Bison roam the hills of southern Illinois

KYLE SUTTON
Daily Egyptian

Early afternoon on a warm day in southern Illinois, there is not a cloud in the sky. A man maneuvers his four-wheel off-road utility vehicle into the middle of a wide pasture and stops. As he steps out of the vehicle, his boots dig into the mud as he walks to the truck bed to retrieve several buckets of corn.

Clifton Howell, owner of Bison Bluff Farm, feeds corn to a herd of bison Saturday. Howell, who runs the farm with his family, said he raises bison to provide a healthy alternative to red meat. The farm sits on 1,100 acres of family-owned property east of Cobden.

As he steps out of the vehicle, his middle of a wide pasture and stops. "Bison are considered mature at about four and a half round bails a day."

Howell feeds the bison hay and grass for most of their lives. No hormones or chemicals are added to their diet.

"They get all the natural hay they want," he said. "We bale around 900 round bails each year. During the winter, my average consumption is about four and a half round bails a day."

Graduate assistants file charges against trustees

LUKE NOZICKA
Daily Egyptian

An ongoing labor complaint against the university administration by a graduate student union remains unsettled.

Graduate Assistants United filed unfair labor practice charges against the SIU Board of Trustees after many months of waiting for the university to negotiate time allowed to work.

The complaint filed Feb. 10 with the Illinois Educational Labor Relations Board alleges since Aug. 12 the board and administration has refused to "bargain in good faith," regarding graduate assistant contracts.

GAU President Matt Ryg said the charge was filed because the university violated the collective bargaining agreement within the graduate assistants contracts, specifically regarding full-time equivalency rates, or the maximum number of hours a graduate assistant is allowed to work in a week.

"It's only recently that they stopped going to the table to talk about it," Ryg said. "They wanted to sit down and resolve it and we were going to schedule a meeting and they kind of backed out."

Chancellor Rita Cheng said 1 percent of graduate assistants are affected by the cut. Ryg said it affects about 35 graduate assistants out of more than 1,000 in fall 2012.

Dennis Lunt, head of GAU's membership committee, said the university caved graduate assistants' work hours at 20 percent of full-time, or 20 hours a week, to avoid Affordable Care Act provisions. The cap was 75 percent, or 30 hours a week, before Aug. 12.

Cheng said the ACA states only employees who work more than 20 hours a week are subject to employer covered health insurance.

"If we don't (make the cut), we get heavily fines," she said. "The graduate dean has decided to enforce what should have been our practice."

Susan Ford, interim dean of the graduate school, could not be reached for comment as she is overseas recruiting.

Lunt said the majority of graduate assistants work 10 to 20 hours a week.

"Our contract stipulates – and we bargained for this last time we had a bargaining session – (we can work) 10 hours a week or the financially intensive path to work 20 hours a week. He said the 75 percent provision allowed them to be further involved in academics and work.

Stipend levels for graduate assistants vary by department, and Ryg said his nearly $850 cut would make a difference to him and his fiancee, who are both graduate students.

Gene A. Hoh, IEA's associate general counsel, represents GAU. Lucas Crater, SIU's interim general counsel, represents the board.

Crater said in an email Tuesday, his office "is unable to comment regarding ongoing litigation, disputes, and the like."
Gramatik on Lowtemp, touring, stage production and must-see TV

KYLE SUTTON
Daily Egyptian

The Slovenian-born Denis Jasarevic, also known as Gramatik, makes his Copper Dragon debut Thursday with pre-performance interviews, Q&A with an area artist scheduled to play over the weekend, a preview of a band or event going on at a bar and a similar preview for wineries. We hope this combination of the calendar and articles will help the Daily Egyptian become the community’s go-to source for arts and entertainment as readers plan their weekends. As always, feel free to contact me with any comments or suggestions at kburgstahler@dailyegyptian.com.

Karsten Burgstahler
Pulse Editor

YOUR SHOW AT THE COPPER DRAGON IN CARBONDALE IS SHAPING UP TO BE A PRETTY INTIMATE SHOW. DO YOU LIKE PLAYING FOR SMALLER CROWDS OR SAY A FESTIVAL-SIZED CROWD?

