8-2008

The Daily Egyptian Back To Summer (A), August, 2008

Daily Egyptian Staff

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Markum Reed pulls Josh Farmer, a junior from Champaign studying communication design, into a boat after his cardboard boat sank April 26 during the 35th annual Cardboard Boat Regatta.

Meanwhile, a boat designed as a tank sinks in the background.

Dan Staggs, right, and Alex Ryterski, both members of These Magnificent Tapeworms, perform April 9 in the Free Forum Area as part of Live Earth, an event put on by the Student Environmental Center to bring awareness to climate change issues. For full story, see Pg. 12.
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SIU President Glenn Poshard has ousted the campus’ top administrator, making former Chancellor Fernando Treviño the second official in two years to be removed from the post.

The university made the announcement in a news release Apr. 11, almost a month after Poshard put Treviño on paid administrative leave for failing to perform basic job duties. Shari Rhode, Treviño’s attorney, said the former chancellor accepted a job as a tenured professor in the School of Medicine starting Apr. 14.

Poshard did not return a call for comment left with his assistant Apr. 11. The release said the university would not comment further on why Treviño was removed, but Rhode said arbitration is a slow process that often takes about a year to complete.

“I’ve been here long enough and I’ve seen the good and the bad. I don’t think you can spot a problem for me that I don’t know about,” he said.

The university’s announcement included no further details as to why Treviño was removed, but Rhode said she did not believe the university had just cause for making the move.

“I feel a bit befuddled that we didn’t get any indication in our search process,” she said.

Stockdale, a member of the chancellor search committee that helped choose Treviño in May, said she was surprised when she learned there were problems with the chancellor because he seemed like a strong candidate during the search.

“Treviño dismissed from chancellor position

Joe Crawford
Daily Egyptian

Peggy Stockdale, president of the Faculty Senate, said she believed Treviño’s removal might have had to do with his poor attendance at campus meetings. Stockdale said she heard complaints about Treviño’s failure to meet with several campus groups.

The former chancellor canceled monthly meetings with the leaders of campus constituency groups last year, Stockdale said.

“At first it seemed like it was sort of normal canceling - he’s a busy man so he can’t attend this thing or that - but I think that was far more widespread and deeper than I originally thought,” she said.

Stockdale said she was surprised when she learned there were problems with the chancellor during the search.

“The decision to dismiss Treviño was made after a second round of interviews with the campus administrators who first brought forward concerns,” he said.

“We’re absolutely convinced that we had a sound basis for the decision that was made,” Gross said.

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“He was one of her top choices, she said.

“I feel a bit befuddled that we didn’t get any indication in our search process,” she said.

Joe Crawford can be reached at 536-3311 ext. 254 or jcrawford@siude.com.
Students ‘tagged’ with new IDs

SIUC follows movement to safeguard identity

Jeff Engelhardt • DAILY EGYPTIAN

Jeffrey Duke says he hopes new student identification numbers at SIUC will put the "security" back in social security.

Duke, deputy director of the Student Center, is one of the people responsible for distributing DAWG Tags, the new student ID numbers that will replace social security numbers by Oct. 1. University staff members distributed about 2,500 cards during the first week.

New ID cards, which became available June 2, carry the random nine-digit number instead of the student’s social security number, which is encoded on the black magnetic strips of the 2007-08 cards.

Duke said the reason for the switch was to protect against identity theft and stay in line with an overhaul of the university’s operating system, which is scheduled to include greater accessibility for students. Most universities have transitioned to other ID numbers and SIUC is far behind the curve, he said.

Tiffany Douglas, a junior from Belleville studying sociology, has helped create the cards. As a student worker, Douglas said she feels more secure with the random identification number.

"Every time student workers got swiped through the system you would have their (social security) numbers and I don’t think that’s safe at all," Douglas said. "Now with the new number it’s a lot safer for students and student workers."

"That’s outrageous, that’s the only way to describe it," said Paul Stephens, director of policy and advocacy at Privacy Rights Clearinghouse. "To be writing (social security number) on a card that could cost — that seriously compromises your personal information."

The nonprofit organization’s mission is to respond to and raise awareness of consumers’ concerns about privacy. Stephens said the university’s use of social security numbers made students vulnerable. Most universities have transitioned to other ID numbers and SIUC is far behind the curve, he said.

"There isn’t a huge rush once the change does take place," he said.

