Students search for MAP solutions

Erin Holcomb
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A briefing on the Monetary Award Program alerted SIU students they have one last chance to get their grant money back.

More than 100 students, parents, faculty and staff attended Thursday’s briefing in the Student Center Auditorium after learning MAP funding had been cut. The funding for MAP was cut in half this year, leaving no funds to aid students in the spring semester.

SIU President Glenn Poshard said students need to directly involved with Illinois legislators if they want their grant money back in the spring.

“Your voice is going to count more than anybody else,” Poshard said. “I ask you, beg you, to get involved in this.”

The grant is awarded by the state through the Illinois Student Assistance Commission to undergraduates. It covers mandatory tuition and fees and does not have to be repaid.

Poshard said there was nearly a 25 percent increase in MAP applicants statewide this year — the most in Illinois history — but state budgets deficits caused the program to lose $200 million. More than 5,000 SIU students receive the grant.

On Oct. 15, Undergraduate Student Government and other students are planning to go to Springfield to lobby in favor of getting the grant reinstated.

Nate Brown, student trustee, gave students the opportunity to sign a petition stating the students’ desire to have this grant fully funded. More than 400 people at the university have already signed the petition. Brown said he is planning on bringing the petition with him to Springfield, along with as many students as he can find.

“This is an issue that people are really hot about,” Brown said. “We want to make sure everyone has the opportunity of getting involved.”

Brown said he is starting a campaign where students can write postcards to their legislators about their experiences with the grant. He said he is also encouraging everyone, whether they are directly or indirectly affected by the grant, to write letters to their hometown legislators.

Ashley Epp, vice president of USG and MAP grant recipient, said she wants to see more minorities involved in the movement because many of those students need the grant.

“We need the money and we need it now,” Epp said.

Priscilla Fabian, president of USG, said he might have to take out a loan for the first time if the grant money is canceled. He said he talked to other students who said they might not be able to attend SIU next semester.

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TRUSTEES

calculus course I. 

We have not laid anyone off at this point in time; there’s been no one furloughed,” Poshash said. “But, if we fall off the cliff next year and we lose 7 percent of our budget, there will have to be steps taken in that direction.”

Poshash said the university went through a series of efficiency measures in each college throughout the past year to find ways to save money. Next year, he said, there would have to be a thorough second round of examinations.

ILLINOIS STATE, which increased enrollment by 2 percent this year, passed SIUC’s total number of students, with 20,906 compared to 20,550 students at SIUC.

Jay Groves, director of media relations at Illinois State, said the key to the university’s successful enrollment numbers is quality, not quantity by setting a target range between 20,000 and 22,000 students.

“We feel that is the best use for the university given the resources we have to work with to educate our students without raising our classes too large,” Groves said. “We have been successful every year that since making that decision.”

Illinois State also recorded one of the top retention rates in Illinois, bringing back 84.9 percent of its students. SIUE recorded the highest enrollment number in the school’s history with 13,940 students, also breaking a university record with 1,940 freshmen.

Chancellor Sam Goldman said he attributes the growth at SIUE to being close to a large metropolitan area.

“We don’t have an urban center to draw on where we are,” Goldman said.

Regional competitor Southeast Missouri State enrolled 9,087 students, up 1.3 percent from fall 2008 numbers.

Savella said he believes Southeast Missouri State has seen an increase because it is more affordable than SIUC.

“You (have) good value for the dollar,” Savella said. “I think that probably why they are seeing a rise in their enrollment right now.”

Savella was told at Thursday’s Board of Trustees meeting by trustee Ed Hightower to compile a report by the Dec. 10 meeting comparing SIUC to peer institutions.

Northern Illinois University grows to more than 25,000 students for the first time since 1987 with an official enrollment of 25,260 students. It is a 1.3 percent increase from last year.

Savella said one way SIUC could compete is through the addition of more online courses, but all options must be considered.

“There’s no question about it that we have internal and external factors that are at play,” Savella said. “We’re going to have to work with any number of factors and adjust them.”

Calendar

3200 Salle International prowled the Sunshine Inn.

Call or e-mail us today for a free quote!

Police Blotters

There are no items to report at this time.

Corrections

If you spot an error, please contact the Daily Egyptian at 318-1111, ext. 215.

