New program helps freshmen transition

Stile T. Smith

The long-awaited Saluki First Year Experience is now in motion and ready to help the freshmen of SIUC.

The program, headed by Mark Amos and Julie Payne Kirchmeier, is set up to help students make the transition from a high school senior to a college freshman.

Kirchmeier, director of Saluki First Year student affairs, said all universities need a solid program to help incoming freshmen.

"Every campus has a first-year experience; we just want this to be a good one," Kirchmeier said. "We're trying to create a coordinated program for first-year students to help them feel connected to the campus and set them up for success."

Kirchmeier said the program is helping students in everything from adapting to residence halls to an optional University 101 class, which aims to form good study habits.

Chancellor Sam Goldman has pledged $400,000 annually during the next three years.

Goldman said while it is not yet clear where the money would come from, he thinks it is a necessity to basic related to the program.

Amos, director of Saluki First Year academic affairs, said it's race to have the university behind what he considers to be an important program.

"Dr. Goldman had said he's going to do this hell or high water," Amos said. "Student enrollment is not where we would like it to be, so the fact that he is still sticking by and saying this is the time to do this is big."

Goldman said after the first three years are complete, the university would continue to fund the program, but it has not been decided how much money would be put into it annually.

Kirchmeier said the goal of the program is not to retain students, but that could be a positive byproduct.

"Any school that's enacted a program like this and done it well has seen their retention increase," Kirchmeier said. "But the purpose here is that we want students to be successful. They can move on to their second, third and fourth years and walk across that stage at graduation, because that's where everyone wants to be."

Kirchmeier said she has already seen interest being generated in the program and they are giving away buttons to promote it. After starting out with 2,000 buttons, Kirchmeier said they are down to around 50.

Textbook rentals compete with bookstores

Danielle McGrew is not unique. She, along with the approximately 18,000 undergraduates on campus, is required to take Speech Communications 101, and the core curriculum class does not come without a price.

In this case, McGrew, a freshman from Flora studying news-editorial journalism and photomontage, paid $83.25 for a used copy of "Public Speaking: Concepts and Skills for a Diverse Society" at the University Bookstore.

"I was shocked," she said.

of the amount she spent on text-

books. "It just hadn't registered how much of my collegiate cost would be in books."

Students seem to get no relief from high costs, even for classes required of all undergraduates.

With textbook prices constantly rising, there is an ongoing search to find an option that works for both students and companies.

One method becoming more widely available is textbook rentals, and publisher Cengage Learning, located in Kentucky, is set to become a part of that market in December.

According to a Cengage Learning press release, students will be able to rent certain titles for up to 70 percent less than full price on the company's Web site, CengageBrain.com. No specific examples of offered textbooks and their rental prices were available.

Whether the set amount saved by renting textbooks outweighs the option of purchasing them and selling them back at the end of the semester is debatable, said Randy Johnson, general manager of 710 Book Store.

Johnson said students should do the math on how much they will save depending on the purchase method. He said students should also be aware that renting texts requires more steps than simply walking into a store and purchasing a book.

Annual Percentage Increase in College Textbook Prices and Overall Price Inflation

See "TEXTBOOKS" | 2

Isaac Smith | Daily Egyptian

Genna Ord

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Daneois McGrew is not unique. She, along with the approximately 18,000 undergraduates on campus, is required to take Speech Communications 101, and the core curriculum class does not come without a price.

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"I was shocked," she said.
To get the word out to students, posters have been placed around campus and each freshman living in the residence halls received a copy of “The Naked Roommate and 107 other issues you might run into in college” by Harlan Cohen.

“It’s a collection of advice in short nuggets,” Amos said. “They’re very funny and there are quotes from students. It’s something you can read for 15 minutes waiting for class to begin and get something out of it.”

Amos said Cohen, a nationally syndicated columnist, would be on campus Oct. 3 as part of SIUC’s speaker series.

Kirschmeier said they are using this school year as a trial run for the program before expanding in fall 2010. Possibilities could include a program for transfer students or international students.

“We know there’s a lot we can do,” Kirschmeier said. “This is also a year of planning for a much larger effort for fall of 2010.”

Eventually, Johnson said, all the variables—delivery of textbooks, technology used and means of receiving them, whether online or in print—will all meet, and options like rental and e-books will be more feasible.

