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Enrollment to jump for off-campus programs

LUKE NOZICKA
Daily Egyptian

After roughly a decade of declining enrollment at the university’s off-campus military bases, the continual drop will soon be on the upswing.

The university’s off-campus military programs are projected to increase by roughly 25 percent this summer, compared to summer 2013.

Gayla Stoner, director of distance education and off-campus programs, said she will be excited to see enrollment jump.

“This time last year we had 182 students registered on military locations, and this year we have 243 at the same time,” Stoner said. “This is huge.”

Chancellor Rita Cheng said the increase in off-campus enrollment can be attributed to improving academics and creating a flat tuition rate across all off-campus programs.

She said the previous pricing structure was not tuition, but rather a fee that could not be supported by financial aid. She said because of this, a serviceperson or servicewoman's spouse, child or extended family could not apply for financial aid if enrolled in SIU programs.

“The fee rather than tuition” was completely outside the SIU structure, she said. “So the structure that we put in place was our standard tuition that you would be charged here on the campus.”

Stoner said tuition is now $355.87 per credit hour with fees, and the university reimburses active members $250 per credit hour.

She said the university also offers the Active Duty Military Scholarship, a scholarship of $180 per credit hour, to bring tuition costs down to the original fee.

Cheng said because the original $250 program was classified as a fee, military students did not qualify for many scholarships.

She said the military programs were operating with a deficit and if off-campus military base tuition did not increase, on-campus tuition would.

Cheng said when the Department of Defense’s third party assessment report was released in August 2012, the university realized some off-campus programs required attention as the DOD raised several concerns.

“Because of the lack of oversight and accountability at the various bases of the SIU employees, we knew we had to do something to address the situation,” Cheng said. 

Stoner said to improve the programs, all off-campus staff liaisons were brought to the university for on-site training for the first time in fall 2012 and again in 2013.

Cheng said because active military students may move from base to base, programs must be flexible. Compared to other programs, she said SIU’s was not as flexible.

To make the programs more flexible, an online Virtual Student Service was created with a $16,000 grant awarded by the American Council on Education. Stoner said with the service, military men and women can take courses online while deployed to different locations.

“There were only six institutions in the country that were actually awarded this grant; so we’re pretty proud of that,” she said.

West Campus competes in Games

SARAH NIEBRUGGE
Daily Egyptian

Students sprinted across campus releasing a semester’s worth of stress Saturday afternoon, racing to win the Olympic title in the final relay event of the day.

Several West Campus students represented their building in various sporting events including basketball, soccer and kickball in Thompson Point’s Olympics.

To conclude the day, participating students joined the relay race. Teams from each building ran around campus on a scavenger hunt; the first group back won the game.

Bailey Hall came in first place for the overall event, followed by Warren and Pierce tying for second place.

Sara Stil, a freshman from Owensboro studying history, participated in the basketball event on Warren’s team.

Though not coming in first overall, Still said he was proud of his team for winning the championship game for that event.

Still said the event was a stress reliever for students since it is coming to the end of the year and students are overwhelmed with class projects and exams.

“It’s also just a fun activity to build connections between halls through healthy competition,” he said.

Meghan Reeb, a freshman from Kansas City, Mo., studying education and music, was the originator for the idea of the on-campus Olympics.

Reeb wanted to find a way to get involved at the beginning of her freshman year.

Her resident advisor suggested she attended an Area Council meeting to see if joining was something she would be interested in.

“They needed board members for the Area Council, and they were talking about programming chair,” she said. “It’s always been one of my things back home to put on big events.”

She said she received the position and fell in love with it immediately.

The next step Reeb took was to come up with different ideas to keep west campus residents busy.

With a family very involved in sports, friends involved with similar programs at other schools and inspiration from this year’s Winter Olympics, Reeb came up with the idea of hosting an Olympic tournament with SIU students.

“I had come up with the idea while I was trying to figure out how I was going to run for the position in the first place and I ended up latching on to that idea,” Reeb said.

She said the event was a success with about 100 students who showed up to participate in the various games.

BRITTANY PETTIFORD
Daily Egyptian

Three groups of nominees awaited their names to be called for first place in the category of Best Magazine Program during the College Television Awards until across Amy Garcia broke the silence.

