Tunnel of Oppression offers perspective on hardships

LAUREN DUNCAN
Daily Egyptian

As a group of students walked into a room, they were divided between "dark-skinned" and "light-skinned." One girl stepped toward the left side of the room, when she was stopped.

"Oh no, no. You’re not light-skinned," she was told. "You're going to be dark-skinned today, baby girl."

Separation based on skin color was just one thing attendees experienced during the "Tunnel of Oppression" Monday night opening, which was organized by the Black Togetherness Organization and University Housing at Grinnell Hall. The almost hour-long tour of rooms, creating a tunnel, was designed to present different ways people experience oppression.

Each of the 14 rooms on the walk through the tunnel included a different scenario. Some included short videos, while others featured volunteers acting out situations.

In one room, a man in a wheelchair yelled at attenders for the grief he has experienced from not being able to walk.

"The next time your girl wants to go out to a real nice dinner and you won’t take her, you remember my face," he said. "Because I can’t take my girl out.

Some aspects of the tunnel encouraged audience participation. In another room, an actor asked attendees to line up as close as possible. This, she said, was the condition people were in for six to eight weeks when they were brought to the United States on ships, only to become enslaved upon arrival.

In one room, where attenders first walked in to find a chalk outline on the floor of a female speaker bent that homicide is the No. 1 cause of death among young black males. She asked the only black male in the room to look in a mirror.

"This could be your memorial," she said.

As participants made their way from room to room, often being yelled at to leave and pushed to the next setting, some cried. At times, some people laughed.

The purpose of the tunnel, organizer Alfred Jackson said, was not to get any certain response form attendees but to simply get reactions.

"Each group is always different, because each thing is individualized," said Jackson, the program coordinator for University Housing. "Your response, your reaction is always based upon your own background."

Jackson, who has worked with the event for the past six years, said before the Tunnel of Oppression there was a similar event called Boxes and Walls, where attendees could come and go as they wanted. When he became involved, he said, that changed.

"It was a consensus that we needed a more interactive piece to make people get out of their norm," he said. "Now, you have to go through everything. You can’t just stop and leave where you feel comfortable at."

Jackson said he has seen many different reactions in the tunnel.

"We’ve had one young man break out and try to put his fist through a brick wall," he said. "The reaction — it varies. It runs the whole gamut... it can get intense."

Please see TUNNEL | 8

TARA KULASH
Daily Egyptian

After an advising consultant was brought in to assess SIUC’s advising system, she labeled the university’s advising methods under a new category: chaotic.

"It sort of identified exactly what we suspected," Provost John Nicklow said.

Lynn Freeman, founder of Advisel, a consultant firm for college and career planning, visited SIUC during the summer to observe the advisement system and make recommendations for improvement.

According to the final report of recommendations and action steps, the purpose of her visit was to "identify strategies that build on the strengths of academic advising at SIU, enabling it to better contribute to its institution-wide goals of improving retention, recruitment and student success and satisfaction."

Freeman’s recommendations were based on research findings in the following publications: National Survey of Student Engagement; "Student Success in College: Creating Conditions that Matter"; and "Academic Advising: A Comprehensive Handbook."

Freeman said her first observation after speaking with faculty, staff and students was that the organizational model for advisement was a mix of several models, which is chaotic and confusing for students, advisers and faculty. There was a lack of consistency in how, where and by whom undeclared and exploratory students were advised. She said she also found an absence of consistent training, outcomes, evaluation, assessment, job titles and job descriptions for academic advisers.

Jim Allen, associate provost for academic programs, said advisement needs to be more consistent.

"We need to be more predictable about how we handle advisement on campus," he said.

Freeman gave a list of prioritized recommendations for the university.

The first was to have better communication. She said a way to do this is to make a campus-wide advisory council that is selected by and reports to the provost.

The council helps communication across campus, builds relationships and helps others get on board with the campus advising model and process, according to the report. Other in all, it would get advisers information about curriculum and policy changes in a timely and consistent manner and establish a venue for advisers to communicate on a regular basis.

Allen said an advisory council has been developed in response with a mix of different kinds of advisers.

Another suggestion was to add more transparency to the advisement process. Freeman said implementations that affect advising should include advisers in the decision-making process.

