

Southern Illinois University Carbondale

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CAMPUS

Honors class creates projects to unite university, community

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A&E

'It's Just College' revamps theater program

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SPORTS

Women's golf prepares for MVC Championship

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Banjo and bass benefit



JESS VERMEULEN | DAILY EGYPTIAN

Tom Walquist picks at the banjo strings while his wife, Sheryl, plays the bass Monday in their Vienna home. "Playing music is a relaxation for us," Sheryl said. "It gives us something else to think about." The Walquists are two members of the six man bluegrass and folk music band, Poor Fara Road. The band will be performing during a benefit concert this Saturday

in the Educational Center at Shawnee Community College in Ullin. According to Sheryl, all benefits will go to Ruth Ann and Marc Levinson. Marc is suffering from ALS, also known as Lou Gehrig's Disease, a progressive neurodegenerative disease that affects nerve cells in the brain and spinal cord. All proceeds from the concert will go to the Levinson family.

Senate redistricting committee hears portion of southern Illinois

LINDSEY SMITH
Daily Egyptian

Sometimes one is better than two. Richard Grigsby said Thursday.

Illinois will redraw its legislative districts in this General Assembly. Grigsby, president of the NAACP Alexander-Pulaski County branch, was among those who testified Thursday at a hearing in the Student Center hosted by the Illinois Senate Redistricting Committee. The event was held in an effort to allow locals to voice their concerns, said Sen. Dave Koehler, a member of the committee.

About 10 people were in attendance. Grigsby said his major concern is the possibility that his district could be separated. The removal of Alexander County from its current district, which includes Pulaski County, has been considered, he said.

"It would disrupt services, having to deal with two representatives," Grigsby said. "If you got a problem affecting both counties, you have to deal with two different representatives to try to get it resolved. It's difficult enough to deal with one."

Koehler, D-Peoria, said the commit-



ISAAC SMITH | DAILY EGYPTIAN

David Yepson, director of Paul Simon Public Policy Institute, speaks with the Illinois Senate Redistricting Committee during Thursday's public hearing on the future rezoning of congressional and state legislative

districts. Thursday's event was part of a series of public forums throughout the state, giving the community an opportunity to ask questions and express concerns about the redistricting.

their boundaries." Koehler said the redistricting would be interesting because the state must drop from 19 congressional districts to 18. Chicago would also have redistricting issues because of population laws in the inner city and population growth in suburban areas, he said.

Please see REDISTRICTING | 4

Friday Night Fair celebrates downtown

KAYLA KEARNS
Daily Egyptian

In the '60s and '70s, downtown Carbondale was packed with bars and restaurants and it thrived, Elaine Ramseyer said.

Back then, students could go up one side of the street, down the other and hear a dozen bands, restaurants doubled as bars at night, and venues such as the SIU Arena and Shryock Auditorium hosted national touring acts, said Ramseyer, general manager of Longbranch Coffeehouse.

"Most bands, after they were done playing their shows, would end up on the Strip playing with the local bands," Ramseyer said. "The music scene was just cooking."

But this is not the case now, she said.

With the installation of big business chains on the east side of town, empty storefronts have been left behind in the formerly populated downtown. Wal-Mart, T.J. Maxx, Chili's and Subway have opened east side locations, while local businesses on the Strip such as Corner Diner, Booby's and Melange have closed.

From 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. today at the City Pavilion, Carbondale Main Street and the Community Fair Coalition will host the first Carbondale Community Friday Night Fair, a weekly event with live music, local business vendors and local farmers. The Park District will offer an area where children are able to play and interact with one another.

Meghan Cole, director of Carbondale Main Street, said her group and other businesses are now working together on the Friday Night Fair to bring traffic back to downtown. The first event was purposefully scheduled for Earth Day in an effort to emphasize the fair's involvement in the green movement.

Cole said the fair is open to anybody who wants to come out and enjoy themselves.

Ramseyer said the coalition was inspired by the downtown events in Paducah, Ky., and the group thought Carbondale could have an event just as popular on a Friday. The fair will primarily work toward building the community, she said. Cole said another perk will be the live music scene provided by David Allen, Hanger 9's booking agent.

