Drastic land use plan would revamp campus

Plan calls for new SIUC entrances

MOLLY PARKER
DAILY EGYPTIAN

Plans to restore beauty and advance architecture on SIUC's historic campus will be reaching its final stages, as officials present the campus land use plan to the Board of Trustees Thursday.

The vision for the SIUC campus includes dynamic lighting, innovative buildings, a signature entrance into the University and plans to beautify the overall campus.

The plan evolved from a committee that formed one year ago, with Vice Chancellor Piloti for Administration Glenn Poshard leading the way. Poshard, chair of the Committee Concerning Campus Environment, said the committee drew upon priorities that include expanding academic programs and athletic facilities, enhancing sports and entrances, keeping the campus clean and planning for future growth.

Poshard said a main concern of the committe was a lack of clearly marked directional signage around campus. Also pointing to a need for a more dynamic entrance onto the campus. Currently, there is no defining marker that distinguishes where the campus begins. The plan incorporates a symbolic entrance on the corner of Mill Street and U.S. Rt. 51. The primary visitor's entrance will be located off of U.S. Rt. 51 beside a new football stadium.

The plan also provides for a multipurpose three-story complex connected to the football stadium. The building will include a Galda Hall of Fame and student services such as Parking Division and Payroll. Offices from Woody Hall and Washington Square will move to one wing of the stadium under the plan. And a "zero-stop" sports entrance. "Poshard said.

The facility will extend into the visitor parking lot in front of the Student Center and the cur- rent two-story parking garage will gain height to accommodate lost parking spaces.

"And with an entire wing of Woody Hall cleared out, the Rehabilitation Center would relocate to Woody Hall. Currently, the Rehabilitation Center is split between the Communications Building and Rhen Hall. The move would provide added space for the growing College of Mass Communication and Media Arts and the College of Business and Administration.

The plan also calls for a brand new academic building located just inside of the primary entrance to campus that will create a "one-stop shopping area."

Entranceways like these will be replaced with more aesthetically pleasing gateways under the proposed campus land use plan.

ście solutions. With the help of Civitas, this extensive land-use plan may eventually shape the rent two-story parking garage will likely gain height to accommodate lost parking spaces.

Norwood likely to be ousted from SIU Board

Gov. Ryan reappoints two, adds two new BOT officers

MOLLY PARKER
DAILY EGYPTIAN

Two veteran board members, a familiar face in basketball and college basketball and a banking leader are expected to be named to SIU's Board of Trustees, sources say.

Sources familiar with board operations have confirmed that high-profile college basketball referee Ed Hightower, also superintendent of the Edwardsville Community Unit School District, and Mark Retkin, president of Liberty Bank in Alton, are expected to be announced as trustee appointees early this week.

The terms of Trustees Molly D'Esposito, Harris Rowe and Bill Norwood expired in January, but those members are permitted to fulfill their duties until re-appointment or new appointments are made. The search open slot was vacated by former Trustee Celeste Stield last September.

D'Esposito, Norwood and Rowe sought another six-year term on the board, but Carbondale-area resident and SIUC graduate Norwood, who has served for 25 years, will reportedly not be re-appointed.

Hightower and Retkin could not be reached for comment as of press time Sunday.

The governor's office would not comment on the appointments.

"We are not going to confirm or deny that until an official statement has been released by the governor," said Brad Cole, a Southern Illinois liaison to Gov. George Ryan.

In a space of Board and Commission appointments Feb. 28, the governor made appointments to six SIU colleges, but no movement was made to fill the four vacant positions on SIUC's board.

The Board's and Commission's Office said, "an effective and precise process often requires significant time and patience." Appointments to the board require the consent of the Senate. The Senate is on break until April 17 in observance of the Easter Holiday, and if appointments are made before the expected new appointments, new appointees would be permitted to vote at the upcoming meeting.

After the expected new appointments, four members will be Republicans — Van Meter, D'Esposito, Rowe and newcomer Retkin.

No more than four members of the seven-person board — excluding the two superintendents of the Edwardsville Community Unit School District and the University High School District — are required to approve actions, according to the Illinois State Board of Education.
Jackson said each portion of the project will go before the board during different phases of the plan and be approved for funding separately. Although the detailed plan would likely take 15-20 years to complete, Poshard said he hopes the elements of the plan that are determined to be the first priorities could begin within the next couple years.

