Innovative professor develops new mining technology

Atlas Crib aims to protect miners

Jeff Engelhardt

After 250 years of busted backs, coal miners could find relief thanks to professor Yoginder Paul Chugh. Chugh, professor of mining and mineral resources engineering, has developed a new cribbing system, the Atlas Crib, to support mine roofs and increase ventilation in mines. The Atlas Crib features wooden pieces that are half the weight of conventional cribs and can support more than double the weight of conventional cribs. The crib is assembled from a central piece of mixed hardwood with generally four pads on the ends of it. Those individual pieces are then stacked in a square form until it reaches the mine roof.

Chugh said the design allows for changes to be made so a crib can be anywhere from nine to 15 feet tall.

“We can design it any which way people want it,” Chugh said. “That’s the beauty of it — it’s an engineered system so I can make it longer or taller.”

The conventional crib was assembled from thick pieces of wood, about 40 pounds each, that prevented ventilation and could only support 60 tons compared to the 165 pounds the Atlas Crib supports.

The new crib holds the weight similar to the conventional one by having the majority of the weight bearing down on the pads at the end of the central piece of wood.

The difference, Chugh said, is the 40 percent less area the crib takes up and the efficiency in the vertical grain of the wood on the pads. Chugh said with vertical grain the wood compressed just six inches under 150 tons. The conventional crib compressed 12 inches under 70 tons.

Steve Schmidgall, a Carbondale resident and Mediacom employee of 28 years, replaces a downed line Tuesday at a house on Forest Ave.

Schmidgall said that the lines gets knocked down much more often during the times of year when students are moving into and out of the city. “This happens a lot more often when the U-Hauls are in town,” Schmidgall said.
COAL
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1.

This is the first advancement in the crib system in more than 250 years, and Chugh said it has the potential to have a significant effect on the economy. About 30,000 Atlas Cribs have been sold and they are currently being used in three mines, but Chugh said that is just the beginning.

Within the tri-state area alone, Chugh said he thinks they will be able to sell two million Atlas Cribs a year. Chugh said many of the area sawmills have already experimented with manufacturing them and said he thinks it will lead to more jobs for smaller mills.

The Atlas Crib is also more versatile than conventional cribs as a shipping company has already contracted Chugh about using the crib to build parts of the ship. Gurlay said the Atlas Crib could be used for a variety of purposes in virtually any environment. "It could be used for tunneling in Chicago or any other hard rock mining," Gurlay said. "If you are going to be working underground, this could be very beneficial." Chugh said the Atlas Crib took about one year to develop and started out as an unfunded research until the government saw how effective it was during testing. Chugh's research team was awarded a grant that will run out in August.

Chugh said this new technology will show the nation the quality the program SIVU has. "This is a lot of visibility to the university and credibility to the coal program," Chugh said. "It has the potential to change mining and really help the community in mining areas." Jeff Ewingberg can be reached at 536-3311 ext. 268 or jeving@sisu.edu.

BANKRUPTCY
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3.

According to the company press release, 172 corporate and field staff positions were immediately terminated. The corporation also announced they might be selling several assets to repay their debt. However, no store closings have been verified.

The press release states Steve and Barry's 27% stores are "open today and conducting business as usual." In a statement given by co-founders and CEOs of the corpora- tion Steve Shore and Barry Frevo, the two blame the current economic shift for the company’s hardships.

"High costs of materials and fuel prices have increased our cost of goods and cost of operating. The generally poor environment for apparel retailers has reduced fund- ing-for our suppliers, landlords, and for our company," the statement reads.

If the Carbondale location were to close, it could prove to be a substantial setback for the city.

Assistant City Manager Kevin Baity said while the future of the store is uncertain, he hopes the retailer can remain open.

"In the event that they chose to close some stores and keep others open, we would like for our store to be one that's left open," Baity said. "We hope that our market is one that has found suitable by them and is a good revenue generator for the corporate entity." Customers of Steve and Barry’s have expressed their concerns and they do not want to see an asset to the community leave.