She also said there should be a new position called the advising champion. This person would facilitate campus-wide communication for advisement and have authority over other advisers.

Tamera Workman, director of Transfer Student Services, has been named to the position.

Please see ADVISEMENT | 4
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**Friday**
- 47°
- Mostly Sunny
- 0% chance of precipitation

**Saturday**
- 47°
- Sunny
- 0% chance of precipitation

**Sunday**
- 54°
- Sunny
- 0% chance of precipitation

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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 20,000. Fall and spring semester editions run Monday through Friday. Summer editions run Tuesday through Thursday. All intercession editions will run on Wednesdays. Spring break and Thanksgiving editions are distributed on Mondays of the pertaining weeks. Free copies are distributed in the Carbondale, Murphysboro 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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Daily Egyptian
Highest-ranking black woman in Army Reserve speaks on black history

One of first black marines also honored

LAUREN DUNCAN
Daily Egyptian

The first black woman to hold the position of Major General in the United States Army Reserve, Maj. Gen. Marcia M. Anderson, said she credits her success to her family and blacks who have made military history.

As part of Black History Month, Anderson spoke at the Student Center Monday about the history of black women in the United States military.

Maj. Anderson said she didn’t plan on joining the Army from a young age but actually joined to fulfill a college credit while she was pursuing her law degree at Rutgers University. She is today the highest-ranked black female in the Army Reserve.

Anderson said although she wanted to speak about African-American women and the challenges they have faced in the military, women working in other areas faced similar hardships.

“They together share pretty much the same story,” she said. “The bar was either set pretty low in terms of expectations for them, or the bar was set in some minds impossibly high where they couldn’t achieve their dreams.”

Anderson said the women before her who worked to face challenges made it possible for her to be where she is today.

During the Civil War, Anderson said, Susie Baker, who was born a slave, worked to help Union soldiers.

“Although she was only 14 years old at the time, she taught her husband and the soldiers how to read and write,” Anderson said. “She also learned how to load, clean and fire a pistol.”

In World War I, Anderson said, black nurses established a larger presence in the Army.

“They trained black nurses enrolled in the Red Cross because they hoped to use that to gain entry into the Army,” she said. “As the war escalated, the pressure increased to enlist more black women. So finally, at the armistice, 18 black women were given assignments.”

Those women were only allowed to care for German prisoners of war and black soldiers, Anderson said.

By 1918, she said, more than 350,000 blacks had served in the war.

“They believed that if they served with dignity, that their courage and honor were going to help people like me,” Anderson said.

Anderson went on to tell the story of the 39 women who started the Women’s Army Corps but were placed into segregated living quarters, training and recreational facilities and mess halls.

She also spoke about the first female millionaire, who was black, and the first black female who ran for president in 1972.

“These women rebuked their place in society and showed their intellect and resourcefulness,” she said. “They defied the stereotypes of the day.”

Although the women Anderson described were a part of what made it possible for her to hold the rank in the Army that she does today, she said it was words of encouragement from her mother and grandmother that inspired her to pursue her dreams.

“(My mother) always told me I could do anything I desire,” she said. “If you have dreams and apply yourself, it doesn’t matter where you were born.”

Anderson’s uncle, the Rev. Joseph Brown, head of the African Studies Department at SIUC and chair of the Black History Month Committee, said Anderson’s attribution of her success to her family was something they shared.

“There was a rule in my family... make yourself indispensable;” he said.

Although Anderson’s presentation fit closely with the theme of Black History Month at SIUC, Brown said he was glad to have an array of speakers and events so far this February.

“When the theme came to us, ‘black women in American history and culture’, it made perfect sense to have the kind of diverse representation this month,” he said.

In March, Anderson will begin working at the Pentagon as Deputy Chief of the Army Reserve.

“The theme of black history and the military carried to the second half of the program, where a Carbondale native was honored for his achievements in working to desegregate the Marine Corps. Brown introduced the Rev. Archibald Mosley, of Carbondale, one of the Montford Point Marines — some of the first black men to serve in the United States Marines.

“He showed up to desegregate the Marine Corps, officially and finally,” Brown said.

Anderson gave a Corps Commandant Gen. James F. Amos’s military coin to Mosley.

