Instructors give guidance to black male students

TAI COX Daily Egyptian

Faculty and alumni weighed in on questions about black male student success Tuesday.

An all-black panel of six speakers met in front of students in the Student Center auditorium to discuss black male retention and offer insight to black male students on how to be successful in college. Walter Davis, a specialist in the Center for Academic Success and panel organizer, said the event was intended to help the black community deal with issues it may face on campus because 30 percent of black males who attend college leave without finishing their degrees.

Panel members gave advice and encouragement as they spoke about their personal college experiences. Vincent Boyd, an SIUC alumnus, said his student success came when he reached out to people on campus about how to prepare himself to be an achiever.

“One of my teachers told me I had everything to be successful, but I now had to get out of my own way,” Boyd said. “At that moment, I started listening and stopped thinking I knew everything and started trying to acquire knowledge.”

Renada Green, director of Student Support Services, also said black faculty played an important role in her success as a student.

“ать when I returned to SIU to work, a black faculty member gave me my first job,” Green said.

Many panel members suggested that the men, and students in general, should surround themselves with positive people who are growing academically as well as personally rather than immediately getting to know the social crowd.

“Tаwhel will always be someone having a party,” said Beverly Love, an assistant professor of radio-television.

Love also said it’s the people who are focused on what they want to do after graduation who can begin their careers sooner.

“What you have to do is grab what you need to be successful and hang on to it,” said Royce Burnett, an associate professor of accounting.

“For me, it was my fraternity and custodial staff. For you, it may be staff that are here. But whatever it is, grab it and don’t let it go,” Burnett said there were no black faculty or staff when he was in college, so it was the custodial staff and his fraternity brothers who instilled in him the qualities to become successful. He said he became successful when he surrounded himself with positive people.

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SIU not entirely ‘smoke-free’

KAYLI PLOTNER Daily Egyptian

“No smoking” signs can be seen posted on doors, windows and buildings throughout campus to remind students and faculty that smoking inside is prohibited.

However, there is often a cigarette receptacle just a few steps away.

As of July 2012, there are 774 smoke-free campuses that permit no smoking on campus at all, according to the American Nonsmokers’ Rights Foundation. Seventeen of those campuses are in Illinois. SIU is not one of them.

The university’s smoking policy states the university “prohibits smoking, including the use of electronic cigarettes or any other smoking device in all university vehicles, buildings and facilities on the SIUC campus and within 15 feet of entrances, exits, windows that open and ventilation intakes that serve an enclosed area where smoking is prohibited.”

Paul Resno, director of SIU Center for Environmental Health and Safety, said the intent of SIU’s policy can be found in its principles. The policy states that it is enforced to provide a clean and safe environment to study, work, and learn in.

University employees are responsible for empying the cigarette receptacles across campus. Brad Dillard, associate director of facilities, said keeping the campus clean of cigarettes is routine. Receptacles are not emptied every day, he said, but ones that see higher traffic get emptied more often with the garbage route.

However, there are not always placed 15 feet away from an entrance.

Please see SMOKING | 3
Ehredt said south to Kentucky. “I like to think of myself as someone who does what they say they’re going to do,” he runs. Tuesday’s run started in Nashville and ended in Carbondale. Today, he will continue to run America Run 2012, where Ehredt runs a marathon a day and plants an American flag after every mile.

Ehredt stopped in Carbondale along the route Tuesday in Carbondale after running a marathon. The stop in Carbondale was part of Project Runner Mike Ehredt, of Hode, Idaho, stops at the corner of South Illinois Avenue and Pleasant Hill Road Tuesday in Carbondale after running a marathon. The run is to honor those who served and died in the war in Afghanistan, according to projectamericarun.com.

Runner Mike Ehredt, of Hode, Idaho, stops at the corner of South Illinois Avenue and Pleasant Hill Road Tuesday in Carbondale after running a marathon. The stop in Carbondale was part of Project America Run Aug. 23 on the border of Canada and the United States. Each veteran was excited and honored to have Ehredt come through Carbondale. "It’s been an honor to support Ehredt,” said Mark Trumbull, a senior from Rochester studying psychology, said Ehredt’s journey is a great event to support.