Evert Galloway, 32, of Carbondale said he and his two children enjoy shopping at the store because of their low prices. He said he would be concerned if the store were to close. "It would affect parents and kids immediately. It’s kind of hard for parents to afford clothes for kids these days," he said.

The associated Press contributed to this report.

Justin Lampe can be reached at 536-3311 ext. 214 or jlampe@sisu.edu.

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S

This is not a scientific poll and reflects the opinions of those who voluntarily choose to participate. The results cannot be assumed to represent the opinions of the general public or the public in a whole.

A. I'm finding alternative ways of travel & spending less on food.
B. I'm walking more & using less energy.
C. I have no choice but to pay the higher prices.

A.
B.
C.

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B. I'm walking more & using less energy.
C. I have no choice but to pay the higher prices.

A.
B.
C.
With an increase in grant amounts and a decrease in loan rates, students such as Jaamal Cooper and Amine Rouqui will continue to struggle to make ends meet this school year.

Congress passed and President Bush signed the Ensuring Continued Access to Student Loans Act in January. Starting this academic year, all undergraduates who receive federal student aid will have higher Pell Grant limits and may qualify for reduced interest rates only for the Unsubsidized Stafford Loan.

The Pell Grant has increased to more than $400 from the previous year, bringing the maximum that can be given to $4,730 per year. The Unsubsidized Stafford loan rates will drop from 6.8 percent to 6 percent.

Rouqui, a senior from Chicago studying electrical engineering, said an extra $400 would not be enough for him to cover his costs for school and other necessities.

Rouqui said he spends an average of $500 per semester on books alone and with the price of utilities and rent going up on him, he worries about how he will afford it all.

Interim Director of Financial Aid Toni Harfst said with the rise in tuition and other expenses students have to scramble to pay for, receiving more help from the government is needed.

“Anytime a student can receive free money is a good opportunity for them,” Harfst said.

According to the act, there are 8.5 million students throughout the country who will be taking out loans and receiving grants this year.

The amount given and borrowed for community college, universities and other postsecondary educational institutions is approximately $2 billion.

Cooper, a junior from Chicago studying sociology, said he had no idea any of his grants had increased and he is looking forward to receiving more money.

Harfst said the university has known about this change in federal student aid since the end of January, when the department received the loan and grant availability charts for the following academic year.

Those students eligible for the Pell Grant received notification of the increase when they began receiving their financial aid award package letters in April, Harfst said.

Although the increase is a good step in helping students, Cooper said he does not think it will make a huge difference. Cooper said every time he looks at his bursar bill, there seems to be another fee added. He said he questioned how the university expects the average college student to pay for everything.

“The increase will help out students, but there is a downside because the school keeps increasing charges for everything else,” Cooper said.

Katharine Gricevich, special assistant to the executive director for the Illinois Student Assistance Commission, said the best part about the Pell Grant is that it is not restricted to just paying for tuition and fees. The grant can also be used for many other expenses such as room and board, books and other student expenses, she said.

Gricevich said although the extra $400 may not seem like a lot to some students, others will see it as an extra boost.

“It offers students a little extra help adjusting to some of the other rising costs they’re bringing with today,” Gricevich said.

As for the decreasing interest rates for the Unsubsidized Stafford Loan, Gricevich said the goal of the act is to have the rates decrease at least 3 percent each year. By the middle of 2012, students will save a lot more money when they start repayments after graduation, Gricevich said.

Cooper said he often worries about how he is going to be able to afford to payback the loans he has taken out over the years.

Cooper said now that he is aware of the interest rates going down, it has become less of a burden on him for his life after college.

“It will give me more time to find a job to be able to afford to pay the loans back after graduation,” Cooper said.

Rouqui, who will be graduating within the next year, said he is happy he will have to pay back less money and thinks this decrease will be beneficial for incoming freshmen.

“However, Rouqui said he believes this grant increase and loan decrease will still cheat students out of money.