Mosley, will visit Washington D.C. later this year to receive the Congressional Medal of Honor for his service in the Montford Point Marines.

He said he hopes his grandfather remembers him for what he experienced.

“You’d like for them to know that their grandfather went into the Marine Corps unwanted, undesired and segregated, and my greatest statement is. They shot toward us as many bullets as anybody else could see, but the only difference in those bullets shot at us and shot at others … they did not say those bullets are for blacks and these bullets are for whites,” he said. Lauren Duncan can be reached at lindsay@dailyEgyptian.com or 536-3311 ext. 265.

JESSICA TEZAK | DAILY EGYPTIAN

Maj. Gen. Marcia M. Anderson of the United States Army Reserve laughs Monday with Rev. Archibald Mosley in the Student Center Ballroom. Mosley was a member of the Montford Point Marines, some of the first black men to serve in the United States Marine Corps. Anderson, the highest-ranking black woman in the Army Reserve, spoke about the history of black women in the U.S. military.

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Southern Illinois University Carbondale

A different set of jaws

SIU
Allen said it’s important that an advisement champion was named because no one previously spoke for advisement on campus as a central concern. He said deans could have been considered advisement champions in a way, but they had many other responsibilities so it wasn’t often they would be heard bringing up advisement as an issue.

“So this makes it possible for (Workman) when she speaks about advisement,” Allen said. “Everybody listens because they know she has a special charge.”

Freeman also said the SIU Advisement Survey 2010 states that students consistently reported they wanted advisers to identify alternative educational opportunities through exploration advising, which guides students who are undeclared or considering switching majors. She said there should also be more intrusive advising, such as when a student receives the motivation from an adviser to ask for help before a problem occurs.

“Intrusive advising is not ‘hand-holding’ or parenting, but rather active concern for students’ academic preparation,” the report states.

Another issue Freeman discussed is the broad interpretation of the university’s academic policy. She said many advisers have different definitions of how the policy works and this could be attributed to the amount of time they spend on administrative tasks and paperwork rather than advising. SIUC advisers spend 50 percent of their time on administrative tasks, Freeman said, while they should only spend about 10 to 15 percent of their time on them.

To alleviate this issue, Allen was selected to handle all policy issues.

“Right now, (advisers) don’t know who to go to,” he said. “We have many different sources of academic policy. Now there will be one source for it, and it won’t conflict from one place to another.”

Allen said he will be involved in discussions about interpretation of policy and how it is applied to students’ particular situations.

Freeman also suggested there should be a smaller ratio of students assigned to each adviser.

Allen said rather than having 300 students per adviser, there should only be about 150.

“We have a lot of students per academic adviser when they first arrive on campus,” he said. “We need to provide many more advisement resources to students.”

Nicklow said eventually the university will try to have all first-year students be centrally advised.

“That’s down the road,” he said. “We haven’t worked out the details of how that would occur.”

Nicklow said many people were afraid the changes would call for the removal of advisers.

“Absolutely not,” he said. “The advisers are a key part of this. We need them. They’re valuable.”

Mark Amos, associate provost and dean of University College, said centralization of advisement has not been planned, and students will continue to be advised in their academic units.

“We want to ensure all students receive quality advisement, no matter where they are advised,” he said in an email.

Nicklow said the point of the report was to create consistent and clear standards for the expectations of advisers and colleges.

At the end of her report, Freeman stated it’s easy to talk about making changes, but implementation is difficult. She said if SIUC does nothing about its advisement issues, they will only become worse.

Tara Kukash can be reached at tkukash@dailyEgyptian.com or 536-3311 ext. 255.

Kid Tiger band members Matt Maher, right, and Amy Myers, left, a junior from Athens studying cinema, sing Sunday at Studio A. The band came to Studio A to record seven songs and an interview, which will be broadcast on the SIU television station WSIU in April.