This was Ehredt’s 41st of the 81-day journey, and he stops at each mile to plant a flag for a soldier who died in the Afghanistan war. Each flag has the name of a soldier, his or her casualty number, hometown, station and age at death, according to projectamericarun.com.

Ehredt’s first run was in 2010, when he ran more than 4,300 miles to honor the United States’ fallen troops, according to the website. Ehredt is a veteran who served in Germany, where he won several U.S. Army Cross-Country Championships. Rod Santulo, coordinator of SIU Veterans Services, said many university veterans were excited and honored to have Ehredt come through Carbondale.

“Ehredt is running over 6,500 miles, so the least we can do is show up to support him,” said Mark Trumbull, a senior from Rochester studying psychology. Six members of SIU ROTC and veterans program ran alongside Ehredt’s last mile for the day. Ryan McKenney, a senior from Rochester studying psychology, said Ehredt’s journey is a great event to support.

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ENROLLMENT CONTINUED FROM 1

This year, 260 fewer students transferred into the university than last fall. Thus, those classes might also not be as large as originally expected when they reach the junior and senior level. Cheng said enrollment might take a while to raise from its current level.

She said the university has two major downturns — one in transfer enrollment and the other in first-time freshmen recruitment.

“If those inflows (of first-time freshmen and transfer students) are soft, they’re not going to affect overall enrollment this current year, but in future years because of the ways that they work through the pipeline,” Cheng said.

She said the university had 1,380 transfer students at the undergraduate level this year. About 280 came in as seniors, more than 700 were of junior status, 500 were sophomores and 250 were freshmen, Cheng said.

“They’re coming in after an associate degree, so the traditional would be transferring as junior status, but a lot of them are coming in before that,” she said.

While the amount of incoming students is a greater factor of overall enrollment, the number of seniors who graduate also affects the amount of undergraduates at the university. Although the senior class was nearly twice as large as the sophomore class according to the advancement registration numbers, Cheng said many of those students will not graduate.

Advance registration numbers show the senior class, at 96 percent registered, had 4,430 students, which is down from 2011’s 4,621 students at the same time. Cheng explained that not all of those seniors will graduate because a senior is someone who has made it to 90 completed credit hours. If a student is only attending school part-time, she said, he or she will not graduate with the rest of that class.

Yet another factor, Cheng emphasized, is the amount of students who leave SIU and transfer to another college or university.

“We’re very porous,” she said. “That’s the land of the institutions we are. We’re one of access and opportunity.”

Cheng said she attended seven different institutions in her own collegiate career.

“I was not a traditional student, and...” said Cheng.

“... I was very fortunate to have a university nearby when I moved around the country with my husband,” she said.

Cheng said there are networks that work me on as a non-traditional student and accepted transfer credit, I wouldn’t have been able to finish. And SIU is that kind of university.”

Another point Cheng made in her address was that enrollment is affected because of factors outside of the university’s control such as the economy and financial aid availability.

There were 2,095 students who enrolled at SIU in the spring of 2012 who were academically eligible but did not graduate or re-enroll at SIU this fall, according to information obtained through a Freedom of Information Act request.

Cheng said that is not an unusual amount of students to leave the university. “(SIU is) an institution where you have students stop-out, work full-time and decide to come back later. The real question is ultimately, do these students graduate? And we track students on a path of six years, and we find that many students stay with us on a part-time basis and graduate.”

Cheng said enrollment management is a very complex process, and there are hundreds of people at the university working to increase the outcome.

“But there’s no magic to this,” she said.

“The decision process the students have to decide on to stay at SIU is complex... and we’re all committed to doing the best that we can.”

Cheng said the university does not have information regarding where all students transfer to when they leave SIU, but she said some information does come to the university after they have been at another institution and many students who leave SIU go on to graduate. Although Cheng said enrollment is not something that can be immediately increased, Provost John Nicklow said the future of SIU enrollment looks good.

“It looks positive in a couple years out because of the growth in freshmen coupled with transfer student intake and efforts to increase retention and completion of current students,” he stated in an email.

Red Stew, university spokesman, said solving SIU’s enrollment process is not something that will be immediate, though.

“Key is to grow the freshmen class year to year,” he said in an email. “Indeed, much of the university’s marketing efforts are directed toward recruitment of new, first-time students. Attracting transfer students is another facet of our recruitment program.”

