Tuition proposals going up at Wednesday USG meeting

Molly Parker  Daily Egyptian

Tuition at SIUC will go up next fall, the question is "how much?"".Chancellor Walter Wendler said Monday that he's proposing a tuition increase of 10 percent. The original four-year tuition-raising plan approved by the Board of Trustees last May, following 6 percent and 7 percent increases during the following two years.

He's a Muslim and a pilot, but SIU student Omar Baig worked too hard to let Sept. 11 ground his flight.

STORY BY ARIN THOMPSON

August 2000, Baig enrolled at SIUC. Because he arrived pre-registered, he was one of the few students who had tuition remission. As an aviation student, he was involved in almost every flight planned. By the time his 18th birthday rolled around, he was a fully licensed private pilot. It was fun because it was his dream...to make a successful career in aviation. He's motivated and he does his job well.

Now

The average number of flight hours upon graduation for an aviation student is 200. The number of flight hours for a student who has been flying on a flight simulator for my skydiving club in Des Moines, Iowa, is 200. In his last semester as a flight instructor at SIUC, Baig soloed an airplane before he could legally drive a car. Then on them it was straight ahead, as fast as he could, and Baig didn't look back. By the time his 17th birthday rolled around, he was a licensed private pilot.

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Dropping murder rate surprises New Yorkers

NYC — it's the city's biggest murder mystery. Why must we go into March secret to have hit bottom, suddenly plummeting again? Murder is down 40% so far this year. There were 850 murders in the first 2 1/2 months, compared with 141 in the same period last year. The borough of Manhattan has logged 17 murders, a 40% cut. At this rate, by year's end we would have 556 murders — the lowest since 1950, when Manhattan played for the Yankees. The one to two murders and mugging was what you did for the camera. Murder is wider regarded as the most important and

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INTERNATIONAL BRIEFS

Gunmen attack Afghan security chief

KABUL, Afghanistan — The governor of an eastern Afghan province demanded Tuesday Special Forces head over several 2,000 Afghans who allegedly opened fire Sunday on the region's security chief, killing a bodyguard and wounding two others before reportedly fleeing into an American compound.

Bush meat infections linked to HIV ancestor in Cameroon

YAOYALE, Cameroon — More than one-fifth of the monkeys the government sent into a forest inhabited with an ancestor of the HIV virus. The bush meat survey raises the possibility of new infections among Cameroon's 19 million people. A total of 21 types of the simian immunodeficiency virus, or SIMV, were found in the monkeys and meat on sale in the country's markets.

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Argentina hit with yet another finance blow

BUENOS AIRES — Argentina is braced for another worrying economic turmoil after a rush of dollars last week sent the peso plummeting to 2,900 to the dollar Tuesday, the highest for the year.

The peso fell over 17 percent on Friday to 32 cents, sending prices soaring and squeezing the very few dollars public officials hold in reserve. Argentine President Cristina Kirchner declared a new state of emergency Monday that will prevent banks from selling dollars to the public outright and sell some of its reserves to the central bank to try to stabilize the peso.

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Environmental educator John Wallace portrays the life experiences and personalities of deceased naturalist and writer John Muir Monday evening at the Civic Center in Carbondale. Wallace spoke for an hour about Muir's experiences, such as being blinded by a piece of metal, a meeting with two American presidents, and an avalanche ride.

The world according to John Muir

Life adventures of a pioneering ecologist

William Alonso
Daily Egyptian

A moderate and eager crowd gathered Monday night to be transported to the "scribble room" in the home of the father of the National Park system, John Muir.

A room in the Carbondale Civic Center was converted into Muir's "scribble room" for "The World According to John Muir," sponsored by the Shawnee Audubon Society.

Two tables adorned with books, flowers, a touch of nature, found his passion for Muir's life and, finding inspiration in its pages, became a fundamentalist Christian and environmental educator at SIUC's Society and environmental educator at SIUC's National Park system as we now know it. In 1890, due in part to Muir and Robert Underwood Johnson, associate editor of "Century" magazine, Congress created Yosemite National Park. Muir is associated with the creators of the national world. Or as he put it "our peoples' spirit of nature, it wasn't until an accident temporally blind that Muir realized that the Christan perspective was too narrow. That the respect in treating other beings as you would be treated absolutely should be transferred to creators of the natural world. Or as he is put in "our fellow mortals."

