Finalists for provost announced

LAUREN LEONE
Daily Egyptian

The search to fill the Provost and Senior Vice Chancellor position has been narrowed to four finalists.

Two of the finalists are internal candidates, Don Rice, interim provost and vice chancellor; and Gary Minish, who retired Dec. 31 as dean of the College of Agricultural Sciences. The other finalists are Robert Hampton, professor of sociology and social work; and Christina Spakousky, dean of the Davis College of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Design and director of the West Virginia Experiment Station at West Virginia University.

Finalists will visit campus and hold open forums between Oct. 17 and Nov. 2, according to a university press release.

Rice has held the position of interim provost since Dec. 2006. He was not available for comment at press time.

Minish said he has familiarized himself with SIUC after spending more than five years as dean of College of Agricultural Sciences.

"It's got the breadth and depth of academic programs and the diversity and culture," he said. "The people are the strengths and extreme positives."

During his 35 years at Virginia Tech, he served as a professor in the department of animal science and later as associate dean and director of development and agriculture technology for the College of Agriculture.

Enrollment numbers and budget issues at SIUC are the two major issues Minish said he would address if he were provost, and said he has experience and success in both.

When he headed VT's animal and poultry sciences department from 1994 to 2001, undergraduate enrollment rose 76 percent, according to a 2004 university press release.

Minish said he came out of retirement because he enjoys working. "I don't fish. I don't golf," Minish said. "I like to work. That's one of the things that encouraged me to apply for provost. It'll be working somewhere."

Hampton, who served as provost and executive vice president and chief operating officer at Tennessee State University from 2000 to 2008, said he is eager for his first campus visit Monday during his open forum. The forum will serve as a critical moment in the search where students, faculty and staff can ask questions and express concerns about the university, he said.

Please see COUNCIL 14

Gubernatorial debate brings no new answers

CHRISTINA SPAKOUSKY
Daily Egyptian

Gubernatorial candidates debated over more than just their own jobs Thursday.

"The had to lay off 1,100 workers, but the bottom line is that I've been able to get concessions from the unions of $225 million dollars under the existing union contracts. That's never happened before in Illinois," Gov. Pat Quinn said.

Quinn, Republican Sen. Bill Brady and Green Party candidate Rich Whitney debated over job creation, the state budget and other topics Thursday at the gubernatorial debate hosted by WSUI at Studio B in the Communications Building.

The two other candidates, Independent Scott Lee Cohen and Libertarian Lee Green, were not included in the debate.

Brady said Quinn's campaign has only cut jobs and been full of secrets. Most recently the Pat Illinois To Work bill was created in secret with a state-made budget and used only for Quinn's endorsement.

"This is a continuation of a secret administration and it has to stop. The people of Illinois deserve an open and transparent government," Brady said.

Brady said it was a union contract that has never been done in Illinois and will reduce the public pension cost by $226 million.

"I'm running against Senator Brady who wants to abolish Pat Illinois To Work and put 26,000 people out of work. He said that 10 days ago I think they heard me." Quinn said.

But Brady said Quinn's recent projects to create jobs using bonds had more motivation than just job creation.

"Taking taxpayer dollars to put..." - Please see DEBAT E 8

"I don't fish. I don't golf," Minish said. "I like to work. That's one of the things that encouraged me to apply for provost. It'll be working somewhere."
New poll highlights voter dissatisfaction
State, nation perceived to be headed in wrong direction

RYAN VOYLES
Daily Egyptian

Likely Illinois voters are overwhelmingly pessimistic about the direction the state and nation are headed and are ready for reform, according to a poll released Thursday by the Paul Simon Public Policy Institute.

The poll shows 81.3 percent of likely voters believe the state is headed in the wrong direction, as opposed to 11 percent who believe it's headed in the right direction. Respondents were also in favor of potential reforms, such as a recall of the governor and other statewide elected officials, an open primary and term limits for the leaders of the General Assembly.

The poll, conducted from Sept. 30 to Oct. 10, surveyed 758 residents likely to vote in the November elections and has a margin of error of 3.5 percentage points, said Charles Leonard, a visiting professor and director of the institute's polling initiatives.