GRANT

CONTINUED FROM 1

“They (the legislators) know that their constituents are expressing that they do have a view, and that they want to be heard,” Fahim said. “We want to make a big deal of Oct. 15.”

For more information on MAPgo to www.savellalincolnmapgo.org.
Vet leaders help veterans

Highland studying geography, said he wanted to meet other veterans, particularly those who had been deployed overseas.

Pittenger said he attended two meetings of the SIUC Veterans Organization in the spring and plans on becoming an active member of the RSO.

Pittenger said he questioned how other students would treat him when he first came to SIUC, but after several semesters, he said he has had no problems.

Misconceptions of veterans are not uncommon, Beck said. He said many people believe all veterans have some form of post-traumatic stress disorder, which he said enragies many of those who return from combat.

“They’re still a hard time dealing with issues of the past,” he said.

Beck said he hopes to eventually have one building on campus where veterans can go to help solve problems, especially educational needs.

Pilas said SIUC is open to veterans and their spouses. For those interested in being part of the organization, the first meeting will be at 3:30 p.m. Monday at Italian Village, he said.

He said the organization is trying to get information out to all the veterans on campus. The group’s aim is to stay active in the community and let people know there is help, Pilas said.

“Instead of the military we take care of other people,” Pilas said. “It’s important for me to take care of the people who have taken care of me.”

Aaron McNeal, a senior from Chicago studying industrial technology, gets into position to rappel off the Neppers Building Thursday under the watchful eye of Army Capt. Joe Vogel. Army Reserve Officer Training Corps cadets were taking part in the activity as part of an annual rappelling lab. Director of the Army ROTC program, Lt. Col. Gary Hilmes, said the exercise is a way to build confidence in future military leaders, as well as draw attention to the program. “If you’re scared of heights, you can conquer the beast,” Hilmes said.

Keep your finger on the pulse

www.siu.edu/pulse

ATINO HERITAGE MONTH 2009

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12
13th Annual Welcome Picnic
Free Forum Area (north of McAndrew Stadium)
12noon-4pm

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15
Résident Workshop
Student Center, Rm. 100, 5-7pm

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16
Si se pude (Yes we can)
Oscar Herrera, Latino Heritage Month Keynote Speaker
Student Center, Building B, 7-9pm

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17
Latino Study Jam
Grinlott Hall, Lower Level, 8pm

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18
Festival Latino
Free Forum Area (north of McAndrew Stadium)
12noon-3:30pm

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20
HSC Adopt-a-Spot
Meet at the Student Center Circle Drive, 2pm

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22
Tamale Fest in the Old Main Restaurant
Student Center, Old Main, 11:30am-1:30pm

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23
Free Salsa Dance Lessons
Student Center, Building D, 10-11pm

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24
Victor Correa Memorial CPR Workshop
Student Center, Mississippi Room, 7:30-9:30pm
Free Bowling & Billiards
Student Center, Bowling & Billiards, 9-11pm

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25
Noche de Gala
Student Center, Ballroom D, 8pm
(Doors open at 7pm)

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28
Make Your Own Pulita
Student Center, Craft Shop, 6-8pm
Cost $15 per pulita

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29
Being Hispanic in America with Julian Rios
Grinlott Hall, Lower Level, 7pm

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30
Democracy, Development and Everyday Violence: Latin America in the 21st Century, Dr. Joseph Young
Student Center, Ohio Room, 7pm

Ice Cream Social and Open Mic Night
Grinlott Hall, Lower Level, 8pm

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1
Speak Spanish, but I’m Not Mexican
Student Center, Lower Level, Big Muddy Room, 6-8pm

MONDAY, OCTOBER 5
Film - Amores Perros
Student Center, Illinois Room, 7-10pm

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7
Film - Dying to Get In: Undocumented Immigration at the U.S. Mexican Border
Student Center, Ohio Room, 7-9pm

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8
Uses and Abuses of Hybridity: Contemporary Latinidad as the Malleable Construct, Dr. Angharad Valdivia
Communication Bldg., rm. 1032, 4:30pm

“Glory Box” a performance by Tim Miller
Morton Avenue Theater, Corner Bldg., 8pm

Tim Miller will perform his show, “Glory Box,” a funny, true, and charged exploration through his journey. The challenges of love, gay marriage, and the struggle for immigration rights for gay people and their partners are key elements to his performance. Miller will share another performance on Saturday October 10, 2009.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10
Homecoming Latino Celebration/Tailgate
SIUC Tailgate Area, 11:30am
Latin music, food and fun will be this year’s theme at our tailgate area celebration. Come to the space with the loud Latin music!