Muir was instrumental in the development of the national park system as we now know it. In 1890, due in part to Muir and Robert Underwood Johnson, associate editor of "Century" magazine, Congress created Yosemite National Park. Muir is associated with the creation of Sequoia, Mount Rainier, Petrified Forest National Parks. Muir published a book, "Our National Park," which gained the attention of President Theodore Roosevelt. Visiting Yosemite with Muir, the president and the relentless conservationist laid the groundwork for what would become Roosevelt's revolutionary conservation programs.

Wallace ended the jaunt through an American hero's past with a tale of what could be the birth of extreme sports. Muir on an adventure up a mountain came into the path of an avalanche, which he rode out. He was left with neither gear nor broken bones.

"I found it very interesting. I didn't know anything about [Muir's] life, though I had heard of him," Wallace said. "I wasn't long into his adult life that he realized that the Christian perspective was too narrow. That the respect in treating other beings as you would be treated absolutely should be transferred to creators of the natural world. Or as he put it 'our fellow mortals.'"

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Tenant union takes first step

Guidebook to be distributed next month

Jane Hulh
Daily Egyptian

It’s taken almost a decade, but it’s finally here — Undergraduate Student Government has finally devolved its long-planned comprehensive booklet stuffed with loads of off-campus housing information, including a form to register a complaint against a landlord. It will be made available to students in a few weeks.

The Tenant Union guidebook is another step toward organizing a tenant union for students. Also included in the guide is an apartment-seeking checklist, warnings and suggestions on signing leases and depositing money, as well as definitions of legal terms and procedures.

Over the past few years, student groups such as students looking for places to live as a group or students looking for places to live as a group have written about their experiences and hopes for the future. The guidebook will be distributed to students in a few weeks.

Last spring, Obst and Perry took a trip to the University of Illinois to get a closer look at the school’s tenant union system and find out how the school’s union has been running efficiently for about 30 years.

Obst and Perry came back to Carbondale with a better idea of what was working — union continuity, a feature that keeps the school’s union system functioning.

“We’ve tried this before, but there were always problems year to year because (coordi­nation) died out. It doesn’t seem to stay,” Obst said.

One way to ensure the union’s continuity seems to be using the Illinois Student Government’s tenant union program, said USG President Michael Perry, attorney at the Students’ Legal Assistance.

Perry has assisted Obst with the legal documents that are included in the guide.

“If you just hire somebody from USG, half the time, it won’t be staffed. Someone needs to be there for the summer,” Perry said.

Obst, who is running for USG president in the fall, said the necessity of finding a full-time tenant union coordinator. He said bringing attention to the union is high on his list of campaign priorities.

“We’ve got all the groundwork laid. If we can get someone to oversee the process year to year, I’m hopeful that the tenant union will be in working condition,” Obst said.

But, for now, the finished guidebook is a valuable source of information that students should have a copy of.

“I think it’s a good idea. The more information, the better,” Perry said.

Obst agreed that the guidebook will be a valuable resource for students.

“We hope to put this out in a timely manner. It’s going to take a combination of efforts from both student and USG funding to complete the project,” Perry said. “We’ve got a couple of students who are interested.”

John A. Logan Saturday.

For more information, contact the USG housing commission­.

Transportation Education Center still on the ground

TEC would give program cutting edge facilities

Mark Lambird
Daily Egyptian

For more than three years, the Transportation Education Center has been talked about, but work is just about to begin.

The TEC is the third building that has been proposed to solve the problems of the top-ranked automotive technology and rela­tion programs. In the future, the building will be used to raise money for the automotive program and to raise money for the loss of a representation.

“We have submitted a request to Daimler Chrysler,” Greer said. “We told them that we would know by the end of the month. The need for new facilities for the automotive program is the main reason for the building.”

The las­st faculty and staff were moved from their office building on March 18 because of struct­ure damage and the presence of asbestos.

David Newbery, chairman of the avionics, program, said that the building has been used for about $1 million. He said they should know this summer whether they will be in the group.

“Two steps and one goal — get­ting the money from Daimler Chrysler and Boeing,” Newbery said. “If we can get this money we hope to use it to leverage the state.”

SIU President James Walker said because of the budget prob­lems the university was looking into federal funding for the proj­ect.

“We are going to take a combination of all state and federal funding to complete the building,” Walker said. “We hope to have a couple of years the project can be started.”

Mike Bost, R- Murphysboro, said he supported the proposal since its inception and will continue to do so.

It is an important project for the region,” Bost said. “It should be the top priority because of benefits to the University and the local economy.”

