Lower tuition rate fails to boost summer enrollment

Jeff Engelhardt
DAILY EGYPTIAN

The lure of tuition savings has not been enough to boost overall enrollment numbers for the summer semester.

Summer enrollment numbers dropped by 195 students from last summer despite the opportunity to save approximately $627 on tuition by enrolling in the summer compared to the fall. This summer marks the highest savings in recent years as students enrolled in the summer of 2007 saved $541 and $498 in the summer of 2006.

Students who are newly enrolled in the summer lock in the 2009 fiscal year tuition rate of $6,975. Approximately 13 percent short of the university’s target 14,254 — the number of undergraduates enrolled last fall. It is also 278 fewer undergraduates than were registered this time last year.

Edna Benz, assistant director of enrollment, said the university averages 100 first-time, full-time freshmen in the summer. Robert Quane, an SIUC admissions counselor who works with high school students in the Chicago area, said it is difficult to attract seniors to enroll early even with tuition savings.

Quane said most newly graduated high school students want to spend one last summer with friends or save money at a job before leaving for college.

He said he would suggest outgoing and ambitious students enroll early because they could benefit from the advance experience. "There are great opportunities for the student and university with early enrollment," Quane said. "The student can establish relationships and get a feel for college life, which in turn would help the university retain students."
SUMMER CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

James Carl, interim director of undergraduate admissions, said the university began advertising the summer semester this year.

But he said there are many reasons why students might pass on the bargains. Though the overall cost would be less for students who look into the lower tuition rate, the initial cost of summer classes and housing can be daunting. Financial aid is also scarce during the summer semesters, particularly for freshmen whose Free Applications for Financial Aid don’t take effect until fall, Carl said. Also, students often work full-time during the summer while they save money for school.

“While the rate might be less overall, if they don’t have that in-me- diate out-of-pocket money to expend on that, it probably going to be a fact,” Carl said.

The university’s marketing tool, Barkley Dave Productions, has developed commercials promoting the university during the fall and spring semesters. But the agency, which is composed almost entirely of students, has not been approached about the summer semester, said Elizabeth Taylor, a graduate student studying business who works with BDP.

Taylor said the agency has not afforded the increasing costs of higher education — at SIU or anywhere. “At some point, realistically, there are people who are getting priced out of school,” Carl said.

The university has more than a month to go before fall enroll- ment numbers become official. At this point in the game, Carl said, it is too early to tell if the numbers will continue to present a concern. “Is this what you want? No,” Carl said. “Is this about what you would expect to be? Yeah, probably so.”

Allison Pity can be reached at 536-3311 ext. 259 or allison.pity@siu.edu.

\[ T \text{hat’s the kind of stuff you can’t fix quickly. It’s not,}\]
\[ \text{Go out and have an advertising campaign.}\]
\[ \text{The people are here.}\]

James Carl, interim director of undergraduate admission

FALL CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

This year, the on-campus under- graduate admissions are not costing trouble — there are 97 more freshmen and only nine fewer sophomores enrolled than this time last year. But with 283 fewer juniors and 82 fewer seniors on campus, retention is an issue.

“I don’t know,” said Bond, shrugging, as he talked about the lower upperclassmen numbers.

What accounts for it, I don’t know.”

If there was a magic solution to retention problems, administrators would certainly have seized it by now, said some interim director of under- graduate admissions James Carl.

That’s the kind of stuff you can’t fix quickly,” Carl said. “It’s not, ‘Go out and have an advertising campaign.’ The people are here.

Some of the decline stems from a loss of transfer students. Roughly 140 fewer transfer students have plans to attend SIUC in fall 2008 than fall 2007. Carl said some of the losses could be attributed to the University of Illinois, which has taken a greater interest in recruiting transfer students.

The bleak eco- nomic horizon also may be responsible for a new unwillingness of students and parents to let go of their wal- letts, Carl said. Some could be scared to make a move in times of rising unemployment and inflation, while some simply may not be able to

\[ \text{pay for college.}\]

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Revisions could change penalties for pets, owners

Sean McGahan

The story of a 4-year-old girl who was severely injured after a dog attack in Carbondale could change regulations on pets and their owners in the city.

