for a place to fulfill that dream, Leitheiser said what drew her to SIUE initially was the campus' landscape.

She liked it so much, she stayed close to the campus during her time at Edwardsville, living in Prairie Hall and Cougar Village for two years each.

"It's beautiful here," Leitheiser said.

She also chose SIUE because she felt welcomed by the campus and knew others who enjoyed the university as well.

Now four years later, she is graduating in just a few days and Leitheiser said she was relieved to be finished, but before she leaves the campus for good, she will speak at the School of Nursing graduation ceremony at 7 p.m. Friday in the Vadalabene Center.

Nursing professor Rick Yakimo, who taught Leitheiser in a psychiatric nursing class and in clinical studies, said Leitheiser is a compassionate person. Yakimo said she was an outstanding student in the classroom as well.

"Maria was a very bright light in the class," Yakimo said.

Yakimo said her compassionate side really shone through while working with patients in the hospital. He said he was especially impressed with the way Leitheiser operated away from the classroom, in particular with one man who had schizophrenia.

Yakimo said Leitheiser worked with the patient for eight weeks, bringing in sports magazines and playing Wii Bowling so they could have a common

topic to discuss.

"Maria did an outstanding job," Yakimo said. "She was one of the few who really transitioned well from the classroom to the clinic."

During her time at SIUE, Leitheiser also became involved with campus activities, including the Student Nursing Association. Vice president last year, Leitheiser became president of the association this year and involved the nursing association with helping at the Ronald McDonald House and Relay for Life. She said becoming president was particularly special, as attaining a leadership position in the nursing program was one of her goals.

Although the economy is declining, Leitheiser said she is not too concerned with the prospect of finding a job, considering the demand for nurses. She does not have a job currently lined up, but has interviewed with several employers. Some of the areas she is looking at are Fairview Heights and St. Louis, which would give her a chance to stay close to home.

"It shouldn't be a problem to find a job. Not right off the bat," Leitheiser said.

Leitheiser also has a younger sister, Michelle, who started attending SIUE last fall. She said it was neat to show her how the area had developed in the short time between when she started in 2005 to last fall.

While Leitheiser thought it was great to be graduating, she said she was interested in continuing her education at SIUE at some point down the road.

"I would love to come back for my master's sometime in the future," Leitheiser said.

Leitheiser also had some words of advice for incoming students and those still new at SIUE.

"Make sure you have a good support system and connect with teachers," Leitheiser said. "And don't forget to have fun, because the experience goes by fast."

Aren Dow can be reached at [adow@alestelive.com](mailto:adow@alestelive.com) or 650-3527.



# College of Arts and Sciences

John Danley, Interim Dean  
 Undergraduate commencement - 1 p.m. Saturday  
 Graduate commencement - 5 p.m. Saturday  
 (with School of Engineering and School of Pharmacy)

