



Walking with a purpose

Brueggemann battles liver disease, raises awareness at annual Liver Life Walk

LEXI CORTES
 Alestle Reporter

When Bonnie Brueggemann was a teenager, she spent a year and a half of her life in and out of the hospital. She was confined to a hospital bed with an 11-inch incision across her stomach after undergoing major liver surgery. Her skin was a sickly pale yellow.

"When I first heard that I was diagnosed with [cirrhosis], I was convinced that I was going to die," the English literature graduate student of Collinsville said.

She is now 22 and feeling better than ever. Recent major events in her life include graduating in August 2010 with a bachelor's degree in English language and literature, being used as a case study at St. Louis University Hospital and setting a wedding date with her fiancé, Aric. Everything is falling into place, but it has been a long and intense journey for her.

"Typically, [cirrhosis] is associated with alcohol or drug usage or hepatitis, but mine was actually formed from a birth defect," Brueggemann said.

The birth defect was in her bile ducts, which were blocked with gallstones. When she was 10 months old, the bile ducts

collapsed and had to be removed, as well as her gallbladder. Everything was fine until Brueggemann turned 18 years old.

"I started not feeling very well and I didn't really know what it was," Brueggemann said. "I thought it was maybe hormonal because I was just tired and cranky and I'd get headaches. I just felt 'blah' for seven months and I thought 'this isn't right.'"

Her mother made an appointment for her at the gynecologist. When the doctor looked at Brueggemann's health history, she ordered an extensive blood test immediately because she noticed all the problems Brueggemann had as a baby.

"My liver enzymes were triple what they should be, they were in the thousands and they called me back immediately and [said] you've got to go see your doctor because this is not normal," Brueggemann said.

They referred her to Dr. Alex Befeler, a liver specialist at St. Louis University Hospital. At this point, Brueggemann's liver was so enlarged from the defects that it had slipped out from underneath her ribcage.

"It was a year's worth of tests, ultrasounds, blood tests, CAT



Photo courtesy of Bonnie Brueggemann

Bonnie Brueggemann was diagnosed with cirrhosis when she was 18. She participated in the Liver Life Walk Saturday at Tower Grove Park in St. Louis.

scans and MRIs," Brueggemann said. "I've had six endoscopies. I turned yellow. I had stints put in my bile ducts. It was horrible, the worst year of my entire life, hands down."

Dr. Kian Modanlou was Brueggemann's surgeon. He created a special surgery for her in May 2009, which rerouted everything in her entire body so she is no longer using her bile ducts to fix the problem.

At the time, she was employed by Speech Communication Department Chair Dr. Isaac Blankson, who came to visit her in the hospital.

"I saw some strength and determination in her that made me

confident that she would be alright," Blankson said.

Blankson said he really cared for Brueggemann. He even calls her the daughter he never had.

"She is very determined to do whatever she can and not let the sickness be an obstacle or an impediment to her progress, which is very commendable and I respect her for that," Blankson said. "She has the strength, I believe, to go through that."

The doctors still do not know for sure if Brueggemann will need a liver transplant at some point. Most cirrhosis patients do, but since her experience has not been typical, it is hard to predict what will happen next.

Brueggemann has not let cirrhosis slow her down at all. She goes to school, work and the gym and even writes a fashion blog in her free time. Recently, she has been busy getting the word out about the Liver Life Walk.

The Liver Life Walk is a fund-raising event in St. Louis organized by the American Liver Foundation that was held June 4. Brueggemann has been attending the event for two years now with her team, "Screw You, Cirrhosis." Last year her team raised \$300, and has raised \$380 this year.

"There are separate teams, but you're all one team," Bruegge

BRUEGGEMANN/pg.2

Springboard gives parents, students SIUE preview



Photo by Derrick Hawkins/Alestle

Incoming freshmen are lead on a tour of campus during Springboard last Friday. Freshman are set to move in August 19th.

BRIAN BERNIS
 Alestle Reporter

Coming into the college world is a big milestone for a student, a milestone that can be scary and exciting at the same time.

For the parents of the students, emotions run the same.

SIUE helps control those emotions by hosting the program Springboard. The program runs from the beginning of June through July. According to Ryan Downey, assistant director of Admissions, last year approximately 2,046 freshmen participated in the program that educates students on what to expect when they reach campus in August.