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11
Friends & Neighbors
St. Francis Xavier Church, 303 Phipps St., 1:30pm (after Spanish Mass)
All are invited to come and reflect on how they have embraced the fierce urgency of now!

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 13
Tamales Class
Student Center, Craft Shop, 5-7pm
Make delicious tamales. You will get to taste your efforts. Several regional types will be made. Cost: $12

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14
Women’s Self-Defense Class
Student Center, Ohio Room, 6-7pm
Come out and learn how to defend yourself!

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15
Breast Cancer Awareness/National Latino AIDS Awareness Bake Sale
Fisher Hall Breakway, 11am-2pm
Join us in support of two worthy causes.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24
9th Annual Unity Dinner
Newman Center, 715 S. Washington, 7pm
Come out and enjoy a formal evening with a featured speaker, entertainment, and free food from different cultures. Professional attire requested.
NEW YORK — There is the dread of leaving the house that morning. People might stare, or worse, yell insults.

Prayers are more intense, visits with family longer. Mosques become a refuge.

Eight years after 9/11, many U.S. Muslims still struggle through the anniversary of the attacks. Yes, the sting has lessened. For the younger generation of Muslims, the tragedy can even seem like a distant memory. "Time marches on," said Souha Aznezh Al-Sanai, a 22-year-old student at the University of Dayton in Ohio.

Yet, many American Muslims say Sept. 11 will never be routine, no matter how many anniversaries have passed. "I get a sick feeling in the pit of my stomach every year," said Nancy Rokayak of Charlotte, N.C., who covers her hair in public. "I feel on 9/11 others look at me and blame me for the events that took place."

Rokayak, a U.S.-born convert, has four children with her husband, who is from Egypt, and works as an ultrasound technician. She makes sure she is wearing a red, white and blue flag pin every Sept. 11 and feels safer staying close to home.

Sarah Saeed, who lives in the Bronx, said that for a long time, she hardly bothered coming out on the anniversary. The morning the World Trade Center crumbled, she nixed to her son’s Islamic day school so they could both return home. The other women there warned that she should take off her headscarf, or hijab, for her own safety. She now attends an interfaith prayer event each Sept. 11, keeping her hair covered as always.

"There’s still a sense of ‘Should I go anywhere? Should I say anything?’ There’s kind of that anxiety," said Saeed, who was born in India and came to the U.S. at age 8. "I force myself to go out."

The anniversary brings a mix of emotions: sorrow over the huge loss of life, anguish over the wars that followed, but also resentment over how the hijackings so completely transformed the place of Muslims in the U.S. and beyond.

A poll released this week by the Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life found that 38 percent of Americans believe Islam is more likely than other faiths to encourage violence. That is down from 45 percent two years earlier.

It is now common in U.S. mosques for Muslims to preface public remarks by saying they know the government is eavesdropping but Muslims have nothing to hide.

"It is a lot of Muslim Americans in the position of, ‘We don’t belong in as much as we thought we did,’” said Ibrahim Abdul-Matin, a native New Yorker whose college friend was killed in the World Trade Center.

Some of the Muslims interviewed for this story said they have been subjected to insults, though not on the Sept. 11 anniversary. Saeed remembers a man walking by and calling her "Taliban." Closer to the attacks, an anonymous caller told Rokayak to get out of the country.

Abdul-Matin said he avoids TV news on the anniversary. "It’s too much of this drumbeating or war-mongering, if the focus is on ‘what they did to us.’" He prefers spending the day with his relatives, especially his mother, who was with him in Brooklyn the morning of the attacks.

"It’s a family day,” Abdul-Matin said.

This year, the anniversary falls on a Friday, the Islamic day of con- gregational prayer, and during Ramadan, the Muslim holy month, when mosques are usually packed. Muslims expect their prayer leaders, or imams, will at least mention the significance of the date in their sermons.

Asim Rehman, president of the Muslim Bar Association of New York, was at the federal courthouse in lower Manhattan when the planes hit. He said he passes the day "as a proud New Yorker" in "prayer and reflection" for the victims, their families and others.

