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The Alestle

Alton - East St. Louis - Edwardsville



'Pep Band to return courtside'
See Sports

Wednesday, July 28, 2010

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Sean Roberts/Alestle

Richard Essner holds one of the frogs used in researching that some primitive frogs learn to jump before they learn how to land. Essner has received international recognition for his study.

Look before you leap

by **Rosie Githinji**
Alestle A&E Editor

Richard Essner, assistant professor in the Biological Sciences department, published a research paper that is now receiving international recognition. His research is about frogs being able to jump before they could land.

"People have suggested that swimming and jumping are similar behavior," Essner said.

Essner traveled to the Pacific Northwest to find sample species for his research. He said that was one of the particular areas where some of the most primitive groups of frogs are found.

Essner brought the frogs back and filmed and studied them. He said there are thousands of species of modern frogs and about six primitive species tied to water.

"They launch the same but they land differently," Essner said. "Basically they just do a big belly flop when they land."

Typical frogs like the ones you may see in your garden have a more elegant landing, according to Essner.

"Actually, it's a two step process," Essner said. "The

jumping came first and the landing came later."

Graduate student Daniel Suffian assisted Essner with his research. They filmed and took 250 pictures per second so they could better study the frogs.

Suffian said determining the locomotion of the frogs is important as well as the biomechanics of animals. This can help researchers understand how they get away from predators and find food.

"Before frogs learned to jump, they moved in a pretty inefficient way," Suffian said.

Suffian said frogs are one of the most successfully evolved amphibians.

"They look so stupid when they land. They just belly flop," Suffian said. "It's a valid and important evolutionary story."

Biological Sciences Chair

Paul Brunkow said Essner's research is good for the university because it will help get SIUE's name publicized, especially since the research is gaining international attention.

Other faculty members will mention the research to their students, which could help with getting students interested in SIUE.

Brunkow said the interest in the research may help get Essner more grant money or collaborative work with other researchers. People will know who they can contact when they have questions or interests about this type of research.

"It's really cool," Brunkow said. "When you boil it down, it's a really basic observation that people never really thought about."

Rosie Githinji can be reached at rgithinji@alestlelive.com or 650-3527.

'Actually, it's a two step process. The jumping came first and the landing came later'

-Richard Essner, assistant professor of Biological Sciences

Pool closing early Budget shuts Cougar Lake Pool's doors three weeks early

by **Justin Wingerter**
Alestle Reporter

Cougar Lake Pool, slated to close three weeks before the normal closing date of Labor Day due to budget issues, has not gone without resistance.

Administration officials have cited budget concerns as the primary cause, saying the pool has developed a \$35,000 deficit over the past five years due to a decline in memberships and general use. They hope to cut back on such losses by closing the outdoor pool during the middle of August, its least popular summer month.

A group of alumni raised questions about the pool's planned closure of August 15, and were trying to work with administration to keep the pool open the normal time. SIUE alum Deborah Luxow, along with

other alumni members, met with Keith Becherer, assistant director of Campus Recreation, back in June.

"Mr. Becherer did a fantastic job when he met with us," Luxow said. "He was very responsive, he listened very well, and we really appreciated the time he took to be with us."

"I met with them on June 11 to discuss, and we kind of relayed the same information to them so I think [Thursday] was their opportunity to see if things had changed, maybe wishful thinking," Becherer said.

The meeting followed a letter the alumni created in support of keeping the pool open.

"We are aware of and are sympathetic to the recent budget crisis and its impact on our alma mater," read the letter from

POOL/pg.2

Hot off the presses



Sean Roberts/Alestle

A student uses the new system in Lovejoy Library to print a paper. The printers now have each user's printing jobs separated from other printing jobs in the library.

by **Jason Frazier**
Alestle Reporter

Computers and printers in Dunham Hall have been replaced and updated recently, part of SIUE's effort to update some of its technology.

Jennifer Vandever, associate vice chancellor for Information Technology, said while the way students pay for print jobs remains the same, there are some

options for them as far as the actual printing is concerned.

"The campus-wide printing system in the classrooms and computer labs, including the library, has been replaced. Students can still pay for printing with their Cougar Cards," Vandever said.

If a student does not have money on their Cougar Card, some of the printers have the

PRINTERS/pg.3

POOL from pg.1

alumni to the SIUE Alumni Association Board of Trustees, which was signed by over 50 alumni and dated nearly two months ago.

"We understand the current budget constraints and are in support for the university's efforts to meet these challenges," the letter adds.

The series of events culminated Thursday morning between campus recreation officials and SIUE alumni members.

