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Youth LEGO camps engage, educate

STEPHANIE DANNER
Daily Egyptian

Educational summer camps at Southern Illinois University are bringing kids together to use building blocks outside of playtime.

The engineering and robotics LEGO camps, organized by architecture professor Jon Davey, teach children how to make various objects and control them with computer programs and pulleys. The camps are not only good for having fun, but also are geared for learning and discovering, Davey said. The camp is for students in first through fifth grade and aims to help them explore and interact with world around them.

Davey said he started the program five years ago as something fun and educational for children to do during the summer. He said it's a great way for children to find something they are good at and expand upon it intellectually.

Some children's talents get overlooked at school because they aren't mainstream like reading, writing and arithmetic, Davey said. He said some of these children are talented at problem solving and fixing things instead.

"There are some kids that are bright as whips when it comes to putting stuff together," he said.

Playing with LEGOs helps children learn important principles of problem solving and the camps give children the opportunity to discover their gifts, he said.

Any child can attend the camp without any previous experience or skills. Classes start at a beginner level with students entering first and second grade where they learn basic LEGO parts and construction of pulleys, gears, and motorized vehicles. The next is an advanced course for students entering third through fifth grade where they learn to make a motorized go-cart, airplane, windmill and mobile crane. In the LEGO robotics camp, they even learn to use educational WeDo hardware and software, which is used to



TIFFANY BLANCHETTE | DAILY EGYPTIAN

LEGO camp participants Zach Sanders, right and Asher Yuill, build a musical robot Monday during the LEGO WeDo Robotics camp, an engineering summer camp for kids, at Quigley Hall. The afternoon camp introduces students to the basics of building a robot using the LEGO Education WeDo hardware and software. LEGO camp instructor Nick Lach said many students in the robotics camp also attend the morning session of Beginning LEGO Engineering, which introduces students to the function of various structures such as catapults, pulleys, conveyors, gears and motors.

program their constructed robots.

"They are doing more than putting a kit together," he said. "They are using mechanics and doing scientific things with gears, motorized parts and robotic stuff."

Davey said these camps help students begin to look more critically at the world around them by having them learn about complex pieces such as pulleys and levers.

"I think that it is critically important that

all young people have an understanding of the built environment around them," he said. "I believe that most people are visually illiterate."

Please see LEGO | 3

Subsidized student loan interest rate doubles

TREY BRAUNECKER
Daily Egyptian

On top of rent, utilities, car insurance and a multitude of other payments, college students now have another bill to worry about as of this summer.

Congress failed to reach a deal to avoid an interest rate hike that would increase the interest on federal subsidized student loans from 3.4 percent to 6.8 percent. Chancellor Rita Cheng said this increase is another burden on students who are already struggling to pay college debts. She said because the interest rates have doubled, students are expected to pay nearly \$2,000 extra for new loans.

Cheng said the interest increase of the subsidized Stafford loans could affect enrollment at the university because of the extra cost students will have to pay for tuition.

"Subsidized student loans are one of the most easily accessible loans students have access to," she said. "I am certain students out there are willing to pay

more for a college education, but I would not be surprised if students waited a year or two before they came to college, or decide to wait on enrolling in college because of the monetary burden."

She said since subsidized Stafford loan interest rates have doubled, students might want to try seeking alternatives for paying tuition.

University spokesman Rod Sievers said the university has some options to fund tuition, such as scholarships and grants.

"There are all kinds of financial aid options available to students that are not just restricted to the Stafford loans," he said. "Options like the Monetary Award Programs Grant, Pell Grants or any of the scholarships offered by the university is money students regularly rely on to help pay for college."

Alternative options aside, many students are angered by the additional costs they have to pay for an already expensive education.

Please see LOAN | 3

Fracking bill fallout affects Illinois

MATT DARAY
Daily Egyptian

A bill on hydraulic fracturing has impacted various groups for and against the process in Illinois.

The bill, which requires companies to adhere to strict regulations in order to use fracking in Illinois, was passed June 17 by Governor Pat Quinn. Now, almost one month after the legislation was passed, groups are dealing with the fallout of the bill. While pro-fracking groups and companies prepare to use fracking in the state, some anti-fracking groups are still fighting against its use almost every day.

