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Daily Egyptian Staff

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Illinois to see MAP grant changes

BRITTANY PETTIFORD
Daily Egyptian

Gov. Pat Quinn is recommending a budget increase of $50 million to MAP funding, which will extend awards to more than 20,000 students in Illinois. Abdon Pallasch, assistant Illinois budget director, said at SIU Carbondale, approximately 4,500 students receive between $16 million in awards.

"Under Gov. Quinn’s proposed budget, an additional $2 million would allow another 600 SIU Carbondale students to get MAP grants," Pallasch said.

Under the budget that was not recommended, the MAP grant will be reduced by more than $50 million from its fiscal year 2014 level, a reduction of 13.5 percent. This will directly affect SIU students by taking away the MAP grant for 600 students.

Gov. Quinn recently hosted a MAP Matters Day Rally where students went to Springfield to support the increase for the MAP grant. Alex Soriano, a junior from Downers Grove studying business management, was in attendance.

"The MAP grant is very important to my higher education," he said. "As the oldest son of a single mother, I hope that the MAP grant will be protected. My sister will be applying for college next year and hopefully will be able to benefit from the MAP grant."  

David Yepsen, director of the Paul Simon Public Policy Institute, invited Tom Johnson, co-author of “Fixing Illinois,” to say and pick up one another’s slack.

"As the kids climb into bed and Fall Out Boy’s ‘Save Rock and Roll’ plays in the background, Alex Socorro and Julie Baldwin prepare for their wedding. The two are to be wed June 8, or as Julie would say, four weeks and six days, not that she’s counting. The couple said they could not be more excited for 75 of their closest friends and family to join them at the outdoor, intimate Sunday ceremony. While the two come from different backgrounds, Alex said they always knew what the other is going to say and pick up one another’s slack. ‘You lose things, I find them,’ he said, as Julie followed and said, ‘No, no, no: You forget things, I remember them.’"  

Sitting down one of the many Steampunk-themed coverages she has been working on all day, Julie closed a window to reduce the sound of whining puppies from their no-kill shelter next door. Their more than 25-acre property within the Shawnee National Forest in Murphysboro consists of a brown, one-story home, nearly three dozen dogs, eight cats, three horses, multiple chickens, several fish and two children. Julie’s daughter Madyson Cato, 9, and Alex’s daughter Ava Hecht, 4, have been playing in the woods together ever since the couple met at a drag-show benefit for AIDS in December 2012. Julie’s first daughter Taryn Peave, 14, lives with her father in St. Louis and visits occasionally.  

Don’t call it puppy love

LUKE NOZICKA
Daily Egyptian

Julie Baldwin, of Murphysboro, reacts Monday to being told the total number of dogs in her vehicle tops 15. Baldwin and her fiancé rescue animals and own a no-kill shelter. The couple’s love for animals is one of the many factors that brought them together.

Dunn takes office

SARAH NIEBRUGGE
Daily Egyptian

The SIU marching band announced Randy Dunn’s entrance as the media, administration and students welcomed him with loud applause and eager ears Thursday afternoon in the student services building.

Chancellor Rita Cheng introduced Dunn by welcoming him back to the university. Dunn previously worked at SIU as a professor in the college of education and human services beginning in 1995 and became department chair in 2000, before leaving to work with Rod Blygijnick.

"For some of you who may have followed the press in my leaving of (Youngstown State University) after eight months to come back home, it was fairly intense," Dunn said. "But when you talk to individuals, and they understand what you’re doing and why you’re doing it, it’s very hard to begrudge anyone returning home for their dream job.”  

Dunn said he is excited to be back in Carbondale and wants to focus on making student’s voices heard.

"I really do hope that I’m reflective of a solid leadership that’s characterized by a number of words: inclusive, collaborative, democratic,” he said. “One that tries to pull people in to get many voices to guide decision making.”  

The administration can better address campus issues by working together, Dunn said. He and the SIU Board of Trustees should be informed about important matters regarding each campus, he said.

Dunn said he wants to keep the university system operating efficiently and effectively.