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311 W. Cherry 2
310 E. College 2, 3
201 W. College 2, 3
310 W. College 1-4
401 W. College 5, 7
501 W. College 4-6
503 W. College 4-6
507 W. College 4-5
509 W. College 4, 6
710 W. College 4-6
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120 S. Forest
303 S. Forest
706 S. Forest
716 S. Forest
718 S. Forest 3
507 S. Hays 2
514 S. Hays

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607 N. Allyn
504 S. Ash 2,3
506 S. Ash
514 S. Ash 1, 3, 4, 6
407 S. Beveridge
507 S. Beveridge 1-4
509 S. Beveridge 1, 4
513 S. Beveridge 2-5
515 S. Beveridge 1-5
918 N. Bridge
508 N. Carico
604 N. Carico
1026 N. Carico
406 W. Cherry Court
407 W. Cherry Court
408 W. Cherry Court
408 W. Cherry Court
501 W. Cherry Court
406 W. Chestnut
408 W. Chestnut
210 E. College
303 W. College*
309 W. College 1, 2, 4, 5
400 W. College 1-5
407 W. College 1-5
409 W. College 1
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503 W. College 2, 3
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605 W. Freeman
401 S. James
903 W. Linden
610 S. Logan
614 S. Logan
407 W. Monroe 1
400 W. Oak 1, 2
402 W. Oak E, W
511 N. Oakland
514 N. Oakland
602 N. Oakland
1901 N. Oakland
202 N. Poplar 1
1901 N. Oakland
506 S. Poplar 1-7
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519 S. Rawlings 5
108 N. Springer
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As an attorney and a judge, I’ve been able to help people,” she said. “It’s a different way to help the people in the community as an attorney and as a judge in representing them.”

Adrian Miller, a freshman from Carbondale studying pre-law, said after hearing Smoot speak, he thinks women should be more involved in political processes.

“With the current lack of women in politics, Miller said. “I think we as a society and as a country, and our world.” Miller said.

He said if people looked at other nations around the world, they would see there are women, presidents and leaders.

The U.S. has yet to elect a woman president,” he said. “I believe that we could fix many current issues if we did put some female perspective into the equation.”

Smoot said when she helped students as an educator, she believed it was important for them to live their lives and determine what they were passionate about.

If they find that passion, then they could look to politics, she said. Smoot said she believes there will be more women in politics in the near future because more women are figuring out how to have families while also maintaining careers.

“Before, I think there were women who felt that if they had a profession and wanted to be good at it, they had to put their kids aside and have someone else raise them,” she said. “I don’t think that’s right… I think women can do them both.”

She said women could successfully have children and a profession, it may just look a little different. Overall, living a physically, mentally and spiritually balanced life is important, Smoot said.

Having good professional and personal relationships is also important, she said. “The reason all these things matter is because a good reputation takes a lot of work,” Smoot said. “I encourage everyone to live their lives well, have goals and make one of them living a life they will always be proud of.”

Tiffany Blanchette can be reached at tblanchette@dailyEgyptian.com or 536-1111 ext. 254.
Because the goal of the event is to get reactions, counselors from the Student Wellness Center wait at the end of the tunnel ready to assist participants.

As part of the event, the group of up to 20 participants engage in a "debriefing" discussion.

After one session Monday, students who have been affected by violence, disability and racism shared their stories in reaction to the tunnel.

Jacqueline Robinson, a freshman from Chicago studying forensic psychology, said every room affected her in some way.

"It just teaches you to appreciate the things we have done and to appreciate others," she said. "They were all real-life experiences, things people go through on a day-to-day basis. You see these type of people everyday, and the things they talked about, it goes on every day.'

Robinson said one room that stood out to her was where actors lined students up against the wall and pointed out the difference in skin color among those in the room, separating those on 'Team Light Skin' or 'Team Dark Skin.'

"With the 'Team Light Skin,' this generation is so caught up with it," she said. "People like me who have experienced stuff like that, it's just a wake-up call."

For volunteers who often give multiple tours a night, the tunnel may lose some impact. Still, volunteer Armae Calvin, a sophomore from Chicago studying criminology and criminal justice, said she understands what the new attendees go through.

"I like what the Tunnel of Oppression stands for," she said. "It's basically to get people aware of what they're doing that's unconscious. I do it just because it makes people aware of what they do that hurts other people."

Calvin, in her second year of working at the tunnel, said she reacted strongly to the event her first time through.

'I cried a lot," she said. "It's very emotional, especially if you see yourself in any of these rooms or anything that you go through on a daily basis.'

