The Daily Egyptian, October 26, 2007

Daily Egyptian Staff

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Volume 93, Issue 49
University fights against ‘superbug’

Drug-resistant infection creates concern

Allison Petty
Daily Egyptian

As cooler weather drives away the summer’s swarm of insects, a different kind of bug has gathered attention.

Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus, or MRSA, has been a concern of the medical community for years, but has garnered national attention recently when a 17-year-old Virginia high school student died from complications of the infection on Oct. 15.

MRSA is a type of staphylococcus aureus, or staph infection, that is resistant to many antibiotics, causing some to refer to it as a “superbug.”

The infection most commonly presents itself on the skin as pimples, boils or what may appear to be spider bites. More serious cases of MRSA can affect the blood and joints or cause pneumonia, said Deirdra McLain, a Student Health Center physician.

A study by the Center for Disease Control published in the Oct. 17 issue of The Journal of the American Medical Association estimated more than 18,000 people nationwide died from MRSA infections in 2005.

McLain said staph infections are contagious, so students who have developed an infection should avoid skin-to-skin contact.

She said hand washing is an important and underemphasized way to prevent infections, especially in gyms.

“When you’re using equipment at a recreation center or a gym where multiple people are using the same stuff, maybe in small amounts of clothing, you might want to use a towel to cover the equipment when you exercise,” McLain said.

Student Recreation Center staff have already addressed the concerns about staph infections, said Craig Sercye.

Sercye, a senior from Chicago studying advertising, works at the center’s information desk.

He said he and other staff members posted flyers with information about MRSA and reviewed sanitation procedures with employees and maintenance workers.

McLain said students should not panic, but should call the health center if they suspect a staph infection.

“If anybody has what looks like a spider bite, a boil, abscess, really bad pimple, I think it is very appropriate

See SUPERBUG, Page 5

Enrollment numbers higher than start of term

University reports increase of 29 students

Christian Holt
Daily Egyptian

If SIUC administrators were happy about enrollment numbers at the beginning of the semester, chances are they are even more excited now.

Although fall enrollment numbers showed enrollment is still down from its highest enrollment in 1991, as of Monday the university’s enrollment was up another 29 students from the beginning of the fall semester.

Larry Schilling, director of Institutional Research and Studies, said the university experiences mid-semester enrollment increases every year.

Schilling said this is partially because of off-campus courses, which often begin later in the semester than on-campus classes.

“It’s pretty much an artificial line in the sand, but it is federally mandated that we take a count on that day. But it’s certainly not the end of people enrolling,” Schilling said of the 10-day enrollment numbers.

Chancellor Fernando Treviño said he doesn’t know what to attribute the increase to, but was excited about the change.

He said the university has increased its recruitment efforts, which may have led to higher numbers. Treviño also attributed some of the success to the efforts of Barking Dawg Productions, a group focused on marketing the university in alternative forms.

See ENROLLMENT, Page 7
Illinois schools report some MRSA infections

CHICAGO (AP) — Some Illinois school districts are alerting parents and scrubbing desks with hospital-grade disinfectants after reports of students coming down with drug-resistant staph infections.

But it’s unclear whether the so-called "superbug" cases in several Chicago suburbs represent an unusually high number, or a blip triggered by news of a Virginia student’s death and a government report estimating the bug kills nearly 15,000 Americans a year.

There’s no cause for panic, health officials said, while also urging hand-washing and proper wound care. The infection spreads through skin-to-skin contact and shared personal items such as towels and razors.

“We’ve basically had steady, intermittent reports from schools and correctional facilities over the past couple of years” of drug-resistant staph infections, said Dr. Joseph Fico, director of the Illinois Department of Public Health.

Dr. John Jernigan, an expert on drug-resistant staph at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control, agreed.

“I don’t think we’re seeing any sudden increase in the last few weeks of cases,” Jernigan said.

Three states in four in boating accident on Lake Michigan

(SIU) — Three men died and a fourth was recovering after a boating accident triggered by news of a Virginia man himself.