For the second consecutive year, SIU’s alt. news 26-46 won first place, competing against Bates Technical College and the University of Southern California.

Matt Sloan, a senior from Germantown, Tenn., studying television and digital media radio, and Marcus Odom, a senior from Carbondale studying cinema and photography, both reached the stage with smiles on their faces to accept their recognition April 23 at the Television Academy’s Leonard H. Goldenson Theatre in Los Angeles.

“My mind was racing in the theater that night as we watched clips play from all the nominees on the screen,” Sloan said.

Every year the Academy of Television Arts and Sciences Awards Foundation recognizes the work of students in produced video, as well as digital and film work, during the College Television Awards. The ceremony awards students with trophies, cash and industry recognition.

Sloan and Odom are both executive producers of the student-run television program and also work alongside nine staff members and more than 50 student volunteers.

The award-winning episode, #1504, featured the coverage of a National Brand and Mustache Championship in New Orleans, a Land of Oz theme park in North Carolina, the Emma Crawford Coffin Race in Manitou, Colo., and the armory of “Dragon Man.”

“We put an incredible amount of time and work into our episodes and we produce six-plus every year,” Odom said. “We are competing against colleges that have much bigger budgets than ours, much more time to spend on their projects and much more advanced equipment at times, so it is definitely pretty nerve-wracking.”

Sloan said Tuesday was spent with Odom at the Nominee Summit, where they received insight from directors and producers who have been through the industry.

Odom said Los Angeles, a city dedicated to film, gave the students an idea of what could be in store for their futures.

Coming in first the alternative way

IAN MULLEN - DAILY EGYPTIAN

Holly Moore, a freshman fromEffingham studying art, watches as a member of Pierce Hall kicks against Bailey Hall during the Thompson Point Olympics. Moore, an executive board member of the Thompson Point Area Council, was the referee for the game. Bailey Hall was the winner of the 2014 Olympics that included games of basketball, kickball, soccer and a concluding relay-scarevenger hunt.

Please see OLYMPICS - 3

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Sophomore volleyball player Taylor Pippen, left, gets ready to watch a movie with Nevaeh Wright, center, and Addie Moccia Saturday at SIU Arena. Wright and Moccia were two participants during Kids Night Out, an event in which student athletes watched children as a fundraiser for the Special Olympics.
Danny Cox, a junior from Louisville, Ky., studying cinema and photography, celebrates winning Best Director for his film ‘So Far’ Saturday during Movie Camera Militia’s 2nd-Annual Red Carpet Premiere at the Student Center auditorium. ‘So Far’ earned eight awards throughout the night including Best Picture, Best Cinematography, and the Audience Choice Award. “It’s exhilarating and a dream come true,” Cox said. “It wouldn’t have happened without such a great group of people to work with.”

Many of the resident assistants helped out and pumped up team spirit for their halls. Laraine Love, a sophomore from Centralia studying mathematics and RA in Warren Hall, also assisted with the event.

Love volunteered as a referee during a basketball game and other times cheered on her residents as they competed against other halls. She said she was glad to be able to get students involved and meet other people out in the sun on such a nice day.

The event was funded by the activity fees paid by students included in tuition, and cost about $500 dollars, Reeb said. This money also helped start up the event so in coming years the price will not be as high.

“We are hoping to make it an annual thing where you can blow off steam at the end of second semester at the Olympics,” Reeb said. She said these events are a great way to meet more people and for students to work together in a cohesive manner.

“It was nice to have some sort of camaraderie between buildings and between people who live in your own buildings,” she said. “We want to bring a stronger friendship and unity to Thompson Point and on campus.”

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From fall 2012 to fall 2013, web-based distance learning increased by 241 students.

Stoner said a specific department, as opposed to an organized system, ran each base. “(Instructors) had different titles, different practices, lack of training,” she said.

While enrollment is projected to rise, several staff members have criticized the tuition increases.

An instructor at one of the bases, who wishes to remain anonymous, said the increases have caused many military men and women to leave the workforce education and development programs.

“We at SIU raised our tuition in the course of three straight semesters,” he said. “I mean everybody quit, everybody in the military went the other direction.”