I like them both. I love huge crowds because when you ask them to scream you feel them. However, I love smaller clubs because I can make out faces and can actually participate with the crowd on a personal level.

WHAT DO YOU LIKE TO DO IN YOUR FREE TIME, WHEN YOU ARE NOT TOURING OR PRODUCING?

Catching up on my favorite TV shows (Boardwalk Empire,” “Breaking Bad,” “Game of Thrones,” “True Detective,” etc.) and producing more music.

Kyle Sutton can be reached at kburgstahler@dailyegyptian.com.

The Woods Should Be Maintained by the Maintenance and Grounds Crew

77%

The Woods Should Be Maintained by Professors and Experts in the Field of Forestry Management

3%

The Woods Should Be Maintained by the Maintenance and Grounds Crew While Working in Conjunction with University Experts from the Field of Forestry Management

51%

The Woods Should Be Left to Run Its Natural Course, Only Making Changes to Avoid Damage to University Property

16%

*Results reported on 4/06/2014 at 4:00PM

This is not a scientific poll. It reflects only the opinions of those Internet users who have chosen to participate. The Results Cannot Be Assumed to Represent the Opinions of Internet Users in General, nor the Public as a Whole.

You don’t need to leave town to find great entertainment.
The tunes of area musicians make up the backbone of Carbondale nightlife, and because of festivals like the Shiner SpringFest that tradition lives on. The annual music festival will take place Saturday at Hangar 9. Shiner Beer and Carbondale Main Street will sponsor the event, which blends area and outside musical acts, good beer and local craft and food vendors. There will be six musical acts throughout the evening, scheduled on two stages—the outdoor main stage and the indoor stage. Southern Illinois favorite The Woodbox Gang will headline this year’s festival; other musical acts include The Mike Dillon Band, Aaron Kamm and the One Drops, Little Pizza, Arpetrio and The Heard.

The Mike Dillon Band begins the evening under the sun at 6 p.m. Led by percussionist, vibraphonist and vocalist Mike Dillon, the band produces a unique sound described as New Orleans punk rock. Area musician Ryne Teston, known in the music world as the front man for Little Pizza, continues the night inside at 7:30 p.m. Little Pizza is an up-and-coming loop-based project that blends beatboxing, fingerstyle guitar, cello, banjo and various electronic instruments. The group also involves audience members up on stage to rap during performances. Teston’s unique style of play is a refreshing break from the musical norm.

“‘It’s exciting to be on the SpringFest hill being that we’re such a new group and we’ve played so few shows in Carbondale,’” Teston said. “I’m confident we’ll add our own little unique element to opening this show.”

At 8 p.m., Louis-based reggae blues trio Aaron Kamm and the One Drops take their spot on the outdoor stage. The trio, led by guitarist/vocalist Aaron Kamm, often plays Carbondale and always packs Hangar 9 with their upbeat sound. The tunes of area musicians make up the backbone of Carbondale nightlife, and because of festivals like the Shiner SpringFest that tradition lives on.

“Looking forward to seeing folks on the 12th,” DeNeal said. “Wear your drinking boots!”

Festival gates open at 5 p.m. with music starting at 6 p.m. Tickets are $10 and will be sold at the door. The event is for ages 19+ (unless accompanied by an adult).

SpringFest lineup features a homecoming

KYLE SUTTON  Daily Egyptian

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SOUTHERN WEEKEND SPOTLIGHT

Bosco and Whiteford united in musical matrimony

KYLE SUTTON  Daily Egyptian

Some may say working with your spouse is a challenge. In fact, some people would refer to it as a nightmare. Whoever thought up the stereotype has obviously never seen or heard Tim and Kristen Whiteford perform music. Together, the couple forms two-thirds of the band Bosco and Whiteford, which plays a combination of country, Americana and bluegrass music. Tim, Kristen and Toby Merriman, fiddle player, mandolin player, and vocalist, all bring Bosco and Whiteford to the Rustle Hill Winery stage 6 p.m. Friday.

