



## Earl E. Lazerson

December 10, 1930 - October 29, 2021

Earl Lazerson, President Emeritus of Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville (SIUE), passed away on October 29, 2021 at age ninety.

Lazerson was born in Detroit on December 10, 1930 to Nathan and Cecilia (Stashefsky) Lazerson. He

attended one of America's premier public high schools – Cass Technical – where he became Student

Body President and Class Valedictorian. After high school, he attended Wayne State University

where he graduated with a degree in mathematics, and was then a Fulbright Scholar studying in

Leiden, the Netherlands, before completing graduate degrees at the University of Michigan.

He returned to the USA and began his teaching career at the University of Michigan. He then spent

two years working as a mathematician at the Institute for Defense Analysis, followed by

professorships at Washington University and Brandeis University. In 1969 he began his career at

SIUE as a Professor of Mathematics. He then became Dean of the School of Science and Technology,

and Vice President and Provost of the University, before being promoted to

the Presidency of SIUE  
in 1980 where he served for nearly fourteen years before his retirement.  
Lazerson was always  
focused on making higher education accessible to students of modest means  
and he earned a  
reputation as a visionary leader of unimpeachable integrity.  
His work on behalf of the metro St. Louis community was wide-ranging and  
productive. He served on  
the Board of Directors of the Jackie Joyner-Kersey Youth Center Foundation,  
the St. Louis Symphony  
Society, the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial Association and was the  
Chair of the City of  
East St. Louis Financial Advisory Authority. Lazerson was especially proud of  
his work establishing  
and being the first Chairman of the Leadership Council of Southwestern  
Illinois and the  
Southwestern Illinois Development Agency (SWIDA).  
Following his retirement from the University, Lazerson served as the Chairman  
of the Board for the  
AAA Auto Club of Missouri, collaborated on and published a number of papers  
on mathematics, and did  
some consulting on complex commercial real estate transactions.  
He is survived by his beloved wife Ann (nee' Harper), Chesterfield, MO;  
devoted sons Joshua  
(Nancy), Encinitas, CA and Paul (Deborah), Edwardsville, IL; grandchildren  
Emma and Aris; and  
Earl's younger brother Dr. Howard (Joan) Lazerson, Pacific Palisades, CA.

Memorial services will be held on Saturday, November 13, 2021 @ 2:00PM at  
Bellerive Gardens  
Mausoleum Chapel

740 N. Mason Rd.

Creve Coeur, MO 63141

(Ceremony in The Chapel within the mausoleum at the back of the cemetery;  
follow the signs)

In lieu of flowers, please send donations to the Ann & Earl Lazerson

Endowment at SIUE's College of

Arts & Sciences – Fund 8180

(618) 650-5048.

Under the direction of Valhalla Funerals.

# Cemetery Details

## Bellerive Garden's Cemetery

740 N. Mason Rd  
Creve Coeur, MO 63141

# Previous Events

## Visitation

NOV 13. 2:00 PM - 2:30 PM (CT)

Bellerive Garden Indoor Mausoleum Chapel  
740 North Mason Road  
Creve Coeur, MO 63141

## Memorial Service

NOV 13. 2:30 PM - 3:30 PM (CT)

Bellerive Garden's Indoor Mausoleum  
Creve Coeur, MO 63141

# Tribute Wall

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“*Earl Lazerson was a visionary. He was dedicated and highly committed to his University and to the St. Louis Metropolitan area. He could be warm and generous but also blunt and firm when he thought it was necessary. College presidents like to be successful, like most people, but also popular with everyone. Many situations don't allow for both. Earl knew that as does every successful college president.. I think it is time now to give Earl Lazerson all the recognition he deserves as his dedication, persistence, intelligence and love for his University have left a deep and positive legacy for SIUE.*

*Ann, please know our love and thoughts are with you and family.*

*Buzz and Mary Ann Shaw*

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**kenneth a. shaw** - November 04, 2021 at 10:21 AM