"I want to cut straight to the chase and ask, what do we need to do to fix this situation?" Luxow said.

Following handshakes and introductions, those words were the first at the impromptu meeting. Both sides made their case Thursday at the meeting, which lasted for longer than hour and featured Becherer, Luxow, Campus Recreation Director Mick Ostrander, and six other alumni members. The mood remained cordial as administration officials detailed the economic troubles at work and the necessity of the pool's closure.

"Our numbers and our data point the direction for what we do," Ostrander said.

"Unfortunately it's not the answer that this group wants to hear but we're here to be good stewards of the students' dollar and in difficult economic times we're doing what's in the best interest of the students and university," Becherer said.

Alumni members suggested the pool's annual decline in popularity after August 15 is due to a lack of quality advertising, shifting hours, and other acts by administration officials. Therefore, they argued, they should not be punished by the university's faults.



Sean Roberts/Alestle

The Cougar Lake Pool is closing three weeks earlier than its usual Labor Day date due to budget concerns.

"Granted the numbers go down after August 15 but I think that has been set up," Luxow said. "Several years ago when [the pool] started opening at three o'clock rather than noon, there were several of us there at noon just standing around," she added.

SIUE alumna Toni Oplt said some of the past changes at the pool were not announced to pool members.

"There's a history of one thing, then it was changed, then it was changed again so there's been a couple different changes and we weren't made aware of them," Oplt said. "People aren't going to come back; they'll find something else to do."

As administration officials refused to

budge on the issue, the talk turned to marketing ideas for Cougar Lake Pool and the possibility of keeping it open through Labor Day in the future. Following the meeting, however, opinions differed among the alumni.

"Of course I don't like the results and I would like the pool to stay open but at least a commitment to keeping it open in the future was made," Oplt said.

"They really put us off," Luxow said. "We were the ones that had to push and now we still have the same answer we had before."

Justin Wingerter can be reached at jwingerter@alestlelive.com or 650-3527.

SG executive board filled

by Rosie Githinji
Alestle Reporter

Student Government met in an emergency meeting Friday, July 23 to discuss the appointment of three executive board members, one senator, signage for the Student Success Center and a program request for the Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. for the LAFFJAM Supershow.

Kappa Alpha Psi president Joshua Harrell said he is glad SG passed the program request at this meeting.

"We had an idea for something we can do outside of welcome week," Harrell said. "We would have cancelled it if there had been no emergency meeting."

In response to complaints of excess noise and trash in the Student Success Center, there will be new signs up in the SSC asking students to remember to throw away trash and keep their voices down, according to Student Body President Brandon Rahn.

There are three new executive board members, completing the board: Senior finance and management major Zac Sandfer of Charleston, financial officer, senior psychology major Sheena Mathis of Washington Park, organization relations officer and sophomore nursing major Liz Wall of Virden, School Spirit and Pride. Junior political science major Emma Pieper of Oswego is the newest member of the Senate.

The next meeting will be at 2 p.m. August 6 in the SSC.

Rosie Githinji can be reached at rgithinji@alestlelive.com or 650-3527.

Public Announcement Morris Trail Enhancements Open House

Wednesday, August 4, 11 a.m.-noon
Morris University Center, Oak Redbud Room
Engineers will review planned improvements
to SIUE's Morris Trail



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SIUE POLICE BLOTTER

7-20-10

Police took a call stating a vending machine in the first floor Dunham Hall women's restroom had been broken into. Police determined some money was stolen from the machine.

7-21-10

Police took a report of a car broken into while in Lot 4C. The radio was taken from the vehicle.

7-23-10

Police responded to Bluff Hall regarding a burglary. The resident said his laptop and iPod Touch were stolen from the room, which had been left unlocked.

7-26-10

Police issued a citation to Courtney Luster for unauthorized parking in a handicapped spot in the Bluff Hall parking lot.

Police responded to the bus stop in Lot 4F regarding criminal damage to the bus shelter.

Police issued a citation to Scott Ziegler for expired registration on University Drive.

PRINTERS from pg.1

capability to add money right at the printers.

"In addition, several of the stations have coin/cash collectors. The new printing system offers students a variety options including duplex printing and the ability to scan and email documents," Vandever said. "Students will also have access to wireless printing."

Students who like to save trees and a few cents on their Cougar Card should appreciate one of the new features of the new printing system. ITS assistant coordinator Michael Hileman said the printers now have the capability to print on both sides of paper. It can save users a small fee, as printing a two-page document costs 16 cents now instead of 20 cents.

"The printers now offer a duplex printing option. Prints jobs are done on both sides of the paper. This will help save students and SIUE money and paper," Hileman said.

