Debate team reflects on successes

MATT DARAY
Daily Egyptian

There's no debate on which college campus can argue its case the best. The university's debate team recently won two national titles, placing in both the March 20 National Parliamentary Tournament of Excellence and the March 26 National Parliamentary Debate Association National Tournament. The dual success of the debate team makes SIU one of six colleges to ever win both titles in the same year.

This is the sixth consecutive year the team has placed in the top four at nationals, but team members said several of the year's competitions helped them prepare for their final victory.

Todd Graham, director of speech communication and team coach, said he was pleased to see the team do so well in both competitions.

"It's quite an honor. We had a terrific year," he said. "We were obviously hoping to win a national championship."

Graham said the debate team last won a national championship in 2008. While the team was ranked as the top contender going into nationals, it doesn't always mean they will win, he said. Nationals can be similar to college sports in that lower-ranked teams sometimes upset their top-ranked opponents, so winning is never guaranteed, he said.

The team was inspired to perform well after they witnessed two undefeated teams lose in the last competition before nationals, he said.

"Both teams lost in (the) quarter finals, and I think that was sort of our wake-up call that we have to be really, really sharp and make sure we know what our arguments are and (that) our research is good," he said.

Graham said he is thrilled the team won because of the effort they put into nationals preparation.

"I think they'll probably take away from it that, the fact that, in this case, the hard work paid off and for this one year in particular, I don't think there's any doubt that the best team won," he said.

Graham said the team dedicated many hours to prepare for nationals, including practicing 12 to 14 hours a day over spring break.

Members of the team also excited to see their efforts didn't go to waste.

Ben Campbell, a junior from Springfield, Mo., studying political science, said nationals was a great experience for him and his team.

"It's a really, really exciting experience, especially given the amounts of work that all of us have put in since August," he said.

Campbell said debate topics ranged from the U.S. Supreme Court debate prompting varied community reaction

JESSICA WETTIG MILES
Daily Egyptian

The Supreme Court of the United States could be one step closer to nationally legalizing one of the country's most controversial issues. The Supreme Court debated the Defense of Marriage Act's legalization Wednesday and furthered the possibility of overthrowing it. The decision could lead to the national legalization of same-sex marriage, but many issues can oppose or favor it. Former President Bill Clinton implemented the act in 1996 to specifically define marriage solely legal between a man and a woman, but the court could issue a ruling by the end of June, according to ABC News. Community members held different opinions on the debate and whether civil unions provide adequate benefits to same-sex couples.

Jackson County Republican Party Chairman Gloria Campos said while the same-sex marriage issue is more about the separation of church and state rather than a discrimination or equal rights issue.

"I am respectful of everybody's rights," she said.

Focus a priority as exams near

MITCH SCHAFER
Daily Egyptian

With spring break finished and final exams near, students often struggle to remain focused.

A March 21 USA Today College article addressed how returning from spring break can be a tough transition for students — especially freshmen. University faculty and students responded to the article citing nicer weather as well as lack of motivation as potential reasons why students have difficulty with the final eight school weeks.

University College 101 professor Walter Davis said the time off slightly affects students' attitudes, because the student is still trying to adjust after their time off.

"It seems like sometimes when students go home for that week and come back, they are trying to get back adjusted to the swing of things," he said.

"Bringing off for a week, their attitudes kind of change." Lisa Peden, Learning Support Services director, said she has seen student tutoring attendance drop in the spring semester's second half. Weather plays a definite factor and is a severe distraction, she said, as there are other things students would rather be doing.
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### Mission Statement

The Daily Egyptian, the student-run newspaper of Southern Illinois University Carbondale, is committed to being a trusted source of news, information, commentary and public discourse, while helping readers understand the issues affecting their lives.

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Debate

Continued from 1

Rivera said Whitman College’s debate team was one SIU needed to prepare for, as it was the only team to beat SIU in a round at the March 20 debate. However, the team gathered afterward to determine which team speakers were better at certain topics and planned how to counter them. After that, Rivera said his team beat Whitman every match. While the debate team won this year, he said the team has no intention of slowing down. “Our next year’s goals are the same as we have every year, which is to do well in all the tournaments we go to, continually do well and get better at nationals,” he said.

Matt Denney can be reached at mdenney@dailyEgyptian.com or 536-3311 ext. 254.

Reaction

Continued from 1

There’s a difference between going to a courthouse and getting a marriage license, and going into a church and having a religious ceremony, Campos said. The issue lies in civil unions and their lack of rights compared to marriage, she said, and civil unions can be amended to gain the equivalent amounts of rights of marriage.

