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Old data brings new light

LUKE NOZICKA
Daily Egyptian

One university professor looks to the stars in search of water inside the planet Venus. Justin Filiberto, an assistant professor in geology, had new research on reanalyzing data and creating models for future missions to Venus. His work is published in the March edition of Elsevier's Icarus Journal – a publication dedicated to solar system studies.

His paper titled, “Magmatic diversity on Venus: Constraints from terrestrial analog crystallization experiments,” consists of five models concerning rocks. An article on his work was published in the Jan. 17 issue of Inside Science.

“There’s always been this thought that Venus is very similar to the Earth in chemistry,” he said. “But that was sort of broad chemistry. This was the first time that we could really pinpoint some amount of water in the interior of Venus.”

For his research, Filiberto studied igneous rocks, or rocks that come from magma, and form crystallized lava on different planets. He used analysis from probe rovers to observe how these rocks formed 30 years ago. This is Filiberto’s first research about Venus. Most of his efforts have been focused on Mars, which include looking into Martian meteorites and studying information from rovers.

Filiberto said he used data from 30 years ago to study Venus. The information that he used is from a series of Russian landers created and used from 1961 to 1984 called Venera and Vega.

Delaney McKenzie, left, a graduate student from Lee’s Summit, Mo. studying theater, looks at a lighting diagram with Stephanie Chavez, a sophomore from Chicago studying theater Monday at McLeod Theater. McKenzie designed the lighting for the upcoming play, Die Fledermaus, which debuts Feb. 28 at the theater. The opera will be performed in English and be accompanied by the Southern Illinois Symphony Orchestra.

Set the stage

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Seniors prep with Grad Bash
See Pg 2

Bitcoin becomes currency
See Pg 5

Welch named MVC player
See Pg 8

KIA SMITH
Daily Egyptian

Gov. Pat Quinn wants to increase spending on early childhood development programs. Stacy Thompson, a professor and co-coordinator of the early childhood program, hopes the promise Quinn made in his State of the State address will allow SIU to expand its early childhood educational program.

“Hopefully, more funding will enable the ability to hire more qualified people, and encourage already qualified teachers to seek higher qualifications,” Thompson said.

The program is divided into two sections: preschool/primary and child and family services.

The preschool/primary program focuses on children from newborn to age three. It prepares teachers for public school settings.

The child and family program offers specialization that prepares teachers for careers working with children and their families in non-public school settings or in agencies that provide services to children and families.

“We promote a good program that provides a nice foundation of understanding development strategies for many different types of children. The program has room for more individuals to come in and get properly trained,” Thompson said.

Thompson said the increase in funding would be greatly beneficial to the state as a whole. She said everyone, regardless of his or her career, should care about expanding the programs.

“Even if this wasn’t my career, I believe that children need a warm, stimulating and consistent environment for growth,” she said. “Though it’s still early, I hope that is the major outcome of Quinn’s decision.”

However, Quinn has not outlined how he plans to fund the expansion of the early childhood program.

Since 2009, Illinois has received $552 million in federal money from A Race To The Top Early Learning Grant and $30 million from the Maternal, Infant, Early Childhood Home Visiting Grant every year.

Quinn said to reporters in Chicago he would worry about how to fund the program when the time to discuss a budget comes.

According to the Illinois Board of Education, since 2009 the state has had over $800 million in school budget cuts, amounting to roughly 12 percent of its total budget.

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Bryant to open campaign office

SETH RICHARDSON
Daily Egyptian

TERM BRYANT

A candidate for the Illinois 115th District seat in the House of Representatives has announced the opening of a campaign office in Carbondale.

 Terri Bryant of Murphysboro said in a press release Tuesday she would be opening a campaign office at 518 E. Walnut St on Thursday. The door will open at 5:00 p.m. with a meet-and-greet scheduled until 6:30 p.m.

She is also opening an office in Mt. Vernon. Bryant said she chose to open the office in Carbondale because of the location and convenience for constituents.

