



HISTORICO

Sangamon County Historical Society Newsletter

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A Special Message: Keeping You, But Not History, at a Distance

Like you, your family, friends, neighbors and co-workers, the spread of the Corona Virus has reshaped the way we interact with each other. Aware of the potential health threat the virus posed for large gatherings, the Sangamon County Historical Society board on March 11 not only voted to cancel its annual Special Projects Grant fundraiser, Trivia Night, but also to find alternatives to continue to provide you with the broad scope of informative monthly history programs and projects for which we are known.

Until the crisis is passed and we can resume a normal meeting schedule, *Historico* will serve as the vehicle for our monthly programs, putting the experts at your fingertips along with visuals you would normally see on the meeting room screen. *Historico* is also posted on line at sangamonhistory.org if you wish to view it on your computer.

April Program Spotlight

SIU School of Medicine: A World-Class Innovator at 50

By Cinda Ackerman Klickna

It was 1970. The site of the old Reisch Brewery on North Rutledge had been chosen for not just a new structure but for the first community-based medical school in central Illinois, the Southern Illinois University School of Medicine (SIU SOM).

Fifty years later, 23 sites offer healthcare services across the state, the number of graduates will reach 3000 this May, and the School continues to expand. Around one-third of the doctors in Sangamon County graduated from SIU.

Since its inception, SIU School of

Medicine has earned the international reputation for innovation – in research, teaching practices, student assessment, surgical practices, and programs to



“The spirit of innovation has never waned.”

DEAN JERRY KRUSE

name only a few. The School’s innovations have been adopted by medical schools across the world. Jerry Kruse, current dean, says, “The spirit of innovation has never waned.”

The school was created through a 1968 long-range plan of the Illinois Board of Higher Education to create a medical school for central and southern Illinois through SIU-Carbondale. The mission was to educate medical professionals who would stay in the area to provide much-needed healthcare to rural areas; thus, preference was given to students from central and southern Illinois, a practice continuing today. It was unique compared to other medical training schools: there was no university hospital, no full-time faculty and located in a city not noted for healthcare.

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**BE AN
EARLY BIRD!**

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Coming Together to Protect the Past, Ensure the Future

Tough times require tough decisions.

The board of the Sangamon County Historical Society found itself having to make one early last month when it wound up on the cutting edge of local organizations facing-off against the spread of the corona virus.

With 10 days to go before holding our annual Trivia Night--the lone fundraiser for our Special Project Grants program and with round and table sales nearly fully subscribed, the board voted to cancel the event.

Even with several thousand dollars at stake, putting nearly 300 players sitting side-by-side in crowded room, would put them in jeopardy for what was predicted to be a fast-spreading and deadly virus. The game could wait, said the board, and those who bought rounds, tables or seats could have their money back if they so chose.

On that Wednesday evening, local hospitals had moved to close facilities to all but medically-related activities, but much of the rest of Springfield and Sangamon County was operating normally. But not for long. Within 24 hours, most city and county facilities closed their doors, large gatherings were banned, schools announced closings, non-essential businesses shuttered and most people were told to go home and stay there.

What seemed like an isolated but tough decision then, doesn't look that way anymore.

As part of what turned into a lengthy discussion for us, came what we affectionately call Plan B, a what-if approach to what could happen to the Society if our traditional meeting places for programs, events and board sessions became unavailable for several weeks or, for that matter, several months.

Some events, like the annual fundraiser, could be re-scheduled for the following year. Monthly programs, which have been drawing well over 100 members and guests, could still be provided, albeit in a different form: interviews with those who would have been our guest speakers and visuals published each month in *Historico*; board and committee meetings by conference calls,

events and deadlines postponed or extended until the virus threat has disappeared.

So we are in Plan B mode.

You will continue to get *Historico* (and in it, our monthly program which this month would have focused on the remarkable broad impact the SIU School of Medicine has had on the community, medical care, training and practices as it marks its 50th anniversary here). Our May "program" is in the works: think Earth Day.

The Society's nominating committee is now weighing the candidacy of candidates for board seats that will be opening in June.

If you are interested in serving on the board, please send an e-mail to schsoffice@gmail.com and it will be forwarded to the committee. The slate will be announced in the May issue and voting will be by mail to those whose membership is paid by May 31.

Our annual meeting, which would have been held in June at Clayville, will be rescheduled as circumstances permit.

Our June issue of *Historico*, which like this edition will appear later in the month, will provide the annual report and an update on elections and other Society business. We normally do not meet in July and August and are keeping our fingers crossed that we will be able to return to a normal schedule in September.

Please take note that our fiscal year ends on May 31 and our new year starts June 1.

If you haven't yet sent in dues for 2020-2021, now is the time to do so.

