

# The Saluki Watch Dawg

January 2026

SIU Department of Public Safety

Vol. 11 Issue 5



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## **GET BACK ON TRACK...**

Whether you are working toward the final semester before graduation, in your second semester of your freshman year, or somewhere in between, the beginning of a new semester can be a confusing and difficult time. These tips can help you be less intimidated about new classes, new friends, new professors, and everything that comes with a college semester.

### **1. DON'T SKIP CLASS, READ THE SYLLABUS**

You enrolled at SIU to get an education and attend class. It may seem easy to skip class during the first few days of the semester because you think there will be no new material to learn. It is important that you make it to these classes. The first few days of class are when you learn about what to expect for the semester and get to know the teacher. Professors take note of who makes it to the first class, and it can be a bad first impression if you skip.

Your syllabus reveals not only the important dates, but also what you will be learning and what your professor is expecting. Reading the syllabus is one of the first things you should do for any class, and most of your questions about a class can likely be answered. Put important dates from the syllabus into a calendar with reminders and alerts of upcoming assignments and tests.

### **2. GET INVOLVED: JOIN A STUDENT ORGANIZATION**

Try something new this semester: join a student or Greek organization. You can get your friends involved, too. SIU has over 400 student organizations that provide an opportunity to enhance your leadership capabilities. SIU also has 33 fraternities and sororities that offer students the opportunity to become strong leaders, serve your community, and become part of the large Greek alumni to assist you in future endeavors. More information about registered student organizations can be found [here](#). Information on fraternities and sororities can be found [here](#).

### **3. RELAX**

Don't overwhelm yourself in the first few weeks of the semester. Make sure to ease into the semester and take small steps into the workload. Relax and enjoy being back at school, but don't get too comfortable. Find time to work out or exercise, drink coffee with friends, go bowling at the Student Center, or check out the latest movies. Making time for YOU will help you get back on track and accomplish the goals you have set for the semester.

## SIU Campus Resources

- SIU Police**  
618-453-3771
- Parking Division**  
618-453-5369
- Counseling Center**  
618-453-5371
- Wellness Center**  
618-453-3311
- Health Center**  
618-453-3311
- Saluki Night Shuttle**  
618-549-0304

## Carbondale Resources

- Carbondale Police**  
618-457-3200
- Empowerment Center**  
618-549-4807
- Memorial Hospital**  
618-549-0721

## **VEHICLE BURGLARY PREVENTION**

Remove ALL VALUABLES

LOCK the doors

COMPLETELY roll up windows

Report any SUSPICIOUS activity or persons to the police

**618-453-DPS1 (3771)**

**Services Provided**[Emergency Response Training](#)[Report Suspicious Activity](#)[Campus Emergency Response Checklist](#)[Night Safety Transit](#)[Campus Map](#)[Parking Map](#)[Daily Crime Log](#)[FOIA Request Form](#)[SIU Campus Crime Report](#)[Safety Awareness Facts and Educations](#)[Housing Personal Safety](#)**January Events Calendar****Men's Basketball vs Drake**January 14 @ 7:00pm  
Banterra Center**Men's Basketball vs Belmont**January 17 @ 6:00pm  
Banterra Center**Women's Basketball vs UIC**January 18 @ 2:00pm  
Banterra Center**Women's Basketball vs Indiana State**January 22 @ 6:00pm  
Banterra Center**Men's Basketball vs UNI**January 28 @ 6:00pm  
Banterra Center**Men's Basketball vs UIC**January 31 @ 6:00pm  
Banterra Center**WEATHER PREPAREDNESS 101**

Winter weather is upon us, and living in Illinois brings with it various weather patterns. It is not unlikely to have seasonably warm days in January, followed by heavy rain, and possible tornados. Did I mention ice and snow tend to fall during the first few month of the new year? So what do all the weather words the forecasters use mean...

**WARNING**

A warning is issued when a hazardous weather event is occurring, imminent or likely to occur. A warning means weather conditions pose a threat to life or property. Those in the path of the storm need to take protective actions.

**WATCH**

A watch is when the risk of a hazardous weather event has increased significantly, but its occurrence, location or timing is still uncertain. A watch means the weather is possible, and people in the path should have a plan of action in case the storm threatens their locations.

**ADVISORY**

An advisory is issued when a hazardous weather event is occurring, imminent or likely to occur. Advisories are issued for less serious conditions than warnings, these events may cause a significant inconvenience on those in the path. Caution should still be taken.

**OUTLOOK**

An outlook is issued when a hazardous weather event is possible in the next week. Outlooks are intended to raise awareness of the potential for significant weather.

**TAX TIME ALERT**

Although it is early, the Offices of Information Technology (OIT) and Human Resources (HR) want to raise awareness among faculty, staff, and student employees about the potential for email tax scams.

As we move into tax season, you may start receiving emails claiming to be from SIU Carbondale HR, the State of Illinois, your department, or even the IRS. Be very skeptical if you receive this type of correspondence by email—and equally cautious when dealing with it.

You should first know that SIU Carbondale, the State of Illinois, and the Internal Revenue Service will never send you an email requesting your personal information. Typical red flags for scam email are that it is an unexpected email; you don't recognize the sender or the sender's address looks suspicious; the email urges you to respond or act quickly; you are not addressed by name; the email contains no contact information; the email contains typos or oddly worded sentences; or the email asks you to click on a link or copy and paste an address into the address bar. Be wise and be safe—do not respond and delete the email.