"It's about jobs, and it's about ensuring that our natural resources are protected for future generations," Quinn said after signing the bill. "I applaud the many environmental advocates and representatives from government, labor and industry who worked with us to make Illinois a national model for transparency, environmental safety

and economic development."

Hydraulic fracturing, also referred to as 'fracking', is a process of drilling and injecting fluid of various chemicals into the ground at a high pressure to fracture shale rocks and release natural gas and oil stored inside, according to the pro-environment group Earthworks.

Jim Watson, executive director of the Illinois Petroleum Council, said while the bill has already passed, it will be awhile before any fracking happens in Illinois.

"It's affected the state by giving a sense of stability so people understand the ground rules and so they can begin preparing their plans for (fracking activities) coming into the state," he said. "But the state has a lot of work to do before they're really ready to start issuing permits. They're not going to rush into this thing."

Watson said the government allows for states to regulate how they want to handle fracking

and Illinois handled the issue by putting the strictest regulations on using hydraulic fracturing in the nation.

According to the Environmental Law and Policy Center, companies must meet strict requirements such as taking multiple steps to prevent water pollution, having a high level of transparency to the public by disclosing information like the contents of the chemicals in the fracking fluid and ensuring little to no air pollution can be produced from the process.

Watson said while it is unclear how fracking will affect the state at this time, he thinks it will have a positive impact on Illinois' economy. He said fracking will create economic growth and development in the state by creating private sector jobs.

While some anti-fracking concerns were addressed in the bill, some groups are still opposed to fracking in the state.

Please see FRACKING | 4

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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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Couples seek ruling in Illinois gay marriage case

TAMMY WEBBER
Associated Press

CHICAGO — Twenty-five couples who filed a lawsuit challenging Illinois' ban on gay marriage asked a judge on Wednesday to rule quickly in their favor, saying a recent U.S. Supreme Court decision striking down part of a law denying federal benefits to married gay couples creates a new urgency in the state.

Illinois legalized civil unions two years ago, but the recent Supreme Court decision applies only to married gay couples.

Lambda Legal and the American Civil Liberties Union of Illinois filed a motion for summary judgment in Cook County Circuit Court. They said Judge Sophia Hall could rule on the motion as soon as Aug. 6, when oral arguments are scheduled on a defense motion to dismiss the lawsuit.

"We will say that we should win as a matter of law" under the state constitution, said Camilla Taylor, Lambda Legal's marriage project director. "Illinois now is the only thing standing between these families and

numerous federal rights."

A lawyer representing five downstate county clerks — who are defending the ban after the state attorney general and Cook County prosecutor refused to do so — said the request is premature because all the evidence has not yet been presented. He also complained that the plaintiffs took nine months to respond to the motion to dismiss the case.

"For them to come in (now) ... has me wondering if they're particularly confident of their legal position as a matter of law," said Peter Breen, executive director of the Thomas More Society, a public interest law firm that opposes gay marriage.

Wednesday's motion comes a day after civil rights lawyers in Pennsylvania filed a lawsuit in federal court seeking to overturn that state's 17-year-old ban on same-sex marriage and to force the state to recognize the marriages of same-sex couples who wed in other jurisdictions.

Same-sex marriage is legal, or soon will be, in 13 states. Federal courts in California are so far the only ones that have said a state same-sex marriage ban violates the U.S.

Constitution. Meanwhile, federal court challenges are emerging in other states, including Nevada, Hawaii and Michigan. In the coming days and weeks, the ACLU plans to lodge same-sex marriage challenges in North Carolina and Virginia.

It also is pursuing same-sex marriage legislation in several other states and referenda in Oregon and Nevada in the coming years, ACLU lawyers said.

Illinois' lawsuit was filed last year against Cook County Clerk David Orr, a supporter of gay marriage whose office is responsible for issuing marriage licenses in Chicago and the rest of the county. All plaintiffs had applied for and been denied marriage licenses in Cook County.