“The government knows what they’re doing,”

Jenn Lofton
DAILY EGYPTIAN

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Traffic deaths fall as gas prices climb

Mark Williams THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Rising prices at the gas pump appear to be having at least one positive effect: Traffic deaths are plummeting, just as they did during the Arab oil embargo three decades ago.

Researchers with the National Safety Council say the number of motorists killed in traffic accidents dropped 8 percent in May compared with May 2010. The biggest drop, of 18 percent in March and 14 percent in April, came after state and federal highway and transit officials agreed to lower speed limits on about 12,000 miles (19,300 kilometers) of roads.

Many safety experts say the drop in deaths, along with a drop in miles driven, suggests that years of reduced road fatalities are not a fluke and could be the result of the nation’s economic downturn.

Fewer people on the road means fewer fatalities, said Gus Wilkins, 52, of Ashville, Ohio, who frequently drives to northern Ohio. “That shows a good thing coming out of this crisis,” he said. “At least that has to be a good thing.”

As states raised the drinking age to 21 in 1982-83, when fatalities fell 11 percent, from roughly 49,300 to 44,000, the number of traffic deaths surged from around 55,000 to 67,000 in 1970.

But the national government reported in April that miles traveled fell 1.8 percent in April compared with a year earlier, continuing a trend that began in September 2008.

Experts say a slumping economy and fuel prices have brought down the number of miles fatal crashes have fallen by roughly 4 percent.

“Even considering new safety programs, it is likely that the drop in traffic deaths is due to fewer miles driven, which is part of the decline in traffic deaths in recent years as well,” said Karl Gawell, executive director of the Geothermal Energy Association. “The lower miles driven is due to a strong economy and lower gas prices.”

Traffic deaths soared during the gas-price spikes of 2005 and 2006, when both the economy and gas prices were rising faster than in 2010.

But the number of traffic deaths fell this fast and this sharply was during the Arab oil embargo in 1973-1974, when fatalities tumbled 17 percent, from about 55,100 to 46,000, according to the National Safety Council.

While on the run in Serbia, the world’s top war crimes fugitive worked at a private alternative medi- cine clinic and wrote for a Belgrade newspaper, according to Serbian offi- cials. Karadzic also lectured about meditation at a May festival in Belgrade.

To do all this, Karadzic used an alias, Dragun Dalic, government minister Laszlo Kanyi said at a press conference Tuesday. He displayed a recent photo of an unrecognizable Karadzic with long white beard and black hair.

Jijsa refused to reveal more details about the arrest, saying Karadzic’s movements were being analyzed to find evidence of war crimes suspect, Bosnian Serb wartime com- mander Radovan Karadzic. Serb security officials, however, said Karadzic is in a “good place” after being arrested.

Serbian President Boris Tadić’s pro-Western government came to power just seven weeks ago and appointed a new security chief, replacing an aide to former prime minister Vojislav Kostunica.

The new national speed limit, which has nationalized all major Serb highways, is 105 mph (170 kilometer). Many small towns and men in Serbia “was protected by the media when he was,” Holbrooke said. “Now he is isolated from the Serbian people.”

If Karadzic’s people know exactly where he was. “And then he slipped away and was sheltered by people,” Karadzic said.

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Just what the ‘Dr.’ ordered

Luke McCormick

Dr. Dog

“Fate”

Release date: July 22

Record label: Park The Van

Web site: www.drdogmusic.com

Carbondale summers can be a harsh affair. They are full of intense, dogged heat that can wear the most ambitious down. Dr. Dog’s new release, “Fate,” arrives just on time to soundtrack nice breezes of relaxation during the summer’s heat onslaught.

Equipped with soaring three part harmonies and woozy piano interplay, the album begs to be the backdrop to a somber evening of beers and best buds on a front (or back) porch (or take your pick) porch after a hard day’s work. “The band’s sound is on loan from a different time.”