Reporters Mark Lambird can be reached at mlambird@dailyEgyptian.com

Hispanic Student Council leads tour headed for Chicago

Latino students work to get recognition in light of bad weather conditions

Ivan Thomas
Daily Egyptian

The Hispanic Student Council tried to keep their materials from getting wet as they played host to the beginning of a campus tour on Monday during the Hispanic Heritage Week.

Latino egregious, a Latino organization based in New York, began its campus tour of SIUC on Monday. Its objective was to promote and gain support from the students and the local Latino groups by speaking with students and informing them about the organization.

SIUC was the first of Southern Illinois’ universities that began organizing a tenant union for students.

Once the free guides are distributed, students can learn about the university’s tenant union, Obst said.

“We’ve tried this before, but there were always problems year to year because (coordination) died out. It doesn’t seem to stay,” Obst said.

For more information, send an e-mail to tenantunion@hotmail.com

Even you can compose music with computer technology!

Even you can compose music with computer technology!
September 11, 2001

Big arrived at the SIU airport at 8:30 a.m. on September 11. He told his fellow instructors, classmates and teachers were congregated in one area. This was unusual because most people are flying or busy somewhere else by that time in the morning.

"That stuff happens," Baig said. "It's just minutes before the first flight."

"There's not anything in the book," Baig said. "I can't do the one thing I want to do. I can't fly."

"What's my future like now?" Baig asked. "Now, when Baig tells people he's going to fly, there are people saying that this is under the act of Islam?"

"There's nothing in the Kosher, and I'm not myself, that is, does anything about terrorism," Baig said. "In fact, it says, if you kill one heart of an American, you have killed the whole mankind."

Baig spent the two weeks after with his dorm room. Because of the FAA's decision to restrict airspace, Baig couldn't do the one thing he wanted to do — fly. He accepted the Muslim stereotype that he may have to deal with in the future. He realized that, just like many minorities, he may not be able to get the short end of the stick when applying for a job.

After September 11, he had never occurred to Baig that being a Muslim could impede his chances for flight job in the future, the thought never even crossed his mind. He realized that, just like many minorities, he may not be able to get the short end of the stick when applying for a job.

Before Sept. 11, he had never occurred to Baig that being a Muslim could impede his chances for flight job in the future, the thought never even crossed his mind. He realized that, just like many minorities, he may not be able to get the short end of the stick when applying for a job.

"I couldn't have picked a more comforting school than SIU," Baig said. "Three things did go through my mind when I went home to become a pilot for SIU. SIU planes could not take off until the air was clear, which was given, which was given."

"After it all, Baig can't just fly away from the incident, because the weapon of destruction was used in that fashion," Baig said. "There's not one thing in the book."
We need to make an effort to make sure her belief is not a dream.

I admire her commitment to breast cancer research and the community, and I am moved by her stories. Rosie O'Donnell and the ACLU argue about the "rights" of homosexuals, they sadly ignore the rights of innocent, same-sex couples who have adopted "unwanted" children. Their hearts will be swayed by media images of smiling children in cozy homes, apparently thriving with their gay or lesbian parents. But what will happen to these children? What kind of psychological effects, if any, will they experience as adults?

The Americas Academia of Pediatrics (AAP) weighed in on this issue last month. Eight members of the AAP whitehandedly endorsed same-sex parenting, claiming that children raised by homosexuals do just as well as children whose parents are heterosexual. The committee's recommendation ignited a firestorm of protest among the AAP members. The committee's recommendations are not a sufficient basis for the AAP. To date, not much research has been done on the effects of homosexual parenting. This is unfortunate, as it would have provided us with a more complete picture.

Rosie's crusade to challenge Florida's ban is more likely to engage in homosexual activity as teenagers and young adults. Whatever will happen to Rosie's wind-up to the struggle for gay rights? We need to support our children.


**COLUMNS**

**Don't Get Me Wrong**

*Mars Bigby*

torlasos@hotmail.com

Weights and measures are the daily life of a woman. It is a routine that is not always appreciated. I will sit on my front porch and do my house, a big screen TV, you know, the essentials. I have to be conscious of the fat of my waist.

The emancipation proclamation was signed more than a hundred years ago and yet I'm still on my front porch doing the same thing. I could just sit there and not do anything at all. I don't really have anything to get of, I'm still sitting there, all I need is a little bit of exercise.

I'm trying to understand why things are far away from me. I am trying to understand that I am afraid of deciding to make my life so social changes. It is 2002 and instead of assuming that we are in the world as a person striving to achieve the goals that all our peers want. I will make less Brennan, if you walk into Sun's Steakhouse, bowling alley and the BP gas station. The bowling alley never really bothered me, though, because I knew that it's not right to divide [our] time between the bowling alley and the BP gas station.