The four men were sailing to a dry-dock facility on the Calumet River on Chicago’s near South Side from the Columbia Yacht Club downtown on Wednesday night when one of them fell overboard while towing the sails, said U.S. Coast Guard Boatman 1st Class Michael Arnold. The man were rounding the breakwater to enter Calumet Harbor and the river mouth, he said.

The three men remaining on board called the Coast Guard and local authorities, then began searching for the missing man themselves, Arnold said.

As they tried to pull him from the water, the boat, a 21-foot race that once competed in the annual Chicago-to-Mackinac Island yacht race, struck the breakwater and broke up in the 10-foot waves, Arnold said.

“We found a 5-foot section of the boat, but we’re still looking for the rest,” Arnold said Thursday.

The men had been in the 58-degree water for about 45 minutes when two Coast Guard boats and marine units from the Chicago Police Department and Chicago Fire Department went to the scene and pulled the men from the breaker. All four were wearing life jackets, but rescuers were unable to resuscitate three of the men, Arnold said.

There are no new items to report.

CORRECTIONS

If you spot an error, please contact the Daily Egyptian news desk at 536-3311, ext. 253.

Due to frequent misprints and clerical errors, letters for the editor are not guaranteed that all items will run.

Editor’s note: Due to frequent misprints and clerical errors, articles have been temporarily suspended from suDE.com. While on vacation for informative debate, article comments have recently served as a place for Internet users to slam each other. We apologize to our readers for letting these comments get out of hand.

We still encourage readers to interact on any article or Carbondale issue by submitting a letter to the editor. Letters can be sent to editor@siude.com or voices@siude.com.

The calendar is a free service for community groups. We cannot guarantee that all items will run.
Simon joins push for Obama

Daughter of late Senator Paul Simon campaigns in Iowa

Danny Wenger

Presidential hopeful Barack Obama recently got some assistance in his pursuit of the Democratic nomination from Carbondale residents.

Shelia Simon, daughter of the late Sen. Paul Simon and a former Carbondale mayoral candidate, traveled to Keokuk, Iowa, to campaign for Obama. Simon and nine others from Carbondale chose the state because it is home to a November caucus, which is traditionally an important indicator of who could be chosen for the party nomination.

According to a Gallup election review published Tuesday, more Democrats view Hillary Clinton favorably than John Edwards or Obama. Clinton has consistently been ahead of the other candidates, and a poll conducted Oct. 12 through Oct. 14 indicated Clinton was ahead of Obama by a margin of 29 percentage points.

Simon said she went door-to-door with her husband giving information to voters about Obama to help gain their support.

“The folks in Iowa really know their political muscle,” she said. “It’s not a decision that they take lightly, so we stopped and talked for a while with people who did want more information.”

Simon is experienced in campaigning in Iowa, having done so for her father when he was in the running for nomination nearly 20 years ago.

“It was kind of a fun occasion to relive some stories and tell those to our high school daughters,” Simon said.

Reilly Knop, Simon’s 17-year-old daughter and student at Carbondale Community High School joined Simon on the trip and said she would go again. She also said, several of her classmates are interested in campaigning.

“My whole first hour class wants to come up with us, so we’re hopefully going to have a lot more people next time from the high school,” she said.

Danny Wenger can be reached at 536-3311 or dwenger@siu.edu.
Turkey says U.S. warnings won't stop Kurdish pursuit

Christopher Torchia
The Associated Press

ISTANBUL, Turkey — Turkey was saying Monday that it will not withdraw its forces from northern Iraq, even as the United States threatens to take its military might to Suleymaniya, an area where rebels are said to be mobilizing for an attack on government forces in the Kurdish southeast.

Turkey has been in a bind since last week, when its forces were suspected of firing across the border into the Kurdish-controlled region of northern Iraq, sparking a fierce debate in Ankara over whether the government's long-standing strategy ofでおupting the Kurds from the largely Muslim north of Iraq was contributing to instability in the war-torn region.