To keep the campus community informed, OIT Security maintains a [list of known scams](#); however, the list is not a complete list of all scams that may be circulating. If you are in doubt, send questionable emails to [OIT Security](#).

For questions that pertain to SIU Carbondale employment or payroll issues and W-2s form you can contact the Human Resource-Payroll Office at (618) 536-3369, visit the [Human Resources](#) website, or access the [Human Resources Self Service system](#) online.

*A Message from Information Technology and Human Resources*



## CRIME OR INCIDENT REPORTING

There are several reporting options available for victims of crime. Criminal incidents including, but not limited to theft, burglary and drug or alcohol use should be reported to law enforcement. For incidents of sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence and stalking, individuals have additional reporting options.

Some individuals may pursue justice through the legal system, while others are interested in personal restoration. The options for reporting sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence and stalking are available at any time, although reporting is encouraged as soon as possible following an incident. You are not required to select just one option – you may choose multiple options because each option may offer a different type of resolution. The links below will help to identify the options that best meet your needs.

- [Report to Law Enforcement](#)
- [Report to the University](#)
- [Seek Confidential Support](#)

*If it's an emergency, dial 911 for immediate assistance and view the quick reference guide.*

Where do I go and what happens when I ...			
Report to Law Enforcement	Report to the University	Seek Confidential Support	Pursue Protective/Court Orders
<b>Where can I go</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SIU Department of Public Safety (SIU Police)</li> <li>Local Law Enforcement (Carbondale Police, Jackson County Sheriff's Office, Illinois State Police, etc.)</li> </ul>	<b>Where can I go</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Office of Diversity and Equity – Davies Hall, Room 150</li> <li>The Co-Coordinate Anthony Hall, Room 110</li> <li>SIU Employees and Campus Security Authorities</li> </ul>	<b>Where can I go</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Staff at the Student Health Center Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS)</li> <li>Staff at the Student Health Center Medical Clinic</li> </ul>	<b>Where can I go</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SIU Department of Public Safety and Local law enforcement</li> <li>Student Health Center and Responsibilities</li> <li>Carbondale Women's Center</li> <li>Jackson County State's Attorney</li> </ul>
<b>What can I expect</b> If an emergency call 911, police can provide protection and initiate a criminal investigation.  If police are called and you are not ready to file a report for criminal charges police can initiate an informal report and explain what happens when a criminal report is completed.	<b>What can I expect</b> Meeting with staff at the Office of Diversity and Equity or the Title IX Coordinator will initiate a University investigation, provide resources, and begin interim protective measures.  Campus Security Authorities of other university employees will initiate an SIU Campus Crime Report and staff from the Office of Diversity and Equity will contact you.	<b>What can I expect</b> Staff will explain the investigation and adjudication process. A support person of your choice can come with you to make a police report.	<b>What can I expect</b> Any information, oral or written, given to a counselor will be kept confidential, including the fact that you are seeking services. No records or outside the university will be told that you are a client here.  CAPS offers group counseling, individual counseling, and couples counseling, crisis services and behavior therapy.  Counselor in Residence is a new program offering counseling services with the residence halls. Staff is located in Gorrell Hall, Room 106.
What can I expect Staff can assist by talking about protective orders for sexual assaults, dating violence, domestic violence, stalking and harassment.  The university may impose a temporary "No Contact" order restricting contact between individuals during the course of an investigation.  A support person of your choice can come with you to meet these individuals.			

Click for a larger view

**The Administration at the Department of Public Safety would like to congratulate DPS employees who were recognized during the annual awards ceremony on December 11, 2026.**

### Meritorious Service Awards

Stacy Stearns

### Lifesaving Award

LT Gibbs  
SGT Russell  
Officer Hisey  
Officer Kern

### Community Service Awards

Karlie Gusentine  
Nela Connor  
LT Heather Pendley

### Director's Award

Kent Epplin  
Emily Spann

### Excellent Service Awards

Officer Rafe	Officer Kern
Officer Stacy	Officer Hisey
Officer Bryan	Detective Emery
LT Gibbs	CPL Tuthill
LT Murphy	LT Keith
SGT Russell	CPL Smith
CPL Ferraro	



The Southern Illinois University Carbondale Department of Public Safety (DPS) is seeking public comment as part of an accreditation process with the Illinois Law Enforcement Accreditation Program (ILEAP).

An ILEAP assessor will arrive on January 15th to examine all aspects of the department's policy and procedures, management, operations and support services.

To achieve this accreditation, DPS must comply with 181 standards. This is the third time DPS is seeking accreditation with ILEAP; the department obtained Tier I status in 2018 and upgraded to Tier II in 2022. DPS is also accredited with the International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators (IACLEA).

“Law enforcement agency leaders who choose accreditation agree to benchmark their agency with leaders in the field,” Newman said.

“Accreditation is a voluntary evaluation process. Accrediting bodies provide premier performance standards and determine an agency’s commitment to achieving those standards. Accredited agencies have managerial practices and operational policies that provide the highest level of service for their communities.”

The university community, DPS employees and the community are invited to offer comments to the assessor via phone 618-453-8654 between 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. on January 16th.

The assessor is an experienced law enforcement professional. He will review written materials, conduct interviews and inspect facilities. Once the assessor complete their department review, they will then report their findings to ILEAP Committee Chair and Council for an accreditation determination. If accredited, DPS will submit annual reports to show continued compliance with those standards.



**DPS: 618-453-3771**