Ramseyer said the current global economic environment has forced towns to focus more on their sustainability, which is an aspect the fair will highlight.

Cole said the fair has the potential to draw in all parts of the community in green ways by creating a walking community where residents purchase local products. She said times have changed and Carbondale residents are ready for a family friendly entertainment environment, and the fair has the potential to be an anchor for it.

"The fact that you can see live entertainment for free without having to be in a bar is very important to moms and dads in Carbondale," Cole said. "One of our committee members said she remembers going to the boat regatta with her children and people were doing beer bong next to her children. She said, 'That's just how it was then.' And it's not like that anymore."

Please see FAIR | 4

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The DAILY EGYPTIAN is published by the students of Southern Illinois University Carbondale 50 weeks per year, with an average daily circulation of 20,000. Fall and spring semester editions run Monday through Friday. Summer editions run Tuesday through Thursday. All intercession editions will run on Wednesdays. Spring break and Thanksgiving editions are distributed on Mondays of the pertaining weeks. Free copies are distributed in the Carbondale, Murphysboro and Cartersville communities. The DAILY EGYPTIAN online publication can be found at www.dailyegyptian.com.

Mission Statement

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

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Correction

In the Thursday edition of the DAILY EGYPTIAN, the photo for the story "Aces and Sahki winning streak in doubleheader" junior shortstop Haley Gorman was incorrectly identified as senior pitcher Alex Peters, and freshman utility player Kelsea Ashton was also wrongfully identified as a catcher. The DAILY EGYPTIAN regrets the errors.

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Dr. Theodore Weeks; Professor of
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THURSDAY APRIL 28TH

Names Reading
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FRIDAY APRIL 29TH

Memorial Service
Student Center: Auditorium 6pm.

Class gives back to community

SARAH SCHNEIDER
Daily Egyptian

Roudy Hildreth said students in his honors class have developed projects to unite the university and the Carbondale community.

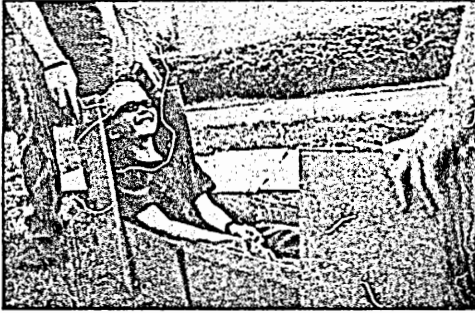
Hildreth, an assistant professor in political science, said the students in his class, Education for Democratic Citizenship: Theory and Practice, have been working on projects called Public Achievements, which address the problems they see in society for the entire semester.

Hildreth said all of the groups unintentionally focused on children, and the projects are not necessarily helping the campus but rather the residents of Carbondale.

"That is one of my ulterior motives to the course," he said. "This creates another vehicle for positive interaction between university and community. I know there are many initiatives going on throughout campus, but this is just adding one more thing."

The only requirements for the public service projects are that they are legal, non-violent and have positive effects on someone or something outside of the class. He said the class was split into three groups and after many discussions, they decided the issues they would separately focus on would be nutrition, arts and literacy.

Lauren Connor, a junior



STEVE BERCZYNSKI | DAILY EGYPTIAN

Gabe Swayze, 10, of Carbondale, sits in the beginning stages of his cardboard boat Thursday at the Boys and Girls Club of Carbondale. The event was part of Students Fostering Arts in Students, where groups from SIUC participate with kids in various activities such as building boats for the Cardboard Boat Regatta held April 30.

from Elmhurst studying musical theater, said her group decided to focus on the lack of money for art programs in public schools across Illinois. Her group held workshops called Students Fostering Arts in Students this week at the Boys and Girls Club of Carbondale.

She said different workshops taught acting, voice, poetry and visual arts to raise awareness of the need for arts education in Carbondale.

"In Carbondale I found that exposure to the arts is low. They have funding, but the community exposure is not as much as it used to be," Connor said. "We are presenting a chance to not

necessarily expose the students to the arts, but nurture the arts more so in them. Arts are so important because they foster creativity, and appreciating art is a way to understand life."

Connor said the most difficult part of the project was contacting people and scheduling the workshops. She said on the final day of the workshop, the group will invite members of the community and public officials to watch the students perform what they have learned.

