Goldman’s term enters final months

Chancellor unsure of life after SIUC

Stilte T. Smith

Chancellor Sam Goldman’s 30 years of service to SIUC is about to come to an end.

Goldman will finish his duties as chancellor May 31, more than two years after being named to the post in April 2008.

Goldman said he usually goes in to work between 7:30 a.m. and 8 a.m. and does not leave until around 9 p.m. because of different events going on around campus.

“I have been going on adrenaline now for two years, and I worry once I leave this job all that adrenaline is going to ooze out onto that floor somewhere, and I’ll go with it,” Goldman said.

Goldman first came to the university in 1980 when he became dean of the former college of human resources.

Before becoming chancellor, Goldman also spent time as a member of the Faculty Senate’s Judicial Review Board, where he was a member of the committee that drafted Southern at 250: Building Excellence through Commitment, which is the vision of what the university should look like when it reaches its 150th anniversary in 2019.

SIU President Glenn Poshard said Goldman did an impressive job as chancellor considering that he came in at a very difficult time for the university when he knew he would only be in the position for about two years.

“He’s displayed an incredible level of energy in putting a face on that office that had been missing for a good while,” Poshard said. “I think he’s gained the respect of everyone associated with this university as well as people out in the region.”

Goldman followed Walter Weidler and Fernando Terrizzi, who were dismissed by Poshard in Nov. 2006 and March 2008, respectively. Poshard cited failure to perform job duties in the dismissals.

Goldman said he would not slow down during his final months as chancellor, and he is still working hard at getting the university its accreditation and improving enrollment.

Interim Provost Don Rice said Goldman has been as involved and engaged in his job as he was the day he stepped into the office.

— Sam Goldman chancellor

Rice said Goldman attends all of the Student Orientation and Registration events and meets with all of the constituency groups consistently.

“That’s not going to stop until June 1,” Rice said. “And it probably won’t stop then, knowing Dr. Goldman.”

Poshard said the work Goldman has done as chancellor will make the job of Rita Cheng, who was named as the university’s next chancellor by Poshard Nov. 17, much easier.

“He’s laid a good groundwork,” Poshard said. “His visibility has been great for the university, and the respect he’s engendered from everybody is going to make the university a better place for Dr. Cheng to come in and take over.”

Please see GOLDMAN | 3

School of Journalism releases Shawnee National Forest book

Project took students two years to complete

Christina Spakousky

A unique keepsake about one of southern Illinois’ best-kept secrets has been created and published completely by SIUC students.

“The Shawnee Forest: Illinois’ Hidden Gem,” a multimedia project and book funded and presented by the School of Journalism, displays the history and beauty of the wildlife, people and terrain of southern Illinois’ Shawnee National Forest. Students created all the content of the book and Web site, as well as the layout and editing, said Bill Freivogel, director of the School of Journalism.

Freivogel said the project took two years and gave students the multimedia experience they desperately need in today’s journalism. He said the project was two-fold — faster better journalism and giving back to the community.

“Most people think (the book) is something put out by the university and not done by students,” said Claudette Roulo, an alumna from Herrin.

Roulo said she used the four seasons to put together the layout of the book’s photography and showcase the changing faces of the forest. She said the book took five months just to design and the end product is something to remind people of the beauty of southern Illinois.

“I think the journalism professors involved in the project expected professional results out of the students, so (we) delivered professional work,” Roulo said.

Bobby Samat, an alumus from Springfield, said taking photos for the project hardly seemed like work because he’s always been interested in nature. Samat said he took more than 3,000 photos and put 1,700 miles on his car, but he found places he had never imagined. Bell Smith Springs and Fern Cliff became his favorite spots to photograph, he said.

“Waking up at 4:30 a.m. just to get pictures of the sun about to rise, I can’t even fathom how much time I spent outside,” Samat said.

Copy Editor Allison Petty, who graduated from the university in May, said the subject matter was different from her usual focus. Petty said the project, and future projects, would provide opportunities for students to learn new skills while creating a portfolio they will have forever.

— Claudette Roulo an alumna from Herrin

“Aside from this experience, I have not had occasion to contemplate deeper questions relating to flora and fauna,” Petty said.

Bill Rocktowsen, senior lecturer in journalism, said the School of Journalism is selling the books simply to recycle the funds and do it again. He said he has been living in the area for a long time, but added there are many things people in the region still don’t notice.