Often evoking “The Band” elements of the music sound like they belong in a dusty saloon or on a Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young boogying tape.

Album opener “The Breather” kicks things off with lazy acoustic picking, rollicking the pick and cooing into the microphone. These elements transcend into a beautiful bit of band harmonizing and pick up a shuffling drum track which contains other percussive elements, making the song a sign of the things to come. “Hung On” fully taps into the band’s bluesy-barroom stomping as the vocals escalate and the background vocals coalesce into yet another bount of hearthy harmonies. “The Rabbit, That Cat, and The Reinder” tells the tale of a wounded friendship over one of the strongest hooks on the album. On the song’s last verse, all of the band’s instruments come course on a fast track for an inevitable fiery breakdown, only to evaporate into thin air as a few lonely handclaps take their place.

The band originated from Philadelphia but nothing about them sonically can be traced to the hustle of city life. What makes their debut “We All Belong” and their newest work is the band’s dedication and obvious love of sunny sounds of the ’60s and that period’s rhythm and blues.

While it is nothing new for a band to mining through the music that proceeded them, the band does such a grand job of picking and choosing from their record collections that their sound is nothing but refreshing. This, however, can also hold the band back as they are not exploring any new territory musically and some of the tracks seem to slide together as the record plays on. But what makes a new record enjoyable is not always breaking new ground, and these guys have the chops to make their homage to past recordings work.

The band did the album justice by unleashing it to the public during the dog days of summer — it just would not sound the same during a frost covered winter.

So, break out the coolers and lawn furniture and let Dr. Dog and their harmonies act as the perfect counterpoint to the foggy haze of summertime.

Luke McCormick can be reached at 536-3211 ext. 375 or lmcormick@siu.edu.

NIN drives nails deeper

Chris McGregor

Dr. Dog

Nine Inch Nails

“The Slip”

Release Date: 7-22

Record label: The Slip Corporation

Web site: www.NIN.com

This is an album by a middle-aged rocker who has managed to avoid all cliches that define many musicians. He has consistently been led by his own intuition and it shows on this album. Musicians who are motivated by shocking the public usually burn out quickly.

What is Trent Reznor up to these days? Reznor shocked listeners with his early work similar to Mansoon, but has proven time and time again he is terribly creative.

This album flaunts Reznor’s credentials as one of our generation’s most important musicians. “Lights in the Sky” is an eerie piano ballad that shows his writing skills, while “Head Down” is a classic anti-establishment rock song. The album is filled with diversity, but is driven by the heavy industrial rock sound that his music has become known for.

Reznor has focused the anger of his youth and placed it squarely on the recording industry. The album was released under Creative Commons non-commercial license and was available for free online. Anyone can download the album with all the bans separate and mix the album however they feel on NIN’s official website.

Trent Reznor has transitioned from a rock ‘n’ roll outlaw to an elder statesman, helping fur- ther not only industrial music, but rock music in general. Reznor’s work is woven throughout the past fifteen years of music as he introduced a new genre to the mainstream and helped put an avant-garde stamp on modern rock music.

Chris McGregor can be reached at 536-3311 ext. 275 or chrism@siu.edu.
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.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"I'm a miracle, dude. I don't know why."  
— Patrick Swayze on battling pancreatic cancer since March when he was given only a few weeks to live.
When his dog had puppies, the street cleaner

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

Across
1. Open the floodgates (5)
2. Front-left (7)
4. Unable to make things happen (6)
5. Coat of many colors (7)
6. As much as you can (5)
8. Empty your fans (7)
9. Be stopped (9)
10. Could be expensive. Be stopped (9)
11. Be changed or fixed (9)
12. This jerk (10)
13. Be stopped (7)
14. You won't let them down (12)
15. Is a 7 — Get ready to make the next big career leap (10)
16. You're anxious to make things happen (8)
17. You've been worried about it (9)
18. The money should start showing (10)
19. Your fans (9)
20. Full speed ahead (10)
21. Is a 7 — You're worried (9)
22. Is an 8 — You're worried (9)
23. A person who's pro-multitasking (9)
24. Is an 8 — You're anxious to make things happen (9)
25. You've been worried about it (9)
26. Is an 8 — You're anxious to make things happen (9)
27. Is a 7 — You're worried (9)
28. Is an 8 — You're worried (9)
29. Is an 8 — You're worried (9)
30. Is an 8 — You're worried (9)