Several of the university’s retention rate is also key in enrollment. Cheng said SIU has a retention track record of around 60 percent.

“So, that means that you have a number of students that leave to go to other institutions for a variety of reasons,” she said. “Some of them, we’re happy to retain students. Others of them, we’re happy that we could give them a good experience for the time that they were here.”

RETENTION CONTINUED FROM 1

“...There was no way I was going to have less than a 4.0 grade point average, and we all encouraged each other to do the same because we were all about that mission to become successful,” Barnett said.

Father Joseph Brown, director of the Africana studies department, said his motivation to help students comes from the lack of assistance he received when he entered the university.

“I had no black mentors except for my family, so I figured I had to do for others what no one would do for me,” Brown said.

He said the challenges young black males face in college are the same ones older black males faced because racism is still an issue in America.

Demrick Williams, assistant director and the Center for Inclusive Excellence, is also director of the Black Male Initiative, which began this summer. The organization’s focus is to increase SIU’s black male retention and graduation rates. Brown said the Black Male Initiative has two Living Learning Communities — one in University Hall, and one in Abbott Hall.

Williams said the organization wants to raise awareness to young African-American male students enrolled at the university has steadily increased since 2006, while the graduation percentage has remained low and has fluctuated from 2006 to 2010.

Melin Williams, an undeclared graduate student from Chicago, said many black males at SIU don’t have their priorities in order, and adulthood preparation should begin in high school because SIU’s job isn’t to teach responsibility but to fine-tune what students should already know.

“SIUC just has money on their mind, and they’re just going for quantity instead of quality,” Williams said.

“Whether students sink or swim, the school still gets paid.”

Justin Graham, a senior from Chicago studying liberal arts, said attending the university is about more than just the degree; it’s about the experience.

“I want to be my own boss one day, and it’s unattainable without an education, and it’s not just about the degree,” Graham said. “It’s the networking you need as well in order to be successful, and SIU can offer that.”

Graham said he was suspended from the university for academic reasons his sophomore year and has worked very hard to get back on the right track. He said he thinks young black men give up too easily if they underperform one semester.

Davis said the responsibility to succeed is on students’ shoulders.

“If you don’t take advantage of your opportunities, then you can’t point the finger at the school and say they failed you,” Davis said. “You failed yourself.”

SMOKING CONTINUED FROM 1

“We put them where it is most conducive to catch ashes and cigarette butts,” Dillard said. “We try to be as discrete as possible, but close enough that people will use them. People are going to smoke where it is convenient to smoke, whether there is an ashtray there or not.”

All Arkansas and Iowa public schools are completely smoke-free by state law. Most Illinois colleges and universities have adopted no-smoking policies over the years and kept them updated with the Illinois state law. Restivo said he thinks the campus policy and state law go hand-in-hand.

“The Smoke Free Illinois Act prohibits smoking inside public buildings, businesses, government vehicles and within 15 feet of building entrances (and) air intake points,” he said.

The SIU’s Center for Tobacco Policy prohibits smoking inside campus buildings was first adopted in 1987, some 20 years before the state law. Thus, SIU was ahead of the curve.

SIU’s policy was last amended Nov. 22, 2011, when the name was changed from the “Clean Air Policy” to “Smoking Policy.” This amendment included the clause that prohibits electronic cigarette use. Restivo said the devices were added to the policy because they are also nicotine delivery systems.

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LAUREN P. DUNCAN
Daily Egyptian

GLBT center changes name, celebrates history month

Just in time for a celebration of its history, one group on campus has changed its name to encompass more of who it caters to.

October is LGBT History Month, but the former GLBT Resource Center on campus has changed its name to the LGBTQ Resource Center to adapt to changing meanings that surround the words used to identify its community.

"There's a very important effort to recognize the fluidity of our community," said Wendy Weinhold, LGBTQ Resource Center coordinator. "I think one of the things that people often struggle with is, 'Well how many terms are there for you?' and 'How do I know what it is I'm supposed to use?' My answer is: You change; let us change, too, because we're all in the process of always changing."

Weinhold said the resource center's name change is just one example of those changes. She said the center was named the GLBT resource center when it formed in 2007, but the group underwent a name change in September to be called the LGBTQ Resource Center — or Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans* and Queer Resource Center.