Starting June 2, incoming freshmen and parents filed into SIUE to get a weekend education on how to deal with the challenges college may bring.

Director of Admissions Todd Burrell, who speaks to parents every year about his experience as

a college freshman, said Springboard is there to calm both parents' and students' nerves, but also to get them excited to be on campus in August.

"This program helps the students with the worries of who are they going to hang out with or what are they going to be doing while on campus," Burrell said. "[And] the parents, we help educate them on how to register for classes or how to deal with the kid leaving home and make sure to let them let them know everything available on campus."

After seeing some of the organizations presenting, freshman chemical engineering major Michael Roche of Belleville said Springboard made him more excited for what was to come in the fall.

"Seeing what all SIUE had to offer made me feel like I chose the right school," Roche said. "It makes me feel like I will get the same college experience as I would

SPRINGBOARD/pg.2

SPRINGBOARD from pg.1

at Mizzou or another school."

Burrell said he believes Springboard is essential for incoming freshmen because a student's world changes a lot once they get on campus.

"The name Springboard [means to] be springing into the next transition into your life and we want to make sure the process is as smooth as possible so one day they will be in [the] Vadalabene Center for graduation," Burrell said.

Sherri and Craig Farniok of Godfrey are learning the process since their son, Jared Farniok, is their first child to attend college.

"We have been learning one step at a time, and I think you have to because it can get overwhelming," Sherri Farniok said.

As the Farnioks checked in and had their Starbucks drinks in hand, they were prepared for what Springboard was about to bring

"It looks like a good program with familiarizing parents and students with the educational environment that is offered here, and the staff seems willing to answer any of our questions," Craig Farniok said.

Downey said one the most common questions parents have is how to pay for college.

"This day and age especially, parents are always asking how [their] kid can get scholarships or other financial aid," Downey said.

Providing answers for students and the parents is the goal of Springboard Downey said.

Part of making the transition a success is showing the variety of things to do on campus such as going to athletic events or joining a campus organization.

"Springboard is not just an admissions program," Downey

said. "This day and age students are probably friends with each other on Facebook before they even get out of the parking lot..."

"I think it was worthwhile and very organized and my wife and I have a better idea of what's to follow for our son," Craig Farniok said.

Burrell said an important part of Springboard is helping to develop friendships.

"This day and age students are probably friends with each other on Facebook before they even get out of the parking lot," Burrell said.

- Todd Burrell
Director of Admissions

Incoming freshman nursing major Jennifer Mellethin of

Streamwood said meeting new people through different activities, such as bowling and sand volleyball, was a great way to break the ice.

"I loved meeting people and definitely made a lot of new friends this weekend," Mellethin said. "We are already friends on Facebook."

For freshman pre-pharmacy major Erika Ann Smith of Marengo, Springboard confirmed why she chose SIUE.

"I was little nervous at first but now I am excited to start living in my new home and this program confirmed SIUE is the right fit for me," Smith said.

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BRUEGGEMANN from pg.1

mann said. "It was just great to be surrounded by a community of people affected with the same things that I have. It made me feel really good despite my liver problems. It's nice to know you're not alone."

She has made countless new friends including Liver Life Walk campaign event manager Jill Metherd, who encouraged Brueggemann to share her story in an interview with Fox 2 News that aired May 29, as well as in front of all 350 participants at this year's Liver Life Walk.

"I tried to keep my speech short, sweet, heartfelt, positive and fun," Brueggemann said. "The most amazing part came when I told them that since the surgery three years ago, I have been feeling better than I have ever felt in my entire life and every single person clapped and cheered for me. It was the most amazing feeling to look into the crowd and see everyone smiling and applauding for me."

Brueggemann also had the opportunity to be one of the "LIVER Champions" leading the walk through Tower Grove Park.

Metherd said the event is a great way to not only inspire people by listening to stories like Brueggemann's, but also to educate participants with the "fact banners" that are carried through the walk.

"I'll talk to everyone about this," Brueggemann said. "If I can raise awareness then I've done my job."

Brueggemann said she wants to get the word out at SIUE

because college students can be notorious for drinking massive amounts of alcohol, which can lead to liver problems.

"I would never wish this on my worst enemy," Brueggemann said. "I just think more people need to know about it."

There are few things Brueggemann said she hates more than when people take their bodies and their lives for granted.