John Jackson, a visiting professor from the institute, said the recent history of Illinois politics has led to dissatisfaction among voters.

"We have two state governors, back-to-back, who were tried for federal crimes and one (is) in federal prisons," he said. "It's not too hard to see why people would be a little bit skeptical of state government and in favor of reform proposals."

Many respondents favored reforms that will be on the November ballot. According to the poll, 51.6 percent of respondents favor a change that would allow voters to remove the governor from office before their term ended. While not on the November ballot, 66.7 percent favor the ability to recall all statewide office holders.

According to the poll, 63.4 percent of respondents said the country is on the wrong track, while 29 percent think it's headed in the right direction.

David Yepsen, director of the institute, said it was telling that more people believe the state is headed in the wrong direction as opposed to the nation.

"That's pretty rare, usually they say the country is headed in the wrong direction, but look more favorably upon what their state is doing," he said. "This is a case where it's just the other way around. You take everything that's making people mad in general... and you add on top of that the corruption in this state — we have a richly deserved reputation for corruption in public office, and people are just disgusted with it."

Yepsen said future leaders must restore voter confidence in the credibility of the political system to settle growing voter dissatisfaction.

"We're going to have to have a governor who will say, 'I need to cut spending, and I need to raise revenue,' and have people trust him that the money is being wisely spent and not going to some political crony," he said. "Right now, people don't trust politicians to do that."

Ryan Voyles can be reached at rvoyle@dailyeagle.com or 536-3311 ext. 254.
William Ehling says deferred maintenance is the major casualty of the budget cuts for the Recreation Center.

Ehling, director of Recreational Sports and Services, said the center has replaced old equipment in recent years, but it is very selective in what equipment is replaced.

“We’re doing duct tape instead of fixing it the right way,” he said. “We’re buying temporary repairs in some cases instead of permanent repairs.”

Todd Blyson, assistant director of operations and facilities, said the center first determines what type of maintenance needs to be done and sometimes a temporary fix is more efficient than the cost of completely replacing some equipment.

In addition to maintenance, the Recreation Center had to cut back operating hours on weekends, Ehling said. He said the center is now open until 6 p.m. Saturdays instead of 10 p.m. and open at 1 p.m. Sundays instead of 5 p.m.

He said the hours were reduced at times when the center was not as busy and times it was not used much by students. However, he said the center did not want to lose the non-student members who used the facility at those times, he said.

“It was really delicate for us to figure out what we adopt without losing their favor and not serving them and then going somewhere else for their membership,” Ehling said. “We didn’t want to make an adjustment and lose revenue on the membership side.”

He said the reductions would save the center approximately $30,000.

Ehling said his main goal was to protect people who work at the center and services that directly affect those who use it.

At the university faced a $153 million shortfall coming into fiscal year 2011, Chancellor Rita Cheng said in an e-mail to university personnel Aug. 2 that she had asked each department on campus to submit plans for an average 4 percent reduction in its budget for the fiscal year. The SIU Board of Trustees approved this year’s budget Sept. 16, which listed the 4 percent cuts as saving $7.3 million.

Cheng also said at the State of the University address Sept. 30 she asked all non-academic units to cut an additional 1 percent from their budgets for the coming fiscal year.

Ehling said the center had already planned for the additional 1 percent cut.

He said two full-time pool-tending positions at Puhlman Pool, which total about $110,000, were formerly paid with state money. These positions are now paid by the Recreation Center’s other revenue sources, including student fees and non-student memberships, he said. One of those positions that is currently vacant, he said.

Ehling also said the center expected its expenses to increase by about $250,000 because of the two positions that were transferred from state budget lines, the decline in student fees from the enrollment decrease and increases in other expenses. To fill that gap, the center received a fee increase of $1.57 that generated approximately $50,000.

“The increase made up $110,000 from the two positions that were changed, saved $30,000 because of the reduced hours and $60,000 in other expenses such as office supplies and less equipment purchases,” Ehling said. He said the center was able to maintain all of its services, but it does not have much room to use reserve money.