"I use this old line, ‘the new normal is here’ and that’s in the little trope cause we hear it everywhere but you know the great old days aren’t coming back in public higher education,” he said. “We are going to have to figure out how to be more nimble, responsive, maneuver better, set clear priorities and make sure we’re streamlined in our operations.”  

Dunn said he is returning home for their dream job.”
“The position as president is not to dictate or micromanage over the campuses, but rather to add value and build on the goals for both campuses,” Dunn said. He said setting priorities as a system is vital.

“Research, technology is all part of that,” Dunn said. “But I’m not just talking about innovation in those fields, I’m talking social innovation, entrepreneurship, economic development, innovative thinking across all these domains that we can have an impact on as a university system.”

Dunn said improving the university in all aspects is vital.

“Research, technology is all part of that,” Dunn said. “But I’m not just talking about innovation in those fields, I’m talking social innovation, entrepreneurship, economic development, innovative thinking across all these domains that we can have an impact on as a university system.”

Dunn said improving the university in all aspects is significant because it serves as a model for other state universities.

“I have a firm belief that the best state universities in the country are those that are aligned, linked with their regions intricately, intimately and integrally,” he said. “And I’ll tell you what, there’s no place that holds that more so than SIU. And we are in the process of doing something very precisely, very intricately, very intimately, and integrally.”

“Students are busy at this time of their lives, they have school, they have work. If you don’t know about taxes, I think they’re going to learn pretty soon,” he said. “The best anyone can hope for is that the income tax increase doesn’t take place.”

Johnson said his book could be divided into four dimensions: honor, integrity, and service.

“Members receive quarterly emails about job opportunities in graduate school programs,” he said. “As a whole, Sigma Pi Sigma engages in many education-outreach programs across the countries, which can a membership can join. Aside from that, membership in this society is a prestigious accolade that can be placed on one’s curriculum vitae.”

Johnson said for example, students pay more in sales tax than they do in income tax. “Illinois has a relatively narrow sales tax base leading to high sales taxes, he said. “The Tax Payers’ Federation of Illinois believes in broad base low rate taxes,” Johnson said. “Students probably spend more of their consumption dollars on goods versus services and therefore the high tax rates hit more of their consumption than does the consumer that spends more of their consumption dollar on services.”

The main purpose of Johnson’s lecture is to inform students about the tax systems in Illinois and how they are affected.

“Imagine college students should make an effort to not only understand our tax structure but how it compares to tax structures in other states,” Johnson said. “Also, how do we compare and what do we need to do to be more competitive with other states in our overall tax burden?”

Johnson said that he wants those who have entered political life to take leadership in addressing these issues.

“I believe a broader tax base for both the income and the sales tax with lower rates would produce a fairer tax system than we currently have, and one that would be more responsive to economic growth,” he said.

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The lights rise as Albert Einstein and Pablo Picasso exchange ideas over drinks in a bar in Paris, the year is 1904.

This scene can only be found in "Picasso at the Lapin Agile," a comedy written by actor Steve Martin. Director Nich Radcliffe, a first-year master of fine arts student from Vinton, Iowa, studying directing, presented the drama for his thesis project Friday through Saturday.

"Martin describes [the play] as a lighthearted examination of the creative mind and those personalities and interactions," he said.

Radcliffe said the play is his own deconstruction of the original 67-page script, which is condensed into 29 pages.

"The focus of the story as I'm telling it is very specifically of Picasso's journey from his blue period to his rose period, which was Picasso's journey from his blue to his red period," Radcliffe said. "You're the same person, really. Or are you?" Radcliffe said. "What is it that caused that change in you forever that makes that creative evolution possible?"

Radcliffe cited his own inspiration for interpreting the play through an essay written by Friedrich Nietzsche, called "The Birth of Tragedy." This essay focuses on two Greek gods: Dionysus, who symbolizes wine and fertility, and Apollo, who symbolizes prophecy, truth and healing.

"He talks about man being defined by our own individual persona, what we decide we are," he said. "But that is even chosen based on Apollonian constructs. So what does it take to break that and evolve as man, and when I say man, I mean person, and have creative brilliance like Picasso or scientific brilliance like Einstein."