With alumni more likely to support something they can see, University officials say the plan will likely aid a planned capital fundraising drive. However, this will not be enough to supply the entire project and the University would likely also lean on bonds and state funding.

The University spent $24,000 on Civitas’ service and officials said they will likely renew that contract, which expires in June, to polish the final stages of the plan.

CIVITAS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

displaying greenery.

Although the campus already has bright green pathways, Poshard said they are not sufficient for both safety and presenting the beauty of the campus. The plan would incorporate enhanced lighting around campuses that will highlight sidewalks and the architecture of the buildings.

Additionally, Greek Row is scheduled to relocate to Southern Hills and new apartment-style housing will be built along the northeast edge of campus.

A plan for funding the campus land use plan is only in the infant stages. With no current funding sources, the board would only approve the “ideal of the plan,” assistant chancellor John Jackson said.

SUU’s men’s basketball head coach Bruce Weber is pleased about the appointment of Hightower. As an NCAA referee, Hightower has been assigned to work several Final Four tournaments and other prestigious games. Hightower is “very well­ respected throughout the country,” Weber said.

Weber said his dealings with Hightower have been positive. He personally hopes that Hightower is appointed to the board because of his pre­o­st­ e­th­ ical­ 1­ n­ t­ i­ c­ i­ t­ y. “My dealings with him have been very professional,” he said. “I hope he officiates also,” Weber said.

student trustees — can be from the same political party.

Like Nurnet, Hightower is an independent. Gene Callahan, who was appointed to the board last fall, and Herrin resident John Brewster, are Democrats.

Political affiliation has been brought to question. Although the board is set to hire a Democrat and a Republican in the next three years, the board will not hire a Democrat and a Republican in the next three years.

Pittsburgh and the architecture of the buildings.

An invitation on file.

**CORRECTIONS**

 Readers who spot an error in a news article should contact the Daily Egyptian Advertising Desk at 591-3311, extension 228 or 229.

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month

Monday, April 9

Women’s Center Annual Meeting - Public Invited - Newman Center • 715 S. Washington

Tuesday, April 10

6:30-8:30pm

Video “Touch Guise”

Looks at cultural encouragement of masculinity as being violent

Viewer discretion advised.

Tuesday’s, April 10, 17, and 24

Carbondale Police Dept: Women’s Self-defense Class Series

Call Office Des Elliott at 457-3200 for more information.

Wednesday, April 11

8 pm

Gesic Theatre Company

What’s Going On? By Joel Gori

Explore Sexual Communication and Date Rape

Shryock Auditorium, SIUC

Thursday, April 12

7-8:30 pm

Women’s Empowerment through Meditation and Guided Imagery Workshop

Pulaski 37, SIUC, Carol Sommer

Thursday, April 17

6:30-8:30 pm

Poetry Reading For Survivors

Longbranch Coffeehouse • 100 E. Jackson

Rape Crisis Services of the Women’s Center

24 Hour Crisis Hotline

529-2324 or 1-800-334-2094

DAILY EAGLEMAN

The Daily Egyptian was selected as one of the TOP 10 collegiate newspapers in the nation.
USG elections bogged down by delays

Petition guideline questions delay USG spring elections

CHRISTIAN HALE DAILY EDITION

With only nine days left until the Undergraduate Student Government spring elections, presidential candidates are still scrambling to meet requirements to get on the ballot.

Six students have filed for presidential candidacy. The candidates are USG President Bill Archer; USG Senator Peter Normand; USG Senator Rob Taylor; Damien Campbell; Michael Perry and Philip Porter.

Although each of the candidates meet new election requirements regarding candidate petitions, the official list of candidates will not be available until Tuesday, leaving eight days for campaigning.

The USG Judicial Board will be meeting at 4:30 p.m. Monday in order to determine which of these candidates qualify for this spring’s election.

Wednesday night’s planned debate has not been finalized due to the multiple delays dragging down this spring’s elections, according to USG President Bill Archer.

“It kind of depends on Monday’s judicial board meeting of what allowed in the debate and who’s not,” Archer said. “Hopefully a lot of people will stay up to the debate. Personally, for my own personal preference, I’ll like to have six people running.”

Winters returned from job interview at Eastern

JENNIFER WID DAILY EDITION

Interim Provost Margaret Winters returned Friday from Charleston, where she interviewed for the provost position at Eastern Illinois University.

