Higher education in Illinois ranks number one in nation

First-ever national report card places Illinois B+ for overall educational performance

Samantha Edmondson Daily Egyptian


The National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education, an independent research organization in San Jose, Calif., developed the project to evaluate educational systems and how each state government can adjust policy-making accordingly.

Patrick M. Callan, president of the National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education, wrote in "Measuring Up 2000" that the states have the primary role in shaping the public policy of higher education.

Callan said the report card, a product from a two-and-a-half-year process, is designed to give state leaders and policy-makers a tool for evaluating and comparing their performance against top-performing states in each of the six categories.

William Doyle, senior policy analyst for the National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education, said a report card is used in other areas of educational evaluation, so the center used a scoring system the states' programs are familiar with grading.

"There has not been a comprehensive look at state performance in higher education," Doyle said. "With the report cards, policy makers have a review of how they are doing." Illinois received an A in three of the six categories—preparation for college, participation in college and affordability: College completion rates in Illinois were ranked a C, and Illinois earned a B+ for benefits derived by the state from higher education.

However, all states were given an "incomplete" for the sixth category, student learning, because of the lack of dependable data.

Doyle said the National Center could not find a source of data on each state. Thus, it would be unfair to compare states with data that was unavailable in other programs.

The report card graded each state on the six categories, but Doyle said some state higher education boards calculated an average grade for the states resulting in a first-place rank for Illinois.

The National Center suggested recommendations for each state and overall to improve its scoring category. But in February 1999, the IHEE computed the "Illinois Advantage" score, a comparison of Illinois higher education institutions and agencies in the next century under six goals.

See EDUCATION, page 6
Philly girl escapes kidnappers

PHILADELPHIA — A 7-year-old kidnapped girl escaped from an abandoned house where she was being held for ransom through duct tape bindings and arms, smashing a window and then calling to nearby playing children for help, police said.

One of the children rode a bike from the building where Erica Pratt was being held down the street to alert officers who were on patrol, said Michael Doherty, spokesman for the Philadelphia police. The girl had been abducted, locked, and screaming from in front of her home Monday evening and held for ransom.

Police were searching for two suspects late Tuesday. Doherty said Pratt had no other injuries.

While being held in a police officer's arms, Erica waved to a neighbor and screamed for help as she was returned to her grandmother's home.

The boy who saw her said he yelled to a couple of little kids who were playing in the front of the house.

The children pulled Erica out of the window, and one of them rode a bike where the officers were patrolling. Doherty said.

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The DAILY EGYPTIAN regrets these errors.

Almanac

Today

High 90
Low 66

Mostly sunny with light and variable winds.

Today's Calendar

The Individualized Learning Program is offering extended testing during the summer session. The Division of Continuing Education will be open late July 24 through Aug. 1, and two-day advanced institutes are required for those hours appointments, For more information call 536-7751 to schedule an exam.

Police Blotter

No items submitted

Corrections

The Daily Egyptian regrets these errors.

Readers who spot an error should contact the Daily Egyptian at 536-3311 ext. 253.
Graduate enrollment looks up despite assistantship cuts

Jane Huh
Daily Egyptian

Graduate enrollment may be on an upswing come this fall despite an almost $2 million cut to graduate assistantships.

John Koropchak, dean of the Graduate School, said the most current data that compares enrollment figures from last year projects an increase up to 200 students.

"Graduate enrollment has grown over the last three years, and at least the projections for the fall indicates another significant increase," he said. "So it doesn't look like the things that have been going on campus have degraded graduate enrollment."

A finalized report on graduate assistantship cuts will be presented this November.

Throughout the University, about $2 million in graduate assistantships was cut. However, $1.2 million from the tuition increase is earmarked to cover the loss, bringing the shortfall down close to $1 million.

Kate Kalal, an English teaching assistant from Iron Mountain, Mich., plans to continue as a teaching assistant through her graduation in 2003. She said the budget cuts leave assistants with fewer resources. Kalal said in her case, if her assistantship were cut from the department, her school debts would not be paid off on time. Hiring a graduate student for nine months costs roughly $10,000 that is mainly covered by state and tuition dollars.

Graduate students can be supported by fellowships and teaching or research assistantships. Fellowships are used for history and recruitment purposes.

Amy Sillen, Graduate and Professional Student Coordinator, estimated that around 100 assistantships will be cut from the total of 1,500 for fall.