Rosie Gordon, who celebrated her fourth birthday Wednesday in a transitional care unit in St. Louis, is recovering from surgery to replace portions of her face taken by an American bulldog in an attack June 19, according to a blog maintained by her mother. The incident has prompted the City Council to discuss changes to city code that deal with treatment of animals.

Seventeen doctors worked to replace Rosie’s lacerated chin and lower lip with tissue from her arm, according to the blog. It said Thursday was the first time since the attack that she was able to eat, drink and speak, and that she is preparing for more reconstructive surgery.

Mayor Brad Cole said the story inspired him to discuss changes to the city code that deal with treatment of animals and their owners in the city. Hecht said the story inspired he City Council to discuss changes to the city code that deal with treatment of animals and their owners in the city.

Intrigued by the idea of finding animals a safe home, Hecht screens local shelters for dogs that could be a good fit for families in search of a pet. She said initially she observes the dogs to catch aggressive tendencies.

“Most of our animals do get adopted by families with small children and other pets and we want to make sure it’s a well-rounded animal with good temperament and a nice disposition,” Hecht said. “Our goal is to place pets in lifelong homes. We don’t want to get them back.”

But after a dog gets comfortable in a home, its temperament can often change, she said.

It is important for people looking to adopt a dog to find out the length of time the dog has been held, the reason why it was sent there and its past history, which shelters are required by state law to provide, Hecht said.

She said it is also important to have animals spayed and neutered, another aspect of the code that may come under review. Any animal coming through the shelter must be altered if it is six months or older, Hecht said.

This prevention is especially important in southern Illinois, where the amount of animals without homes has become a problem, she said.

“There is such an overwhelming pet-owner population issue here,” Hecht said. “There’s so many unlicensed dogs running around and reproducing at a rate that we just can’t accommodate by any means whatsoever.”

City staff will review the code to vote on any changes as early as the next City Council meeting Aug. 5, Cole said. 

Donation Information

Donations to Rosie Gordon and her family for medical costs can be made at the front Southern Bank Tell at www.reachouttorosie.org.

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400 W. Oak #3
400 S. Washington A
402 S. Washington

Two Bedroom
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512 S. Beveridge #3, 4, 6
514 S. Beveridge #3, 4, 5, 7

*815 N. James
311 W. Cherry #2
405 W. Cherry Court
406 W. Cherry Court
407 W. Cherry Court
408 W. Cherry Court
409 W. Cherry Court
410 W. College
303 W. Elm
520 S. Graham
703 W. High #E
820 W. Walnut #2
908 McCartney
507 1/2 W. Main #B
411 E. Mill
400 W. Oak #1,3
402 W. Oak #W
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820 W. Walnut #2

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Newspaper of the week
DNA clears JonBenet Ramsey's family

Catherine Tsai
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BOULDER, Colo. — Citing new DNA tests, prosecutors on Wednesday cleared JonBenet Ramsey's parents of involvement in her 1996 killing of the 6-year-old beauty queen and apologized to the family for "creating a cloud of suspicion that hung over them for more than a decade.

Boulder County District Attorney Mary Lacy said the tests point to an "uncomplicated third party." She released a copy of a letter she sent to John Ramsey that said: "To the extent that you and your family have been trying to remove yourself from the court of public opinion, your decision has been well-timed. You have found DNA that could not otherwise be seen. Two samples were found on the sides of her long underwear, in an area where an attacker would have pulled them down.

The results, reported to prosecutors in March, indicated that the newly discovered DNA matched the DNA found earlier, and was not from the Ramseys, Lacy said. Lacy said that the presence of the same male DNA in three places on the girl’s clothing convinced investigators it belonged to JonBenet’s killer, and had not been introduced accidentally by an innocent party.

It is therefore the position of the Boulder County District Attorney Office that this profile belongs to the perpetrator of the homicide," she added.