I don't want to waste on this. What wonderful things can happen because of it. I just want to be all right. I am trying to understand why it is that I am faced with deciding to dedicate my life to the essentials. I have to be conscious of the good conscience, the perfect life, perfect kids and oh, a Lambronghi. That's all I want. I want to spend the rest of my life caring for people with what seems to be the right thing. This is not fun. It is a waste of my precious time, I'm done on it. I don't ever try to think why many lives are wasted on this. All I want is to understand what wonderful things could have Martin Luther King Jr. done with his life if there was no need for a civil rights movement. But he couldn't do what he did in the ghetto? How many advanced mathematical concepts are we added to the world? It all comes down to seeing that this isn't about white, or black, or red, or yellow? This is about humanity.

How wonderful could life be if people were able to concentrate on philosophy, science, art and music. How could greater human consciousness be? If everyone could concentrate on what he feels people are in their situations by choice, now can you, in good conscience, do what you're doing.

*Jennifer Ashley*  
graduating student, plant and soil sciences

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**OUTLAW NATION**

**Why is Joseph D. Johnson so angry?**

Joseph D. Johnson  
johnson_jl@hotmail.com

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Jasper is a sophomore in journalism. His view do not necessarily reflect those of the Daily Egyptian. Read more of his views go www.outlawnation.com.

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**LETTERS**

**Don't knock us small town folk**

DEAR EDITOR:

Growing up in the small town of Central Illinois, I always knew that we were different from people in either part of the state. While in Nebraska, I've lived in a small town in Murphysboro, I've been called a Yankee. That name means something different here than it did in Nebraska. Now most people in Illinois were really good at least. However, I was thoroughly shocked to read the column from your March 22: "Let's take a look through small town Illinois." Matt Bannett states that people, especially and particular with another's noble fields, where we drive, and what they are doing at a town that "moves" and "divide and conquer" time between the bowling alley and the BP gas station.

Matt, Bannett why would you write such a derogatory piece about so many of your fellow SIU students? While my high school class in Findlay may have had only 10 people, I lived the 30 miles to my ATT, came to SIU on a scholarship, and went to graduate school on a fellowship. Although I've been gone for far more years, when I return home on breaks, the locals all smile and ask how I'm doing. Yet, when I graduate, will I migrate to southern Illinois, a land to the north of land and honey that is Chicago? No. Like my father before me, I will return to Central Illinois where I will have a small town job with a good salary, but I will have only a three-figure mortgage, and I will live in a small house that is not too far from my parents and talk to my neighbors, instead of hiding behind an eight-foot privacy fence. However, Matt, Bannett why would you write such a derogatory piece about Central Illinois, where I will often be found having lunch with my grandparents, I will simply smile and think that you're doing.

*Jennifer Ashley*  
graduating student, plant and soil sciences

---

**MEET THE AUTHOR**

**Multiple people ignorant of Indigenous issues**

DEAR EDITOR:

I would like to address you, Mr. Russell and his ignorance of the indigenous issues throughout North America. As a member of the original population of the share house, I think, there isn't absolutely no support of indigenous issues. Stereotypes such as the red man offensive and in no way is that, what would they do by right of their fellow man, that would be all right. If human life meant the same thing as not having the same culture, perhaps we would be all right. If we could make decisions based on love instead of greed, that would be all right. And if we didn't know what the word race meant, that would be all right.

Don't Get Me Wrong appears on Tuesday. 

**Arizona in university setting. Let's decide if this does not necessarily reflect the face of the Daily Egyptian.**

*Stephen Zondak*  
features writer

---

**OPPS, Dr. P. Smoot ... didn't know it was you?**

DEAR EDITOR:

While heading back to Fairbanks, Alaska, for spring break, I was traveling on interstate 57 North when I saw a car driving in and out of traffic at an unsafe speed, and what seemed to be a party in the back seat as the occupants were moving to some sort of party bus. Also, I noticed a SIU parking sticker on the rear window. The car slowed down in front of me, so I changed into the next lane to pass the car, which unnecessarily attempted to cut me off in the process. As we were passing, I saw the driver of the car made several turns on the road and maybe your ar would think that there was something different about me. I was out the door, Mr. Smoot, please do not get me started on the possible pin spelled backwards is "Joe." Dr. P. Smoot, as a Hunter Thompson fan. Who would have thought it?

