Post-graduation debt is a problem many college students face after earning their degrees. On Jan. 13, many students received an email proposing a solution to this debt. A dating website called SeekingArrangement.com gives students a unique opportunity to acquire financial aid.

SeekingArrangement.com is the world's largest 'sugar daddy' website, with over 2.7 million registered users and works similar to a dating site. According to Merriam-Webster dictionary, a “sugar daddy” is a rich older man who gives money, gifts, etc., to someone in exchange for sex, friendship, etc. For this site, ‘sugar daddies’ seek a ‘sugar baby,’ a student, to begin a mutually beneficial relationship or a mutually beneficial arrangement.

Lexy Velazquez, the in-house public relations manager for SeekingArrangement.com, said the website pairs wealthy benefactors with attractive members who are looking to improve their life, whether that be through mentorship, networking opportunities or paying bills and loans.

“The goal is promote mutually beneficial arrangements that add value to your life,” he said.

It was all about what extreme will people go to in life, that was a popular craze,” he said. “And sitting outside for as long as possible seemed like an ideal fit.”

Greens pump up games

TIA RINEHART
Daily Egyptian

A collaborative effort between Saluki athletics and Greek life hopes to take school spirit to a new level.

The Saluki Basketball Challenge is a competition between fraternities and sororities to see who can get the most members to attend six select home basketball games this semester. Four plaques will be awarded at the end of the competition.

Nicole Sack, the marketing graduate assistant for Saluki Athletics, said they are always trying to get students more involved.

“One of the first things I thought when I got the job was why aren’t we working specifically with Greek life?” she said.

Bryce Webster, president of the Inter-Greek council, said they always invite different campus leaders to speak at its meetings. He said they invited Athletic Director Mario Moccia to its meeting and soon the “Inter-Greek Council Basketball Challenge” was formed.

Sack said there are a total of six games in the competition: five men’s games and one women’s game.

“This keeps the level of interest up, rather than telling the members to attend every game,” she said.

Sack said Greek life makes it a more fun atmosphere. The fraternity and sorority with the most members signed in at that game is announced at halftime.

For the rest of the story please visit www.dailyegyptian.com.

Student debt can be paid by wealthy ‘sugar daddies’

KYLER SUTTON
Daily Egyptian

Post-graduation debt is a problem many college students face after earning their degrees. On Jan. 13, many students received an email proposing a solution to this debt.

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Polar Bear tradition remains

LUKE NOZICKA
Daily Egyptian

The annual ‘Polar Bear’ is just around the corner, causing local venues and administrators alike to gear up for the celebration.

The event is from 10 a.m. Saturday to 2 a.m. Sunday and takes place at Pintch Penny Pub and Copper Dragon. But the expression Polar Bear has become a universal term for the day itself.

Twitter personality Anthony Geff said the concept of Polar Bear began 15 years ago.

Geff plans and manages events at the bars in Carbondale, and has been doing unofficial St. Patrick’s day since 2008 and unofficial Halloween since 2010. This will be his third year working with local bars on “Polar Bear” and “Puck Finch,” Stix and Cali’s version of Polar Bear, respectively.

The idea began when Corona came in on a sales call and pitched an idea to Pinch Penny general manager James Karayiannis for boosting sales in the area. Corona ended up sponsoring the new event they called Polar Bear.

“We said, hey, what if we open up the beer garden on a traditionally cold time of the year,” Karayiannis said. “And just have one event that’s reserved for warm weather, like Corona.”

Karayiannis said when Polar Bear began, shows like Survivor were popular and the idea of Polar Bear thrived from this.

“It was all about what extreme will people go to in life, that was a popular craze,” he said. “And sitting outside for as long as possible seemed like an ideal fit.”

Geff said Polar Bear has grown rapidly, which has led to rumors of the university shutting down during the event in previous years.

“It’s so large,” he said. “The city of Carbondale almost feels the need of that extra police presence for security.”

Geff said like unofficial Halloween, state police officers will be present this weekend and said drinking tickets will be strictly enforced.

Meet the new mayor
See Pg 2

Writers get muddy
See Pg 3

No nursing for athletes
See Pg 12
Carbondale goes full Monty

SETH RICHARDSON
Daily Egyptian

Students may not know their soon to be new mayor. Councilman Don Monty was appointed the title of interim mayor after Mayor Joel Fritzler’s resignation, effective Feb. 3.

Monty got his bachelor’s degree at California State University, Chico before obtaining a master’s degree from Miami University. He came to Carbondale in 1968 to continue his education with hopes of being a professor of geography.