Until then, he said, purchasing the text at a bookstore remains the most convenient and cost-effective for most classes.

“Until something gets a little more concrete, it’s not going to be as simple as it sounds,” Johnson said.

Like other universities, SIUC is seeking ways to assist its students with the high cost of textbooks. James Allen, director of University Core Curriculum and member of the Ad Hoc/Textbook Cost Committee, said administrators met during the spring to discuss several ways to lower textbook costs.

“We have not come to this just recently. We’ve been working on it for about 10 years,” Allen said.

He said some of the recommendations made at the committee’s meeting were for faculty to order less-expensive texts, for the library to provide books on reserve and for students to trade textbooks among themselves.

Some of these methods have already been put in play for certain texts. John Warren, director of the core curriculum for the department of speech communication, said the text for SPOM 101 is available online, as well as in the library, where students can make copies of the pages.

Though companies are only recently expanding their services to rentals, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Larry Diets said the concept is far from new.

“IT’s that been around for a long time ... probably 30 years or more,” Diets said.

Diets said rental systems have not been widely used in the past because they revolved around non-research universities. Since SIUC is a research university, new technology being introduced requires frequently updated textbooks, he said.

For book sellers, no business model exists for local businesses to profit on rentals. Dan Bonavia, store manager for University Bookstore, said in an e-mail books must be used for many terms for the rental method to be sustainable.

For books in subjects that are constantly changing, such as mathematics, purchase might be a better option, he said.

Yet textbook rental is something SIUC may see more of in the future. Diets said SIUC has been making efforts to be involved in a pilot program conceived by the Follett Higher Education Group, which operates the SIUC bookstore.

This program would offer students the chance to rent certain core curriculum texts, such as SPOM 101, and is targeted to launch in the fall of 2010, Diets said.

“For students, the choice is one of personal preference,” Kristina Dillow, a junior from Plainfield studying biology, said she usually purchases her books at a bookstore.

“Buying online makes her nervous, she said, because she is not certain she would get the correct book.

However, Dillow said she would consider renting her texts as a way to avoid spending the $500 to $700 she typically does on books each semester.

Yvonne Holman contributed to this report.

CalendOriginal

Pet of the week

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Dawghouse

It uses Pictures.
Community continues to deal with storm aftermath

Church, school use makeshift facilities

Christina Spakousky
DAILY EAGLE
02252009

More than three months have passed since a May storm blew through Carbondale, but the community continues to deal with its destruction.

Grand Avenue Christian Church still cannot use 80 percent of its facility. SIUC grounds workers are still removing tree stumps and elementary schools are finding new rooms to hold classes.

The church suffered severe structural damage during the derecho, a widespread and long-lived windstorm associated with a band of rapidly moving showers or thunderstorms. Rev. Brooks Wilson said he expects repairs to take four to five months to complete and is conducting services in the Student Center Auditorium temporarily.

Rev. Brooks Wilson (left), lead minister at the Grand Avenue Christian Church, discusses with Connection Minister Jon Hughes the budgetary changes that the church has had to endeavor because of the damages from the May 8th storm. Services have been moved to the Student Center Auditorium while renovations are made to the damaged church.

We were very fortunate that the storm occurred on a Friday, and the children were bussed home at noon.

John Williams
Lewis Elementary School assistant superintendent

Wilson said several volunteers transport supplies to and from the Student Center each Sunday. Volunteers also help to clear out the building for construction, he said.

“It’s a difficult situation, but it’s not irredeemable,” Wilson said.

The May 8 storm brought winds more than 100 miles per hour, destroying thousands of trees and power lines, and canceling several colleges’ commencement ceremonies. The university suffered more than $5 million in damages.

David Tipp, assistant superintendent of grounds, said there are still outlying areas on campus where tree stumps need to be ground-up or removed.

“We just started doing those a couple days ago,” Tipp said.

A campus landscape plan for replanting is being formulated and officials anticipate both student and community involvement, Tipp said. He said he expects the university to start planting this fall.

“The storm was certainly a unique event. There are a lot of people coming here for the first time that don’t have a clue what really transpired,” Tipp said.

Lewis Elementary School in Carbondale is using portable rooms to resume classes this fall.