But the Turkish military has now made it clear that it is not going to withdraw its forces from northern Iraq, even as the United States threatens to take its military might to Suleymaniya, an area where rebels are said to be mobilizing for an attack on government forces in the Kurdish southeast.

Turkey’s leader’s have been demanding that U.S. and Iraqi authorities stop Kurdish rebel attacks on the border. They say the attacks are a threat to Turkey’s national security and that they are not in line with the goals of the U.S.-led war against terrorism.

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More than one way out

University offers a range of support for domestic violence victims

Allison Petty  
DAILY EGYPTIAN

October is National Domestic Violence Awareness Month, but the university offers a range of services year-round to provide educational, emotional and legal support to victims of domestic violence.

Christie Hamilton, coordinator of sexual assault, relationship violence and sexual assault programs, talks with students in the Health Center Auditorium about the warning signs of a violent relationship Thursday afternoon.

The Domestic Violence Clinic provides free legal services for victims of domestic violence who are seeking orders of protection. Eight third-year law students staff the clinic each semester. Under the constant supervision of staff attorney Gail Thomas, the students interview clients, file petitions and argue in court.

Thomas said the clinic works with clients on how to be more conscious of the severity of sexual assault and violence.

The group will work to reduce violence on campus, support women issues and partner with Big Brothers, Big Sisters to provide responsible mentors for children, especially those without a strong male role model in their homes.

Allison Petty can be reached at 536-3311 ext. 259 or allison.petty@siue.edu.

Superbug

Controversy Page 1

to call and be seen,” she said. “This isn’t new, but it should just kind of make us aware that we need to take precautions.”

The Student Health Center periodically treats students for MRSA, McLain said.

She said a few students were hospitalized with the infection through-out the year, but most of the cases were not serious. “The infection is still sensitive to some antibiotics even though it has become resistant others, such as penicillin.”

“Superbugs” are bacteria that develop a resistance to drugs that would ordinarily kill them. McLain said the bacteria are able to adapt as a result of doctors who overmedicate their patients.

When you use antibiotics frequ-ently, the bacteria become smart. They find ways to change their cellular mechanisms to become resistant because they want to thrive, she said.

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Hats off to the Greek community

RAY SOPHIE
sophier@siu.edu

Instead of picking a more widespread issue of Greek life to write about, I thought I would take some time to talk about some of the activities Greeks have been participating in around campus. Many of these activities stay under the radar and out of the public eye, so I think it’s time to jot some of it down.

In the past couple of weeks, the Greeks have done a lot of work to raise money for the awareness for diseases. For those who don’t already know, October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month. At the beginning of the month, all the sororities and even some fraternities participate in a bake-decorating contest. There were all kinds of designs and decorations, raising awareness about the subject and encouraging people to buy someone’s “breast” (meaning-support). It was such a success that the sorority member who helped put it together ended up being interviewed by a few TV stations.

Outside of that, Greeks have been volunteering at other events such as the IHSA girls’ golf tournament a few weeks ago, and Alpha Gamma Delta is hosting a volleyball tournament this weekend to raise money for diabetic research.

The next big event will be the Safe Halloween in the Student Center Wednesday, where Greek organizations will be running games and handing out candy to little kids. One aspect of Greek life most people probably won’t know is the amount of education that is involved in being part of a fraternity. Each semester, members are required to attend speakers on such hot button issues as alcohol abuse, date rape and hazing. The Greek community has already had an alcohol abuse speaker and a time management speaker, with one or two to come.

Also, the Greeks recently held the 60th annual Greek Song, which featured seven fraternities and sororities. Parents and children alike were witnesses to dancing and singing, including one group of Kappas doing “Soulja Boy” to “Assa House,” and even a pep rally.

This event was actually founded in 1936, but took a brief hiatus due to World War II. It reunites some events such as these are still as strong and revered as they were more than half a decade ago. It also reunites us and how much our groups get into the event.