“The get $500,000 worth of things that need to be fixed, but I have to maintain $1.5 million in reserves,” Ehling said. “So now we have to decide what we’re going to fix and how we’re going to fix it and perhaps the quality of some.”

Ehling said the center did not have to lay off anyone. It did have to decrease the hours for some student-worker positions but added positions at the Thompson Point Recreation Center, he said.

Ehling said the center has maintained the level of revenue coming from sources other than student fees so far this year and came into the school year prepared.

“I think the advanced planning has helped us keep from this affecting our service in a negative way, up to this point,” he said.

Larry Dietz, vice chancellor of student affairs, said there is a delicate balance when selling non-student memberships, but the Recreation Center has been able to use them to increase revenue without negatively affecting students who use the center.

He said equipment has to be replaced on a cyclical basis, but all current services will continue to be offered.

“People are going to see major portions of the fitness facility disappear out the door because of this,” Dietz said.

Ehling said the center works hard to minimize the noticeable effects of the budget cuts to people who use the center, and so far he feels pleased the cuts haven’t had a larger effect.

“Anything that we can do so that students are not hurt, we will try all those avenues so that when you do come in here you will say ‘You had budget cuts this year?’ I can’t do that,” he said. “That’s our goal.”

Jacob Mayer can be reached at jmayer@dailyEgyptian.com or 536-3311 ext. 259.
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Downtown in February.

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"Leadership is my hobby, I'm ready for a new challenge," he said.

He said he would like to see SIUC become an engine of economic development and to serve the state and region of Southern Illinois. He said he wants to build on the success already established by the students at SIUC.

"I've studied Southern Illinois University," he said. "It seems like a good fit, I want to listen to students and faculty and find out what are their goals and aspirations."

The position should be filled by the end of the semester, Chancellor Rita Cheng said yes.

Ryan Voyles contributed to this report.

Lauren Leone can be reached at leneone@dailyEgyptian.com or 536-3311 ext. 255.

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COUNCIL

continued

"I'm sure there will be people that intend to run for office in the upcoming election that would probably like to be appointed," Cole said. "If I were them, that's what I would do."

Jack resigned from City Council on Oct. 5. He had been trying to procure a liquor license for his restaurant Fat Patties for more than a year, he said.

"This is one of the most difficult decisions I've had to make in a long time, but I have a business to run," Cole said just before he stepped down.

Councilman Chris Wissmann said as now he's assured of anyone on whom he's concentrating in the seat, but he specifically is looking for someone who is going to be open-minded, willing to listen, capable of making an intelligent vote and making an intelligent argument.

"I would look for somebody who will ... not be any kind of grouch, not be grinning eyes or taking positions based on what other people have done. That, I think, is one of the most unimportant things to have on City Council," Wissmann said.

Cole said in October 2009, he sought legal counsel from the Illinois Municipal League in case anyone resigned from the council. Earlier this week he revisited that advice and said it would be the process he would use for this situation.

Provoast

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Hampton said he did not want to disclose or decide his specific goals at provost until the forum.

"That sort of thing should be discussed in front of a live audience," he said. "It doesn't make any sense to set my goals without meeting and speaking with people first. I don't really think it's sincere otherwise."

Hampton said during his time at TSU, he was a key component creating the university's academic 20 year master plan.

"If you don't know where you're going, any and whichever path will take you there," he said.

Hampton said his academic leadership experience qualifies him as provost.

"I want to make sure the resources are all there to support academic priorities and determine what we should stop doing," he said. "A university can not be all things for all people without some improvement."

Hampton was also a candidate for provost at University of Houston-Downtown in February.

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I would run for mayor in a heartbeat. I would stand on a soapbox and scream.

— Lance Jack
former city council chair member

"This is the process the city attorney suggested we follow, and that was actually an opinion that was received about a year ago," Cole said.

But Jack said he's worried about what the council might appoint for the position. He said it's clear some council members don't have any idea what it's like to live and work in Carbondale. Some of them don't even live in town, he said.