But in an unusual move, Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan and Cook County State's Attorney Anita Alvarez declined to defend the state's 17-year-old ban, which defines marriage as between a man and a woman, saying it violates the state constitution's equal protection clause. The downstate clerks later were granted permission to intervene.

Alvarez said it was her job to represent Orr, and they both agreed with the plaintiffs. Madigan said she would file arguments in support of the plaintiffs.

John Knight, director of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Project of the ACLU of Illinois, said only marriage will ensure that gay couples in Illinois get protections that other married couples enjoy, including family medical leave and veterans and tax benefits.

James Darby, an 81-year-old Korean War veteran, said he wants to be buried in Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in Illinois, along with his partner of 50 years, Patrick Bova, 75. But as of now, that's impossible.

"I gave up four years of my life during the Korean War, I served my country ... and I came back home and expected to have the same rights as everyone else," said Darby. "But I'm considered a second-class citizen in my own state."

Bova said he's "looking forward to the time when our marriage and its practical and emotional aspects will be realized. I think 50 years is a long time to wait."

LOAN

CONTINUED FROM 1

Alex Froelich, a junior from Minonk studying radio-television, said the new rate of interest for student loans could put him in a difficult position.

"I am a little angry about it, to be honest," he said. "I have a few alternatives to help pay for some of my tuition, but as far as my students loans go, I know that I'll have to be paying all this money back that I should not have to pay in the first place."

He said along with grants and his current student loans, he is hoping his family might be able to help him with his student loans in the future.

Rosendo Samano, a junior from Chicago studying zoology, said because he has attended the university for three years, he has no other choice but to deal with the the increase and finish out his college career.

"I have to pay for the loans, but I do not have the option to pay out of

pocket," he said. "It is a steep price to pay, but I am already so close to finishing. I think it is better for me to finish college and get a career so I can pay off my loans before they pile up."

Byron Taylor, a junior from Chicago studying studio art, said though he has a Pell Grant and is working to receive several scholarships from the university, most of his tuition comes from student loans.

"It affects me because, in the future, I will have to pay back more than what I anticipated," he said. "If the loans are doubling, then next year I will be expected to pay for nearly an extra semester. I am already paying a lot of money to be here and it feels like they are trying to take even more."

Sievers said the new Stafford loan interest rates will probably affect universities nationwide and gives universities no control over how much students will pay for new loans.

"There is nothing the university,

or really any of the universities can do about the loans," he said. "It is a federal issue that takes place with federal subsidized loans, and we will have to wait a little while to see how it affects student expenses and enrollment."

Cheng said the interest rates may deter potential students from coming to the university, but she still wants people to understand the importance of higher education in today's society.

"I know it can be expensive to pay for college, especially with the Stafford interest being doubled," she said. "Even so, I want the students to know how much a college degree can improve their standard of living, and their income in the future, and realize just how much of a life improvement a college degree can make."

Trey Braunecker can be reached at tbraunecker@dailyegyptian.com or 536-3311 ex:259

LEGO

CONTINUED FROM 1

Nick Lach, a senior from Murphysboro studying automotive technology and a LEGO camp instructor, said the LEGO camps at the university are a fun way to spend the summer and teach children basic LEGO construction all the way to motorized airplanes and more.

"Dr. Davey has given these kids a massive opportunity to come learn various things like gear ratio and leverage," he said. "They get to design the engineering for the mechanics of the robots they build."

Lach has worked at the camp since it first started in 2008. He said he enjoys teaching the LEGO camps, watching the children have fun and helping them build various projects.

Lach said he enjoys watching students who don't think they can make something work successfully.

"My favorite thing about the

camp is seeing the kids enjoy it, you know, really get into it," he said. "They complain that it's hard, but then they sit there and work through it and they're so happy."

Pat Eckert, a supervisor for Continuing Education and Outreach at SIU, said the office has worked with Davey for a very long time to help promote and organize his camps. She said she believes Davey's LEGO camps are very educational and career-oriented, allowing for hands on material that's fun for kids.

Eckert said the LEGO camp is so popular among kids that all sections are full for the summer.