Not all mosques will commemorate the day. A significant number of U.S. Muslims contend that no one of their faith could have per- petrated the hijackings. They resist suggestions that they should be monitoring their own communities for extremism.
Experience still difficult eight years later

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It was eight years ago when Carbondale Fire Chief Steve 
McBride and firefighter Carl 
Sisk flew to New York City to 
help grieving families of fallen 
firefighters, but they said it is still 
fresh in their memories. 

Members of the Carbondale 
Fire Department went to New 
York City in November 2001 to 
sit with the enormous amount of 
funerals for firefighters. 

“It was really hard to see the 
families,” said Sisk, 42, of Carbo-
dale. “Obviously, that morning 
they had no idea.” 

Sisk said attending three or four 
funerals per day and helping fami-
lies deal with the loss of fellow fire-
fighters was overwhelming. 

McBride, 44, of Murphyboro, 
said helping these families also gave 
the Carbondale firefighters a sense of 
brotherhood. 

“It was an honor for us to go out 
and pay tribute to our fallen broth-
ers,” McBride said. “They gave the 
ultimate sacrifice in what they did.” 

McBride said some depart-
ments had multiple funerals per 
day, which was just too much for 
some of them to handle. McBride 
said that is when the Carbondale 
Fire Department started helping. 

A total of 343 firefighters died 
trying to save those trapped in the 
World Trade Center Sept. 11, 2001, 
while there were 2,993 total fatalities. 

McBride said it was amazing to 
see the response they received from 
citizens on the flight to New York. 

“We had people trying to give 
us their first-class seats,” McBride 
said. “I’m just going out there to 
help firefighters, yet these people 
were willing to give up their seats 
on the plane and go sit in the back 
because we were going out there.” 

Sisk said the amount of funerals 
did not allow as many people to attend. 

“Normally, when a firefighter dies, 
there’s thousands of firemen,” Sisk said. “There were so many funerals that they were lucky to have 100.” 

McBride said the experience 
became even more personal when 
Carbondale Fire Department lost 
one of its own just three years ago. 
Firefighter Data MacCrimmon 
became ill after responding to a call 
Aug. 20, 2006. After returning to the 
station, she was transported to Memo-
rial Hospital of Carbondale where she 
died the next morning, McBride said. 

“It’s dear to our hearts,” McBride 
said. “You just never know when 
what can happen.” 

Sisk said after going through 
such a tragedy, it was important to 
be happy with what he has. 

“You appreciate the people that 
you work with and try not to take 
things for granted,” Sisk said.

Community gathers at peace garden

Jessica Wettig
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Construction began on the Labyrinth Peace Garden the morn-
ing of the Sept. 13 attacks. 

Eight years later, community 
members still walk the garden in 
reminiscence of that day and to-
day at 8 p.m. people will gather at 
the labyrinth and have an opportu-
nity to speak their minds and share 
their grief. 

Hugh Muldoon, director of the 
Giza House-Interfaith Center 
where the labyrinth is located, said 
people gathered the evening of the 
Sept. 11 attacks to be in a “sacred 
and safe place” and express deep 
feelings of confusion, sadness and 
other emotions. 

“If more of us walked the laby-
rinth together, we just might make 
this world a better place,” Muldoon 
said. 

He said Sept. 11 brought peo-
ple to the realization “the world is a 
violent place to live and each 
anniversary is a time when people 
should pause to consider cultural 
differences throughout the world 
and work harder to understand 
each other.”

The labyrinth shares its birth-
day with the attacks of Sept. 11 as 
construction began approximately 
15 minutes before the first plane 
hit the North tower of the World 
Trade Center, said Bob Swenson, 
a member of the center’s board of 
directors and architect of the laby-
rinth. 

Swenson said he was unaware of 
the attacks for most of the morning 
or otherwise the construction that 
day might have been postponed. 
Swenson said he recalls being very 
confused and wondering if the na-
tion was under attack. 

The center’s labyrinth is a circu-
lar maze-like path, leading only 
to one destination — the center. 

“Is a metaphor for life,” Swen-
son said. 

He said he combined the design 
of the Buckminster Fuller dome 
that once sat in the labyrinth’s place, 
with the Chartres Cathedral in 
France. Swenson said the laby-
rinth is like a church without walls. 

Muldoon said the labyrinth is a 
gift to the community. 