The Sigma Kappas were decked out in high school cheerleading attire for their performance; Alpha Tau Omegas and Theta Xi went for the often popular “street” look; and the winners Tau Kappa Epsilon were in jackets, gloves and hats for their reusing theme of Michael Jackson. I am sure I have overlooked or forgotten a number of activities and events that have taken place in the past month, and for that I apologize because there really are too many events for one individual to keep up with. Our thing remains certain, however, Greeks are involved. Whether it’s helping in a community service event or participating in an annual tradition, we get our members out and about in a way no other organization can.

Sophe is a junior studying radio-television and journalism.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Just an excuse

Dear Editor:

“Our Excuse” would have been a much more appropriate title to the “Our Word” editorial on Wednesday. It was nothing more than a pathetic attempt to justify a terrible mistake.

The death of the Southern Illinois University student that occurred last week was both shocking and tragic, but what was so alarming was the utter disrespect shown by you, the DAILY EGYPTIAN. Specifically, you taking it upon yourself to contact the next of kin so quickly, which then turned out to be the first time the family had been notified of the death. Do you honestly not see anything wrong with this?

No matter what the circumstances, it is not and never will be your place to be the informant of such information. Never. There are valid reasons why the housing staff, the police and the medical departments involved carried out the procedures the way they did. They have experience handling cases and situations such as this and are trained to do so. Experience and training you don’t have.

And I realize you may think that you are ‘just doing your job,’ but it is saddening that this job seems to sometimes require you to completely disregard human decency and toss your morals aside. It’s just so sad.

What were you doing, calling the family only two hours later anyway? What good could come from that?

The DAILY EGYPTIAN has been so bullheaded lately that I highly anticipate all I’ve written to go in one ear and out the other. That having been said, you need to know your terrible judgment and lack of respect immediately bring whatever ethics you may have left into question. You should be ashamed of yourself.

Nice try. But next time, instead of another excuse, try an apology.

Erin Leach
junior studying music and business

The issue is not the issue

Dear Editor:

The City Council is considering establishing a “leasing fee” for rental properties in Carbondale. The fee would be used to hire more code inspectors so that every rental unit in Carbondale can be inspected at least once every three years. In the past 10 years, in spite of a law mandating inspections for the safety of renters, the city has claimed it didn’t have the money to do so.

Some landlords threaten that the inspection charges would be passed on to renters. However, many of these same landlords regularly keep damage deposits, require tenants to assume expenses that should be part of the cost of doing business (moving yards, replacing broken in smoke and CO2 detectors, shampooing carpets, etc.), and fail to make repairs in a timely manner. For these landlords, the profits pour in. Besides, a contract protects renters from increases in the rental amount.

The proposed fee is $35 a year per unit. This is not an insignificant amount by any measure. However, the issue, as they say, is not the issue. Many rental units in Carbondale are dangerous, unhealthy and vulnerable to crime. Regular city inspections will assure that their unit is safe, that windows and doors lock, that appliances work, that they are weather tight and that their apartment or house is basically habitable. The law requires this, but many of our landlords are scoff-law.

The real reason many landlords oppose this licensing fee is that it is not the issue. Many rental units in Carbondale are dangerous, landlords are scoff-laws.

Further, renting properties is a business. Outside of retail sales, it is inconsequential amount by any measure.

Jane Adams
anthropology professor

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.

Words Overheard

“The question is does the company deserve it.”

Jen Chilson
City Unity Board spokesperson on Ameren’s plan to raise rates again

COMMUNITY’S character should persevere

Dear Editor:

Why are people at this university angry, hurtful and cynical? Is it because the DE has become a tool of some malevolent, sanctimonious organization bent on destroying SIU, in alumni and students? No, it isn’t just that easy. The explanation lies in the turmoil that has been going on for at least the last two years. First set we a new president, then we’re told the university will spend $400 million to make repairs in a timely manner. For these landlords, the profits pour in.