"It’s on the main road in the direction people are generally driving," she said. "Opening the offices in Mt. Vernon and Carbondale is so we can reach the largest number of constituents and make sure their voices are heard."


Bryant currently works at the Pindoskyville Correctional Center where she serves as the manager of the dietary department. Previously she and husband Rick were the original owners of the Bluebell Restaurant in Murphysboro.

Bryant and Robert White of Mt. Vernon are seeking the Republican nomination. Tony Martville of Du Bois and Bill Kilquist of Murphysboro are seeking the Democratic nomination.

The Illinois primary election is March 18.

DATA

CONTINUED FROM 1

“The Russians landed and they had an instrument that measured the chemistry of the rocks,” he said, “and over the past 30 years people have rehashed what these rocks mean, what they can tell us about Venus geochemistry and things like that.”

He worked at NASA from 2006 to 2009 at the Lunar and Planetary Institute in Houston, Texas. He now has a grant of more than $100,000.

Laurie Achenbach, interim dean of the college of science, said Filiberto is one of a handful of geologists to get money from NASA on a consistent basis.

“It’s a statement about the strength of his work that he gets external grants, especially that he gets external grants, especially from NASA on a consistent basis.

Filberto is now working with Daniel Nunes at the Jet Propulsion Lab in Pasadena, Calif., to improve current models.

“We’re going to take this to the next level and look at the surface and go back to the original landers,” he said. “So using geophysics as well as geochemistry to tell something about the interior of Venus.”

Filberto said he thinks there is no life on Venus, but Mars previously may have been suitable to sustain life.

“Where there’s habitats doesn’t mean there’s life,” he said. “But at least there’s potential for life, it was definitely habitable at some point.”

Sally Potter-McIntyre, associate professor who studies sedimentology on Mars, said in 2005 NASA landed two rovers on the surface of the planet and discovered sedimentary rocks.

“That actually turns out to be a very interesting deposit in that these were very likely deposited in a lake,” she said. “They’re very similar to some rocks that I study on the Colorado Plateau.”

Potter-McIntyre said there is a possibility microscopic life is living on Mars.

“Life almost certainly does not exist at the surface of Mars because there is too much UV, it’s too dry,” she said. “If the subsurface there’s evidence there’s liquid water, so there may be extant life living on Mars right now.”

Filiberto said while this is a possibility, it is more likely there was life in the past, when Mars had bodies of standing water.

Filiberto said the Russians are pushing to launch another Venus probe mission in 2023, called Venera-D.

Each student that attends will receive a complimentary tote bag from the Alumni Association. Food and refreshments will be available to size students for class rings.

Students also have the opportunity to sign up for the Alumni Association.

The bookstore is giving away $1,000 in gift cards to the bookstore and Balfour, with winners each hour.

Each student that attends will receive a complimentary tote bag from the Alumni Association. Food and refreshments will be served and the local band “Hashtag Pop” will be performing.

Grad Bash prepares seniors

ADIE APPLEGATE
Daily Egyptian

Seniors who are graduating in May now have an opportunity to take care of all their last-minute items.

The SIU Alumni Association is collaborating with the University Bookstore to host the 2014 Grad Bash on Feb. 5 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Student Center ballrooms.

The event gives seniors a chance to apply for graduation and order transcripts, caps, gowns and invitations from the bookstore.

Representatives from the School of Law, the master of business administration program and the graduate school will be assisting students in their job hunt or post-graduation ambitions.

Class memorabilia provider Balfour will be available to size students for class rings. Students also have the opportunity to sign up for the Alumni Association.

The bookstore is giving away $1,000 in gift cards to the bookstore and Balfour, with winners each hour.

Each student that attends will receive a complimentary tote bag from the Alumni Association. Food and refreshments will be served and the local band “Hashtag Pop” will be performing.
Sugar tied to fatal heart woes; soda’s a culprit

LINDSEY TANNER
Associated Press

CHICAGO — Could too much sugar be deadly? The biggest study of its kind suggests the answer is yes, at least when it comes to fatal heart problems.