Winters had little to say about being one of five finalists for the administrative position.

“I went up there to look it over,” said Winters, also the vice chancellor for Academic Affairs at SIUC. “I’m thinking and they’re thinking.”

EUU advertised for a provost in November with an application deadline in January. The committee will review the five finalists and make its report to EUU president April 16. The provost and vice president of Academic Affairs at Eastern reports to the president and leads a team to coordinate academic programs and policies.

Interim Chancellor John Jackson said he is aware of Winters’ possible reelection, having inquired to her frequently about it.

“It would certainly be a loss to SIU for Margaret Winters to leave,” Jackson said. “On the other hand, I don’t blame her for looking around.”

Winters will be a very competitive applicant for that position or a variety of other academic positions she might seek.

SIUC has been searching for a provost since 1999 when Jackson was named interim chancellor. Winters was appointed interim vice chancellor for Academic Affairs and Research in January 2000. The search for a permanent provost has been put on hold until a chancellor has been found.

“It is unclear whether Winters would seek the permanent provost position at SIUC, but Jackson said if she applied, she would certainly be considered.”

While at SIUC, Winters has participated in the task force on International Programs and Services, the SIUC Planning and Budget Council and the meeting committee for North Central Accreditation Preparation.

USG Presidential Candidates

Archers Campbell Flory Normand Perry Taylor

Administration, faculty haggle over paycheck error

KATE MCCANN DAILY EDITION

Nearly half of SIUC faculty received inflated paychecks for the month of March, but the extra cash must be returned via deduction spread out over two paychecks.

An accounting error is blamed for the extra $98,000 pumped into the inflated checks last month, in the confusing aftermath of the bloated checks last month.

The error overpaid pro-rated faculty members by an average of $250 each on their inflated paychecks.

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Our Word

Greeks lead by example with Multicultural Day

On March 30, one sorority and two fraternities celebrated the first Multicultural Day, a Greek event that paired cross fraternity groups.

Delta Xi Phi, Sigma Lambda Beta and Beta Theta Pi all teamed up to sponsor the first-time event that included an Easter egg hunt for 220 students from Thomas School from Carbondale and afterward, a group discussion about how to improve diversity within the Greek system and on campus.

The Daily Egyptian was glad to hear about the event, and applauds the greeks for their efforts to improve multicultural understanding on campus.

Our nation is becoming more diverse each day, and any efforts to improve communication and friendship between minority groups on campus is commendable.

The United States Census Bureau recently showed that Hispanics are now the largest minority group in the United States, and it is estimated that in the non-too-distant future, there will be no clear cut racial or ethnic majority.

While Illinois' population statistics still show a substantial number of white residents (73.5 percent), specific counties, like Cook County, where the Greek community makes up almost half the population. As our nation's population grows to encompass more non-whites, small steps such as those taken by the Greeks on March 30 will smooth the way toward a more amicable society.

We think the SIUC campus can take a lesson from the sentiment of the three Greek organizations that reached out toward each other. While it is important to have groups dedicated to one race or ethnicity, such as the Pan-Hellenic Council, we as a campus should do all that we can to interact with each other and learn the valuable lessons that someone with different experiences can teach. Only by taking the first step, and initiating contact with different races and ethnicities, will diversity on our campus truly move beyond the superficial.

Important opportunity for Opp

SIU Athletic Director Paul Kowalczyk searched, interviewed, deliberated, and ultimately, decided to stay the course in his decision to name Lori Opp the permanent SIU women's basketball coach. Although Opp did not have a fair chance to showcase her ability that she did not have a fair chance to showcase; her ability was never fully realized.

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If life were just that simple

I am of the opinion these days that human civilization has reached a peak. This is not to say we are the No. 1 civilization in the universe or anything - after all, there is nowhere we can turn that all the civilizations out there in the cosmos. We are far too stupid to even imagine that there is an alternative to our own degenerative path.

The American democracy, almost completely crushed by our election officials apparently had to be taught a lesson in the art of good government.

And according to the recent Carbondale census, several thousand people merely fall off the edge of the world. Face it - we had not even invented the television, the telephone, the automobile, the computer, the internet, the internet, the internet, the internet.

While Opp struggled in the challenging assignment of attempting to revitalize a team that she did not have a fair chance to showcase; her ability was never fully realized.