Lacy declined to comment on the details of the case.

John and Patsy Ramsey, parents of JonBenet, speak to members of the media by the lbsa, 1997, in New York City. They are seen in their first meeting with reporters since after their 6-year-old daughter was found slain in their home.

Lacy has previously expressed doubts that the parents were involved. In 1999, a federal judge handling a defamation lawsuit in Atlanta involving the Ramseys said there was insufficient evidence in the case to warrant a third trial for anyone other than the family, but Lacy said they said the case was not over.

"I am deeply sorry," she wrote in a letter the family was given. "My first thought was obviously I wish Pat Ramsey was here with us to be able to at least share vine with the family she loved," Lacy wrote.

Pat Ramsey died June 24, 2006, of ovarian cancer at the age of 49 in Denver after struggling with the disease for years after JonBenet’s death.

"I am deeply sorry," she wrote. "I am deeply sorry."
FEAR AND LOATHING IN CARBONDALE

The great beer war

ANDY FRUTH

Prohibition destroyed the beer industry. Prior to 1920, when the act became the law of the land, many small towns and big cities had their own breweries. In my hometown of Freeport, there were many small craft breweries in existence from the late 1880s through 1920. In the face of prohibition, Freeport actually raised other traditional beer cities like Milwaukee and St. Louis in terms of annual production.

Then came the Prohibition Act and with it the closing of many breweries across the country — including every last one in Freeport. A few breweries were able to survive by selling soda pop, yeast, “near beer” or anything else they could do to stay afloat.

After the act was repealed and the brewing of beer was no longer illegal, production began again immediately. In the coming years, the country would see the rise of three beer giants in the United States: Miller, Coors and Anheuser-Busch.

The giant first fell when the Miller Brewing Company was sold to South African Breweries in 2002 to form SAB Miller, the world’s largest brewer.

The second giant fell when the Coors Brewing Company merged with the Molson Brewing Company in 2004, making Molson Coors the world’s fifth largest brewer.

The acquisitions of Miller and Coors by foreign companies left Anheuser-Busch as the last great giant to be American-owned.

The great beer war

Brian Gilmore

There should be more outrage from blacks about Robert Mugabe’s power grab.

The leader of Zimbabwe has stayed in power by strong-arming his opponents and creating a climate of death so suffocating that no chief opponent had to drop out of the runoff for fear of his life.

Of course, everyone, regardless of race or ethnicity, should be appalled by Mugabe’s behavior.

But black leaders have a special responsibility, since they backed Mugabe when he led Zimbabwe, the former Rhodesia, to majority rule and independence from a white apartheid regime back in 1980.

Mugabe has not turned out to be a Nelson Mandela, however. Increasingly over the years, the Zimbabwean autocrat has become drunk with power.

On March 29, Mugabe lost the election to Movement for Democratic Change leader, Morgan Tsvangirai, 47 percent to 43 percent. However, because Tsvangirai did not obtain 50 percent of the vote a runoff was set for June 27.

Almost immediately, Mugabe and his supporters declared a war on democracy and laid siege to the opposition and its supporters. Tsvangirai was arrested several times as he tried to campaign for the election. According to the Los Angeles Times, 85 opposition activists were killed. In addition, the violence displaced hundreds of thousands of citizens from their homes.

The violence intensified as the runoff neared. As a result, Tsvangirai and his party decided to blow out.

Mugabe held the election anyway, despite worldwide denunciation, and declared victory not long after the polls closed.

So where is the chorus of condemnation from the black leadership and press? Where are the speeches, press releases, petitions, organized protests, commentary and other manifestations of condemnation regarding Robert Mugabe? The Rev. Jesse Jackson, at least, said something:

“We are paired, give the tremendous role that Zimbabweans in liberated southern Africa from colonial rule,” he said. But “pain” is not easily a strong enough word.

Jackson himself noted the irony.

“If this were a white regime in Zimbabwe seen as holding up an election, the world would cry out to ask for fairness and open, fair election,” he said.