*John Jackson*  
staff writer

---

**READER COMMENTARY**

*Letters and columns must be typed, double-spaced, and include position and department. Others include author's hometown.*

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**LETTERS TAKEN BY E-MAIL (editor@isu.edu) and FAX (453-824-4) and phone number (not published for verification purposes). Students must include year and major. Faculty must include rank and department. Others include position and department. Others include author's hometown.*

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**BEING LETTERS AND COLUMNS TO THE DAILY EGYPTIAN ADDRESS**

Department of Communications Building Room 1247.

**THE DAILY EGYPTIAN WELCOMES all content suggestions.**

**Letters and columns do not necessarily reflect the views of the Daily Egyptian.**

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**OUTLAW NATION**

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**COLUMNISTS**

**Writing from the view of a woman who is a human of a race, Brennan, if you walk into Sun's Steakhouse, bowling alley and the BP gas station. The bowling alley never really bothered me, though, because I knew that it's not right to divide [our] time between the bowling alley and the BP gas station. The bowling alley never really bothered me, though, because I knew that it's not right to divide [our] time between the bowling alley and the BP gas station.**

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Schwab
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

...when that's cut we have to either look at cuts or increases,"年第 said.
The University was forced this year to return $7 million to the state to fill a budget hole. If next year's recommend­ed budget becomes reality, the Carbondale campus will receive about $9.5 million less to spend, compared to last year's original appropriations.

These cuts are likely to prompt a tuition hike, one of the biggest sources of funding University officials can directly control.

Wendler said he does not think a tuition increase will deflect students. In fact, he believes the opposite — the cheaper is not necessarily a good thing.

"If deep tuition shape up right­wise we wouldn't have lost 1,000 students. We would have gained 2,000 students," Wendler said.

He was referring to the 954 fewer students who enrolled at the University this fall and the 6,561 more students those students did not provide in expected tuition dollars, prompting another series of cuts that were handed down to the academic units.

Even with a 10 percent increase, SIUC would continue to scrape the bottom of the pile based compared to the other institutions in Illinois and most research institutions in the country.

Currently, tuition and fees at SIUC are 18 percent less than Eastern Illinois University, the second cheapest public school in Illinois, and $1,500 less than the University of Illinois.

Wendler said that no matter what tuition increase was approved by the board, students would never be denied admission because they could not pay. He said that at least one-half of any tuition increase would go right back to the students in the form of scholarships, assistantships, and other money-helpers.

This year's cuts have resulted in a series of layoffs at the college and administrative levels. The chancellor's office directed the deans to decide how they will share their portion of the state budget with 76 percent of state money going to salaries, there aren't too many places to pull from besides the salary line.

Shirley Clay Scott, dean of the College of Liberal Arts, said her college will stop its $3 million share from the budget by not filling retiring or resigning faculty member's positions and by satisfying money for graduate assistantships.

John Kretzschmar, dean of the Graduate School, said graduate student tuition increases will likely mirror those of undergraduate student tuition. He hopes an increase in tuition will also balance any proposed cuts to gradu­ate assistantships.

Almost all schools in Illinois join SIUC in its decision to institute tuition hikes to mitigate their share of the state's deflation. Tuition increases will likely mirror those of undergraduate student tuition. He hopes an increase in tuition will also balance any proposed cuts to gra­duate assistantships.

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"We live in a real world. We do live in a world where we get all the money we need," said Trustee George Folkenberg. "We are in a very tough economic time, and it would be folly to rule anything out or anything in until we look at all the variables." The chancellor will reveal his pro­posed tuition plans at Wednesday's USG meeting, at 7 p.m. at the Student Center.

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**Daily Horoscopes**

**By Linda C. Black**

Aries (March 21-April 19) • Today is a 7 • You're looking good, and not just because you're so cute. You're also gaining respect because of your wise decisions. Your star sign probably even glows when you advise an older person against a foolish choice.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) • Today is a 6 • Looks like you've got your feet on the ground with some pretty strong opinions. Before you choose which side you're on, ask some leading questions. Then, trust your own opinions.

Gemini (May 21-June 20) • Today is a 8 • Keep that inner glow while you go about your business. You may notice that it helps sales quite a bit. People want to be around you when you're up, and you want whatever you're selling.

