Among the most important — but oftentimes unsung — heroes of colleges and universities, the financial aid staff can at times bend over backwards to accommodate the needs of students. This is in part because more and more students are choosing to pursue their college education with the help of federal loans, grants and work-study programs. At SIUE, it is a staff of intrepid warriors in Diane Schrage. Born in East St. Louis, Ill., in 1972, Diane Schrage is a 1995 graduate of the University Edwardsville with a bachelor’s degree in mass communications, where she leads a non-profit organization called The Art and Heritage Project. As soon as she heard of SIUE’s collaborative initiative with the University of Havana in Cuba, which includes bringing Cuban art to campus, she offered her unique expertise to the project. She has seen Schrage has dealt with the intersection of art and Cold War politics in a 2006 exhibition on the fall of the Berlin Wall.

“I always think the arts always bring things like this in a more interesting way,” she said. “I think it’s a great way to get a different perspective to view it in theater or as visual art in a gallery, as a book, and that they are taking.”

She visited Havana when she had the opportunity to meet with local artists and discuss the idea of Cuban art in the United States.

“I went for 11 days and I just fell in love with the country, the people, the culture,” she said. “And after that I wanted to go back to hear about Americans. It is a country that should be viewed by everybody. It’s just beautiful.”

She said that she was very impressed by the artistic spirit of the Cuban people despite their lacking basic art supplies.

“Some of the artists there don’t have the supplies that they need for art,” she said. “They do make what they can do with what they have. They can make something out of that. Whatever they can use to communicate is what makes it work artful.”

While in Cuba, she met with officials of the Havana Museum of Fine Arts and Ivanova museum comprises with any other art museum in the world. She noticed in Cuba is that everybody is extremely knowledgeable about all of their art, but they’re not, they said. “They just have to participate. They are very very passionate people. Cuba is known for popular art that can be found in many many pieces at very reasonable prices.”

“The sad thing is the embargo.” Schrage said. “They have the new Visits Embassy ambassadors between the United States and the island nation — they are outpeople upon who come to Cuba. Tourism is the biggest industry in Cuba, so these tourists are the ones who are going to take home and see, take advantage of this. They can buy all the paintings with littlenand the talent that they fly back home with and

Regional

SIUE alum finds great talent in Cuban artists

Diane Schrage (center) while visiting Havana riging a mini-taxis. Photo courtesy of Diane Schrage

WATERSHED

Continued from Page 1

For additional information or to register a group for the Discovery Days event, visit www.healtherichardsfoundation.org.

The event will be a naturalist hike from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. around the trails at the Watershed Nature Center just like the Discovery Days. This event is free and open to the public and registration is only required for groups of 10 or more.

According to Schuffe, this is a great opportunity to have a new experience to visit the Watershed at night when the trails are normally closed.

“We have to be going to explore the Watershed at night,” said Schuffe. “The trails are open for us to run and people can come and walk the trails at night when they are normally not open. People get to experience the Watershed at night and see different animals out there, there are different sounds and you can possibly see different things.”

The only thing people need to do is dress warmly, as the Watershed is usually a little cooler because of the water, and wear comfortable shoes to walk in.

“We have to take our rolls as experienced guides,” Schuffe said. “More people are recognizing the need for outdoor education and it’s a reflection of what they are taking.”

Edison’s Entertainment Complex was the place to be on Feb. 15 for fun and some serious fund raising. Two teams from CPA firm Scheffel & Company, PC took time away from working on taxes to participate in the Big Brothers Big Sisters Bowl For Kids Sake game. Through their community volunteer initiative Scheffel Shares, Scheffel & Company, PC colleagues in supporting community organizations like Big Brothers Big Sisters. The ten bowlers raised $3,197.50 to help pair children with caring mentors, The agency raises youth mentoring advocacy in Madison, St. Clair, Monroe and Clinton counties. For more information about Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southwestern Illinois visit the website at www.bbbsil.org.

VILLAGE

Continued from Page 1

The event will begin at 6:30 a.m. — with setup scheduled to start at 5 a.m. — and the bash will conclude at 2 p.m. The village board also approved a motion that will allow Fire Chief Kevin J. WIlliamson to hire up to five temporary personnel to attend the Fire Department Instructor Conferences April 25 through 27 at a cost not to exceed $21,201.

Village Clerk Dolores Henry read a letter to Galilese and the village to the village to the village of Glen Carbon Mayor Bob Jackstadt, thanking Maryville for its sincere thank you for the assistance you provided in assuring our resi.

The letter read, “The village of Glen Carbon wishes to express a thank you for your contribution. It was truly appreciated and made more

For the kids

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For the intelligencer

Art & Music

Friday, February 22, 2013 — www.thetribuneintelligencer.com

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