Tim Whiteford and Kristen Bosco met in November 2007 during an open mic night at the old Hangar 9. It would not take long before the two formed something special.

“We hit it off and started playing music together right away,” Tim said. “By January of 2008, we were living together and gigging out as a duo under the name Bosco and Whiteford.”

In February 2008, the duo auditioned for the Country Music Television show “Can You Duet.” From a pool of thousands, the power couple made it to the main stage outside at 10 p.m. The Woodbox Gang’s main stage outside at 10 p.m. because of the time we are all experiencing an intensity of live performance.”

Chicago-based funk band, The Heard, closes out the night on the inside stage at midnight.

“We spent a few years on the road around the country in the early part of the millennium and when we mentioned Carbondale and music, The Hangar was what they knew,” DeNeal said. “At Hangar 9 it is a feeling that we are all in this together, as band and audience, that at this particular moment in time we are

On the inside stage at 9:30 p.m., Knoxville, Tenn. natives Arpetrio bring its fusion of electronics, jazz and jam music to the strip.

Frontman Hugh DeNeal and the rest of the Woodbox Gang take the main stage outside at 8 p.m. The beloved sons of southern Illinois produce a sound that fuses American roots music such as bluegrass, delta blues, folk and traditional country with a punk rock delivery. Their unique blend of different styles and fiery lyrics is often referred to as Trashcan Americana.

SpringFest is The Woodbox Gang’s first gig at Hangar 9 in about six years and the band is treating it as a coming home show.

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Looking for a job?

Southern Illinois University Carbondale’s Recreational Sports and Services employs over 200 student workers. Lifeguards, graphic artists, sports officials, and office assistants are just a few of the positions we offer.

We accept applications for summer and fall 2014 employment during the following dates:

- April 15-May 3 for Summer/Fall employment
- Please note that we do not accept applications outside of the dates shown above.

For more information, go to our website or stop by the Administrative Office on the upper level of the Rec.

To apply:

Go to reccenter.siu.edu; click on the “Employment/Staff” tab; click on the “RSS Applicant” link in the middle of the page.

All documents should be sent electronically.

www.dailyegyptian.com

Breaking stories, daily essentials relevant everyday events.
Clifton Howell looks over the freezer of processed meat on his farm east of Cobden. After the animals are sent to slaughter, the meat is brought to the farm for storage. From there, Howell sells the meat to various businesses in southern Illinois, including the Neighborhood Co-op Grocery and Deli, and Fat Patties in Carbondale.

BISON

continued from 1

Howell said each round bail of hay weighs around 1,500 lbs. Before the animals are butchered, they are sent to a feedlot where they are put on a corn diet. Howell said the flavor of meat is a lot better if the bison have been corn fed instead of living their entire lives on past grass.

The Neighborhood Co-op Grocery Store in the Murdale Shopping Center is one of the local buyers of Bison Bluff Farm meat.

Wade Chambliss of Murphysboro, the co-op’s meat buyer, said stocking the shelves with bison meat is great because not a lot of people are doing it and buying from a local farmer is good for the community.

“Everything they do is done local,” Chambliss said. “Their bison are raised here, they are slaughtered here, and everything is processed and packaged and brought straight here. To us, that is great because that means all of that money goes directly back into our community, which is what the co-op is all about.”

The bison population was nearly destroyed by human intervention in the 19th century.

At one time, there were an estimated 40 to 60 million bison roaming the lands of North America, according to the National Bison Association.

By the late 1800s, after years of over-hunting for furs, tongues, bones and meat, the population of the North American bison numbered less than 1,000 before humans began efforts to preserve and repopulate the nearly extinct species.

According to the latest agricultural census taken by the USDA, in 2007 there were 198,234 bison residing on private ranches and farms in the United States.

The same census counted 4,499 private ranches and farms like Howell’s raising bison. The National Bison Association estimates the current total North American herd size at around 450,000 bison.

Because of farmers like Howell and his family, the population has been increasing over the last 100 years.

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The Bible, at 35mm

KARSTEN BURGSTAHLER
Daily Egyptian

Hollywood's not afraid of God.
It's afraid of Christians.