"There are some on the council that have no idea what it's like to live in Carbondale, to be a resident in Carbondale. Frankly, I have often been embarrassed to have some of these people representing Carbondale," Jack said.

Jack said running the city like a business would be a disaster, and if he had enough money to support Pat Patterson and run for mayor, he would.

"I would run for mayor in a heartbeat. I would stand on a soapbox and scream," he said.

Christian Spaskovsky can be reached at christian@dailyEgyptian.com or 536-3311 ext. 258.

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Examine college alcohol consumption

Chris Julian-Frักษlsh

As we observe National Collegiate Alcohol Awareness Week Oct. 17 to Oct. 23, I encourage students, faculty, staff and community members to pay attention to their perceptions. Our perceptions have power and influence how we see the world, including how we act within it. Often our thoughts and actions are based solely on our own experiences, expectations and perceived cultural norms. In the case of college students and alcohol use across the country and at SCU, it is common to overestimate how much and how often students drink. The Core Institute provides a recent survey measuring collegiate substance use behaviors and collects data reliably validating its estimation. For example, the survey of 2010 Core Institute survey of SCU students found that roughly 94 percent believe their peers drink once per week or more, while the actual figure is closer to 51 percent.

Why the discrepancy? Why does the perception far outweigh the reality? To explain how perceptions may work, I often use the example of being in a field of fireflies. At a distance, the entire field is made up of the light in the water in the lake, a fake plastic plant, blue rocks at the bottom and maybe even a little car. Maybe it is placed on a table near the window, which, outside of what we perceived, is a pond of light in the water. A whole diverse world thrives outside of our awareness of the fish. Now consider our own social networks, friends, acquaintances and peers. If we accept the idea that only a small percentage of adolescents or adults use alcohol moderately or not at all, then we should also suspect that the percentage of social drinkers among our peers might be higher than we perceive. The point is not that we can be blind to the ways in which others perceive things differently from ourselves. The point is that, by focusing on the ways we perceive things, we often miss what others are experiencing.

The world is made up of the light in the water in the lake, a fake plastic plant, blue rocks at the bottom and maybe even a little car. Maybe it is placed on a table near the window, which, outside of what we perceived, is a pond of light in the water. A whole diverse world thrives outside of our awareness of the fish. Now consider our own social networks, friends, acquaintances and peers. If we accept the idea that only a small percentage of adolescents or adults use alcohol moderately or not at all, then we should also suspect that the percentage of social drinkers among our peers might be higher than we perceive. The point is not that we can be blind to the ways in which others perceive things differently from ourselves. The point is that, by focusing on the ways we perceive things, we often miss what others are experiencing.

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Where fantasy meets reality

Story by: Sarah Schneider
Photos by: Jess Vermeulen

Witnessing his friends’ bodies strewn throughout an open field and claiming victory over the fallen is just a typical Sunday for 11-year-old Megan "Allura" Jarrett.

The triumph is only temporary, as the fallen fighters stand up, grab their foam weapons and battle again.

Anywhere from 10 to 30 members of the Carbondale-based fighting group "Blood One Horde" indulge their inner fighting personas twice a week at Evergreen Park, said McNelly, the group leader.

The game is Dagorhir, a nationwide live action role-playing game based on historical fantasy. Players make and wear their own historically-based gear, or clothing, and weapons.

McNelly said the goal of the game is simple: kill the opponent. He said the game is over once everyone on one side is dead.

"It depends on the scenario of the battle, but if you just have team A and team B, the goal is to kill your opponent before they kill you," McNelly said. "It is a war."

He said a player could be killed if they lose two limbs or are hit in the head.

"If you are unarmored and you get hit in the arm, you lose the use of that arm. If you get hit in the leg, you cannot kick and punch."

"We will do a simple C"VCT}body check when the fighting commences again," he said. "Most of the time, we are brothers and sisters."

The fighting units’ chant, "One Blood. One Horde. All Are Equal!", symbolizes the unity of the group.

"Blood One Horde functions like a village, essentially," he said. "We fight together, we party together. We are like a big family; we take care of each other."