Down
1. The devil (6)
2. The devil (6)
3. The devil (6)
4. The devil (6)
5. The devil (6)
6. The devil (6)
7. The devil (6)
8. The devil (6)
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25. The devil (6)
26. The devil (6)
27. The devil (6)
28. The devil (6)
29. The devil (6)
30. The devil (6)

Sudoku

Level: (2, 2, 1)

Enter 1 to 9 for each box in this puzzle, with no more than one 1, 2, or 3 in any row, column, or 3-by-3 box (bold borders) containing every digit 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit www.sudoku.org.

Complete the grid so each row, column, and 3-by-3 box (bold borders) contains every digit 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit www.sudoku.org.

Solution to Tuesday's puzzle

1 3 4
2 5 6
3 7 8

Then reveal the answer:

By Linda C. Black

Today's Birthday: 07-23-08

If you are lucky enough to get married this year, you should make sure to plan a wedding on a budget. It's important to stick to your budget so you don't end up in debt. Plan your wedding on a budget by setting a realistic budget and sticking to it. This will help you stay on track and ensure that your wedding is affordable. Additionally, be sure to keep track of all of your expenses so you can see where your money is going. This will help you stay on track and ensure that your wedding is not too expensive.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

Today is a 9 — Your enthusiasm knows no bounds. If your resources are limited, zero problems. You'll get out and have a great time anyway. You can't be stopped!

Carpeon (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

Today is a 9 — Give your household a little extra attention now. Something needs to be changed or fixed, and you know what it is. You've been worried about it for a while. No more procrastination.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

Today is an 8 — A person who's providing assistance can also provide a valuable tip. Ask questions and learn as much as you can. Make the job more interesting, and seek a lot of water.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20)

Today is a 7 — The money should start showing. This is a great time to think about your goals. You'll get our and have a great time anyway.

Try to solve this puzzle:

The Daily Crossword

Edited by Wayne Roger Williams

Across
1. This is your first clue (5)
2. The answer to this puzzle is a theme (4)
3. The answer to this puzzle is a theme (4)
4. The answer to this puzzle is a theme (4)
5. The answer to this puzzle is a theme (4)
6. The answer to this puzzle is a theme (4)
7. The answer to this puzzle is a theme (4)
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12. The answer to this puzzle is a theme (4)
13. The answer to this puzzle is a theme (4)
14. The answer to this puzzle is a theme (4)
15. The answer to this puzzle is a theme (4)
16. The answer to this puzzle is a theme (4)
17. The answer to this puzzle is a theme (4)
18. The answer to this puzzle is a theme (4)
19. The answer to this puzzle is a theme (4)
20. The answer to this puzzle is a theme (4)
21. The answer to this puzzle is a theme (4)
22. The answer to this puzzle is a theme (4)
23. The answer to this puzzle is a theme (4)
24. The answer to this puzzle is a theme (4)
25. The answer to this puzzle is a theme (4)
26. The answer to this puzzle is a theme (4)
27. The answer to this puzzle is a theme (4)
28. The answer to this puzzle is a theme (4)
29. The answer to this puzzle is a theme (4)
30. The answer to this puzzle is a theme (4)