Some students are happy with the Supreme Court’s attention to the issue, but felt the trial only scratches the surface of homophobia discrimination.

Sarah Self, an LGBTQ Resource Center graduate assistant at Lafayette, La., studying social work, said the Supreme Court review is a step forward for the country. However, she said churches should not be mandated to perform ceremonies they do not agree with, such as same-sex marriage.

“I don’t think government should really be involved in (marriage) at all,” Self said.

Self said although she views the debate as positive for the LGBTQ movement, she fears society will believe the issue is resolved if Defense of Marriage is overturned. Movements often lose momentum when the legal issues are resolved, she said. Homosexuals are still bullied in schools and violent acts still occur against them, she said, and such issues won’t go away just because same-sex marriage is legalized. These are social problems that must be recognized and addressed with societal changes, she said.

Peg Gauertauer, a senior from New Iberia, La., studying accounting, said she agrees other issues are ignored when the media focuses on Defense of Marriage, including legal discrimination issues nationwide taking place recently. She said she thinks it’s embarrassing for the U.S. that marriage is not equal yet, and said that this is an issue should have been addressed long ago.

Gauertauer said the term “wedding” should be designated as a religious ceremony and remain a legal term. She said she supports the idea of separation of church and state because no one is trying to force any church to perform same-sex weddings, and some churches already perform them.

“I have not yet seen a legal argument against marriage equality that is not based in… individual, moral and usually religious principles,” she said. “There is not a legal basis for these arguments against same-sex marriage.”

Gauertauer said she hopes the act is overturned and the Supreme Court implements a legal acknowledgement for marriage equality nationally, whether civil unions gain the same rights as marriage, or that marriage is implemented as the definition for all legal marriages. The Jackson County Democratic Party Chairman and SIU Newman Catholic Student Center did not return multiple requests for comment by press time Monday.

Focus

Continued from 1

Students are just hanging on the best they can because summer is close and students are eager to finish finals, she said.

However, zoology professor Matt Whiles said loss of focus isn’t exclusively a student problem.

“It’s in faculty too,” he said. “Sometimes after spring break I think you lose some momentum, and you just start focusing on wanting to be done with this semester.”

Whiles said he has not noticed a general grade fluctuation. Rather, he said he notices is a dip in enthusiasm.

“Students have the realization that there are only so many tests and such left to get the grade up, that there are only so many tests and such left to get used to it the first or second day of schoolwork mindset, and students tend to might not want to go to class,” he said. “You might want to skip a day. As employees we feel like that when it’s sunny outside. … It tends to fluctuate with the behavior.”

The semester’s final half could have many benefits and distractions, but Davis said, it is up to students to practice time management even through the staff tries to help students prepare.

“We can lead a horse to water, but we can’t make them drink,” he said.

Mitch Schober can be reached at mschober@dailyEgyptian.com or 536-3231 ext. 254.

Focus

Continued from 1

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Colonels sophomore outfielder Demetrius Moorer then hit a single to right field and scored Teegarden from second to notch the Colonels’ lead to 3-2.

Gullo walked SIU junior out/elder Donny Duschinsky to start the inning, and sophomore Tanner Renner pinch ran for Duschinsky. Renner advanced to second base after Johnson grounded out to Colonels’ junior pitcher Scott Myles. Still down 3-2, SIU senior designated hitter Wes Neece doubled to center field and scored Renner from second base to tie the game at three apiece.

Junior shortstop Ryan Rosthenhausler hit a single up the middle in the next at-bat, which allowed Neece to score and win the game 4-3. Rosthenhausler said he had a feeling the Salukis would win the game in the 10th inning.

“I told Jake Welch when I was on deck, ‘Sorry that you’re not going to hit, because I’m going to win the game right here,’” he said. “I was feeling pretty good, and good things happened.”

The Salukis started the runs early in the first inning when Welch hit a lead-off single against EKU. SIU senior out/elder Rennie Troggio then laid down a sacrifice bunt and moved Welch to second, and Jones hit a grounder to Phipps, who couldn’t handle it. This allowed Welch to score and make the game 1-0.

The Colonels struck back in the top of the fifth inning with a game-tying run. Hughes singled up the middle to start the Colonels’ inning. After a sacrifice bunt by Phipps and a wild pitch by Saluki starting pitcher junior Derek Fogel, EKU sophomore out/elder Demetrius Moorer hit a fly ball to center field and allowed Hughes to score and tie the game at one run.