During the waning days of South Africa’s apartheid system, black leaders kept the world focused on the issue by speaking out, getting arrested outside the South African Embassy daily and working through diplomatic channels to bring about change.

Trans-Africa Forum, the social justice and human rights advocacy organization, has spoken out against Mugabe.

So, too, has Sen. Barack Obama. It’s time for the government of Robert Mugabe to cease its repressive and divisive actions, and to allow Zimbabweans to pursue their hopes for legitimate political change and for sovereignty.

But where are the voices of the Congressional Black Caucus, the Rev. Al Sharpton, and so many others? Now is the time for black leadership and all blacks to speak, out openly and forcefully on the issue and to pressure other African nations to put pressure on Mugabe.

A march to the Zimbabwean Embassy in Washington to deliver a petition would be a good place to start.

Gilmore is a writer for Progressive Media Project, a source of liberal commentary on domestic and international issues.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Veterans view the Fourth differently

Dear editor:

I read the article “Happy belated birthday, America” by Andrew O’Connor. After reading this article I wanted to share a few thoughts with you and your readership on his opinions on July Fourth. I was hopeful the article would be in honor of the true sacrifices of this holiday, and ended up being a tail of “explosions” and “blowing things up.”

This holiday means something a little different to me as well as for many veterans of the Iraq war.

It is a day for me to reflect and honor all our brothers and sisters who have fallen in wars just and unjust alike.

It is a day to pay homage to our first regiments of Soldiers who gave everything to establish freedom within our borders.

This is also a week for many soldiers and Marines who are deployed to combat zones feel a certain degree of uneasiness, and can elevate combat veteran issues with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.

To many Americans who never served in a war, shooting off fireworks indiscriminately in and around neighborhoods is just old fun.

However, to many Veterans dealing with PTSD everyday, this can be a week that can be drained. Explosions and blowing things up is the last thing many of us want to deal with.

Lastly, the “if you don’t like it, you can get out/leave” argument is an old 2003 “if you don’t love the Iraq war, leave” argument.

It is not a sound or thoughtful statement and is nothing short of soft, flabby, anti-intellectual, neoconservative proclamation that I thought had died a few years ago.

However, some of us are still using silly arguments that wouldn’t hold up in an Afghanistann kagragor court.

God Bless America.

Dave Adams

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God Bless America.
“When you have to deal with the amount of cattle and fertilizer we do, anything can happen,” Nehring said. “There isn’t a job out here where you won’t come back dirty.”

Manure Maneuver

George Wiedlocher gives cattle a helping hand in an uncomfortable way through the anal cavity.

Wiedlocher, the supervising farm foreman, is responsible for operations at the Beef Evaluation and Bull Test Station.

Nehring said in order to get a pig to walk in a certain direction, the herder must be perfectly placed. He said standing behind a shoulder of a pig will make it walk out toward the opposite direction of where the herder is standing, getting right behind it will make it walk straight.

When Nehring is not herding pigs he could be cleaning the pens. While power washing the pens makes them clean, Nehring said it comes at the expense of making him dirty.

“Stuff starts flying all over the place and there is a good chance it is going to land on you,” Rosenthal said.

Jeff Engelhardt can be reached at 536-3111 ext 262 or jengel@siu.edu.

Manure Maneuver

George Wiedlocher gives cattle a helping hand in an uncomfortable way through the anal cavity.

Wiedlocher, the supervising farm foreman, is responsible for operations at the Beef Evaluation and Bull Test Station. His tasks range from putting his hand into the rear of a cow for fecal sampling to putting his hand in the rear of a cow for artificial insemination all the way to putting his hand in the rear of a cow for pregnancy checks.

Wiedlocher said the process is even dirtier in the summer months because of the cow’s eating habits.

“When the cows are out in pasture during the summer, they are eating green grass instead of hay so... yeah... it gets messy,” Wiedlocher said. “Then they will start flinging their tail and it will get all over.”

