Debate team argues for better future

After winning tournament, team members discuss program’s future

**MATT DARAY**
Daily Egyptian

Arguing with passion and knowledge with the best in the country, the university’s debate team is now facing the challenge of passing the torch.

The Saluki Debate Team started its season with a perfect record after winning the Oct. 2 Golden Gate Invitational, its third tournament win of the year. Each tournament was dominated by team members Benjamin Campbell, a senior from Springfield, Mo., studying political science, and Josh Rivera, a junior from Chicago studying political science, who have won 29 out of 30 debates this season as a pair. With both set to graduate within the next three semesters, the team has begun to prepare the next generation of debaters for the future competition.

Todd Graham, director of debate, said this year’s win streak is a continuation of a decade of success that has culminated in multiple tournament wins over the last six years.

The university’s debate team has made the final four in a national championship since they won in 2008. Considering its success, Graham said he is conflicted because he knows the team’s winning streak and overall performance won’t last forever but won’t end anytime soon.

“I feel like we’ve set the university up to such high standards over the course of the last decade, especially the last six years. I just don’t think this is normal,” he said.

The team is preparing to pass such success on to younger members since Campbell and Rivera will both graduate soon.

“Obviously, (Campbell and Rivera) are the heart of our team,” Graham said. “They’ve both been around for awhile, and right now they’re the strongest debate team in the country.”

Each competition requires a large amount of preparation and studying. Campbell and Rivera said the two said they go through rigorous training to prepare for debates and tournaments, which includes two days spending seven hours researching topics and practicing debates against other team members. They said they think this practice has kept the team on top and prepared for competitions.

Campbell said the team prepares by studying each competition’s judges to gauge what sorts of arguments and topics they tend to look for in a debater. He said each team member also meets with a coach one hour a week to work on previous speeches and improve their arguments.

Campbell said he has changed his style over the years to win competitions and is now focusing on sharpening his overall quality at debating.

“This is my eighth year in debate, so I’ve spent the better part of the decade, most of my life, revolving around debate arguments, research and reading the news,” he said.

“The big thing for me this year is focusing on skills and focusing on more technical aspects.”

Debate team members Michael Selck, left, a graduate student in communication studies from Kansas City, Mo., and Benjamin Campbell, right, a senior from Springfield, Mo., studying political science, listen as director of debate Todd Graham discusses argument responses Tuesday during a meeting in the Communications Building. The SIU debate team travels to Chicago this weekend to recruit at the New Trier High School debate tournament, which hosts about 150 teams from at least 10 different states. Graham said the high school tournament is their biggest and most important recruiting opportunity. The team’s next competition takes place Nov. 1-3 at the University of the Pacific in Stockton, Calif.

Graham said Campbell and Rivera’s success could be intimidating to new team members because they have to practice against the best in the country. However, such practice will help them sharpen their skills and proceed with the level of success their predecessors left behind.

Having a small budget is also a concern for the team because it allows the retention of only four debaters for two teams, Graham said, which can render a nerve-wracking recruiting process.

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**Student Services building brings changes to Woody Hall**

**CHARINDER THOMPSON**
Daily Egyptian

A major campus building since the 1950s will see new purpose as several of its staple offices have begun transitioning into a new centralized location.

Most offices in Woody Hall’s various wings have started moving to the newly constructed Student Services building. The moving process began during the weekend and will continue throughout the following weeks. Offices that serve as a major focal point during the admission process, such as Financial Aid, will no longer reside in Woody Hall but rather a more convenient location for students.

The Undergraduate Admission office and University College program are some of the first offices to move into the new building. Katharine Sukki, director of the Undergraduate Admissions office, has worked in Woody Hall since the beginning of her career and said she has developed a strong attachment to the building over the course of 15 years.

“I started my career here, and my parents used to have their morning coffee here when they were students,” Sukki said. “So it’s a little emotional for me to leave the old Woody Hall because this is where I came to get admitted when I became a student.”

Although many offices are moving into the new building, a few offices and programs will remain in Woody Hall. The Disability Support Services office will not be joining its fellow offices in the big move.

Julia Coleman, a senior from Chicago studying journalism and a student employee in the Disability Support Services office, said she wishes her office would move into the new building because it is beautiful, but moving into a bigger Woody Hall office would be more convenient.
Not far from Lake Michigan, city yearns for water

JOHN FLESHER
Associated Press

WAUKESHA, Wis. — Lake Michigan is just 15 miles from this city of 70,000 in the Milwaukee suburbs. But these days it seems like a gigantic, simmering mirror, tantalizingly out of reach.