The school building sustained severe damage to eight classrooms, and the storm lifted up the entire front portion of the roof, said John Williams, assistant superintendent.

The repairs will cost more than $1 million, Williams said, but insurance should cover most of the expenses. Repairs are expected to be completed by November.

“We were very fortunate that the storm occurred on a Friday, and the children were bussed home at noon,” Williams said. “That’s probably the most important aspect. No one was hurt and all the children were home.”
WASHINGTON — The Obama administration launched a criminal investigation Monday into the deaths of five prisoners at a prison in Iraq, described as "inhumane" by President George W. Bush's war on terrorism, revealing CIA interrogations' threats to kill one suspect's children and to force another to watch his mother sexually assaulted.

At the same time, President Barack Obama ordered changes in future interrogations, bringing in other agencies besides the CIA under the direction of the FBI and supervised by his own national security adviser. The administration pledged questioning would be conducted by the Army Field Manual, with strict rules on tactics, and said the White House would keep in hands of its professional investigators doing the work.

Despite the announcement of the criminal probe, several Obama spokespeople — and at the president has repeatedly — that on the subject of detainee interrogation he "wants to look forward, not backward." They took pains to say decisions on any prosecutions would be up to Attorney General Eric Holder, not the White House.

Monday's five-year-old report by the CIA's inspector general, newly declassified and released under a federal court's orders, described severe tactics used by interrogators on terror suspects after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks. Seeking information about possible further attacks, interrogators threatened one detainee with a gun and a power drill and tried to force another, with a mock execution of another prisoner.

Attorney General Holder said he had chosen a veteran prosecutor to determine whether any CIA or contractors should face criminal charges for crossing the line on rough but permissible tactics.

Obama has said interrogators would not face charges if they followed the legal guidelines, but the report by the CIA's inspector general said they went too far — even what was beyond what authorized under Justice Department legal memos that have since been withdrawn and discredited. The report also suggested some questioners knew they were crossing a line.

"Ten years from now we're going to be sorry we're doing this (but) it is what we have to do," one unmarked CIA officer quoted as saying, predicting the questioners would someday have to appear in court to answer for such acts.

The report concluded the CIA used "unnecessarily, improvised, and potentially harmful" techniques in questioning "high-value" terror suspects.

Monday's documents represent the largest single release of information about the Bush administration’s once-secret system of capturing terrorism suspects and interrogating them in overseas prisons.

White House officials said they plan to continue the controversial practice of rendition of suspects to foreign countries, though they said that in future cases they would more carefully check to make sure such suspects are not tortured.

In one instance cited in the new documents, Abu al-Nasih, the man accused of being behind the 2000 USS Cole bombing, was hooded, handcuffed and threatened with an unloosed gun and a power drill. The unidentified interrogator also threatened al-Nasih's mother and family, implying they would be sexually abused in front of him, according to the report.

The interrogator denied making a direct threat.

Another interrogator told alleged Sept. 11 mastermind Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, "if anything else happens in the United States, We're going to kill your children," one veteran officer said in the report.

Death threats violate anti-torture laws.

In another instance, an interrogator pinched the carotid artery of a detainee until he started to pass out, then shook him awake. He did this three times. The interrogator said he had never been taught how to conduct detainee questioning.

Top Republican senators said they were troubled by the decision to begin a new investigation, which they said could weaken U.S. intel- ligence efforts. Sen. Patrick Leahy, the Democratic chairman of the Judiciary Committee, said the revelations showed the Bush administration went down a "dark road of excusing torture."

AP source: Coroner rules Jackson's death homicide

"All those drugs act in syner- gism with each other," Zareas said. "Adding propofol on top of all the other sedatives 'tripped the balance.'" Besides the propofol and two sedatives, the coroner's toxicology report found other substances in Jackson's system but they were not believed to have been a factor in the singer's death, the official told the AP.

When he died, Jackson was skinny but not overly emaciated, and his body had bed sores, the official said. The singer is believed to have developed bed sores in the final days. His body bore "stigmata of child molestation cases, when he went into seclusion and spent long stretches in bed."

Murray has spoken to police and last week released a video saying he told the truth and he has faith the truth will prevail. Murray did not say anything about the drugs he gave to Jackson. Murray's attorney, Edward Chernoff, had no immedi- ate comment but has previously said Murray never administered anything that "should have" killed Jackson.

