Local instructor improves deaf community

SHERI COOK
VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION ADVISOR
When Sheri Cook left her family's home to attend college, she was excited about the opportunity to learn more about the world. She dreamed of becoming a teacher and helping others achieve their goals.

“Jim was culture shock,” said Cook, a deaf professor. “I wanted to understand the culture, the language, and the people.”

At John A. Logan College, Cook realized her dreams of improving the deaf community. She started the first deaf studies program in the United States, which has since expanded across the country. Today, she is known as one of the leading authorities on the deaf community.

Sheri Cook is one of the leading authorities on the deaf community. She is known for her work in improving the lives of deaf individuals.

“People talk to me about how they feel about being deaf,” said Cook. “They tell me that they feel like they are part of a community.”

Furlough rules and policies unclear, depend on representation

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University must look at individual contracts

University officials have said that the furlough process would not affect professors. However, this has not been the case for some.

“University officials have said that the furlough process would not affect professors. However, this has not been the case for some,” said the university spokesperson.

Furlough rules and policies are unclear, and depend on representation.

This is a complex issue, and it is important to look at individual contracts to understand the impact of the furlough process on employees.
DEAF

CONTINUED FROM 1

"It hit really hard on the other people that I worked with, and I didn’t like that feeling," Cook said.

The 1987 graduate by deaf students who were correct, the president of Guadalupe University, an all-deaf college in Washington, would be hearing also affected Cook, he added.

"I was shocked to see that there were deaf people on TV and they got what they wanted," said Cook, who was a freshman in college at the time.

Cook said he has been helped greatly by doctors and speech therapists that he is met by the ADA.

In addition to sorting families who have deaf children, Cook also serves as the president of the Land of the Deaf, an early group dedicated to supporting the local deaf community through direct

and volunteer efforts.

Many deaf people in southern Illinois don’t know their own rights, Cook said. Some deaf people think if a store won’t pay for an interpreter, they might as well not use them and get what they can.

Bruce Jen, who is also deaf, serves as the treasurer for LEAD and said part of the group’s purpose is to better facilitate a conversation between deaf and hearing people.

"Hearing people often fear

and scared when trying to communicate with a deaf person, he said.

Written communication is often a good method, but not all deaf people know how to write, as they may be writing in ASL, and that would confuse an English speaker, Jen said.

"One goal Jen has for LEAD is to help more deaf people in southern Illinois obtain a video phone system. The web-based Internet

communication system, where deaf people can communicate with each other and hearing people with the existence of a separate channel in ASL, is free but still requires high-speed Internet access, Cook said.

"Many deaf people don’t have VP because they don’t have high-speed Internet access," Jen said. "Will like to make VP public. Like other phone services.

Cook said that while technology such as closed captioning and videophone has greatly improved accessibility for the deaf, there are some obstacles. Internet videos still aren’t captioned, for example, she said.

"There is no reason to not have full accessibility for deaf people," Cook said.

FURLOUGH

CONTINUED FROM 1

According to the State Journal-Register, ASCME Council 31 cited budget cuts that began in January, after Gov. Pat Quinn proposed laying off all 2,500 workers that the state to help bridge the budget, which was set to begin Sep. 30. According to the Journal-Register, Quinn has appealed the ruling to the

Fifth District Appellate Court on the grounds that he believed it was necessary and legally sound.

"Quinn said the university would not be a factor in deciding the appeal before being able to implement or even consider any furloughs," the Register wrote.

"If the judge agrees, there’s no off the hook, Quinn said."

Goldman said sacrifices were made and public safety services for ASCME Council 31, said that

not the case. The legal proceedings, Lindell said, are specific to state employees only and would not affect the university.

"I don’t think that the decision made by the court is likely to be the last word in this situation," Lindell said. "It’s a separate case govern- ing university employees versus state employees.

Lindell said furloughs also must be expanded with unions before implementation.

Calendar

November-December 2009

DEC. 6
The Real Me Holiday Pet Grooming

DEC. 9
Pet of the Week:

Dylan

9351 Old Highway 13
Murphysboro, IL 62966

618.687.1766

Mon-Fri: 8am-5pm
Sat: 9am-12pm
Appointments Required

Free First Exam
with an Adoption from
Humane Society of Southern Illinois

www.humanesocietysoil.org

Please call the Humane Society at
618-687-1766 for more information about adoption.

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Gaia House offers meals, meetings, messages

Erin Holcomb
DAILY EGYPTIAN

Center continues community support

At the Gaia House Interfaith Center, people can do dishes, get a friendly smile, and make friends. The center hosts its annual Vegetarian Thanksgiving dinner Nov. 19, opening its doors to everyone once again.

The Gaia House has served dinners, hosted various group meetings, and allowed anyone to use the space it has offered for more than 60 years. There are no requirements to become a part of it. The building located on the corner of Grand Avenue and South Illinois Avenue, Grey said. Quiets students or readings need only a friendly attitude and a yearning for a tranquil place to visit, she said.

And you don’t have to be religious,” Grey said. “There are a lot of people who come here who are and aren’t religious.

The center hosted its first Gaia Café Monday. Anyone could come in and take advantage of the center’s free Wi-Fi, the take-out coffee or tea and its quiet atmosphere. The Gaia Café is held from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. weekdays.

Matt Coleman, a member of the organization, said Grey’s girl friend, was not the only reason he got involved with the Gaia House. He said he is a strong supporter of sustainability, a concept the center also supports.

“Not just the idea of sustainability in ecology, but how we support people and programs here,” Coleman said. “It’s really great to get involved.”

The community support that the center receives means just as much as the support it gives to the people that frequent the house, he said.

“It does a lot of good for a lot of people, including ourselves,” Coleman said.