Though the process is a dirty one, Wiedlocher said it is important. Through fecal samples, the students and farmers are able to research the effects of byproduct grain and measure fat content and other nutritional values. Pregnancy checks allow the farmers to examine the development of a calf.

The Vault

Herder foreman Chet Stuemke has no doubt he has to deal with the dirtiest job on the farm. Stuemke, who supervises over the Dairy Center, is responsible for making sure “the vault” is cleaned once in the fall and once in the spring. The vault is an underground chamber just big enough for a person to scoop out the 1,500 gallons of wastewater it contains.

Stuemke said one person climbs down into the chamber and hangs five-gallon buckets of wastewater up to another person while manure falls down from the walls.

“When the vault is not being cleaned, Stuemke could be doing anything from helping deliver a calf to transporting manure for fertilizer. Stuemke said moving the manure is the worst after rain.

“The manure will get all over you if you have to move it after some rain,” Stuemke said. “That’s how I like to train my new guys.”

Piggy Back Ride

The pigs at SIUC farms are not willing to go to any market, which makes Tom Rosenthal’s job one of the most difficult dirty jobs at the farms.

Rosenthal, the swine manager at the farms, has to make sure the pigs get to the market by herding them into a truck. In order to herd them, he said he uses their flight pattern.

Nehring said in order to get a pig to walk in a certain direction, the herder must be perfectly placed. He said standing behind a shoulder of a pig will make it walk out toward the opposite direction of where the herder is standing, getting right behind it will make it walk straight.

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Girls and Sports

by Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein

All you're not quite

When her fiance got hot under the collar, 2008

Right before the biggest race of her life, 9

To get the advantage, check the day every 10. It is the easiest day of the most challenging.

Aries (March 21-April 19) — Today is a 5 — Get somebody to do your errands, and just about everything else. You'd do the same for them, and you have. Pull in a few of these favors. Concentrate on what you're doing.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) — Today is a 7 — Not a good day for long-distance trips, phone calls or official orders. If you can wait until tomorrow, you'll get a better deal. Same goes for your other shopping.

Gemini (May 21-June 21) — Today is an 8 — You're becoming more thoughtful about your financial choices. This is good, since you and a loved one are having interesting plans. Write them down before you get too busy.

Cancer (June 22-July 23) — Today is a 7 — All you have to do to help a family member make an important decision is to listen patiently. Offer a safe place for the other to talk. Cookies could help, too.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) — Today is a 6 — Some of your worries are greater than the trouble. It's hard to tell them from the valid concerns. Proceed with caution.

By Linda C. Black

Today's Birthday 07-10-08

You're especially thoughtful this year, and exceptionally cute. You ought to have the best of everything, and maybe you can. Make your list now, so you can start checking things off immediately. To get the advantage, check the day every 10. It is the easiest day of the most challenging.

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Two decades before Judd Apatow started letting his stable of young, talented actors run wild with scripts, Barry Levinson did the same with a group of little known actors.

In 1982, Levinson wrote and directed "Diner," a 1950's slice of life picture about six twenty-something friends entering manhood in Baltimore. Those six young men included Kevin Bacon, Mickey Rourke, Steve Guttenberg, Paul Reiser, Daniel Stern and Tim Daly before they all went on to bigger things (some more so than others).

The film takes a look at these men coming of age as they spend most of their time in a cramped diner. They shoot the ish over roast beef sandwiches, coffee and cigarettes and end up stumbling to their massive four-door Buicks and Fords with bloodshot eyes, just as the sun is coming up.

What makes this film hold up 26 years after its release is its dialogue. The actors were given a hold of the reigns to ad-lib and improv as they dished out commentary on women (mostly women), music and sports (a hilarious scene coming when Guttenberg's character has his wife take a test on the Baltimore Colts, that she must pass if they're to spend the rest of their lives together).

Outside of the diner there's practical jokes (Bacon staging a car accident), sexual gags (Rourke in a movie theater with a box of popcorn, an open fly and a leggy blonde date) and relationship troubles.

