Father's Day on the Inside

Vicente Rodriguez Jr. visits his dad the only way possible on Father's Day — in prison

STORY BY ARIN THOMPSON

It had been 71 days since Vicente Rodriguez Jr. had last seen his father.

While some children spent Father's Day weekend worrying about the perfect gift, Vicente spent the occasion worrying about a body he couldn't find. His body. Without the perfect gift because security measures won't allow it. Besides, a new tie wouldn't match the bright orange t-shirt his father must wear everyday.

Vicente Rodriguez Sr. has been incarcerated for all of his son's life. Vicente, a 15-year-old, used to play ball for the DeLancey High School in Chicago, was excited just to see his father and get the chance to talk to him.

His father spent 23 hours a day underground in the Tamms Maximum Security prison. Vicente sat quietly at the New-Mar Center in Carbondale, waiting for the bus to take him the short 30 miles further to Tamms. Vicente's never seen his father walk in the free-world; though he has phoned him a couple of times when it comes.

I'd take him to basketball games and show him around the neighborhood,” Vicente said. But sometimes Vicente gets mad. Sometimes he wonders why his father did it — he wonders why his father committed murder.

"One day and a half, he tells me that he shouldn't have done it — that it was a mistake,” Vicente said. Vicente tries to think positively about the situation he is in. His dad tells him not to take the same path he did. He tells him he's successful.

"Some of my friends' fathers are in prison too. That anxiety makes it hard to get by," said Vicente.

Basilio likes making trips as often as she can. "It's very good, especially for all the widows," Basilio said. "It's hard, we don't know how to come all this way by ourselves."

Basilio held in her hands a Mother's Day card that her son made for her. On the cover was a detailed rendition of praying hands.

Inside, meticulously drawn letters read: "I love You. Mom. You're the best." Vicente has a passion for art, just like his father. He began his journey with a scholarship for college through baseball and then study the arts. His father, who never graduated, was 17 when he was first put in prison. Now, 31, Vicente Sr. is, waiting out his last three years. Vicente wasn't waiting more than to see his father in the audience when he graduated high school.

"We just waiting for him to come home," Basilio said in a trembling voice that couldn't fight the tears, them. The prison offered chips and a meal upon his release as his son's mother came out of the prison at Tamms.

EDER PEREZ — DAILY EGYPTIAN

Vicente Rodriguez Sr. keeps in touch with his family in Chicago through letters and elaborate artwork, such as this Mother's Day card he sketched with a ball point pen.

Du Quoin and Marion state police join forces

New police station to combine facilities

Pete Bedeman

Gene George Ryan and some legislators unveiled golden gossamer Monday at a ground-breaking ceremony for a new 6,600 square foot police headquarters that will combine activities in Du Quoin with the activities of state police in Marion.

An audience of current and retired state troopers enjoyed homemade chocolate chip cookies in the shade of a big tent while the governor, State Senate David Loebsack, Rep. Johnnie Doty, and Rep. Mike Boyd, R-Murphysboro, took their turn in the podium. "Today [the new headquarters] is a day to be proud of," Ryan said. "Loebsack said people from Southern Illinois are distinctive in way to say that state funding all goes up north, but this project demonstrates that Southern Illinois is getting its fair share."

"This project is a long time in the making," said Rep. Mike Boyd, R-Murphysboro.
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High subscription library force libraries to proce ask Proquest database

Samantha Robinson

There are so many students who are not able to afford the cost of newspapers and magazines. The library is trying to address this issue by increasing the number of subscriptions to databases.

Repeal Library lyerla is reachled at lyerla@dailyEgyptian.com
Man gets 10 years for shooting

"Dank" deals his way out of attempted murder rap

Phil Beckman

Daily Egyptian

The man who robbed and shot two Carbondale men in November was sentenced to at least 10 years in prison Thursday for the murder of Thomas P. Nelson, 19, of Carbondale, who was on the run for more than a month and had planned to argue the shooting was self-defense, will spend the next 10 years in prison. Nelson was arrested and charged with attempted murder of the shooting.

On Nov. 29, Terrence R. Waters, 21, and Rosa A. Garrett, 20, picked up Nelson at Brownwood Commons, 225 E. Lewis Lane, after he had asked for a ride.

When they arrived at Hunt Road, Nelson pulled out a revolver and demanded the two men give him their money. Nelson opened fire, hitting Waters on the right side of the face and grazing Garrett's neck before the two men managed to escape. Nelson escaped into the woods.

