



## SIC Graduation to be Held May 8

As the end of the school year is quickly approaching, you can feel the excitement fill the air throughout the corridors and halls on campus. This time of great anticipation is quickly approaching. Due to the ongoing pandemic, graduation will look different again this year. Fortunately, with things heading towards the right direction, graduation will be returning to some normalcy. The graduation ceremony will be held on May 8th, 2021 at 10 a.m. (Baccalaureate) and 1 p.m. (Nursing/CTE). This event will be a live-streamed event for all family members and friends to view on Southeastern's YouTube channel. Graduating students will have the opportunity to attend graduation in person this year. They will still have to follow campus protocols and regulations to ensure the safety of themselves and fellow classmates. When asked about her feelings on graduation, sophomore Callie Oxford said, "I'm excited that I will be getting to walk across the stage, but I'm bummed my family can't be there in person. This is the first graduation my dad will see, and it will be on a screen. It makes our hard work seem like it's not worth it sometimes, but I'm thankful SIC cares about the students enough to give us a graduation that is as normal as it can be, given the situation."

*Article by Reagan Lees*

## The Return To In-Person Learning

The Covid-19 pandemic has changed the way we do learning here at SIC. At the start of this semester we were doing our learning remotely. SIC started to ease back into in person learning on February 22nd. SIC did not go fully in person until March 8th. This was all done to insure the safety and well being of the students. The return to campus was quite similar to what we experienced in the Fall semester. Luckily, restrictions lifted some and sports were allowed to be played. For example, the Speech Team and the MIG Team both had successful virtual competitions. Furthermore, both the softball team and the baseball team have been competing. I think we can all breathe a sigh of relief that some normalcy is returning. I asked SIC student, Reagan Lees, what she thought about this semester and what she thought about the return to some normalcy on campus. She stated " I am super thrilled to see things going back to normal and to see campus life flourishing again". SIC still requires students wear their mask and stay socially distanced while on campus. This will continue to protect you as well as your fellow classmates and the faculty here at SIC. All these safety measures SIC has put in place helps limit the spread of Covid-19 and help put us on a path to normalcy in the near future.

*Article by Jacob Lemon*

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## SIC MIG Team Caps off Record Breaking Season with 12th State Championship

Southeastern Illinois College's Model Illinois Government (MIG) team was named Outstanding Large Delegation at the recent legislative competition—the highest honor bestowed on a delegation of 10 or higher.

MIG is a legislative simulation and moot court with students filling roles as legislator, lobbyist, journalist, attorney, judge and party positions of committee and leadership.

Due to COVID-19 students from colleges and universities from across the state met and debated legislation via Zoom instead of the House and Senate chambers in Springfield.

While the format was changed, the results were largely the same for the SIC team, who secured their 12th State Title in 17 years.

In doing so the team largely rewrote the record book.

SIC led all delegations in total points (17) and controlled both the House Republican and Senate Republican caucuses. They also set new school records for floor leadership positions (7), total points (17), and major awards (6.)

"The performance of this group was simply exceptional. I had high expectations entering competition and they surpassed each and every one of them," said SIC advisor and political science instructor Matt Lees.

Returning delegates include Head Delegate Gillian Jones and Callie Oxford of Harrisburg, Jacob Lemon and Kaleb Schutt both of Golconda, and Caleb Weiss of Carmi.

First year delegates include Joshua Baker and Alex O'Daniel both of Carmi, Aleece McLeod of Shawneetown, Christian Murray of Harrisburg, and Gavyn Woolard of West Frankfort.

The delegation secured four committee spokesperson positions (Jones, Lemon, O'Daniel, and Woolard), one floor whip position (Baker), the House Minority Leader (Murray) and Senate Minority Leader (Oxford) positions, in addition to Assistant Majority Leaders in both chambers (McLeod and

Woolard) and Assistant Senate Minority Leader (Jones.)

SIC received six major awards including Outstanding Person in a Senate Committee (Gillian Jones), Outstanding Lobbyist (Caleb Weiss), Outstanding First Year Delegate in the House (Aleece McLeod), Outstanding First Year Delegate in the Senate (Gavyn Woolard), Outstanding Member of the House (Christian Murray), and Outstanding Member of the Senate (Callie Oxford.)

First year delegate Joshua Baker crafted his own original legislation, and successfully guided it from committee all the way to the Governor's desk where it was signed into law. The bill was entitled "Keep Illinois Families Together Act."

Baker's bill was inspired by his mother who was deported by authorities when he was just four years old after her immigration status was exposed by an immigration attorney hired to help her obtain citizenship.

"I wrote my bill to ensure that other families do not have to face what my family endured," said Baker. "Josh has poured his heart and soul into this bill" said Lees, "he worked for months crafting this legislation."

Senior Delegate Caleb Weiss played the role of lobbyist and helped to pass Baker's bill through both chambers. He later won the Robert Kent Award for being the top lobbyist at the simulation.