As a volunteer, Calvin said she hopes others gain as much from the event as she did.

"I just hope that they learn how to change themselves in a good way," she said.

Lauren Duncan can be reached at lduncan@dailyegyptian.com or 536-3314 ext. 268.
Bruce Rowland, of Murphysboro, marks a spot after his metal detector found a type of metal Saturday near Campus Lake. The metal he detected turned out to be a buried beer can. Rowland says he usually searches with about 7 other people, when his wife lets him. “She jokes that everywhere we go I am always hunting,” Rowland said. He said he recently found a Civil War-era coin on campus, and finds up to 15 rings a year.
LYNETTE OOSTMEYER
DAILY EGYPTIAN
City Council hears funding proposals

SHARON WITTKO
Daily Egyptian

The Carbondale City Council discussed fiscal year 2013 funding requests from community and economic development organizations during its meeting at the Civic Center Tuesday.

At the Feb. 7 city council meeting, Mayor Joel Fitzlauris proposed slashing $120,000 from the Carbondale Convention and Tourism Bureau to other civic organizations that promote tourism in Carbondale.

During that meeting, council members requested additional information from Carbondale Main Street, Carbondale Community Arts and the Carbondale Convention and Tourism Bureau. The council also had requested that the Chamber of Commerce submit a new proposal for funding.

Carbondale Convention and Tourism Bureau executive director Debbie Moore provided the additional details requested by the council about how her agency records and reports the effectiveness of the bureau’s promotional materials and marketing campaigns.

She said her board meets six times each year and the same packet presented at the board meetings is given to the mayor and the city manager. The supporting documents in the packet include the agenda, financial reports, profit and loss statements, and detailed bank deposit reports.

“I believe there’s been a little bit of, perhaps, miscommunication in recent weeks or recent months with respect to reports the CCTB submits to the city,” Moore said.

Executive directors from The Carbondale Chamber of Commerce, Carbondale Main Street and Carbondale Community Arts presented their organizations’ proposals for spending the proposed additional funding they would receive if Fitzlauris’s plan was approved.

Carbondale Community Arts executive director Nancy Stember said she would like to use the additional funding to complete a planned train scape mural across from the Amtrak depot, and more aggressively market the Southern Illinois Music Festival to out-of-town visitors.

Stember said she would like to hold an open reception at the music festival and feature works by local artists who have studio space in Carbondale and arrange for guided tours of those studios.

Sharon Wittko can be reached at swittko@dailyEgyptian.com or 536-3111 ext. 266.

City Council passes budget

NEW YORK — The mayor contended the effort in a statement Monday, while Rutgers University and leaders of student Muslim groups elsewhere called for investigations into the monitoring.

“I am writing to state, in the strongest possible terms, that police surveillance based on religion, nationality, or peacefully expressed political opinions is anathetical to the values of Yale, the academic community, and the United States,” Levin wrote.

New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg, speaking to reporters on Tuesday, dismissed those criticisms as baseless.

“I don’t know why keeping the country safe is anathetical to the values of Yale,” he said.

He said it was “ridiculous” to argue that there was anything wrong with officers keeping an eye on websites that are available to the general public.

“Of course we’re going to look at anything that’s publicly available in the public domains,” he said. “We have an obligation to do so, and it is to protect the very things that let Yale survive.”

Asked by a reporter if he thought it was a “step too far” to send undercover investigators to accompany students on rafting vacations, Bloomberg said, “No. We have to keep this country safe.”

“It’s very cute to go and blame everybody and say we should stay away from anything that smacks of intelligence gathering,” he said.

“The job of our law enforcement is to make sure that they prevent things. And you only do that by being proactive.”

Bloomberg, an independent, added that he believed that police officers had respected people’s privacy and obeyed the law.

The campus monitoring program was part of a broad effort by the NYPD, instituted after the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks, to try to spot any burgeoning terror cells in the U.S. before they had a chance to act. The NYPD monitoring of college campuses included schools far beyond the city limits.

Police talked with local authorities about professors 300 miles away in upstate Buffalo, the undercover agent who attended the City College rafting trip recorded students’ names and noted in police intelligence files how many times they prayed. Detectors tracked Muslim student websites every day and, although professors and students had not been accused of any wrongdoing, their names were recorded in reports prepared for police Commissioner Raymond Kelly.