ISEC graduate Julie Grey said she 
enjoys the feelings she gets when 
she is at the labyrinth. 
She said she once walked the 
labyrinth after a bad day and found 
tranquility. 

“It was comforting,” she said.
The band born in Carbondale is making its way back. Jackson, who recently relocated to Chicago, is back in Carbondale for a 10:30 p.m. performance Saturday at Tim Hombach's. The band has signed with Midwest Music Group and is promoting its new album, “Hello Again.”

“We have entered a new chapter in our band,” said Aaron Bouslog, the band's drummer. “We took what we did in Carbondale and introduced it to a market much bigger.”

He said it was a dream come true to sign with a record company. “It was one of those things when you go to college as a music major and just hope to be able to play music, and it is happening for us,” he said.

He said the band was energized about the move to Chicago, but would never forget Carbondale and all the great shows.

Carbondale is where all the band’s biggest fans are and it is eager to spend some time with them again, Bouslog said.

Bouslog said without the Carbondale fans, the band would not be where it is today.

“We have not had a CD to sell,” he said. “Now it’s cool to actually be able to give the fans an opportunity to buy our music.”

Mike Schiff, who plays bass in the band, said the whole band shares Bouslog’s anticipation for playing in Carbondale.

“I am so excited about being back in Carbondale,” Schiff said. “It is the first time I will be coming back since graduation.”

The band, which was envisioned to be a combination of the band’s keyboardist and trumpet player, said he is looking forward to catching up with old friends.

The band’s sound and electri- cal expressions can be attributed to its name—take, Bouslog said.

He said Chris Mathien is a diverse songwriter and can create a different atmosphere on each track.

“I’ve played a lot of shows, but playing a set with Mathien is unlike any other musical experience I’ve encountered before,” Jackson said. The band’s relocation has allowed it to play larger venues such as the House of Blues in Chicago.

Jackson said the House of Blues performance was an unreal experience because he had always dreamed of playing the venue.

“I always wanted to play that venue,” he said. “It was crazy because I recently graduated, and now we were playing the House of Blues.”

The show was better than expected after strong ticket sales secured the band the main stage.

Schiff said the band was ready to play the second stage, but after all the tickets had been sold, the show was moved to the venue’s main stage.

“We ended up playing the main stage in front of a crowd of over a thousand people,” he said.

DeGeneres: She’ll be honest but kind on ‘Idol’

LOS ANGELES — Ellen DeGeneres is known for being nice. But the new “American Idol” judge said she’s ready to be honest with the show’s contestants, good or bad.

“I think it’s going to be hard, but as my career has grown… I’ve learned how to be tough and learned how to say no,” DeGeneres said Thursday, a day after her addition to the show was announced. “I think I can do it, and I think I can do it in a respectful way.”

Any bluntness will be reserved for fellow judge Simon Cowell, known for his barbed remarks to contestants and colleagues.

“When Simon is rude and mean, he’s rude and mean, just like I tell him when he’s on my show that he’s rude and mean,” DeGeneres said, referring to “The Ellen DeGeneres Show.”

She’ll continue with her day-time talk role as she takes on “Idol” judging duties for the show’s ninth season, starting in January.

DeGeneres, who signed a five-year deal with the top-rated Fox singing contest, said she was shocked and excited when the opportunity came her way.

The fourth seat opened up when Paula Abdul resigned by way of Twitter in the midst of a contract dispute this summer. Abdul said in a statement Thursday she thinks DeGeneres “is wildly funny and talented in her own right” and wished her and the show “only the best of luck.”

DeGeneres, who hasn’t been part of the parade of guest judges taking Abdul’s place in preseason auditions, called the attention of “American Idol” producers another way.

After serving as a guest judge on Fox’s “So You Think You Can Dance,” the network and “Idol” creator Simon Fuller started sniffing around and said, “Are you interested?” and I said, “Yes, of course… I love that show and I’d love to do it.”

In online postings, some “Idol” fans have applauded the comedian’s selection for the chance she’ll bring to the show. Others, however, have questioned her credentials.

Cowell, Randy Jackson and Kara DioGuardi all bring deep record industry experience to their critiques.

“I know as much as anybody who goes out there and buys a record. I know what I like and I think I do know what is special and has the ‘it’ factor,” DeGeneres said in response, adding that she’s brought talented new artists to public attention on her talk show.