Weiss added, "I am proud of our delegation. Meeting and working with all sorts of new people from around the state was also a rewarding experience."

First Year delegate Aleece McLeod played the role of a legislator and Assistant House Majority Leader, while another freshman, Gavyn Woolard was elected Spokesperson of his committee and Assistant Senate Majority Leader. Both were later named Outstanding First Year Delegates of their chambers for their efforts.

"I have never done anything related politics before this," said McLeod, "now I wouldn't trade this experience for the world."

Head delegate Gillian Jones led this record-breaking group. Jones herself was named Outstanding Senate Committee Person giving SIC its sixth major award and a new school record. "I will never forget this unique and enriching experience," said Jones.

In scoring three points each, Gillian Jones and Gavyn Woolard led the team in individual points at three and tied the school record for individual points.

"This group didn't just break records, they shattered them" said political science instructor and advisor Matt Lees.

All of this was accomplished on the institution's 20th Anniversary of Competition.

"I couldn't think of a better way to commemorate our anniversary," said Lees. "What makes this year even more special is that every single member contributed."

*Article provided by SIC Marketing*



## SIC Forensic Falcons Cap Off Historic Season with A National Title

To say that the SIC Forensic Falcons have had a historic season would be a big understatement. The team coached by Jenny Billman, Paul Cummins, and John Corum earned first place or a gold rating at every single tournament they entered this year.

Before school even started in August, the team was concerned that they may not even get to have a season after the end of the 2020 season was cut short due to the pandemic. Thankfully technology was on their side and they were able to compete in a new virtual format. From the first team meeting, this team had their eyes set high.

Director of Forensics, Jenny Billman said "My goals for this year were to 'make it work' and 'celebrate everything.' I had no idea that we would have so much to celebrate!"

First year coach John Corum came into the program knowing he was joining a team with a reputation any team would be envious of. "I was a little intimidated at first because I knew that SIC had already established a legacy of success in Speech and Debate, and I wanted to make sure I could contribute to the team in a meaningful way. The students really stepped up to welcome me into the fold and from day one we collaborated to build an internationally-recognized team. I am so proud of them all for their hard work and their refusal to throw in the towel, even after the pandemic drastically altered the format of our competitive season."

Some of the awards the team secured over their season include:

- 1st place at the IIFA (Illinois Intercollegiate Forensic Association) State Tournament in the 2-year division
- 1st place at the IFA (International Forensic Association) International tournament in the 2-year division
- 1st place overall at the IFA International tournament which consisted of 37 primarily universities, including some Ivy League
- 1st place at the Phi Rho Pi National Tournament (this is only the third team at SIC to accomplish this)

This is coach Paul Cummins' second team to win the national title. "This was a year if the unexpected. We didn't know what they school year or the speech season would be. However, our students never stopped in their determination to succeed. When presented with every reason to quit, they fought and worked and won! I couldn't be prouder!"

Some special individual awards the team secured their season include:

- Tiffany Turner – 2x International Champion in Prose and Dramatic Interpretation
- Shainna Ralston – Bavaro/Tabor Award (Top speaker at the National Tournament) She was only the third speaker from SIC to earn this award.

The last time the team won 1st overall at the Phi Rho Pi National Tournament was in 2005. Interesting fact...Doug Hall, the Director of Forensics at Casper College in Wyoming was actually a member of the last National Championship winning team.

Join me in congratulating the Forensic Falcons on a historic season! Great job to the coaches and students!

*Article by Collin Sexton*



## School House Rock Live! JR. Coming to SIC

The theatre and music departments will be performing a virtual production of School House Rock Live! JR. on Thursday, April 22 for local grade schools and Friday, April 23 for the public.

This show is based on the ever-popular, award-winning 1970s cartoons, this fast-paced musical teaches lessons with clever, catchy tunes like:

### Conjunction Junction

Just A Bill

Three Is A Magic Number

Do The Circulation

Unpack Your Adjectives

Great American Melting Pot

Interplanet Janet

Interjections

School House Rock Live! JR. follows Tom, a young schoolteacher, who is nervous about his first day of teaching. He tries to relax by watching TV, when various characters representing facets of his personality emerge from the set and show him how to win his students over with imagination and music.

The SIC student cast includes:

Addie Mays (Mt. Vernon), Kale Rister (Carrier Mills), Anna Wasson (Herod), Levi Titsworth (Harrisburg), Cooper Craig (Carmi), Macy Shelton (Thompsonville), Dalton Lampert (Rosiclare), Nikki Lamont (Norris City), Jack Gulley (Harrisburg), Nyssa Mills (Cave-In-Rock), Jady Ash (Carmi), Payton Dale (Carmi) and Shaylin Mayberry (Norris City).



The Falcon Flyer is brought to you by the SIC Student Government.