The SRC is truly a very special place.

What better place to relay this message to all of you than in bathrooms, above urinals, and areas where I have spoken to you for the last 6 years!

When I was young, my parents always stressed “the importance of a thank you.” To this day, I have always reiterated that, saying “thank you” to those around me that have given so much of themselves freely to assist me. Today, a HUGE thank you is deserving to be expressed.

June 30 is my last day as a Saluki. While I leave for another professional opportunity, I leave behind amazing people that have made me what I am today. I cannot ever thank the people of SIU enough for the opportunity to serve them, learn from them, and to know what surviving through adversity really means.

The professional and student employees of the SRC are the finest this land has to offer. It’s no secret the last few years have been difficult at SIU. Knowing we were headed to a tough state budget situation and a lack of funding to do things, the SRC buckled down and made the SRC a respite if you will - a place where students don’t know about the hardships of the university. We have tried so hard to ensure that students don’t know of, or truthfully care about the plight of the university while using the SRC. Many of the staff here have sacrificed a lot to remain at SIU - and they continue to serve without personal reward. The SRC is truly a very special place.

As I leave SIU just before serving a full 6 years, I look back at the many accomplishments that we have brought. Hundreds of student jobs during that time - giving back millions in wages to students, creating an environment of inclusion, improvements in the SRC and on campus, and so much more...

But what I am most proud of are the people - the staff - professionals and students and you - the users. You are what makes it all worthwhile. Seeing you enjoy the SRC is the greatest accomplishment one could ever have. I will deeply miss all of you.

The SRC is in good hands. I am excited for what our new interim Director, Corné Prozesky, will bring to campus - new ideas, new ways of doing things. Please welcome him with a great attitude and a smile. Campus is on the upswing and I am very proud of that - and proud of knowing that we play a role in this - we have been through the bad - now let’s work together to bring out the good...

in all of us!

THANK YOU to all of you for making SIU such a special place. I’ll always be a Saluki in some manner and I truly now understand the importance and meaning of that.

Sincerely,

Troy Vaughn - RSS Director
September 2012 - June 2018