The new printing system has many new features. ITS lab assistant Adrian LePique said one of the new functions he enjoys is the PDF to email function.

"One of the new features is the free email to PDF function," LePique said. "You can scan something and it will email it as a PDF file directly to your SIUE email account."

The new printers are leased and paid for partly by the information technology fee

included in tuition, according to Vandever.

"The printers are leased. The lease fee is paid for by the printing charge and the [information technology] student fee," Vandever said.

Computers in the labs in Dunham Hall have been replaced as SIUE tries to keep its technology up to date on a routine basis. Hileman said as computers change, software needs to change as well.

"We replace computers every three years. It's important to keep the software updated; the minimum system requirements go up as the software goes up," Hileman said. "Updated versions of software such as Adobe CS 5 and Macro S 10 will be running in all of the labs."

There is a tendency to forget how much wear and tear is put on the campus computers. LePique said the amount of usage also increases the need to consistently upgrade and replace the computers.

"It's also important to update computers because computers could start failing because of hard use. If you think about it these computers get a ton of usage compared to what you get at your house," LePique said. "There is someone using them for around 12 hours a day. A lot of them short out."

Jason Frazier can be reached at rgithinji@alestlelive.com or 650-3527.

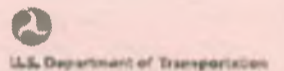


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- 3 oz. gin or vodka
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- 1 too many

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All hard copy letters should be typed and double-spaced. Letters should be no longer than 500 words.

Please include phone number, signature, class rank and major.

We reserve the right to edit letters for grammar and content. However, care will be taken to ensure that the letter's message is not lost or altered.

Letters to the editor will not be printed anonymously except under extreme circumstances.

We reserve the right to reject letters.

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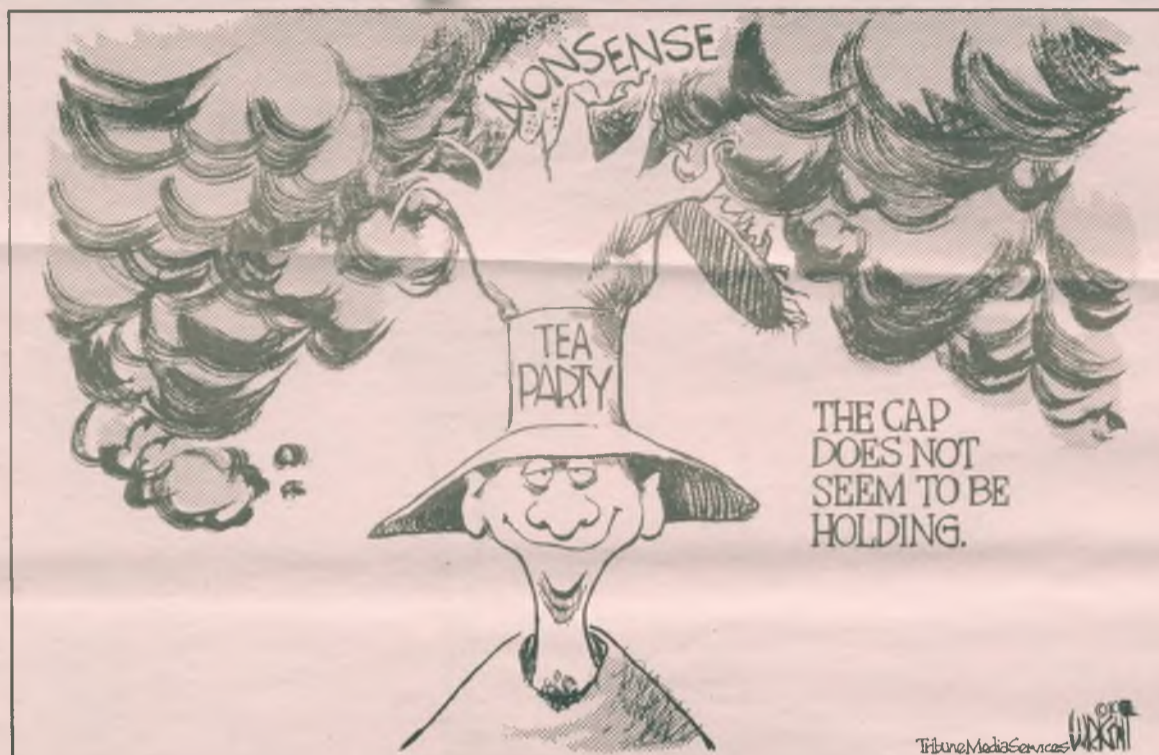
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Alestleview: Save Art Building expansion funds

When it comes to college spending, most students can probably identify with spending outside of their means. It happens and it is forgivable every now and then. But when we irresponsibly spend money on desires instead of necessities, there is a huge problem. SIUE should know better.