"The cuts could prove to be extraordinarily detrimental to undergraduate education as well as graduate education," she said.

Sillen said the vast majority of undergraduate students complete their curricular courses taught by teaching assistants who are graduate students. Removing teaching assistantships may result in a greater student-to-teacher ratio.

Undergraduate assistantships, which will receive $750,000 from the $8.5 million total, increase also pose a threat to the status of graduate assistantships. Sillen said, "The fear is... and I don't believe the chancellor intends to take the money and give it to undergraduate assistantships... there's that risk that jobs currently being performed at the graduate assistantship level will be done by undergraduate assistants.

"We're just beginning to think about it," Sillen said. "Pretty much, everyone makes recommendations, even the chancellor because the chancellor does the [BOT] make the decisions. That's the 'real' nature of the University."

Reporter Jane Huh can be reached at jhuh@dailyEgyptian.com

The air up there

Jayshawn Sherrill and Carbondale does a back flip Wednesday on the lawn in front of Pullman Clocktower. "I have been doing flips for about five years," Jayshawn, who is 9 years old, said. Sherrill is on campus this week with the Saluki Kids Academy, which will come to a close on Friday.

Layoffs situation simmers on backburner until Nov.

Chancellor to receive department recommendations after Thanksgiving

Jane Huh
Daily Egyptian

Chancellor Walter Wendler is expecting finalized recommendations on layoffs and more cuts by the Friday before Thanksgiving.

The chancellor said the department and college heads will present their final recommendations by mid-November as the school faces a $15 million budget hole.

The chancellor said she plans and semester cuts will come up with their recommended list specifying what areas within the departments can afford to be cut, including layoffs and graduate assistantships. For now, layoffs are possible.

"We're at the process of looking into their areas of responsibility, ways to reduce our overhead and do some reorganization to save money," Wendler said.

College deans will soon assess their department's spending and bring their lists up to the president, who will then pass it along.

The Chronicle of Higher Education.

"I think research is an important part of the mission at this University," said John Koropchak, Graduate School dean and member appointed to chancellor's research task force. "It will have a lot of effect on the reputation of the University and will help attract faculty and students.

Koropchak believes that the research will help to boost SIU's reputation as well, increased value of degrees received.

The technology transfer is the transfer of ideas from the research stage to the industrial stage, and from there the ideas are patented to make products and possibly form companies. SIU has made enough headway in these areas to be recognized among the top 117 institutions in the U.S.

"If you can't do technology transfer, you're not going to compete favorably with other schools in some categories," Koropchak said. "SIU has entered in patenting ideas and processes in the Colleges of Agriculture, Engineering, Science, Liberal Arts, Medicine, Applied Sciences and Technology.

Koropchak expects SIU's technology transfer program to grow as Digital Communication Systems and the College of Mass Communications and Media Arts and Expansion Initiative Center for Excellence in Soybean Research, was cut. Also, departments are not hiring faculty vacated by retirements or replacing non-returning staff.

"We're just beginning to think about it," Sillen said. "Pretty much, everyone makes recommendations, even the chancellor because the chancellor does the [BOT] make the decisions. That's the 'real' nature of the University."

Reporter Jane Huh can be reached at jhuh@dailyEgyptian.com

SIUC receives research recognition

SIUC places 16 on list of most productive research schools in U.S.

Arin Thompson
Daily Egyptian

SIUC came in 16th on a list of institutions for the number of inventions disclosed per $1 million in spending on research, beating Harvard and Yale for the first time, according to The Chronicle of Higher Education.

"Generally research is an important part of the mission at this University," said John Koropchak, Graduate School dean and member appointed to chancellor's research task force. "It will have a lot of effect on the reputation of the University and will help attract faculty and students.

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Reporter Jane Huh can be reached at jhuh@dailyEgyptian.com
City promotes energy conservation

Carbondale to contract with SIUC to reduce energy consumption

Phil Beckman

Daily Egyptian

The Carbondale City Council authorized the city manager Tuesday night to enter into a contract with SIUC that will bring $50,000 to Carbondale to promote energy conservation.

The Illinois Department of Commerce and Community Affairs recently awarded an $80,000 grant to Carbondale as part of the Community Energy Program.

Assistant City Manager Don Money said Carbondale has a history of involvement in various energy conservation initiatives going back to the 1970s. He said the city used to have an energy division that worked with citizens to help reduce energy consumption, but it was eliminated for budgetary reasons.

