Prospective students test fly during aviation day

MATT DARAY
Daily Egyptian

Future aviation students not only had a chance to tour the university’s aviation facilities, but they also took a flight of their own.

The university sponsored an aviation career day Saturday that brought 110 potential students to the facility to investigate what the university can offer. Chancellor Rita Cheng, along with aviation faculty and students, welcomed a plane full of students primarily from the Chicago area to tour the Department of Aviation Technologies.

Chicago flight crew members included aviation alumni who returned to the university that launched their careers.

David NewMyer, department chairperson and professor of aviation management and flight, said Aviation Day is part of the university’s partnership with United Airlines, which presently employs between 400-500 alumni.

“(United Airlines is) the home state airline, and we’re the home state public university with aviation since (the University of Illinois’ program) is closing,” he said. “It’s a natural partnership for us to work with them on developing future pilots, flight attendants, mechanics, managers that work at the airline.”

NewMyer said the day’s goal was to recruit students and allow them to see the university’s facilities for themselves. Having alumni present allows students to meet members of their future fields and ask job-related questions, he said.

“The flight crew, the cabin crew . . . and then the other United volunteers are almost all SIU graduates,” he said. “They’re coming back to visit where they went to school. They’re coming back to share their career experience with the kids.”

Alumnus and pilot Todd Mee said the day is important because it helps recruit students to a field that will be in high demand in the coming years as a large number of older pilots begin to retire.
About Us

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Mission Statement

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

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Faculty, staff celebrate new strategic plan

MATT DARAY
Daily Egyptian

Chancellor Rita Cheng formally introduced a new strategic plan during a reception Wednesday.

The university’s new strategic plan, called Pathways to Excellence, replaces the 10-year-old previous plan, Southern at 150: Building Excellence Through Commitment. The last strategic plan had many long-term goals, Cheng said, but recent changes and request for a new plan from the Higher Learning Commission caused the university to take a different direction.

Southern at 150 included goals such as recruiting 100 highly-qualified professors and reaching an enrollment of 25,000 students or more. Pathways to Excellence is focused more on student development and success. Several instructors agreed the new plan is what the university needs given the state’s economic issues.

To focus more on success, the university will improve student engagement, fostering a safer campus environment and boosting post-graduation success, according to the new plan. It also includes goals such as improving retention and completion rates, providing state-of-the-art facilities and improving flexibility and transparency in decision-making.

Cheng said the celebration was held to recognize the faculty’s labor and move the university ahead with a stronger student focus.

“We come together to recognize the hard work that resulted in our new strategic plan, to celebrate the many accomplishments and reaffirm our commitment to our students and to our society,” Cheng said.

Several staff members said the new strategic plan provided the university a great way to keep growing, and the celebration helped recognize the planning committee’s efforts.

Beth Mohlenbruck, Services Advancement executive director, said the plan is a point the university can move forward from.

“I think it’s always important to take time to celebrate and to recognize that, (in) the context of challenging times, we’re moving forward and that we are working for the betterment of the university and the community,” she said.

Mohlenbruck said the new plan is great for the direction the university needs to take in order to succeed. “She said it can’t be compared with the old plan because different factors such as more reliable income from the state.

Jim Carl, associate director of Undergraduate Admissions, said it is important to have a plan and be able to move forward as a university and accommodate for changes.

“It’s kind of a new start in the sense that (the administration has) a concrete plan that they thought through, and they’ve got something to move forward with,” he said.

“They’ve been working this one part of it over the last couple of years, but now they kind of got the whole thing together.”

Dafna Lemish, interim dean of College of Mass Communications, said she supports the new plan and the university should be proud of it.

“I think it’s really a true celebration because I think every organization, even in difficult times, needs something to look forward to, some goal, some horizon that you are working toward,” she said.

Lemish said the plan will provide more connection between the university and the community. "While some goals may take time to accomplish, she said, everything is achievable.

“This strategic plan is a goal you want to work towards,” she said. “Of course you want to get farther, want to get closer to it — (it) doesn’t mean you have or can achieve all the goals in the short run. But you want to have a vision.”

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Breezeway Beer

Joleta Brant, office administrator for the Department of Philosophy, hands out free beer Friday at the Paner Breezeway. Paner on the Breeze, an event that consisted of live music, ceramic and print sales, a bags tournament and free local craft beer, was sponsored by the College of Liberal Arts. "Keep your head down, scrape money and the way it looks, and you have to do something in order to bring people here (and) in order to bring revenue into the school,” he said.