While here, Monty said he became an angry citizen and decided to talk to Mayor David Keene’s office. They hit it off and in 1979 Monty switched his graduate assistantship from academic to community development.

“I really liked being in public life,” he said. “An opportunity came up in the mayor’s office to help with a grant application. The grant was going to involve a tremendous amount of the city’s participation in something called Goals for Carbondale. It was funded by the state and the city manager asked me to be the person who was hired to run the program.”

He started working for the city full time in 1971. “From there I just came up through the city ranks,” he said. “Every position I held I worked with the public and it just became a part of my life. Being that intern for the mayor’s office turned my life from probably being a college professor somewhere to being a longtime public servant.”

He continued his work for the city for 35 years, including stints as the city planner, community development director and assistant city manager.

Monty said his long tenure working with seven different mayors prepared him to fulfill his duty and will define his approach to the job.

“It gives me insight because I know what it takes to get some things done,” he said. “I know how to get things done.”

Cheng said while there has been a decline in some issues.

“Last year, nearly 100 people were issued citations, and more than a dozen people were taken to the emergency room with blood alcohol levels that were potentially lethal,” the letter said. “We know that parents still have influence and our hope was to encourage awareness and conversation between parents and students about responsibility.”

Cheng said while there has been a decline in arrests and transports to the emergency room during Polar Bear, the numbers are still too high.

“People are doing what they want to do,” he said. “But I know that you always have to be concerned about the legal ramifications of issues.”

While downtown development is important, he emphasized there were other commercial areas of Carbondale that can be rebuilt as well, particularly East Main Street between Wall Street and Lewis Lane. He said he wants Carbondale to be a leader in job creation as well.

“It’s not just a drinking event, it’s an event that’s about binge drinking,” Cheng said. “This is about unnecessary underage drinking.”

Cheng said while there has been a decline in excessive drinking. “It’s not about necessarily underage drinking,” Cheng said. “This is about binge drinking.

When downtown development is important, he emphasized there were other commercial areas of Carbondale that can be rebuilt as well, particularly East Main Street between Wall Street and Lewis Lane. He said he wants Carbondale to be a leader in job creation as well.

“Just from a broad brushstroke point of view, if you don’t think there’s going to be a sizable increase in revenues but you know that there are going to be increases in expenditures, that tells you it’s going to be a tight budget situation,” he said. “And that’s without getting any details from the finance department.”

Economic development was another area Monty said was important to Carbondale.

“There are varieties of aspects to that,” he said. “One of them clearly is downtown. I don’t think there’s a person on the city council who hasn’t said that one of their priorities is downtown. And I know the city staff has been working hard on downtown.”

While downtown development is important, he emphasized there were other commercial areas of Carbondale that can be rebuilt as well, particularly East Main Street between Wall Street and Lewis Lane. He said he wants Carbondale to be a leader in job creation as well.