He said the university has lost a lot of money as military personnel chose other universities because of the increases.

“We left a lot of money on the table and we have people who will never come back,” he said.

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Please join Chancellor Rita Cheng as we celebrate and recognize our Faculty and Staff Excellence Award recipients.

Scholar Excellence Award
KATHLEEN C.M. CAMPBELL
School of Medicine

Early Career Faculty Excellence Award
KYLE N. PLUNKETT
Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry

Teaching Excellence Award
ROUDY W. HILDRETH
Department of Political Science

Staff Excellence Awards
ZENETTA McDaniel COLEMAN
University Honors Program
RONALD A. DUNKEL
Student Center
HARVEY HENSON, JR.
College of Science

Women of Distinction Award
STACIA ROBERTSON
Rehabilitation Institute

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Refreshments will follow program.

Southern Illinois University
When lights dim, dancers spread across the stage. The many shadows move along the wall. As the music fades in, dancers begin their movements.

The dancers in the Southern Illinois Dance Company spend much of their practice time on stage. That dedication culminated in this weekend’s spring concert. Donna Wilson, SIDC faculty advisor and associate professor of kinesiology, said there has been a progression of sorts for each dancer. As there is a certain amount of turnover each semester, Wilson must respond to each dancer’s progression individually, she said.

“[The dancers] do grow, but in terms of culmination, it’s a semester push because the amount of growth that happens every semester is hard to guess,” she said. “Sometimes, I feel like I’m starting over every semester.” However, while the work each semester is a process, Wilson said she always sees growth in her students. Across a stretch of time each dancer begins to recognize their own strengths and weaknesses and help one another, she said.

“We start rehearsing the third week of the semester, so [the dancers] have a pretty long commitment,” Wilson said. Second semester dancer Wyatt Humrichous, a junior from Christian studying political science, said he had very little dance background before he started and has grown substantially in his abilities.

“It’s interesting and there’s never a dull moment,” Humrichous said. “It can be crazy at times, but that’s part of the fun, seeing everyone excited and anxious and ready to perform. It’s an energy that’s not in a lot of other places.”

Dancing as a student requires a balancing act of classes and rehearsals. SIDC Vice President Emilio Velasquez, a senior from Oak Park studying radio and television, began dancing in high school and has experience juggling his activities, as he has been with the group since his freshman year.

“From the beginning of this year, I’ve improved tenfold,” Velasquez said. “And it’s hard, I don’t really have time for homework. It’s done only when I have a couple hour gap in between classes or when I’m sitting around at rehearsals because we have them Sunday through Thursday.” Velasquez said he feels like a dancer first and a student second.

“There will be days that I have the first rehearsal slot and the last rehearsal slot,” he said. “I’ll be doing homework and come to the studio through the week, and if you’re not on the stage dancing, you’re in the auditorium seats doing homework and getting ready for your next practice.”

Velasquez said chaotic is a good word to describe rehearsals and the weeks before the concert events. Everyone is a family but, at times, it can become tense, he said.

“When you hit that halfway point where dances have to be done and done and ready for the show, that’s when everyone’s anxiety is really up high,” Velasquez said. “People are a lot more real because our main goal is to have a great show at the end of the semester.”

Velasquez said although dance can be rigorous, dancers reap rewards when the dances are finalized and presented at the concert.

“The whole semester is really all for that one show,” he said. “We have off performances at different events, but what we really end up working for is that end-of-the-semester show.”
Emilio Velez and Macaela Gilson perform a dance called “Go” Saturday at the Southern Illinois Dance Company Spring Concert Event in Furr Auditorium, during the annual concert. The dance company is a performing organization open to SIU students and community members. SIDC performed 16 dances at the event; all choreographed by the members. “We start rehearsing the third week of the semester, so they have a pretty long commitment,” Donna Wilson, faculty advisor said. Auditions for fall begin the second Tuesday of the semester.

Southern Illinois Dance Company members perform “Haunted” a dance choreographed by Emilio Velez Saturday during the SIDC Spring Concert at Furr Auditorium.
Women's softball beat Wichita State 2 out of 3 games during the weekend
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