As the continuing budget crisis spills over

Alestle Editorial Board

into the next year, SIUE will be spending more than \$14.3 million on renovating and expanding the Art and Design Building. There are good reasons for the expansion and renovation, as the building is not up to code.

While it is important to make sure our buildings are safe for students, SIUE should consider the money set aside to be spent on the expansion will be ill-spent.

This is not to say the art students do not deserve a better building. Floods have

permeated the building the past couple of years, there is little space and the lighting could definitely be improved. None of these are conditions for artists to thrive.

But when our teachers only have secure paychecks until September, it makes SIUE look like it prefers expansion rather than secure employment for a key part of this university. This can be likened to a student spending money on a new car as opposed to tuition.

Let's be honest. These concerns are very real. Since December, meeting payroll has been a concern for nearly every month. SIU President Glenn Poshard has asked the university to construct a furlough plan in the event the state fails to make payments.

SIUE seems to be in a constant flux of expansion and fiscal uncertainty. The state of Illinois owes the entire SIU system \$85 million and is the source of most of the administration's problems. But, until we can get a definite, secure promise we will get the money, SIUE should focus on paying our professors and focusing on education.

The new science building, which is nearly under construction, is a different case. Federal funding is powering that project, contrary to a fund that is also paying our faculty and staff. If the Art and Design Building expansion had grants or federal funding, we would be the first to support it.

While most of our professors have played ball with the uncertainty surrounding their income and budget restrictions (including lack of travel to conferences and severe paper rationing), it is disheartening to see a building expansion as a possible replacement for their jobs.

If there are more definite teaching jobs out there, it is possible SIUE could see the better professors leave for other schools. You can only keep a cougar around for so long without feeding it before it leaves for the higher ground.

The Alestle editorial board can be reached at news@alestlelive.com or 650-3527.

Opponents of mosque near 'Ground Zero' hypocritical

Sinclair Lewis famously warned "when fascism comes to America it will be wrapped in the flag and carrying a cross" and it seems the Bible-thumping flag wavers are once again showcasing



Justin Wingerter
Alestle Reporter

their cultural and historical ignorance here in America.

At issue is a 15-story community center and Islamic prayer space set to be built roughly two to three blocks from Ground Zero in New York. At work are two forces: those of common sense and American liberty and those paranoid, imbecilic individuals that, in their own hypocrisy, have suggested the state of New York somehow halt the construction of the community center.

April 19, 2005 marked the 10th anniversary of the tragic bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in downtown Oklahoma City that killed 168 innocent people and injured nearly 700. The terrorist attack – the worst in U.S. history prior to 9/11 – was carried out by two

Christian men and yet the memorial service held April 19, 2005 took place at First United Methodist Church, one of dozens of Christian churches near the site of the former Murrah Federal Building.

Former Vice President Dick Cheney attended the solemn ceremony that day, held at a Christian church, to remember an attack by at least one Christian (admittedly, Timothy McVeigh's religious beliefs can be considered somewhat less than Christian), but now opposes the construction of a community center and mosque in Manhattan.

Of course there is no reason why churches should not be built near the site of the Oklahoma City bombing. We live in a constitutional republic in which our guiding light – the U.S. Constitution – ensures us of personal liberties (including the freedom of religion) and the right to personal property.

In New York for example, the owners of Cordoba House – the facility in question – have legally purchased their piece of overpriced Manhattan real estate and would now like to practice their religion there. Under the constitutional "American way" this is both protected and encouraged.

But those opposing the mosque do not favor the truly American way. They favor their

mythical America: a white and Christian utopia they call America. In their America, American soldiers do not fight to uphold and protect the rights guaranteed under the Constitution but rather to uphold and protect the white Christian way of living. There is no room for "others" in mythical America. Freedom of religion in Sarah Palin's America means the right to avoid secularism, push Christianity into each and every cultural institution and display hate towards those who worship entities other than Christ.

Through this mythical America we can see the ultimate irony, the grand hypocrisy that guides this nation to its depths: those that wave the flag the highest are the first to act in fundamentally un-American and unconstitutional ways.

We can see this in their clear disrespect for American staples such as freedom of religion and the right to private property. As they invoke the names of our nation's founders they simultaneously ignore their writings and warnings like the illiterate cretins they are. This grand hypocrisy must end lest we find ourselves in Sinclair's fascist state.