“I was a part of different organizations say Illinois is not a good environment for businesses, that it is not a job-creation friendly state,” he said. “Which that’s the case or not, we have to do what we can to do to increase job opportunities in Carbondale.”
"It's purpose is to give playwriting students, particularly those in my Theatre 411A and B courses, the opportunity to see their work in three dimensions in front of an audience," he said. "Playwrights cannot learn their craft without this sort of work." The shorts are performed with few outside sources and rely on imagination, Juntunen said. This month's theme is Life and Death. "The basic premise of Big Muddy Shorts is to give the playwrights a theme a week in advance, then they write a play, cast it and briefly rehearse it all in a week. Then, they put it in front of an audience," Juntunen said. "Because the time frame is so brief, the evening is necessarily messy; which teaches playwrights not to fear failure. Artists must be brave enough to fail in public otherwise they will never be able to succeed in public." Jacylin Grogan, a graduate student in theatre from Evansville, Ind., said she appreciates the opportunities to further understand the depth of characters she has created through performances by other students. "I enjoy learning what the theme of Big Muddy Shorts will be each month," she said. "I prefer the more quirky themes, but every theme seems to create fun and surprising work from the playwrights. You never know what you’re going to get." Sometimes the playwrights perform the works of others and fellow actors can open up opportunities for further character analysis. "I prefer to see others perform in my plays so that I can hear what my characters sound like in different voices than the voices that are in my head," Grogan said. Kirsten Easton, a graduate student in playwriting from Los Angeles, also said listening to the performances can give her new ideas to work with. "I write my own plays, but I have yet to perform in them," she said. "Because a large part of writing is re-writing and a part of re-writing is hearing your words and how audiences respond to them, I think it’s better to not perform your own work, at least at this stage." Aside from those involved with the production, students are welcome to visit and observe the performances. While responses from the audience may encourage a performance, it is the talent of those involved that drives the evening. “The goal is to promote mutually beneficial arrangements that add value to your life,” he said. SIU is ranked 52 of 77 as one of the “Top fastest growing sugar baby schools.” Velasquez said they are very strict when it comes to the security of the members’ private information. "SeekingArrangement.com has a 24-hour support team who deals with fraudulent profiles, chargebacks, fake members or anything that goes against the code of conduct," Velasquez said. Despite the code of conduct, students have mixed opinions. "It’s purpose is to give playwriting students, particularly those in my Theatre 411A and B courses, the opportunity to see their work in three dimensions in front of an audience," he said. "Playwrights cannot learn their craft without this sort of work." The shorts are performed with few outside sources and rely on imagination, Juntunen said. This month’s theme is Life and Death. "The basic premise of Big Muddy Shorts is to give the playwrights a theme a week in advance, then they write a play, cast it and briefly rehearse it all in a week. Then, they put it in front of an audience,” Juntunen said. “Because the time frame is so brief, the evening is necessarily messy; which teaches playwrights not to fear failure. Artists must be brave enough to fail in public otherwise they will never be able to succeed in public.” Jacylin Grogan, a graduate student in theatre from Evansville, Ind., said she appreciates the opportunities to further understand the depth of characters she has created through performances by other students. “I enjoy learning what the theme of Big Muddy Shorts will be each month,” she said. “I prefer the more quirky themes, but every theme seems to create fun and surprising work from the playwrights. You never know what you’re going to get.” Sometimes the playwrights perform the works of others and fellow actors can open up opportunities for further character analysis. “I prefer to see others perform in my plays so that I can hear what my characters sound like in different voices than the voices that are in my head,” Grogan said. Kirsten Easton, a graduate student in playwriting from Los Angeles, also said listening to the performances can give her new ideas to work with. “I write my own plays, but I have yet to perform in them,” she said. “Because a large part of writing is re-writing and a part of re-writing is hearing your words and how audiences respond to them, I think it’s better to not perform your own work, at least at this stage.” Aside from those involved with the production, students are welcome to visit and observe the performances. While responses from the audience may encourage a performance, it is the talent of those involved that drives the evening.

### Sugars

“Girls probably wouldn’t be thinking about doing it in the first place unless they saw the website,” he said. “Seeing the website might convince some girls to do it, but I do think it’s wrong for the men to be doing this.”

Kyle Sutton can be reached at ksutton@dailyEgyptian.com, on Twitter @KyleSutton_DE, or by phone at 536-3311 ext. 254.

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**Contemporary Playwriting**

Large Egyptian Daily

In theatre, actors need to know their lines before heading on stage. But once a month at the C.H. Moore theatre, not even the writers know the lines until a week before the performance.

Grad students engaged in the arts craft the Big Muddy Shorts, and the performances showcase each student’s playwriting abilities. From month to month, the shorts vary in theme and duration, and are found in an array of genres from comedy to drama.

Jactlyn Juntunen, assistant professor of theatre and head of the university’s playwriting program, said the shorts were created in September 2012 when he first began working at the university.

**SUGAR CONTINUED FROM 1**

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In March the Kleinau Theatre will present “Athena and the Apple,” but the audition process is already over.

Director Nico Wood said the play is a coming-of-age love story between three high school seniors, led by the character Athena, and the way Athena is changed after an encounter with modified fruit.

“The play is made up of desire, love and exploration,” Wood said. “I want to see how well the auditioners can perform and collaborate.”

Emily Thompson, alumna of theater from Rock Falls, Pearlishea Cummings, a junior studying performance studies from Chicago and Nico Wood, a doctoral candidate in performance studies, recite a play Tuesday during auditions in the Communications Building for Athena and the Apple. Wood is the director of the play, which will debut in March at the Kleinau Theatre. “The play is made up of desire, love and exploration,” Wood said. “I want to see how well the auditioners can perform and collaborate.”

Cast planted for ‘Athena and the Apple’

JAKE SAUNDERS
Daily Egyptian

In March the Kleinau Theatre will present “Athena and the Apple,” but the audition process is already over.

Director Nico Wood said the play is a coming-of-age love story between three high school seniors, led by the character Athena, and the way Athena is changed after an encounter with modified fruit.