"This would bring awareness to the issue of art funding for the community," Connor said.

"We are trying to make this garden last longer than we are here. We don't want it to die after this class is done."

—Rashmi Bhat, freshman studying business economics

Hildreth said he let the students stumble and learn how to go on when they hit roadblocks so they could learn how to think on their own.

"I tried to help them strategize and help them, but I let them make mistakes," he said.

Rashmi Bhat, a freshman from Mumbai, India, studying business economics, said her group is building an edible garden for the SIUC Child Development Laboratory at Quigley Hall. She said her group is creating the garden to promote the idea of healthy, nutritional food for preschool and elementary students as part of the children's course material.

Her group began its project with the idea of going to local elementary school cafeterias to discuss healthy eating, Bhat said. She said her group also contacted an SIUC professor who designs course outlines to advise them how to teach the children about health, she said.

Bhat said she wants the garden to continue even after the project is over.

"We are trying to make this

garden last longer than we are here," she said. "We don't want it to die after this class is done."

Bhat said the group will plant the garden Saturday with the children, their parents and members of the Childhood Development Laboratory.

Hildreth said the third group focused on literacy in the Carbondale area. He said while the group is not necessarily doing a hands-on project, it is working with teachers to help secure resources and grants and publicize the importance of literacy.

Connor said while her group's project was designed to benefit people besides the students in the class, it gave her a great opportunity to interact with the community and step off campus.

"There is kind of an uneasy relationship between college students and the Carbondale community," Connor said. "I really wanted to dive into that and see what is beyond campus."

Sarah Schneider can be reached at schneider@dailyegyptian.com or 536-3311 ext. 255.

AUDITION COLOR GUARD

The Color Guard of the SIUC Marching Salukis provides pageantry and excitement to every performance in the fall. Members receive class credit and a Tuition Reimbursement waiver.

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Sustainability top priority for Earth Day

BRANDON COLEMAN
Daily Egyptian

Southern Illinois University Carbondale is on track to be a more sustainable and environmentally friendly campus because of Eco Dawgs' efforts, William Surphin said.

"With any major improvement to the school, generally people are wary of change unless you prove that it will be beneficial, positive things will come from it and that the support is there," said Surphin, a graduate student in geography and political science from Hanover Park.

Eco Dawgs, an environmental Registered Student Organization currently headed by Surphin, raised support from students for a cleaner, more energy-efficient university. Students petitioned Undergraduate Student Government and the SIUC Board of Trustees to create the Sustainability Council and the Green Fee in 2009. The council oversees the fee, which is \$10 per semester and pays for campus improvements that help the environment and save money.

Twelve sustainability projects were supported this semester, which brought the total number of projects to 37 since the fee was first implemented. Projects include money for the construction of a wind turbine near Pleasant Hill Road, converting canola oil into biodiesel and food stock, and the installation of filtered

water hydration stations across campus. The projects cost \$486,800 combined.

Two hydration stations were installed, one on the first floor of the Student Center and one on the first floor of the Recreation Center, said Kimberly Eisenbrock, a senior from Kingston studying plant biology.

Eisenbrock and her project partner Makayla Trotter, a senior from Macomb studying geography and environmental resources, worked for four months to implement the hydration station project, which promotes reusable water bottle use on campus instead of buying bottled water.

Eisenbrock and her partner's concept for the project developed from their desire to educate people about tap water cleanliness and the reduction use of disposable plastic bottles that litter landfills, she said. Some plastic disposable bottles that are sealed can be recycled, while plastic No. 3 bottles can't, she said.

"The numbers that can technically be recycled in southern Illinois actually can't be because of the thickness of the plastic and the temperature that it needs to be heated up (at) to homogenize the plastic," Eisenbrock said.

A pyramid constructed by the Rotaract Club RSO to collect No. 1 and No. 2 plastics was placed in front of Morris Library, said Kylie Corry, a senior from Macomb studying biological sciences and secretary of the Rotaract Club. She

said the pyramid, which has been in front of the library since Tuesday, was made as an Earth Day project.

Other Earth Day events include live music by the Black Fortys on the west patio at the Student Center, a presentation on tap water and plastic bottle waste, planting of an herb garden that will be used by dining services at the Student Center, and a documentary on the disappearance of the American Bison.