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**Mathien Returns**

**Chris McGregor**

**DAILY EGYPTIAN**

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**DeGeneres: She’ll be honest but kind on ‘Idol’**

Lynn Elber

**THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

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A recent sexual assault attempt has caused the university to ban the offender from campus.

Police arrested Luis Ortiz, 27, of Carbondale after he confessed to an attempted sexual assault charge on Aug. 31 between Route 51 and the southern portion of Lot 56— the parking lot south of SIU Arena.

Todd Sigler, director of public safety, said the attack occurred during daylight in a frequently traveled area. Sigler said after Ortiz hit the victim multiple times with a closed fist, the victim escaped and immediately called campus police.

“We’re very fortunate that it wasn’t worse,” Sigler said. “She was able to disrupt his plan, if he indeed had a plan.”

The university is planning a campus safety walk-through, so areas more susceptible to crime can be assessed for improvements, he said.

Larry Dietz, vice-chancellor of Student Affairs, said he participates in the walk-through every year.

“We know where there are higher incidents of crime. Given the density of population at the (Brunsh) Towers, there are more incidents there,” Dietz said.

Sigler said it is important for students to know that the recent attack was a random, uncommon act, and most reported sexual assault attempts begin from acquaintances or occur after dark.

In the spring of 2007, University Housing and the Department of Public Safety conducted a campus-wide security audit, employed additional resident assistants and hall directors and changed the access policy to the buildings, said Julie Payne Kirchmeier, director of University Housing.

By summer 2010, all university housing is expected to have cameras and proximity access control.

File Photo
"DAILY EGYPTIAN"

University delivers ban, plans safety assessment

The university plans to complete a safety walk-through of the campus in October. By summer 2010, all university housing is expected to have cameras and proximity access control.
In the AFC I will go with the defending Super Bowl champion Steelers to represent. Until Tom Brady proves he can be the player he was before the injury I’ll take Big Ben’s squad. And as much as I want to hatred it up for all my cheeseheads, I like the Vikings to come out of the NFC. I want to be wrong but that defense is a beast, and Favre and Peterson make their offense look, on paper, unstoppable.

Well, I am contractually obligated to pick the Chicago Bears to go to the Super Bowl, after all, I picked them to do so in my column yesterday. Shameless plug aside, I think the improved offense combined with a serviceable defense will take them far. As for the AFC I’m going to go with the Chargers. I have a really good feeling about them this year. They have quite possibly the best offense in the league and their defense isn’t half bad either. People don’t really know how the AFC has changed, so they default to the Steelers. I just don’t think the world is ready for their seventh Super Bowl victory.

For the AFC I like my boys in black and yellow — the Steelers. Santonio Holmes has proven to be a clutch receiver. As far as the NFC is concerned, I like Da Bears if they can stay consistent.

Conference play begins Sept. 18, when SIU hosts Evansville. Until then, the volleyball team intends to take each opponent seriously as they prepare themselves for the road ahead.

“I can’t wait for everyone to see how much better we have gotten.”
— Chandra Roberson
senior middle blocker

“It’s going to be very exciting getting to play at home finally,” freshman middle blocker Alysa Meyes said. “I am going to get my time in and push myself to get ready for these games.”

Dunbar said the Salukis hope to improve on running as team at the Panther Open.

“We want to go up there and show people that we can handle our business.”
— Greg McBride
sophomore cross country runner

“We need to work more as a team and we need to stay in front and run together as a team. Things will be much more efficient that way,” Dunbar said.

Last year the men and women cross country teams dominated the Panther Open. The men finished first out of the nine teams competing, while the women finished first out of the seven teams competing.

The Salukis are looking for that kind of success again as they compete in Charleston.

“We are ready,” McBride said. “We want to go up there and show people that we can handle our business.”

The Salukis will run against hot Eastern Illinois, Southern Illinois Edwardsville, Evansville, Southeast Missouri State and Millikin. The men are scheduled to run at 5:30 p.m. today, followed by the women at 6:15 p.m.
**Volleyball**

**Undefeated Salukis home at last**

Volleyball team looks to improve to 10-0 over the weekend.

Derek Robbins  
**Daily Egyptian**  
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The SIU volleyball team will look to duplicate the success it has had on the road at home.

The undefeated Salukis (7-0) have their first home game today at 7 p.m. at Davies Gym in the Saluki Invitational.