"That is the theory that I have developed in this veiled world where things are a little cloudy, but somehow they become more clear," he said. "Radcliffe said intoxicants could be thought of as the artist's muse. For some, the muse is alcohol, as it is be thought of as the artist's muse. For some, the muse is alcohol, as it is in the play, but could be everything from music to women.

"It's the way they talk to you, the way they look at you, the way they interact with you," said Radcliffe. "It's the way they challenge your ideas, it's the way they support your ideas and the way they challenge your ideas," Radcliffe said. "Like Picasso says, I can only do this now because of all the things I have felt before."

The actor portraying Einstein, Richie Lisenby, a first-year graduate student from Doshan, Ala., studying opera musical theater, said the experience was tedious, yet encouraging as an actor.

"A lot of the work was done in trying to get us not to do so much act, but just be these characters," Lisenby said. "[Radcliffe] told us every day to just get out of our heads."

Wes Ladd, a senior from Mayfield, Ky., studying philosophy, attended the performance and said it was an awesome show with great dialogue and acting.

"In contrasting Einstein, who was very reasoned, and Picasso, who was all passion, it was really cool for them to play off each other in the way that they did," Ladd said.

"It's the way they talk to you, the way they look at you, the way they interact with you," said Radcliffe. "It's the way they challenge your ideas."

The actor portraying Picasso, Ladd said. "We talk about intoxicants and creating through intoxicants, or muses, is what guided me through my cutting down to the story we tell."

"I find the topic of artistic inspiration to be fascinating. When you hit the extra gear that really creative people have, it's sort of inexplicable."

— Nich Radcliffe

Director

"I find the topic of artistic inspiration to be fascinating. When you hit the extra gear that really creative people have, it's sort of inexplicable." — Nich Radcliffe

Director
When Sony Pictures announced it would reboot the "Spider-Man" franchise just a few years after "Spider-Man 3," the move reeked of desperation. And desperate it was. Sony wanted to hold on to the rights lest they revert to Marvel. Thush the muddled, messy "The Amazing Spider-Man" was born.

Its first sequel, the aptly titled "The Amazing Spider-Man 2" (Rated PG-13; 142 Min.) is still quite flawed but doesn't have the same rip-off feel the first movie had.

The movie focuses on franchise-building this time as Peter Parker/Spider-Man (Andrew Garfield) tries to keep his distance from Gwen Stacy (Emma Stone) after he promised her father he'd leave her out of his superhero business. That gets tricky as he deals with a cavalcade of new villains including the poorly-motivated Electro (Jamie Foxx) and the not-so-menacing Green Goblin, a persona taken on by Harry Osborn (Dane DeHaan) instead of his father Norman, who, in the comics canon, becomes the Goblin first.

"Spider 2" takes some pretty big liberties with the source material in pursuit of an "Avengers"-style franchise. Because the studio has already announced four more movies in the franchise, director Marc Webb sets up as many subplots as possible before he runs as fast as he can from this bubble waiting to burst.

Sometimes the movie works, other times it doesn't, representative of the film's flippant emotional issues and not a good sign of confidence for a wannabe franchise.

The film's first scene sets this tone. The producers have the gall to slap Sony product placement all over a sequence where a couple of important characters meet their ends.

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‘Spider-Man’ not ‘Amazing,’ but Sony shows improvement

KARSTEN BURGSTAHLER
Daily Egyptian

When Sony Pictures announced it would reboot the "Spider-Man" franchise just a few years after "Spider-Man 3," the move reeked of desperation. And desperate it was. Sony wanted to hold on to the rights lest they revert to Marvel.

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These total inconsistencies were a hallmark of the reboot, and coming from rom-coms like "500 Days of Summer," Webb hasn't mastered how to move from romance to action. A sequence of Gwen and Peter making up is intercut with Jamie Foxx discovering his powers as Electro. Suffice to say "Spider 2" won't be in the running for Best Editing next year.

