FIALA INDUCTED INTO TWO HALLS OF FAME

Neil Fiala, who has been a baseball coach for more than 25 years, has had such a remarkable career that he was inducted into two Halls of Fame in a one-month period. On April 28, the SWIC Head Baseball Coach was inducted into the St. Louis Amateur Baseball Hall of Fame, and on May 26, he was honored in Grand Junction, Colo. as one of only 21 players selected to the All-Time Junior College World Series team to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Junior College World Series.

Of the St. Louis honor, Fiala said: “It’s an accumulation of all the work you’ve done over the years, playing and coaching, and it’s an especially nice honor because my dad’s in that same hall of fame.”

Of the Junior College induction, he explained: “Out of the 10,000-plus players to have played in the JUCO World Series, it’s a real honor to be in the top 21.”

Other honorees in that exclusive group include the late Kirby Puckett, who played 12 seasons for the Minnesota Twins, and Adam LaRoche, who currently plays for the Pittsburgh Pirates.

Fiala remembers “playing ball as a little kid in the backyard with my dad throwing to me… and in eighth grade I said ‘My goal is to play in the big leagues some day.’ ” Two of the biggest thrills in his baseball life were playing in the Junior College National Tournament in 1975 and the College World Series in 1977. “But the biggest thrill was being called up to the major leagues,” said Fiala, who played with the St. Louis Cardinals and Cincinnati Reds from 1977 to 1982 – and played in the majors during the 1981 season.

Several of his own coaches influenced Fiala tremendously, especially his father who also played professional baseball. He credits a number of coaches for his success, including: Ric Lessman, his coach at St. Louis Community College at Meramec; Richard “Itch” Jones, his coach at Southern Illinois University Carbondale; and Paul Fultz, who coached his summer teams in high school.

Everything you do is a montage of what they all taught you, plus everything I learned from my professional-level coaches like Hal Lanier.”

As SWIC’s Head Baseball Coach, Fiala finds it very rewarding to know he has helped his players develop and move on to further their educations and ball playing.

And, as a husband and father, he’s grateful to his wife, Kim, and three daughters – Lori, Leslie and Lisa – for all their support over the years on his remarkable journey to two Halls of Fame and beyond.

HIGH-TECH H.S. DEMO

Matt Swinford, Network Design & Administration program coordinator, and Mary Lutz, Office Administration and Technology/Computer Information Systems assistant professor, visited Collinsville High School students recently to demonstrate current technology used in the Business Division, including PDAs (Personal Digital Assistants), Video iPods, and Tablet PCs (portable computers operated with a stylus instead of a keyboard).
FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

At the regular May meeting of the Board of Trustees, the board approved recommendations to:

- Provide fiscal year 2008 and fiscal year 2009 salary adjustments for SWIC full-time and part-time Administrative, Professional and Supervisory staff and Office and Technical staff.

- Appoint Mitchell Robinson, Ph.D., as an assistant professor of Chemistry, assigned to the Belleville Campus; Timothy Brown as an instructor/coordinator, Computer Information Systems, assigned to the Belleville Campus with districtwide responsibilities; and Jim Smith as an instructor in the Auto Collision Repair Technology program assigned to the Sam Wolf Granite City Campus.

"Music expresses that which cannot be said and on which it is impossible to be silent." – VICTOR HUGO

"THE BIG GUY IN THE MIDDLE" WILL BE MISSED

Bob Borgstede, assistant professor of Music at the Sam Wolf Granite City Campus, nicknamed "The Big Guy in the Middle" by a fellow musician, died May 3 of complications resulting from pancreatitis, at age 27.

In 2001, Bob joined SWIC as an adjunct instructor and became a full-time faculty member last September. Before joining SWIC full time, he also worked as an adjunct instructor at McKendree College, the University of Missouri St. Louis, and St. Charles Community College. He earned his bachelor’s degree (2001) and master’s degree (2003) from Southern Illinois University Edwardsville.

During the 2006-2007 school year, he introduced and taught a new Guitar Ensemble course. Outside the classroom he played music professionally as a freelancer and with his own group, known simply as “Bob Borgstede,” which performed a combination of original compositions and a standard jazz repertoire. They performed throughout the Midwest and at jazz festivals across the country.

He released a CD of original music in 2004, titled “Narrative Threads.” A song from that CD, “Nola’s Waltz,” earned him the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers “Young Jazz Composers Award” in 2005. He is survived by his wife, Sarah, and son, Bobby.

CAMPUS BRIEFS

ALL CAMPUS

Get your tickets for the Summer Musical, Little Shop of Horrors. Performances will be held July 20-22 and July 27-29. This year’s dinner theatre performance will take place Saturday, July 21. For tickets, visit the College Activities office or call ext. 5561.

PSOP

The SWIC Travel Program is headed to Stages St. Louis August 19 for dinner and a live production of the musical-comedy "The Full Monty." Based on the 1997 Oscar-winning movie of the same name, this bawdy, good-natured show follows the antics of six unemployed British steelworkers so desperate they decide to earn money in a most unconventional way. The trip is $85 per person and includes dinner, the show, transportation and all gratuities and taxes.