Cancer (June 21-July 22) • Today is a 7 • It's a jungle out there, but you can find a way through. Why help to have your priorities straight. You don't need to be told that family comes first.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) • Today is an 8 • Keep that inner glow while you go about your business. You may notice that it helps sales quite a bit. People want to be around you when you're up, and you want whatever you're selling.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) • Today is a 7 • You're looking good, and not just because you're so cute. You're also gaining respect because of your wise decisions. Your star sign probably even glows when you advise an older person against a foolish choice.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) • Today is a 7 • A very active couple of days, you may be almost worn out. You'll also discover a couple of details you hadn't had time to complete. Better slow down, settle into your workplace and take care of your business.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) • Today is a 7 • It can be a hassle to teach others what you want, but it's the only way. You'll either get everything finished if you try to do it all by yourself. This is the next best thing to doing.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) • Today is a 7 • You've set the goal, now make the plans. This may be more difficult than you thought, but don't despair. A combination of faith and hard work will get you there.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) • Today is an 8 • Sure, there are still a few records to be taken into consideration. But it isn't time you considered your level, your imagination and your mind again. Get out, if only for a little romp.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) • Today is a 8 • To wise with your own money now, and with other people's, too. Don't borrow more than you can afford. Instead, lend to those who can afford to spend less.

 Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) • Today is a 7 • Just when you thought you'd have to do everything all by yourself, help unexpectedly, this person will also point out everything you're doing wrong. The job will get easier if you accept the help.

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Thirty years and still counting

SIUC rugby still going strong, despite obstacles

Michael Brenner
Daily Egyptian

The SIU men's rugby team, the school's oldest Registered Student Organization, is celebrating in 30th anniversary this year—whether the school likes it or not.

The University has allegedly not been friendly to the rugby club ever since the team returned from Chicago where it came in 11th place at nationals.

"We've been here for 30 years, and we don't get squat," Richey said.

But lack of support and funding has not hurt SIU rugby. The team just returned from Chicago where it earned victories over the Chicago Griffins and Northwest Woodsmen, running its record to 4-0 on the season.

The team is currently ranked No. 9 in the nation and has won the IRFU title of 1997 and 1998.

The team has three All-Americans—Richey, Connor McMahon and Bryce James—and hopes to win a national championship sometime soon, though it will be a daunting task.

The University of California-Berkeley has won the past 10 national championships, and appears unstoppable, especially since it imports players from New Zealand and Australia, something SIU is not capable of doing in current financial state.

"We have a really good tradition of winning here at SIU," Richey said. "But what we need to win a national championship is money."

The players believe it's worth the effort, though. Even if they can't import foreign players and compete with Berkeley, according to Richey, "just about anyone can play rugby and have fun doing it."

"We have a wide variety of people on this team," Richey said. "We have guys getting their master's, one guy getting his doctorate and a guy in law school. We even have a couple of guys that have been in jail."

Reporter Michael Brenner can be reached at rebrunner@dailyEgyptian.com
SIU women’s golf sweeps tournament at home

Michael Brenner

The SIU women’s golf team turned out to be unbeatable hosts in its only home tournament of the year.

The Salukis defeated every one of their guests to win the Saluki Invitational Monday, shooting a 641 and defeating arch-rival Bradley by two strokes in gloomy conditions at Hickory Ridge Country Club.

The Salukis were led by seniors Allison Miller and Kendra Hood, who placed one-two in the individual standings, propelling the 150-pound team to its first win in four years and their first victory this season.

“That was our goal, and all week long we prepared for it,” Miller said. “Our coach kept saying we only had a chance if that’s our Douglas. We really made our statement.”

The Bears shot 654, while Murray State (655), Valdosta State (649) and Illinois State (639) rounded out the top five.

Hood shot a 157 (77,80), only one stroke behind Miller’s 156 (79,77), but in an ironic twist, her score did not count. Hood failed to qualify for the top five at the Regional and only counted one score per tournament.

“I wish I could have helped the team,” Hood said. “I still went out there and played as hard as I could for myself, and I was hoping my score could help push the other players to play well, too.”

Head coach Diane Daugherty stood by the decision of who she played.

“We have 10 young ladies on our team, and I think we’re still solid from top to bottom, and that’s why we do qualify for each tournament,” Daugherty said after saying jokingly that Hood made her look stupid.

Also leading the Saluki charge were Jennifer Scult and Andrea Turner, both of whom recorded top 10 finishes. Schult shot a 158 (78,80), placing fifth individually while Turner’s 160 (80-80) was good enough for a 10th-place tie.

“Winning at home and defeating Bradley in the process was the win extra sweet for the Salukis. SIU was down two strokes to Bradley following the first round, but came back Monday to defeat the Braves by that same amount.”