Please see SHAWNEE | 3
Davis McRae from his Down, Illinois.

This is how “Miles Away From The Cool” begins, the latest performance at the Kleena Theatre. McRae, a graduate student in speech communication, performed his first show Thursday and will continue at 8 p.m. today and Saturday.

McRae said the performance is based on Miles Davis and reflects his significance in the southern Illinois area. Davis was born in Alton, about 133 miles away from Carbondale, and grew up in East St. Louis. McRae said he did not know the mark Davis left in southern Illinois until he moved here from Florida. He said he read Davis had played at Carbondale’s Tuscan Lodge before it was torn down, which began the process of writing the play, he said.

“It was just a blur,” McRae said. “Miles Davis played at this building. I thought it was this lame abandoned place.”

The performance is not only about Davis, but McRae said it is also about his journey as well. He said he has been playing trumpet for 18 years and has looked up to Davis since he was 14 years old. However, McRae said he did not start to truly understand Davis until he read his autobiography in college.

“That when a lot of things started to click for me. I was like, ‘This seems really important,’” McRae said. “He’s not just talking about his musical life, but the history of the time and all the things that motivated his performance.”

Ashley Huber, a graduate student in speech communication, is McRae’s director and said the play also tackles deeper issues people face everyday.

“I think this play out the tensions with race, but I think it also plays out the tensions that a scholar has when he tries to put something on stage,” Huber said.

Huber said directing a solo performance is different than an ensemble performance because the performer has to worry about building levels. In order to do that, she said they tried to keep the play moving constantly and never allow the audience to get bored.

McRae said he is primarily a musician and is used to playing on a small stage, so acting in front of a large crowd requires him to make creative use of his space.

“(On stage) you are very, very close to people,” McRae said. “The difference there is that nobody is paying attention to you, but here it is intimidating to look out into that big empty theater space.”

Suzannah LeBaron, a graduate student in speech communication, makes a guest appearance and sings during the performance while McRae plays trumpet and Brian Healy, a graduate student in speech communication, plays guitar. She said the musical number is improvisational and has been different for each rehearsal.

“It’s a brief interlude where (McRae) is talking about the concept of listening,” LeBaron said. “‘Listening to the space, listening to Carbondale, listening to the Kleena and listening to the music that’s there, and how that is happening by making music with some friends.”

McRae said he hopes the audience takes away questions about Davis and the significance of southern Illinois to his career.

“That I can be instructional in this space without ... if feeling like you were sitting in a classroom getting a lecture from somebody, yet still have the same quality of information you would receive in a classroom” McRae said. “That’s what I mean by questions. I want people to feel excited to learn.”

Poshared appointed to statewide education panel

SIU President Glenn Poshard has been chosen to be a member of a statewide advisory panel responsible for making recommendations to Gov. Pat Quinn about strengthening the state’s education system.

Quinn appointed Poshard as one of the 23 members of the P-20 Council Monday. According to a university press release, the council will play an instrumental role in Illinois’ push to win $400 million in federal funds in the “Race to the Top” competition held through the U.S. Department of Education. The competition is a $4.35 billion competitive grant process meant to foster innovative approaches to education.

“I am honored to accept the governor’s request to serve on the P-20 Council,” Poshard said. “This is a tremendous opportunity for the state’s entire educational system to come together and make fundamental and lasting improvements on behalf of our children.”

The P-20 Council members appointed by Quinn include business leaders, teachers, parents, civic groups, university, community college and school officials. There are also four legislative members and six ex-officio members from state agencies.
SHAWNEE
CONTINUED FROM 1

“This project allows people to see how the real world of journalism comes out,” Recktenwald said.

Recktenwald said southern Illinois is different from the rest of the state, and most people driving through the Midwest “don’t notice what the area has to offer.”

GOLDMAN
CONTINUED FROM 1

Poshard said the transition for Cheng, provost and vice chancellor of Academic Affairs at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, would have been much more difficult if she were coming in under the conditions the university was in two years ago.

Goldman said he would stay involved with the university if Cheng asked him to, but that would not be very likely.

“It would be like having your mother-in-law lying around,” Goldman said. “She needs to develop her own style and her own presence, and she will. She’ll do that very well.”

Goldman said he would go back to being a chaplain at the Illinois Youth Center in Murphysboro and various hospitals in the area, but he’s not sure what he will do with his time after leaving the university.