Waters and Garrett said police that the man called himself "Dank." Police then traced Nelson to the nickname "Nelson" and the two men identified Nelson in a photograph lineup on Dec. 18. Nelson was on the run until Jan. 18 when he was arrested in Montgomery County, Minne.

Nelson had given his driver's license to a parolee in Empire, Minn.

Brehm student's death ruled accidental

Student fell off cliff after sliding down run-off ditch

Phil Beckman

Daily Egyptian

The death of a Brecken Preparatory School student who fell to her death while hiking at Little Grand Canyon was ruled an accident Thursday by a coroner's jury.

Ashley Sweeney, 16, from Colorado, was on a school-sponsored 10-day field trip when she fell at 6:00 a.m. April 28.

Thomas W. Kupferer, Jackson County coroner, said that a group of Breckin students and a counselor were hiking at Little Grand Canyon south of Murphytown when they left the masked trail to hike through the woods.

A deputy saw Sweeney stepped into a rain washout that was covered with moss and leaves, dipped down and ran on top of the group. Members of the group told deputies that they had only walked about 10 to 15 feet, but when they looked further down the slope they could not find her. The counselor then sent the others back to get help and he went to look for Sweeney.

The Jackson County Sheriff's Office received a call from a cell phone at 3:32 p.m. reporting that a girl had fallen from a bluff and deputies are on the scene.

When the deputies arrived, they contacted local resident Charlie Mason, who was able to get to the area. The Jackson County Sheriff's Deputy David W. Jacob said waters were at the woods at 2:49 p.m. using a rope and searching for Sweeney.

The coroner's jury that the death was ruled an accident.

Sweeney's death was a shock to the family, who had been on a hike with their family on a different trail.

"She was an athlete and an academic," said Kupferer.

"She was a good student and a good athlete," said the deputy.

The family has yet to receive a formal report from the coroner's office, but they are satisfied with the outcome.

Kupferer said that Sweeney's death was a result of a "natural accident."
COLUMNS

Minimum wage
not a living wage

By Lennie A. Adolphson

Raising Eyebrows

It is good to be back writing this summer for the Daily Egyptian.

While I read in a recent Daily Egyptian article that the city had honored the one-year anniversary of the strike for a minimum wage of $6 an hour, I was happy and hopeful that students would remember what they had fought for.

On a recent trip to Jacksonville, Ill., to visit my oldest son, I noticed that T. J. Maxx was hiring at the rate of $3 an hour for a position that Nixon’s administration had boasted that student workers at SIUC were struggling to get for a 20-cent raise every 500 hours, and then the weekly rate was $9 an hour. Needless to say, I was amazed.

Student workers are invaluably important. We all know there are some student workers performing better than regular employees. Student workers, in addition to their most important role of providing for their families, also take on other jobs seriously and many exceed expectations.

If you replace make $15,000 to $60,000 a year, it’s difficult to understand that $400 to $800 a month isn’t an easy task. Moreover, as citizens we are left to wonder if there would be enough to retain students, it is shocking that there are departments that do not give merit increases.

Additionally, if a student is given a merit increase and changes jobs, the merit increase does not follow the student to his or her new SIUC student job. It’s apparent that there is need for student workers to live within the realm of minimum wages. If we were to look through history, the employer never relinquished rights to minimum wages.

There are those who question the point in organizing, and formulating a union when our time here is limited. The reality is, it is important to fight for fairness and equity for the students who have to fight for a living wage for their food and the employer be fought for, not just for us, but also for future students. Every day after history and political science classes, we are taught that all worthy causes have to be sustained and are never voluntarily given.

The creation of a commission is common; however, many publicans have questioned the value our society places on our students. The phrase the “working poor” proves my point. Conservation and most Republicans have always been against minimum wage increases arguing that they hurt business by increasing labor costs. However, if that argument is sound, then why aren’t all prosperous and wealthy individuals happy with minimum wage so that inflation can be kept under control.

Obviously, that suggestion is ludicrous and impractical. Living on minimum wage for any adult is a reflection and doesn’t pertain the single one. Inversely, it is always the elite and affluent that are against the poor receiving higher wages. It is apparent that those sentiments are alive here at SIUC.

President Reagan fervently opposed any change in the minimum wage because it was, in his words, the “left’s” influence. In 1982, he vetoed this bill that was an increase.