The reason the T stands for Trans and not transgender, Weinhold said, is because those words have different meanings. "The word 'trans' takes away the meaning of privilege and the emphasis on somebody who has undergone surgery or is taking some type of hormone replacement therapy, and instead recognizes that people are in different positions. They nonetheless may want to identify for being in some transitional position," she said.

Weinhold said what it means to identify with a certain term changes as those words’ meanings change. GLBT was the most commonly used acronym when the center formed, but a name used more today is LGBTQ, although there are several others, she said.

"We also wanted to recognize that we have a very important, a very active and very strong queer community on our campus," she said. "Nobody wanted to disregard that."

Weinhold said the work queer is a very revolutionary word that has only over recent years been a term the community identifies with. "It's a word that in the past has been used as a word of harm," she said. "It has been reclaimed to mean a word of intelligence, a word of revolution, and it's a very important part of our community, of our culture, of our heritage.

Several events will take place on campus this month to recognize LGBT History month. There will be two educational panels, one about the coming-out experience and decisions surrounding it and another about HIV and AIDS. SIU faculty, staff and students will lead the panels.

There will also be three speakers. The first will be Keith Boykin, who Weinhold said is an activist, author and media celebrity who commentates for MSNBC.

"He's black and openly gay, and (he) was the highest ranking member of President Clinton's administration to be openly gay," she said. "He's coming to talk about what it means to have all of these intersecting identities and the importance of understanding the community."

Kareem Chaver will be the keynote speaker this month, Weinhold said. Chaver will visit the university to discuss the realities of coming out as well as intersections and boundaries between identities.

Another speaker, Allison Garillo, is an openly trans comedian from New York City.

"She's going to be great in terms of education and entertainment," Weinhold said. "She also had her Ph.D. in English and was a teacher for 10 years, so she's got a lot of things that she's going to be bringing to us."

Other events include webinars, lectures, films, a flag football game, the LGBTQ Resource Network is also working with the LGBTQ Resource Center to move the network's drag show from November to October to honor the month's festivities. The show will be held Oct. 19 in the Student Center Ballrooms.

Ongoing services the center offers and will host weekly this month include safe-zone training, which is intended to help people who are working to identify themselves or have someone to talk to in the LGBTQ community.

"It enlightens people in the community and students who have issues with their sexuality," said Kevin Heidtke, a center volunteer and University Housing food service assistant manager. "It points them in the direction of other services they can use."

A program the resource center has just begun to offer is a mentors program, where students or community members can meet in a non-hierarchical setting to learn about and share their experiences, said Melissa Calvert, a graduate assistant with the center.

In sync with the focus on changing identities that many of the speakers are expected to bring to some of the history month events, as well as with the LGBTQ name change, is the idea that identities change for individuals.

"As we continue to have these conversations over time, we can become more distinct in what we mean when we use words," he said. "We can become more understanding of different identities and different portions of the population that make up a community, and it gives us new opportunities to bridge the gap."

Lauren D. Duncan can be reached at lduncan@dailyEgyptian.com or 618-457-3533.

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Lauren D. Duncan can be reached at lduncan@dailyEgyptian.com or 618-457-3533.
"I always wanted to play (Division I) tennis, but I knew that I would be playing as a walk-on," Plecki said. "I use that as motivation. Hopefully I earn that scholarship next year."

Although athletes who walk-on to a team don't typically play a huge role for the team, Nothwehr said Plecki's productivity has been refreshing. "She was in New Orleans beating quality Division I opponents who were on scholarship," she said. Plecki said she learns a lot from her teammates in practice, even though she can't beat them consistently in scrimmages. "I get to practice against good players, and I don't care if I win even if I lose most of the time," she said. "My play in practice isn't going to be pretty. But by the time tournament play comes around, I will have worked on my mistakes."

"During our tournament in New Orleans, the team really rallied each other on. We played well because we prepared well," she said. As her first collegiate tournament, Plecki won a consolation championship, three singles victories and two doubles matches. "I felt great," she said. "But my main focus was team. The win was much more emotional and important as a team." As a freshman on the team, Plecki said she was happy her wins could contribute to a team win.

"Because I am so tall, getting into very low stances is something hard for me to do," she said. "Coach makes sure to pay extra attention to me during these drills, but I know that she is trying to get me to be the best that I can."