Megan "Allura" Jarrett said her two sons, Aidan "Bacon" Jarrett, three, and Faolin Jarrett, three, will be raised by the battlefield.

"My kids will be running this field someday," she said as she laughed.

Aiden "Bacon" Jarrett, 3, fights with Matt "Ducky McFeelgood" Stains during Dagorhir practice Wednesday at Evergreen Park. Aidan's mother, Megan "Allura" Jarrett said Aiden has been coming to practices since he was a baby and he and his 3-week-old brother Facin will be raised by the battlefield. "My kids will be running this field someday," she said.

Friday, October 15, 2010
James said this game carries into her everyday life because she met most of her friends through Dagorhir.

"I love the fighting, I get into it, and I really do love it, but I would not be doing it if it weren't for the people," she said.

McNally said almost everyone in the fighting unit are good friends and hang out together often.

"Sometimes we go nailing into a Chinese restaurant with 20 of us wearing kiffs," he said. "We used to get some strange looks which the group is often seen as fun of, but they do not let it bother them.

"I have been out with my boyfriend before who wears his kilts on a regular basis and people yell obscenities at him, They think we are geeks, but they are in somebody's out with a friend digging them out.

Steven "Simon" Jones said people often watch them battle at the park with mixed reactions.

"We have had guys who come up and said we were weird, and others 10 years later they have more gear than I do, and they have this whole long persona written out and it started out with a friend dragging them out there to make fun of us," he said.

Jones said everyone in the group is required to come up with a fighting name. He said a biography and historical research for the alter-ego persona is optional because the group combines history and fantasy.

"Weapons are really simple to put together because they are just foam and PVC. You don't have to have garb right away," she said. "You just have to sign a waiver and then go out and start beating on people."

Sarah Schneider can be reached at schneider@dailyEgyptian.com or 536-3311 ext. 259.
Programs to Stretch Your Body & Mind! Next 6-week session starts Oct. 18!
Yoga PiYo
Swing Ballet
Karate Kung Fu
Self Defense Middle Eastern Dance
Sparring for Boxing Body Rolling
Register on-line at: www.reccenter.siu.edu or at the Admin. Office, upper level of the Rec., Monday-Thursday 7:30am-7:00pm Friday 7:30am-6:00pm or call 453-1277.

Candidates open up about higher education
RYAN VOYLES
Daily Egyptian
The governor candidates used their trip to Carbondale on Thursday to reinforce their support for higher education, though questions about how to support it still linger.

Gov. Pat Quinn, Republican Sen. Bill Brady and Green Party candidate Rick Whitney debated the state budget, job creation and other topics Thursday while the gubernatorial race was hosted by WSIU in Studio B in the Communications Building.
The two other candidates, Independent Scott Lee Cohen and Libertarian Lee Green, were not included in the debate.

Quinn stressed several times during the debate that he has been a proponent for higher education during his term as he mentioned the university’s construction projects, the Transportation Education Center being built at the Southern Illinois Airport in Murphysboro.

“It is very important to me to make schools and higher education accessible to our students, and to make sure it is done in a top-notch fashion,” Quinn said.

He said he has been a proponent of scholarship programs, to make sure as many students as possible get their education paid for.

Brady contested Quinn’s priorities and pointed out how Quinn’s fiscal year 2011 budget cut millions of dollars from higher education. Brady said he held the best interest for higher education.

“I understand the importance of higher education, as well,” said the ( Monetary Awards Program) and other supports for higher education,” Brady said.

Quinn said Brady’s proposed "ideal, severe cuts designed to total more than $1.2 billion and ultimately hurt Illinois. He said education remains the No. 1 issue in the race.

“I am a governor who has been able to maintain our investments in education despite our budget crisis,” he said. "We're not going to cut back on education."

Whitney, who states on his website he wants to "provide free higher education for all in-state residents who qualify academically," said it was a disgrace that Illinois and the country could not help students go to college.

"It is absolutely pathetic that in a wealthy state, the wealthiest country in the world, we can't do this," he said. "Instead, we're saddling students with $30,000 to $50,000 in debt just to get a higher education. We can do better than that."