Some students have no problem with the new ID numbers, but are troubled by their misuse. Janet Donoghue, a doctoral candidate from Evanston studying speech communication, became emotional when she talked about the correlation between the phrases “DAWG Tag” and “dog tag,” the informal name for IDs used to identify dead and wounded soldiers.

"For me the troubling thing is that they could somehow think that’s cute," she said.

Donoghue, who supports the military and has relatives in uniform, said she and others plan to send out petitions and start an information campaign to change the name. "As a graduate student, I’ve seen students of mine affected by this directly — not coming back from the war, having disabilities because of the war, losing friends — and I just think the university should have thought about the name a little more," she said.

"DAWG Tags will be used for testing purposes and accessing SalukiNet, social security numbers will still be necessary for payroll and other official university business activities.

"This has been in the works for a couple of years since it is part of the change-over from the student information systems to the Banner system," said Duke, adding that the full system should be active by 2009. "Transitions like this don’t happen over-night."

Allan Petty contributed to this report.

Jeff Engelhardt can be reached at 536-3311 ext. 255 or jengel@siu.edu.

DAWG Tag dates to know

Get your ID —

• Aug. 11-22 — various times, Student Center, Kaskaskia/Missouri Room.
• Aug. 25-Sept. 30 — 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., ID Card Office, Student Center, second floor.
• Oct. 1 current ID cards becomes obsolete

Jeff Engelhardt • DAILY EGYPTIAN

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SIUC takes first step toward First Year plan

Outside firm could help develop retention plan

Jeff Engelhardt
DAILY EDITION

SIUC hopes a hired firm can help the university take its first step in its new First-Year Experience program.

Mark Amos, head of the committee to develop First-Year Experience, said SIUC is interested in hiring the Policy Center on First Year of College. It would implement its specialized plan that focuses on retention and creation of a plan to help the university develop an easy transition for incoming freshmen.

Amos said the plan, Foundations of Excellence, gives SIUC the opportunity to get outside opinions on its retention problems. The Foundation of Excellence includes a yearlong observation by the policy center, concluding with the center’s offering of a formal plan on how to improve retention.

The Foundations of Excellence also offers the university the chance to network with other colleges going through the program and share ideas, Amos said.

“Our student population is exactly the population something like this was designed for,” Amos said. “We're trying to set up an easy transition for students, especially at research institution like this.”

The First-Year Experience plan would help students learn how to manage time, take notes and use university resources while adjusting to a new social setting.

John Gardner, credited for developing the First-Year Experience at University of North Carolina during the 1970s, heads the Foundations of Excellence Program. More than 300 institutions have participated in the program, including in-state schools Illinois State and Columbia College.

Using the firm would cost $33,500 but Amos said the university could still decide to do its own research and develop its own program. He said he thinks the plan would be worth implementing because it would allow for outside opinions and networking with other universities.

Benito Murillo, a senior from Blue Island, completed his junior year at SIUC last year but does not plan on returning for a senior year because he never worked toward a declared major.

Murillo said a career development component of a First-Year Experience program seems like it would be successful in retaining students. “It would have definitely helped me to have something like First-Year Experience when I was a freshman,” Murillo said. “There are a lot of undecided students at SIU and the career counseling people are OK, but a whole program would have helped me a lot.”

While First-Year Experience is expected to begin this fall, Amos said a detailed plan would be finished by next summer and significant changes could be seen by the end of the 2009-10 academic year.

The first phase of the plan includes enhancing the programs already established. Developing more freshmen interest groups, educating instructors about the expanded University 101 course and finding ways to promote freshmen transition to college while learning study habits is scheduled for the fall semester.

Amos said the University 101 course is one example of the programs SIUC already has in place to develop a First-Year Experience. University 101 is a course to help freshmen transition to college while learning study habits necessary to succeed.

He said what SIUC lacks most is a central establishment to direct students to those services. “Our student population is exactly the population something like this was designed for,” Amos said. “We're trying to set up an easy transition for students, especially at research institution like this.”

The First-Year Experience has been a long time coming. The idea began under former chancellor Walter Wendler and stalled after multiple changes in the chancellor position.

John Nicklow, associate dean of the College of Engineering, said programs have been practiced within the college that could help the university as a whole. Exclusive dorms, new courses and a peer mentor program have attracted and retained students.

“We sort of have our own First-Year Experience program for engineers,” Nicklow said. “We're able to put all our resources together and it becomes a great tool for first and second year students.”

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Alumni organization names new director

Sean McGahan

After a nationwide search, the SIU Alumni Association has found its next leader in its own backyard.