As for the issues raised by the plagiarism scandal, it isn’t the problems in Glenn Poshard’s papers that have damaged our university’s image. The damage comes from the message sent by those who unquestioningly supported President Poshard. The message those people sent to the rest of the world was “as long as he gets us money and political support we don’t care about anything else he has done or will do.” This mentality of the end justifies the means makes SIU look like a school of dirty dealers and “caricatures of mad-cow salesmen” who say and do anything it takes to get what they want.

And for all the people who worry the DE is trampling the university, don’t. If you want upbeat and positive reports about the school read the official newsletters produced by the university. SIU has weathered bad years before and will again so long as we take the time to get a handle on this situation.

A university can only be as good as the character of the community it is made from, and good character starts with doing what is right even when it means uncomfortable decisions and hard work.

Adam J. Mikolajczyk
senior studying plant biology and zoology

DJONN WRITING

DAILY EGYPTIAN EDITORIAL BOARD

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ARTS EDITOR

PAGE 6 • FRIDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2007
Researchers look for coal for the future
SIUC workers look for alternative energy uses, solutions

Researchers at SIUC are striving to show there are better ways to use coal than burning. Representatives from the Coal Research Center met Thursday to discuss the future use of coal, said Mead said. "We need to be developing better technologies." Coal is the biggest source of electricity in the world and 92 percent of the coal in the United States is used to generate electricity.

"We cannot look at coal as something we have to accept at a low level of environmental quality and live with that," Mead said. "We need to be developing better technologies." Coal is the biggest source of electricity in the world and 92 percent of the coal in the United States is used to generate electricity.

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Looking for a Real Scare this Halloween?

The Haunting of Chittyville School
A Bone Chilling Experience
Friday and Saturday nights from 7-11 p.m.
October 28-31 from 7-10 p.m.
$12 Admission
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618-988-9131
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HALLOWEEN COUNTDOWN

FRID.
St. Mary's with Moonlight Mass
SAT.
D.J. Red T County Stime
TUES.
Terrifying Drink Specials ALL Weekend Long
WED.
Wednesday, Halloween Night: 26th Annual Costume Party

NEW LEASING OFFICE!
Hours: 9am - 5pm M-F
Saturday 10am - 5pm
515 1/2 S. Illinois Ave., next to Pagliai’s Pizza

Open House on Nov. 7th
4 - 7pm with door prizes & free food.

www.MyOwnApartment.com

This Halloween, Meet The Devil’s Advocate. Online.

We can help answer the most important question anyone will ask you all semester:

What are you going to be for Halloween?

Boo!

BlueSky Vineyard
Halloween Fest
Oct. 27th - Oct. 31st
Quality Costumes GET IN FREE!!!

Saturday
D.J. CARLOS ABREU - Central American Entrepreneurs - Little Attraction - Spook The Nation - Super Groove

Sunday
2:30 Rich B. Moore and the Lonely Boys at Corn Prince 6:00 FREE BOOZE at BOOZE BURGERS - 500 Wooden Spoons Gang

October 31: Beer Garden opens at 10pm Lots of Halloween drink specials:

- There will be giveaways, Baby apparel & gift certificates
- Costume Contest & Cash Prizes
- Rich Guzzi will be here the 31st!
- NFL Ticket Sunday for all NFL Games, Up to 14 Games Playing at A Time.
- Blood Mary’s $2.50
- Green Demon Lemonade $2.50

Shells:
- The Gremlin $2.50
- Brain Hemorrhage $2.50

Bands Playing:
- Moon Buggy Kids
- Poor King
Trey Gossett, a third-year graduate student studying sculpture from Kansas City, Kan., sandblasts a bronze wall sculpture weighing approximately 120 pounds in the Art Foundry Tuesday. Gossett and other students have been working for the sculpture club’s “C-4” exhibit, opening Friday in the Glove Factory’s Surplus Gallery.  

Source: Lemon  

Daily Egyptian
Girls and Sports

Sudoku

The Duplex

by Glenn McCoy

by Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein

Sudoku Brought to you by:

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10/26/07

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

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Sponsored by:

By Linda C. Black

Today's Birthday. You'll have to be persuasive this year. You may even have to give up part of what you want. It's compromise, which is not usually fatal. It's a good skill to have.