In an interview with Fox News March 20, headlined "Kevin Spacey: Why is Hollywood so afraid of God?" the director of Christian success story "God's Not Dead" said he often wonders why Hollywood harbors a "fear factor" for God, noting he feels he has been cast out because he didn't vote for President Barack Obama.

And he's right, to an extent. But the argument is a lot simpler than Hollywood wants to lead a war on God — Hollywood just wants to make money, and religious subject matter can carry baggage when produced. The Christians who yell the loudest tend to place labels on a piece of work before they see the finished product, even if there are good lessons to be pulled from the material. Religious groups quite often fortify and miss the chance to let media work in their favor.

Studies hate controversy (unless they have Harvey Weinstein at the helm). The same can be said for why it's taken so long for depictions of gay couples on screen to be treated as normal. Fear of controversy doesn't know party lines, nor does it know how the audience will interpret any given material. The last 15 years saw Christians denounce J.K. Rowling's "Harry Potter" novels as satanic, even though the final book blatantly retells the story of Jesus death and resurrection and casts an evil wizard in the devil's role.

This month, noted atheist Darrin Aronofsky's interpretation of "Noah" is the target. The film does take liberties with the Bible story, mainly insinuating that Noah was a deeply conflicted man who believed God told him to kill his family, only the animals were clean and Noah was simply allowed to live a little longer to save them.

Paramount had a public spat with Aронofsky, who wanted final cut privileges on the movie. At the suggestion of the National Religious Broadcasters, trailers for the film were altered to include a snippet of text at the end informing audiences the film was a fictionalized depiction of Noah's life.

Submissions
Letters and guest columns must be submitted with author's contact information, preferably via email. Phone numbers are required to verify authorship, but will not be published. Letters are limited to 400 words and columns to 500 words. Students must include year and major. Letters may need to be edited. Others include hometown.

Submissions should be sent to opinion@dailyegyptian.com.

Correction
In a Daily Egyptian opinion column titled "Freshmen treatment overshadows transfer potential," printed April 9, 2014, the correct figure for most departmental transfer scholarships is $5,000 over the course of two years.

Editorial Policy
Our Word is the consensus of the Daily Egyptian Editorial Board on local, national and global issues affecting the Southern Illinois University community. Viewpoints expressed in editorials and letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect those of the Daily Egyptian.

Notice
The Daily Egyptian is a “designated public forum.”Student editors have the authority to make all content decisions without censorship or advance approval. We reserve the right not to publish any letter or guest column.

About Us
The Daily Egyptian is published by the students of Southern Illinois University Carbondale 50 weeks per year, with an average daily circulation of 15,000. Fall and spring semester editions run Monday through Thursday. Summer editions run Tuesday through Thursday. All intersession editions run on Wednesdays. Free copies are distributed in the Carbondale and Carterville communities. The Daily Egyptian online edition can be found at www.dailyegyptian.com.

Mission Statement
The Daily Egyptian, the student-run newspaper of Southern Illinois University Carbondale, is committed to being a trusted source of news, information, commentary and public discourse, while helping readers understand the issues affecting their lives.

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The Daily Egyptian is published by the students of Southern Illinois University Carbondale and functions as a laboratory for the school of journalism in exchange for the room and utilities in the Communications Building. The Daily Egyptian is a non-profit organization that survives primarily off of its advertising revenue. Offices are in the Communications Building, Room 1259, at Southern Illinois University Carbondale, Carbondale, IL, 62901. Bill Freitag, fiscal officer.
**Thursday, April 10, 2014**

**Calendar Events April 10-13 2014**

- **Pinch Penny Pub**
  - April 10: Pint Night
  - April 12: $0.10 Off @ 12:30 p.m.

- **Tres Hombres**
  - April 10: Randall Shreve and the Sideshow @ 10 p.m.
  - April 11: Blue Moon Revue and Jenny Johnson @ 10 p.m.
  - April 12: Secondary Modern and Pigron @ 9 p.m.