Surphin said he and 10 other members of Eco Dawgs recently returned from Power Shift, a conference to share grassroots sustainability ideas in Washington, D.C. He said the group discussed more sustainability ideas to implement Thursday.

Eco Dawgs will bring its ideas to the administration to determine how to help slow down increasing tuition and fees, as well as save some of the university's money, Surphin said.

There were 18 projects submitted to the Sustainability Council requesting Green Fee money, said Ryan Klopf, chairman of the Sustainability Council. Projects range from diversifying the vegetation in Thompson Woods with more native plants, graduate research opportunities in solar energy and expansion of locally grown foods to be used in the dining halls, he said.

"One project, which will automatically get 50 percent of our revenue because it's a commitment we made for



STEVE BERCZYNSKI | DAILY EGYPTIAN

Gabe Swayze, 10, of Carbondale, sits in the beginning stages of his cardboard boat Thursday at the Boys and Girls Club of Carbondale. The event was part of Students Fostering Art's and Student's, where groups from SIUC participate with kids in various activities such as building boats for the Cardboard Boat Regatta held April 30.

five years, will go to support the wind-power project," Klopf said.

Money for the wind turbine, which would account for three to four percent of the university's energy output, will come from outside sources such as grants and donors, he said. Klopf said the Sustainability Council has seven more semesters dedicated to supplying money for the wind turbine.

The most successful sustainability project to save on energy, increase efficiency or reduce waste this semester will be

announced at the end of the semester, said Paul Restivo, director of the Center for Environmental Health and Safety. Students or faculty with the most successful project will receive the first-ever Green Fund Project of the Year award on a plaque made of sustainable materials, Klopf said.

Students from SIUC will also take part in the Beautify Southern Illinois project on April 30. Participants will plant trees and clean up streets in cities such as Alto Pass, Steeleville, Murphysboro and Carbondale, Restivo said.

FAIR

CONTINUED FROM 1

Kathy Renfro, director of the Carbondale Park District, said her team will assist by coordinating the family area. The district acts as the primary provider for recreational activities in town, and Renfro said she hopes the fair will serve to improve the community environment.

"Whenever you are in a community where you see people outside playing and interacting with each other it communicates a healthy community," Renfro said. "It's at the very core of healthy relationship building."

Past events held downtown, such as the Lights Fantastic Parade, have drawn in more than 10,000 people and were sponsored by multiple groups such as the Carbondale Park District, Carbondale Community Arts, City of Carbondale and Carbondale Main Street.

Different venues have tried a variety of approaches to re-establish the current downtown district, Ramseyer said. She said she was not sure what caused the downtown decline, but said significant changes have taken place. It may have something to do with increasingly strict liquor control laws, she said.

"Why don't we have more college bars like any normal college town?" Ramseyer

said. "Then (we should) have restaurants, shops and some antique stores to bring the life of the city back. We're doing our thing here (at Longbranch) and I'm hoping that it's rippling out down the Strip."

The fair will run every Friday until Oct. 28, with the exceptions of Friday and Sept. 23.

For more information, contact Main Street at 529-8040 or visit www.carbondalemainstreet.com. Craft vendors with questions are encouraged to contact Renfro at info@cpk.org.

Kayla Kearns can be reached at kkearns@dailyegyptian.com or 536-3311 ext. 265.

REDISTRICTING

CONTINUED FROM 1

Grigsby said the split of Alexander and Pulaski counties would hinder his ability to serve those he represents, a group that would not be represented well if separated.

Once a district map is drawn, additional hearings will be held so people can react, Koehler said.

The Illinois House Redistricting Committee has not scheduled redistricting hearings in the southern third of the state, according to Illinois Public Media News.

Issac Smith contributed to this report.

Lindsey Smith can be reached at lsmith@dailyegyptian.com or 536-3311 ext. 265.