“You know the line that says when one door closes another opens up,” Goldman said. “Well I have no idea what that other door would be, but I’ll be watching for it.”

CHRISTMAS CRAFTS DRAWS CROWDS

Hannah Chapman, of Carterville, left, and Joyce Fornes, of Carbondale, right, stand and look at one of John Levellen’s sculpted art pieces Wednesday at the Christmas Craft Fair in the Student Center. Fornes said she has been coming to the Christmas Craft Fair for years and brought Chapman last year to help her get around.

“I’ve been addicted since,” Chapman said, “It’s really exciting.”
The team is young, but the Salukis are already looking to end their frustrations.

The SIU women’s basketball (0-4) team travels to Berkeley, Calif., to participate in the Colliers International Classic this weekend. The tournament includes host No. 19/20 California (3-2), No. 7 Texas A&M (3-0) and Colorado State (4-1). The Salukis open play against the Aggies at 4:30 p.m. Saturday. If the Salukis fail to win a game in the tournament, they will go full a calendar year without a win on the road.

SIU’s last win came last December against Central Arkansas in Conway.

SIU head coach Missy Tibbs said the tournament creates a unique experience for her players.

“We will be facing some hard competition this weekend, talent that our players don’t get to see very often,” Tibbs said. “I am glad our seniors get to experience this, and it should be a good learning experience for our freshmen.”

Tibbs said playing the big programs does not make her nervous and as long as the team shows signs of improvement, she will be happy with the performance.

First-year guard Katerina Garcia said the team was not nervous either.

“I would say that we were more excited,” Garcia said. “We want to see what we have and what we can bring to the table against some of these bigger schools.”

Salukis against Texas A&M Saturday will demand the Salukis to improve on some of their struggles if they want to stay in the game.

Tibbs said defense and turnovers are a big problem for the team. The Aggies’ offense has scored less than 80 points only once this season—against Auburn—scoring 79 points in a 20-point victory. Its defense has also been stingy; as Texas A&M has allowed more than 60 points only once this season—in a 95-77 victory against Duke.

That victory was also the smallest margin of victory the Aggies have had this season. The Aggies are beating their opponents by an average of 31 points.

Senior guard Christine Presswood said playing such a caliber high school team would be difficult.

“You know when you play a team like that, every player is very athletic,” Presswood said. “It’s hard to keep up with opposition like that.”

Presswood said it was hard to play an opponent such as the Aggies, but said the Salukis were working on their full-court offense in order to improve the matchups against their opponents this weekend.

Garcia said the team was also working on its defense because of how explosive the opposing offenses can be.

“The defense has also been stingy,” Garcia said. “I think we could be a great player.”

Tibbs said she is looking forward to being able to see her team on this road trip.

“If anything, this will be a good experience,” Tibbs said. “This is our first long road trip in the season, and it could be a once-in-a-lifetime experience for some of our players. I think the team will play hard.”

Terri Oliver, a freshman from Kokomo, Ind., tries to keep the ball away from Western Michigan’s player Taylor Manley during the 82-77 home loss on Saturday. The Salukis compete in the Colliers International Classic Tournament in Berkeley, Calif., Saturday and Sunday.

Saturday: Caesars Daily Egyptian

Sunday: Daily Egyptian
Crossword

Across
1. Morning break (13)
2. City on the Colorado River (11)
3. Monarch title (14)
4. Harry in a magazine (15)
5. Juice letters (16)
6. CRI signal (17)
7. Tainted by Tinker Bell? (17)
8. "For the girls" (21)
9. "The king of the city" (21)
10. "The All-star" actor (22)
11. Reaction to an amusing performance (24)
12. "I bought a seat" (25)
14. Timeline piece (31)
15. Tardy piece (34)
16. McVitie's character (36)
17. "Symptoms of poor light" (42)
18. NASDAQ listing (42)
19. "Navy" station (44)
20. Western prop (44)

Down
1. "Scotland's" longest river (34)
2. "Scottish" field director (7)
3. "Quean" (8)
4. City of the August (9)
5. "Chlo's" initials (9)
6. Branch of the Nile, perhaps (10)
7. Consequences of some soccer fouls (11)
8. "Big love parties" (12)
9. Start part (16)
10. "23-Jul" (22)
11. "La Salle of TN" (22)
12. "Red Hot or Quick sauce maker" (27)
13. "Scrapbooking" (28)
14. "Breakfast" (31)
15. "Army's" "7" (33)
16. "Like some stars" (34)
17. "Bring back into practice" (35)
18. "Spark and Cricketer" (37)
19. "Sign of a bright" (39)
20. "Return" (41)
21. "Habit of tennis" (41)

SUDOKU

The Sudoku, by The Mepham Group

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box contains every digit 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit www.sudoku.org.uk.

