Crosswalk safety top priority

MATT DARAY
Daily Egyptian

From the star cluster Vega to the moon’s deep craters, students, staff and Carbondale residents alike will have the chance to view the night sky through a telescope during public astronomy observations, which was hosted by the university’s physics department. Brice Russell, a graduate student in physics from Mt. Vernon, operated one of the telescopes and focused on various star clusters. “Not many students have access to such powerful telescopes,” Russell said. “At the observations, they have the chance to see through a different perspective, a cosmic perspective.”

A student’s injury last week has caused SIU’s Department of Public Safety to become more concerned about student crosswalk safety.

A female pedestrian was hit by a car in the crosswalk near the Recreation Center Tuesday. Although pedestrians have the right-of-way, statistics gathered by the Wellness Center show that students often don’t practice crosswalk safety.

Because of the danger crosswalks pose, Russell Thomas, all-hazards preparedness resource coordinator for DPS, said the department wants students to be more cautious.

“There hasn’t been a large number of incidents (in my time), but when it happens it makes a large impact,” Thomas said. “Crosswalks can be safe if you use common sense.”

Thomas said pedestrians should look both ways before using crosswalks, make eye contact with the driver of any oncoming vehicle and refrain from texting or wearing headphones while crossing. He said students need to learn more about crosswalk safety and use good judgment when crossing the street.

SIU crosswalks

Three SIU students conducted a study in 2009 for the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance — a group that researches issues surrounding healthy lifestyles — on crosswalk safety as a means to prevent future accidents. The students put up cameras at three different locations with two crosswalks. One crosswalk location showed 101 of 125 pedestrians used the walkway and did not slow down, while the location without a crosswalk showed that all 86 pedestrians stopped and looked both ways before crossing.

Seven people were almost hit by a vehicle during the surveillance.

The study also showed that only 11 of the 300 people who used the second marked crossway used the crosswalk button. The data concluded pedestrians had a false sense of security, a lack of knowledge for crosswalk laws and a lack of concern for crosswalk incidents.

Safety changes

The study prompted the Wellness Center to form a crosswalk safety committee in 2010 to look at risks associated with crosswalk use on and around campus. Data gathered by the center from 2011 and 2012 showed more than 13,000 students used seven highly populated crosswalks between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. Of these students, 20 percent were distracted by headphone, cell phone and iPod use.

Of the 580 students who used bicycles and skateboards through the crosswalks, 97 percent did not comply with crosswalk laws, according to the data.

To combat this, the committee implemented strategies such as handing out glowsticks at a university event to encourage students to remain visible when crossing the street. Saluki Project Ignition, a Registered Student Organization, also handed out information about safe crosswalk behavior, and the university placed more lighting and visibility on Wall Street near University Hall to increase driver’s ability to see crosswalk users.

Ready to ride at DuQuoin State Fair

AUSTIN FLYNN
Daily Egyptian

A stargazer observes a presentation Sunday on Necker’s roof while waiting to view the night sky through a telescope during public astronomy observations, which was hosted by the university’s physics department. Brice Russell, a graduate student in physics from Mt. Vernon, operated one of the telescopes and focused on various star clusters. “Not many students have access to such powerful telescopes,” Russell said. “At the observations, they have the chance to see through a different perspective, a cosmic perspective.”

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There will be five viewings in the fall session, three of which will be viewings where something out of the ordinary will happen, Buer said. “The first session, scheduled Sept. 19, is a solar observation where a new and improved telescope will get its first use.”

Four telescopes were on top of the roof all fixed on different space locations with professors and lecturers explaining what each telescope was displaying.

Stargazers gather atop Neckers roof

AUSTIN FLYNN
Daily Egyptian

From the star cluster Vega to the moon’s deep craters, students, staff and Carbondale residents alike will have the chance to gaze upon these astronomical wonders throughout the fall semester.

Attendees gathered on Necker’s roof Sunday to view the stars and learn about the solar system with the help of SIU’s physics department. Bob Buer, host of the viewings and computer/electronics specialist, said he started the rooftop observations about two years ago after the building’s roof got an upgrade and community members showed interest in the free event.

Buer said the viewing brought many curious people to the roof in the summer, but the amount of amateur astronomers at the event should almost double with students back in town.

The summer session proved difficult at times because of cloudy days, Buer said, but some notable sightings included Saturn, Mars and the Venus transit, where Venus passes in front of the sun.

However, Buer said fall observations tend to be clearer because cloud cover is limited during that time of the year.