For more information, contact Continuing Education and Outreach at dce.siu.edu or 536-7751.

Stephanie Danner can be reached at sdanner@dailyegyptian.com or 536-3311 ext. 268.



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SIU Southern Illinois University CARBONDALE

FRACKING

CONTINUED FROM 1

Annette McMichael, media communications director for Southern Illinoisans Against Fracturing Our Environment, said the passing of the fracking legislation is still a shock to her group.

“We were totally dismayed at the fact that Illinois legislators would throw southern Illinois under the bus,” she said. “We feel like they’re

not looking out for interests and are much more concerned about political contributions.”

McMichael said SAFE is opposed to fracking because it can pollute the environment, be dangerous to the community’s health and waste fresh water that can never be filtered again. She said the process can also force members of community to move if companies buy enough land around them for fracking.

While the group is working on re-organizing and making plans to protest and remove the

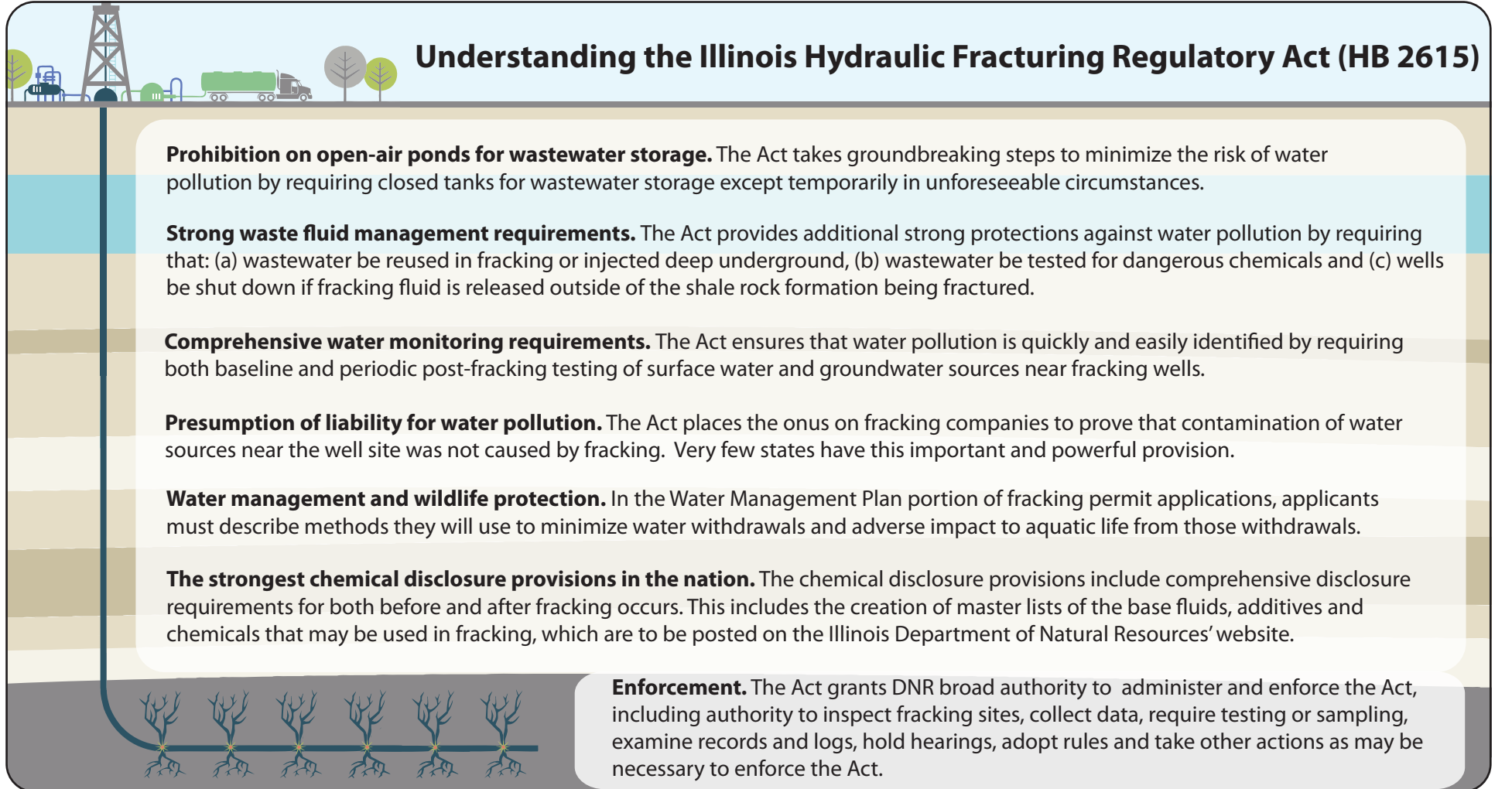
fracking bill from law, it has gained strength since the bill passed, McMichael said. She said the group will have public events throughout the coming weeks to continue fighting against fracking in Illinois.