“Essentially, together they are science lab partners and through one of their experiments they kind of magically alter a piece of fruit,” she said.

Any story can be told and be displayed with artistic sway and freedom. Finding people to play the parts can be a difficult process, but through it the director can assess the ways one individual works with another as well as the way they present themselves and their act.

Kleinau Theatre publicity director Andrea Baldwin said there are multiple ways a director might choose their cast from those auditioning for a part.

“(Casting) varies from director to director,” she said. “I think the most important is the candidate to be willing to provide energy and commitment to the audition. Students who do this show the directors they are willing to fully commit to the role and are open to giving strong performances.”

Baldwin said she looks for candidates who display both high energy and seem to be tapped into their emotions.

“In my opinion, those who can showcase the two can play roles with passion,” she added.

In preparation, there may be an expansive list of things to accomplish. What a performer must go through varies and each strategy culminates differently.

Emily Thompson, a senior with a theater degree from Rock Falls, went to the auditions but did not try out for a specific role.

“[The audition] was good, I did a monologue that I am pretty solid with and then we did a warm up, which was really great,” she said. “I like to do that, it helps you get centered.”

When auditioning, it helps to be familiar with what may be proposed within the text of the play, Baldwin said. “For example, if a performance calls for the exploration of a historical text, I want to be familiar with the text,” Baldwin said. “This dictates how I would approach the readings in the audition. I make a commitment to myself prior to going to an audition to give my all at the audition, and that each audition is a chance for me to grow as an artist.”
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 columns and letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect those of the Daily Egyptian.

Correction: On Wednesday, January 22, 2014 an article titled Women's Resource Center begins mission, should have read "Yesmen said women could have issues with finances, health and situations that could lead to unhealthy relationships with men, sexual abuse or violence and substance abuse." The Daily Egyptian regrets this error.

Notice

The Daily Egyptian is a "designated public forum." Student editors have the authority to approve or advance approval. We reserve the right not to publish any letter or guest column.

One man's tragedy is another man's amusement

KARSTEN BURGSTAHLER
Daily Egyptian

A storeroom ticket to ride on the Titanic cost $172 to $460 in today's dollars. For a fraction of that cost, audiences will soon be able to simulate the horror a storeroom family felt when they realized there were not enough lifeboats for everyone.

The Seven Star Energy Investment Group, run by CEO Su Shaojun, expects to open a landlocked Titanic theme park in China in 2016. The centerpiece will be a $165 million replica of the boat, complete with a simulation of the moment the boat hit an iceberg on a frigid evening in April 1912.

"When the ship hits the iceberg, it will shake, it will tumble," Sa Shaojun, in a Reuters article. "We will let people experience water coming in by using sound and light effects ... They will think, 'The water will drown me, I must escape with my life.'"

However, more than one thousand people died on the Titanic. That is not fiction. There is no glossing over it.

In 1997, James Cameron made millions off his retelling of the tragedy. However, movies can convey a message that will simply be lost in the mix of a theme park. Cameron examined the hubris of the men who thought they'd built a ship even God couldn't sink, and their slow realization they had failed. He showed the perfect storm of events that led to the crash. He showed reverence to the event.

Oddly enough, Bernard Hill, who played Captain Edward Smith in Cameron's film, showed up at the press conference to christen the new "boat." He vehemently defended the project and claimed he had received no compensation to sell his life story. But that is not the primary reason his film exists.

It is, however, the primary reason this attraction exists. To be fair, Shaojun said the museum dedicated to the event. But that seems like it is there only to placate those who argue against the replica's existence. Shaojun is clearly focused on the visceral experience above all, and it is uncomfortable to suggest anyone else will get a thrill out of seeing the waves crash toward him or her.

There are all kinds of ideas waiting to be adapted in ride form, ones that don't require tourists to step into a moment that actually happened. Hell, show some creativity and develop a new storyline for once.

The loss of human life is not something to be taken lightly, and the problem with this Titanic attraction really boils down to a single way to show it is to not turn a tragedy out of seeing the waves crash toward him or her.

So where is the line drawn between art and schlock? It would be stupid to suggest Cameron didn't produce the movie to create a modern epic; the man is driven by his ego and loves his wide shots of the ship sinking as well as the constructed shots of water flooding through the hallways. But that is not the primary reason his film exists.