As the men struggle to keep relationships going or beginning, there are conversations and emotions that any guy in the same age bracket can take to heart. As 'mature' relationships begin to evolve, there is a yearning to stick with friends and a fear that starting a relationship with just one person is going to taint that fire of youth held within a circle of best buds.

Daniel Stern's character, Shrevie, is the one married guy in the circle and is constantly juggling a middling marriage with the comfortable trappings of slinging B.S. at the diner with his friends.

The women in this film take a backseat to the male characters, creating a near chick-flick for guys full of machismo and a tone that is inherently male, but the film is not out to make women the enemy. It looks at how they constantly keep these guys guessing which inevitably keeps their pursuit of the fairer sex fresh.

While "Diner" may not exactly be a plot-driven film, it does have a great deal of sharp, witty and quote-worthy dialogue as its group of friends navigate their way through a minefield of women and late nights from their battle station of a dimly-lit booth by the window.

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Olytrack

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"Basically I let my nerves get the best of me. I got in there and I forgot what I was doing," she said. She injured her hamstring in June before leaving for the trials, but she said that was not an issue in the final. She said she felt she could have easily made the team, but just could not get her body to move as fast or move her speed or power during the final.

"Black coaches Connie Price-Smith said Riley was in a difficult spot at the trials because all of the other competitors had more experience. She said Riley just did not compete as well as her counterparts.

Technically she had all the tools and she's thrown as far as they have going in there," she said. "You know, when you get there it's who's out on top." Riley could still get to the games, though, because she had the fourth longest throw. The Olympic team only takes the top three-qualifiers, which makes Riley the first alternate should someone get injured.

Stuart has competed for the Bahamian National Team once already in her quest to list her as the A-standard — 6.6-meters. She won the long jump at the Central American and Caribbean meet with a jump of 6.54-meters, according to Saluki Media Services. She has another shot at hitting the standard at the North American, Central American and Caribbean meet next week.

Price-Smith said Stuart is getting close to hitting the standard and may be on the verge of some very big things. "Regardless of if she does or not, she has had an outstanding year and she's had a very consistent season and just done a great job," Price-Smith said.

Davis, however, will not get a chance to compete in the Olympics. She finished 9th with a time of 203.32 in the semifinals of the women's 800-meter run and will miss a chance at the finals by just one spot, according to Saluki Media Services. Davis recorded a time of 203.26 as the preliminary round to move to the semis.

Davis did not return a phone mes- sage seeking comment.

Kelly

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DE: From what I have gathered, you like to talk politics, you are a big conspirator and you want to be a lawyer. Do you have a lot of friends?
KG: (laughing) Yeah I plan on having a few.
DE: So are you a Democrat or Republican?
KG: I am a Democrat, but I tend to be more fiscally conserv- ative, but I will defini- tely declare myself a proud Democrat.
DE: Now that you are no longer on the golf team, have you been get- ting out and a lot and play- ing? If so, how is your game doing?
KG: You know, I have not touched a club since the SIU fundraiser back on May 1. No one told me golf

is expensive. I have been fortunate enough to have a place to play since I have been playing competitively. I never had to pay for a dime for golf and now apparently it's expensive. I've had to take up a few less expensive activities. It's pretty much been no golf and no gas.

DE: Yeah, well, welcome to that country club. Are you nervous about what those first couple of swings are going to look like?
KG: It's funny, I have a scramble I'm playing in August, and I've been solic- ited by a few differ- ent departments to play on their teams. I keep trying to tell them it's been a while since I last played so hopefully their expectations aren't too high. So, I have a month until then, but I'll let you know how that turns out.

Auggie

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"Fairweather Wiscoisnians are able to brave the fierce winter winds of the "Fourth Tundra," He is the reason families in Appleton, Wis., Monroe, Wis. and La Crosse Wis. get together on Sunday afternoons in the fall and sit in front of the tube. He is the reason dads toss the pigskins with their children in the back yard.

To the Packer faithful, Favre is a god adorned in green and gold.