Though some of the public might be against hydraulic fracturing, the process will be safer and more beneficial to the state than people think because of the strict legislation, Watson said.

“I think if you (look) at North Dakota, since 2009 they have fracked over 5,000

wells without a single incident. That’s a pretty impressive record,” he said. “We have a stricter policy than they do ... (while) I might respect and understand the concerns, I believe that the environmental community in Illinois did a pretty good job making sure most of those concerns were met.”

Matt Daray can be reached at mdaray@dailyegyptian.com or 536-3311 ext. 254.



Understanding the Illinois Hydraulic Fracturing Regulatory Act (HB 2615)

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- Comprehensive water monitoring requirements.** The Act ensures that water pollution is quickly and easily identified by requiring both baseline and periodic post-fracking testing of surface water and groundwater sources near fracking wells.
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- Water management and wildlife protection.** In the Water Management Plan portion of fracking permit applications, applicants must describe methods they will use to minimize water withdrawals and adverse impact to aquatic life from those withdrawals.
- The strongest chemical disclosure provisions in the nation.** The chemical disclosure provisions include comprehensive disclosure requirements for both before and after fracking occurs. This includes the creation of master lists of the base fluids, additives and chemicals that may be used in fracking, which are to be posted on the Illinois Department of Natural Resources’ website.
- Enforcement.** The Act grants DNR broad authority to administer and enforce the Act, including authority to inspect fracking sites, collect data, require testing or sampling, examine records and logs, hold hearings, adopt rules and take other actions as may be necessary to enforce the Act.

SOURCE | [HTTP://ELPC.ORG/ILLINOISFRACKINGBILL](http://ELPC.ORG/ILLINOISFRACKINGBILL)

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Stricker the man to beat at John Deere Classic

LUKE MEREDITH
Associated Press

Steve Stricker might be the only golfer on the PGA Tour who isn't peaking ahead to Muirfield and next week's British Open.

Stricker's single-minded focus on TPC Deere Run, combined with his recent dominance of the course, makes him the man to beat at this weekend's John Deere Classic.

Stricker, 46, is playing a reduced schedule this season — and he's skipping the Open Championship to celebrate his wedding anniversary with his wife Nicki in Wisconsin.

But Stricker won the John Deere Classic three times from 2009-11. He's not about to pass on a shot at a fourth title just down the road in Illinois.

"I owe a lot to this place. It's a special place for me," Stricker said.

Stricker and Zach Johnson, who grew up about 100 miles across the Mississippi River in nearby Cedar Rapids, Iowa, are the unquestioned headliners this week.

That's largely because most of the world's top golfers are already concentrating in Scotland.

There's no Tiger, Rory or Phil in this field. In fact, the only golfer ranked in the top 10 in the world that'll play Deere Run is Louis Oosthuizen — and he's 10th.

Just eight of the world's top 50, including Stricker, Keegan Bradley, Nick Watney and Johnson, have committed to the tournament. But what the field lacks in star power it should make up for somewhat in depth, as nearly half of the top 100 on FedEx Cup points list will tee off on Thursday.

"It doesn't matter where we're playing or what the field looks like. They're all good," said Johnson, who also serves as an executive

board member for the tournament. "If you don't know the names, you're going to know them at some point because they're all too good."