Eric E. Abert.....	BS	Rachel M. Breslin.....	BS
Kevin E. Adkins .....	BS	Curtis J. Brewer .....	MM
Janelle M. Allen.....	BS	Katie C. Bridges .....	BA
Todd A. Althardt.....	BS	Tia M. Britton .....	BA
Alyson D. Anderson.....	BS	Alexandra R. Brooks.....	BSW
Aaron M. Andruska.....	BS	Chanelle M. Brooks.....	MA
Jean Paul E. Archambeault.....	BA	Corey A. Brooks.....	BS
Steven R. Atteberry .....	BS	Dustin G. Brooks .....	BS
Mallory E. Audo .....	BS	Katriner L. Brown .....	BS
Joseph F. Avellone .....	BS	Thomas C. Brown .....	MPA
Tiffany M. Avery.....	MS	James A. Broyles.....	BS
Melissa A. Baer.....	BS	Elizabeth R. Brueggeman .....	BS
Jamie L. Baker.....	MA	Leikisha S. Bryant .....	BS
Anthony T. Ballard.....	BS	Tyler B. Bryant .....	BS
Reid M. Baltikauski.....	BS	Jane M. Bullard.....	MA
Daniel C. Banks .....	BS	Emily M. Bumbacher .....	BSW
Charley R. Barlow .....	BA	Wesley W. Burgess .....	BS
Rosemary L. Barnes.....	MA	Ashley N. Burns .....	BA
Phillip C. Barras .....	BS	Melissa D. Burns.....	BS
Benjamin R. Bartley .....	BS	Jennifer L. Burroughs .....	BA
James T. Barton .....	BS	Christine C. Butler .....	BS
Ryan A. Basch .....	BM	Jennifer N. Butler .....	BS
Roshan N. Bassett .....	BS	Kyle A. Butters .....	BA
Graham L. Beard .....	BS	Stephen M. Bux.....	BS
Robert C. Beard .....	BA	Eric A. Byerly .....	BS
Heath A. Beck .....	BS	Kyle P. Cadwallader .....	BS
Jenna L. Behrents .....	BS	Savannah L. Canavit .....	BS
Jennifer A. Belokon.....	BS	Jacob R. Carlson .....	BS
Alicia M. Bennett .....	BS	Jade K. Carroll .....	BS
Jamie E. Berner .....	BA	Leon L. Carson .....	BS
Sarah E. Bettes .....	BS	Bridgette S. Carter .....	BS
Adam J. Betz .....	BS	Jenny S. Cartmill .....	BS
Stephanie L. Biondi.....	BA	Dominick J. Centracchio .....	BS
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Jessica L. Bookwalter .....	BA	Ashley B. Clay .....	BS
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Scott P. Curtis .....	BS	Jason A. Esker .....	BS
Jacob L. Custer .....	BS	Ted M. Esker .....	BS
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Nathan J. Dalechek .....	BS	Michael J. Farrara .....	BS
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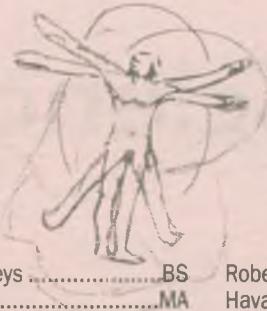
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Troy D. Kelsheimer .....	BS	Jon A. Lepique .....	BM	David G. McCausland .....	BS	Danielle N. Napier .....	BS	Edwin J. Plocher .....	BS
Luke E. Kennedy .....	BS	Bonnie S. Lester .....	BS	Megan A. McClure .....	BS	Grenville J. Nash .....	BS	Derek P. Poci .....	BS
Sal U. Khondaker .....	BS	Lindsey L. Lester-Brutscher .....	BA	Stacie McCoy .....	BA	Michael W. Neal .....	BS	Jennifer N. Poelker .....	BS
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Brittany Tounsel  
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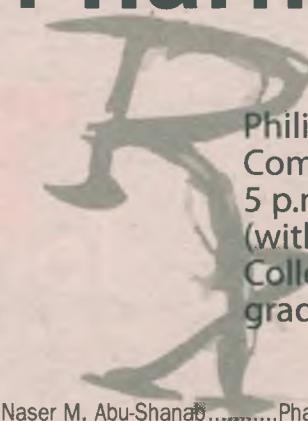
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**Hasan Sevim, Dean**  
**Commencement - 5 p.m. Saturday**  
 (with School of Pharmacy and  
 College of Arts and Sciences graduate students)

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Thomas M. Abebe .....	BS	Matthew T. Giguere.....	BS	Donald R. Owens.....	BS
Alan S. Anthenat .....	BS	Siyao Gu .....	BS	Timothy A. Peterson.....	BS
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Shawn C. Arnold .....	BS	Logan C. Harmon .....	BS	Lukas C. Pirok .....	BS
Sylvanus D. Aveh .....	MS	Justin D. Harms .....	BS	Justin R. Reed .....	BS
Kaci L. Backs .....	BS	Joseph T. Heger .....	BS	David H. Richter .....	BS
Sarah L. Bailey .....	BS	Amie M. Hoff .....	BS	Mark A. Riva .....	BS
Brenton J. Baker .....	BS	Jeffrey F. Hughes .....	BS	Robert V. Roehrig .....	BS
Jeffrey M. Bassler .....	BS	Bharat Kumar Jampani .....	MS	Rupali R. Rothe .....	MS
Nicholas J. Berkel .....	BS	John P. Jenkins .....	BS	Michael S. Rowlen .....	BS
Matthew A. Bilbruck .....	BS	Ryan A. Jozwiak .....	BS	Paul M. Rudloff .....	BS
James T. Blessman .....	BS	Brandon E. Kastelein .....	BA	Jon E. Sackett .....	BS
Scott O. Brinkmann .....	BS	Patrick M. Keller .....	BS	Harold L. Schallenberg .....	BS
James F. Brown .....	BS	Dustin G. Kingery .....	BS	Scott S. Schlaefer .....	BS
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Nicole J. Cornelius .....	BS	Jeffrey W. Lacey .....	BS	Michael B. Smith .....	BS
Melaina R. Costello .....	BS	Megan M. Ladwig .....	BS	Roy W. Smith .....	BS
Brian W. Cox .....	BS	Eric M. Lamczyk .....	BS	Aaron P. Speaks .....	BS
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Christopher P. Daigle .....	BS	Brian D. Loyet .....	BS	Zachary M. Stead .....	BS
Upendra Damacherla .....	MS	Jeffrey H. Luehmann .....	BS	Justin P. Steinke .....	BS
Joshua A. Davis .....	BS	Heather N. Lynch .....	BS	Andre Stunson .....	BS
Colemon E. Dean .....	BS	Abhishek Madduri .....	MS	Naveen Surabathuni .....	MS
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John E. Ernst .....	BS	Matthew W. Michel .....	BS	Yang Wang .....	MS
Varun Kumar Erra .....	MS	Scott M. Miller .....	BS	Wayne A. Weber .....	MS
Grant A. Evans .....	BS	Jessie K. Mills .....	BS	Nathan P. Whiteaker .....	BS
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James M. Feucht .....	BS	Douglas B. Mollett .....	BS	Preston A. Wicke .....	BS
Star M. Fowler .....	BS	Joseph D. Mueller .....	BS	Skyler J. Wiegmann .....	BS
Justin E. Fuhrman .....	BS	Rajesh Mulampaka .....	MS	Terrance M. Wright .....	BS
Derek A. Fuller .....	BS	Joseph J. Napoli .....	BS	Bing Xue .....	MS
Karthik Gaddam .....	MS	Jacob E. Nebergall .....	BS	Venkatram R. Yelamanchili .....	MS
Malavika Reddy Gaddam .....	MS	James E. Neighbors .....	BS	Eraj M. Yunus .....	MS
Philip J. Gattone .....	BS	Jerin T. Ninan .....	MS	Ryan T. Zwijack .....	BS
Arjun Ghale .....	MS	Brittan T. Oates .....	MS		