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Sylvia Smith-Thoms, professor of animal science, food and nutrition, said Newby invited her to visit the career day with her family. "It’s an outstanding program and I think it’s a great representation of the university,” she said. “This is one of the programs that sets our university apart (and) makes us stand out.”

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Alexa Rogals | DAILY EGYPTIAN

AVIATION

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“I think it promotes not only United Airlines, but the aviation program that (SIU) built so strongly here throughout the years,” he said. “It’s produced many, many pilots that now fly with United and all the other airlines as well.”

Mee said it has been 20 years since he visited the campus, so it is exciting for him to see how things have changed. He said the program helped him become successful in his career and has only improved quality.

“I was the first intern from SIU to go to United Airlines, so I can vouch for the fact that the program started a long time ago and has got nothing but better and better throughout the years,” he said.

However, the day attracted more students and alumni. Individuals from out of state as well as professors from other university departments came to see the program.

Tennessee resident Brenda Thomas said she visited so her young grandson could get a closer look at the planes. She said she thought the opportunity was exciting because it allowed individuals to inspect the facilities and the planes.

FINANCES

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Rudick said funding has dropped since the protest era died out, which caused a student-debt increase and a lack of quality programs and instructors. Because of this, students select their careers based solely upon earning potential, he said, which limits the likelihood that students will become activists in fear that it might endanger their careers.

Students do not protest what they know to be problems, he said.

“Keep your head down, scrape together a living and hopefully you’ll be able to afford that little house with the white picket fence whenever you’re 60 years old,” Rudick said.

Rudolph, a sophomore from Country Club Hills studying psychology, said she focused her speech on tuition rates and student retention because students must actively work to improve their career, she said.

“The only way to make a change is to create it,” Rudolph said.

Coleman, a freshman from Du Quoin studying English education, said higher education funding is a big university issue. Tuition is often raised when students can barely afford it already, he said.

Students in attendance at the forum took the national issues the speakers addressed and applied them to their university experiences.

Gloria Pindi, a graduate student in speech communication from the Republic of Congo, said university fees alone are too expensive. Although graduate assistants get free tuition and a stipend, she thinks she just gives the stipend back to the university, she said.

Eric Dusouza, a senior from Chicago studying architecture, said while he agreed with many of the speaker’s opinions, he didn’t agree with complaints about the school spending too much on physical appearance.

“Obviously, the campus is lacking in money and the way it looks, and you have to do something in order to bring people here (and) in order to bring revenue into the school,” he said.

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Joseph Kosinski, the director of Tom Cruise’s newest sci-fi film “Oblivion,” certainly has no mercy for poor Earth dwellers.

In Kosinski’s story, aliens come to attack Earth in the year 2017. Cruise’s opening monologue tells viewers we won the war by launching nuclear weapons at the invaders, but Earth became uninhabitable. What remained of humanity now lies dormant in the Tet, a large space station rotating around Earth.

Cruise plays Jack Harper, one of the planet’s last few humans who oversees water extraction, as humans will need the resource when they move to the moon Titan. A few aliens, called Scavs, remain on Earth and interfere with the process. Jack has two weeks left of his job when he notices something isn’t quite right with a homing beacon the Scavs send to space. Before he knows it, his whole understanding of life changes.

There are talks of brain wipes, and that’s what watching “Oblivion” feels like. It feels like Kosinski wants brains to shut down from the overload of unexplained plotting thrown the audience’s way.

Kosinski proved himself visually with 2010’s “Tron: Legacy,” and he continues to let the world see his inspired designs with “Oblivion.” However, did Kosinski spend too much time making sure his film looks pretty rather than ensuring it makes sense?

Please see www.dailyegyptian.com for the rest of the story.
The Salukis’ 6-1 loss to Wichita State decided the fight for the top three Missouri Valley Conference tennis spots.

With two losses by Drake University (23-2, 5-0) and a win over the Shockers (15-7, 4-1, MVC), the Salukis (12-2, 3-2 MVC) could have been the No. 1 seed going into the MVC Team Championships. Despite the Shockers’ near sweep, sophomore Jorge Cavero said the match was closer than it looked.