The aquifer that has provided most of Waukesha's drinking water for the last century has dropped so far that what's left has unhealthy levels of radium and salt. The city would like to draw from the Great Lakes, just as seven other cities in Wisconsin, and climate change create shortages.

But because it's in a county that straddles the line, Waukesha could come calling for lake water.

The ban on piping Great Lakes water beyond the boundary was established five years ago to keep the drought-stricken Sun Belt from siphoning off the region's greatest resource. But it's also creating winners and losers in the economically strained states around the lakes.

Waukesha's leaders say the city's future depends on tapping the lake.

"It doesn't make sense to locate a business in a place that doesn't have safe drinking water," said Brian Nemitz of the Waukesha County Business Alliance.

But because it's in a county that straddles the line, Waukesha could qualify for an exception, according to the region's water use rules. The challenge is convincing the states.

Waukesha is a bustling community known to home to several small colleges and large manufacturers including medical equipment maker GE Healthcare. Its tree-lined downtown sidewalks run past a pleasant mix of restaurants, taverns and shops, some with painted murals celebrating electric guitar pioneer and native son Les Paul.

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“I am excited for the offices and programs that are moving this month,” she said. The Woody Shuffe is a paperwork hiring process new student hires undergo to finalize their employment, and many consider it an exasperating tradition that may not be sad to bid farewell.

Kevin Bame, executive director for finance, said the move’s main goal is to completely repurpose Woody Hall, and navigating the building was difficult for many students. With this move, he said, the Woody Shuffe would ideally be eliminated all together.

“This upcoming weekend, we have plans to move the Registrar office and the Financial Aid office,” he said. “Then Monday, we will be moving the Bursar’s office, and that will complete the first moving installations.”

Although the enrollment management offices will move, Suski said some offices that are not moving may relocate to a new area in Woody or different buildings altogether.

Bame said architecture and engineering firms were hired to go through Woody Hall and figure out ways to repurpose the area. “It may take some time, but eventually the Center of International Excellence will be placed in Admission’s old location,” he said. “Some financial services and Human Resources will be moving. The Center for Inclusive Excellence (will) also be moved and will be taking up a fair amount of space.”

The Student Services building, located by the Student Center, is slated to open for business during Homecoming weekend.

Charinder Thompson can be reached at cthompson@dailyegyptian.com or 435-331 ext. 268.

Registrar office employee Shannon Gortti, of Carbondale, fills up boxes Tuesday to be moved from Woody Hall to the new Student Services building on Lincoln Drive. Gortti said some offices have already started moving their things. “We will be packing everything up and moving to the new offices on Monday,” Gortti said.

“Really the hope is that not only are they able to have the success that they want, that as they do better than us, we see the success for ourselves,” he said. “If they are better than us, that just proves the team is doing something correctly and that the formula hasn’t broken down yet.”

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“Every year, because we have such a small program, we have to make sure recruiting is done very, very well, and we have a very exacting process for the sort of debater we want to come to SIU,” he said. “Because we have such a small program, I can’t make any mistakes in recruiting.”

Climbing tuition rates have caused the team to offer fewer scholarships for students to attend the university and participate in the debate team. Graham said. “Because we have such a small program, I can’t make any mistakes in recruiting.”

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The United States has experienced many periods of crippling partisan conflict in Congress. It has also experienced bouts of heavy national indebtedness. Yet it has seldom, if ever, experienced both simultaneously. This helps explain why treasury securities have come to be regarded as “risk-free,” safe enough to use as reserves in banks — and central banks — around the world.

Now, though, the government’s publicly held debt exceeds 78 percent of gross domestic product, Congress is more polarized than it has been since the 19th century, and both conditions are likely to persist.

This state of affairs makes the immeasurable extending the debt limit especially fateful.

How did we get here? Between 1789 and 1917, the federal government’s debt was not much of an issue at home or abroad.

As Anita Krishnakumar showed in a 2005 article for the Harvard Journal on Legislation, the U.S. government was small and generally went into debt only to pay for wars, or when recession temporarily dried up tax revenue.

Each time, Congress voted on specific bond issues. The understanding that debt was temporary blunted partisan resistance; once the crises passed, government reverted to balanced budgets or surpluses.