A call to the coroner's office was not returned Monday. Jackson's family released a state- ment Monday, saying it has "full confidence" in the legal process and the efforts of investigators. It concludes: "The family looks for- ward to the day that justice can see that day come."

The 25 milligrams of propofol Murray told police he gave Jackson the day he died "is not a whopping amount," said Lee Cantrell, director of the San Diego division of the California Poison Control System. Murray had told police that along with a cocktail of the other sedatives, known as benzodiazepines, "it may have been the trigger that pushed him over the edge," Cantrell said.

Cantrell said it's perplexing that someone would give various benzo- diazepines if one was found not to be effective.

"This is horrible polypharmacy," he said, referring to the interaction between the various drugs. "No one will treat an insomnia like this."
Standing the Bill of Rights on its head

Linda P. Campbell
MCCULLOUGH TIMES

I'm still trying to get my head around the idea that a public school can ban a student from wearing a T-shirt with the First Amendment printed on the back.

Where is that written in the Constitution? "Congress shall make no law . . ." isn't really anything-goes license for expression.

But surely even limits on students' speech must themselves abide by reasonable limits.

Most of the news stories I've seen about the lawsuit Petal Palmer and her parents filed against the Wauahachie, Texas, school district have focused on his being told his "John Edwards for President" shirt violated the high school's dress code.

Not-so-highlighted is the fact that officials also rejected a shirt flaunting the text of the First Amendment. "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the exercise thereof, or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press, or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances."

And a three-judge panel of the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals last week said it would not issue a preliminary injunction against enforcing the ban.

If you analyze the case by just applying stare decisis tests, I suppose, maybe you can reach that conclusion.

As court papers describe the dispute, Palmer was a sophomore who played JV football and the tuba when he showed up at school in September 2007 wearing a black T-shirt that read "San Diego."

An assistant principal said he was violating the dress code's no-messaging provision, so his father brought him a T-shirt with a logo resembling a John Edwards '08 bumper sticker.

Couldn't wear that one either. Palmer and his lawyer-father couldn't convince various district officials that the code should exempt clearly political messages that weren't disruptive, lewd or advocating illegal behavior.

So the family sued. Under a revised dress code, students could no longer tout their favorite college or pro team but could flash political buttons, bumper stickers or wristbands.

That was supposed to compensate for not being able to wear even an Edwards for President polo shirt or a T-shirt with "Freedom of Speech" on the front and the First Amendment on the back, both of which officials rejected, according to the 5th Circuit.

In a series of rulings, the most famous of which is Tinker v. Des Moines School District in 1969, the Supreme Court has said that students don't shed their constitutional free-speech rights at the schoolhouse gate.

They can have those rights seriously curtailed, though, to prevent them from talking dirty, causing a commotion or printing something the administration doesn't want in a school-sponsored paper.

In the "Bong hits for Jesus" case, the justices in 2007 said advocating illegal drug use also can be grounded for discipline.

But none of those cases really matter for Wauahachie, it turns out, because the dress code bars all messages—nonsensical, popular or controversial—that aren't related to school teams, groups or activities.

That makes it viewpoint-neutral, the 5th Circuit said, and therefore a pretty straightforward call. Promotes an important government interest; doesn't aim to suppress speech; and is not broader than necessary.

I appreciate that adults who spend their days among throngs of high school students might want guidelines for appropriate dress.

Heaven knows teachers have plenty enough to do without constantly having to play fashion police. "Would you please go put on some clothes suitable for public consumption? What you're wearing is an inadequate facsimile."

But it's some peculiar civics lesson to let a high school student advertise the drill team on his chest but not endorse a presidential candidate or spread the message "Support Our Troops."

This ruling also makes me wonder where the court will go with another dress code brouhaha in which students and their parents decided to pick a fight.

A different three-judge panel heard arguments in February over whether Burleson (Texas) High School could require a pair of students to leave their Confederate flag parcels home. This is not a content-neutral rule; it admittedly targeted displays that officials said had caused too much racial hostility and turmoil to be allowed at school.