“I don’t think the 6-1 in favor (of Wichita State) reflects the overall outcome,” he said. “We lost the doubles point really close. Me and Syzmon (Opieczonek) could have won at No. 3 and then Brandon (Florez) and Martijn (Admiraal) could have won at No. 1. I think getting that doubles point would have given us more confidence towards the singles matches.”

Only freshman Jonny Rigby won his singles matchup with a 6-4, 6-4 victory against Shocker sophomore Tomislav Gregusovic.

The win extends Rigby’s undefeated No. 4 spot play and makes six consecutive singles match wins before the start of conference tournament play.

Coach Dan Nelson said he is impressed with his freshman’s play.

“We lost the doubles point really close. I think the overall outcome was closer than it looked,” he said. “He (Rigby) is having a great season. I’m looking forward to seeing him play in the MVC.”

Rigby has not lost a singles match against any conference opponent this season and has seven wins in his last eight finishes doubles matches.

Senior Badr Cherradi, Rigby’s doubles partner, lost his singles match 6-3, 3-6, 6-0 against freshman Tan Onicic. It marks his second-straight singles loss against MVC opponents in the last two matches. He had no consecutive wins in singles before the start of the two-match slide.

Cherradi lost the doubles point for only the fifth time in his 17 matches this season. Rigby and Cherradi were the only partners to win their doubles match against the Shockers. The Shockers’ senior Matija Dien and Admiraal ended Rigby’s and Cherradi’s six-game doubles winning streak at 7-9.

For the rest of the story, visit www.dailyegyptian.com or page 4 at dailyegyptian.com.

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In singles action, the Shockers took all six matches. Delabat was bested at Flight No. 1 (6-2, 6-2) and freshman Julius Schiller defeated Tomishima (7-6(4), 6-1) at the No. 2 spot.

Simons fell at the No. 6 spot (6-4, 6-3) to conclude what was a disappointing senior day for the Salukis.

“We have our teams down doubles by as many as six points and come back,” Northwehr said. “Today we battled hard, but we just came up short in the end.”

Delabat finished her Saluki regular season career with a 68-37 record in singles play and 79-35 record in doubles. Delabat’s 79 career doubles wins ranks second in school history.

Simons finished out her career with a 40-35 singles record and 66-43 doubles record while Dien’s career record was 57-51 in singles and 67-41 in doubles.

Dien ranks fourth on the SIU all-time doubles list while Simons ranks fifth in doubles wins, respectively.

The Salukis will travel to Wichita, Kan., for the MVC Championships. SIU will be the No. 2 seed behind No. 1 seed Wichita State. Final seeding will be released later in the week.

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**WOMEN’S TENNIS**

**Salukis lose fight for top seed**

**TERRANCE PEACOCK**

Daily Egyptian

On a day when three seniors bid farewell to a large home crowd, the women’s tennis team fell to Wichita State on Sunday to record their first conference loss of the season.

The Salukis (17-4, 6-1 Missouri Valley Conference) swept Creighton Saturday 7-0 at home before they lost to Wichita State 7-0 on Senior Day to wrap up the regular season second in the conference.

SIU showed their doubles dominance by winning all three matches against Creighton to take the doubles point.

Juniors Korey Love and Anista Lee picked up their 14th consecutive win 8-5 against Creighton counterparts junior Analese Snyder and freshman Karlin Naslund to carry the Salukis in doubles action. Saluki senior Jennifer Dien and sophomore Natasha Tomishima won 8-5 at the No. 2 spot while seniors Melanie Dehart and Anastacia Simons continued their impressive year winning 8-5 at the No. 1 spot.

The Salukis saw much of the same in singles play as the Bluejays failed to pick up a match against SIU.

Dehart improved her record to 5-1 in MVC play and 20-10 overall after beating sophomore Jesse Harkis (6-0, 6-3) at flight No. 1. Tomishima continued the Salukis winning ways besting her counterpart (6-2, 6-1) at the No. 2 spot.

Sophomore Ariadne Cairo Bata won her fourth match of conference play after defeating Creighton’s sophomore Liz Vemlinim (6-1, 6-1) and Simons won (7-6, 6-0) at the No. 6 slot for the Salukis.

After Saturday’s sweep, coach Andrea Nothwrth said her team was set to face Wichita State on Sunday, a match that would determine the regular season conference champion.