It was not until global military conflict reached America’s shores, in the form of World War I, that Congress felt obliged to end the practice of separate votes on each war-related bond issue. The debt-ceiling law result was supposed to constrain indebtedness without the need for constant votes.

But just a decade after the Great War came the Depression, followed by World War II and then the Cold War. The net effect was a large national debt that ebbed and flowed but never disappeared.

The permanent debt was accompanied by a new, and seemingly permanent, consensus that accepted a large national security establishment — to prevent a repeat of global war — and a large government role in the economy to protect against macroeconomic vicissitudes. Debt-limit laws regularly passed, most or less eventfully, but without anything like today’s drama.

Indeed, 1917 marked a new dawn of relatively low partisan conflict in U.S. politics, and it lasted through the fall of the Soviet Union in 1991, according to an authoritative analysis of congressional voting data by political scientist Keith Poole.

In that time, the United States experienced a civil rights revolution, Vietnam and Watergate, yet its basic political stability remained so automatic that investors literally banked on it.

Now, of course, the partisan comity that Poole documented has broken down. Why, whether because the Cold War no longer provides a common enemy or because selfish ideologues gerrymandered themselves into safe congressional seats, hardly matters.

Neither the “war on terror” nor the Great Recession reinvigorated national unity, as many once expected. To the contrary, they spawned new divisions that the political parties have rushed to exploit.

Republicans deserve most of the blame for the current crisis since they permitted a small fraction of ultra to precipitate it in a mindless, futile bid to “defund Obamacare.”

But while GOP factionalism and extremism caused the present predicament, they are also symptoms of a wider breakdown in national consensus that must be addressed if we are to reassure the global economy about long-term U.S. creditworthiness.

Reforming the debt-limit law is one place to start. It has its virtues, chief among them is the power to periodically focus the nation’s attention on its accumulated debt burden, which, though related, is a separate issue from the annual level of spending, taxes and borrowing.

Alas, the law was crafted in a different era, before U.S. debts were so large, and our ability to service them so crucial to the world’s well-being. Our politicians were not so easily frightened into voting against a debt increase, or so easily tempted to partisan blackmail.

We need a new debt-limit law for a new era of permanent debt and permanent partisan conflict. Ideally, a reformed procedure would preserve the law’s power to focus Congress on accumulated debt while removing, or minimizing, incentives to delay passage, and thus usurp presidential power.

There should still be votes, but less frequently and with as little as possible at stake each time. One way to achieve this would be to exclude from the debt limit Treasury debt held by the Federal Reserve or trust funds such as Social Security and Medicare, as Krishnakumar has suggested. What is really relevant to the government’s credit is not how much it owes itself, but how much it owes foreign governments, banks, pension funds and others, about $10 trillion of the current $16.7 trillion debt.

Is it sensible to talk about preventing the next crisis before we have even resolved this one? Actually, I can not think of a better time.
JOAN RIVERS and WGA settle ‘fashion police’ dispute

RICHARD VERRIER
Los Angeles Times

LOS ANGELES — Comedian Joan Rivers has ended her spat with the Writers Guild of America.

Rivers and the Writers Guild of America, East announced Monday that they have resolved the charges brought against the host of the “Fashion Police” show, ending an acrimonious dispute between the writers union and the outspoken comedian.

Rivers faced sanctions and possible expulsion from the guild over allegations that she violated the union's Working Rule 8, which prohibits writers from working on a struck show. Rivers was set to face a union trial next week.

“As a lifetime member of the WGA, I have always supported the writers and want what’s best for them,” Rivers said in a statement. “In further support of the striking writers, I’ve decided not to render any writing services even though as a comedian and SAG-AFTRA host, I often write material for myself. Rest assured, though, I will always say what’s on my mind.”

Writers of E!’s “Fashion Police” went on strike April 17. Under Rivers’ SAG-AFTRA contract, Rivers is obligated to continue hosting the program during a strike; however, the WGAE and Rivers disagreed over whether such host duties include writing.

Michael Winship, WGAE president, said: “We are very pleased that we have been able to resolve the charges against Ms. Rivers and will not be proceeding to a disciplinary hearing. We recognize Ms. Rivers’ support for the striking writers and her illustrious career. We are also pleased that, as part of the resolution of the charges, Ms. Rivers has agreed not to write during the strike and to meet with E! to advocate for immediate contract negotiations in support of the “Fashion Police” writers.”