“They’re a great team; they’re always on us, and we’re always on them,” Miller said. “Coming back today from being three strokes down yesterday, we knew we can beat them now going into conference.”

Daugherty felt the same way, but was careful not to read too much into the victory. She realizes her team has to play the Illini Spring Classic in two weeks, and it would not be wise to look too far ahead.

“It’s gonna be a dogfight, a dog and a Brave fight,” Daugherty said of the Missouri Valley Conference Tournament. “We’re thrilled to win our home tournament, but it wasn’t like it was by 40 strokes or a walk in the park. I’m happy now, but we know we have our work still ahead of us if we’re going to win conference.”

Roberts to compete in slam dunk contest

SIU senior center Nolan Roberts will compete in the 14th annual College Slam Dunk Challenge in Atlanta on Friday.

The event will be televised nationally on ESPN on March 30 starting at 1 pm, with Dick Vitale and Brad Nessler calling the event from courtside.

Roberts has been picked to participate in the National Association of Basketball Coaches Roundball Challenge in Atlanta on Friday.

A team of college allstars will compete against the Harlem Globetrotters. That event will not be televised.

Roberts has also been invited to play in the 70th annual Portsmouth (Va.) Invitational in May. The tournament offers prospects exposure to professional scouts and produces several NBA draft picks each year.

Nelson named top pitcher in MVC

SIU baseball player Luke Nelson was named the Pitcher of the Week in the Missouri Valley Conference on Monday.

Nelson, a right-handed senior from Oconomowoc, Wis., threw a complete-game, six-hit shutout against Bradley on Sunday to pick up a 1-0 Saluki win.

Nelson struck out six and did not allow a walk in the victory, which helped the Salukis gain a split in a four-game series this weekend against the Braves.

Nelson is the fourth Saluki this season to gain pitcher of the week honors, following infielder Dearing, Toby Barnett and Ross Kilman.

SIU earns spot on top 20 Academic All-American honors

The SIU women’s swimming and diving team ranked No. 17 on the list of top 20 Academic All-American teams.

SIU’s cumulative GPA of 3.27 tied it with Indiana University and extended the squad’s streak to 23 consecutive semesters as a top 20 Academic All-American team.

Saint Francis (Pa.) University topped the list with a 3.564 GPA.
Weber, SIU could be talking turkey

Jay Schwab
Daily Egyptian

SIU wants Bruce Weber to stick around, and several factors point to keeping the Saluki coach happy in Carbondale.

The Saluki Athletic Director Paul Kovaleychik has indicated repeatedly that the University will take whatever steps it can to try to prevent the popular coach from being lured away by other schools, and that he said Monday evening that he expects to be negotiating his contract in the near future.

"The University gave me a contract a couple years ago and I was delighted that it was really the first time anyone [at SIU] got a long-term deal," Weber said. "Now I know they're offering an extension to that ... we're going to look it over probably the next couple weeks and hopefully get that thing hashed out." Weber is currently coaching under a four-year contract issued in February of 2000, in which Weber is paid a base salary of $200,000 per year, excluding revenue from camps, television appearances and other involvements.

Of course, Weber, who has guided SIU to the Sweet Sixteen in his fourth season at SIU, is expected to be sought after commodity this offseason. He has said he intends to remain at SIU next season, but in the volatile coaching industry, those types of intentions can change at a moment's notice. "I'm happy here and I've said over and over if I look at a job, it'll only be at a place where I have a chance to be successful," Weber said. "We've got a good team coming back." In addition to the possibility of bolstering Weber's contract, another factor that could work in SIU's favor is the situation at Purdue, where Weber was an assistant for 12 years. A report on ESPn.com indicated that Purdue head coach Gene Keady intends to stick it out at Purdue through the end of his current contract in 2005, and it hinted that Keady will push to have Weber replace him.

If Weber decides that returning to Purdue is his ultimate goal, that may allow the Salukis to keep their coach longer than they might have otherwise been able to.

For now, Weber plans to capitalize on the success of this year's Salukis in the recruiting department. He also has no reason to think the team won't be able to keep on offering the same deal to potential players, and that could work in SIU's favor, cause the team that might not be in Carbondale a few years down the road could offer a similar deal.

"There's always a double-whammy," Weber said. "We have great success and that helps recruiting, but then also you see the teams that are recruiting everywhere and that hurts recruiting." Jay Schwab can be reached at jschwab@dailyEgyptian.com

Down and dirty – the only way SIU fans like it

Jay Schwab
Daily Egyptian

What do you mean, no more Brad Kent jumpers or Jermione Dearman spin moves or Stetson Hairston steads for a whole eight months?