"Come on, you're perfectly healthy and you're complaining about the littlest things," Brueggemann said. "I have liver disease and I'm bouncing off the walls and I'm working out seven days a week because I can't sit still."

Brueggemann said she knows what it feels like to be physically weak because she could barely move after her surgery in 2009, with a large incision across her stomach. Now, she enjoys working out regularly because she never wants to feel weak again. Exercising also allows her to have some control over her body.

From her intense experience with cirrhosis, Brueggemann's life has been affected both negatively and positively.

"Facing death really changes a person, especially when you're 19 years old," Brueggemann said. "I've decided I don't want to be around negative people. I don't need that negativity in my life; my life is drama-filled enough with all of this."

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Dean, professor Cuba-bound to shoot documentary

COURTNEY HILL
Alestle Reporter

For the past 125 years relations between Cuba and America have been historically tense, but SIUE is out to bridge the gap.

The effort is a documentary spearheaded by the College of Arts and Sciences and is part of a larger enterprise aimed to encourage a free exchange of knowledge between Cuba and the SIU community.

Dean of CAS Aldemaro Romero said the importance of the Cuban initiative is to learn more about Cuban culture.

"This is important because we really know very little about what's going on in Cuba," Romero said. "This will be a rare opportunity for a U.S. crew to go down there and explore something that is really little-known world-wide."

Romero also noted that the target audience for the documentary will include people interested in academia and cultural values of the U.S. and the global village, while creating a base upon which free exchange and interaction can grow.

"We want to tell a story," Romero said. "We want to tell the story in the words of the people who have been involved in [Cuban-American relations], who have plans and dreams about things that could be done. And in

that way we want to portray the voices of people on both sides, in SIU and in Cuba, about what we can do together."

The genre of the documentary is still to be determined with

Romero.

This has prompted Romero to begin creating the ties once again, and he felt that those associations fostered by the faculty members could be further

in the Cuban institutions and SIU.

These initial exchanges will be acknowledged through the new documentary. According to Romero, the film will be shot in Cuba on two separate trips, the first being in September while the second is near the end of November.

Traveling to Cuba can be rather cumbersome requiring quite a bit of paperwork, according to Romero, and funds for the entire program will be established through campaigning with U.S. private foundations.

The September filming process will include the signing of the "memorandum of understanding" between the University of Havana and Romero, stating there is a formal arrangement between the two that grants the rights to pursue educational inquiries in an experiential manner.

Mass Communications Department Chair Gary Hicks said the university is one of the first to visit the island nation.

"It's a new initiative between the Cuban government and the university and we would be only the second in the nation to do that," said Hicks. "We are sending video crews with [Romero] when he goes to Cuba."

The documentary will utilize several members of Hicks' department as film crew under the direction of professor Cory Byers who has directed or produced around 30 documentaries in his

career.

Students may not be able to attend the September filming because the memorandum allowing educational activities to take place will not yet be signed, but Romero said students should anticipate further associations with Cuba from that point on.

"Once we have the memorandum of understanding signed with the University of Havana, then we can start planning for specific courses and activities where students can do both graduate and undergraduate studies [in Cuba]," Romero said.

The November filming will address the cultural values of Cuba and will involve students and faculty from the department of music. Professor Calvin Jarrell of the theater and dance department said a performance will also be a part of the trip.

"[Professor of music] Joel Knapp is taking the university choral group down to Cuba," Jarrell said. "They will be performing in Havana and Santiago."

In addition to the bureaucratic and cultural principles of Cuba and the U.S., Romero foresees an even stronger vision of unity between the two.

The documentary is slated for completion at the end of the year, and will be posted on the CAS website, siue.edu/artsandsciences.

Courtney Hill can be reached at chill@alestlelive.com or 650-3527.



Photo courtesy of Aldemaro Romero

(left to right) Provost of The University of Havana Cristina Diaz Lopez, Dean Romero, and Vice President for International Relations at The University of Havana Milagros Elena Martinez.

Romero's decision to come in the coming weeks.

After arriving at SIUE in 2009, Romero soon recognized a significant number of faculty members who attempted to create academic ties with Cuba several years ago. However, the venture was abandoned due to travel and administrative restrictions during the Bush Administration.

"Those restrictions were loosened up by the Barack Obama administration last January," said

cultivated to include the entire SIU community.