In the past three years shows that the Saluki women's program is a wounded animal in desperate need of some fresh air. After Cindy Scott's SIU teams were consistent winners for years, Opp has the tools to turn the program around.

As a showcase sport for women's athletics at SIU, it is important that the Saluki women's basketball team turns its fortunes around and reasserts itself as a force in the Missouri Valley Conference. Opp has been given the vote of confidence she needs, and it is time for her to deliver and restore respectability to Saluki women's basketball.
Gun show legislation passes the House

Contrary interpretations of a bill that would require all gun and sports shows to be federally licensed and regulated has resulted in the Missouri chapter of the Firearms Owners Identification Card to require a person who is not a federally licensed firearm dealer who wants to transfer a federally-licensed firearm dealer who wants to transfer a firearm on the grounds of a gun show must do so through a federally licensed firearm dealer. The bill passed the House on Wednesday and is now in the Senate Rules Committee.

Rep. Steve Skelton, D-Erath, said the bill would stop unlicensed dealers from selling guns along the 499 licensed dealers at shows.

"This is a very reasonable effort to close a gaping hole in existing law," he said.

Although the law does require buyers to have a Firearms Owners Identification Card or an IDP card, Schoenberg said it is possible to have an invalid card.

One argument against the bill was that background checks are a major inconvenience to sellers and buyers. Schoenberg said statistics show 71 percent of federal background checks are conducted in two minutes and 95 percent finished in less than two hours. The remaining 5 percent are 30 times more likely to be felonies.

Rep. Mike Bost, R-Montgomery, voted against the bill. He said if people want to sell firearms they will find a way to do so, even if that means they have to move into the parking lot or across the street.

"This doesn't stop that," Bost said.

He said proponents of the bill are attempting to keep criminals and gang members from obtaining guns at gun shows. However, he said the FOID card requirement already serves that purpose.

"Augs are gang members don't have FOID cards," Bost said.

He said the bill could be used to require all retailers at gun and sports shows to be federally licensed, even retailers who are not selling guns. Bost said the bill will be used against people who are trying to sell other items like knives, for example. He said one of the reasons the bill was necessary is because he is the other state representatives voted against it.

"We think our sportman shows are in danger," Bost said.

Although he said he firmly believes gun dealers should be regulated, he does not want to put unnecessary requirements onto other retailers at sports shows.

Bost said the discrepancy between how he reads the bill and Schoenberg, who said the bill would only affect the retailers of firearms, is not the issue. He said the bills supports the overall effort of the MCMA requirements did not along.

When Scott Hodgson came to SIUC in 1998, adding more students FIRST program.

Although this is not a difficult Gerig's plan was to raise one-third of the money privately, with state and federal support making up the other two-thirds. So for the college has only received $4.8 million in state funding through the years. George Ryan's Illinois FIRST program.

If the deadline is not met, SIUC could lose its license to broadcast, derailing hands-on programs useless.

Private funding is being sought, however. But Leiser is uncertain whether the efforts will pay off in time. Leiser, a member of the Friends Advisory Board for WSIU, said in Washington, D.C., last week he was met by government officials for support for the mandate.

"Some congressmen... we know they will do everything they can," Leiser said. "Others... we have no assurances that they will push for the bill." 

Leiser said the digital conversion has brought such a tremendous cost that attempting to raise one-third of the money locally is a challenge. "If we can possibly do it we will," she said. "What we need is a fiery godfather or godmother to come along."

University Hospital to install new chiller

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University Hospital to install new chiller

After serving 15 years past its life span, the chiller that has provided air conditioning to East Campus since the early '60s will step down. The new chiller will cost more than $3 million and construction is expected to begin later this year. The facility, which will be completed by August. The price is high, but Glenn Stine, assistant director of Housing in charge of facilities, said the change is long overdue.

"The residents overall are going to see a big plus," Stine said.

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University Hospital to install new chiller

With summer near, Housing chills out

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Sponsored by the group. The tour formed during halftime at an event as a fundraiser.

For Saidou Hangadoumbo, sharing his culture means more than ethnic food and native clothing. It means educating others and investing in the future of his African homeland.

Hangadoumbo, a doctoral student in health education from Niamey, Niger, serves as president of African Student Council. This group will sponsor activities as part of Africa Week 2001, which begins today.