During his presidency, the poor became poorer and the rich became wealthier. The rich are the ones who are paid higher wages and their efforts have been made to keep minimum wages in place. It is obvious that if the minimum wage was increased, the employer would receive higher wages, but their current pay is not justified.

A look at student wages is an important step in improving the morale for student workers, it is a practical solution to solving the student job vacuum here at SIUC. This writer feels that the United States will raise the minimum wage for the many people who are too poor to work, and as a result, will have to rely on others to show for their hard work. It is important that minimum-wage earners know their contributions are not minor, especially today, and can try to abide by the minimum wage a living wage.

Let’s just say, Mr. Gotti, you’re going for a ride...

One more step in a long struggle

Today we ask that you turn yourself inside out. Can you see that our hearts tick the same, perhaps not by the rhythm, but through the same measure of science of God or Allah or Garnish?

Remember the heart.

Tonight, the city council should approve the creation of a commission to serve those who feel they have been mistreated based on race, sexual orientation, age or gender by police officers, city officials or business owners.

Turn yourself back outside-in, because this is an issue of the color of your skin. No type of discrimination is worse than another, but it was racial tension that spurred the creation of the SIUC/Carbondale race relations task force in April 2001. Students cried foul after the Carbondale Police used Mace on about 80 black students to disperse a block party in a predominantly black neighborhood.

Perhaps this incident was not racially motivated. But the fact that the actions of the police, the protectors of our city, made many people in the black community feel unsafe — many who were completely removed from the incident should be a scream for reform.

The task force recommended the formation of a Human Relations Commission that would “act independently and have substantial authority including subpoena power and the power of sanctions” with redressing grievances. It also recommended that the task force be a part of the university and the city.

Because of legal implications of an independent commission with such power, the city suggested creating an advisory board that would make recommendations to the city council.

University officials said they would be supportive within their legal parameters.

We strongly support the creation of this commission. For too long we have silenced the angry whispers of the black man who is followed by the police for no other suspicion than the color of his skin or the woman turned down for a home mortgage because black implies financial irresponsibility; or the student asked to making sweeping generalizations for his entire race in a class discussion.

Over racism is not the problem.

The majority of the racism or prejudice (call it what you will) that exists in Carbondale is much more subtle.

Leaders of the local black community, including the president of this University, have sat before our editorial board and recounted the covert racism they encounter everyday. One man with a documented degree and six-figure salary told of a white woman who chucked her purse when he walked past her in the mall.

It is time we stop saying that racism is someone else’s problem and realize that it is OUR problem. It is time we step outside of ourselves and our comfort zones and trudge into unfamiliar territory.

There will be no change if the bottom is constantly pushing upon a stubborn group that sees they have done no wrong and will take no responsibility. If we are all truly to live as equals, the pushing must also come from the top down.

The creation of this commission would be a good first step in generating dialogue and perhaps eventually creating the bridge that will end racial injustice in Carbondale.

Councilman Brad Cole suggested the City Council serve as the Human Relations Commission to eliminate the bureaucracy of an outside body that would make recommendations to the council. Would a city council by any other name smell as sweet… or have the commitment and time to root our racial injustice and see it to its end?

Because we do not believe that a council simply wearing another hat is the answer. This should not be a rubber-stamping commission.

The commission should be an outside body, representative of the city and University population. It should be comprised of members with a passion for justice and equality.

Carbondale is no different from many other nameless cities in America. That doesn’t mean we shouldn’t strive to be better.

It will be a long process. The creation of this commission will be a good first step in recognizing there is a problem.

And then we must begin by listening with our ears and eyes.

Oh, but it will take so much more than that. Change of this magnitude cannot be achieved through the eyes or ears. It must bear upon that which resides inside of us, the part of all of us that is the same, incapable of prejudice and hate.

This must become a matter of the heart.

LETTER'S AND COLUMNIST must be appropriately double-spaced and submitted with student photo ID. All letters are limited to 200 words and are subject to 50-word cut-off. Any topic is accepted. All are subject to editing.

Phone numbers needed (for publication) on reply envelopes.

Students may include photo and should TITLE their letters to include their names. No DIGITAL COPIES of outbound email.

The Daily Egyptian welcomes all sources suggestions.

Letters and columns do not necessarily reflect the views of the Daily Egyptian.
Juneteenth celebrates the end of slavery

Community joins together to teach history to local youth

Georgiana Coffman  Daily Egyptian

Brassy, soothing sounds of the trumpet transformed bustling bands as children observing the massive grave that is Woodlawn Cemetery seemed amazed to see at such a historical site located right in their hometown.