Money said that by contracting with the University, the city will be able to tap into the technical expertise and resources that are already in place.

City Councilman Brad Cole, who cast the only ‘no’ vote, said he voted against the program because he has not seen that it has produced significant results since it was first initiated.

‘I’m not saying they’re not doing anything,’ Cole said, ‘but it just doesn’t seem like the best use of the money.

The U.S. Department of Energy program that Carbondale is adopting is the Illinois Energy Conservation, Rebuild America, has an SIUC offshoot.

Local band pumps music with visual entertainment

Eye Candy, a glam rock band out of Carbondale, brings a unique visual element to its performances.

Eye Candy is playing at 10 tonight at Hangar 9 with The Potential and the Lou Reeds.

Eye Candy is an attempt to revitalize some of the visual entertainment that was prevalent among bands of the late 70s and early 80s.

Ruth said Eye Candy is an attempt to revitalize some of the visual entertainment that was prevalent among bands of the late 70s and early 80s.

Ruth also described the band’s ‘batch of pop with a blast of glam, a dash of sas and a sprinkle of trash.

His style of entertainment is different from others, he stated.

Eye Candy is also offering a unique style of entertainment via the visual spectacle.

The band is also offering a unique style of entertainment via the visual spectacle.

Pork is not just ‘the other white meat’

Dean hopes for funds to conduct research for pork standards

Samantha Robinson

Daily Egyptian

Technically, pork is a red meat. But the National Pork Producers Council has been calling it “other white meat” since 1988. This label applies to fresh pork and was created in hopes of making people aware that pork could be a part of a healthy meal.

However, Tiwy Young, the assistant dean for research in the College of Agriculture, wants to create a label for Illinois-produced pork to let consumers know that the meat is of quality and meets certain standards.

In order to create the label, standards have to be decided upon for inspectors to look for in the meat. Creating standards is done through research for which Young and his colleagues are hoping to receive funding.

We would be doing work identifying high quality pork,” Young said. “The research is to establish standards for Illinois so meat can carry the brand.

The brand will read ‘Illinois premium meat’ and it will only be given to the meat once it has passed all of the inspections.

There are many types of pork, but a lot of it is processed, and that meat will not have the label. Only fresh pork will pass inspection for the brand.

Fresh pork is identified as pork chops, roast, ribs, leg, shoulder and any other piece that is fresh.

Pork is not usually thought of as ‘healthy meat,’ but that is what researchers are trying to get away from. They hope people realize this and begin to eat more pork products.

Cassie Roggen, pork information specialist for the National Pork Producers Council, said pork is the healthiest protein because it contains all nine essential amino acids which gives it a white color and also makes pork lean.

‘Pork is healthier than people think, and anything you smoke or charcoal is less fresh and healthier,’ Rogers said.

According to an article published by the Illinois Pork Producers Association, pork producers have seen a disappointing first half of 2002 and may not have seen the worst.

This is mainly because of the rising prices of hog supplies and lower numbers of consumers.

In Illinois, breeding hogs have grown 7 percent on traditional family farms, showing positive projections of numbers of hogs that will pass through inspection.

Young proposed to change the label for Illinois after being contacted by pork producers to help create a premium branded product for consumers.

Alleviation of funding from the legislature will determine the outcome of the new label. Young said he is in the process of looking for additional funds from other resources that can help further the project.

‘Likelihood of getting funded depends on budget,’ Young said. ‘If FFA budget allows for us to receive funds and not suffer cuts, that will be great.”

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Our Word

Undergrads + assistantships = opportunity

Innovative. Enterprise.

These two words describe the sum of Chancellor Walter Wendler's idea to take advantage of the opportunities to students who seek an education, as well as to the college as a whole.

What's more, the University will be paying good money for these assistantships, offering a college that is used to fill the $500,000 in tuition increase.

The program is also a direct payback to the students and a visible offset to the full tuition increase.

Chancellor Walter Wendler promised that the half of the tuition increase would go right back to students and that it would be used to fill the budget hole created by the state's financial mess. This program suggests that the chancellor is willing to get creative when it comes to student satisfaction and that he is going to hold true to his promises.

Undergraduate assistantships are a new idea, however, and administrators are not modeling it after another program. For this reason, the program should be flexible and standards for review at various points throughout the semester. The program will be offered to only 100 students because of budget constraints.

This number should be increased as soon as funds are available.

In addition, the whitewash rate at which the program is being established is both positive and problematic. From a student standpoint, we support Wendler's decision to have it in place by early September. The lusing of the program, however, is a little trickier for the time being.

