

KUDOS & CELEBRATIONS

Dear COMMunity,

February flew by in the blink of an eye! Let's take a moment to celebrate all the hard work, passion, and dedication that keep our school and SIU buzzing with research, creativity, and academic excellence. There's so much to be proud of, so let's dive in!



Celebrating Scholarship & Global Collaboration

Kudos to **Randy Auxier**, for his recent publication in the journal *Pragmatism Today*, titled "*Kant and Artificial Intelligence: A Review Essay*" as well as his collaboration with scientists at **Ansbach University** of the Applied Sciences, Germany. Additionally, he recently led a series of workshops during a week-long event in December. We are anticipating a campus visit by the scientists from this workshop later this year.

SIU ACHIEVES R1 STATUS



CONGRATULATIONS !

SIU officially became an **R1 institution** on February 13, 2025! To all of us who have conducted or published research in the last few years and to those who have advised PhD students to completion—this achievement is a testament to our hard work and dedication!

Our collective efforts in research, mentorship, and scholarship have strengthened SIU's impact, and this **R1 status** is something we should all be proud of. Here's to more innovation, collaboration, and excellence!

FACULTY ADVISOR UPDATE

Kudos to **Sakshi Bhati**, our new faculty advisor for the SIU chapter of the **National Society of Collegiate Scholars!**

Her dedication to recruiting top students, mentoring them, and creating professional development opportunities will make a lasting impact. SIU students are lucky to have her!



RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM PRESENTATION

Congratulations to our graduate students **Folakemi Bakare**, **Janifar Nova Kamal**, and **Irene Lutterodt** for presenting at the Graduate Philosophy Union's Theory in Plain English Symposium! Your dedication to making complex ideas accessible is worth celebrating!

Follow us on:



siucmst

3

CELEBRATING

KLEINAU THEATRE SHOWS



Gender Knobs

MFA Thesis by
JORDAN BARDGETT

Epiphanies: A Three-Night February Show

Kudos to co-directors **Shelby Swafford** and **Craig Gingrich-Philbrook** and cast members **Alicia Utecht**, **Juno Blue**, **Christina Ivey**, **Paula Horton**, **T Brown**, **Mario Sanders**, **Sky Bartnick**, and **Elise Wheaton** for an incredible performance! Featuring flash fiction by local author **Epiphany Ferrell**, this production was a fantastic celebration of storytelling and collaboration.



The Black Experience

A powerful collaboration with the **Africana Theatre Lab** in honor of **Black History Month**, this production celebrated Black culture, storytelling, and creativity. Kudos to everyone involved for bringing this important work to the stage