— Abigail Plecki
Freshmen tennis player

DeMaria Phripp-Smith can be reached at dsmith-phipps@dailyegyptian.com or 536-3311 ext. 269.

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Rates & Payment
All ad prices based on number of lines and number of days that ad runs. There are increasing discounts for ads running for 5,10, or 20 days.
For an extra $5 (25 cents for companies) the ad will be displayed on our website for 30 days.

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$15.00 per column inch. Discounts available for those who sign contracts. Contact Lisa at (618) 536-3311 ext. 237.

Services Offered
SMALL ENGINE REPAIRS, includes carburetors, alternators, batteries, framing, fuel lines, bike repair, lawn mower repair.

HANDBYRAN SERVICES, PAINTING, home repairs, please call 810-505-0650 or 810-583-3469.

Wanted
WE BUY MOTION, refrigerators, stoves, washers, dryers, window air, Alco Appliance, 457-7767.

For Sale
Auto
BUYING JUNK CARS, on the wrecked, flooded, odometer, any year, call 810-291-3242.
WANTED TO BUY: vehicles, running or not, trucks & cars, $250-$500, call anytime, 219-419-4180 or Dale, mobile 810-667-1774.

BUY, SELL, AND TRADE. AAA Auto Sales, 605 N Illinois Ave, Crawfordsville, 810-542-8665.

Parts & Service
STEVE THE CAR DOCTOR, Mobile Mechanic & construction, landscape, waste removal, 457-7966 or mobile, 550-8933.

Bicycles
GRAND OPENING BIKE store, new & used, we buy & sell, 457-7911.

Homes
HOME 2 BLOCKS from SIUC: 3 BRDM, 1.5 bath, large fenced-in back yard & pets, $119,000. 353-1377 www.homesbydesigner.com

Furniture
MATTRESSES & PILLOWS, new & used, 301-0278.

Appliances
$150 EACH WASHER, dryer, stove, fridge, under-counter & 2-door, warranty Ace Appliance - 810-497-7677.

For Rent
2 BRM mobile home for rent, 2 brm house & 1 bed apartment, all utilities included, 504-9793.

2 BRDM TOWNHOME 1.5 bath, c/w, dlx, outside deck, no pets, Giant City Blvd. $600mo. 810-9716.

Roommates
Roommates needed, Call Aspen Court Office 810-546-1700.

Apartment
XXL EUROPEAN STYLE Flat, West side, near SIU, laundry on site, $325mo. 810-417-4422.

careuniversityridge.net

CLOSE TO CAMPUS, extra nice 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6 bdrm houses & apartments, www.universityridge.net, 350-8888.

AVAILABLE, NOW, Nice, 1 bdrm apt, 313 E. Milt, $550mo, no pets, 810-617-4422.


careuniversityridge.net

C-DALE, NICE, LARGE, 1 or 2 bdrm, c/w, dlx, 605 N. Recreational space-neighborhood, laundry, parking, storage, no pets, 810-644-4422.

LARGE SUITE APT near SIU recently remodeled, Lovely apt. 515 Lincoln St. $250. 810-417-4422.
Crossword

ACROSS
1. St. Joan of —
2. Accepts
3. Leave out
5. Not far away
10. Tiny pigmented-stuffed fruit
12. U.S. space flight agency
13. Knighted woman’s title
16. Strength
20. Benumbing
21. Actor Baddest
22. Take a fancy to
24. Hearing organ
26. Spilt
28. Residents of an African nation
31. Staring
32. Artist’s purchase
36. Haul
37. ... one’s time;
38. “What’s a child’s question to the rambling?
39. Not taped
40. Perpendicular add-on
41. Nudges
42. Used an emoji board
43. Goes in again
44. ... and bustle; commotion
49. Maturity
51. Long story
52. Washing
55. Common metal icon
57. TV’s: abbr.
60. Magid
61. Fiddling
62. Zn in the lab
63. Prime Minister Anthony and address
64. Drink
65. Bowling alley button
66. Recolor