- **Hangar 9**
  - April 10: Shinier Beer Presents Cree Rider Family Band w/ W.T. Newton @ 10 p.m.
  - April 11: Tawl Paul and The Swamp Tigers @ 9 p.m.
  - April 12: Secondary Modern and Pigeon @ 9 p.m.

- **Curbside**
  - April 11: Arron's Aries Birthday Bash @ 10 p.m. - 2 a.m.
  - April 12: Pretty Kitty Productions Presents: Reggae "Hear Comes the Boom" @ 10 p.m. - 2 a.m.

- **Copper Dragon**
  - April 10: Gramatik w/ Brans & Bibbe @ 9 p.m.
  - April 11: Drew Bladridge w/ We Got It Covered @ 9 p.m.
  - April 12: Randall Shreve and the Sideshow @ 10 p.m.

- **The Grotto Lounge**
  - April 10: Live Jazz w/ Coulter, Goot and Wall @ 7 p.m.
  - April 13: Home-Style Comfort Food Sunday

- **Rustle Hill Winery**
  - April 11: Bosco & Whiteford @ 6 p.m. - 9 p.m.
  - April 12: Blue Afternoon @ 2 p.m. - 5 p.m.

- **Blue Sky Winery**
  - April 12: Taylor Made (Folk/Classic Rock/Modern Pop) @ 2 p.m.
  - April 13: Bill Harper (Classic Rock/ Folk & Country) @ 2 p.m.

- **Starview Winery**
  - April 12: Swamp Tigers @ 4 p.m. - 8 p.m.
  - April 13: Larry Dillard @ 2 p.m. - 6 p.m.

- **SIU Arena**
  - April 11: Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey® Presents Super Circus Heroes @ 7 p.m.
  - April 12: Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey® Presents Super Circus Heroes @ 11 a.m., 3 p.m. & 7 p.m.
  - April 13: Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey® Presents Super Circus Heroes @ 1 p.m.

- **Student Center**
  - April 10: Bowling & Billiards: Cosmic Bowling @ 8 p.m. - 11 p.m.
  - April 11: Mastering the Interview: Round Table Discussion @ 3 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
  - April 12: School Spirit Day @ 10 p.m. - 4 p.m.

- **Communications Building**
  - April 10: Radio is Not a Container @ 3 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.
  - April 12: Movie Theater: Hamlet @ 7 p.m.

- **Shryock Auditorium**
  - April 10: Student Center: "No Vans Land" Film & discussion @ 3 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

- **Lawson Hall**
  - April 10: Room 231: New Lenses for the 20/20 Experience: Discussion about Justin Timberlake & Sexual Consent @ 7 p.m. - 9 p.m.

- **Old Baptist Foundation**
  - April 11: All About Women - Vocal Graduate Recital by Brent Graves @ 5 p.m.
  - April 12: Danielle Elsey Alldred, Performer-Costumer, In Recital
  - April 13: Robert Graham Celos Recital @ 4 p.m.

- **Thompson Point Boat Dock**
  - April 13: Campus Beautification Day @ 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Teen stabs 22 at Pittsburgh-area high school

JOE MANDAK
KEVIN BEGOS
Associated Press

MURRYSVILLE, Pa. — Flailing away with two kitchen knives, a 16-year-old boy with a “blank expression” stabbed and slashed 21 students and a security guard in the crowded halls of his suburban Pittsburgh high school Wednesday before an assistant principal tackled him.

At least five students were critically wounded, including a boy whose liver was pierced by a knife thrust that narrowly missed his heart and aorta, doctors said. Others suffered deep abdominal puncture wounds.

The rampage — which came after decades in which U.S. schools geared much of their emergency planning toward mass shootings, not stabbing — set off a screaming stampede, left blood on the floor and walls, and brought teachers rushing to help the victims.

Police said little light on the motive.

At the brief hearing, District Attorney John Peck said after he was seized, Hribal described him as a good student who was getting along with others, and asked for a psychiatric examination.

He got along with others, and asked for a psychiatric examination.

“I believe he’s OK. He’s a tough cookie and sometimes hides things, but I believe he’s OK,” Zack King said. “I’m proud of him.”