“We play well at home and we play well when we are playing a good team,” Nothwrth said. “We always rise to the occasion with those two factors, and I know we will come out and give it our best.”

Wichita State (12-10, 7-0 MVC) beat the Bluejays 7-0 Sunday to conclude the MVC regular season championship.

“We needed to be a bit more consistent in our games,” Nothwrth said. “I think we just came out a little nervous today.”

Although the Salukis failed to pick up a win in doubles play, SIU battled the Shockers, but fell short in each match.

Tomishima and Dien lost in a tiebreaker to Wichita State’s freshman Rebecca Pelouski and junior Carlos Venturina 8-7 (1), while Love and Lee fell 8-6 at the No. 3 spot.

Dehart and Simons were defeated 9-7 at the No. 1 spot to sophomore Lucia Kovarova and junior Veronika Blaskova. The loss drops the duo’s record to 28-6 overall.

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**BASEBALL**

**Stranded runners runners Salukis’ weekend**

**JACK ROBINSON**

Daily Egyptian

In a three-game series against Creighton University, the Salukis stranded 29 runners on base and allowed 18 runs to drop a three-game conference series during the weekend.

The Salukis traveled to Omaha, Nebraska, to face the Bluejays. Creighton’s sweep gives the Salukis a 18-21 record after the weekend series.

Senior pitcher Cody Forsythe received the Friday start against CU freshman pitcher Tommy Strunc. Forsythe struck out three batters, allowed one run in six innings and received the loss to move to 1-3 on the season. Strunc pitched eight innings, allowed one run and withstood eight batters to win his fifth game of the year.

Creighton grabbed the game’s first run in the bottom of the second inning, when sophomore catcher Kevin Lamb hit a single to left field to score sophomore infielder Landon Lucansky.

The Bluejays continued pouring in the offense into the bottom of the third inning when sophomore relief pitcher and second baseman Jake Peter and junior infielder Federico Castagnini scored as senior infielder Alex Stachel hit a home run to left field to take a 3-0 lead.

The Salukis attempted a rally in the top of the ninth inning, but they fell just one run short of tying the game.

All three runs came from senior outfielder Austin Montgomery, who hit a three-run home run to left field with senior outfielder Renato Triggio and junior catcher Matt Jones on base.

The Salukis threatened to score more runs, but Pitcher Stu Caldwell started the rally after he forced junior infielder Cody Daily to hit the game-ending pop up.

Head coach Ken Henderson said SIU’s offensive effort must drastically improve.

“We had bad approaches at the plate,” he said. “We tried to do too much for the first time in about three weeks, and we just didn’t take good swings. (Strunc) did a good job, but we didn’t do a good job making adjustments at the plate.”

Junior pitcher Derek Fogel started Saturday’s game against CU senior pitcher Nick Musec. Fogel allowed five runs off of eight hits and struck out one batter in four innings and earned his second loss of the year.

Musec won his first game of the season as he struck out five batters and allowed two runs in five innings.

Henderson said Fogel pitched well throughout the game, but the junior pitcher needs to keep calm during the earlier innings.

“He was OK, once he settled in,” he said. “Both times we scored, he went back out and gave up runs. That’s when you need zeros, but after a rocky start, I feel like he kept us in the game.”

Junior infielder Jake Welch scored the game’s first run in the top of the first inning when he reached first base after a single up the middle. Welch scored after Montgomery singled to the left side to take a 1-0 lead over the Bluejays.

Creighton didn’t wait to respond to the Salukis’ first run, as the Bluejays scored three runs in the bottom of the second inning after Castagnini and junior outfielder Mike Gerber all scored to lead 3-1. The Bluejays added another run in the bottom of the second inning when junior catcher Jerry Mitchell scored off of Castagnini’s sacrifice fly to right field.

Welch added two more Saluki runs in the top of the fifth and seventh innings, but SIU lost the game 5-3 and moved to 18-20 on the season.

Sunday’s final matchup was featured on ESPNU, a brand of ESPN directed toward college athletics. The Salukis’ struggles continued into Sunday’s game as they lost 9-1 to move to 2-10 in conference play.

Sophomore pitcher Sam Coonrod threw against CU freshman pitcher Austin Goosh. Coonrod lasted just two innings and allowed four runs on six hits to earn his third loss of the season. Goosh struck out two batters and allowed one run in three innings.

For the rest of the story, visit www.dailyegyptian.com