The theme for the celebration is "Africa-America: Two Partners for Peace, Development and Progress. African heritages will be highlighted through music, food, sports and art, but more than that, African students aim to open the lines of communication between their homeland and the United States."

An opening ceremony will be at 11 a.m. today in the Student Center Gallery Lounge. Tickets will be sold for 60 cents each for the food fair that will follow at 11:30 in Ballroom D. The Botswana movie "Spots vs. Spots" will be shown at 2 p.m. in the Student Center Auditorium.

Wednesday features a roundtable discussion, "How SIUC Can Contribute to the Partnership Between America and Africa," from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Carbondale Civic Center, 200 S. Illinois Ave. The discussion will be moderated by Paul Simon, Director of the Public Policy Institute.

This event is important to observe because Africa week activities will conclude; for more information about Africa week activities or to purchase tickets for the banquet from Noon to 1 p.m. in the Student Center Auditorium.

Although African students have been on campus for 30 years, Americans still need to be exposed to the culture.

"Every year it seems like we are starting from scratch," Malepe said. "The media doesn't always represent Africa the true way we see it. People are not just running around chasing animals. People really begin to see Africa until we show them.

The week-long events conclude Saturday with a soccer game from 10 a.m. to noon on the field behind Wham Educational Building and a barbecue from 5 to 8 p.m. at the Holiday Inn, 800 E. Main St. Tickets for the barbecue are $10 for students and $12 for non-students and may be purchased at the door.

The tradition of sharing African culture on this campus has gone on for 27 years. But besides fostering an atmosphere of cultural understanding, Hangadoumbo said he hopes Africa week will create economic, educational and developmental opportunities for his homeland.

"Beyond the cultural sharing, we really want to increase the public awareness of Africa. We also want to see how we can create the conditions of partnership between African countries and America," Hangadoumbo said.

SIUC could play a role by sending more professors to do research in Africa and more people to help the educational system, improve health care and further develop democracy, according to Hangadoumbo.

"There are many resources here that can help, and as African students, we can work to make that happen," Hangadoumbo said.

For more information about Africa school week activities or to purchase tickets, call Lauren Phillips,, SIUC student council public relations officer, at 436-6377 or email laurenphil@siu.edu.
Soldiers get a look into the ways of war

BRETT NAUMAN

The sweat rolled down Scott Engel's face after machine guns began firing at his squad Saturday afternoon in the forests off of Giant City Road near Touch of Nature.

Engel, a senior in administration of justice and paralegal studies, was leading 10 troops on a mission when they encountered enemy gunfire.

More than 50 students in the Army ROTC participated in battle simulations throughout the weekend, familiarizing themselves with the exhilaration produced by war.

The camouflaged battle-fatigue wearing, M-16 rifle-toting troops were ordered an hour before to enter the woods and take out a faction of the "Southern Illinois People's Liberation Army," which had been ambushing locals in the area.

The enemy forces were an array of commissioned soldiers from the U.S. Army, National Guard and student officers of the ROTC who provided resistance to the troops on the mission.

Although Engel was having a good time playing war, firing his gun and telling his troops what to do, he was still under considerable pressure.

Engel's performance as squad leader was being evaluated by U.S. Army Maj. Robert Ware. Ware accompanied the troops to point out tactical mistakes made during the simulation and how they "think on their feet" most effectively.

"This is going to prepare them for real military situations," Ware said.

During the simulation Engel and other SIU students in the ROTC program encountered numerous situations that forced them to rely on their training and instincts.

In one instance they shot an enemy soldier, causing him to fall on his holy book.

"Get out of here," yelled one soldier when they turned near the "wounded" enemy entailing a grenade.

"You can't teach how to do that in a classroom," Engel said. "You teach it all by book work. You have to be out here in the field applying what you learned in a military setting.

After Engel's squad encountered the enemy gunfire, they hit the ground and began to return fire from their M-16s, which fire blank rounds sounding like Black Cat firecrackers.

The squad consisted of two teams, Alpha and Bravo. The objectives for Alpha was to support Bravo as they ambushed the enemy forces and took them from behind, laying down a wall of enemy gunfire. Bravo successfully attacked with Alpha help, killing two enemy soldiers and capturing a third.

Following the attack, Ware sat down with the students and discussed the pros and cons of how they operated. After speaking with everyone, Ware took Engel aside and gave him evaluation.

With the simulation over and morning to form his team, the soldiers offered insight to the ROTC cadets.