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Voices

Friday, April 22, 2011 • 5

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EDITORIAL CARTOON



GUEST COLUMN

Chancellor Cheng's vision isn't seen

ROBBIE LIEBERMAN
Professor and Chair,
department of history

There was more spirit at the protest outside the chancellor's installation ceremony last Friday than there was inside. Why? Many of us — students, faculty and staff — have a vision of education that seems to differ from Chancellor Rita Cheng's, and we have related concerns about shared governance. Our protest is not "anti-administration" or "against change," nor are we "unwilling to sacrifice." Rather, we are deeply concerned about the direction in which this campus is going.

In the past bargaining between

unions and administrators at SIUC led to mutually agreed-upon contracts. This time, it led to offers being imposed upon four campus unions. The chancellor was determined to take "four days" of pay from everyone, even if it meant not coming to agreement on workload, health benefits and a host of other important issues raised by the various unions.

If anyone thinks this was about shared sacrifice rather than unquestioned power for the administration, please think again. For example, there is new language in the contract imposed on the faculty which gives the chancellor the "flexibility" to fire tenured faculty. Why does the

chancellor need the flexibility to fire any professor at anytime for any reason? This renders meaningless the concept of tenure.

Tenure is what enables faculty to have academic freedom, and academic freedom is what makes universities places where exciting and creative teaching and research occur. If we all had to constantly worry that something we say might challenge conventional wisdom — as was the case during the World War I years and again during the McCarthy Era — how would we be able to teach, our students critical thinking and employ it in our research?

I want students to come to SIUC for a lively and engaged,

high-quality education. As far as I know, that goal is shared by all of the campus unions seeking fair contracts. I also want to keep SIUC accessible to a diverse population. I want to be proud of being a Saluki.

But the administration's view is increasingly one about quantifying performance, gathering endless amounts of data to ascertain which department, faculty member, student or staff member measures up to expectations. These expectations, in turn, are defined in terms of quantifiable data — how long it takes a student to get a degree, how many students enroll in a course or program, how many

students get a D or F or W in a course, how many research dollars a faculty member or department brings in, and so on. Where in all this is the quality of the teacher-student relationship to be found?

The chancellor touts distance education as one "answer" to our enrollment problems, but we have not been given a clear picture of what the problem or question even is. My fear is that this all adds up to asking students to pay more and more for a lower-quality education.

That is why the spirit was outside the installation, where concerns about excellence (quality education) and labor (fair contracts) came together.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Befriending Chancellor Cheng has its perks

DEAR EDITOR:

I am a member of the search committee for a dean in the College of Engineering. There are about 28 people on that committee representing constituencies in the various engineering departments, civil service staff, administration and the campus. We went through a rigorous search and eventually selected five qualified people for campus interviews. Professor Lizette Chevalier was not among them and there were good reasons.

In the democratic judgment of the committee (expressed by a heavy

vote), Chevalier is not even qualified for the position. She didn't make the first cut. The search committee was informed Wednesday morning that Chevalier was added, by decree of Chancellor Rita Cheng, to the list of candidates who will be given an on-campus interview.

This has not been greeted with applause by the search committee. Chevalier is, I am sure, a good person, but her application was given a thorough consideration by a broad cross-section of people. Even if she were the only candidate, she is not qualified. There are a number

of highly qualified candidates in the pool. The chancellor did not explain her unilateral action, which violates the administration's own protocol and is, at best, one more piece of evidence that this chancellor has contempt rather than respect for the judgment of faculty and staff at this university.

I might also mention that Chevalier is among the very small group of people the chancellor actually talks to. Good leaders do not seek to surround themselves with compliant subordinates and advisers. The doubts expressed by

former Provost Gary Minish, when interviewed by the Faculty Senate Executive Committee, should be recalled.

Who will be the dean of the College of Engineering? It would appear, at this point, that being among the tiny circle of the chancellor's sycophants is the principal qualification.

But there remains an honorable and practical course of action. In terms of honor, Chevalier can still withdraw from the search — out of respect for her colleagues' judgment and understanding that there may come a time when her colleagues will

yet make her their dean. Practically, she might consider how easy it will be to govern a group of people who have resoundingly rejected her offer to lead them. I don't know about her, but I would think twice about attempting to lead people who do not believe I am fit to do it. And, as if that were not enough to give me pause, I believe I would at least ask myself what were my true motives in wanting to be the leader of those who don't want me as one.