HOROSCOPE

By Linda C. Black

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) — Today is a 7 — Stick to the basics today. You get more for your money. Grab hold and hang on tight, then shift gears.

Veggie (Aug. 22-Sept. 22) — Today is a 7 — A female friend or female relative can help you raise money for ideas before you invest your life savings.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) — Today is a 7 — Without the aid of a female, you might not have everything you need. Ask the market and co-workers who know how to get their hands dirty.

Aries (March 21-April 19) — Today is a 6 — An older associate provides you with an opportunity that promises satisfaction but also ensures a basic income. Stay until you learn the game.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) — Today is a 5 — Take your game with you to any important meetings today. Together, you acquire (and lose more) together. You can separately opportunity knocks.

Gemini (May 21-June 21) — Today is a 7 — You put up a fight with business associates at all costs. You are very bright and go for your goal. Catch both the leader and co-worker to makethey move.

Cancer (June 22-July 21) — Today is a 7 — Let creative partnerships work for you. The current situation has the potential to bring you much good. Your support from a non-family member is critical.

Jumble

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

ZIRPE

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INORM

BOGGLE

DEPMNN

Print answer here:

CROSSWORD CLUES

41. "Must Be Up" singer (6)
42. Breakfast companion? (6)
43. "Easy" (6)
44. "Never mind" (6)
45. "Heart of house sound" (6)
46. "Farrow" (6)

SUDOKU CLUES

7 3 1 6 8 9 5 1 6 8 9 7 2 3 8 4 6 7 9 5 1 9 4 6 3 5 1 8 2 8 7 1 9 3 4 3 1 2 8 4 7 5 9 6 5 9 2 3 6 4 8 9 7 5 1 2 6 3 2 9 1 3 4 8 8 7 5 9 1 3 4 3 6 4 2 5 8 9 8 9 1 3 7 6 9 5 2 4 7 8 9 5 1 2 6 3 4 6 5 1 3 7 8 5 9 4 1 2 8 5 1 3 6 2 4 9 7 5 8 2 7 1 3 4 6 4 9 5 8 7 3 6 7 4 1 2 8 9 7 6 5 3 1 4 6 8 5 1 3 6 5 8 6 7 1 2 4 9 9 5 7 3 5 8 2 6 4 4 3 6 7 8 9 7 8 9 5 3 4 6 1 2 4 6 1 8 2 3 9 9 5 8 3 7 6 4 5 7 2 8 9 5 3 4 6 4 1 2 6 3 7 8 5 9 6 3 2 1 4 5 9 8 7

THAT SCRAMbled WORD GAME

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Answers: OCCUR ALIVE BISECT DINGHY

Jumble Answer: What the shopper got at the butcher shop — "CHOICE" ADVISE

THAT SCRAMbled WORD GAME

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WHAT THE SHOPPER GOT AT THE BUTCHER SHOP — "CHOICE" ADVISE

Thursday’s answers

Jumble

OCCUR ALIVE BISECT DINGHY

Thursday’s answers

Jumbles: OCCUR ALIVE BISECT DINGHY

Answer: What the shopper got at the butcher shop — "CHOICE" ADVISE
Student tickets free for playoff game Saturday

Being an SIU student means free playoff football tickets.

At 11 a.m. Saturday, the SIU football team will host William & Mary in the quarterfinals of the NCAA Football Championship Subdivision playoffs. Local companies and athletic supporters have purchased tickets to the game and now students can attend for free.

The Colonial Athletic Association has four teams remaining in the playoffs, including William & Mary, No. 2 Villanova, No. 4 Richmond and New Hampshire. Saturday’s matchup will pit two of the elite units in the PCS. The Tribe comes in with the No. 1 ranked rushing defense, having allowed only 30.3 rushing yards per game, while the Salukis come in third in the nation in scoring, and fourth in rushing offense, averaging 232.5 yards per game.

Redshirt freshman quarterback Paul McIntosh said even though the Tribe have stopped all opposition on the ground so far this season, the Salukis are going to go with what they do best.