Down
1. This is your second clue (5)
2. This is your third clue (5)
3. This is your fourth clue (5)
4. This is your fifth clue (5)
5. This is your sixth clue (5)
6. This is your seventh clue (5)
7. This is your eighth clue (5)
8. This is your ninth clue (5)
9. This is your tenth clue (5)
10. This is your eleventh clue (5)
11. This is your twelfth clue (5)
12. This is your thirteenth clue (5)
13. This is your fourteenth clue (5)
14. This is your fifteenth clue (5)
15. This is your sixteenth clue (5)
16. This is your seventeenth clue (5)
17. This is your eighteenth clue (5)
18. This is your nineteenth clue (5)
19. This is your twentieth clue (5)
20. This is your twenty-first clue (5)
21. This is your twenty-second clue (5)
22. This is your twenty-third clue (5)
23. This is your twenty-fourth clue (5)
24. This is your twenty-fifth clue (5)
25. This is your twenty-sixth clue (5)
26. This is your twenty-seventh clue (5)
27. This is your twenty-eighth clue (5)
28. This is your twenty-ninth clue (5)
29. This is your thirtieth clue (5)
30. This is your thirty-first clue (5)

Answer here:

(A) (B) (C) (D) (E) (F) (G) (H) (I) (J) (K) (L) (M) (N) (O) (P) (Q) (R) (S) (T) (U) (V) (W) (X) (Y) (Z)

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.
Spor ts
Wednesda y, July 23, 2008

DAILY EGYPTIAN

10

SAVE on the Items You Buy Most!
Look for the yellow tags!

Kroger
24 Pack Water
5 Liter Bottles
$3.00

Red or White Seedless Grapes
SAVE UP TO .71 LB

Beef Shoulder Roast
USDA Choice Boneless
SAVE UP TO 2.10 LB

Coke or RC Products
Sale Price 2 For $3

Frito-Lay Fritos
9.75 oz
SAVE UP TO .82 EA

Fresh, Seedless Watermelon
8 each
SAVE UP TO 2.50 EA

Tyson Chicken Breast
Fresh, Boneless
SAVE UP TO 2.10 LB

Buy Any 4, Get An Additional $1 OFF

Kroger Cheese
Bars or Blocks 8-10 oz
SAVE UP TO .76 EA

Keebler Fudge Shoppe Cookies
9.75 oz
SAVE UP TO 1.09 EA

Tide 2X Liquid Detergent
8-64 Loads or Cheer & Liquid Detergent 52-64 Loads
SAVE UP TO 1.00 EA

SunDance Carton Cigarettes
2499

3 WAYS TO SAVE!
ON FUEL

Copyright ©2008 - Kroger. We reserve the right to limit quantities and to correct printing errors. Items sold to shippers. Items and prices good in Carbondale, Illinois Kroger Stores 8 a.m. Sunday, July 20, thru midnight or closing Saturday, July 25, 2008.
The last thing the NFC South wanted to see was Drew Brees with a tight end. An already great offense just got a lot better with the addition of Shockey, who is still a great athlete and a threat when he is healthy. Jason Taylor is a great player and the Redskins have a great defense, so it's a great fit. The problem is they still can't score very well so the addition of Taylor won't end up getting them to the next level.

"What I've seen around the athletics department is coaches aren’t doing much and neither are athletes and they are all really brand new and sort of smart about the players they decide on at the Games, her athletes should back on it, I was more of a spectator," Walker said. "They all have talent, but also have good work ethics and are willing to come in here and work hard," Walker said. "They all are experienced at recruiting and working really hard at getting that right person. It’s like playing 18 holes of golf but you didn’t get one good shot. It keeps you coming back for more."

Lately SIU has been able to sign recruits that might normally go to larger schools because of the things Blaylock said SIU could offer to athletes bigger schools can’t such as more financial assistance. At SIU, coaches are not just about signing the best available athletes, but finding the best athletes that fit for Salukis. "We don’t just want to bring in talented athletes, we want to bring in athletes that have good work ethic and that will fit in certain places that help us win," Walker said.

Men’s basketball gets the best of both worlds because its young players come to SIU with the mentality that they must pay attention to detail and do the little things to win. "You look at talented teams like Kansas — they won a national title — but they did that because of how hard they worked," Roundtree said. "If we do that, who knows what we might be able to accomplish."