Thompson is an absolute fool if he does not bring Favre back. And should he be released and go to another team, Thompson had bet- ter get out of Wisconsin forever.

Thompson, you are in my doghouse.

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Salukis hit roadblocks on way to Beijing

Stuart still seeking qualifying standard; Riley, Davis fail to qualify

Brandon Augsburg

Olympic qualifying has not quite gone as planned for Saluki athletes. Junior jumper Bianca Stuart took the meet title while trying to qualify for the Bahamian Olympic team, but failed to hit the A-standard that would have put her into the games. Former thrower Bettiney Riley finished 11th in the women’s hammer throw and former runner Ty-Nica Davis matched the semifinals in the women’s 800-meter run. Both failed to qualify for the U.S. Olympic team.

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15 MINUTES WITH...

Kelly Gerlach

Ian Preston

For this week’s 15 minutes we talked with former SIU golfer Kelly Gerlach. Gerlach was recently named an Academic All-American by the National Golf Coaches Association after graduating from graduate school in May with a GPA of 3.79. She majored in political science and is currently working in the Missouri state capital. We caught up with Gerlach to discuss everything from her golf game to her favorite conspiracy theory.

Daily Egyptian: I understand you are big into history.

Kelly Gerlach: Yes sir, I am.

DE: What is your favorite period of history?

KG: I would have to say from World War II to the end of the Vietnam War.

DE: So, are you more interested in the war or the entire era?

KG: I do enjoy the wars, especially World War II — especially Pearl Harbor. I’m absolutely enamored with that. I do enjoy more of the social aspects and the development of the Industrial Revolution, technology and the social norms... things like that.

DE: Were you considered the nerd by your teammates when you were off on some history lectures?

KG: I think every single day I was at SIU I was called a nerd. I was fortunate, though, to have two coaches, Denny Kurtikamp and coach Daugherty, who were also big history buffs, so they’d let me go off on my tangents as much as I wanted to. I was definitely called a nerd, though.

DE: So between the three of you there was probably no excuse for any girl on the team to get a bad grade in a history class then?

KG: Absolutely, and I’ve gotten many calls for their history classes, but I do enjoy it. It’s a hobby of mine. I’m a big conspiracy theorist and big in assassination in history.

DE: So do you believe in any of the JFK conspiracies then?

KG: (laughing) Yes I do, first of all. But actually I’ve been researching a lot about his brother, Robert Kennedy, which is a conspiracy theory that’s not well publicized. I think they both were conspiracy theories by the government. But you don’t have to print all of this because then I’ll sound like a freak.

DE: You’re from Sparta where your room is a history teacher, right?

KG: Yes sir.

DE: So, is this where your background in history came from?

KG: Definitely. My mom is one of the smartest people I’ve ever met and any time I ever have any type of question she’s the one I go to. I obviously don’t know everything about history but whenever I have a question for her I have to prepare my question the right way for her to answer it. She’s definitely been like a dictionary for me, in a sense, in regards to history.

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Ted ‘Toolhead’ Thompson

Brandon Augsburg

The report that Brett Favre was calling it quits after 17 NFL seasons broke on my birthday. Favre is my hero and watching him inspired me to play football for 11 years. I even spent an ill-fated season on the junior varsity squad — basically as a tackling dummy. —

Brandon Gerlach

The greatest quarterback of all time

Over the weekend Favre reportedly sent a text message to Thompson asking to talk about his return. Thompson replied that the conversation would have to wait until he returned from vacation.

There is no way that conversation can be put off. When the NFL’s career leader in every significant passing category calls and says he wants to talk to Thompson about coming back to the team, Thompson ought to get on the first plane back to Wisconsin from wherever he is, it is vacating. I do not care if Thompson thinks I’m not going to move on or that he wants to see a Packers quarterback in Green Bay. If he wants Brett Favre back, he needs to pay Brett Favre.

The bottom line here is simple. Favre wants to come back, and if Thompson knows what is good for him, he had better roll out the red carpet and maybe even throw a parade for Favre.