As a part of Friday’s Juneteenth — the yearly celebration of the end of slavery — children marched with banners of red, black and green in memory of their ancestors’ struggles. United voices singing “ Couldn’t Hear Nobody Pray” drifted with the summer breeze and a celebration of freedom began.

“We march with the vision of Frederick Douglass. We march with the courage of Harriet Tubman. We march with the love of Jesus. We march with the love of Jesus. We march with the spirit of 100 million ancestors lost in the slave trade,” read the banner carried by 7-year-old Taylor Hicks of Carbondale.

Hicks looked down at her banner as she explained, “My history means a lot to me.”

The African American Museum of Southern Illinois and Rock Hill Baptist Church opened the service of local and national history to youth such as Hicks in Carbondale’s second annual Juneteenth observance, often referred to as the “Black Fourth of July.”

Chair of the Juneteenth committee, Laurie Bryant, said this year’s celebration was geared to be a youth exploitation “because the future lies in children’s hands.”

Coordinator of the Juneteenth celebration, Coenie McDaniels of the Carbondale City Council, said the importance of the event is to educate people — especially young people.

“If history is retained, then it will not be repeated,” McDaniels said.

The journey took in time began when three military personnel, followed by a loud marching band, gathered about 50 people in a march from Rock Hill Baptist Church to Woodlawn Cemetery.

Buried in Woodlawn is Civil War veteran Lewis Chambers, who was also once a slave. As the crowd stood surrounding the graves, speaker Patricia Mayberry revealed that although there are records of Chambers’ enslavement, it is a mystery as to how his body got to Carbondale.

Mayberry slowly scanned the crowd before saying, “This is a clear example of history slipping through our fingers.”

“...I don’t think the Juneteenth celebration, Carbondale City Council, said the importance of the event is to educate people — especially young people.

“If history is retained, then it will not be repeated,” McDaniels said.

The journey took in time began when three military personnel, followed by a loud marching band, gathered about 50 people in a march from Rock Hill Baptist Church to Woodlawn Cemetery. Burying Chambers in the cemetery in Carbondale is a common practice, despite what may be some ill feelings in the crowd.

Charles Smith, a veteran of the Vietnam War and Carbondale resident, spoke about the African American experience in the military.

Smith used this country’s history of war to show the youth that “black history is American history.”

“...The Civil War, Vietnam, Pearl Harbor, the Persian Gulf and now the war on terrorism, we know these places because we were there, and we will,” Smith said.

After the ceremony at the cemetery, the march was led back to the church, where children of the community performed a dance routine and held an outdoor service, with the help of Frederick Douglass, led eight runaway slaves through the Underground Railroad into Canada. These dances represent modern moves with African tribal dances. In the routine, the children revolved their arms in the air like the wings of a butterfly to represent freedom.

Each year, between the dates of June 13 and 19, communities across America come together to teach the future about African-American culture. Observance is considered to be a national holiday.

“I am, in acknowledgement of that historic moment, African Americans now celebrate Juneteenth. There is presently a movement in Washington to make the event a national holiday.”

“Because knowledge is a powerful tool, we must spread our history and just that.”

Reporter Georgiana Coffman can be reached at gcoffman@dailyEgyptian.com

Also buried there in one massive grave are bodies of former slaves who were sent to Carbondale for medical care, but died of smallpox instead.

Carlton Smith, a veteran of the Vietnam War and Carbondale resident, spoke about the African American experience in the military.

Smith used this country’s history of war to show the youth that “black history is American history.”

“...The Civil War, Vietnam, Pearl Harbor, the Persian Gulf and now the war on terrorism, we know these places because we were there, and we will,” Smith said.

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Law School dean leaves SIUC for New York

Jane Huh
Daily Egyptian

Thomas Guernsey is emigrating to his son, Adam, as they both preferd a major lifestyle transition this fall.

Guernsey, professor and dean of SIUC Law School, will step down from his post a few weeks into the fall semester.

He will take the helm of Albany Law School in New York as dean just a year after he moved to the University of Oregon at Eugene.

Katie Klare, Guernsey's wife and special counselor and compliance officer for the SIUC General Counsel's office, is also preparing for the move by taking career courses and saying her goodbyes to colleagues.

Despite the anxiety that comes with change, the family understands a positive attitude about the change.