Randall Auxier
Professor of philosophy

Submissions

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"We're just devastated here, but he lived for this. ... It's what gave him life, and it's what took it away from" him.

Graydon Carter
editor of Vanity Fair, mourning the death, in Libya, of war photographer and documentary producer Tim Hetherington. Chris Hondros, an American photographer, was also killed.

"We sold every one that we could make."

Tim Cook
Apple's chief operating officer, commenting on lower-than-expected sales of the iPad during the first quarter.

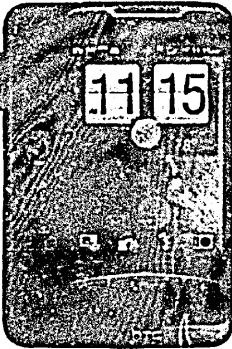
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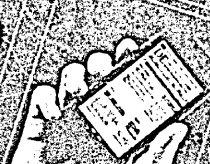
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'It's Just College' more than typical theater experience

BRENDAN SMITH
Daily Egyptian

Kareem Mohamed says "It's Just College" marks a new chapter in SIUC theater.

Mohamed, a graduate student in medical education preparation from Pittsburgh, is one of three writers behind "It's Just College," a live soap opera directed, written and produced by students and members of OOPS! Entertainment, a Registered Student Organization for theater and production.

Despite his major, Mohamed said he has had on-stage experience, namely a starring role in the fall production of "Alchemy of Desire/Dead Man's Blues." He said the experience allowed him to approach theater with a modern perspective.

"A lot of us are used to very conventional Shakespearean forms of theater, which isn't bad," Mohamed said. "But we wanted to bring something fresh and live to the stage — like 'The Game' or 'Gossip Girl' but with an SIU twist to it."

While Mohamed was developing his vision for a modern theatrical production, Simone Biles said she was in the process of writing hers.

Biles, a junior from Country Club Hills studying theater, met Mohamed through "Alchemy of Desire/Dead Man's Blues." She said the production laid the foundation for their partnership.

"I had been working on my script for two years," Biles said. "Kareem had been in the process of writing his at the same time, so we had two entirely different scripts. So we had an 11-hour writing session where we meshed our two ideas together."

She said the result was "It's Just College," a production involving more than 30 characters. It is the first installment in what the writers hope to be a theatrical series.

Mohamed said the play was written with the mindset of addressing various issues college students face, including relationships, financial struggles, academics and Greek life.

Jonquil Curry, a junior from Chicago studying radio-television, plays Jennifer, a student whose college



EDYTA BŁASZCZYK | DAILY EGYPTIAN

Kevin Clark "O'Malley," left, and Joe Henigan "J-Rock," right, tell their new roommate, Tim Orr "Isaac" about the rubber band rule, among other dorm room regulations, after moving in while rehearsing "Fresh Meat" for the play "It's Just College" Wednesday at the Christian H. Moe Theater. The play is produced by OOPS! Entertainment and will be performed at 6:30 p.m. today and 2 p.m. Sunday in the Student Center Auditorium. Admission is \$8, and profits will go to the production group.

life changes after she becomes pregnant.

"This play doesn't sugarcoat anything," Curry said. "Since it's done by college students, it's as real as it gets. It's modern, so you don't have to put a twist on it to make it appeal to the audience."

Although the play is a student production, Biles said the cast has received a lot of support from faculty and staff.

She said Beverly Love, an assistant professor in radio-television; Tom Kidd, an assistant professor in theater; Jennifer Holcombe, a lecturer in theater; and Susan Patrick Benson, an assistant professor in theater, all lent their expertise in advising the cast members, most of whom are non-actors.

Stacey Emerson, a junior from Country Club Hills studying exercise science, is one of the many cast members making her acting debut in "It's Just College." She said the experience has led her to take acting more seriously in the future.

"The directors of the play have been really open to any ideas we have,

and we've been able to tweak certain scenes based on them," Emerson said. "A lot of times me and my friends will go bowling or play sports or go to the movies, but it's not often that you hear people say, 'We're going to a play! I think this will change that.'"

Mohamed said aside from the ability to present something new in theater, he's most proud of the cast.

He said people underestimate the amount of raw, undiscovered talent on campus, himself included. He said he hopes "It's Just College" can give students an outlet for their creativity and a chance to share their story.