Master Sgt. Billy Davis said the purpose of the simulations is to prepare cadets for advanced camp battle simulations this summer at Fort Campbell.

Davis said the advanced camp simulations will decide which cadets move to particular jobs. He lives in Carterville and said like passing on the knowledge that he has accrued in his 17-year military career.

"This is a great job," Davis said. "Teaching young kids and letting them know what I know."
At DAILYEGYPTAN.COM/ALPHA.html

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1 bedroom, $300-350/mo.

1 bedroom, $375/mo.

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**FOR RENT**

**APRIL SPECIAL**

Get a 3-bedroom Apartment for $550 per month.

2 Balconies (Country Club Area)

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529-3171 or 529-4611

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August 2001

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**Room RATES**

2 bedrooms, $360-400/mo.

1 bedroom, $260-320/mo.

**FOR RENT**

2 bedroom, $450/mo.

1 bedroom, $300-350/mo.

**Houses**

Incl. summer & fall leases available.

Many nice, fully furnished places.

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1 bedroom, $375-450/mo.

1 bedroom, $275-350/mo.

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**COMICS**

**Masked Dropout**

**by Bob Hewitt**

**On the Catboy**

**by Nathan Schild**

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**DAILY CROSSWORD**

**Solutions**
Women’s tennis splits two

SIU defeats Wichita State University, falls to Southwest Missouri State University over windy weekend

SPORTS

The wind was roaring, debacles were flipping wildly on the ground, bats were flying off people’s hands, even a photographer was thrown backward against a chain-link fence.

Was this a tornado? A hurricane? An act of God?

No. It was the weather at a tennis match.

The SIU women’s tennis team welcomed two teams from the Missouri Valley Conference to the SIU Arena Tennis Courts this past weekend as Wichita State University came to town Saturday and Southwest Missouri State University came in on Sunday.

While the Salukis (5-6, 2-1 MVC) were looking to raise their conference record to 3-0, they had to settle with splitting the matches.

There were also Salukis competing at the Texas Relays, while Joe Hill placed ninth in the javelin with a throw of 195-02, while Bro.lovoclac:c finished in seventh in the javelin with a heave of 113-6.

For the men, the distance medley relay team of Beatty Cox, Marissa Jula, Julia Bonfante and Emily Herrell finished 18th (12:26.57).

Baseball battered by Bluejay bats

The Bluejays amassed 29 runs to 11 for the Salukis, 10-6 for the Bears, 6-1 for the Shockers and 13-4 for the Bears.

Track and Field squads return from SEMO, Texas

Sophomore Jamie Waters had four top-five finishes at the 28th annual All-Sport Relay at the Alex Boxer Track and Field Complex in Cape Girardeau, Mo., this weekend.

After already taking third-place honors in the hammer throw, the sophomore from Joplin, Mo., took fifth place in the discus and finished up by placing fourth in the javelin with a throw of 113-6.

Also competing at the All-Sport Relay was Jodi Huddleston, who finished fifth in the 3,000-meter run (11:05.06), Cardice George placed sixth in the long jump at 17-10, Kaison Bart placed sixth in the pole vault (9-0) and Laa.-G. Griffon finished sixth in the javelin at 98-9.

For the men, Dan Harrell jumped 15-6 in the pole vault for second place, while Ian Lefeverhous placed second in the 400-meter run with a time of 48.00.

There were also Salukis competing at the Texas Relays, as Bothwell earned his degree, winning the javelin with a toss of 195-02, while Joe Hill placed second in the high jump (6-6) and Joe Zobelt finished 10th in the 1,500-meter run (4:03.47).

For the women, the distance medley relay team of Beatty Cox, Marissa Jula, Julia Bonforte and Emily Herrell finished 18th (12:26.57).

Three Tigers face felony burglary charges

Keenan Lewis, 20, of Lithonia, Ga., and Tyrone Dawson-Dickerson, 19, of Rock Hill, S.C., were taken to the Clemson city jail Tuesday evening to await arraignment this morning.

In addition to the burglary charges, the players, all sophomores, each face one misdemeanor count of interference with a fire alarm and another misdemeanor count of criminal mischief. The burglary charge, in which the most severe penalty — a maximum penalty of 15 years to life in prison with no possibility of parole.