After SIU scored another run in the sixth inning and made the score 2-1, the team delivered clutch hitting to score more insurance runs in the bottom of the eighth and ended the game at 4-3.

Then junior pitcher Todd Eaton relieved junior pitcher Aaron Snyder in the top of the ninth. Eaton forced the first three batters into outs and struck out the final batter to win the game and grab his fourth save of the season.

Saluki head coach Ken Henderson said the bullpen kept the team in the game late.

“Our bullpen was great today,” he said. “Shimkus was good. He got in a jam there and worked his way out of it, and Snyder and Todd were awfully good, as they have been most of the year.”

The Salukis’ next game is at 3 p.m. today against Murray State University at Abe Martin Field.

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Bertelsen relieved Lang in the bottom of the second and kept ISU off the scoreboard for the rest of the game. The sophomore struck out three and allowed three hits and three walks in 5.1 innings.

“It was a totally gutsy performance by her,” Sewell said. “She used the strike zone to her advantage. She just hit every spot.”

The Saluki offense produced heavily in the sixth inning. A solo home run by junior catcher Allie VadeBoncouer, followed by a two-run double by Gonzalez and an RBI double by senior out/elder Morgan Barchan, proved to be all the Salukis needed to seal the win.

Orsburn closed the inning with SIU’s fifth home run of the day, a two-run homer to put the Salukis lead at 9-3. The Salukis take on SIU–Edwardsville at 4 p.m. today at Charlotte West Stadium.

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Supreme Court-induced chaos on gay marriage?

DOYLE MCMANUS
Los Angeles Times

Expect legal and political chaos if the Supreme Court decides the two gay marriage cases it heard last week the way most court watchers believe it will.

The court seems ready to strike down the federal Defense of Marriage Act, while ruling quite narrowly on California’s Proposition 8, allowing a lower-court decision to stand.

Such an outcome would make gay marriage legal in California without deciding whether state bans on same-sex marriage are constitutional.

And that would allow more of what we’ve seen up to now: a growing number of liberal blue states moving to legalize gay marriage, and a growing number of conservative red states enacting bans.

But there will be one big difference: Gays who live in states that allow gay marriage may have an array of federal privileges unavailable to those living in states that ban such marriages.

And that raises complex questions.

What happens to two gay men who marry in New York and then move to St. Louis City? Will they still be married? If they have children, will the kids have two parents under Utah law?

Will their federal benefits such as survivors’ Social Security benefits travel with them, even though they’ve moved to a state where their marriage isn’t valid? Will they file their federal tax returns jointly but state returns separately?

And don’t even think about the issue of divorce.

This kind of legal patchwork virtually guarantees that politicians in states that don’t recognize gay marriage will be debating and legislating the issue for years, which would make an even more confusing situation. The ensuing chaos could harm more than just gay couples; the Republican Party stands to lose too.

Gay marriage has been embraced by a substantial majority of Democrats and Democratic politicians. In blue states, the trend lines suggest that opinion among Democrats will soon be so one-sided that it will cease to be an issue.

It’s different in the GOP. Most Republicans still oppose same-sex marriage by a wide margin, with only about a quarter in favor in a recent Pew Research Center poll.

The survey also suggests that the issue will grow as a wedge that divides the party, in part because of a big generational divergence: 76 percent of Republicans over 65 oppose gay marriage, while only 54 percent of those under 30 do.

When the question is changed from marriage to equal rights, the wedge potential is even clearer: Republicans divide right down the middle as to whether homosexual couples should have the same rights as heterosexual couples, 49 percent to 48 percent, with young people again more permissive than older voters.

One leading GOP fundraiser described the conflict to me as “between the Christians and the donors” — Christian social conservatives who want the party to stand forthrightly against gay marriage, and donors who want the GOP to broaden its appeal to young people and moderates as a path toward winning the next election.

Speaking on condition he not be identified, this veteran of conservative campaigns noted that the GOP needs to keep all those groups inside its tent, which will make gay marriage a problem for any 2016 candidate.

Paradoxically, this means a bold Supreme Court ruling recognizing a constitutional right to gay marriage might be best for the GOP in practical terms — because it would put the issue beyond the reach of legislation.

If the court leaves the issue up to the states, that would give presidential candidates a state’s rights place to hide — but they would still be pressed to take a clear position in caucus and primary states such as Iowa and South Carolina.