"From each monologue you're going to see the different struggles in each character," Mohamed said. "That's what I wanted to get across to the audience: that everyone struggles with something, and everyone in college has a story. Through this play we'll be able to show everyone's story."

Brendan Smith can be reached at bsmith@dailyegyptian.com or 536-3311 ext. 273.

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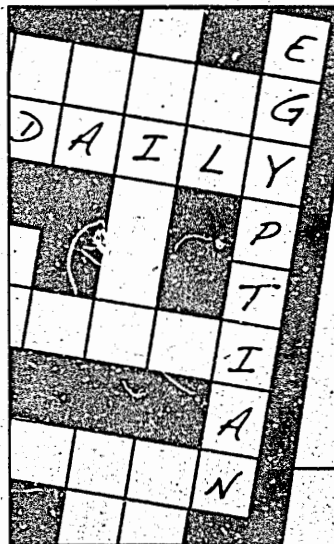
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BASEBALL

CONTINUED FROM 12

Senior right fielder Trevor Adams, the MVC Player of the Week, leads the Bluejays at the plate with his .397 batting average and .771 slugging percentage. Adams also leads the conference with 10 home runs.

To add to the player of the week nominations, Bluejay closer Kurt Spomer was awarded as the MVC Pitcher of the Week, as he has limited opposing conference hitters to a .111 batting average and a 0.00 ERA.

As the Salukis take on Spomer and two other undefeated Bluejay starting pitchers, freshman shortstop Jake Welch said they're going to have their hands full as they enter their third conference series of the season.

Welch, who has five RBIs in his previous six

games, said he has seen offensive help from his teammates. Svendsen has five home runs in the previous 10 games, and he ranks second in the conference behind Adams. Sophomore second baseman Brock Harding has hit .375 in conference games this year, and sophomore first baseman Wes Neece is currently on a nine-game hitting streak.

"They definitely have some good pitchers that are going to make you work at the plate," Welch said.

The Salukis will play a doubleheader Saturday with the first game starting at 6:30 p.m. The series will continue with the second game at 2 p.m. and the third will start at 1 p.m. Sunday.

This will be the first series at the Bluejays' new T.D. Ameritrade Park, a \$131 million stadium that seats 24,000.

SOFTBALL

CONTINUED FROM 12

The series will start at 3 p.m. Friday and will be the first game the team has played since breaking their 10-game winning streak Wednesday against the Evansville Purple Aces. Freshman catcher Allie VadeBoncouer said the team needs to forget about the loss and be ready to take on the weekend series.

"We're kind of just going to put that in the past," VadeBoncouer said. "We just need to make sure we go out there tomorrow with clear heads."

Junior shortstop Haley Gorman said she looks forward to helping the team get back on another winning streak.

"That's all I have in mind," Gorman said.

Blaylock said she appreciates what former men's basketball coach Bruce Weber and current coach Chris Lowery have done with cancer awareness games of their own, and she will donate the proceeds to "Coaches vs. Cancer" this year.

She said her players have been a great support for her and have been considerate through her situation.

"My kids, I've always said, are the greatest through the time that I had with my brother and everything," Blaylock said. "My kids are the greatest kids in the world. They're very supportive; they're very understanding. It's a very important thing for me."

Austin Flynn can be reached at aflynn@dailyegyptian.com or 536-3311 ext. 282.

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Sports

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WOMEN'S GOLF

SIU gears up for MVC Championship

TREY BRAUNECKER
Daily Egyptian

Freshman Ashleigh Rushing said the amount of experience golfers have doesn't matter once a tournament begins.

"I don't think it makes a difference how old you are, because when it comes down to the game, experience isn't everything," Rushing said.

The team will spend Friday and Saturday in Normal to play in the Missouri Valley Conference Championship. Rushing said she and her teammates want to end on a high note and give their best performance in the last tournament of the season.

"We're ranked to finish fifth, so if the team places anywhere above that, I think we would all be happy," she said. "Even though we're young, we're talented."

Junior Alisha Matthews has a different mindset and said she is going into the championship without too many expectations from the team.

"We have nothing to lose and everything to gain," Matthews said. "We might come out with the lowest or highest score, but we can't complain about how well we performed if we did everything we could."