In addition to the 22 stabbed or slashed, two people suffered other injuries, authorities said. The security guard, who was wounded after intervening early in the melee, was not seriously hurt.

“There are a number of heroes in this day. Many of them are students,” Gov. Tom Corbett said. “Students who stayed with their friends and didn’t leave their friends.”

As for what set off the attack, Murrysville Police Chief Thomas Meixner said investigators were looking into reports of a threatening phone call between the suspect and another student.

“I never saw people be mean to him, but was not an outcast and they had no reason to think he might be violent.”

“Everyone always thinks it’s the guy with the gun,” Moore said. “I believe he’s OK. He’s a tough cookie and sometimes hides things, but I believe he’s OK,” Zack King said. “I’m proud of him.”

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“He was never mean to anyone, and I never saw people mean to him,” Meixner said. “I never saw him with a particular group of friends.”

Michael Hann, 18, said he had just gotten to school when he saw “blood all over the floor” and smeared on the wall near the main entrance. Then he saw a wounded student.

“I had his shirt pulled up and he was screaming, ‘Help! Help!’” Float said. “He had a stab wound right at the top right of his stomach, blood pouring down.”

Float said he saw a teacher applying pressure to the wound of another student.

About five minutes elapsed between the time the campus police officer summoned help over the radio at 7:13 a.m. and the boy was disarmed, the police chief said.

“Those are a very, very nice family. A great family. We never saw anything out of the ordinary,” said John Kakikal, a next-door neighbor for about 13 years.

Meixner and Moore called the attacker a shy boy who largely kept to himself, but was not an outcast and they had no reason to think he might be violent.

“Everyone always thinks it’s the guy with the gun,” Moore said. “I believe he’s OK. He’s a tough cookie and sometimes hides things, but I believe he’s OK,” Zack King said. “I’m proud of him.”

In addition to the 22 stabbed or slashed, two people suffered other injuries, authorities said. The security guard, who was wounded after intervening early in the melee, was not seriously hurt.

“There are a number of heroes in this day. Many of them are students,” Gov. Tom Corbett said. “Students who stayed with their friends and didn’t leave their friends.”

As for what set off the attack, Murrysville Police Chief Thomas Meixner said investigators were looking into reports of a threatening phone call between the suspect and another student.

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Salukis fall short against Panthers

TONY MCDANIEL  
Daily Egyptian  

In a game where the Dawgs left eight runners on base, the team fell just short against a quality Ohio Valley Conference opponent.

Eastern Illinois University (27-11) traveled to Charlotte West Stadium for a midweek matchup against the Saluki softball team (17-18).

Junior pitcher Katie Bertelsen (9-7) got the start for the Salukis. She was paired against Eastern Illinois’ pitcher Stephanie Maday (11-5), who entered the game with a 2.32 ERA and 87 strikeouts on the season.

SIU opened the scoring in the bottom of the first inning when senior outfielder Michelle Glenn scored from second base on an error by EIU shortstop Bailey O’Dell. Eastern answered back in their next chance at the plate with a double to left field that scored one run and set the tone for what was a high scoring ball game.

In the third inning, EIU senior infielder Raynae Hutchinson hit a two-run home run to left field to give Eastern its first lead of the game.

Both teams scored two runs in the fourth inning to give the Panthers a 5-4 lead.

In the top of the fifth inning, Bertelsen allowed two runs on two hits to left field that looked as if it had the ball wall to wall to give EIU a 7-6 win.

“Just disappointing, I thought it was a game we could win,” she said. “We started a little bit slow on the mound, but I thought we were sloppy in some areas. We let them off the hook going after that and gave EIU the 7-6 win.”

Blaylock said despite EIU’s three-game series against its Missouri Valley Conference opponent.

Senior catcher Allie VadeBoncouer squeezes a pitch from senior reliever Taylor Orsburn Wednesday during the Salukis’ 7-6 loss to Eastern Illinois University at Charlotte West Stadium. Freshman pitcher Shaye Harre started a seventh inning rally with a solo home run but the Salukis ultimately fell short of a comeback. SIU will travel to Peoria Saturday for a weekend series against Bradley University.


cf. 