“‘You can see deep-sky objects much better,’” Buer said. “‘Jupiter will be up in late October and you can see that in the early evening, and let me tell you it’s spectacular. It’s the most interesting of the large planets you can see.”

Sunday was an event to welcome back students and had about 50 people in attendance. Neckers’ observation deck was nearly filled, which Buer said is normal for the popular event during fall and spring semesters.
The Weather Channel® 5-day weather forecast for Carbondale

Wednesday
Thursday
Friday
Saturday

**Today**

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**Wednesday**

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**Friday**

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<th>Scattered T-Storms</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>50% chance of precipitation</td>
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**Saturday**

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<th>Scattered T-Storms</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>81°</td>
<td>67°</td>
<td>50% chance of precipitation</td>
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**About Us**

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

**Mission Statement**

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

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**Correction**

In the Friday edition of the *Daily Egyptian*, the story “Jackson County Board takes stance on fracking” should have identified Dan Bost as a board member. The *Daily Egyptian* regrets the error.

**SW Ind. farm sorce of some contaminated melons**

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City finalizes investment on public water infrastructure

CALEB MOTSINGER
Daily Egyptian

At the Wall and Grand Street intersection, below the surface, two million gallons of water lie in subterranean storage tanks. "These are old tanks past their useful life," Carbondale City Manager Kevin Baity said. "They need to be replaced and we've finally reached a resolution to do so." A resolution was approved at the Aug. 21 City Council meeting that authorized the city manager to execute loan documents with the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency for the Water Storage Facility Project's construction. The city secured rights in August 1991 to build a new water storage facility at 1080 E. Park St. adjacent to the Gateway Foundation, a drug and alcohol treatment center. The property sat vacant ever since, said Steve Wierman, executive director for the Gateway Foundation. Until recently, however, the city has lacked the funds to begin any kind of building design. The project sat inactive until the late '90s, when it was brought to the Community Investment Program. A specific Springfield construction company was quickly contracted to complete the design with hopes to take advantage of funds appropriated by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, better known as a stimulus package, Baity said. Unable to secure any funds from the act, the city began to pursue other ways to obtain the money and submitted a pre-application form to the IEPA last March for a $4.5 million low-interest loan. After much anticipation, the city was notified that the IEPA approved the pre-application process and reserved funds for the project. With this notification, the city was approved to receive up to $1 million as long as it didn't exceed 25 percent of the project's cost. Baity said the result of the project's principle forgiveness is similar to $1 million grant, which will substantially reduce the cost of the project. Two area contractors will be hired for the job. River City Construction will build the tanks, and Dean Bush Construction will take care of pipe installation. Shawn Henry, director of public works, will oversee the facility's construction. He said work will begin late this fall if weather permits, but the bulk of the construction will happen throughout spring and summer. "We were extremely fortunate to get that loan," Henry said. Baity said tanks similar to the ones being built can be seen in the industrial park near the airport on northbound Highway 51 toward DuQuoin. "After we get the new tanks built, we won't continue to use the ones on Wall and Grand," he said. "The new tanks will be above ground and a lot safer than the ones we've been trying to get rid of for years."

MIKE SCHNEIDER
Associated Press

There have been no speeches inside the convention hall and it's nearly as quiet outside, too. So far, the protests have been muted and only two people have been arrested as of Monday night. That's in stark contrast to two years ago, when hundreds of protesters were arrested at the Republican National Convention in St. Paul, Minn.

Tampa Police Chief Jane Castor said police this week are trying to give leeway to protesters in the street, but when a 20-year-old man refused to remove a bandanna covering his face on Monday, he was arrested. Face coverings are prohibited in the event zones.

"Protesters can say and do whatever they would like "as long as they don't cross the line into criminal behavior," she added. A march that had been predicted to draw 5,000 people in the morning drew just a few hundred.

"Obviously, to go from an estimated 5,000 to a couple hundred, the weather had to play a part," Castor said. When about a dozen protesters sat in front of a line of police in riot gear, Tampa Assistant Police Chief John Bennett squatted down and chatted with them for a minute.

When asked a dozen protesters tried to be better prepared. At the mistakes there and drivers headed into possible problems.

"It's a multimillionaire," Whitaker said, "and they don't cross the line into criminal behavior," she added.

"He is a multimillionaire," Whitaker said. "That is why we can understand how he is living down here at the bottom."

Chevelle O'Bryant took video of the protests while standing behind a chain link fence in downtown Tampa. O'Bryant works at Verizon and stood in the company's parking lot, enjoying the spectacle. "It's overwhelming but it's good at the same time," she said. "I think it's a great thing."