Carbondale is now in the calm after the storm, still coming down from its Sweet Sixteen high and waiting for the weather to warm up so the rumors that spring has arrived can be confirmed.

There's little left to do but reflect on what truly was a wonderful season — from almost knocking off the No. 1 team in the country to beating Duke in the NCAA tournament to winning the Hoosier in roadkill to winning a share of the Valley title on a Monday night at the Arena, the Salukis' triumph in the NCAA tournament.

The Salukis danced as deep into the tournament as Duke or Kansas did. The only point of frustration for SIU in Friday's loss to UConn is that the Salukis didn't leave the game knowing they had been outmanned, but instead wondering whether the game would have had a different outcome if the Salukis' shooting hadn't been as alarmingly off as the Syracuse hit.

But the loss to UConn will be soon forgotten. The season wasn't over. And, most definitely, this Saluki team wasn't.

They were the "Down and Dirty Dawks," a nickname that surfaced near the end of the season paying homage to the Salukis' dogged defense that became the team's trademark. They were a group unafraid of the lack of recognition they received despite locking the door of their post-season team all year long, and one that kept playing school media had no choice but to tell the country who the hell and what the hell the Salukis are.

SIU was a team on a story that went untold until it was time for the final chapters to be written. Luckily, the ending didn't disappoint.

They were about a young man who was given a second chance in life, and who took full advantage. People in Southern Illinois knew little about Roland Roberts in November beyond his moody off-court reputation, but chose to accept him into Carbondale's home as an integral part of the Saluki story.

See SCHWAB, page 11

Salukis not sick of successful season's accomplishments

Jay Schwab
Daily Egyptian

Bruce Weber has probably never been happier to be sick as a dog in his entire life.

After weeks of running on fumes while prepping his team for a post-season run and contending with the increasing demands of the media, Weber's body has finally rebelled from too little sleep and too much pressure.

Just as assistants Matt Painter and Chris Lowery have fallen ill in the past, so too has Weber, who is coughing and wheezing his way through the first few days of the Salukis' off-season.

"For four weeks you don't have a routine or a schedule," Weber said. "You're not eating healthy food, you're not in your own bed for most of the time, so it just kind of catches up with you. I think when the adrena­line wears off, your body says 'Hey, you haven't done me justice.'"

Fortunately for Weber, he has plenty of newly-created memories to make him feel better.

The Salukis concluded their 28-9 season with a loss to Connecticut in the Sweet Sixteen round of the NCAA tournament on Friday. SIU broke its previous best ever win total of 26 and won a share of the MVC regular season title, in addition to surviving just its second and third NCAA tournament victories ever.

SIU fell to the Huskis 71-39 in a game in which the Salukis were doomed by lousy outside shooting. SIU guard Kent Williams couldn't find any rhythm in the game, an oddity for the usually rock-solid junior.

"With all the media attention and the notoriusity, the one person I wasn't worried about was Kent," Weber said. "I don't think it took a toll on him, but maybe it did." Weber was pleased with his team throughout the season, but even he had a hard time believing how well the Salukis stacked up with the nation's top teams during the NCAA tournament.

"We were good enough to beat UConn if we shut the ball a little bit better," Weber said. "I would have liked a close game, and then you never know what could have happened."

"And then I was in awe of Maryland going into it from watch­ ing them against Duke and some of the games on TV, but up close and watching them [Sunday], I thought we could have competed against them ... at least this year, we could have competed with the best in the country."

That's something the defensive-oriented Salukis proved over and over this year. They proved it by notably defeating then-No. 2 in the country Illinois in November, and by beating Indiana — now headed for the Final Four — in December.

But it wasn't until SIU knocked off Texas Tech and Georgia in the NCAA tournament that the Salukis gained much acclaim on a national level, becoming a fixture in the nation's most prominent print and electronic media outlets.

All in all, it was a wildly-successful year for the Salukis, who are being compared to the 1967 NIT champion team as the best ever in school history.

SIU reaped its rewards in March, but the Salukis' season was set in motion during an offseason in which the players committed them­ selves to making major improve­ ments. That work ethic carried over into the season, in which the Salukis won every game in which the Salukis sort every challenge Weber laid before them.

"They never complained or griped," Weber said. "It was a group that if I asked them to read a little more, they'd sign autographs, or practice for four hours or whatever, they never griped. I think that has to do with the maturity of the players." Jay Schwab can be reached at jschwab@dailyEgyptian.com