The dean's, directors and department heads must fill out the required paperwork by Aug. 9. Then a committee will review the applications and approve the students. Students then have to apply for the program and go through a selection process. All this is to be done by early September.

Though Wendler has been talking about this program for a long time, only recently have details been finalised. University officials want to get out the word so that students know it's available. Otherwise, don't be surprised when 50 comes around and students forget to apply because they're busy doing college stuff such as making, buying books and trying to find a class as the third floor of Foster.

The University lastest recognizes that it is not enough to just give students a college degree. If SUUC students are to be competitive in the job market upon graduation, they should experience the same as the job market.

Letters

Death penalty abolitionists ignored at public hearing

Dear Editor:

On June 17, DAILY EGYPTIAN reporter Brett Nancarrow covered the State Senate committee hearing regarding problems with the death penalty. In the June 18 article "Senate committee hears of Southern Illinois death penalty problems," Nancarrow noted that the committee listened to some death penalty opponents after allowing to fire at the state's summary and not some details from the hearing lasted more than three hours and 45 minutes. The lawyers were listened to for about three hours and 15 minutes. The five death penalty opponents who spoke were given about 30 minutes.

I was at last hoping the DAILY EGYPTIAN reporter would have given us a little more coverage than we were afforded at the meeting. But alas, that did not happen. In spite of the fact that there were some 50 death penalty opponents present. Many of those who didn't make it clear to fed the floor in a particular form before they would be permitted to speak, and so we sat through the death penalty PUBLIC HEARING for four hours without being able to express their opinions. During the course of the senator's arguments, I asked an issue to which they were the only ones testifying. He replied that they had been connected in advance and asked to some. This would cause the senators to present at the public hearing. Among the 20 death penalty opponents we spoke about 30 minutes. No one was asked about the public hearing.

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Mary K. Woods

Women who rock the boat: headstrong or good leaders?

Dear Editor,

I read that Jane Jonhson, a professor at the University of Illinois, has been appointed to the faculty at the University of Illinois. I have been watching the progress of this appointment very closely, and I am very pleased to see that she is being given the recognition she deserves.

I would like to see more women being appointed to such high positions, and I believe that this will happen more frequently in the future. I believe that women can make a valuable contribution to the academic community, and I hope that more women will be appointed to such positions in the future.

Sincerely,

Jane Johnson

Letters

Nursing shortage projected to reach 42,000 by 2020

Thank goodness. The best ringing for 20 minutes.

Well, here I am. I take a nursing test.

NURSING SHORTAGE PROJECTED TO REACH 42,000 BY 2020

We reserve the right to publish any letter in its entirety.

Letters may be submitted to the Daily Egyptian, 420 W. Main St., Carbondale, IL 62901 or by email at editor@dsey.com or by fax at (618) 536-3311 ext. 281.

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Daily Egyptian welcomes and encourages a variety of voices.

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NASA seeks younger workers to join aging agency

Gwyneth K. Skaw
The Orlando Sentinel

WASHINGTON (KSTP) -- NASA, faced with the prospect of a growing brain drain in its space workforce, is engineering strategies to sensitize and attract keep young talent.

The average age at NASA is 45. And among those in the agency’s crucial science and engineering fields, the majority of employees over 60 outnumber those under 30 almost three to one.

Even though the National Aeronautics and Space Administration has out worked its force by almost 7,000 people since 1991, the age disparity has only increased. Roughly a quarter of the agency’s workforce is eligible to retire within the next five years.

So NASA Administrator Sean O’Keefe wants more freedom to hire new workers -- those just starting out as well as those with established careers in the private sector.

He wants to offer the agency broader options for recruiting, scholarships, the chance to keep swiftly or even a short-term appointment to allow them to bring expertise to the space program and a chance to become career civil servant.

He will need Congress' help, and it won’t be easy.

It’s a battle that’s brewing across the federal government, where the notion of civil service rules is one of the key tenets of President Bush’s plan to revitalize the government more like private-businesses.

But O’Keefe’s plan, like other attempts to change the way federal workers are hired and paid, is meeting with some resistance.

“’There are a lot of flexibility would make sense, provided they are clearly in line with the U.S. Comptroller General David. But it could be considered O’Keefe’s plan last week. ‘Times have changed, and different agencies need to be in doing in considering ... Low it does business.’