To get the advantage, check the day's rating: 10 is the easiest day, 0 the most challenging.

Arise (March 21-April 19) — Today is a 6 — Be an excellent listener, especially where money's concerned. Ask a few leading questions and you could discover the source.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) — Today is a 7 — You're much stronger now, so don't let a idealist push you around. Have the facts at your fingertips and you'll easily win the debate.

Gemini (May 21-June 21) — Today is a 8 — It is not a good time to travel. Don't even think about it. Distractions take your mind off your work, and that could cause a disaster.

Cancer (June 22-July 22) — Today is a 7 — Entertaining is expensive enough without wasting money. Shop so your guests have a good time without breaking the bank.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) — Today is a 8 — You've up against a barrier. Don't worry about it. Do what you can and put everything else off for a couple of days. Collect your check.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Today is an 8 — No opportunity opens up that's very far away. Consider the costs, emotional and financial. Better let this one pass, unless you want to start again.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) — Today is a 5 — Time to get serious about your financial situation. For starters, you could figure out what you really have in the bank.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) — Today is an 8 — A disagreement arises between you and your partner or mate. Is this really worth the trouble? Think about it. Probably not.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) — Today is a 5 — The work you've been avoiding is beginning to back up. Better just do it before you trapped behind it and can't get out.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Today is an 8 — A lot of work is in store. Get a good lesson in what's required and what you can do without.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) — Today is a 6 — A little while to ponder what you've learned. See what floats to the surface of your unconscious mind. Stay close to home and take lots of naps.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) — Today is an 8 — You can dictate your way past your phobias. Learning is something solid and real. Phobias are flimsy ghosts. You can even talk them into leaving you alone. If you have a few hanging around, give it a try.

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Mike Arigno

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answers: Monday

Yesterday's Jumble: GASSY WRATH CATCHY EXPOSE

Answer: Although the lanky basketball player was long on talent, he was — “SHORT ON CASH”
Haunted southern Illinois

The Hundley House in Carbondale is the site of an unsolved murder that took place in 1928.

Seventy-nine years ago, a former mayor of Carbondale and his wife were murdered at their home in downtown Carbondale. The double murder remains unsolved.

According to local lore, the victims now presumably haunt the house. The Hundley House is the site of the best ghost story in town, said local ghost researcher Scott Thorne.

“It is the best building we have in town with a story behind it,” Thorne said. “It’s an unsolved murder, the activities may have been attached to the story.”

Charles and Luella Hundley were shot to death at approximately 11:45 p.m. on Dec. 12, 1928. Charles was killed in his bedroom by a close-range gunshot to the back of his head. Luella’s body was found at the base of the staircase leading to the bedrooms. She was shot three times – once in the heart and twice in the head.

A bullet hole can still be felt in one of the steps in the house, though it is now covered by glued-down carpet.

Police at the time concluded the suspect was familiar with the house, as all the lights were off.

The primary suspect was Luella’s son, Victor Hundley, but not enough evidence was found to convict him.

Victor and Charles had experienced a falling out due to a failed business partnership shortly before the murders, said Dr. Henry Nicolaides, one of the chiropractors who now own the Nicolaides Chiropractic Center in the Hundley House.

“Another mystery surrounds an unopened wall safe located on the lower level of the house. The Hundleys took the combination to the grave,” Nicolaides said.

Paranormal investigators tested the Hundley House for spiritual activity in December 2006. The group used infrared sensing devices and motion sensors, but didn’t find any unusual activity, Nicolaides said.

Nicolaides said he has never experienced any paranormal activity and is skeptical as to whether the house is actually haunted, but still enjoys the stories and history of the house.

“It makes a really good story, whether the hauntings are true or not,” he said.

Audra Ord can be reached at 536-3311 ext. 275 or at aord@siude.com.
Cross country prepares for final meet

Men picked to win conference race

Jeff Engelhardt
Daily Egyptian

SIU is poised to prove its domi-
nance over the Missouri Valley Conference this weekend.