SWIC’s Travel Program has an ideal trip for St. Louis Cardinals fans who also happen to be history buffs. The August 15-17 trip will include two Cardinals games against the Brewers in Milwaukee; visits to a Victorian Mansion in Bloomington, Ill., and Wisconsin’s oldest working gristmill; and tours of Miller Park and Milwaukee. The trip costs $640 and includes transportation, hotel, tour escort, tickets to both games, admissions to scheduled events, five meals, baggage handling, gratuities and travel insurance.

Payment for either event is due July 1. For reservations and information, call Nancy Bauer at ext. 7020 or visit www.swic.edu/psop/trips.jsp.

BELLEVILLE CAMPUS

Bring your family to Family Fun Day at the Schmidt Art Center from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Saturday, June 16. During this free day of fun, as you look through a “clear canvas” you can paint your own interpretation of an exhibit onto Plexiglas and enjoy a guided tour of the current show. For more information call the Schmidt Art Center at ext. 5278. See the Calendar for more Schmidt Art Center events.

It will be hot…hot…hot this summer when College Activities presents the Summer Concert in the Café series. Catch all the action: Waterloo German Band, June 5; Joey James Orchestra, June 12; Dale Willeford, June 19; and Four of a Kind, June 26. The free concerts begin at 7 p.m. in the Café.

Kids’ Club is open this summer! Your child can experience fun, age-appropriate educational activities supervised by professional childcare staff from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Thursday. For details call ext. SKID (5543) or visit BC Room 0508.

SAM WOLF GRANITE CITY CAMPUS

You can help local and national charities by bidding on items at the United Way Summer Auction to be held from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., June 20 and 21, in the campus front hall. Funds from this auction will benefit the SWGCC Fall United Way Campaign.

Help save lives by donating blood at the American Red Cross blood drive from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Wednesday, June 27 in Room 520. Each donor will receive a free St. Louis Cardinals T-shirt.

RED BUD CAMPUS

If your child hopes to grow up to be the next David Beckham or Mia Hamm, or just have some fun this summer, then check out the SWIC-YMCA Soccer Camp. Watch for additional details or call Deborah Oakley at ext. 8104.
FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT

Last fall we launched our yearlong 60th Anniversary celebration with a headline-grabbing community picnic and celebrity softball game. In May we closed out the year in style with the “S’Wonderful, S’Marvelous, Swixtieth Birthday Bash.”

Not surprisingly, a lot of great things happened in between, including:

• BREAKING NEW GROUND … Last fall we broke ground to start construction on the Belleville Campus’ new $12.5 million Academic Building, which will open for spring 2008 classes.

• ETCHED IN GRANITE … SWIC also received Illinois “Opportunity Returns” funding to update our newly dedicated Sam Wolf Granite City Campus, renamed last fall to honor the SWIC Trustee and longtime Illinois representative.

• TRUSTEE COMPANIONS … Again in 2006 and double-O-seven, “Nobody Does It Better” than the SWIC Board of Trustees, whose efforts on behalf of Southwestern Illinois, the region and the college, continued to produce visible expansion, enrollment and educational results.

• POLICE ACADEMY 100 … The 100th session of the SWIC Police Academy drew wide attention, including two TV-news features about the program’s rigorous training regimen. The academy has delivered more than 2,200 graduates “to protect and serve” Southwestern Illinois since 1971, including fifth-session graduate and Board Vice Chairman Kenneth R. Joseph.

• GED BRINGS GOOD THINGS TO LIFE … Founded to provide secondary education opportunities for soldiers after World War II, SWIC shared a 60th Anniversary with the General Educational Development testing series, first offered to civilians in 1947. This year’s GED program had more than 500 graduates, many who took part in spring commencement wearing caps and gowns, a new tradition made possible by the SWIC Foundation.

• SERVICE WITH A SMILE … Including two 30-year celebrants – Psychology Professor Ed Brady and Information Technology’s Lloyd “Pete” Peterson – SWIC took time to honor 198 employees who collectively accounted for 1,785 years of service to the college.

Sadly, our SWIC family lost three dedicated faculty members in our 60th year. Nursing Professor Alice Underhill died last spring; and Assistant Professor of Music Bob Borgstede and retired Administration of Justice instructor Bill Allen both passed away this spring. Each will be sorely missed and most fondly remembered.

So, how do you close out a school year, let alone six decades? The answer may lie with “Reflections,” the theme of our anniversary-year annual report that includes this quotable suggestion from American educator and author Peter F. Drucker:

“Follow effective action with quiet reflection; from quiet reflection will come even more effective action.”