Justin Wingerter is a junior mass communications major from Granite City. He can be reached at jwingerter@alestlelive.com or 650-3531.

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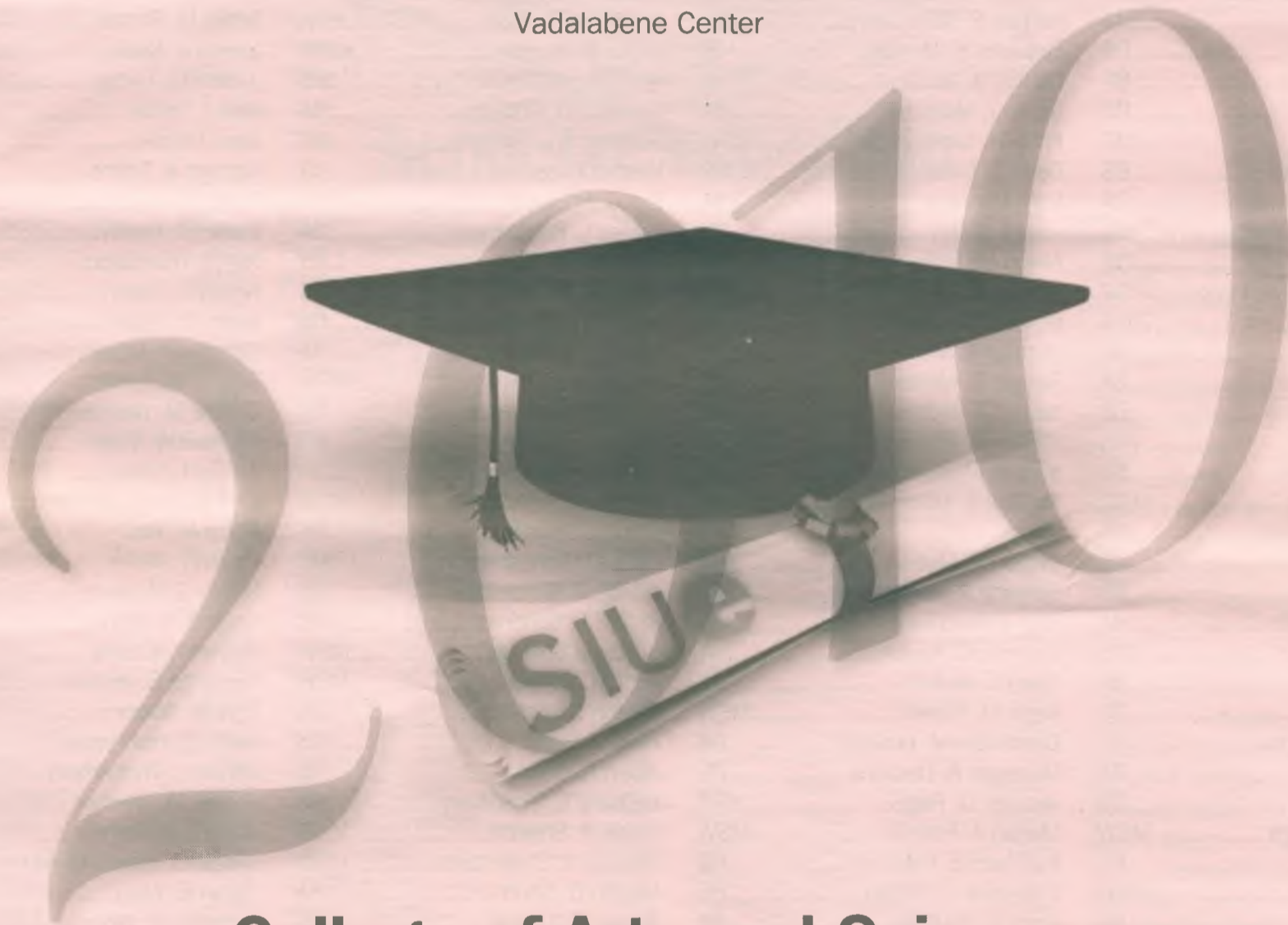
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Summer Graduation Edition - Vol. 43, No. 62, 2010

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August 7, 2010 • 10:00 a.m.

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CONGRATS

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Learning how to use technology to make music



Sean Roberts/Alestle

Eddie Quaas, 14 (left), Spencer Burkart, 16 (center) and Alesha Lovelance, 15 (right) work on compositions for the Music and Technology Composition Camp run by the Music Department.

by Jason Frazier
Alestle Reporter

Most people do not realize much of the music they listen to is generated by a computer, not an actual instrument. Students in the Music Technology and Composition Camp learned how to create these sounds.