O’Keefe emphasized, however, that plenty could be accomplished without a wholesale modification of the current federal workforce hiring process. And he added that any changes should be done slowly and carefully.

Members of the House Space subcommittee, many of whom have NASA offices in their district, expressed support for the idea of hiring the cream of the crop to the agency.

The committee chair, Democrat Dave Weldon, a Republican whose district includes Kennedy Space Center, said the agency has the job of doing a better job of retaining today’s science and technology students with the same passion for space that helped send men to the moon.

“We need to find out how it is that young people coming in, the only reason that you have have young people enamored of their idea of working for NASA,” Weldon said. “They’re offered better jobs in the private sector.”

However, Weldon and others also recognize that competitive private-sector employers could be hurt if NASA continues its hiring drive.

Rep. Bart Gordon, Democrat, asked O’Keefe about his “wisdom” of changing the NASA hiring process, saying he saw a need to offer a complete plan for streamlining the agency.

O’Keefe said he doesn’t anticipate any layoffs or job cuts, and that the NASA work force will simply be bolstered with younger workers coming on to career civil servants.

Some problems, such as offering scholarships in return for a commitment of service to NASA for a certain period of time, or the absence of Congress’ approval.

O’Keefe, who noted that NASA has handled its very few of those situations, said that the agency wants to be able to offer more in order to attract new employees or prevent the loss of workers from quitting.

He also wants a greater ability to hire someone with expertise in a specific area for a set period of time up to five years.

For example, employees would be hired to teach school courses for a year to train future teachers.

The goals included helping college, but Illinois’ financial aid.

The 2001-2002 Affordability was one way that Illinois citizen teacher-training programs.

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Mike Meyers’ new film “Austin Powers in Goldmember,” will hit the box office this Friday. Verne Troyer (Mike Me), who stands 2 feet, 6 inches tall, the height of man’s legs, is putting together the Verne Troyer Foundation to help other little people make their dreams come true.

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NO pets
- 684-1445 or 684-6682
Crossword

ACROSS
1. Swindle
5. Dads
10. London
14. Singer Amos
15. Heron-like bird
16. Osmotic start?
17. Leaveoul
19. Pleasant city on the Riviera?
20. Mountain State
23. Trononoy
24. Summer cottages, often
28. Twangy
32. Metal bolt
33. Want_
36. Home le
39. Fiction
41. With full force
42. Humorist F. Morley
43. Pretends to be dead
47. Author "Jude the Obscure"
48. Bandleader's command
50. Deeply felt
53. Frightened
57. North side of the Mason-Dixon Line
61. Caesar's panner
62. Ta-ta. Gigi
65. Tightspot
66. Make under
67. Opposi in nature
68. On Ille ocean
69. Soa.....
70. Took an oath
71. Pathogenic microorganism

DOWN
1. Hale-Bopp or Kohoutek
2. Hale-Bopp or Kohoutek
3. Spring from
4. Hand warmer
5. Star! of cure?
6. Th,cl,ening aggl
7. Self-t,gh1eous person
8. Norse gods
9. "Funzy Girl"
composer
10. Extreme enthusiasts
11. H,lagar1and
12. Circle part
13. Wa1ertester
21. _ the Impaler
22. Calvary initials
25. Ofbrds
26. Rover!
27. Orgetfulness
29. Vogue
31. Fido's restra,n1
33. Theater leade
34. McJeral or Thomas
35. Beginning
36. The robed, wise
38. Metal faslener
40. FDR's burial place
41. With full force
43. Pretends to be dead
47. Author "Jude the Obscure"
48. Bandleader's command
50. Deeply felt
53. Frightened
57. North side of the Mason-Dixon Line
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Solutions

Thur., July 25, 2002

Daily Egyptian
Ephedra-based weight loss products such as Metabollfe 356, Ripped Fuel and Xenadrine RFA can help users to lose weight but can also cause dangerous side effects. "The recommended dosage is five milligrams per day and not to exceed 100 milligrams per day," Lynn Gill, coordinator of the Wellness Center in Nutrition Education, said. "But because it's considered an herb and not a drug, it's not regulated by the Food and Drug Administration, and some products exceed more than the recommended amount."

**Fit & Trim**

Ephedra is a substance used by dietary supplements to facilitate weight loss

**Story by Maureen Johnson**

But Gill is concerned about the possibility of adverse effects of large quantities of Ephedra. She said the FDA has received many complaints concerning symptoms such as insomnia and as severe as psychosis, heart attacks and strokes.