"I can’t wait for everyone to see how much better we have gotten," senior middle blocker Chandra Roberson said. "It’s like our debut to the campus. The home court advantage is a bonus to us. The crowd’s intensity pumps us up and we play better."

The Salukis started with four consecutive wins at home last season, and Roberson said they hope to do it again this season.

First up against SIU is the University of Alabama at Birmingham. The Blazers are 4-3 on the season with losses to Auburn, Ole Miss and Akron. In two of its three losses, the Blazers took the match to five sets. The other loss was in straight sets to Auburn.

Saturday, SIU plays a wireless Murray State team. Murray State started last season 3-6 and finished with a record of 18-13, losing in the finals of the Ohio Valley Tournament. SIU finished the tournament with a match against Valparaiso on Saturday night. Valparaiso has a 3-3 record on the season with losses to Drake, University of Nevada-Las Vegas and Colorado.

"The field is very good this weekend," head coach Brenda Winkel said. "Murray State is favored to win the Ohio Valley conference and UAB is in the top 50 in RPI (relative power index). We look forward to the challenge."

Last season SIU went 8-1 in its non-conference schedule, but went 7-11 overall in the Missouri Valley Conference.

"Last year we were off to a good start as well," Winkel said. "We learned a lot about how to keep it going in conference play. It helps that we had this experience last year, so this year we are ready to take that momentum into conference."

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**Football**

**Mixon out one month**

All-Conference linebacker suffers broken jaw

Ryan Voyles  
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Outside linebacker Chauncey Mixon has been one of the most productive line backers in SIU history, but he’ll spend the next month watching from the sidelines.

The redshirt senior, named to the Missouri Valley Football Conference second team All-Conference, is sidelined four to six weeks after breaking his jaw Saturday against Marshall.

"Right now he is in the recovery. We are checking in week-by-week with his progress, but at this moment we are anticipating four to six weeks," head coach Dale Lennon said.

Lennon said the injury occurred during a kickoff late in the Marshall game.

Mixon has been leaving a mark on the Saluki record books since becoming a starter in 2006. He is among the school leaders in tackles, tackles for loss, sacks and forced fumbles. Only middle linebacker Brandin Jordan has recorded more tackles than Mixon.

Defensive coordinator Bobba Schweigert said Mixon’s injury hurts the depth of the group, especially when it’s a player of his caliber.

“When you take out a senior that has made a lot of plays throughout his career here, it’s gonna affect you some," Schweigert said. "The sad part about football is the injuries, and I do hate that part. But it gives another guy an opportunity, so we have to get them ready to go, and try to hold the line he is out.""

The Salukis have a bye week before their first home game Sept. 17 against Southwest Baptist University. SIU’s projected return would be between SIU’s Oct. 3 game at Western Illinois and its Oct. 17 game against conference rival Northern Iowa.

Schweigert said Mixon will have to be replaced by a committee of players. He said because the defense regularly switches out players, all the linebackers should be ready.

"All the guys we rotate in, they just have to be prepared to compete," Schweigert said. "We just need to have these guys ready."

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**Cross Country**

**Salukis get chance to impress at Panther Open**

Mohamed, Schimer to rest while teammates look to make a name

Ryan Simonin  
**Daily Egyptian**  
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The names are not as familiar, but cross country coach Matt Sparks said he expects the results to be the same.

The Salukis will open the cross country season today at the Panther Open in Charleston with their senior leaders Mohamed Mohamed and Jeff Schimmer resting on the sidelines.

Sparks said it would be an opportunity for the other runners to take the lead and showcase their skills.

"It gives some of our lesser-known runners a chance to prove that we are very good runners too," sophomore Greg McBride said of the Panther Open.

McBride, junior Dan Dunbar, seniors Neil Anderson and Brad Wang and senior Jared Milam are the Salukis set to start the season.

"They’ve never had a chance to be a contributing factor to the team before, but now they are being forced into that position," Sparks said.

Sparks said the first runners representing SIU at the Panther Open have set an achievable goal.

"All the guys running for us want to finish at least in the top-10," Sparks said.

Dunbar said he is excited to run the eight-kilometer meet with the teammates he most often practices with.

"I’m looking forward to running with Neil Anderson and Greg McBride again. I’m used to running with them," Dunbar said.

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