The girls, who've since graduated, have argued that the amount of conflict has been exaggerated, the school doesn't uniformly police inappropriate displays and, in any event, displaying the flag promotes healthy discussion.

It would be just perverse if a federal appeals court were to let Wauahachie ban the First Amendment on a shirt but require Burleson to allow Confederate flag-emblazoned purses. But it wouldn't be the first time the First Amendment's been stood on its head.

Campbell is a columnist for the Forth Worth Star-Telegram.
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Hangar 9 needs more time

While most Carbondale bars have welcomed returning students, Hangar 9 does not plan on opening its doors until the spring semester.

Sally Carter, who co-owns the bar with her husband, said the process of rebuilding the damaged establishment has been a slow-moving one, but is well under way.

She said they plan on starting major construction in about six weeks, with plans of opening sometime in January.

“We’ve gotten over all those hurdles (city codes, preliminary planning), but the actual construction has not started,” she said.

Carter said although they plan on rebuilding a few of the same aspects from the old bar, the new bar will have a different layout. The beer garden will now be in the front, instead of the back.

She said they still plan on hosting a variety of musicians, and the new bar will be set up to accommodate bigger shows.

After a Jan. 28 winter storm forced Hangar 9’s roof to collapse, Body By Yo’s has attracted many of its customers, said Lacy Morris, manager of Body By Yo’s.

She said Body By Yo’s has featured many bands that have played at Hangar and has expanded the nights it features musicians.

Body By Yo’s has seen roughly a 15-percent increase in customers since Hangar’s closing, she said.

Isaac Smith contributed to this report.
The Best Rentals in Town
Available Fall 2009

One Bedroom
509 S. Ash #1, 7, 10
507 1/2 W. Main B

Two Bedroom
607 N. Allyn
504 S. Ash #1
514 S. Ash #2
512 S. Beveridge #4, 6,
514 S. Beveridge #1, 2, 4, 6
405 W. Cherry Court
407 W. Cherry Court
407 W. Cherry Court
409 W. Cherry Court
400 W. College #1
503 W. College #6
520 S. Graham*
507 1/2 W. Main #B
405 E. Mill
202 N. Poplar #1
514 S. Hays

Three Bedroom
607 N. Allyn
407 S. Beveridge
507 S. Beveridge #1, 3, 5
509 S. Beveridge #5
513 S. Beveridge #2
515 S. Beveridge #1-3
405 W. Cherry Court
407 W. Cherry Court
408 W. Cherry Court
409 W. Cherry Court
309 W. College #1
400 W. College #1, 4
407 W. College #2
409 W. College #2, 4, 5
501 W. College #2
507 S. Hays #1
514 S. Hays
614 S. Logan
202 N. Poplar #1
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507 S. Hays #1
413 W. Monroe
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Today's Birthday — This year Mars goes into Cancer, lighting a fire under your friends. They'll be eager to tackle new subjects and easy to entice in whatever you want them to do. Mercury (the mind) goes into Libra, so you'll spend a lot of time wondering what you can afford. Stick to the budget.

Aries (March 21-April 19) — Today is a 6 — Change something about your home to make it more comfortable. You'll be in the mood for the next several weeks.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) — Today is a 9 — Mars, energy, is going into Cancer, so family and your case, education. Which skill should you practice?

Gemini (May 21-June 20) — Today is a 5 — You're changing your focus from your own fluctuation to making money. Schedule effectively.

Cancer (June 21-July 22) — Today is a 9 — The sun in Virgo and the moon in Scorpio, your sign for emotion. Plan an intimate midway celebration.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) — Today is a 6 — Passion is increasing, and you're getting smarter. You study hard and work under pressure. Use that adrenaline rush.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Today is an 8 — Your team is ready to go, and you're looking for your next step. Keep them busy. You'll find some good news very soon.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) — Today is a 5 — Your supervisors are expecting more from you. They're tired of your excuses. Hold only the valid ones.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) — Today is an 8 — You're in good shape. Get more exercise. Swimming, swimming and beachcombing fall into this category.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) — Today is a 5 — It's easier to get your message across. Friends can help with that. Finish old projects and bring in new money.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Today is an 8 — There's so much work coming in, you need an assistant. Choose someone who's supportive and believes in your goals.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) — Today is a 5 — It's getting easier to make your point. A barrier has been lifted. Try again. The equality wheel gets the attention.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) — Today is an 8 — You'll soon be more interested in playing with numbers. Figure out how much you'll need and how you'll get it.
**Saluki Insider**

Miami Heat's Michael Beasley has checked himself into rehab Monday on the request of the Heat after posting pictures on Twitter of his new back tattoo and unidentified bags on his table along with banana peels. Do you think he will bounce back from this?