It was a change of pace from previous debates as candidates discussed some of their plans for higher education, said John Jackson, a visiting professor at the Paul Simon Public Policy Institute. He said higher education has not come up as much in the past due to the lack of "clash" in statewide politics.

"We're eclipsed by kindergarten, through 12th grade and a great number of other service providers," he said. "Students also do not vote, so they don't have any interest. Although I believe (students) deserve some credit, they don't vote at all, so why would (candidates) pay attention to them?"

Jackson said the candidate to bring up education the most is Sheila Simon, Quinn's lieutenant governor candidate and a law professor at SIUC.

"She has a deep understanding of the university, and she has said in the past that she wants to take education as her special field," he said. "So she is the one who stands out as an exception to the rule that they haven't paid much attention."

David Yepsen, director of the institute, said advocates for higher education, like everybody who receives money from the state, is frustrated by the lack of answers they have received from the candidates.

"They may be the least of detail that they would like to see about what these candidates are going to cut, as well as how they are going to generate revenue," he said.
Ryan Voyles can be reached at rvoyles@dailyEgyptian.com or 536-3311 ext. 256.
Horoscopes
By Nancy Black and Stephanie Clement

Taurus (April 20 - May 20) - Today is a 9 - Theaurus sign up for anything that strikes your fancy. You may even choose to make a change in your daily routine.

Gemini (May 21 - June 21) - Today is a 9 - As you enjoy the day, try to keep your thoughts on positive and optimistic.

Cancer (June 22 - July 22) - Today is a 9 - Your creativity is at its peak. Use it wisely and you will see results.

Leo (July 23 - Aug. 22) - Today is a 9 - Someone is waiting for your attention. Give them the time they deserve.

Virgo (Aug. 23 - Sept. 22) - Today is a 9 - You are in a position of strength. Use it to your advantage.

Libra (Sept. 23 - Oct. 22) - Today is a 9 - Balance is key. Try to maintain a healthy balance in your life.

 Scorpio (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21) - Today is a 9 - A new opportunity is available to you. Take advantage of it.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21) - Today is a 9 - You are in a position of strength. Use it to your advantage.

Capricorn (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19) - Today is a 9 - Balance is key. Try to maintain a healthy balance in your life.

Aquarius (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18) - Today is a 9 - Someone is waiting for your attention. Give them the time they deserve.

Pisces (Feb. 19 - March 20) - Today is a 9 - You are in a position of strength. Use it to your advantage.
Volleyball

Freshman middle blocker Jessica Whitehead digs an Indiana State spike Oct. 8 at Davies Gymnasium. The Salukis take on Wichita State at 7 p.m. Friday in Wichita, Kan., and play Missouri State at 7 p.m. Saturday in Springfield, Mo.

SIU looks to keep streak alive

BRANDON LACHANCE
Daily Egyptian

After winning back-to-back Missouri Valley Conference games for the first time this season, the Salukis are ready to do the same thing against bigger, more physical teams, coach Brenda Winkler said.

SIU is in sixth place in the MVC with a 3-4 record, but could move up in the rankings with wins against No. 5 Wichita State on Friday and No. 4 Missouri State on Saturday.

SIU will be undersized in both matches because its teams have linemen with players who are 6 feet 3 inches and 6 feet 4 inches tall, Winkler said. The Salukis want to continue their winning streak after they beat Indiana State and Illinois State but will have to perform to the best of their abilities to do that, she said.

Winkler said senior middle blocker Jasmine Conner and junior defensive specialist Lauren Blumhorst played well against Indiana State.

"I said we needed a surprise, that surprise was Jasmine Conner having a career night. Saturday we needed a surprise, it was Lauren Blumhorst," Winkler said. "These next two matches, we need everybody on.

Conner said she thinks the team has what it takes to upset Missouri State once again. In 2009, SIU beat Missouri State for the first time since 2002. Because the two upcoming opponents are bigger, the Salukis may have to make a few changes in court position.