And if you'd like to make a donation along with your dues, it would be greatly appreciated.

Stay home, stay safe, stay well.

Vicky Whitaker



Historico, published 10 times a year (except July & December), is the official bulletin for members of the Sangamon County Historical Society. *Winner, Certificate of Excellence, Illinois State Historical Society.*

You can download back issues of *Historico* in PDF format by going to our website, www.sangamohistory.org or sancohis.org. Send event announcements to historicoeditor@gmail.com.

Vicky Whitaker, *Historico* Editor, Photos by Kathy Dehen, Larry Stone

April Deadline Approaching for Special Project Grant Applications

The deadline for filing applications for the Society's Special Project Grants is April 30.

The Society board agreed on April 8 to keep the deadline in place, since the application process has been well-publicized for several months and should not be impacted by the closing of area libraries, schools and museums and most history operations.

Special Project grant chair Elaine Hoff urged the board to stick with the deadline and the schedule for her committee to review the applications in May and select the winners.

The grant program provides financial underpinnings for small but significant Sangamon County history projects proposed by individuals and organizations who can complete their work within a 12-month period.

The Society usually sets aside a total of \$3,000 a year for the Special Projects Grant program whose winners are determined by a committee. If less than \$3,000 is awarded in any given year, the additional funds are applied to the overall total the following year or kept in reserve.

Funds for the program are raised through the Society's annual Trivia Night, the eighth year of which was to be held on Saturday, March 21. But in light of spread-

ing concern over the virus, the Board on March 11 decided to cancel the event. Most of the game's round-sponsors and some who purchased tables and seats in advance, opted to donate the funds to the Society for future Special Grant awards. Unlike most trivia nights, tables and round sponsorships for the Society's fundraiser were paid for in advance, making it relatively easy to contact those who did so.

"We are very appreciative of their decision," Hoff said. The winners are normally announced at the Society's annual dinner in June, but that gathering is also on hold until it is clear that events with large groups of people will be safe to attend.

"Hopefully that or a special reception will be possible in the fall," Hoff noted. "We plan to invite all those who donated to the effort to meet the winners of the competition and learn more about the projects they will be working on in the successive months ahead.

Applications can be downloaded from the Society's website, sangamonhistory.org for individuals and organizations interested in applying for the Society's annual Special Project Grants.

A link on the **Grants** section of the website will take you to the application form and will explain the process.

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OFFICERS

President.....Vicky Whitaker
 Vice-President.....Stephanie Martin
 Secretary.....Mary Mucciante
 Treasurer.....Jerry Smith
 Past-President.....Ruth Slottag

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Term Ending 2020

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 Eugene Walker
 Roger Whitaker
 Elaine Hoff

Term Ending 2021

Mary Alice Davis
 Kathy Hoffmann
 Sue Massie
 Doug Polite
 Cinda Klickna

Term Ending 2022

Jennie Battles
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 Mary Schaefer
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Finance: *Doug Polite, Larry Stone*

Membership: *Stephanie Martin*

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Hospitality: *Marion Leach*

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Publications: *Roger Whitaker*

Programs/Special Events: *Mary Alice Davis,*

Vicky Whitaker

Social Media Chair: *Mary Schaefer*

Special Projects: *Elaine Hoff*

Staff

Mike Kienzler, SangamonLink.org Editor



SCHS Kicks Off Annual Membership Drive With an April Early Bird Opportunity

Remember that letter you received last May, asking you to renew your membership in the Society for 2019-2020? Seems like yesterday, doesn't it? Well, time does fly and so does our fiscal year which ends at the end of May. Rather than wait for us to write that letter, print it, fold it, stuff it in an envelope, stamp it and mail it, why not use the new renewal form on page 7 and beat us to the punch? Or go on-line and renew for another year through our website, sangamonhistory.org.

On the new form you'll see some additions and changes in the format. One of the things we've learned from doing historic research is that many women often get lost in history because they change their name if and when they marry. We're part of a worldwide movement to correct that, so that if a future historian or genealogist looks at your family history or accomplishments of a female spouse or child, they'll have an easier time connecting the dots...or in this case, birth names.

We've also made it easier to give a gift of membership in the Society, with a box that clearly provides space for you to list the name of the person you wish to become a mem-

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Please make note of our official mailing address:

SCHS
Box 9744
Springfield, Illinois,
62791-9744

SIU School of Medicine at 50: A History of Achievement

(Continued from page 1)

Under the tenures of the four deans who have led the School over its 50 years, new, exciting medical practices have impacted our area – and the entire world. The deans have all been faculty teaching physicians (today numbering 300).