But because Webb isn't burdened with a hero origin story, the movie makes a notable departure from Sam Raimi's trilogy; and that's why the new mythology works. Even when the backstory gets sketchy — which, with so many villains and scientific explanations meant to decipher critical plot points, it inevitably does — there's more of an effort to serialize the proceedings than there was in Raimi's films. In a culture where Disney's Marvel movies are all connected, Sony has to do something to keep Spider-Man relevant.

So rather than reheating leftovers and calling them dinner, Sony allows the audience to have a few genuine revelations. Garfield and Stone in particular don't feel as restricted this time around, allowing their relationship and chemistry to flourish. The first film's muddy visuals and brooding "Dark Knight" aspirations have mostly vacated the premises — it's a lighter spin, at least until the overdramatic climax and awkward run-on ending. One good thing about the operatic final half-hour, though: DeHaan's performance between going nuts and becoming the Green Goblin. DeHaan has some fun with the character before he's shoehorned into a battle, reminiscent of how Raimi underserved Venom in "Spider-Man 3."

Serious franchise fans may not take kindly to Webb's changes, but they're interesting to say the least. There's a spark of inspiration that wasn't present in the first film, a desire to be a fun superhero movie rather than a hip superhero movie.

When "Spider 2" takes itself a bit less seriously, it works as summer bombast. But its constant tug to be more than just a movie, to carry the burden of a series scheduled all the way through 2018, holds it back in all the wrong places.

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Student media still necessary

KAYLI PLOTNER
Daily Egyptian

Campus towns around the country are known for their diverse and active student populations that bring various cultures together.

For state schools especially — operating on the taxpayer’s dime — the university becomes the heart of the community, providing jobs, education and pride for the region. With that array of culture, comes news.

As students, we sometimes aren’t taken seriously in the eyes of our superior. However, as student journalists, it is our mission to shatter this preconception and prove the ability to report the news is based on accuracy and experience, not age.

In an April 13 article in the New York Times, Jennifer Conlin declared student newspapers have become the most valuable source of news in college communities.

According to the article, there are roughly 1,800 American college and university newspapers, while there are only 1,380 daily newspapers left in circulation in the United States. The article also cites student newspapers’ ability to break news with investigative journalism.

When the University of Michigan football team recently became involved in controversy, it was the student newspaper that broke the story, not the local paper.

There is something to be said for students’ ability to uncover information on a college campus.

A breaking news story came out of SIU’s DAILY EGYPTIAN this year. The search for the new university president had suddenly come to a screeching halt, and rumors were flying about who it was going to be.

Nearly eight hours after digging up many aspects of Randy Dunn’s life, the DE published the story online on a Saturday night.

The next Monday, the Board of Trustees announced Dunn as SIU’s next system president. I have many memories as editor-in-chief of the DE, but that day will stand out forever.

It wasn’t the local paper that broke the story. It wasn’t the university’s PR firm. It was the students who got the information, backed it up with facts and shared it with the world.

Despite administrative attempts at a top-down, tight-lipped communication model, we as student journalists have direct access to sources that local reporters don’t: our fellow students.

The DAILY EGYPTIAN also came under fire for a sports story and opinion piece that followed. The stories criticized basketball coach Barry Hinson for removing two players from the team by “advising them to transfer” in order to free up scholarship space to bring on his hand-picked freshmen.

What all those angry commenters on the website didn’t know is that the entire DE editorial board published an editorial months earlier backing coach Hinson after his nationally publicized rant at Murray State.

We believed what the university wanted us to believe, that he was what SIU needed, and what we stood for.

But what people see outside of the locker room isn’t always how things work on the inside. Student athletes are students first, and athletes second. Despite the thousands of dollars that their hard work and dedication bring to the university, their coaches and staff members don’t want them to have a voice, unless it is pre-approved.

I got plenty of angry calls and emails that day, calling for the firing of that reporter for bringing the university into a bad light.

However, the truth of the matter is, I would have fired him had he not written it. We are not in the business to keep the university in a good light. We’re in the business of telling the truth.

Unfortunately for Hinson, or any other horridly headlined public figure, the DE answers to one principle, and one principle only: the First Amendment.