Karsten Burgstahler can be reached at karstenburgstahler@dailyegyptian.com, on Twitter @kburgstahler, DE, or 536-5311 ext. 273.
Thursday, January 23, 2014

Pinch Penny Pub
Pint Night
Blackhawks vs Wild@ 7 p.m.
Tres Hombres
Allison Floyd w/ Fiddlerick and Brandy River @10 p.m.
Hangar 9
Cash Party Featuring Schlafly AIPA
@ 5 p.m.
Pizza Party w/ Little Pizza FREE
FREE FREE @ 9 p.m.
The Grotto Lounge
Live Jazz/ Coulter, Groot, and Wall
@ 7 p.m.
Student Center
SPC Films Presents: Don Jon @ 7 p.m. Students and Children $2, Public $3
Bowling & Billiards: Cosmic Bowling
@ 8 - 11 p.m.
Morris Library
Room 510A
Meeting: Spanish Club
@ 4:30 - 5:15 p.m.
FLIT Club Meeting 4:30 p.m. - 5:15 p.m.

Friday, January 24, 2014

Pinch Penny Pub
Bulls Vs. Clippers @7 p.m.
Tres Hombres
DJ Nasty Nate @ 10 p.m.
Hangar 9
Barnacle Billy and the Zebra Mussels
@ 10 p.m. $3
Copper Dragon
Hairbanger’s Ball @ 10 p.m. $5
Rustle Hill Winery
The Natives @ 6 - 10 p.m.
Von Jakob Vineyard
VonJakobville @ 2 -6 p.m.
$16 tickets

Saturday, January 25, 2014

Pinch Penny Pub
Polar Bear Party @ 10 a.m. - 2 a.m.
Bulls Vs Bobcats @8 p.m.
SIU vs. Missouri State
Tres Hombres
The Dri-hettes @ 10 p.m.

Student Center
SPC Films Presents: Don Jon @ 9 p.m. Students and Children $2, Public $3
Dawgs Night Out @ 8 p.m. - 12 a.m.
Saluki Spirit T-Shirt Swap @ 8 p.m.
Grand Opening of Chick-Fil-A and Sbarro

Student Rec Center
“Fulfilling the Dream” 3rd Annual MLK Charity Basketball Tournament @ 4 - 8 p.m.

Shrewsbury City Center
9th Annual St. Louis Trivia Night & Silent Auction @ 7 p.m.

Pinch Penny Pub
Bulls Vs. Clippers @ 7 p.m.
Tres Hombres
DJ Nasty Nate @ 10 p.m.
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No Tow Zone
At The Reserve
At The Reserve At Saluki Pointe, you’ll never have to pay another tow fee for the duration of your lease! You and your guests can park here FOR FREE—all day, everyday! Stop by and take a tour of your new apartment today!
Events

**Hangar 9**
Polar Girls Night: Miss Ampheramine and DJ Switchfade @ 10 p.m. Girls Free, Guys $3

**Copper Dragon**
Polar Bear Party w/ Hot Sauce Committee $5

**The Grotto Lounge**
King John Live in the Grotto Lounge @ 9:30 p.m.

**Von Jakob Vineyard**
Vanjakobville @ 2 - 6 p.m. $16 tickets

**Alto Vineyards**
Jack & Jill @ 2 - 6 p.m.

**Starview Vineyards**
Marshall Anderson Band @ 3 - 7 p.m.

**Student Center**
SPC Films Presents: Don Jon @ 7 p.m. & 9 p.m. Students and Children $2, Public $3 Big WInter Bingo @ 7 - 9 p.m.

**Student Rec Center**
SIU Family Carnival @ 3 - 5 p.m.

**Pinch Penny Pub**
Sunday Funday Blackhawks vs. Jets @ 6 p.m.

**The Grotto Lounge**
Home-Style Comfort Food Sunday

**Blue Sky Vineyard**
Don Barron @ 2 - 5 p.m.

**Furr Auditorium**
Pullium Hall Room 42 Southern Illinois Dance Co. Auditions @ 6 - 10 p.m.

**Wednesday 29**

**The Grotto Lounge**
Prime Rib Night

**Student Center**
Ballroom: Freshmen Advisement Transition Event @ 5 p.m. - 7 p.m. Bowling & Billiards Dollar Night @ 7 - 11 p.m.

**The Arena**
Saluki Men's Basketball vs. Indiana State Sycamores @ 7:05 p.m.

**Dunn Richsand Economic Development Center**
Get Your Business Noticed Worldwide @ 10:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.