The Salukis are headed to Cedar Falls, Iowa, to compete in the State Farm MVC Cross Country Championship on Saturday. The team's squad was chosen as the pre-race favorite according to the pre-championship coaches poll.

A Saluki victory would end the three-year streak of MVC championship victories by Indiana State. The men already finished seven places ahead of the Sycamores at the Indiana State Pre-National meet on Oct. 13.

Coach Matt Sparks said the team is confident and seems prepared for the race.

"The men are feeling very confident and have done what they need to do in practice and meets," Sparks said. "We just have to go out there and take care of what we have to do and continue to push ourselves."

Defending MVC individual champion Mohamed Mohamed, a junior, will lead the Salukis along with senior Kevin Doran. Mohamed is coming off a disappointing time of 24:53 at the Pre-National Invitational, but Doran had his season best time of 24:18 en route to becoming MVC Cross Country Athlete of the Week. SIU is also the only team returning three top-15 runners from last season's meet. Mohamed, Doran and sophomore Jeff Schriner finished first, 10th and 11th, respectively.

Sparks said Illinois State could pose a threat with a young, talented team that was picked to finish in second. Redbird runners Scott Kepli, Matt Moczyk and Jordan Anderson all have sub-25-minute times in the 8K.

Mohamed said the Salukis have no excuse not to win the championship.

"There is no pressure because we have put the work in and know we are the best in the conference," Mohamed said. "I don’t want to sound cocky, but we have to win."

"We have to play our best in every aspect of the game," Media said. "Offense, defense, everything."

A high note for the Salukis is the possible return of junior Kristie Berwanger, who has been on the sidelines for nearly a month with an illness.

Winkeler said she did not know Berwanger’s status for the weekend, but the team is anxious for her potential return.

"We miss her leadership a lot," Winkeler said. "It’s been very difficult for her and I know she’ll come back motivated. She’s always motivated but even more after you sit and watch."

Coinciding with the games, which both begin at 11 a.m., the SIU Athletic Department will host two special events for fans.

Everyone who attends today’s game is encouraged to dress up in their Halloween costume and will be eligible for the first 300 fans who receive a pink ribbon to honor the SIU women’s volleyball program in their fight against breast cancer.

The SIU volleyball team unites before a match against Drake on Oct. 5. The team will play host to Wichita State and Missouri State this weekend.

"This summer we sat down and said, ‘Let’s make volleyball just as important as basketball and football and we need to show them that we’re the biggest fans too,'" Sparks said.

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FOOTBALL

“We’ve faced some different types of defenses and kind of caught them off guard a little bit,” Limegrover said. “I think their game so we can get to, where we want to be, before the season, hopes the Salukis to return to action Nov. 3 at No. 24 Western Illinois (5-3, 2-1).”

The line will lead SIU to where it wants to be, before the season, hopes the Salukis to return to action Nov. 3 at No. 24 Western Illinois (5-3, 2-1).

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Basketball

“I think the guys realize that.”

“Every time I step on the court I just have to get better.”

Falker said. “That’s the biggest thing if I’m having a bad day or bad game, I just have to play like there’s no tomorrow.”

In January, the committee will release the Midseason Top-30 list, and cut that to 10 after a vote in March. Falker and the Salukis will begin the exhibition season against King Nov. 3 at the SIU Arena.

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Men’s Basketball

Falker named among best

Senior forward named
Wooden candidate
Megan Kramper

Even before the first game of the season, senior forward Randal Falker’s presence on the court has earned him national attention.

Falker was named one of 50 preseason candidates for the John R. Wooden Award, which is considered the most prestigious individual award in college basketball.

The announcement marks the first time in school history a Saluki has been nominated for the award, and Falker is the only player from the Missouri Valley Conference to appear on the list.

“It’s a big deal to the school, I believe, but it’s nothing too much for me, actually,” Falker said.