In writing the basketball story, the reporter talked to the players, who had a right to tell their story. They had a right to tell the world that they didn’t initially want to leave the team. One player even asked Hinson to his face, What do I have to do to stay on the team? Tell me what I need to work on.

But the decision already had been made, and his “family” of a team was being picked apart, piece by piece.

Yes, transfers happen all the time in college basketball. But the frequency of a bad practice doesn’t make it a good one. The students had something to say, and the student newspaper was the only place willing to listen.

Whether it’s sports, or politics, or environmental issues, a college campus thrives because of its students, and those students have an invaluable voice.

While journalism is an evolving field, it is far from dead. Student journalism is essential to the success of a college campus. Students are the core of a university; without us, the faculty, administration, coaches and buildings themselves would be entirely useless.

The DAILY EGYPTIAN has been the voice of the SIU student body for nearly 100 years, and it needs to stay that way.

Kayli Plotner can be reached at kplotner@dailyegyptian.com, on Twitter @KayPlot or by phone at 536-3311 ext. 257.
Alex has not yet received a new driver’s license since his legal name change officially went through April 21. His birth name, Amy, is still displayed on his license, along with an image of him years ago with long, blonde hair.

"Being carded in bars where you don’t know anybody—that’s really interesting," he said. "That’s probably the most discomfort I’ve ever felt."

Alex said everyone has an awkward stage while transitioning, and his was figuring out which bathroom to use.

"I didn’t let any facial hair grow until it was noticeable, so I just kept it shaved and just stuck to using the ladies room," he said. "Now it’s a little more awkward so I don’t do that."

Some hormone replacement treatments can come with negative side effects, and some clinics do not offer heavy counseling. Alex said he knows people whose transition experiences have not been as smooth as his.

"I know a lot of people that are going through it who have some emotional side effects from it, so I always preach counseling," he said.

"They go back and forth a lot like, ‘Do I want to keep doing this? Do I want to stop? You have to talk about it.’ Julia said Alex’s voice had drastically changed.

"Our work phone has his previous voice on it before any hormone therapy, and I never noticed his voice change, although his now-lower voice may help while shushing their many adopted, barking puppies.

As the two drove roughly 45 minutes to the Humane Society, they shared a kiss at 12:34 p.m., like they do every day, twice a day. A guard dog greeted them when they pulled into the driveway, before the animals were fed, bathed and photographed at the couple’s shelter, just several feet from their home. Their animals are displayed for adoption on their website, www.dogsfrommars.net.

"Every other weekend, the two drive to Buffalo Grove to hold events in a hope to find homes for the animals."

Julie Baldwin and Alex Socorro, of Murphysboro, pick up a litter of puppies from the Humane Society of Southeast Missouri. Alex has been rescuing animals since 2009, while Julie began when they met in December 2012. The two hold events in a hope to find homes for the animals. The two charge a $300 adoption fee for dogs and $35 for cats, along with any expenses from additional care such as medical, grooming and transportation. Adoptees receive a microchip and a month of pet insurance.

"Normal people have a nice water bill that’s not too bad for a family..."
of four, which is what we are, but then you have to consider the horses, our dogs, shelter dogs, the cats," she said. "I couldn't even tell you how many gallons of water we use a month."

Alex said while the job is not a glamorous one, it is rewarding and allows him and Julie to spend every waking moment together. He said because they're always together, they know each other like the back of their hands, literally.

Julie has a keyhole tattoo on her wrist with roman numerals of the day Alex asked her to marry him. Alex, who has the key tattooed on his arm, has been tattooing since 2004 and has done all of his own body art, along with three of Julie's tattoos.

Alex said their key and keyhole tattoos resemble their relationship. "You know that honeymoon period that everybody goes through and it's exciting, like, 'Oh my god I can't wait to see that person,' sitting, waiting for them to get off work, hoping they'll call you," he said. "Yeah, that just never ended."

On weekends off from rescuing animals, Alex and Julie perform drag shows as Riley James and Faim Lee Jewls.

As locals, regulars and performers, the two often go to Two 13, also known as Club Trax, in Carbondale. Their next show is Friday. The two also travel to St. Louis, Cape Girardeau, Mo. and Paducah, Ky., to perform.