Rivers added: “It’s time for both sides to sit down at the table and negotiate. Forget about the election. We all want the same thing, to get this behind us, so let’s make this deal.”

NEW YORK — Fox News host Anna Kooiman has apologized for falsely reporting that President Barack Obama would personally pay to keep the International Museum of Muslim Cultures open during the government shutdown.

The “oops” moment occurred Saturday on “Fox and Friends Weekend” during a conversation among Kooiman, Tucker Carlson and Clayton Morris about the controversial decision to temporarily close the World War II Memorial — along with many other parks, monuments and museums — due to the ongoing budget impasse.

“President Obama has offered to pay out of his own pocket for the museum of Muslim culture,” Kooiman claimed, contrasting his (supposed) decision with that of the Republican National Committee, which has offered to pay to keep the World War II Memorial open using its own coffers.

“It really doesn’t seem fair,” she said. Perhaps, but it is also not true: The false claim appears to have originated from a story published by the National Report, which has been described as a satirical news website but seems more about spreading misinformation than social critiques. (Judging from the comments on the original article, Kooiman was far from the only person to take the bait.)

Kooiman acknowledged the error, albeit somewhat indirectly, via her Twitter account Sunday.
Study: Sexual assault not rare among teens

MELISSA HEALY
Los Angeles Times

Nearly one in 10 young Americans between ages 14 and 21 acknowledges having perpetrated an act of sexual violence at least once, and 4 percent of a nationally representative sample of American kids reported attempting or completing rape, a new study finds.

While those most likely to report initiating unwanted sexual contact in their early to mid-teens were boys, girls were among the perpetrators as the age of respondents increased. Latino and African-American youths, and those from low-income families, were less likely to have coerced another person to engage in sex than were whites and those from higher-income families, the study found.

And among perpetrators of sexual violence, consumption of X-rated materials — specifically those depicting physical harm in the context of sex — was notably more common than it was among youths who did not report efforts to coerce or force someone else to engage in sex.

The research, published Monday in the journal JAMA Pediatrics, appears to be first to gauge how widespread sexual violence is among Americans of high-school and college age. It was based on surveys conducted between October 2010 and March 2012 with 1,062 people ages 14 to 21 who participated in a broader longitudinal study called “Growing Up With Media.”

Drawing upon the U.S. Justice Department definitions of sexual violence, the authors of the latest research asked participants whether they had ever engaged in a wide range of behaviors, including kissing, touching, making an unwilling partner do something sexual or coercing or forcing someone who did not want to have sex to do so. That range of behavior might range from sexual harassment to rape, but is generally all defined as sexual violence.

In all, 8 percent of those responding, 84 of 1,062 respondents, reported they had kissed, touched or made someone else do something sexual when they knew the person did not want to (characterized as “forced sexual contact”). About 3 percent reported they had gotten someone else to give in to sex when the perpetrator knew the other person did not want to (characterized as “coercive sex”). Also, 3 percent acknowledged attempting rape, meaning that he or she had been unable to force someone else to have sex. And 2 percent, a total of 18 individuals, said they had forced another person to have sex when they knew the person did not want to, a completed rape.

Coercive tactics, including arguing, pressuring, getting angry or making someone feel guilty, were most commonly reported by those who acknowledged attempted or completed rape. And the study found that 75 percent of the cases of sexual violence occurred in the context of a boyfriend-girlfriend relationship. Ten of the respondents, just under 1 percent, acknowledged having threatened or used physical force to get someone to engage in sex.

While vaginal sex was the most common form of forced or coerced sex sought, it was closely followed by oral sex.

The study also found that perpetrators of sexual violence of all types were unlikely to accept responsibility for their acts. One in seven believed that he or she was “not at all responsible for what happened,” and almost four in 10 said they considered the victim somewhat or completely responsible for the reported incident. And only two of the respondents reported being arrested for the transgression.

The authors said that the rarity with which perpetrators either are caught or assume responsibility for their actions underscores the importance of “bystander” training and intervention in U.S. high schools and colleges. Such training emphasizes the responsibility of peers not only to discourage and prevent negative behavior within their group or community, but also to recognize, stop or report such behavior when they witness it. Widely used in anti-bullying campaigns, bystander intervention is now gaining ground on college campuses as a means of reducing sexual violence.
**Gov’t: Most heating bills to rise this winter**

**JONATHAN FAHEY**

Associated Press

The government forecast Tuesday that most households will pay more for heat this winter. Heating oil users will catch a slight break, but still pay near-record prices to keep warm.