Nominations for the award are based off last year’s individual statistics and overall team record.

Last season, Falker averaged 12.4 points, 7.7 rebounds and 2.1 blocks per game and compiled a 58.9 percent shooting percentage.

Coach Chris Lowery said Falker’s presence on the court is often underestimated by those simply looking at his offensive numbers, but he has been the focal point through which the offense runs.

Falker helped the Salukis claim the MVC regular season championship, reach the Sweet Sixteen of the NCAA Tournament, and set a school-record 29 wins last season.

Last year, Kevin Durant of Texas received the Wooden Award in March. The award has also been claimed by basketball legends such as Michael Jordan, Larry Bird and David Robinson.

Other nominations for the preseason award include North Carolina forward Tyler Hansbrough, Kansas guard Brandon Rush and Indiana forward D.J. White.

Now that Falker has been named a candidate for the award, Lowery said, he will have to play up to those standards this season.

Falker said he would have to continually improve as the season progresses to live up to the distinction.

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Volleyball

Home sweet home
Salukis prepare for weekend of conference rivals, festivities
Megan Kramper

A weekend at home is just what the doctor ordered for the SIU volleyball team.

After an eight-day break, the Salukis (19-4, 4-6 MVC) will return to Davies Gymnasium Friday to begin a weekend series against the Wichita State Shockers and the Missouri State Bears.

Playing at home has been an advantage for the Salukis, who have won seven out of eight home games this season. They have gone 5-9 away from home.

Coach Brenda Winkler said the team has been working to improve on little things in their game they can control, including establishing a high level of intensity early and keeping consistency on defense.

“The loss to Evansville was very disappointing and so we had to overcome that loss and just get to work,” Winkler said.

Winkler said the team watched a lot of game film that will help them make corrections when they return to the floor.

The Salukis will face Wichita State (19-4, 10-1), which is in a tie with Missouri State for first place in the conference.

Sophomore outside hitter Emily Stuckman leads the Shockers’ attack with 4.36 kills per game and junior libero Kelly Bronda plays 5.83 digs per game.

The Bears (21-3, 10-1 MVC) come to town Saturday and are led by senior outside hitter Jamie Adams, with 3.92 kills per game, and senior setter Katelyn Pantazou, who averages 11.9 assists and 2.38 digs per game.

Sophomore middle blocker Marina Mole said the Salukis are looking to record at least one upset and understand no play can be taken for granted.

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Football

Line leads the way
Offensive line stresses cohesiveness, togetherness
Scott Mieszala

Cohesiveness is key for any offensive line. That’s why the SIU football team’s offensive line, co-sponsored by Matt Limegrover and Aaron Lowwood, is one of the most important aspects of the team.

The line is responsible for blocking for the running game, protecting the quarterback, and helping to get the offense in the right play.

Senior running back Randal Falker, who leads the Salukis with 569 rushing yards and nine touchdowns, said earlier this season this year’s offensive line is the best he’s ever played with.

Farrell, a junior, hasn’t disappointed, and offensive line coach Matt Limegrover said Farrell has been the “unsung hero” on the offensive line.

“We ask him to do so much, and he just goes about his business, keeps his mouth shut,” Limegrover said. “Never too high, never too low, comes ready to work every day and those guys have fed off that.”

Limegrover said early in the season the guards — Smith and Aaron Lockwood — were still adjusting to having a new center.

Senior running back John Randle, who leads the Salukis with 569 rushing yards and nine touchdowns, said earlier this season this year’s offensive line is the best he’s ever played with.

Senior running back John Randle carries the ball during the Oct. 13 game against Northern Iowa as senior tackle Darren Marquez and sophomore guard Shawn Smith block. Randle said this season’s offensive line is the best he’s ever run behind.

The No. 7 Salukis (7-1, 3-1 Gateway) lead the conference this season in scoring offense, passing offense, passing touchdowns, rushing touchdowns and first downs.

SIU’s offensive line has also allowed 13 sacks — the third least in the Gateway

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