From July 19-23, the Music Technology and Composition camp provides its campers with some options to create music. Darryl Coan, music professor and camp instructor, said they either pick the traditional route or use some of the new trends.

"We give the kids equipment and time to be able to compose their own music. There are a variety of activities they can choose for this process," Coan said. "Students can choose to compose traditionally or use more modern kinds of composing such as loops or GarageBand."

Coan said students are free to choose the musical direction they want during camp.

"Honestly, most of time the students compose by choice. If they want to create music by circuit bending then that's their

choice to do so," Coan said. "Students have created new music soundtracks during camp for video games or movies that already exist with original soundtracks in place."

The students at the camp use many interesting methods to create music. Coan said circuit bending is one of the more interesting methods.

"This year we are doing circuit bending. During circuit bending we break open battery-powered toys. Then we rewire the circuits to get interesting sounds the toy wasn't intended to produce," Coan said.

Circuit bending can be an interesting but difficult process according to Collinsville High School senior Lazarus Richardson.

"We have already fried two toys. It's hard not to do so. It's pretty sweet once you can finally get noise out of it," Richardson said.

Many are no longer familiar with sound coming from authentic instruments, according to Coan. He also said sound and where sounds come from has evolved over time.

"In this age most people have grown up with technology-produced music. Most

are very used to the computerized sounds but they also incorporate sounds that sound like they come from real instruments," Coan said. "Back in the 1960s people liked computerized sounds to sound like sounds that would come from computers. These kids want a guitar on a computer to sound like a real guitar. They don't really pick many odd sounds."

Students attending the camp have a variety of reasons for doing so. Edwardsville High School junior Spencer Burkart said he hopes to learn how to use the Mbox 2 Mini his parents bought him.

"I've played piano for about seven years of my life and a few years ago my parents bought me an Mbox 2 Mini to hookup to my keyboard and the computer to help remix songs and make new songs," Burkart said. "I wanted to learn more on how to do that so I took the opportunity to come here."

Richardson said becoming familiar with different musical software is what sparked his interest to attend camp.

"I've been composing music since I was in fifth grade. This year I wanted explore more options in music as far as technology stuff," Richardson said. "I also

wanted to learn how to use MIDI software instead of using Finale all the time."

Coolidge Middle School eighth grader Alicia Levly said she definitely knows more about music now than she did before music technology camp.

"Before camp I had never composed any of my own music. During camp I have become more familiar with programs such as GarageBand and Finale," Levly said.

This year is not the first for Music Technology camp at SIUE. Coan said he has been apart of this particular camp for 13 years.

"This camp has been going on for a long time," Coan said. "The first year I did it was 1997 and I know it was running several years before that."

The age of the students range from eighth graders through high school age. Coan said he would not mind if students from the camp chose to enroll at SIUE in the future.

"That would be great," Coan said. "We have had students do that in the past."

Jason Frazier can be reached at jfrazier@alestlelive.com or 650-3531.

Annual Suzuki string camp helps kids learn how to improve skills

by Justin Wingerter
Alestle Reporter

In front of an audience of proud parents and family members that filled every seat available – leaving a couple dozen people standing throughout the hour-long performance – SIUE's String Camp came to a close with a final concert Friday afternoon.

Classes began last Tuesday and ended Friday. Each day of camp began at 10 a.m. and featured three hours of class along with an hour for lunch. The brief camp, which began in 1986, offers young campers the opportunity to learn a number of skills in just four days, according to SIUE Suzuki Program Director Vera McCoy-Sulentic.

"The kids come on Tuesday. They've never seen this music ever before and they rehearse basically four hours and then they perform," McCoy-Sulentic said. "It's the teachers' skill that allows them to learn the music quickly, play with dynamics, play together and play in tune."

Much of the camp's annual success can be traced to the research of Shinichi Suzuki and the Suzuki method of musical pedagogy. Basing his method on the fact that Japanese children learn their difficult

native language at such a young age, Suzuki reasoned that violin could be taught in much the same way.

"[Suzuki] came up with the idea that children and parents would practice together. Parents would attend practices, take notes, become the practice partner at home and children would listen to recordings so that music they're supposed to be learning is in the environment," McCoy-Sulentic said.

When SIUE hired John Kendall in 1960 to establish a Suzuki program, he became one of the first Americans to observe Suzuki's method.

"He saw a videotape of 400 children play the Bach Double Concerto in Japan and he couldn't believe it," McCoy-Sulentic said. "He thought it was rigged."