Normal's course is tight and windy, and coach Diane Daugherty



Junior golfer Alisha Matthews takes a short break Wednesday during practice at Hickory Ridge Golf Course. The women's golf team travels today to the Missouri Valley Conference Championship tournament in Normal. "The key to having a solid game is patience and attitude," coach Diane Daugherty said.

LAUREN LEONE
DAILY EGYPTIAN

said its natural obstacles make it hard for her players to have control of their shots.

Rushing also said the weather might be another obstacle during the tournament.

"The weather always makes it tough on everybody, and we're supposed to be getting thunderstorms in tomorrow," Rushing said. "Still, we've played in bad weather for most of this season, so I think we're better prepared

than other teams in our conference to play in those conditions."

Matthews said the Salukis have done all they can to study the course and prepare for anything that might happen.

"We just need to make sure that we go into the championship and make sure that we've done everything we can make weather-wise and game-wise to go out there and play our best," Matthews said.

BASEBALL

Salukis visit conference front-runner Creighton

CORY DOWNER
Daily Egyptian

The SIU baseball team heads to Omaha, Neb., today to take on its first-place conference rivals for a weekend series at the newly constructed T.D. Ameritrade Park.

The SIU baseball team (13-23, 4-2 Missouri Valley Conference) will play Creighton (26-8, 5-1 MVC)

today, Saturday and Sunday and take on some of the toughest hitting and pitching in the Valley.

"I'm really excited about it, and it's cool to be part of the first series there," junior left fielder Jordan Sivertsen said. "But it's always a big series when you go up against Creighton."

The Salukis, who are currently in a three-way tie for second place in the conference, have had suc-

cess with their team batting average on the rise and their starting pitchers throwing deep into conference games. Interim head coach Ken Henderson said he expects the same effort he has seen all year as the team bounces back from its two-game losing streak.

"Almost every day this season our effort has been tremendous," Henderson said. "We just go back

out and get after it and make sure we learn from our mistakes."

The Salukis have the same starting rotation scheduled for the Creighton series as they have had for every conference set this season. Sophomore Cameron Maklono (3-5, 6.23 ERA) will make his 10th start of the season as he opens up the series tonight. Sophomore Cody Forsythe (3-4, 2.31 ERA) will continue the series as he goes

against the Bluejay ace Jonas Dufek (6-0, 2.31 ERA) Saturday, and sophomore Brad Drust (1-2, 3.56 ERA) will make his sixth start as he concludes the series Sunday afternoon.

The Bluejays are 8-2 in their last 10 games, and they haven't lost a game by more than three runs all season.

Please see BASEBALL | 8

SOFTBALL

Team thinks pink for weekend series with Missouri State

AUSTIN FLYNN
Daily Egyptian

SIU softball coach Kerri Blaylock said the cancer awareness game SIU will host Saturday means a lot to her because her brother, who threw out the first pitch at last year's game, died from cancer in November.

She said the mothers of assistant coaches Jen Sewell and Erin Glasco, who are breast cancer survivors, will throw out the first

"My kids are the greatest kids in the world. They're very supportive; they're very understanding. It's a very important thing for me."

— Kerri Blaylock
coach

pitch at this year's game.

"It has always been very near and dear to my heart," Blaylock said. "And I think the kids do a great job raising awareness and trying to get

people to come to the game."

Sophomore outfielder Michelle Bradley said cancer has played a role in many of the players' lives and has brought them together

through their experiences.

"Cancer has been a huge thing for us this year. Kerri's brother obviously had cancer, so that's a big deal," Bradley said. "Our team is really young, so it's a huge way for our team to just really come together, and that was the initial thing that made us really strong together, so I think it really puts heart in all of us, like, for each other and (Blaylock)."

The SIU softball team (29-13, 11-3 Missouri Valley Conference)

will attempt to bring down the Missouri State Bears (22-17, 10-6 MVC) and raise cancer awareness at its annual "Strike Out Cancer" game Saturday at Charlotte West Stadium.

The Salukis will wear pink jerseys to acknowledge those battling cancer, and there will be a silent auction where fans will be able to make donations for each strikeout during the game.

Please see SOFTBALL | 8