# School of Pharmacy



**Philip J. Medon, Dean**  
**Commencement**  
**5 p.m. Saturday**  
 (with School of Engineering and  
 College of Arts and Sciences  
 graduate students)

Naser M. Abu-Shanab .....	PharmD	David M. Mattiuz .....	PharmD
Katie L. Bartels .....	PharmD	Michelle McArthur .....	PharmD
Timothy C. Barton .....	PharmD	Ashley S. McCoy .....	PharmD
Marc A. Belanger .....	PharmD	Erich Y. Milgrim .....	PharmD
Kunjil K. Bhakta .....	PharmD	Sini P. Muckom .....	PharmD
Jordan S. Bills .....	PharmD	Courtney A. Mudd .....	PharmD
Andrew D. Brand .....	PharmD	Brandi D. Myers .....	PharmD
Brandy N. Bratcher .....	PharmD	Leah M. Nanney .....	PharmD
Blake A. Clayton .....	PharmD	Candace M. Oliver .....	PharmD
Teresa L. Cocke .....	PharmD	Samantha L. Parker .....	PharmD
Andrew J. Corn .....	PharmD	Kelly L. Perez .....	PharmD
Christina J. Damm .....	PharmD	Corinne M. Peshek .....	PharmD
Michaela M. Doss .....	PharmD	Goldie L. Peters .....	PharmD
Stephan R. Draughan .....	PharmD	Jennifer N. Rains .....	PharmD
Julie M. Duke-Endsley .....	PharmD	Maggie R. Rodeffer .....	PharmD
Alex J. Duyevonck .....	PharmD	Andrew J. Roseboom .....	PharmD
Mary E. Elliott .....	PharmD	Alphy T. Roy .....	PharmD
Paul B. Erwin .....	PharmD	Becky L. Salmons .....	PharmD
Jill M. Finley .....	PharmD	Jarod M. Schaltenbrand .....	PharmD
Jacquelin S. Fredericks .....	PharmD	Michael J. Schneider .....	PharmD
Tyler J. Gehlbach .....	PharmD	Andrea N. Schutte .....	PharmD
Keith E. Gibson .....	PharmD	Jason E. Scott .....	PharmD
Trenton A. Grimm .....	PharmD	Brycen A. Short .....	PharmD
Margo C. Hanerhoff .....	PharmD	Kelly A. Simmons .....	PharmD
Ryan R. Hanewinkel .....	PharmD	Brian D. Smith .....	PharmD
Jeremy K. Hanon .....	PharmD	Jana A. Smith .....	PharmD
Brandon E. Hardiman .....	PharmD	Kelly L. Smith .....	PharmD
Alainia Helfrich .....	PharmD	Tonya R. Sprenger .....	PharmD
Tara S. Hosselton .....	PharmD	Mary J. Stinson .....	PharmD
Diana M. Jason .....	PharmD	Terry E. Sullivan .....	PharmD
Jessica M. Laubscher .....	PharmD	Jessica E. Taylor .....	PharmD
Amanda L. Law .....	PharmD	Jason R. Tipton .....	PharmD
Ashley N. Lawton .....	PharmD	Minh L. Tran .....	PharmD
Matt D. Layman .....	PharmD	Jessica L. Vanarsdale .....	PharmD
Elizabeth N. Lloyd .....	PharmD	Nathan W. Wear .....	PharmD
Todd A. Loeffler .....	PharmD	Travis N. Willeford .....	PharmD
Cory W. Loepker .....	PharmD	Seyoum T. Woldegebriel .....	PharmD
Tony C. Lopez .....	PharmD	Beth K. Zelinko .....	PharmD
Jennifer L. Lurk .....	PharmD	Lee M. Zeller .....	PharmD
Ryan G. Massey .....	PharmD		



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**THANKS**  
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**CONGRATS**  
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