Michelle Suarez, who has worked at the university for 23 years, was named the next executive director for the SIUC alumni organization on June 23, pending approval from the Board of Trustees. Suarez beat out Carbondale Mayor Brad Cole to start the full-time post Aug. 1.

Suarez’s performance as the interim director for the past six months gave her the edge in a difficult decision, said Rickey McCurry, vice chancellor for institutional advancement.

"A lot of times when you’re in an interim situation things just kind of stand still — nothing happens, nothing moves forward," McCurry said. "...But she has stepped in from day one and pulled the staff together and we’ve made great progress."

As executive director for the Alumni Association and associate vice chancellor for institutional advancement, Suarez will work to strengthen alumni relations with the university. The Alumni Association represents more than 220,000 graduates and nearly 300,000 alumni.

Suarez, who was on vacation for the week and could not be reached for comment, said in a release she hopes to serve alumni worldwide.

"My drive and enthusiasm will serve as assets in engaging our alumni to stay connected, support the initiatives of the Alumni Association and SIU Carbondale and move this institution forward," she said.

Suarez replaces Ed Buerger, who served in the position for 17 years. It was Buerger who first selected Suarez for a job in the association, McCurry said, so she is the ideal choice to further his work.

McCurry said he consulted the opinions of members throughout the university and association in the decision. He said much of the feedback he received noted Suarez’s communication skills and team-building strengths.

In her work with the association, which began in 2003 as director of membership services, Suarez has worked to offer events and programs the alumni base wants, not what those at the university wish to push, McCurry said.

The fact that she is a two-degree graduate of SIUC and has worked with the university for so long was an important part of the decision as well, he said.

"She’s had an opportunity to meet and interact with many alumni all across the country, so I think she really has a good feel for our alumni and what their needs are," McCurry said.

Cole, the other finalist for the position, is also a two-degree graduate of the university. John Jackson, a visiting professor at the Paul Simon Public Policy Institute who led the search, said background with the university played an important role in an alumni services position.

The search cost less than $10,000, McCurry said, most of which paid for advertisements in higher education magazines and Web sites.

During open forums with the two candidates, community members were encouraged to ask questions of the finalists. In Cole’s forum, several community members voiced concern that the university post might disrupt his ability to serve as mayor.

McCurry said the potential for a conflict of interest did not play into the decision at all.

"There’s absolutely no conflict in my mind and no impropriety associated with it. Mayor Cole has excellent qualifications for the job," McCurry said. "I can’t say there was a ground swell, if you will, of people rising up and saying this is a conflict of interest. That did not happen."
Mock wedding staged outside Shryock

Event staged to increase awareness about gay marriage

Luke McCormick
Daily Egyptian

On April 15 left the steps of Shryock Auditorium littered with cake frosting, napkins and balloon shards.
The steps were used for a mock wedding to raise awareness about a bill currently in the Illinois State Legislature, said House Bill 1262 which would provide legal benefits to gay and lesbian married couples, along with heterosexual couples.

“One area where the bill would benefit straight couples would be seniors who wanted to get married without losing any benefits,” Curkin said.

Members of the Saluki Rainbow Network decorated the Shryock steps with balloons and set up chairs and a table for refreshments following the ceremony.

O.J. Duncan, the SRN’s co-director who “married” his boyfriend, Matthew Dolph, said he was happy with the way the event turned out.

“Now that the ceremony’s over there isn’t any brimstone falling from the sky,” Duncan said.

Stephanie DeArcangelis, a sophomore from Crete studying creative writing and the SRNs’s secretary, said she hoped the event would get the issue of same sex marriage out to the public eye.

DeArcangelis said she would really like to see a social movement begin on campus.

Stacia Creek, the organization’s graduate advisor, said she had been looking into becoming an ordained minister through an online program for a while. This event was finally a good reason to get it done, she said.

Creek, clad in a black robe and rainbow scarf, said she looked forward to performing more same sex marriages whether or not they were recognized by the state of Illinois.

“Ministers aren’t falling out of trees to marry GLBT folks,” Creek said.

Luke McCormick can be reached at 536-3311 ext. 254 or lmccorm2@siu.edu.

Matthew Dolph and O.J. Duncan participate in a mock wedding April 15 on the steps of Shryock Auditorium. The event highlighted the current civil union legislation pending in Springfield and the fight to legalize civil unions.

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St. Petersburg Times

Get On The Path

School of Journalism
Bear hugs, laughter and elated phone calls filled the room in April when members of the Student Environmental Center learned the student body voted overwhelmingly in support of the “green” fee.