"They have some big outsiders and a big middle, so we might switch up some matchups," Conner said. "I think I might go against the bigger middle." Blumhorst played her first two matches Friday and Saturday after sitting out for six weeks due to a concussion she sustained during the second preseason match against Iowa. Watching from the sideline, she said the team has shown defensive and passing progress, but she said she is glad to be back to help the team.

The Salukis have to worry about themselves and not others in order to win, Blumhorst said.

"I think this weekend showed

Lauren Blumhorst junior defensive specialist progress by staying after it, going back to basics and just focusing on our side of the court and not the other team as much.

Blumhorst healthy is a positive for the team on the court and in the huddle, Winkler said.

"I was saying 'What do you have to say, Lauren?' because she always has something to say to pump the team up, so she finished him off the huddles," Winkler said. "Friday I was saying 'What do you have to say, Lauren?' because she always has something to say to pump the team up, so she finished him off the huddles."

Winkler said she thinks the girls recognize the momentum factor from the two wins could translate to the two matches.

The team hopes to build off the energy level against Wichita State and Missouri State, Blumhorst said.

SIU plays Wichita State at 7 p.m. Friday in Wichita, Kan., and Missouri State at 7 p.m. Saturday in Springfield, Mo.

Enemy

"Their defense is just very solid. They just don't make mistakes," Lemmen said.

Allard said the Jackrabbits' secondary may not always impress their opponents but is always in position.

"You can't feel them too much, so you've got to execute your 1, 2, 3 route because you're not going to get them out of position," he said.

Against Northern Iowa, Saluki quarterbacks ran 20 times for 80 yards and two touchdowns. Steigmeier said he wasn't surprised to see senior SIU quarterback Chris Dieter find success on the ground as well against Illinois State and Northern Iowa.

The South Dakota State game plan is designed to stop SIU's quarterback runs, an aspect of their game Steigmeier's team simply can't ignore, he said.

"When (Dieter) runs he doesn't own, he doesn't slide, he gets the extra yards," Steigmeier said.

With the conference wide open, the Salukis are treating every game, including their duel with the Jackrabbits Saturday, as a playoff matchup, Franklin said.

Since joining the Missouri Valley Conference in 2006, South Dakota State has beaten every conference team except SIU.

The Jackrabbits will try for the third time Saturday at Saluki Stadium during SIUs Family Weekend. Kickoff is scheduled for 2 p.m.

Nick Johnson can be reached at njohnson@dailyEgyptian.com or 536-311 ext. 256.

Letter

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

On his Twitter account Vaiuzo said he is not attending any other school and that he will be a Saluki in December.

Watson, a 6-foot-7-inch forward, who averaged 10.3 points and 7.7 rebounds per game in 2009 while playing for Trinity Valley Community College in Athens, Texas, could join the Salukis for the spring semester, but he must be enrolled first, Weber said.

"I'm excited to have a guy like that to share the court with," he said.
Salukis to battle 'Big Cats' as underdogs

RYAN SIMONIN
Daily Egyptian

The Salukis will suit up to battle some of the country's best Saturday as men's and women's swim teams of the University of Kentucky Wildcats and the University of Missouri Tigers at the Edward J. Shes Nataatorium in the Recreation Center.

Coach Rick Walker said hosting a tri-meet with Big Ten team and a Southeast Conference team is a great experience for SIU in preparation for the conference meet at the end of the season. "Our approach is going to be to try and maximize the areas that I think we can compete really well with," Walker said.

Assistant coach Scott Olson said the two teams have consistently ranked among the top 15 teams in the country. Olson said when the Salukis swam against the two teams in 2009, the results were closer than what was expected, as SIU men's team lost 172-132 to Kentucky and 144-90 to Missouri, and the women's team lost 153-86 to Missouri.

"To have the opportunity to race teams like them is always a positive experience. We are going to race them and we are going to take it to them," Olson said.

Junior swimmer Steve Wood said the meet would be the first of the season for both Kentucky and the Salukis. "We are going to race them and we are going to find ourselves in a bit of trouble," Wood said.

"We are going to be right up there with them throughout the whole meet, and if they don't show up to swim they are going to find themselves in a bit of trouble," Wood said.

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