"Change keeps people stimulated, and, any new challenge is good for people, and we are looking forward to a new challenge," said Klare.

Guernsey took the Albany offer because he was looking for a new challenge.

"Albany is a private, independent law school. Our future will cover all aspects of administrative responsibilities, from basic infrastructure to the school's curriculum. However, taking on lofty obstacles is something he has done for most of his career.

Before arriving at SIUC in 1996 and another $1 million is expected to arrive from program operations.

"In spite of the recent budget cuts, the Law School is reasonably sound financially," Guernsey said.

Michael Ruiz, assistant dean of the law school, has known Guernsey for five years and said the changes that have occurred, including the new technology in classrooms, would not have been possible if not for Guernsey's style of leadership.

The school has made a special effort to be a role model, not just within academic-intellectual circles.

"Someone once said a good dean is good people do good things," he said. "There's an incredible team of people at the law school that try to better the community, and I feel good about that.

"Guernsey said the responsibility and the great administrative experience he cultivated at SIUC will go with him to New York.

Nonetheless, he and Klare said the transition will be a natural one.

"This is a community that welcomed our family right from the beginning, and we've made good friends from day one," Guernsey said. "It's really the people that we're going to miss."

Return Jane Huh can be reached at rhuh@dailyEgyptian.com

Turning tide: fuel-cell cars that make soap

By Tom Avril
Knight Ridder Newspapers

PHILADELPHIA (KRT) — When a New Jersey inventor dreamed up an idea for a car that "eats" exhaust fumes, he wasn't kidding.

Instead of noxious exhaust fumes, the fuel-cell car spits out water and electricity.

In October 1999, the company began testing the Natrium fuel-cell car when Guernsey started putting a fuel cell into a Ford once the fuel played a vital role to the community, and I feel positive attitude about the change."

Guernsey served as a dean at the University of Oregon School of Law for 15 years.

Prior to that, he taught law at Temple University.

When I went into legal education, I didn't think I was going to be doing a lot of it, but you get more involved as you realize that you have more of an impact as a dean than as an individual faculty member," he said. "I was just a natural evolution."

"I have no list of factories. The school has had for six years, has brought Guernsey a few notable accomplishments.

For the first time in the school's history, the American Bar Association re-accreditation process was completed last spring without having to resolve certain identifiable problems.

"under the term, seven of 10 faculty members hired in 1996 were female. This brought a net increase of five women into the facility.

Guernsey implemented an overhaul of the curriculum to provide a better understanding of law for students.

"We restructured the curriculum, which I think is very significant, because that would prepare our students better for the bar exam and the practice of law," he said.

Guernsey said the financial and academic status of the school should be in good hands after his departure.

At the time Guernsey became the new dean, the school received a $500,000 endowment.

Guernsey invested that $1.6 million and another $1 million is expected to arrive from program operations.

"More than the internal ideals and improvements, Guernsey takes pride in the increased efforts the school has made to interact with the community such as setting up a legal center, featuring dynamic speakers like Carol Kennedy Comey for its lecture series and more fund-raisers."

"Schools need to do a better job of reaching out to the community, and I feel good about that."

"Guernsey said the responsibility and the great administrative experience he cultivated at SIUC will go with him to New York.

Nonetheless, he and Klare said the transition will be a natural one.

"This is a community that welcomed our family right from the beginning, and we've made good friends from day one," Guernsey said. "It's really the people that we're going to miss."

Return Jane Huh can be reached at rhuh@dailyEgyptian.com

A hydrogen-fueled PT Cruiser got a test run in a National Air and Space Museum shop.

Photos provided by KRT Images

The fuel-cell cars spits out soap and water, which could make the cars a lot cheaper to install and run.

"Instead of having to build a new fueling station from scratch, the cars could be hooked up into existing water and electricity," said Guernsey.

"It's a lot cheaper to build a new fueling station for cars than it is to build a new hydrogen fueling station."
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- All other dates and dates are as advertised in the race program.

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- All other dates and dates are as advertised in the race program.
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Crossword

ACROSS
1 Heroic saga
5 Pipe part
9 Maltese
14 Means of pronoun
15 3rd
18 Limerick
20 Inators
22 Make beloved
23 In what way?
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25 Small whirlpool
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The Daily Egyptian is looking for the very best that SIUC has to offer. Students of all ages, majors and ethnic backgrounds are encouraged to apply. The Daily Egyptian is an Equal Opportunity Employer.
Woods grinds out win, moves halfway to Slam

26-year-old Tiger claims eighth major title at U.S. Open

Ed Sherman

Chicago Tribune

PARMAINE, N.Y. (KRT) - Tiger Woods is dancing again.