Officers kept tabs on student groups at Yale, Columbia, the University of Pennsylvania; Syracuse; Rutgers; New York University, Clarkson University; the State University of New York campuses in Buffalo, Albany, Stony Brook and Potsdam; Queens College, Baruch College, Brooklyn College and LaGuardia Community College.
Callahan’s widow, Stacy Callahan, said Dan Callahan was always hospitable to opposing coaches when they came to town, which earned him a lot of respect around the Valley.

“He certainly had a way about him,” Stacy Callahan said. “I always describe him as the most unselfish person I’ve ever met in my life. He put everybody before himself, and everything before himself.”

Junior first baseman Chris Serritella was recruited by Dan Callahan and played for him for two years.

“He meant the world to me. He taught me a lot about the game; he taught me a lot about how to be a person,” Serritella said. “The one thing he preached was you always do the right thing. No matter what situation you’re in, you always try to do the right thing.”

Henderson said the honor should cement Dan Callahan’s legacy at SIU.

“It’s a great honor for him and his family,” Henderson said. “It’s just something that will help remind people years from now about how a great a person he was, and how much he was cared for, loved and respected by people in the league.”

Joe Ruggusa can be reached at ruggusa@dailyEgyptian.com or 536-3311 ext. 269.

Cubs send pitcher to Red Sox as comp for Epstein

JON KRAWCYNISKI
Associated Press

FORT MYERS, Fla. — Theo Epstein's worth to the Boston Red Sox was easy to gauge. A quick glance at the two World Series trophies at Fenway Park settles that.

Determining his value to the Chicago Cubs, another title-starved franchise desperately hoping to be saved by the Roy Wonder, turned out to be a much more complicated issue. Turns out the architect of a two-time champion who restored pride to a franchise that had long been known for choking in the biggest moments was worth a 26-year-old reliever and a player to be named later.

The two teams finally announced a deal Tuesday that settles a four-month dispute over what Boston should get as compensation when Epstein left for Chicago. The Cubs sent right-handed reliever Chris Carpenter and a player to be named later to the Red Sox for a player to be named later — and Epstein.

“I guess my name will go down in history,” Carpenter said.

After the Red Sox blew a nine-game lead in the AL East by going 7-20 in the final month of last season, Epstein started to look for a new challenge. He became Chicago’s president of baseball operations and got a five-year, $18.5 million deal in October.

But completing the deal proved to be much more than a formality as both sides grappled with comparing the skill set of an executive on the suite level with what a player brings on the diamond. The teams were not able to agree on compensation and wound up submitting arguments to Commissioner Bud Selig.

“I think it took this long because it was a unique circumstance,” said Red Sox GM Ben Cherington, who served under Epstein before succeeding him.

“We talk to teams all the time about trades and it’s player for player and it’s easier to assign value and figure out what’s fair, what’s not fair. In this case it was just tougher because it involved not just an executive but a friend.”

perfect weather for pick-up games

Students from Carbondale play a pick-up basketball game Tuesday at the Unity Point basketball court. Temperatures have been high the first half of the week with highs ranging from 51 degrees to 65 degrees, allowing locals to get out and enjoy the nice days. By the end of the week, temperatures are expected to drop to a high of 47 degrees, according to weather.com.

MISS THE BIG GAME? CHECK OUT THE DE SPORTS SECTION. WE’LL GET YOU UP TO SPEED.
**RESULTS**

**Men's Golf**

Southern Illinois University placed 10th in the Frito Lay/Taco Bell Intercollegiate Tournament.

Sunday-Monday   Jackson, Miss.   14 teams, 73 players

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The SU men's golf team will play March 5 and 6 for the Samford Intercollegiate in Birmingham, Ala.

**MVC Baseball**

**Player of the week**

The Missouri Valley Conference announced Monday junior right fielder Austin Montgomery was named baseball player of the week. According to the MVC website, Montgomery was chosen after hitting 8-for-13 with six runs batted in during the weekend series at the University of North Florida. He recorded three hits Friday and three again on Sunday, matching his career high both times. His lead-off home run in the seventh inning of Saturday's game broke the game's tie, and the Salukis went on to win 4-2.
MVC Coach of the Year award renamed in Callahan’s honor

JOE RAGUSA
Daily Egyptian

The Missouri Valley Conference honored late Saluki coach Dan Callahan by renaming its Coach of the Year award to the Dan Callahan Coach of the Year award.