**Ryan Voyles**
ryanl@siu.edu

**Derek Robbins**
drubs@siu.edu

**RUNNING BACK continued from 12**

Wilkins has impressed the coaches during spring and fall camp, Cruplays said, while Giovannini has impressed the coaches during spring and fall camp, Cruplays said, while Giovannini has impressed the coaches during spring and fall camp, Cruplays said, while Giovannini has impressed the coaches during spring and fall camp, Cruplays said, while Giovannini has impressed the coaches during spring and fall camp, Cruplays said, while Giovannini has impressed the coaches during spring and fall camp, Cruplays said, while Giovannini has impressed the coaches during spring and fall camp, Cruplays said, while Giovannini has impressed the coaches during spring and fall camp, Cruplays said, while Giovannini has impressed the coaches during spring and fall camp, Cruplays said, while Giovannini has impressed the coaches during spring and fall camp, Cruplays said, while Giovannini has impressed the coaches during spring and fall camp, Cruplays said, while Giovannini has impressed the coaches during 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Football

From All-American to committee

Senior running back Deji Karim escapes defenders during a team scrimmage Saturday at McAndrew Stadium. The position of starting running back has not been filled in the absence of last year’s starter Larry Warner, but running back coach Steve Crutchley said the top choices are Karim and junior running back Richard White.

Ryan Voyles  
DAILY EGYPTIAN  
photos/0825/25

Football

Lennon’s first recruits get first chance

Senior running back Deji Karim escapes defenders during a team scrimmage Saturday at McAndrew Stadium. The position of starting running back has not been filled in the absence of last year’s starter Larry Warner, but running back coach Steve Crutchley said the top choices are Karim and junior running back Richard White.

Ryan Voyles  
DAILY EGYPTIAN  
photos/0825/25

The major impact of the class so far seems to be the lone transfer, wide receiver Mar’Chawn.The redshirt senior played in all 12 games last season and was second on the team with 29 catches. His most memorable play was on Oct. 25 when he caught the game-winning 51-yard touchdown pass as time expired to give the Salukis a 23-17 victory over Missouri State.

With their redshirt season behind them, the recruits will look to compete for positions on the team, Lennon said. One player in his first recruit class who could make an impact is Anton Wilkins, who running backs coach Steve Crutchley said has the skills to contribute to the team after an impressive spring camp.

Although recruit class lists make for interesting articles and overview analysis, Lennon said he is not worried about not playing any of his recruits just yet.

“We’re a veteran-loaded team right now, so it’s not like we need the younger guys to step up and contribute right now,” Lennon said. “Hopefully they’ll get the experience they need now to contribute to this team later.”

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Cross country team builds on success

Derek Robbins  
DAILY EGYPTIAN  
photos/0825/25

For 24 years, Salukis ran toward a goal and came up short. Last year, Jeff Schrimer accomplished that goal when he became the first SIU All-American in cross country since 1984, finishing 25th in the NCAA Cross Country Championships. With a new season set to begin, head coach Matt Spurka said he does not want to wait 24 years to see his runners make their goals.

Spurka said he was happy for Schrimer’s success and wants to see more of the team join him.

“It’s always good to have a runner make a big accomplishment like that,” Spurka said. “My big goal this year is to get the whole team qualified for the NCAA cross country championships.”

The cross country team won the Missouri Valley Conference Championships last year for the second season in a row, but failed to qualify for the NCAA National Championships.

Spurka said the return of senior Mohamed Mohamed from a heel injury would help the Salukis possibly reach that plateau.

“It will be good having both Jeff and Mohamed because they both have national experience,” Spurka said. “They can help get our other guys ready for the national meet.”

On the women’s side, no new runners were added. Spurka said the team is young so they felt no pressure to add anyone.

With such a young team, leadership might come into question, but junior Megan Hoelscher said the team came together and helped each other.

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