**Student Programming Council**

**SFC Interest Meeting**
Thursday, January 23, 2014 6 p.m. - 7 p.m.
Ohio Room, Student Center

**SPC Films Presents: Don Jon**
@ 7 p.m. & 9 p.m. Students and Children $2, Public $3
Big WInter Bingo @ 7 - 9 p.m.

**Student Center**
Ballroom: Latino Policy in Illinois @ 11:30 a.m.
Monday Night Bowling League @ 6:30 - 9 p.m.

**Tres Hombres**
Open Jazz Jam w/ SPC Jazz Combo @ 7 p.m.

**Agriculture Room 166**
Crime Intervention for Sexual Violence Training for SIU Faculty, Staff, Graduate Assistants, & Student Leaders @ 11 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

**Student Center**
Bowling & Billiards Food Night @ 5 - 8 p.m.

**Lentz Dining Hall**
Think Science @ 5:30 - 7 p.m.

**Week of:**

January 23 - 29

**Monday 27**

**Student Center**
Ballroom: Latino Policy in Illinois @ 11:30 a.m.
Monday Night Bowling League @ 6:30 - 9 p.m.

**Tuesday 28**

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Ballroom: Latino Policy in Illinois @ 11:30 a.m.
Monday Night Bowling League @ 6:30 - 9 p.m.

**Wednesday 29**

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Prime Rib Night

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Open Jazz Jam w/ SPC Jazz Combo @ 7 p.m.

**Agriculture Room 166**
Crime Intervention for Sexual Violence Training for SIU Faculty, Staff, Graduate Assistants, & Student Leaders @ 11 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

**Student Center**
Bowling & Billiards Food Night @ 5 - 8 p.m.

**Lentz Dining Hall**
Think Science @ 5:30 - 7 p.m.

**Week of:**

January 23 - 29
So the student would not actually be full time on Carbondale’s campus. And NCAA rules dictate that you have to be in full time—12 credit hours—at the school you’re representing. Unfortunately, we found out the hard way that it wasn’t going to work for our students.

Sidwell considered taking 12 credit hours at both campuses to maintain his status as a Carbondale student athlete, Stepps said, but that option would be near impossible. “He was actually the first one to try nursing,” he said. “We had others who were interested in nursing but decided to do other majors. He was very adamant, that is what he wanted to do and we tried all different options.”

While Stepps and her staff work hard to get helpful nurses on track to their career, she admitted the lack of nursing at Carbondale has been discouraging. “It’s been disappointing because we have had both male and female student athletes that have been interested in nursing,” Stepps said. “After our situation with Ryan, our coaches better understood that coming in and doing a bachelor’s degree in nursing wasn’t an option.”

This is nothing new for the coaches who handle recruiting for SIU’s varsity sports. There are student athletes coaches may have to evade every year because they cannot offer them the major they want. Anderson expressed some frustration that, among the multitude of majors available to students and student athletes, nursing is not one of them. “When we’re recruiting, I get a lot of female recruits that want to do nursing,” he said. “It’s a very popular program. We pretty much have all the majors that my recruits are asking for, except for that one.”

Anderson is not alone, though. Coaches for track and field, women’s basketball, swimming and diving and softball have all been thwarted in recruiting potential Salukis because of the lack of nursing. “That’s the one [challenging] area I’ve had recruiting over the last 12 years, even though we’ve had multiple conference championship teams,” Matt Sparks, cross-country head coach, said. “The frustration has been that when we get the [student’s] questionnaires back and it says nursing, you put that one on the back-burner because you know they can’t do that when they come here.”

What happens to the students who decline to change their major? Some end up at rival schools once they realize Carbondale might not be the best destination for their major. After graduating, Sidwell attended conference rival Indiana State University to finish his nursing degree, although his years of eligibility for sports were used by then.

Carbondale’s lack of a major as common as nursing can give rivals the upper hand, said Sparks. “The frustration is when you’ve got a great athlete that you’d like to recruit but then you see nursing is their focus academic area; you realize that you can’t accommodate them,” he said. “You see them end up at Illinois State, which has got a nursing program that’s one of our biggest recruiting rivals and competitive rivals. That’s a big frustration.”

Sidwell and Hasler hope to see a change in the policy, no matter what it takes. “The school needs to figure it out for student athlete,” Hasler said. “It’s unfair that someone can’t take the straight route to being a nurse like everyone else can. Carbondale needs to get its own nursing program apart from Edwardsville.”

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Sidwell said he knows student athletes who have to change majors to keep their athletic scholarships. For many students, these scholarships are their only way to pay for college. “When they have to change their degree to something that they aren’t passionate about or move on to a different campus, either way, it’s not good for anybody,” Sidwell said. “SIU loses a student and the student loses what they want to do.”