After winning the U.S. Open Sunday, Woods is halfway to the Grand Slam. It seems to be a big deal to everyone but Woods.

"I think I can relax a little more now," heRadio via AP said.

"I thought the score wasn't too bad. I may not have won, but I had a lot of fun." Woods added.

As always, Woods' main competitor after spending two years in a tie for second place during a major, failed to骄傲ing the Series has finally inched in 2002 during the weekend. There were many fans who have always favored him.

"When I first saw him walk out it was small, but it grew," said Michelle Kaufman.

"It was electric," it was as if he was actually coming back. "I was able to move in my life. Hopefully, I can do it again," said Tiger.

"It's certainly double because I've done it before," Woods said. "At one time, I was dead ahead in the majors. I was champi..."ing the Golden Bear as boldly as his contemporaries. Woods now has eight majors, including the U.S. Open, the British Open, the PGA Championship and the Masters.

"It's not the magic bullet, but it does a good job here, and its..." added Kevin Stewart, 59th. "It gives you a good chance at winning." Karl Freytag, the president of U.S. Soccer, added: "This is..."

"We were thinking about moving it to a major-league ballpark, but they kept here, and it was the best move they ever made."

While Lund also made the drive to see the U.S. World Cup team, injsinspired by them. But we're..." added Carlos Blanquett.

"You get a variety of fans from around the world, from out of town and they have their own special cars," one long-time fan said.

"It's part of the strength and variety of the mixture [of the crowd]. You've got people who originate from everywhere they were brought to a team. Then they..." added Long.

"The atmosphere was..." added the Chicago Tribune. "It was a..." added Carlos Blanquett.

"We were thinking about moving it to a major-league ballpark, but they kept here, and it was the best move they ever made."

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"If you get a variety of fans from around the world, from out of town and they have their own special cars," one long-time fan said.
Saluki star plays against Olympic teams in Poland

Williams only college player in tournament

Jack Platt
Daily Egyptian

November's NBA All-Stars compete with foreign Olympic teams, but for this week, SIU star guard Kent Williams traveled to Poland to test his skills against Europe's best basketball players.

Athletes in Action, an organization that promotes Christianity, invited Williams to join their international team June 11-21 for a tournament in Poland.

When Williams arrived at the airport in Detroit, he expected to meet somewhere from the United States, including Williams, one player from Canada and three players from Lithuania, two players from Poland and three players from Mexico.

Williams, who recently turned 21, was the youngest player on the team. The team spent the first day acquainting themselves with each other and the next three days practicing in Warsaw.

"Everyone got along well with each other," Williams said. "Everybody spent an hour in fellowship and having Bible study together.

After practicing in Warsaw, the team traveled three hours to Gdansk, where the tournament would take place.

The first day in Gdansk, the team practiced and spent some time taking in the view of the Baltic Sea.

In the first game of the tournament, the international team played Poland's Olympic team and lost by seven points.

The next day, the team played Sweden's team and lost by only two.

In the final game of the tournament, the international team defeated Netherlands' Olympic team and finished the tournament with a win.

Williams averaged 11 points throughout the tournament and drained three from beyond the three point arc against Poland.

Williams described the player from the European teams as "ouly players." He said it was a good chance to learn to form their style of play.

SIU basketball coach Bruce Weber said Williams has worked over seas before to play for the NIT All Star team in 2000, but this trip will give him added experience playing against better competition over the summer.

Williams said the trip was a good opportunity to make his name known overseas and experience what it would be like to play professional ball there.

"This trip was a good opportunity to see how I am at my game," Williams said.

The highlight of Williams' trip to Poland was the night they all arrived in Warsaw.

"We were all walking down the street about a mile from the arena when a Christian player started singing the United States National Anthem," Williams said. "Me and the other players from the USA joined in with him, and then everyone started singing their own national anthems. There we were walking down the street singing our national anthems and smiling at each other. It was a great experience."

Reportet: Jack Platt can be reached at jjplatt@dailyEgyptian.com

Saluki recruit Kent Williams defends the hoop during a pickup game Friday afternoon. Williams recently played with the group Athletes in Action against European Olympic teams in Poland.