"I decided to take advantage of [those] relations in order to start an initiative to develop the Cuban Caribbean Center of SIU, not just Edwardsville but also Carbondale," Romero said.

Eventually he met with several officials from the University of Havana in Cuba, as well as the Museum of Fine Arts, and created a strategy that would improve exchanges for faculty and students



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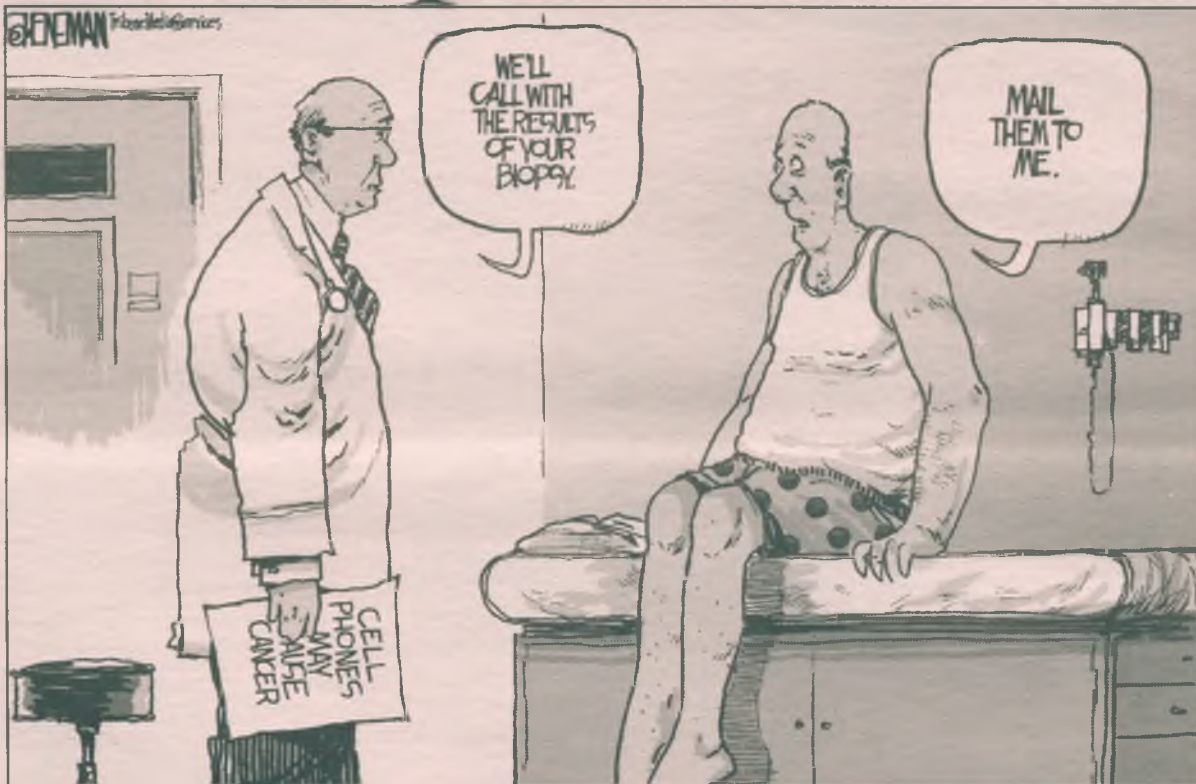
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Civil unions bring (almost) equal rights to Illinois

Surely this is a sign of the coming rapture. I'm not referring to the ridiculous weather we've had this year, I'm talking about them queers gettin' married. Oh wait, they aren't getting married and maybe there is no



Jill Cook
Graduate Student

impending end of the world. It is, however, the next best thing to being married — a civil union. And in Illinois it is now legal for homosexual couples to have their partnership recognized under law.

However, homosexuals aren't the only ones who can enjoy this non-marriage marriage. Heterosexual couples that want to partake in the same benefits as married couples without all the pomp and circumstance and made-for-television drama of a church wedding can as well with just a quick trip to the local courthouse.

It's the perfect compromise for the human

(gay) rights activists. It's a shame they didn't push this compromise three years back. Sure, the battleground was California, the perfect liberal too-stoned-to-care state. But gay rights activists didn't get to celebrate their gay marriage rice-throwing victory for long.