Gavin Betzberger, a member, said he was intrigued by the center because he is a strong supporter of sustainable energy. He said he has a lot of friends and finds it a niche.

“You go to a lot of different places and this was a good place that had a lot of things to it,” Betzberger said. “It’s a safe place, I feel warm.”

He said he’s a strong advocate for the center because of the many events it hosts, such as Tal Ch, various games and book readings, which are held by many different groups in the Carbondale community.

“I like to say that it’s a bunch of awkward people getting together and making it not awkward,” Betzberger said.

To learn more about the Gaia House Interfaith Center and view future events, go to http://ourgaiahouse.com.
Musician rides Amtrak rails for charity

Travis Brown
DAILY EGYPTIAN

From Chicago to Memphis, one man is raising money for charity with his guitar and a train ticket.

David Kay, a musician from Chicago, said he boarded the Amtrak in Chicago on Tuesday and began his "Writing the Rails" tour. He will be performing in various cities in Illinois on route to his final destination in Memphis, Tenn., he said.

Kay said he is raising money through his shows and all profits would go toward the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. He said he hopes the tour will be the first of many and he will be able to raise money for other charities.

"Every town we go to, I'm helping out a charity," Kay said. "What appeal do I have? St. Jude was in pediatric care. Anything about children has always tugged on my heartstrings."

Leah Jones, owner of Naite Arts and Media, said Kay is one of her clients. She said when she first met with Kay she had a spontaneous brainstorming session with him and suggested the tour.

"We were saying, and I said, 'You know, I see you and your guitar on stage. Jones said Kay thought about it and decided to start planning the tour over the summer. She said Amtrak does not sponsor the event, but the tour may encourage Amtrak to sponsor future tours. New artists would be used for other tours in order to reach out to more charities, she said.

Thomas Carter, a Chicago native who runs Naite Productions, a recording the events with photos and video for the event's website.

"We have a special event that we want to do," Carter said. "Carter said Amtrak has been very supportive of the event. She said she felt pressure to do the job well and the event can be prepared for a different charity.

Kay said the tour kicked off at a Messiah concert and will continue to tours across the country. Kay said he hopes the experience will show him how to make more human connections.

"It's looking to get something I didn't expect. And so far, that's what I'm getting," Kay said. "I hope people will want to come to my concerts and enjoy my music."
**VOLLEYBALL**

**CONTINUED FROM 8**

"I'll be an outstanding all-around player," Winkler said. "She has the ability to be a player that can play all six positions for us and we are happy to sign a player of her caliber and we hope to add the Saluki volleyball family."

Whitewald, a senior at Monticello High School, led the team to an 11-32 record in her four years. She had 1,156 kills and 485 block points with the Red Devils, which is the fifth most in Illinois history.

"With her skills and jumping ability, we look for her to make an immediate impact on our program," Winkler said.

Less, a senior at St. Tammany High School, was part of a 34-3 record for her regional championship team this season. She holds the school record for blocks in a season with 400.

"Bill our biggest opponents last year 341 to 233, and the program looks to continue that trend.

"I want to see what we do next year and how much better we can be."

— Lauren Blumhont, senior libero

Winkler said Less would be a great addition to the team because she is well-rounded and her experience would be an asset to the team going forward.

"I can't wait to see what next year and how much better we can be," Blumhont said.

**TRACK & FIELD**

**Track preps for indoor season opener**

Ray McGillis
DAISY EGYPTIAN
AM09111016

As the weather cools down, the SIU men's and women's track teams hope to start their annual Saluki Fall Star Invitational. The men's and women's track teams will open its indoor season at 11:30 a.m. Friday at the Recreation Center.

Last year, the men had the indoor Missouri Valley Conference Championship slip from their fingers on the last day of the meet, falling from first to third, while the women capped a dominant season with a conference championship. The expectations for both teams are high, head coach Connie Price-Smith said. "We lost one point from last year, and the program looks to continue that trend.

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**Eye on the Enemy**

**Tribe prepared to stop the run**

By Ryan Voyles

When William & Mary takes the field Saturday, it will look to do the one thing it has had no problem with this season: stop the run.

Stopping the run was the key to the Tribe’s 11-2 win over Southern Methodist last week. The Mustangs were held to 102 rushing yards in the game and had just 104 total yards of offense.

The Tribe defense, led by senior linebacker Ryan Lynch, has been dominant so far this season. Lynch leads the nation in tackles for loss with 17.5 and has two sacks on the season.

“We have a real talent on our team, with their schemes (at SMU) and the running back, Lynch said. “We have to keep the film on him, and that’s an improving running attack. We’ll have to play the top of our abilities.”

The Tribe defense is allowing 118.8 yards per game and has held opponents to under 100 yards per game in four of their six games.

**Volleyball**

Salukis add three recruits to volleyball squad

By Derek Robbins

The Saluki volleyball team concluded its season in January with a 6-5 record and has high hopes for the future.

The Salukis, led by head coach Laura Blumberg, will have three new additions to their roster for the upcoming season.

**Saluki Sports Network**

**Saluki Student-Athlete of the Week**

Senior volleyball player Emily Leen has been named the Saluki Student-Athlete of the Week.

Leen has been a consistent performer for the Salukis and has helped lead the team to a 9-7 overall record.

**Saluki Volleyball Club**

The Saluki Volleyball Club will host its annual fundraiser on Saturday, April 14, at 7 p.m. at the Saluki Student Center.

The fundraiser will feature a silent auction, live auction, and dinner.

**Saluki Football Club**

The Saluki Football Club will host its annual dinner on Saturday, April 14, at 7 p.m. at the Saluki Student Center.

The dinner will feature a silent auction, live auction, and dinner.

For more information, contact the Saluki Sports Network at salukisportsnetwork@gmail.com.