Prices for natural gas, electricity and propane should be higher, the primary reason that more than 90 percent of U.S. homes will incur higher heating expenses.

Natural gas users will see the biggest percentage increase after two years of historically low prices. Their heating bills should rise to an average of $679, the Energy Department said in its annual outlook for heating costs. That is about 13 percent higher than a year ago but still 4 percent below the average for the previous five winters.

Homes relying on electricity for heat, about 38 percent of the U.S., will likely pay about 2 percent more compared with last year.

For heating oil customers, there is good news and bad. Their average bill should drop 2 percent, but they'll still pay an average of $2.046, the second highest on record behind last year’s $2.092.

Just over half of U.S. households use natural gas for heating. Many of the 38 percent of U.S. households that use electric heat live in warm regions where heating demand is not high. Only 6 percent use heating oil, but those homes tend to be in New England and New York, where winter heating needs are high.

Some analysts are concerned about a spike in heating oil prices. That is because the fuels that refineries make alongside heating oil, including diesel and jet fuel, are in high demand around the world and inventories are low.

“If there’s one type of product that could catch fire and go higher, it’s heating oil,” says Tom Kloza, Chief Oil Analyst at the Oil Price Information Service and GasBuddy.com.

Nature gas should average $31 per thousand cubic feet, the government said. That is $1.33 more than last year, but still less than the nearly $15 per thousand cubic feet that homeowners paid in the winter of 2008-2009.

The Energy Department expects temperatures in the Northeast to be about 3 percent colder than a year ago, resulting in a 3 percent increase in consumption of heating oil. Bills will be lower, however, because the average price for heating oil will drop to $3.68 a gallon from $3.87. About 25 percent of homeowners in the Northeast use oil for heat.

But the government cautions that if temperatures are about 10 percent below expectations nationally, heating oil costs could rise around 9 percent from a year ago. That would mean an average bill of $2.280, a record.

Dave Simit, a meteorologist at the Commodity Weather Group, which forecasts weather patterns to predict energy demand, expects slightly cooler than normal temperatures.

“It will look like a colder winter than what we’ve seen over the last couple of years,” he says. “But nothing compared to the harsh winters we had in the two years before that.”

Mark Wolfe, Executive Director of the National Energy Assistance Directors Association, which advocates for heating assistance for low income families, warns that high heating oil prices, colder weather, and cuts in federal heating assistance will leave more families vulnerable.

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— Tom Kloza

Chief Oil Analyst at the Oil Price Information Service and GasBuddy.com

**Malala’s year: Shot for defying Taliban, now considered for Nobel**

**CAROL J. WILLIAMS**

Los Angeles Times

In one short year, Malala Yousafzai has transformed herself from obscure Taliban victim to an internationally celebrated model of courage in defense of human rights.

Founder of the nonprofit Malala Fund that advocates for girls’ education and raises money for schools and tuitions in her native Pakistan, Malala has used her place on the world stage to declare personal victory over terrorism and to call for peace talks with the Islamic extremists who attacked her.

Her activism in defiance of renewed death threats has, in the estimation of prominent media and human rights organizations, put her in the running for the Nobel Peace Prize that is to be awarded Friday. If the prestigious award is bestowed on 16-year-old Malala, she would be the youngest peace laureate in Nobel history.

Taliban gunmen boarded her school bus on Oct. 9, 2012, and shot her in the head for denouncing their attempts to return her Swat Valley homeland to the social mores of the Middle Ages. Girls’ education was banned, women were beaten for leaving their homes without a male relative escort and the central square of Malala’s hometown, Mingora, became a place of flagging and execution.

Malala was airlifted to Britain after the attack and spent months in a Birmingham hospital being treated for her injuries.

Once recovered, Malala stepped back into the public eye with ardent speeches in support of equal rights for girls and education for all. She kicked off her reintegrated activism with an address to 1,000-plus youth delegates to the United Nations in July, where she declared books and pens “our most powerful weapons.”

Last month, at the opening of Birmingham’s massive new public library, Malala again proclaimed education “the only weapon that can defeat terrorism.”

Malala marked the impending anniversary of the assassination attempt with a series of interviews, including with the BBC, where her blog on life under the Taliban first drew her to the religious zealots’ attention. Excerpts of her forthcoming autobiography, “I am Malala,” were also released in Sunday’s Parade magazine.