But now, for those students, the celebration is over. It’s time to get down to business.

Namely the business of working with administrators to implement the $10 student fee for environmental sustainability projects and research grants, as well as forming the sustainability council mentioned in the Project Eco-Dawgs proposal.

Megan Pulliam, a co-coordinator for Project Eco-Dawgs, said she participates in a committee of students and administrators organized by Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Larry Dietz.

Interim Chancellor Sam Goldman asked Dietz to organize the committee to hammer out the details of the proposal.

Pulliam said negotiations are going well, although it has become clear that students will not have total authority over money generated by the fee.

“You can’t say officially students have complete control because obviously, the Board (of Trustees) does,” said Pulliam, a former student member of the board.

But she said students — particularly students members of the sustainability council — would have a voice in how the money is spent.

SEC members wrote in a Daily Egyptian letter to the editor in April that students would make up two-thirds of the funding committee responsible for allocating the money.

Pulliam and others have pushed the proposal for months. When SEC members tried to get the fee included as a referendum on Undergraduate Student Government ballots in April, USG and its then-President Demetrous White shot them down.

So SEC members collected more than 1,600 signatures to get their fee on the ballot. After an extensive campaign, they were vindicated when students supported the fee, 996-372.

Interim Provost Don Rice said he has talked about the fee with Goldman and other administrators, but the discussion was a brief one.

Pulliam requested Rice attend the committee’s next meeting, at which she hoped the sustainability coordinator position would be discussed in greater detail.

Discussion about the fee would most likely take place in Executive Session of the Board of Trustees’ meetings, said White, who now serves as Student Trustee. During these sessions, which are not open to the press or public, board members discuss the philosophy behind decisions, debate and explore options.

White said he needed to be better informed before participating in these talks.

But he said he would support the fee and council as they are now proposed.

“All the students voted for it so absolutely, I would push for it,” White said.

Pulliam said she believed the administrators would not try to “hijack” the fee, as some of its opponents had feared.

“I definitely think the administrators aren’t trying to be enemies in this,” she said.

Pulliam said she hoped to see the council formed during the fall semester, but doubted the board would vote on the fee before April.

Allison Petty can be reached at 536-3311 ext. 254 or allison.petty@siude.com.

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How to make an appointment.
Appointments can be made Monday through Friday 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. by calling 618/453-3311.

Did you need to get an insurance refund?

The Fall deadline to apply for an insurance fee refund is August 29, 2008.

To apply for a refund, a student must present his/her insurance policy booklet or the schedule of benefits along with the insurance wallet I.D. card to the Student Health Center’s Insurance Office, located at 374 E. Grand Ave.

All students, including those who have applied for a Cancellation Waiver and whose fees are not yet paid, must apply for the refund before the deadline. Students under age 18 need a parent’s signature.

Download the insurance refund form online today.

Don’t wait until the last minute to get immunized!

Illinois law requires that all students show proof of immunity to tetanus, diphtheria, measles, mumps, and rubella. Immunization records may be obtained from your high school (copy of your 9th grade physical), previous university attended, private physician, or local health department. All immunization records must be signed and dated by a health care provider.

Immunization records may be faxed to the Immunization Compliance Office at 618/453-4452. The FAX should include student’s name, id number and date of birth. For more information, contact the Student Health Center’s Immunization Compliance Office at 618/453-4454. The Immunization Compliance Form may be downloaded from our website.

The Fall immunization compliance deadline is October 3, 2008.
Welcome to Southern Illinois University Carbondale

Dear Students:

On behalf of our entire University community, it is my pleasure to welcome you to the SIUC family.

Southern Illinois University Carbondale has a proud history of providing all of our students with wonderful opportunities for growth, in the classroom and beyond. We have outstanding facilities and programs, and most importantly, a caring faculty and staff who want to help you achieve your goals. The education you receive at SIUC will influence your life well into the future.

This is the beginning of an exciting period, a time when you will enjoy fresh experiences, master new challenges and develop lifelong friendships. I hope you find the time to take advantage of all the University has to offer. Recreation, culture and athletics are just some of the many activities you can explore. With more than 450 student organizations, ranging from fraternities and sororities, student government groups, sports clubs and honorary societies, I’m sure you’ll find something to suit your interests.

Again, welcome to your University. I am confident that you will quickly learn what Saluki Pride is all about.

I wish you continued success at SIUC.

Sincerely,

Sam Goldman
Interim Chancellor
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