DOWN
1. Conjunction
2. Purse
3. Among
4. Kansas’ capital
5. On one’s own
6. Eighties New Zealand bird
7. If, although
8. General’s superior
9. ... Christian
10. Soldiers
11. USPS delivery of Might
12. Powder
13. Become fully aware of
14. Headfirst large
15. Headfirst large
16. Curved sword
17. Spy; graceful
18. Soup server
19. Sudden attacks
20. Half-its
21. Complain
22. Is victorious
23. Can’t keep calm
24. Work of fiction
25. Resident of Stockholm, e.g.
26. Passport
27. Phone system
28. Friction
29. Advertisement
30. Hug
31. Learning
32. Public relations
33. Madison Avenue
34. Northeastern
35. Monopoly piece
36. Parma
37. S. M. L. or XL
38. Steamy broth
39. Remixed
40. Of shape
41. Half-its
42. Complain
43. Inefficient
44. Write
45. Truthful
46. Requirement
47. Northeastern
48. Hair color
49. U.S. state
50. Ida’s neighbor
51. Cash
52. Mailbox
53. Bionic
54. Carry
55. Hollywood
56. Pay
57. Yes
58. Hard
59. Icy
60. Impact
61. Breaking
62. Right
63. Board
64. School district
65. It

SUDOKU

The Daily Commuter Puzzle by Jacqueline E. Mathews

Aries — Today is a 7 — The next three weeks are good for achieving romantic goals. Get yourself something useful and pretty, or make it from what you have. Put love in your work.

Taurus — Today is a 9 — Encourage all opinions, and get some creative ideas. For four weeks, you’re very lucky in love. Invest in home, family and/or real estate. Nobody needs to know how little you spent.

Gemini — Today is a 6 — There’s really a light at the end of the tunnel, but you could bypass the tunnel altogether. Or wander around in it and discover hidden treasure. Bring a flashlight and plenty of water.

Cancer — Today is an 8 — This month, you’re even smarter than usual. Trust your own heart to lead you. Create peace. Postpone advance your agenda. Forgive a foolish misunderstanding.

Leo — Today is an 8 — Take firm stand, and heed the voice of experience. For the next month, it’s easy to make money. Your partner demonstrates compassion. Provide support.


Libra — Today is a 6 — Take advantage of abundant imagination. Make sure you know what’s required. Romance may be involved at times, but absent time in solitude.

Scorpio — Today is a 7 — Continue to build assets, and get public balance family and social activities carefully. Your reputation precedes you. The first reaction may seem negative, but don’t give up.

Sagittarius — Today is a 7 — Friends help you advance. Level up at work over the next three weeks. Be practical. It’s easier to advance your agenda. Forgive a foolish misunderstanding.

Capricorn — Today is a 9 — The next month’s good for setting goals. Costs may be higher than expected. Ask for more and get it; an angel’s watching over you. Get lost in your studies.

Aquarius — Today is a 9 — Stay focused. The foreseeable future is good for saving money, so go over the numbers. Demonstrate compassion for partners, even if you don’t always agree.

Pisces — Today is an 8 — You’re gaining the confidence. Compromise comes easier. Avoid temptation and assumptions. Self-discipline enables creativity. Female magnetism plays a big role.
Walk-on uses length as strength

DEMARIO PHIPPS-SMITH
Daily Egyptian

She used to be made fun of because of her tall stature, but freshman tennis player Abigail Plecki now uses her height to overwhelm her opposition.

Plecki, who stands at 6 feet tall, said she has always been taller than most girls and even some guys.

"Up until this point, I’ve only played against one other girl who was taller than me," she said. "I’m able to put a racket on anything that comes to me when I’m up at the net."

Coach Audra Nothwehr said she hasn’t seen a player of Plecki’s height since she started coaching.

"Everyone that she plays against usually tries to lob the ball over her head, but that doesn’t work against her. She is just that long," Nothwehr said.

Plecki said she started playing tennis in fourth grade, but she didn’t become competitive at the sport until high school. She said she also played soccer and tried basketball.

"I tried basketball for a short time, but it wasn’t really for me ... Tennis was what I was best at," Plecki said.

She accumulated 67 career doubles wins while at Lockport Township High School playing at the No. 1 slot most of the time.

"I switched to singles play her senior year and finished with 20 wins that season at the team’s No. 1 singles’ spot. By the end of her senior year, she was ranked No. 14 in Illinois and No. 45 in the Great Lakes region."

Plecki said she decided to go to SIU and study business.

"I’m just excited to play against players and coaches that I have never played against," Plecki said.