Julie, who has been in and out of drag for nine years, said she enjoys performing because it is natural. She took the stage for the first time in Carbondale.

"I had a friend of mine [who] said, 'Oh I'm getting ready to do a drag show and the song I want to do has a male part and I don't know anybody that does drag king,' and I jokingly said, 'Oh, you know I'll do it,'" she said. "Of course I toyed with the idea for a couple days and I called him back and was like, 'You know what? I will. This could be fun.'"

Bringing the first drag show to Harrisburg, Julie said her favorite part about putting on shows is seeing a community of good people converge.

"I think it really helped opened people's eyes to the gay community," she said. "It wasn't just entertainment; it was entertainment, bringing friends together; getting people together who didn't feel like they belonged at the locals bars because 'Oh well, I'm gay, and I don't belong here.'"

Alex said getting ready for shows can take multiple hours, and drag kings usually don't get the acknowledgement they deserve.

"I'm not sure why but a lot of people when a drag queen is in makeup and wearing a wig, that they call that person her or she," he said. "However, when a female is in drag and dresses in male wearing applied facial hair and dress the part, they still say she."

While there are people out there with varied marital opinions, Julie said she hopes they will expand their views.

"When I was a kid, I could remember being with my grandmother or something and other people would say things like, 'Don't talk to that person; they're gay,'" she said. "Hopefully someday a lot more people will accept it than shun it."

Julie said it was difficult when previous relationships did not accept "the drag life," and being engaged to another performer is like killing two birds with one stone.

She said her family, Alex's adopted family and his birth parents all greatly support their marriage and are eager to see Alex in his top hat and tails at the wedding.

**CALL IT LOVE**

Jennifer Gonzalez

ike Nozicka
The club’s improvement came from the treasurer of the club and said information systems technology, is from Elk Grove Village studying members, Bennett said.

Culture Show, held Feb. 14. It also full display during the International award. e “art” of the club was on Th was a factor in them winning the during International Culture Week escrima clubs on campus.

president of the shinkendo and Kali Club Executive Board and is well can help them better understand the knowledge of all the martial arts and "art and advertise the club."

Bennett said the club’s participation during International Culture Week was a factor in them winning the award. The “art” of the club was on full display during the International Culture Show, held Feb. 14. It also served as a good way to recruit more members, Bennett said.

Peter Schorsch, a sophomore from Elk Grove Village studying information systems technology, is the treasurer of the club and said the club’s improvement came from internal changes.

"We elected new officers and we tried communicating more effectively," Schorsch said. "Then there was communication between our members and it helped get practice times and organize plans for the club."

Bennett said the club had more internal issues it had to deal with besides organizing meetings. Part of the officer overhaul occurred because of some tension between club members. With two leaders with different philosophies, the club needed a change.

Bennett said one student, club president Brigitte Bentulan, ignited the improvement.

They had some interclub turmoil," Bennett said. "We had a student that said, ‘No, either you’re no longer going to be a part of this club or you’re going to follow the right way to do it.’ Brigette stood up for him. She made it a point; she stood up for the art of kendo more than anything."

Bentulan, a sophomore studying biological sciences, has been in the club for a year and a half and has been president for a year. She said the changes were tough to make but she credits her officers within the club as well as the committed members for the improvement.

"We had to lay down the expectations and structure, which allowed the members to work hard and achieve their goals (of sparring with each other),” Bentulan said. "I would like to give a shout out to the current members who have shown improvement in skill, teamwork, and leadership."

The kendo club, which has grown to eight members, is still looking for new members, Schorsch said. "Since our current members have been doing it longer, they’ll be able to rank up quickly," Schorsch said. "Our new members will have to practice for a while before they can rank."

The table tennis club was recognized for winning Club of the Year. Table tennis set a club record when it sent three students to the National Collegiate Table Tennis Association National Championships this year.

The club baseball team was awarded with the Event of the Year for its Slagfest Tournament, which featured 18 teams from seven states. There were two Officer of the Year winners announced: senior Dave Rebott and junior Kelsey Bourland.