Callahan coached SIU baseball for 16 seasons, from 1994 until his death in 2010 to neurotropic melanoma, a rare form of skin cancer. Current coach Ken Henderson was Callahan’s assistant for all 16 seasons.

“We just had a great relationship. I tell people it was almost like we were brothers,” Henderson said.

“You work 15 feet from somebody all those years, and you travel together on the buses. It was a great relationship … He was an easy person to work for. He let me do my job, he treated people with respect. It was easy, and it was fun coming into work every day.”

The suggestion to rename the Coach of the Year honor after Callahan was brought up by Missouri State coach Keith Gutten during the MVC’s annual coaches meeting in August. Once Gutten put the idea up for a vote with the coaches, it was a unanimous decision to rename the award, and Henderson said the MVC administration approved the decision in fall 2011.

“It was a no-brainer for everybody,” Henderson said.

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Daniels almost wasn’t a Saluki

JOE RAGUSA
Daily Egyptian

Freshman forward Daniel Daniels said he couldn’t imagine being a Saluki when he first came to visit the school during his junior year of high school.

“I really didn’t like it. I walked around campus for a little bit, and I couldn’t picture myself going here,” Daniels said. “It was gloomy, it was wet and I was just (thinking) I can’t go here.”

But when Daniels returned to SIU in the spring of 2010, he said he loved it and immediately bonded with coach Chris Lowery and the coaching staff.

“When I came down here, we had a heart-to-heart about basically how my career would play out,” Daniels said. “He didn’t promise me playing time, he just promised me, I would get a degree from it. That’s one thing that stood out to me, I really liked that. He wasn’t just telling me what I wanted to hear like most college coaches.”

Lowery said he’s known Daniels since the forward was in eighth grade, and he wasn’t going to let the player slip through his fingers.

“T wasn’t letting him off campus until he committed,” Lowery said.

“You can ask his mom. I wasn’t letting him leave until he said he was coming to play.”

When Lowery was recruiting Daniels in 2010, the team lost Torres Roundtree, Kevin Dillard and Anthony Booker, which Daniels said put more doubt in his mind about coming to the university. But after he sat down with his mother, Daniels said he knew SIUC was the right choice.

“She (paid) people are different. Sometimes, if you commit to a school, you go there and it’s not where you want to be,” Daniels said. “After that, I cleared my head. Then I took my visits, talked to (Lowery) about what happened, then I just committed.”

Daniels also had scholarship offers from Western Kentucky, Colorado State and Virginia Commonwealth.

Even though Daniels said Lowery didn’t promise him playing time, the freshman has started in 22 of the Salukis’ 28 games this year, missing three due to a groin injury. He’s sixth in the Missouri Valley Conference with a .579 field goal percentage, and he leads the MVC in blocks, with 1.7 per game.

He plays extremely hard on the court. We can always rely on him to finish, we just have to give him the ball,” said sophomore forward Davante Drinkard. “Statistically, he’s probably our best player. He does everything right.”

Lowery said Daniels is one of the better freshmen he’s seen at SIU.

“He’s put up numbers against really good people,” Lowery said. “He’s been mature enough to not pout when he doesn’t get the ball; he’s been mature enough to not visibly show you he’s disappointed when things aren’t going his way.”

Daniels said he didn’t expect to put up the numbers he has in his first year at SIUC, but he’s proven wrong those who asked if his 6-foot-6-inch frame would be a detriment to his college career.

“If I was a fan, I’d be kind of sketchy, too. (They) don’t know if (I’m) going to be able to guard bigger guys in the league,” Daniels said. “I showed what I can do and I can guard those guys, so I proved them wrong.”

Freshman forward Daniel Daniels boxes out a Creighton University player Feb. 14 during the SIU men’s basketball game at the SIU Arena. Daniels finished the game with 12 points and 33 minutes of playing time. He averages 8.9 points per game for the 2011-12 season.

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