After flying to Japan, where he was met at the airport by 200 kids playing violin together, Kendall founded the SIUE Suzuki program in 1965, making it the oldest of

its kind in the United States, according to McCoy-Sulentic.

Following in the wake of Suzuki and Kendall, McCoy-Sulentic has been the director of the Suzuki Program since 1997 and has taken part in the string camp since her time as a graduate student in

1986. The camp offers classes on three subjects – repertoire, reading, and technique – with students separated not by age but by skill level.

"I looked at each person's registration and they indicate whether they are a beginning reader, intermediate or advanced reader," McCoy-Sulentic said.

"In one class I had 7-year-olds and 14-year-olds."

McCoy-Sulentic said all of the campers were under the age of 15 with the youngest being 5 and the average being 10 or 11.



Illustration by Derrick Hawkins/Alestle

Tuition for the four-day camp cost \$145. Campers could also attend a mariachi violin course or musical theater course for an additional \$35 each. McCoy-Sulentic said the money raised was spent on teacher salaries, T-shirts and food.

"This is not a profit-making endeavor," McCoy-Sulentic said.

Teachers included SIUE alumni Erika Lord-Castillo, Allison Woerner and Marc Schapman along with Alicia Kulla-Branz, who first met McCoy-Sulentic when she was 11. Kulla-Branz taught the mariachi course.

"I played in a [mariachi] group for a year in Texas. It's not that hard," Kulla-Branz said.

The joy and excitement on the students faces Friday's final performance certainly showed no signs of a difficult four days of learning despite the accomplishments achieved in such a brief span. For McCoy-Sulentic, it is something she still has yet to become accustomed to.

"I'm always amazed by what they can do in four days," McCoy-Sulentic said.

Justin Wingerter can be reached at jwingerter@alestlelive.com or 650-3531.

Coomer named to take over tennis programs SIUE administrator has tennis background, replaces Updyke

Men's and women's tennis

by Allan Lewis
 Alestle Sports Editor

Jason Coomer has another title to add to his resume as SIUE has filled its vacant tennis head coaching job in-house.

Coomer, also SIUE's assistant athletic director for Marketing was named the eighth head coach in SIUE tennis history

by Athletic Director Brad Hewitt last week.

"We are very pleased that Jason will be taking on this additional role in the department. His leadership will keep us on a clear path, and he will serve as an excellent mentor as we continue to play stronger schedules in Division I," Hewitt said. "Jason's demonstrated work ethic and commitment to the department's

future gives me great confidence that he will be successful in both roles."

Coomer played collegiate tennis at Division II Southern Indiana from 1996 to 2000, and helped the Screaming Eagles to three straight Great Lakes Valley Conference regular season titles and an NCAA tournament appearance his senior season. Coomer served as an assistant

coach at USI in 2001.

Coomer said the news of former Head Coach Kyler Updyke's resignation in May and his eventual hiring as a replacement came as somewhat of a shock.

"It was one of those deals where we were all shocked with the change and what had transpired," Coomer said. "[Hewitt] knew I had a tennis

background but we never really discussed it until the opportunity became available."

The game has not gotten far from Coomer, who said he is in an ideal situation to work with a pair of teams returning from a season in which they struggled, the men going 2-13 and the women's side 3-17.

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Pep band to return for basketball

by Allan Lewis
 Alestle Sports Editor

During breaks in the action at the Vadalabene Center, Cougar fans have become accustomed to music on the public address system, coming from artists like Drake, Bon Jovi and Rascal Flatts.

The music offering and environment in the gym is set to change next basketball season, because music professor Dan Smithinger is charged with the task of establishing the latest incarnation of SIUE's pep band.

SIUE has had a band before, as recently as 2005. For various reasons, the band has fallen apart, and SIUE has been absent the familiar sounds present at college basketball games across the country.

Smithinger said a band has been high on the administration's agenda as the athletic department continues moving towards NCAA Division I status.

"There were a couple of incarnations of it in the past, and this year, around March; ironically when the NCAA finals ended the administration decided they wanted to have the pep band again," Smithinger said. "They decided they needed a director, and it worked out that I was recently hired as a percussion instructor and I can work both out. It is going to be more organized this time"

Assistant Athletic Director for Marketing Jason Coomer said the revitalization is a welcome addition for fans as well as the department of Intercollegiate Athletics.

"It will be welcomed by our students and season ticket holders, because both groups have inquired about it," Coomer said. "Professor Smithinger will

and dance programs are being restructured during the offseason.

"They will do a lot to engage the student body and keep them involved in every single game until the end and feed off of what is going on and off the court," Coomer said. "The spirit programs, our dance and cheer teams are restructured this year and the student body is really going to see an increase in enthusiasm."