SIU women's tennis team looks to rebound from season that ended prematurely

Salukis recruit five new players for upcoming season

Kristina Dailing
Daily Egyptian

Three healthy players, two injured players and another leaving at mid-season don't add up to a good season for the SIU women's tennis team.

But five new recruits plus three returning players does equal high expectations.

SIU head coach Jody Auld doesn't hesitate to admit that the past season was disappointing for both her and the team.

"In 28 years, I've never had such a bad season," Auld said. "It's not a season any coach wants to write down.

The disappointments started early on.

Tata Tranqi was red-shirted because of a injury suffered in the first tournament.

Another player, Sandy Swepson, went home to South Africa for Christmas break and didn't return for the spring season.

Sarah Krasinak, who played much of the season injured, had to end her season prematurely because her injury became too severe for her to continue.

And because the team was left with just three players, they ended the season early and didn't participate in the Missouri Valley Conference tournament.

"It was too tough for them to go out with four girls because there is so much winning, but everybody has to win all of their matches to win the match," Tranqi said. "And then, when Sarah got hurt, we went down to three players, and you can't win a match with three players no matter if they won all their matches."

Auld began murdering early because of the dwindling list of available players.

"It really got to a point where I just really tried to really concentrate on surviving," Auld said. "And even though we were playing and I was still working with the players, I still had to move fast and really concentrate on surviving."

Her hard work paid off with five new recruits joining the team for next year.

"Vicki Blanc, the younger sister of former Salukis Blanko and Blanko, one player from Canada is joining the team. Jessica Knitter, a native of California, is a junior transfer.

The names of the two other recruits can't be released until their paperwork is complete.

"I think we are going to have a really deep team," Auld said. "It's going to be fun. I think everybody is going to get along. All of them look like I have talked to seemed really good people and I think they are going to be good players."

Five recruits, two returning players and one player meaning from an injury means the Salukis may not start next season with eight players.

"It's going to be interesting seeing all of us coming back from not having enough players to have more than enough players," Auld said. "In the fall, I'm just going to look at trying to develop some of the kids that sit on the bench and work on some weakness they have, try to develop team chemistry, if they are not in shape to get them in shape, and getting them use to being in college. Hopefully the fall will see some growth of the team and the spring."

Expectations for next season are high for the new team, but Auld and the rest of the players know that the list is still far to be worked out.

"With it being such a young team, you never know what the next year will be like," Auld said. "But the year after that, if everybody stays and improves, I think we can easily end up being a really good team in the future, Auld said."

The team refuses to let the last disappointing season dampen the team's spirits.

"It is an exciting about next year, and the biggest thing to remember is that we just need to move forward," Auld said.

Reportet: Kristina Dailing can be reached at kdailing@dailyEgyptian.com

Three named as 2002 Louisville Slugger Freshmen All-Americans

Jack Platt
Daily Egyptian

P.J. Finigan, Eric Haberer and Ryan Welch receive their Louisville Slugger Awards. The three have been known here at SIU and throughout the college world, earning All-American honors for outstanding play this past season.

The trio joined the best of the best among freshmen throughout the nation and showcased the talent of the SIU baseball team.

Finigan started every game for the Salukis at shortstop and also had a little pitching stint. He came to SIU from Laporte High School in Laporte, Indiana. He is a former All-State selection.

"Finigan is the best young infielder we have seen in a long time," SIU baseball assistant coach Ken Henderson said.

Welch, a pitcher from Brentwood High School in Brentwood, Tennessee, was named to the second-team All-Missouri Valley Conference this past season. Welch appeared 13 times for the Salukis, striking out 39 batters in 68 innings pitched.

Auld said that the team will be very competitive next season and hopes to make it to the next level after college.

Haberer, a southpaw from Bloomington High School, started his college baseball career with a perfect 4-0 record. Haberer played 21 games, striking 34 batters out in a little more than 39 innings. Haberer was also the team leader in saves. Haberer said being named to the All-American team is big for him.

"I had a good fall season, and my confidence grew as the season went on," Haberer said. "I never thought I would work hard for the team. I think this season has been a good year for a MVC championship ring."

Hendersen added a lot of credit to the team's success to a solid recruiting year.

"Finigan, Haberer and Welch all had a great -post-season," Henderson said. "All three are very deserving of this honor."

"It is a sign of things to come," Henderson said.

Reportet: Jack Platt can be reached at jjplatt@dailyEgyptian.com

Finigan, Haberer and Welch receive post-season honors

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