"I’ve done a lot and I’ve got to see a lot and I am very appreciative of everyone that has helped me along the way because I surely didn’t do it by myself," she said. "I’ve had great coaches and a great mentor and great role models and parents to help me along the way and played some very competitive league and really been a very good part of my life."

And that bit of wisdom might help the team just being in the presence of the most decorated U.S. woman driller in history. "She competed internationally for 16 years, so a lot of people know who she is," he said. "I always tell people when Connie goes to a national meet and lays down some incredible scores and she gets to go everywhere and do everything and people let her into everything, I always tease her and tell her she is track and field royalty."

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There were two blockbster trades in the NFL over the past few days. Jason Taylor witness the Donlgh...
**Track & Field**

‘Track and field royalty’

Saluki track coach continues Olympic career as coach in Beijing

Brandon Augustus

The Summer Olympics bring together the greatest athletes on the planet for a month of competition and camaraderie. But few athletes have been as revered in that sports kinship quite as much as Connie Price-Smith.

The SIU track and field coach will make her fifth trip to the Summer Olympics in August when she travels to Beijing as an assistant coach for the U.S. track team. This will be her first Olympics as a coach as her previous trips to the Games were as an athlete.

Price-Smith was selected by a committee of fellow athletes, coaches and track administrators to be the women’s head track coach in recent meets and the girls will be in very good hands.

She knows how to facilitate between athletes and their personal coaches. She said she would help with mechanics also, but only if an athlete comes to her.

"If they want help I would, but I don't necessarily go in and say you need to do this or you need to do that, because they're gotten to where they're gotten by other means and it's unfair for somebody to come in and try to change that," Price-Smith said.

But it just might be this year's Olympic trials will signify bright future for SIU Saluki track & field coach Connie Price-Smith will leave next week for San Jose, Calif, to begin processing for the 2008 Summer Olympics in Beijing.

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**Men’s Basketball**

New athletes could signal bright future for SIU

Ian Preston

The 2008 season will mark the start of a new era in Saluki athletics. The beginning stages of the Saluki Way project are right around the corner, but the biggest changes will be on the field instead of around it.

A new breed of SIU athlete is showing up around campus — the kind of athlete that at the age of 18 and 19 can help their respective programs win right away.

This is most prevalent in basketball, where the SIU men’s team recently signed four highly-touted Missouri and Illinois prospects including last year's Illinois Mr. Basketball, Kevin Dillard, and Missouri All-State First Teamer Torres Roundtree.

"We’re probably going to win ten out of ten times," Roundtree said. "We have a really talented group. Everybody can do something different. Everybody wants to win and that’s what they do here. That’s why I came here."

Players like Roundtree and Dillard may be some of the more talented players SIU has brought in, but both say they know what it will take to win at SIU. And to them the stats don’t matter, just as long as they keep winning — a philosophy that has made SIU into a successful sports university.

"At the end of the day it’s all about what we do," Dillard said. "No matter what people say and what people predict, other teams want to win too, and they’re going to try to knock us out. We need to go into the gym and work hard everyday."

With the addition of talented players, SIU could reach new heights in basketball not seen before. Something the young Salukis believe they can do.

"I think any goal we set, we can surpass," Dillard said. "As long as we stay together and not get involved in all the accolades, the sky is the limit for this freshman class.

Basketball is not the only sport where good, young talent is quickly making its way into starting lineups. Last season the softball team featured a 1-2 freshman punch in the pitching circle with Nikki Waters and Danielle Glason. Both posted winning regular season records and ERA’s under three.

"What we’re looking for is great seasons by them by the time they get to their sophomore and junior seasons," said head softball coach Kerry Blaylock.

Blaylock is not the only coach on campus that is looking for wins now from younger athletes.

Rick Walker, the swimming and diving coach for both the men’s and women’s teams, recently said he is very excited about the contributions his younger swimmers are going to make this year. He is especially excited for the women’s team because SIU