In her first in-depth interview since the attack, Malala told the BBC that the West needed to engage the Taliban in peace talks if the social and political conflict in South Asia is ever to be resolved.
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Salukis prove to be road warriors

In contrast, the Salukis are 2-3 in conference home games since the start of the 2012 season.

Coach Dale Lennon said he, as well as his players, has developed a knack for competing away from Saluki Stadium.

“The road game is not a factor,” Lennon said. “I think our mentality has changed to where we like road games. I like road games. I like getting out the office and getting away from everyone. There’s a part of that that is good for the team. We get to hang out together Friday night before a game, which is very relaxing and encouraging. Right now, going on the road is not a big thing for us.”

After a debilitating loss at home against Youngstown State to start the conference season, maybe back-to-back road games is just what the doctor ordered for SIU.

The Salukis took care of business at Saluki Stadium, but to this group of Dawgs, there is something about taking their talents on the road that intrigues them.

Since 2012, SIU is 4-1 in Missouri Valley Football Conference road games and has won five out of its last six conference road games overall. Their lone MVFC road loss came last season in Fargo, N.D. where No. 3 North Dakota State defeated SIU 23-17 to end the Salukis’ three-game winning streak.

That season, the Bison went on to win their second consecutive national championship.

This season the No. 4 ranked Panthers are 4-1, coming off a heartbreaking 24-23 road loss against No. 1 North Dakota State.

Saturday, the Panthers will be looking to right the ship at home against the 3-3 Salukis, but SIU has other ideas.

Lennon said UNI is a very balanced team and does a number of things well.

“They don’t have many weaknesses,” he said. “Offensively, they have a great running game with David Johnson. They also have a solid passing attack with Sawyer Kollmorgen. UNI is also equipped with receivers that can make big plays. Northern Iowa is as balanced as you can be as an offensive football team.”

This is another must-win game for SIU to solidify its playoff chances. The Salukis seem to respond well when their backs are against the wall and have a flare for the dramatics.

It will not be a surprise if this game comes down to the wire. It seems like those are the only games the Salukis know how to play now-a-days.

The Salukis have been road warriors in conference play since the 2012 season and will need to continue that trend if they want to stay in the thick of things in the MVFC.

Terrance Peacock can be reached at tppeacock@dailyEgyptian.com or 536-3311 ext. 269.
While one Cusumano is wrapping up their college career, the other is just getting started.

Alex Cusumano, a senior at Loyola University, and Brooke Cusumano, a freshman at SIU, each play Division I golf. Both have had plenty of accolades, but while Alex Cusumano’s success has come more during college, Brooke Cusumano has the edge in high school hardware.

The Cusumano’s went to high school at Westminster Christian Academy in St. Louis where they both played golf and basketball.

“I was actually a lot better at basketball my freshman and sophomore year,” Brooke Cusumano said. “I started varsity.”

Her brother realized as he got older that he was pretty good at golf and decided there was more of a future in golf than basketball.

“It’s one of the more relaxing college sports,” Alex Cusumano said. “I could play it after college.”

Winning a state championship in high school is impressive, but Brooke Cusumano finished her career with four. She won the team and individual state championship her junior and senior seasons. Alex Cusumano won the team championship his senior season and finished seventh as an individual his junior year.

After graduating from Westminster, Brooke Cusumano narrowed her college choices to Austin Peay and Loyola. SIU women’s coach Alexis Mihelich said she was able to get her to change her mind and become a Saluki.

“She really didn’t want to go to the same school her brother went to,” Mihelich said. “She was really happy when I called.”

Brooke Cusumano said Carbondale was the best place to continue her golf career.

“My parents ask me if you could rate Carbondale one to 10, I’d say 10 easy,” Brooke Cusumano said. “I was pretty proud when she committed to SIU and was able to play there.”

Despite both of them playing an individual sport, Brooke Cusumano said the rivalry with her brother is not cut-throat, but they do compete with each other.

Brooke Cusumano said if her brother is playing badly, she can beat him, but he disagrees.

“I don’t think there’s any way, if I had the worst day and she had the best day, she’s playing the red tees and I’m playing the tips maybe,” he said. “It’s a big maybe, we’ll see.”

Alex Cusumano said he does not necessarily have goals for his final season, but he does want to finish his college career on a high note. He has already had success this season being named a Missouri Valley Conference Player of the Week twice.