It doesn’t take all that much extra sugar hidden in many processed foods, to substantially raise the risk, the researchers found, and most Americans eat more than the safest amount.

Having a cinnamon roll with your morning coffee, a super-sized sugary soda at lunch and a scoop of ice cream after dinner would put you in the highest risk category in the study. That means your chance of dying prematurely from heart problems is nearly three times greater than for people who eat only foods with little added sugar.

For someone who normally eats 2,000 calories daily, even consuming two 12-ounce cans of soda substantially increases the risk. For most American adults, sodas and other sugary drinks are the main source of added sugar.

Lead author Quanhe Yang of the U.S. Centers of Disease Control and Prevention called the results sobering and said it’s the first nationally representative study to examine the issue.

Scientists aren’t certain exactly how sugar may contribute to deadly heart problems, but it has been shown to increase blood pressure and levels of unhealthy cholesterol and triglycerides; and also may increase signs of inflammation linked with heart disease, said Rachel Johnson, head of the American Heart Association’s nutrition committee and a University of Vermont nutrition professor.

Yang and colleagues analyzed national health surveys between 1988 and 2010 that included questions about people’s diets. The authors used national death data to calculate risks of dying during 15 years of follow-up.

Overall, more than 30,000 American adults aged 44 on average were involved in the study in Monday’s JAMA Internal Medicine.

Sixteen dead from volcano

BINSAR BAKKARA
Associated Press

MOUNT SINABUNG, Indonesia — The death toll from an Indonesian volcano that has been rumbling for months rose to 16 Sunday after rescuers found another body, bringing the death toll to 24.

Authorities have evacuated more than 30,000 people, mostly farmers, because of eruptions that have been spewing a thick ash cloud over a vast area.

A search team on Sunday found one charred corpse and a critically injured school student who had been buried by hot rocks.

Some villagers said they were desperately to return to check on homes on the mountain’s slopes, saying volcanic activity was decreasing.

Rescuers found 14 bodies and rescued three people with burn wounds, said National Disaster Mitigation Agency spokesman Satopo Parwo Nugroho.

Rescue efforts resumed Sunday and rescuers found another body about three kilometers (two miles) from the volcano’s peak, said Lt. Col. Asy Syukur, who led the operation. Another resident, a 24-year-old college student died in an intensive care unit, said an official at the Efrain Eatham hospital.

Among the dead were a local television journalist and four high-school students and their teacher who were visiting the mountain to see the eruptions up close, Nugroho said. At least three other people were injured and authorities fear the death toll will rise.

Sinabung in western Sumatra has been erupting for four months. Authorities had evacuated more than 10,000 people, housing them in cramped tents, schools and public buildings, but many were desperate to return to check on homes and farms.
Crypto-currencies struggle to gain worldwide acceptance

Christmas came early for Beau Wright in the form of bitcoin.

Wright, a junior from Goreville studying advertising, heard about bitcoin in January 2013 and was fascinated by its potential. Crypto-currencies, such as bitcoin, are digital money that can be used anywhere in the world and is transferable within minutes. The coin’s worth is stored on the owner’s hard drive in an account called a bitcoin wallet. It has a private key, which is a passcode protecting it from potential hackers. Crypto-currencies are decentralized, meaning there is no governmental authority to regulate how the coins are used.

For Wright, the currency served as a means for gambling online. Wright has enjoyed playing home games and at casinos for several years, and decided to try his hand at online blackjack early Dec. 24. The gamble paid off almost instantly, winning him $100 within minutes.

“I thought, ‘well, that was really easy,’” Wright said. “So I continued to play—which is usually where any gambler makes the worst mistake—but it just worked out really well for me.” It seemed that he could do no wrong. Wright was winning big and losing small. The more he won, the higher he raised the stakes.