Tyler Davis can be reached at tdavis@dailyegyptian.com, @tdavis_de on Twitter, or 536-3311 ext 259.
Senior looks to lead team with her bat

TONY MCDANIEL
Daily Egyptian

The Salukis were picked fourth in the Missouri Valley Conference preseason poll, but one senior captain will hope to lead this year’s softball team to an even higher finish.

Jayna Spivey, a senior from Rosiclare, starts at second base and is a key player as well as a leader with stats to show it.

Last season, the Salukis slugged led her team in RBIs with 44, home runs with 11, a slugging percentage of .538 and a .301 batting average. She has also been named to the MVC All-Conference Team the past three seasons.

Spivey, who is a biological sciences major, has also been named to the MVC All-academic First Team her junior and sophomore seasons. She sits in fourth on the SIU all-time home run list, and was named to the MVC Preseason All-Conference for the upcoming season along with junior outfielder Meredith Wilson.

Coach Kerri Blaylock said she expects Spivey to lead this season.

“She’s a captain this year, we’ve got three captains,” she said. “I expect leadership, we always expect her to hit in the middle of our lineup, do a great job and be steady on defense.”

Spivey said she wants to be a leader to the freshmen and be the everyday player she knows she can be.

“I expect consistency regardless of when and where we’re playing, and I want to see the same from the team,” she said. “I want to come across as level-headed to the team. I don’t want to show when I’m down and that goes back to consistency.”

Spivey played at Johnston City High School her sophomore year and then Harlan County High School her senior year where she had a .721 batting average, earning her a spot in the school’s hall of fame.

“She just would dominate the pitching at that level,” Blaylock said. “Her summer team was such a quality summer team that they spent a lot of time finishing high up in nationals, so I knew she was a winner.”

During her senior season, Spivey was recruited by both the University of Kansas and SIU. Spivey’s decision came down to one deciding factor: Coach Blaylock.

“A lot of girls would say they chose Carbondale for the team or the atmosphere, but I say Coach Blaylock,” Spivey said. “She was my favorite part.”

Spivey said she has great relationship with the entire coaching staff and can rely on Coach Blaylock.

“I can go to the coaches for anything,” she said. “If I need to talk, I can call Coach; if I’ve got a flat tire or a breakdown, I can call Coach.”

Sophomore shortstop Kelsey Gonzalez, Spivey’s partner in the infield, said the two of them clicked on the first day.

“She’s constantly supportive. She’s always there to talk about anything on and off the field,” Gonzalez said. “We’ve gotten really close, we always have to click together playing up the middle.”

Coach Blaylock said coaching Spivey was easy, and she regrets not having more time with Spivey.

“She’s one of those kids you don’t want to leave,” Blaylock said. “It’s kind of bad because you don’t have to spend a lot of your attention on those kids because they’re just doing things the right way. So for me, it’s just letting her know that maybe just because I didn’t spend a lot of time with her doesn’t mean I don’t recognize how special she is to our program.”

For the rest of this story, see www.dailyegyptian.com

Salukis go down in dog fight

TYLER DIXON
Daily Egyptian

After shooting less than 43 percent from the free-throw line, the Salukis have nowhere to place the blame except on themselves.

The Drake University Bulldogs (10-9, 2-5) entered the game in last place of the Missouri Valley Conference, but that spot will now be taken by SIU (6-14, 2-5) after the Conference, but that spot will now be taken by SIU (6-14, 2-5) after the Salukis were 7-22 from the field the entire game.

The Salukis’ 57-54 loss drops to 6-14 overall and 2-5 in the Missouri Valley Conference.

Hinson said the plan was to dribble-drive and dish the ball to the 3-point line. Junior guard Dawson Verhines found the ball in his hands and put up a shot, but the ball rimmed out to give SIU its second loss in row.

“When you’re ready to play in a basketball game, when you have a sense of urgency, when you’re aggressive, an aggressive mindset, you make free throws,” Hinson said. “I just believe that.”

Senior guard Desmar Jackson finished with 15 points on 4-15 shooting from the field but he was 7-9 from the free-throw line.

Drake senior Aaron Hawley had 19 points with five free coming from the 3-point line, but none of them were as crucial as his final attempt of the night. SIU held Drake scoreless for almost eight minutes but Hawley hit a 3-pointer with 40 seconds left to put the Bulldogs in the passengers seat.