“Predominantly, we’re a run-first team, and then see what the defense gives us after that,” McIntosh said. “We always want to establish a good, power-running game. Like I said, we’ve been able to do all that year, and that’s what we’re going to try to continue to do.”

With McIntosh, the run game has gotten even better. He is second on the team with 523 rushing yards and six touchdowns. But he still has a way to go to catch up to redshirt senior running back Deji Karim.

The Missouri Valley Football Conference Offensive Player of the Year, Karim is second in the nation with 1,667 rushing yards and 20 touchdowns (18 rushing, one receiving and one kickoff return). He needs only 97 all-purpose yards on Saturday to break the SIU single-season record.

Karim said he does not put much notice into statistics.

“I just look to provide a spark and do whatever it takes for my team to get the win,” that’s all I’m really worried about,” Karim said.

The Salukis have already faced two of the top defensive teams in the nation, and both times came out victorious. On Oct. 17, the Salukis put up 27 points against a Northern Iowa Panthers team that had only allowed 30.8 points per game, while on Nov. 7, the Salukis put 34 points on a South Dakota State Jackrabbits team that had previously allowed only 11.4 points per game.

Lennon said his team will have to earn a victory over William & Mary — because he is sure the Tribe will not give it away.

“They make you earn everything you get,” Lennon said. “They play their game, they are a patient squad. They’re not going to force anything or give the game away.”

PLAYOFFS

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BASKETBALL

“It’s great for us,” Lowery said. “It’s a regional rivalry and an old rivalry I played in. Having those guys to play every year is great for us. It’s a short trip, and it’s great for both fan bases, since we have so many Saint Louis alumni and fans on the Metro-East side.”

If the Salukis hope to defeat the Billikens, they will need the bench to keep contributing as it has all season. Sixth-man Fay leads the team in scoring averaging 14.8 points per game, while the bench as a whole is averaging 32.4 points per game.

Junior guard John Freeman said the bench has taken to its role this season, especially with Lowery rotating players into the game.

“I think we have a deep bench,” Freeman said. “I don’t think we miss a beat when we sub, especially with Kendal coming in. Us coming off the bench with that defensive intensity, we’re not missing a beat out there at all.”

The Salukis come into St. Louis with a few bangers and bruisers, as sophomore guard Justin Bocot wore goggles this week after getting hit in the eye last Saturday against University of Illinois-Chicago, while both Tony and John Freeman are nursing leg injuries. Lowery said all are being treated on a day-by-day basis, and all is precautionary.

Lowery said the Salukis will have to be prepared if they hope to come back to Carbondale with a win.

“We have to rebound well, we have to play tough, and we have to play physical,” Lowery said, “(SIU) coach (Rick) Majerus is going to have them ready to play.”

SWIMMING

Saluki captain Chris Gaffney said the Missouri Invitational is going to be a good test of where the team stands going into the second half of the season.

“We are going to use it as a scale to see where we are right now,” Gaffney said. “It’s an invitational style meet so we will have more rest in between races, and we need to take advantage of that because the other teams definitely will.”

Sophomore swimmer Steve Wood said this weekend is going to be an opportunity for SIU to race some of the best teams in the nation and make a statement.

“We will have to show up and swim fast in the morning and faster at night to score points because there are going to be a lot of bigger and better teams there,” Wood said. “Hopefully, by the end of the meet, they will be leaving saying, ‘Southern Illinois is really good.’ ”
Offense key to defensive battle

Redshirt senior running back Deji Karim dives into the end zone during the Salukis’ 48-7 victory against Eastern Illinois Saturday at McAndrew Stadium. SIU will play William & Mary in the quarterfinals of the Football Championship Subdivision Playoffs Saturday in Carbondale.

Top run defense faces top run offense

The unstoppable force and the immovable object will collide Saturday, and only one will head to the semifinals.

The No. 3 Salukis will host the William & Mary Tribe at 11 a.m. Saturday at McAndrew Stadium in the quarterfinals of the Football Championship Subdivision play-offs. The Salukis are looking to advance to the semifinals for the second time in three years.

Head coach Dale Lennon said William & Mary will be one of the toughest teams the Salukis face this season, especially because of the conference it comes from.

“The conference itself is very, very strong. Just look at it from top to bottom, north to south, the quality that is in there,” Lennon said. “There’s a reason there are four teams from the league being represented, plus they do have a tremendous amount of playoff history.”