“I think the biggest bet I placed was $1,500 and I happened to hit a blackjack on it,” he said. “So that paid $1,500, plus $750, plus my initial investment, so about $3,750 I made in two seconds.” Wright made about $4800 worth of bitcoins in just a few hours. His winning streak continued to surge through Christmas and the day after. By Dec. 26, he had turned about $600 into more than $21,000.

While crypto-currencies have been a blessing for many people who use them as investment opportunities, several countries have condemned peer-to-peer currencies for their instability and potential to fund illicit activities.

In a Jan. 27 press release, The Bank of Russia criticized bitcoin for being speculative in nature and carrying a high risk of loss of value. The bank deemed bitcoin and other crypto-
Crypto-currencies struggle to gain worldwide acceptance

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'‘Tuesday February 4, 2014

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Crypto-currencies have been a blessing for many people who use them as investment opportunities, several countries have condemned peer-to-peer currencies for their instability and potential to fund illicit activities.

— Dylan Frost

Sign of the times: Super Bowl ads safer and staid

MAE ANDERSON
Associated Press

NEW YORK — As Super Bowl ads go, so goes America. The A-list advertisers who aired commercial spots during Sunday’s big game steered clear of controversy while trying to appeal to weary consumers with iconic American images and family-centered topics. Those safe themes were evident in many of the ads, from Toyota’s Highlander ad featuring singing Muppets to Chrysler’s two-minute Bob Dylan spot focused on American engineering, and Bud Light’s ad which showed Arnold Schwarzenegger playing “tiny tennis.”

Super Bowl ads can be a barometer for the economy because they show which companies are willing to spend $4 million on a 30-second spot. In 2000, for instance, at the height of the dot com boom, 13 technology startups advertised in the Super Bowl. By 2001, after the bubble had burst, there were just three.

This year, fewer websites and software companies aired ads compared to the past four years and more ads appeared from packaged food and luxury auto makers, according to research from Ask Merrit, which measures the effectiveness of ads. Absent were edgier companies willing to take risks, such as Elzatski/Tude and Groupon, while more staid brands like Cheerios and Heine joined the mix.

Super Bowl ads are also an indicator of consumer attitudes. Advertisers used nostalgia and family-heavy themes on Sunday to play to viewers who are fatigued from a depressed economy and tepid job market. “We’ve had an extended recession and psychologically we’re not back into a mode where people are comfortable with heavy consumption,” says Ray Taylor, marketing professor at the Villanova School of Business, Villanova, Penn. “A lot of consumers have been hit financially for an extended period of time. As a result, returning to things people are familiar with or appealing to their emotions will tend to work. It’s a particularly good time to be nostalgic with consumers.”

The timing helps explain why Budweiser’s reasserting “Puppy Love” ad won the USA Today Ad Meter, which gauges the popularity of Super Bowl Ads. The spot depicts a budding friendship between a yellow Labrador puppy and a Clydesdale. Microsoft’s “Empowering” tear-jerker ad was dubbed most effective by Ace Metrix. The spot, narrated by former professional football player Steve Gleason, shows how technology can help change people’s lives. Gleason, who is living with ALS — a disease of the nerve cells in the brain and spinal cord that control voluntary muscle movements, uses a Microsoft Surface Pro tablet running eye-tracking technology to speak.

Advertisers across the spectrum tuned down their messages. Godaddy.com, a 10-year-old Web hosting company made its name producing racy Super Bowl ads that made a splash — positive and negative. But this year they went relatively tame, depicting a woman who quit her job during the ad so she could start up a small business. “A lot of years, the ads reflect the national mood, and now we’re in this ambivalent state,” says David Berkowitz, chief marketing officer at digital ad agency MRY. “There’s still a lot of that American pride and self-confidence, but we’re realizing that we aren’t in that dominant position. The whole ‘We’re No. 1’ attitude feels less assured than it has in the past. So I think that’s led to a lot of these safe choices.”