The founding dean, Richard Moy, set the stage for innovation. He introduced new teaching methods, moving away from a reliance on lectures and adding humanities into the curriculum. The School was the first to establish goals and objectives in medical training. Moy, who called the new school the Springfield Experiment, recruited top physicians from across the country who were excited to help create something from scratch.

By 1980, Howard Barrows had joined the faculty. He pioneered two revolutionary strategies. One was problem-based learning which replaced lectures with real-life problems that small groups of students analyzed and discussed, under the supervision of a facilitator. (This technique was also being used in public schools in Springfield by many teachers, including this author.)

The other strategy Barrows introduced was a simulated patient process, called Standardized Patients (SP). The practice continues today: healthy people are trained to pose as a patient; students interact with the “patient” while being observed and critiqued.

Although the strategies started slowly, they became the model and have been adopted by many other medical schools.

Deans who followed Moy were Carl Getto (1994-2001), Kevin Dorsey (2001-2015), and Jerry Kruse (2016-present). Although each dean contributed new ideas, all built on what had already been developed and kept to the mission. As Dorsey says, “The work is really done by a legion of people.”

Getto shepherded the State’s initial funding for the Simmons Cancer Institute. He helped organize healthcare systems, creating a new approach of doctors working as teams. This led to community health centers across a wide region. Getto cites the impact SIU has made throughout the world,

“In the last five to 10 years medical education is doing what SIU was doing in the 1970s. Partly, that is because the people trained at SIU are leading medical work in many parts of the country and carrying the ideas they learned here.”

When Dorsey took on the position of dean, he saw the impact of the teaching process started years earlier. “Students in their second year were already talking about practical issues not just cramming volumes of material. That was so different from what I had experienced in my own medical training.”

The Telehealth program began in 2002. Telephone and online interactions are used round the clock by citizens needing emergency and medical advice.

In 2010 the Simmons Cancer Institute opened; a \$10M donation from John Simmons is the largest donor gift

ever provided to the University. Philanthropy has continued with gifts for Alzheimer and other research, for endowed chairs, and for grants to faculty.

Honors for Excellence

Teaching methods continue to be recognized. In 2013 the school became the only medical school in the world to be awarded three ASPIRE awards (A Schools Programme for International Recognition of Excellence in Education) from the Association for Medical Education in Europe. These were in the categories of Assessment of Students, Student Engagement in the Curriculum, and Social Accountability.

The mission of education, research and clinical care was expanded to include service to the community which has developed into federally qualified health centers, and outreach to community groups and schools.

Leadership Role

Kruse points to the many areas in which the School has been a leader: biomedicine, severed limb reattachment, infertility, hearing loss research, and trauma-informed care, to name just a few.

Introduced in 2016-2017 is a new assessment for students, developed through a deep dive into what was

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MOY



BARROWS



GETTO



DORSEY



The Simmons Cancer Institute at SIU in Springfield



UNDER CONSTRUCTION in the early 70's, the SIU School of Medicine was built on a site once occupied by Springfield's historic Reisch Brewery (see arrow, top) across from Memorial Hospital).

SIU photos

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working for students. The third-year curriculum that had previously been revamped was reviewed and revamped again.

Pass/fail is now used completely. Kruse says, "At first I was booted off

has surfaced just in the short time the world has faced the impact of the coronavirus.

New approaches have already been implemented – virtual doctor appointments through Facetime and cellphone calls with patients to be more effective

and programs doing incredible work, with hundreds of medical professionals providing healthcare in almost every area imaginable.

The faculty and doctors continue to win grants for their research and clinical work.

Community Outreach

The School continues to reach out to the community and to build interest in medical careers for area students. Since 2009 the Physician Pipeline Preparatory Program has graduated 84 students, including 14 who graduated in February 2020. Students, interested in pursuing medical careers, learn through case studies, research, lab experiences, and study.

At Southeast High School, students in the Health Science Academy have been working with SIU and other medical groups for over 20 years.

SIU has lived up to its mission to serve central and southern Illinois and has made an impact not only here in Sangamon County, but indeed, all over the world.

Sangamon County Historical Society board member Cinda Klickna is a free-lance writer whose work frequently appears in Illinois Times. A former Springfield School District English teacher, she was president of the Illinois Education Association for six years prior to her retirement. In addition to SCHS, Klickna is a member of the boards of the Dana Thomas House Foundation, the Illinois State Museum Society and the Illinois State Historical Society.



SIU School of Medicine's soaring entranceway on North Rutledge Street.

the stage at conferences when presenting our new approach, but this has been astoundingly successful." As has been the case in other innovative practices coming out of SIU, other schools are now following the new model.