And that brings me to the third category of opinion in the Republican Party: A growing group of conservatives, including young evangelicals, who oppose gay marriage as a matter of principle, but who are willing to accept it as a civil institution for people who don’t share their religious beliefs.

“You can believe that homosexuality is a sin and still believe that same-sex marriage can be legal,” Timothy Keller, pastor of the conservative Redeemer Presbyterian Church in Manhattan, told me at a conference sponsored by the Ethics and Public Policy Center.

That segment of the population — culturally conservative but increasingly libertarian on matters of law — may be the one to watch during the debate over gay marriage rolls on unabated even after the court makes up its mind.

Another case, perhaps, of the public moving faster than the politicians.
THE Daily Commuter Puzzle by Jacqueline E. Mathews

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SUDOKU

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RUNS COME IN LATE FOR SALUKIS

JACK ROBINSON
Daily Egyptian

The Salukis scored the winning run in the eighth inning or later in both games to sweep the series during the team’s final two weekend series games against Eastern Kentucky University.

SIU senior infielder Wes Neece said EKU was a tough opponent despite the sweep.

“It’s always tough to beat a team three days in a row,” he said. “They played hard, just like we did, and they battled. It could’ve easily been the other way around, if some things didn’t go our way.”

Senior pitcher Cody Forsythe started Friday against EKU sophomore pitcher Ben Gullo. Forsythe retired seven batters and allowed two runs in seven innings. Gullo pitched nine innings and allowed three runs off of four hits.

The Salukis scored their first run in the second inning when junior outfielder Ryan Casillas reached first base. Casillas then stole second base to leave himself in scoring position. SIU senior outfielder Nick Johnson then hit a ball to EKU senior first baseman Alex Hughes. His fumble enabled Casillas to score.

EKU added two runs in the top of the third when sophomore catcher John Wilson singled to left field with two men on base. Colonels senior shortstop Matt Phipps and freshman second baseman Kenny Hostrander scored to put the Colonels up 2-1.

Then SIU junior catcher Matt Jones hit a double to left center in the bottom of the ninth inning, which scored SIU junior infielder Jake Welch. Welch’s run tied the game at 2 and put it into extra innings.

EKU senior outfielder Austin Grisham led the tenth inning, doubling to left center. Freshman third baseman Doug Teegarden singled to left field in the next at-bat, and Grisham advanced to third. EKU senior shortstop Matt Phipps then hit into a fielder’s choice and left Grisham at third base.

Coach’s suspension ignites series win against Redbirds

TERRANCE PEACOCK
Daily Egyptian

The SIU softball team faced early offense troubles during game one of its weekend series against in-state rival Illinois State.

The team struggled so much that coach Kerri Bilyk needed to spark a fire under her team. She did so by getting ejected.

“It was definitely a move to try to get things going,” associate head coach Jen Sewell said in a Saluki Athletics release. “Road games are tough in this league. Every time you come to Illinois State, you need to play with a lot of emotion. I really feel like (the ejection) changed what we were doing at the plate.”

The Salukis (14-16, 2-5 Missouri Valley Conference), who were down 3-0 after the first inning, survived an 11-10 back-and-forth affair against the Redbirds (14-14, 1-2 MVC) Friday and split the doubleheader Saturday to earn their first two conference MVC) Friday and split the doubleheader Friday and split the doubleheader.

“Eight of SIU’s nine batters notched a hit in the game, and four Salukis picked up multiple hits in the 13-hit performance. "I think those players have really been putting a lot of pressure on themselves to hit the ball in RBI situations,” Sewell said. “It has taken a little bit of time after that early, tough part of the schedule. They have kind of settled in and gotten back to who they are.”

Senior pitcher Brittany Lang (8-8) picked up the Saluki win.

SIU rallied from a 6-0 deficit in game two, but Illinois State proved to be too much to handle as the Redbirds defeated the Salukis 10-6 to even the series. Sophomore pitcher Alyssa Wunderlich gave up three runs in each of the first two innings of five hits and three walks.

Wunderlich settled in and allowed one run on three hits over the next three innings. Bradley sparked the Saluki offense with a solo home run to lead off the third inning and Harker followed with a three-run shot in the fourth to pull SIU back 7-4.

However, ISU produced three more runs in the sixth inning to build a comfortable lead and eventually came away with the win. The Salukis broke a 3-3 tie after four innings with a six-run sixth inning to seal the series-final victory and with it, the series win.

Please see SOFTBALL | 4