CHRISS ZOELLER • DAILY EGYPTIAN

Senior women’s basketball guard Jordyn Courier has been on a full scholarship her entire career as a Saluki.

Courier has younger siblings and said her scholarship has helped her feel blessed.”

“I get to see what it’s like for other people who have to work for it,” he said. “I don’t give money just to basketball even though it’s my preferred sport. I’m supporting the whole athletic program.”

Gabe Tippy
Saluki Athletic Scholarship Fund director

Donors who contribute to the scholarship fund have many perks. They can receive priority points distinguishing them from others when allocating postseason tickets as well as their own reserved parking space.

Donors who contribute to athletic scholarships have also donated to Saluki Wire, a 10-year project which included the new football stadium, indoor practice facility and renovation of SHU arena.

Cherry said as an alumna and former athlete, it is very important to donate to the athletic department.

“Athletes need support from the people who love and care about the university,” she said. “In my opinion, we alumni should all give back.”

Although Cherry enjoys watching SIU basketball, she has said each of his contributions counts for every athlete on campus.

“When I give to SASF, I’m giving to all sports,” he said. “I don’t give money just to basketball even though it’s my preferred sport. I’m supporting the whole athletic program.”

Gabe Tippy, SASF director, said athletes are always grateful for what they receive, and the donors are usually happy to give.

“We try to let donors know how important the scholarship fund is,” he said. “Not just for our numbers, but for the student athlete and the athlete’s experience because this is important in any student athlete’s life.”

“I get to see what it’s like for other people who have to work for school and I know it can be a constant struggle,” she said. “My roommate isn’t on a scholarship and when I see some of the things she goes through I just feel blessed.”

Courier has younger siblings and said her scholarship has helped her family tremendously.

Although Cherry enjoys watching SIU basketball, he said he is glad he committed to SIU and had the chance to redshirt because it made him a stronger athlete.

“Going here and having the opportunity to work out with good athletes was great,” he said. “Instead of having everything given to me I had to work for it.”

It was a very emotional day for Avila when he found out he was offered a scholarship before committing to SIU. He said he is glad he committed to SIU and had the chance to redshirt because it made him a stronger athlete.

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One of my favorite moments in the history of sports took place on a softball field, but it certainly was not my performance in a home run derby. April 26, 2008. Western Oregon University played Central Washington University. WOU’s senior right fielder Sara Tucholsky hit her first career home run, but injured herself at first base. Tucholsky would have been called out if any of her teammates touched her, and it would have been ruled a two-run single if the coach used a pinch runner.

Two players on Central Washington’s team showed sportsmanship by carrying Tucholsky around the bases to make her home run official. They stopped at every bag to touch her left foot on every base because they said she deserved it. The moment won an Excellence in Sports Performance Yearly Award for the best moment, and inspired me to become a sport's reporter.

Senior infielder Jayna Spivey was honored with her first Missouri Valley Conference softball Player of the Week title Monday. Spivey set the school RBI record at 141 and is eighth in MVC history. She has also led the SIU offense in doubles per game this season.

Regardless of what the coaches said, the players cheered every time I made contact, which cancelled Blaylock's grief, and eliminated any excuse I had for a bad day at the plate. It was interesting hitting softball pitches. The angle a softball pitcher takes allows the ball to move up in the zone instead of sinking like a baseball. Every pitch seemed to be an inch off the ground, but in reality they were all hitting the strike zone.

Spivey added one more home run, which gave her a 3-0 lead as I headed to my last three outs. I hit one ball out of the infield, but hit no home runs. To no surprise, Spivey won.

LIKE MYSELF, SPIVEY IS A CHICAGO CUBS FAN. I WORE MY CUBS HAT, AND INSTANTLY GOT GRIEF FROM HEAD COACH KERI BLAYLOCK. SHE SAID IF IT WERE A ST. LOUIS CARDINALS HAT, I MIGHT HAVE WON THE COMPETITION, BUT MY GUESS IS I WOULD NOT HAVE MADE ANY CONTACT.