Coomer said the changes will combine to increase the home-court advantage SIUE has during the 32 men and women's basketball games scheduled at home next season.

"It is a staple for a college team to have a pep band working with the cheer and dance teams and getting them engaged," Coomer said. "It is an integral part of the game day atmosphere and with the product [Smithinger] will put out, the home court advantage will increase and it is a key asset in making it tough for visiting teams."

Smithinger said he is looking forward to representing both the music department and athletics and fitting into his new position at the university.

"We are going to be an integral part of the games," Smithinger said.

'It is going to be more organized this time'

- Dan Smithinger,
 Percussion instructor and pep band director

do a great job, and he is working hard with recruiting from an organizational standpoint and we are looking forward to adding him."

Smithinger said he is exploring multiple options to decide who will make up the pep band, and more information will become available closer to basketball season in November.

"We are looking at some options for placement, tryouts and auditions, but nothing is concrete right now," Smithinger said.

Along with the pep band, Coomer said the cheerleading



Courtesy of SIUE Sports Information
 A member of the former SIUE pep band plays saxophone during a 2005 game at the Vadalabene Center. The band will be reborn this basketball season under the direction of percussion instructor Dan Smithinger.

Allan Lewis can be reached at
 alewis@alestlelive.com or 650-3524.

Men's basketball home schedule

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| Nov. 6 Webster (Exhibition) | Nov. 12 IPFW | Nov. 20 MacMurray | Feb. 24 Morehead State | Dec. 4 MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE | Dec. 11 Kennesaw State | Jan. 8 South Dakota | Jan. 18 Eastern Kentucky | Jan. 24 UT Martin | Jan. 26 Murray State | Jan. 29 Greenville | Feb. 1 SEMO | Feb. 12 Robert Morris (Ill.) | Feb. 19 ESPN Bracket buster | Feb. 22 Tennessee Tech | Feb. 24 Hannibal LaGrange |

COOMER
from pg. 6

"It is an opportunity to get back to my tennis routes while maintaining my administrative duties," Coomer said. "I'm appreciative of the opportunity. I'm a competitor, whether as an administrator or in a coaching or playing role. I want to do this the right way and institute discipline and work ethic and carry that on."

Coomer credited his former coach at Southern Indiana, Jon Mark Hall, as an influence in his young coaching career.

"I learned a lot from my coach. He was a five-time conference coach of the year, a mentor and he always stressed academics. He said a lot of what happens on the courts are also like aspects of life," Coomer said. "I've learned a lot from him, and having that coaching foundation and being able to learn from him."

As a former player, Coomer said he has few concerns about being able to fit into a coaching role.

"There are things that will pop up, and you don't know how to address them until they come up, but I don't have any concerns," Coomer said. "I know what it's like being on the road and in the coaching world a lot of coaches have a coaching background but not an administrative background."

My experience will help me get the global view of the program as it fits into the schemes of the department."

SIUE returns the majority of both its men's and women's rosters next season, and Coomer said his first task as a head coach was to speak with all of his returning players. SIUE graduated three tennis players last season: Amanda Niebur, Robert Young and Carlos Sanchez.

"I've been able to evaluate our returning players and incoming players and spent a day on the phone with all of them," Coomer said. "They understand my goals, my expectations that I have academically and on the court. The evaluation process will be ongoing but there has been an initial evaluation of the roster."

Coomer admitted it may take some time for his team to adjust to a new coach, but he also hopes the adjustment period is short lived.

"There is always a little bit of a building process when a new coach comes in, and there is a learning curve," Coomer said. "I am going to try and minimize it with their style and my style and find a fit that is the best case scenario to move our program forward."

Sports can be reached at sports@alestlelive.com or 650-3524.



Lindsey Oylar/Alestle

Jordan Faulkenberg and the SIUE tennis programs will be under the direction of Jason Coomer when they take the courts next season. Coomer was named the eighth head coach in SIUE tennis history last week, replacing Kyler Updyke who resigned in May.

Women's basketball home schedule

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| Nov. 12 Morgan State | Nov. 16 Wichita State | Nov. 28 Austin Peay | Nov. 28 Saint Louis | Dec. 3 DePaul | Dec. 5 Ball State | Dec. 12 Morehead State | Jan. 6 Eastern Illinois | Jan. 9 South Dakota | Jan. 11 Tennessee State | Jan. 17 Eastern Kentucky | Jan. 25 Murray State | Feb. 1 SEMO | Feb. 16 IPFW | Feb. 22 Tennessee Tech |

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