JUNE CALENDAR

4-7 Welcome Week: Popcorn in the Lobby, RBC
5 Concert in the Café: Waterloo German Band, 7 p.m., BC Café
6-7 United Way Popcorn Sale, 10 a.m. to noon and 5-7 p.m., SWGCC, front hall
7 Looking at the Nude: Sculpture, 6:30 p.m., Schmidt Art Center, BC
Abused Women and Children Awareness Day: Doris Beattie, 11 a.m., RBC Performing Arts Room
8 SWIC Family Fun Sunday: Community Education, 6:05 p.m., GCS Ballpark, Cahokia
10 TV/Movie Trivia contest, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., SWGCC
Concert in the Café: Joey James Orchestra, 7 p.m., BC Café
12 Concert in the Café: Who/What Am I? Contest – 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., SWGCC
14 Garfield The Cat Trivia Contest entries due, 10 a.m., RBC Room 175
15-16 United Way Popcorn Sale, 10 a.m. to noon and 5-7 p.m., SWGCC, front hall
19 Concert in the Café: Dale Willeford, 7 p.m., BC Café
Garfield The Cat Trivia Contest entries due, 10 a.m., RBC Room 175
20-21 United Way Summer Auction, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., SWGCC, front hall
$2 Cookout – 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., SWGCC
22 Whose/What Am I? Contest – 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., SWGCC
24 SWIC Family Fun Sunday: Red Bud Campus Night, 3:05 p.m., GCS Ballpark, Cahokia
26 Concert in the Café: Four of a Kind, 7 p.m., BC Café
27 Happy Birthday To You Day: June Birthday Cake, 8 a.m. to 10 p.m., RBC Lobby
29 Art in Architecture Walking Tour with Melanie Harvey, 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., begins at BC Schmidt Art Center.
Paid reservations required by June 19; $12 per person plus MetroLink ticket, BC

COUNSELING CENTER INTRODUCES NEW TOOL

Counseling Services and the Registrar’s Office have introduced Advisor, a new software program on STORM Services that allows students to track their academic progress toward graduation.

Advisor identifies which classes the student has taken and which courses are still needed toward a specific degree or certificate. Advisor is to be used in conjunction with the advice of counselors and program coordinators and should not be used instead of regular consultations with counselors. The Advisor report is not recognized as an official transcript.

The software also enables the Financial Aid Office to comply with federal requirements that aid be awarded only for courses that lead to the completion of the student’s program.

To assure that all students have the opportunity to print out their Advisor reports, computer locations at each campus will be identified with permanent signs as “STORM Site: Access and Printing.” Students can access their STORM Services accounts and print information free of charge.

Advisor is a college-wide project resulting from an initial recommendation developed in AQIP 4: Improving Student Academic Advisement. A joint steering committee comprised of Counseling Services, Registrar’s Office, Financial Aid, Instruction and Information Technology led AQIP 7 as a follow-up project specifically to implement Advisor.
various aspects of operating a nursery business and brings many members of the community to campus.

Laura Billings, Ph.D., Chair of the Behavioral Sciences Department and Psychology faculty member, performed as the leading operatic soprano in two musical productions in April: the Midwest Lyric Opera’s presentation of Mozart’s “The Impressario” in St. Louis; and the Belleville Philharmonic Orchestra’s presentation of Beethoven’s “Ninth Symphony.”

The SWIC Cisco Networking Academy was recognized recently for its successful students and state-of-the-art technology. Faculty members Matt Swinford, Steve Bushong and Charlie Hannon picked up the Achievement Award for Community Colleges at the annual meeting of all Illinois Cisco Academies held at the College of DuPage in Glen Ellyn, Ill.

Barbara Hunter, Ph.D., Psychology instructor, facilitated SWIC student presentations at two recent psychology conferences – the Rocky Mountain Psychological Association Convention in Denver, Colo., and the 34th Annual Undergraduate Psychology Conference at Culver-Stockton College in Canton, Mo.

Biology Professor Emeritus Leo Welch, who is president of the American Association of University Professors of Illinois, and Kevin Mattson, Chapter President of the AAUP of Ohio University, presented a seminar on “Academic Freedom and the Corporatization of Higher Education” at Harper College in Palatine in April.

SWIC FAMILY MATTERS – Among the 1,349 individuals who earned associate's degrees from the college this year, you could find both college employees and their family members. Below are a few of the individuals who marched in the college's recent Commencement Ceremony to pick up their diplomas:

Emily G. Monroe, left, daughter of Political Science and History Professor Kevin Monroe, right, graduated with an Associate in Arts with High Honors.

Emily Riester, right, daughter of Construction Management Program Coordinator Frank Riester, left, graduated with an Associate in Arts with High Honors and served as a Commencement speaker.

Theresa Blash, left, and her sister, Christina, right, daughters of Counselor Daniel Blash, center, participated in the Commencement Ceremony. Theresa earned Associate in Arts and Associate in Science degrees with Honors. Christina earned an Associate in Arts with High Honors.

Meghan A. Siebert, left, daughter of Assistant Professor of Nursing Education Helene Siebert, RN, right, followed in her mom’s footsteps and earned an Associate in Applied Science in Nursing Education.

Instructional Services Assistant Jennifer Costello earned an Associate in Arts.