Johnson broke Stricker's three-year winning streak here in 2012. But he enters his hometown event in a bit of a slump.

Johnson followed up a third-place finish at the Crowne Plaza Invitational in late May by shooting 13-over par at the Memorial Tournament and missing the cut at the U.S. Open at Merion Golf Club.

Johnson said that although his putting remains "up and down" — a worrisome sign because of how many birdie chances Deere Run presents — he's feeling more and more confident in his driver.

Johnson also notched top-5 finishes at Deere Run in 2009 and 2011 before beating Troy Matteson on the second hole of a playoff last year.

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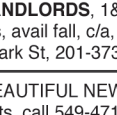
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Players pick-up for fitness



CHRIS ZOELLER | DAILY EGYPTIAN

Jackson Bates, left, of Carbondale, and Tony Headrick, a junior from Carbondale studying speech communication and public relations, play a pick-up game of basketball Wednesday at the Recreation Center. Pick-up games happen often at the Recreation Center, which is open until 8 p.m. in the summer. Josh Wehrmeier, of De Soto, said he was shooting around on his own before he joined the group for a game.

Three golfers named All-American Scholars

TYLER DIXON
Daily Egyptian

Achieving excellence off the course last season landed three Salukis on the Women's Golf Coaches Association All-American Scholars team.

Senior Shaina Rennegarbe, junior Cassie Rushing and freshman Mattie Lindner represented SIU on the WGCA list. A 3.50 grade point average is the minimum requirement for this honor. According to a press release by the WGCA, a total of 644 student-athletes from divisions one, two and three were eligible for this honor.

Head coach Alexis Mihelich said it's good to know she can focus on the athletics and not worry about her athletes in the classroom.

"All of the athletes on my team

have a GPA over 3.0," she said.

Rennegarbe, a biology major from Addieville, finished her career at SIU as a WGCA Scholar and was named a Missouri Valley Conference All-Conference selection. She also tied for fifth at the MVC Championship and earned an MVC Scholar-Athlete honorable mention.

Rennegarbe also had success on the course, being one of only seven women's golfers in Saluki history to have a career scoring average below 80. After a second place finish at the Bobby Nichols Intercollegiate, she was named the MVC golfer of the week.

Mihelich said Rennegarbe played phenomenally and battled through tough conditions to earn her first All-Conference selection. She also said Rennegarbe has always focused

on academics because she wanted to attend dental school. Last spring, Rennegarbe was accepted into the Southern Illinois University Edwardsville School of Dental Medicine.

Rushing, a sports administration major from Marion, is a three-time MVC All-Conference selection. She also led the team in stroke average in her first three seasons. Last season at the Northern Illinois University Snowbird, Rushing scored 72 in a round and earned the MVC golfer of the week. Rushing was also named Sports Management Undergraduate of the Year last year at SIU.

Rushing said she is grateful for the awards because she cares about academics as well as athletics.

"I don't want to be just known for golf," Rushing said. "I want to be

known as a well-rounded person."

In high school, Rushing was named to the South Seven All-Conference Team all four years, finishing 19th or better at the state tournament every year. She also earned MVP for three seasons and shared the Co-MVP title with her twin sister, Ashleigh Rushing, her senior year. In 2007 and 2008, Cassie Rushing was also named as the Southern Illinoisian's player of the year, and in 2009, both Rushing's were named as the Southern Illinoisian's co-players of the year.

Lindner, a journalism major from Lebanon, Ind., posted 10 rounds in the 70s during her first year as a Saluki and tied for 18th at the MVC Championships.

Lindner was also successful in high school, being named to the

Sagamore All-Conference Team all four years and winning medals at sectionals three times. She said she is at a point where she knows how she's going to play and just needs to be mentally and physically prepared.

"I need to focus on staying positive and keeping it together," Lindner said.

Lindner said being named to the All-American Scholar team was one of her proudest moments so far in her career at SIU.

"It's almost more exciting to get this award than to just be able to say I played in conference," Lindner said.

Tyler Dixon can be reached at tdixon@dailyegyptian.com or 536-3311 ext. 259.