"Ephedra works in the central nervous system," Gill said. "Ephedrine is a naturally occurring substance in our bodies. If we were to use a fig as example, for example, and get scared, our blood pressure goes up, our heart rate increases and our perspiration occurs. This is the same effect this drug is giving the body. If this is continually taken over the next three months, what can happen is an adenosine in the body because of fast response."

Gill stressed that people with high blood pressure, heart problems, hyperthyroidism, prostate and urinary problems should definitely not take supplements with Ephedra. Furthermore, Ephedra may be dangerous for people who are pregnant, breast feeding or have problems with blood pressure or glucose.

Gill said that people taking monoamine oxidase (MAO) inhibitor drugs, which are used as antidepressants, and those who are taking over-the-counter medications to control asthma, sinus, allergy or colds "would not take these supplements, because many of these products already contain Ephedra."

However, Gill emphasized that Ephedra is safe when dosed properly.

"Research from Harvard and Columbia Universities found that overweight, healthy Americans participating in this study lost between 11 and 12 pounds without experiencing significant side effects," Gill said.

In addition to being unsafe, supplements may also be ineffective if used for a long period of time. Gill said she would like to see a long-term study to determine if there is long-term success with using dietary supplements containing Ephedra.

"I suspect that more people than not would have a weight gain once these pills are discontinued," Gill said. "What is better for your health and ensures long-term success is a reduction of total calories and an increase in physical activity. But it takes patience, time and planning, and many people aren't willing to do that."

Gill suggested healthier alternatives to dietary supplements with Ephedra. These recommended people cook less food and slow down their eating.

Gill said people should slow eating while dining and not eating in a hurry.

"That's the behavioral part I think these diet pills are focused on. If people eat and fill their stomachs, all is said. Many people take these pills and don't change their lifestyle, hoping that the pill will also solve the problem," Gill said.

Jonn Maxwell, the outreach and group counseling coordinator for Wellness Services at the Counseling Center, said the decision to use dietary supplements containing Ephedra may include emotional issues such as poor body image and low self-esteem.

"I think people are looking for a quick fix to improve themselves or their appearance," Maxwell said. "But a pill is not going to solve the problem because as soon as they quit taking the pills, they'll go back to their same eating habits."

Maxwell said companies such as Metabolife International, Inc., may target both men and women who are vulnerable and have poor self-images. She said men and women feel that weight loss supplements will improve their lives by improving their appearance.

"Dietary supplements can have a very short-term positive effect on self esteem," Maxwell said. "But if someone has trouble with self-esteem and a very poor image of themselves in terms of appearance, that short-term boost will go away and the real problems will remain."

Maxwell recommended that people with a poor body image think about what it's like to accept themselves. She said that being healthy has a drastically more rewarding effect.

"Being healthy also is how you think of yourself," Maxwell said. "If there is something you'd like to change, invest yourself into changing lifelong habits into something positive."

Reporters and Photographers are invited to submit

**mbaw@studentsouthern.edu**
Koutsos ready to run

Saluki football star set to break more career records

Jack Platt
Daily Egyptian

Tommy Koutsos is one season away from representing SIU as the all-time career rushing leader at the Gateway Conference.

The senior is ready to be the school career rushing leader with 3,531 yards in just three seasons, and he has averaged 4.6 yards per carry during his career.

It will take only 716 yards this season for Koutsos to surpass Eastern Illinois University's Willie High, who held the league's career rushing record with 4,313 yards.

Koutsos is the first running back in SIU history to lead the Salukis in rushing for three straight seasons. He is only 64 yards away from setting the SIU career record. Koutsos has also never missed a game in his three-year career.

Koutsos has received numerous honors during his time at SIU. He was named to the First Team All-Gateway his sophomore and junior years. As a senior, he received an honorable mention for All-Gateway.

Koutsos also entered this season knowing he could break the old Gateway career rushing record. The Saluki football wizard is looking to Koutsos to lead to a successful season. The team has been working hard at many different levels. If Koutsos can duplicate his success on the field, the team has a good record for winning some games this year.

"Tommy has been working real hard all summer to improve," said junior teammate Eric Lyer.

"I hope he breaks the Gateway career rushing record this season."

SIU football head coach Jerry Kill said despite last year's loss Koutsos was still his. He thinks this season will be different.

"Tommy has a very productive spring. He is a better player now than he was in the fall," Kill said.