Even so, this year’s game won’t be without its luxury advertisers. Chrysler’s high end Ghibli Maserati, which goes for $67,000, made a splash with a simply lyrical 98-second spot featuring narration about defeating “giants” by “Beasts of the Southern Wild” actress Quvenzhane Wallis. And Jaguar advertised its $78,000 F-Type car with a big-budget ad featuring a car chase.

Amid the muted tones of other ads, the emphasis on the “one percent” in those spots struck some viewers as slightly off-key. “They wanted to reinforce that these are ultimate dream automobiles that anyone would want to own, but I still think there’s better verses to do that,” says Villanova’s Taylor. “I thought those ads were misplaced in the Super Bowl, but especially this Super Bowl.”
THE Daily Commuter Puzzle
by Jacqueline E. Mathews

ACROSS
1 Alternative to suspenders...
5 Madrid's nation...
12 Declare openly...
15 Follower of Gandhi's faith...
16 Take on employees...
17 Renovate...
18 Concluded...
22 Seemsingly eternal...
24 Belonging to us...
25 Shoe sole ridge...
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13 Stein & Stiller...
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59 Foundation...

Monday's Answers:

 answers from a professional money manager. Go extra to trouble to keep costs down. Voice your opinions. Favor optimistic approaches.

Answers:

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Saluki tennis drops two close matches

TONY MCDANIEL
Daily Egyptian

The SIU men’s tennis team continued the 2014 season Friday and Saturday in Rockford, losing both matches to fall to 0-4.

The Salukis lost their third and fourth matches of the season to Northern Illinois University 6-1, and University of Detroit Mercy 4-3 Friday and Saturday in Rockford. The Salukis went into Friday’s match looking for their first win after losses against Ohio State University and South Dakota State University two weeks ago in Stillwater, Okla. to start their season at 0-2.

Friday the Salukis faced rivals NIU but fell 6-1. Freshman Michal Kianicka won the Salukis’ only point of the day when he beat NIU’s Dot Amir in three sets. Junior Szymon Opieczonek and Jorge Cavero won their doubles match over Frederic Cadieux and Simon Formont.

To go along with the two match wins, Cavero and freshman Filip Aleksic were able to keep a third set during their singles matches, but were not able to get the win. Kianicka and sophomore Jonney Rigby pushed their doubles match against Dor Amir and Axel Logerlof to a match point, but lost to NIU.

Coach Dann Nelson said the match was closer than the score line suggested. “We actually didn’t play all that bad against Northern. Northern is a really good team,” Nelson said. “We actually had a match point at one doubles, which could’ve given us the doubles point, and then there were plenty of other close matches too.”

Seventeen hours later the Salukis were back in action. This time against Detroit Mercy, a match SIU lost 4-3. Nelson says he does not believe the short turn around had much of an effect on his players. “That happens quite a bit in tennis, you do one match on one day and another match on the next day,” Nelson said. “There are teams that play two matches in one day so it really isn’t that big a deal.”

The Salukis started strong Saturday. The duo of Rigby and Kianicka cruised to a 6-0 victory over Detroit’s Jay Joshi and Bobby Cawood. Cavero and Opieczonek followed up Rigby and Kianicka’s doubles win with one of their own over Ismail Kadynow and Paryk Kosickedi 6-1 to give SIU a 1-0 lead going into singles play.

Singles play started well with Rigby winning his match over the Titan’s Joshi, but SIU struggled to keep their momentum going with losses in their next four singles matches until Aleksic was able to beat NIU’s Chance Conley 6-0, 6-4, but Detroit took the victory 4-3.

Kianicka lost a close singles match on tiebreakers to Detroit’s Cawood. Coach Nelson said in the future he expects his young freshmen to win these kinds of matches. “He just couldn’t make the volley in the first set which is tough because that’s his game. I started to click a little bit more in the second set,” Nelson said. “He didn’t play his best and still had chances to win, so you have to be proud of him with that.”

The Salukis experienced some bad luck during Jorge Cavero’s match against the Titan’s Paryk Kosickedi. when Cavero began having trouble with his knees.

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