"If I could, I'd be out there," she said during her lunch break.

"If I could, I'd be out there," she said during her lunch break.

A report on the riots in St. Paul concluded police weren't ready for the anarchists that descended on the city and that they were a bit heavy-handed. Thousands of protesters packed the city and hundreds were arrested during the convention's first day and hundreds more on its last. Some smashed cars, punctured tires and threw bottles in a confrontation with pepper-spray wielding police.

Tampa police say they learned from the mistakes there and tried to be better prepared. At times, they seemed to easily outnumber the demonstrators. Mayor Bob Buckhorn, a Democrat, said the protesters had been given additional space and access to toilets and water.

GOP convention protests in Tampa muted, small
National crosswalk accidents

Data from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration from 2009 showed an estimated 59,000 pedestrians and 51,000 bikers were hit by vehicles in the United States; 4,722 of the incidents resulted in death. The data also showed that 87 percent of pedestrian fatalities were individuals over the age of 20.

SOURCE: NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION WEBSITE

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Astronomy

Everybody can relate to astronomy no matter where you're from because we all live on the earth, so even though we're from different countries it brings us together in the classroom.

— Kamden Summers

Center for English as a Second Language lecturer

China, said some of the objects she saw interested her, and she will come to more of the observations in the fall.

Andrew Edelen, president of the Astronomical Association of Southern Illinois, said his astronomy club and the SIUC physics group crossed paths in June, and the two groups have been able to occasionally combine their efforts to bring in a large number of people.

Edelen said the level of expertise in astronomical observations varies from week to week, which makes for a nice mix of seasoned veterans and new arrivals.

“Sitting at the eyepiece of a telescope at a dark site on a clear night is almost like a religious experience,” Edelen said. “Hunting for galaxies and star clusters … there’s nothing quite like looking at an object that three or four other people have ever observed.”

The observations will take place September 19 3:30-5:30 p.m., September 29 from 8:30-10:30 p.m., October 26 from 9 p.m.-midnight, November 25 from 7 p.m.-10 p.m. and December 21 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Kamden Summers can be reached at 536-3311 ext. 254.

SABRINA IMUNDO | DAILY EGYPTIAN

Matt Disney can be reached at mdisney@dailyegyptian.com or 536-3311 ext. 254.
Students, faculty and staff who returned to the campus this fall may have noticed the construction of a new building on the east side of campus. Construction plans are on schedule for the new Student Services building, said Phil Gatton, director of Plant and Service Operations. The facility aims to make the campus look more organized and attractive to prospective students, he said. It is also intended to eliminate the Woody Shuffle, a process where students must visit Woody Hall to complete all of their student employment information.

The building is scheduled to be finished in fall 2013. It is replacing a parking garage, which was demolished in January of this year. The SIU Board of Trustees released a statement when the project began that the facility will accommodate the offices necessary to provide an enrollment-related function as well as a new welcome center to meet all of students’ needs. The building will add accessibility for students and be a welcoming site for prospective freshmen who visit the campus for the first time. Gatton said, Chancellor Rita Cheng said it will improve the look of campus where many families and potential students enter the campus.

Gatton said he is really excited about the new building.

“(It) will be a nice showpiece, and the functionality will be a huge benefit for students, faculty and alumni,” he said.

Gatton said the well-known Woody Shuffle is often confusing and hard to navigate, especially for new students who are not used to campus locations yet. He said the offices that apply students’ needs will be consolidated in one single location.

Rod Savers, university spokesman, said the building will help students pay their bursar bills, talk to admissions counselors, register for classes, get career counseling, and file for financial aid all in one place without having to deal with the unnecessary frustration associated with the Woody Shuffle.

“The building will provide a one-stop shop where the offices will be working in conjunction with each other under one roof,” he said.

One of the problems with the construction of the new Student Services building is the elimination of 344 parking spots from the recently demolished parking garage. Gatton said new parking availability has been added near the Student Center. Commuting faculty and students with cars have the option of parking in additional spaces east of the construction site. These added parking spaces and a new parking lot east of the Student Center have made up for much of the parking spaces that were lost in the demolition of the parking garage, Gatton said.

The building’s construction site is a frustration to some students because it blocks some sidewalks and routes to classes. Jamecia Banks, a sophomore from Chicago studying radio-television, said she is excited for the construction to be finished because she dislikes how some of the sidewalks and routes to the Student Center and campus are blocked because of construction.

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It might be the fresh feeling of a new year. Or maybe its the con...