Please see PLAYOFFS | 7

Men’s Basketball

SIU searches for first road win

Ryan Voyles | DAILY EGYPTIAN
RyanVoyles@dailyEgyptian.com

The SIU mens basketball team (3-1) looks to pick up its first road victory of the season as it takes on Saint Louis University at 7:05 p.m. Saturday at Chaifetz Arena.

Head coach Chris Lowery said his major concern against the Billikens would be the play of their frontcourt — especially sophomore forward Willie Reed.

“Willie Reed is a tremendous talent,” Lowery said. “We just have to make sure we keep him in the game a lot. When he plays longer periods of time, you can wear him down. We have to use our four guys against their two. Reed and (Brian) Conklin are the two guys that man the floor and do a lot of stuff for them on both sides of the ball.”

Reed leads Saint Louis with 13.7 points, 10.4 rebounds and 1.97 blocks per game. Conklin is third on the team in scoring and second in rebounding, averaging 9.9 points and 3.9 rebounds per contest.

Junior forward Carlton Fay said the team has been preparing for Saint Louis’ frontcourt since practice on Monday.

“They got some great players on that team, and it’s going to be a great challenge for us,” Fay said. “They got some young guys on their frontcourt, but they have a lot of talent already, and that’s going to be pretty tough for us.”

The Billikens (4-3) will look to continue the recent stretch of homecourt domination in the longtime rivalry. The teams have played each other every year this decade, and the home team has won all but one of those matches. The lone road victory was by SIU in 2001.

Lowery said the rivalry is great for his squad and the community.

Please see BASKETBALL | 7

Swimming & Diving

Salukis set for Missouri Invitational

Will face some of the nation’s top teams

Ryan Simonin | DAILY EGYPTIAN
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After two weeks off, the Salukis will look to jump back into the pool. The SIU swimming team will test the waters starting today at the Missouri Invitational in Columbia, Mo. The event will be the Salukis’ first meet since Nov. 19 when they beat Druy University.

SIU swimming and diving head coach Rick Walker said the team is approaching this weekend on an individual basis as opposed to a team effort.

“All year long we have focused on the team, but at this meet we have always focused on the individual,” Walker said. “If every individual is doing their job, we as a team are going to be at our strongest point, and we can come back from break as a stronger team.”

Walker said this meet is a preview of what the conference championship will be like because of its scoring system. He said approaching this meet from an individual basis is the best way to approach it.

“There isn’t just one team across the pool from us, it is a multiple team meet and there are plenty of fast swimmers,” Walker said. “It is just so much better for our team to be able to focus on themselves placing high and the rest will fall into place.”

SIU will join seven other teams at the invitational including Missouri, Arizona State, Drury University, Nebraska and Boise State.

Junior swimmer Marcela Teixeira said the team is not backing down to the competition.

“With this meet is the second most important meet of the season, and we are taking it very seriously,” she said.

Please see SWIMMING | 7

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The Billikens (4-3) will look to continue the recent stretch of homecourt domination in the longtime rivalry. The teams have played each other every year this decade, and the home team has won all but one of those matches. The lone road victory was by SIU in 2001.

Lowery said the rivalry is great for his squad and the community.

Please see BASKETBALL | 7

Swimming & Diving

Salukis set for Missouri Invitational

Will face some of the nation’s top teams

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After two weeks off, the Salukis will look to jump back into the pool. The SIU swimming team will test the waters starting today at the Missouri Invitational in Columbia, Mo. The event will be the Salukis’ first meet since Nov. 19 when they beat Druy University.

SIU swimming and diving head coach Rick Walker said the team is approaching this weekend on an individual basis as opposed to a team effort.

“All year long we have focused on the team, but at this meet we have always focused on the individual,” Walker said. “If every individual is doing their job, we as a team are going to be at our strongest point, and we can come back from break as a stronger team.”

Walker said this meet is a preview of what the conference championship will be like because of its scoring system. He said approaching this meet from an individual basis is the best way to approach it.

“There isn’t just one team across the pool from us, it is a multiple team meet and there are plenty of fast swimmers,” Walker said. “It is just so much better for our team to be able to focus on themselves placing high and the rest will fall into place.”

SIU will join seven other teams at the invitational including Missouri, Arizona State, Drury University, Nebraska and Boise State.

Junior swimmer Marcela Teixeira said the team is not backing down to the competition.

“With this meet is the second most important meet of the season, and we are taking it very seriously,” she said.

Please see SWIMMING | 7