Rebott, the president of the paintball club, has been trying to secure the club an on-campus practice site, a feat Bentulan said would improve the club’s activity on campus.

Bourland, co-founder and president of the quidditch club, led her club to finals and out of five at a tournament at Illinois State University. She was also recognized for getting the quidditch club to compete competitively and increasing awareness about the sport.

Bennett said cases like Bourland’s or Bentulan’s are what make sport clubs great. He said being an officer of a sport club or part of the executive board adds a lot to the college experience.

“Sport clubs give students the opportunity to lead, to grow and to become ambassadors for our university,” Bennett said. "It looks great on résumés. It really is extraordinary students doing extraordinary things."

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SIU softball played in its final weekend series of the year: a series that had major postseason implications for both teams.

Indiana State University took the series win two games to one, spurred on by strong Sycamore pitching and lackluster performances from the Saluki hitters.

In the first game Saturday, Indiana State outplayed the Dawgs in a 4-3 victory. Sycamore first baseman Megan Stone started the scoring in the top of the first inning with a three-run homerun. The Salukis answered back with a run of their own in the bottom of the frame to make the score 3-1.

During the bottom of the fifth inning, SIU scored twice when sophomore shortstop Kelsey Gonzalez doubled to score two Salukis and tied the game at three apiece.

Coach Kerri Blaylock moved freshman Merri Anne Patterson to left field in the sixth and inserted junior Meredith Wilson in right field. Patterson and Wilson each had errors in the inning, which allowed Indiana State to score the winning run, leaving the score 4-3.

The Salukis' bats came to life to lead them to a 6-2 win in game two. Senior pitcher Taylor Orsburn led the team on offense and in the circle in the series' second game.

Orsburn started for the Salukis and continued to be dominant in her new role as starting pitcher. She pitched all seven innings allowing two runs on seven hits to lower her conference leading ERA to 2.27. Orsburn also scored SIU's first three runs of the game with a three-run homerun in the bottom of the second inning.

In the bottom of the fifth inning, senior Jayna Spivey hit a two-run homerun to give SIU a 5-2 lead. The Salukis won the game 6-2 to give SIU a win on senior day, and a first round bye in next weekend's Missouri Valley Conference tournament. The Salukis only managed two hits in a 3-0 loss in Sunday's game.

Indiana State's series win over the Dawgs was the first one since 1986. The Sycamores' record of 27-26 is the team's first winning record in 22 years.

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Senior catcher Matt Jones runs to first base Friday during SIU’s 4-2 loss against the University of Evansville. Jones hit three doubles in the weekend series and has hits in nine of the last 10 games. The Salukis open a weekend series against Mississippi Valley State University Friday at Itchy Jones Stadium.

AARON GRAFF
Daily Egyptian

The Saluki baseball team has lost all of its six conference series this season, and has eight one-run losses.

The Salukis (22-26, 4-14) hosted the Missouri Valley Conference-leading University of Evansville (30-16, 11-4) for their final home conference series of the season. The Purple Aces won the series two games to one. On Friday, junior pitcher Sam Coonrod made his 12th start, and had his toughest matchup of the season.

Evansville’s junior pitcher Kyle Freeland leads the MVC in wins, strikeouts and has the third-best ERA. He is projected to be a first-round draft pick this year and SIU head coach Ken Henderson said he is one of the best pitchers in the nation.

“He’s a very good pitcher,” Coonrod said after Friday’s game. “I was going to have to be good. To give us a chance to win, I was either going to have to allow no or one runs.”

Coonrod recorded five strikeouts in 6.1 innings and departed with a 1-0 lead and two runners left on base. Freshman pitcher Kyle Pauly came in and allowed the Purple Aces to tie the game 1-1, which gave Coonrod his sixth no-decision of the year.

“I never want to come out, ever,” Coonrod said. “I think it was the right move, but I never want to come out.”

Evansville took a 2-1 lead in the eighth. SIU was down to its last out in the ninth, but senior Jake Welch hit an RBI single to send the game to extra innings.

Please visit www.dailyegyptian.com for the rest of the story.

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