What is the future that our area can expect? Kruse points to a positive that

with time and care. Kruse explains, "Public health and the medical community haven't had much prior teamwork, and there is now a greater appreciation for balancing these. We could be looking at new models going forward."

There are many, many departments

Society Deadline April 30 for 2020-2021 Special Project Grants

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Since the program began in 2013, the Society's Special Projects Grant program has funded 25 projects ranging from sign-age programs that help communities better understand their local history to underwriting research for a museum display on early African-American pioneers who settled in Sangamon County and surrounding areas in Central Illinois.

Special Project grant funds have also been used to digitize and preserve blueprints of Sacred Heart Chapel and Ursula Hall Music Conservatory in Springfield designed by William Conway, Springfield's first architect.

Last year, Special Project grants went to five organizations including a first-time request from the Central 3 Community First Project to create and erect signage associated with the preservation of

Springfield's first black firehouse and its role during the 1908 race riot.

Other recipients last year had been awarded grants in the past. For 2019-2020, the Springfield and Central Illinois African American History Museum won funding for an exhibit on national Negro League players from Springfield and Central Illinois that would have opened this spring but has been postponed because of the virus threat.

Other repeat grant winners were the Pleasant Plains Historical Society that received funds to rebuild wheel chairs ramps at its Clayville Historic Site; Oak Ridge National Cemetery for an interpretive marker about its former third street entrance sign; and Historic Edwards Place to support a traveling history trunk program that will bring history into the classroom.



2019-2020 Special Project Grant winners reflected a cross-section of local history projects.

Annual Membership Drive Set to Begin, But With a Head Start

(continued from page 3)

ber and the mailing address. If you can add a phone number and e-mail, we'd be delighted.

Unless you prefer to do it yourself, we formally acknowledge such gifts with a note from the Society to the recipient.

If you are sending it to a college student living somewhere other than with you, it's a great way to keep them in touch with the community and of course, share your interest in local history. They will get *Historico* and an opportunity to attend Society events as a member when they are home from school.

Of course, we'd also like to point out some other membership features. If you joined the Society in late December or early January, you'll not get a letter to pay anew in May. It's a one-time offer to new members only, reflecting the normal lag we face in transmitting changes in our membership lists to our internal membership system and onto our mailing house. It can take a month or two and it may mean missing a meeting notice unless you happen to catch an announcement on line or in the local media. Later in the year, when we anticipate meeting and reception spaces

will reopen and the virus threat fade, new members can be expected to be invited to a special reception where they will learn more about the Society, its projects and its people. We look forward to meeting you.

And don't miss other opportunities associated with membership. We have al-

Pioneer, Settler, and Trailblazer who each year donate a sum above the basic membership fee in support of our programs and efforts to promote and preserve the history of Sangamon County.

A significant segment of our members hold the "Life" designation which means they have invested a substantial amount of money in the Society in a single payment. They do not pay an annual fee.

Though we do not list it on our form, the Society also has non-voting selected business and corporate members whose contributions and support have helped sustain some of our major projects through the years. The Society also provides complimentary non-voting memberships to libraries, schools, area historical societies and museums and other institutions who are part of the broader community that we serve.

The new form, like those in the past, also provides you with an opportunity to add a donation in addition to your dues. The Society always appreciates the generosity of those who are able to provide us with the extra funding we need in bringing top notch programs, speakers, and more to our members and the area we serve.



ways enjoyed and appreciated the extra support that a growing number of our members have given the Society by selecting one of the other levels of membership:

BE AN EARLY BIRD!



Renew Now By Mail or On-Line for 2020-2021

JUST A REMINDER! The Society's membership year runs from June 1 to May 31.

You can renew for 2020-2021 by mail using this form...or renew on-line at *sangamonhistory.org*.

And you can also use this form to give a gift of membership...or to join the Society for the first time!

All memberships — except business/corporate and college/university students — include adults and children 16 and over living at the same address.

2020-2021 SCHS MEMBERSHIP FORM

(Please Print)

I'm RENEWING

I'm a NEW MEMBER

This is a **GIFT** for: (Name of Recipient, Mailing Address (Street, City, State, Zip))

SELECT THE MEMBERSHIP LEVEL

- Regular Membership - \$30 Pioneer - \$100 Settler - \$250 Trailblazer - \$500
 Lifetime Membership - \$700 (one time fee) College/University Student (individual) - \$20.

Your Name _____

Spouse/Significant Other Name (where applicable): _____

Spouse's Maiden Name (where applicable): _____

Full Names of others included in your membership: _____

City, State, Zip _____ Phone: _____

Cell: _____ E-mail: _____

I am adding a donation of \$ _____.

Mail this form with your check to the Sangamon County Historical Society, Box 9744, Springfield, IL 62791-9744

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