Hinson said freshman big man Bola Olaniyan would get the start against Bears of Missouri State University on Saturday. Olaniyan grabbed seven rebounds in 18 minutes of work in the second half.

Olaniyan said the team has to keep looking forward in order to get better.

“We just got to regroup and think about the next game and how we’re going to win the game,” he said.

Sitting in last place in the Valley is not the best place to be come March. Freshman guard Sean O’Brien said his team does not want to play on the opening night of the MVC Tournament.

“I think we’re, what, tied for last, right? We really gotta get it going,” O’Brien said. “We don’t want to play on Thursday night.”

The Salukis play Saturday on the road at Missouri State. The Bears will be without sophomore stud Marcus Marshall, who tore his meniscus earlier this month.

SARAH GARDNER | DAILY EGYPTIAN

Senior guard Desmar Jackson drives past a Drake University player Wednesday during the Salukis’ 57-54 loss at SIU Arena. Jackson finished with 15 points and was 7 of 9 from the free-throw line. SIU drops to 6-14 overall and 2-5 in the Missouri Valley Conference.
No nursing major forces student athlete transfers

TYLER DAVIS
Daily Egyptian

Imagine high school athletes making the necessary grades while performing well enough to be granted the opportunity to play Division I athletics in the sport they have played their entire lives.

Now after all the hard work is put in, it is realized the one profession an athlete wanted to do is unavailable because of their status as a student athlete.

This scenario is all too real for former tennis player Sierra Hasler and alumna Ryan Sidwell. These student athletes hoped to compete for the university’s varsity athletics while earning a degree.

Hasler, a former walk-on women’s tennis player, is now a junior at St. Francis College of Nursing in Peoria.

“My freshman year I was undecided, but while at home over Christmas break, I really felt like I was being called to be a nurse,” Hasler said. “I immediately talked to my athletic advisor and that’s when I found out the bad news.”

The bad news is that SIU does not offer nursing on the Carbondale campus. SIUC is the one of two major universities in Illinois, the other being University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, that does not offer nursing—a major that has been in the top five of most popular fields over the last 20 years.

After walking on to the team, Hasler later sustained an injury that kept her out for crunches for four weeks. Next season, her sophomore year, Hasler took over as student-coach but knew that her days as a Saluki were numbered.

“I’ve always had a passion for helping people,” Hasler said. “I wanted to be a nurse, so I did not declare a major because I knew I would be leaving. I took all of my prerequisite classes to be able to apply for nursing school.”

Associate Athletic Director for Student Services Kristina Stepps has dealt with the issue for most of her tenure at SIU.

Stepps office oversees the Trout-Wittmann Academic Center and support services student athletes receive. She tried to clear up why students are not able to pursue their dream major.

Students can enroll in an accelerated nursing program through SIU–Edwardsville but student athletes cannot because of NCAA regulations. Stepps said. Student athletes can instead enroll in nursing school after graduating from SIU with a degree that fulfills their prerequisites.

For example, the school offers healthcare management. A degree in healthcare management would provide a student with the prerequisites necessary to get into nursing school at a later date but would not authorize him/her to be a Registered Nurse upon graduation.

While at SIU, Hasler developed a friendship with all her teammates, especially former roommate Natasha Tomishima, and her team was saddened upon her departure.

“With someone like Sierra, it was really disappointing not being able to keep her here because she was a great, valuable person to the team,” Audra Anderson, women’s tennis coach, said.

Hasler was sad about leaving but said she is excited to start clinically at her current school near Peoria, and plans to graduate next year.

Sidwell, a decorated track and field athlete, was another hopeful nursing student. Sidwell ran the 400-meter, holds the school record for the heptathlon and has a conference championship in pole vaulting.

When he first got to SIU, track and field was his life.

“I originally came to do the radiology program,” he said. “But my junior year was the first year that they had the nursing program through Edwardsville. I thought that would be perfect for what I wanted to do.”

Sidwell, a diabetic, said he owes a lot to the nurses who helped him cope with the condition and hopes to have a similar impact on other kids with diabetes. But, like Hasler, Sidwell had a choice to make: athletics or education.

“It was frustrating to know that if I wanted to pursue my athletic abilities. I had to drop the nursing,” he said. “Oh I had to drop the athletics and pursue the nursing.”

Steps found out the main reason student athletes could not major in nursing was because NCAA regulations force a student to be full time at the school they play for.

“We found out that the classes were actually through Edwardsville, and the student would be paying tuition to the Edwardsville campus,” Stepps said.

Please see NURSING · 8

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