According to Clemson University Police Chief Lonnie Saxon, the players burglarized five rooms in student residence halls after pulling fire alarms to cause students to evacuate the buildings. Police said the players burglarized five rooms — one at 6:05 a.m. in Robert Bruce Hall, one at 6:08 a.m. in Robert Bruce Hall, one at 6:10 a.m. in Robert Bruce Hall, one at 6:12 a.m. in Robert Bruce Hall and one at 6:14 a.m. in Robert Bruce Hall.

Three girls and one boy from each floor were evacuated but were able to return to their rooms after the-alarm signals were turned off.
Newly-named head coach Lori Opp given three years to turn around the women’s basketball team from a series of sub-.500 seasons

JAVIER SERNA  DAILY EDITION

Former Lori Opp if her jokes weren’t that funny on Friday.

Opp at least gained some token laughter from those in attendance as the interim title was formally introduced from her job title in a packed press conference at Lingle Hall, where she was officially introduced as the Salukis women’s basketball coach.

“I can't practice anything ‘Welcome to Wal-Mart,” is that a return line?’ Opp joked to those in attendance.

The decision was originally announced Thursday via a press release, but SIU Athletic Director Paul Kowalczyk waited until Friday’s press conference to release the details of Opp’s contract, which is for three years at $75,000 a year.

“With that goes the other pressure to succeed and win and said to me that even better than that we have already said, of course, to good players, those student-athletes,’ Kowalczyk said.

“I'm looking forward to the opportunity to work here again at Southern. I feel very good about the fact it’s a three-year term contract, which will give me and my staff the opportunity to get the kids in a place we would like,” Opp said.

The contract ended a national search that began at the conclusion of the 2000-01 women’s basketball season. Kowalczyk made mention of a national search when he announced Rexroat’s firing.

“I'm looking forward to the opportunity to work here again,” Opp said. “And obviously she had the experience here and makes the difference. When you get to know somebody you get to know their strengths and feel comfortable with those and you know where the areas of improvement are and you know you can work with somebody to get that accomplished.”

Another thing Kowalczyk did not overlook was the support Opp gained from her team.

“Opp will fill all five scholarships on this team if we will fill all five scholarships…we have some great kids on our live…we’re up against some pretty tough competition, so we’ll have to work hard and fast,” Opp said.

Opp is the Undergraduate Student’s acceptance of a three-year contract as the women’s basketball head coach. Opp handed out bubble gum cigars at the press conference Friday that read “It’s a coach” in celebration of the event.

Top two MVC teams battle head-to-head in Normal

First-place Illinois State

Second-place Illinois State

A Missouri Valley Conference Championship preview? If so, the hype is well warranted.

As the top two teams in the MVC battled out a weekend to separate three games of action between Illinois State University and the SIU softball team this weekend in Normal.

The first-place Redbirds took two of three games from the second-place Salukis, as the two teams split a pair of 9-0 decision on Saturday, while Illinois State snuck out with a 2-3 game, three wins on Sunday afternoon.

“I was not very surprised,” said Salukis head coach Kerri Blaylock. “This weekend they had the edge, but I think there’s a mutual respect there. It was just two good teams fighting and they ended up coming out on top twice.

“It was just two great teams that went at it. You know, if we played 10 times, it might be 5-5.”

Saturday’s first game featured two of the premier pitchers in the league squaring off in a pitching duel, as Illinois State’s Nicole Kurth no-hit the Salukis (24-11, 13-4) in the 1-0 Redbird win. Kurth fanned a school-record 18 batters, including the first nine she faced.

For SIU, ace Erin Stremsterfer nullified the setback, snapping her 13-game win streak. The loss also snapped SIU’s seven-game win streak;

The Redbirds (21-10, 10-1) found ways to make solid contact against Stremsterfer this weekend, as she picked up the loss on Sunday night.

The Salukis return to action on Wednesday in a non-conference doubleheader with Western Kentucky University at IAW Fields, starting at 2:30 p.m.

But when looking back on this weekend, the two best teams in the league battled head-to-head. The teams aren’t scheduled to play again in the regular season, but Blaylock is pretty confident they’ll meet again come the MVC Tournament May 10-12 in Omaha, Neb.

“Hopefully it’s going to be us and them in theum in the makeup stage for the championship,” Blaylock said. “It’s a great team, we’re a good team, but we have to do is come take care of our home turf and keep winning ballgames like we have been.”