"He has increased his speed and will be exciting to watch in the fall.

"After this season is over, Koutsos plans to compete at the professional level. He hopes to be invited to an All-Star game to begin his movement into the next level.

With a young team and a determined coaching staff, the Salukis are ready to create a 'wAAP' image for SIU football.

"We have a young team mixed with some good veterans," Koutsos said.

"The young players need to step up and play hard, and the veterans need to step-up and lead the younger players.

This season will be an important test for a young Saluki football team, and it will also be a chance for one SIU player to rise even higher.

"This will be my best season for sure. I have pre-season honors I have to back up. I'm just looking forward to going out on a winning season. This team is going to open some doors.

"I am ready to take the responsibility of being a leader and having the younger players look to me for leadership," Koutsos said.

Reported Jack Platt can be reached at jplatt@dailyEgyptian.com

New women's track assistant coach is 'ready to run'

Sparks ready to improve SIU's distance runners

Kristina Dailing
Daily Egyptian

Matt Sparks, former Ohio State University women's track and field assistant coach, is looking to relocate.

Kristina Dailing, SIU women's and field head coach, was looking for a long distance running coach.

The timing was right, the need was there, and Sparks is now ready to lead the track team to the next level.

Sparks, who has been hired to train the distance runners for the SIU women's track and field team, had his first official day on the job Wednesday. He replaces former assistant coach DeDe Nadler, who left the team earlier this summer after just one season in Carbondale.

Although Sparks has just recently been hired, he has already jumped into his job by calling and introducing himself to players and making sure they have kept up with their summer conditioning.

Players are already encouraged that he will make a big difference with training the long distance runners.

"I think we have a talented team to start off that he could join the Salukis.

Though she has never worked with Sparks directly, she knows he has worked with long distance runners in the past, an area that Kristina Dailing admitted hasn't much experience with.

"I think he will be able to pull the distance team in close together," Price-Smith said. "He will be able to provide them with the training knowledge to help them compete better."

Sparks spent his last two years coaching women's distance runners for Ohio State's cross country and track and field team, specifically working with and training the long distance runners. He also coached two years at Indiana University as a graduate assistant for the track and field team while he earned his master's. This was also where he met Price-Smith when she was training for the Olympics in Bloomington, Ind. Sparks has since watched her athletic career and has been impressed by the examples she acts as young athletes.

"I've just admired her leadership and what she has been able to do with her track and field program, and as an athletic program," Price-Smith said. "That was one of my big selling points."

Sparks also likes Carbondale's small community, as well as SIU's beautiful campus. However, Sparks went to the campus district from what he wants to do as a team.

"It's a rebuilding process," Sparks said. "The team has been down the past few years, so it's going to take a couple of years to turn this around.

"It was really hard for the girls last year," Sparks said. "They felt like they weren't winning anything, but they didn't have a coach or a technician who could help with their specific needs.

Sparks, who hails from nearby Mount Pleasant, said the team is already planning to stress to the young women to have good attitudes to aid in turning things around.

"I think you can make some quick

Reported Kristina Dailing can be reached at kdailing@dailyEgyptian.com

Pacers still interested in Roberts

Jack Platt
Daily Egyptian

The Indiana Pacers have limited former Saluki star Roberts to their upcoming veteran camp.

Roberts played summer league basketball for the Pacers earlier this summer and showed he has talent worthy of a second look. Roberts also played summer league ball for the Washington Wizards, but he didn't think he got enough playing time there.

If Roberts decides to go to the veteran camp, he will be one of 10 players who will compete for a position on the team. The Pacers will keep 12 to 15 of the players from the camp and will pay them to non-guaranteed contracts.

The players will compete in exhibition games with the rest of the team and in that game, he can impress the team enough to make the final cut before the regular season begins.

According to Roberts' agent, Bill Neff, the Pacers would give Roberts a pre-negotiated contract if they make the final cut. He would then get paid for each game played and have the opportunity to play the whole season.

If he doesn't make it to regular season, the Pacers don't pay him anything.

"It is very hard for a free agent to get signed to the NBA at this point, but not impossible," Neff said.

International teams in Italy and Turkey are also interested in Roberts. Neff said Roberts can make good money overseas and make a name for himself in Europe.

"My dream is to play in the NBA," Roberts said earlier in the summer. "But if I don't play in the NBA, playing overseas is definitely an option."

Reported Jack Platt can be reached at jplatt@dailyEgyptian.com