What activists keep forgetting is that people like religious ceremonies. And marriage is a religious ceremony first and foremost. If you start telling good religious people how they can practice, well, it's like a postal carrier telling Albert Pujols how to hit the ball. The reception isn't going to be warm and fuzzy. And California voters made it very clear they do not like to be told how to practice their religion.

I'm all about equal opportunity — marriage is not a right similar to bearing arms or to a fair trial. Sometimes equal opportunity doesn't mean everyone gets the exact same opportunity, just similar opportunities. Equal opportunity, in this case, simply means the law recognizes these committed relationships similarly to married relationships.

If two people — straight or gay — live under the same roof, share the same bills,

work hard and pay their taxes, there is no reason for those two people to be denied the legal securities long reserved for married couples. Securities as simple as visiting rights in hospitals or uncontested wills upon death.

Gay couples who spent years building a home together can still find themselves in a fight against not as accepting families. And at a time of already high stress such as illness or death, loving partners should not be tortured by that kind of hate and then be told by law there is nothing they can do.

Civil unions do not interfere with religion, nor does it force people to accept homosexuality. It is simply the law recognizing a committed relationship with some of the same opportunities as a relationship that survived a marriage ceremony. No end of the world. No rapture. Just simple equal opportunity.

Jill Cook is a mass communications graduate student from St. Louis. She can be reached at jcook@alestlelive.com or 650-3527.

Palin media frenzy lessens chance for presidential run

Sarah Palin is a "media whore." At least that's what the person who vandalized her tour bus thought. And honestly, that person isn't far off.

Very few, if any, people take her seriously. If her recent, inaccurate, comments about Paul Revere's role during his "midnight ride" did not prove that sentiment, saying the Founding Fathers recited the Pledge of



Kari Williams
Editor in Chief

Allegiance should cause concern.

When she first emerged on the national political stage, the GOP was buzzing about this underdog candidate from Alaska. She renewed hope in the Republican Party. I was excited about her being involved in the (vice) presidential race. But that was four years ago. A lot changes in four years.

While I've gone to college, Palin has (more or less) gone crazy. She speaks without thinking. She gives uneducated responses misstating historical facts about the country

she could potentially be in charge of. I understand that people make mistakes when speaking both on and off script, but when watching a Palin interview could be turned into a drinking game every time she goofs, she's turning her life into a media circus. And the two-hour documentary about her life hasn't even come out yet.

Her scatter-brained appearances and media spectacles are doing nothing to help her if she does decide to run for president.

For someone who claims she has not made a decision on whether or not she'll run for the GOP in the 2012 election, she obviously doesn't have a problem making sure everybody remembers who she is. From her daughter, Bristol Palin, appearing on "Dancing with the Stars," to the ill-fated reality show "Sarah Palin's Alaska," to her infamous crosshairs map, Palin has been everywhere. And just about everyone seems to have had enough.

Her overexposure (maybe not the best choice of words with how this generation's politicians have been acting) is killing any momentum she had left from the breakthrough in the last election. Donald Trump put the media on high alert when he

was only thinking about running, and that short but overpowering attention left people disgusted when he revealed he wouldn't run.

His presence was beginning to be ignored by the mass public before he would have even gotten started. If the public was tired of seeing him during that short time span, I can only imagine how people would react to seeing more of Palin.

Now, would I like to see Palin as president? With how she has presented herself the last few years, not a chance. But if she would step back, focus solely on a presidential campaign and get her facts straight, I would consider it.

Her ability to not waiver in her beliefs and policies is admirable, and obviously a good presidential quality. But the intensity with which she portrays those beliefs, the amount of media attention she allows herself to get and the number of times she has made historically inaccurate remarks about the United States, lead a lot of people to believe she's unfit. Crazy, even. And crazy can't run the country.

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Magician strives to entertain with mystery

LEXI CORTES

Alestle Reporter

Terry Richison promises to amaze, mystify, entertain and to turn his audiences' dreams into reality.

Richison is a magician and illusionist who started performing in his hometown of Carbondale when he was in high school. Since then, Richison has performed all over the world and brought his talents to the Wildey Theatre June 4.

"I started when I was 12 doing professional summer stock theater, so I kind of grew up on stage," Richison said. "I still can't fathom why some people get nervous."

Magic was something Richison found similar to theater and a way to put himself through college at SIU Carbondale.

"I was an engineering student, so I built the first illusion, which led into the second illusion, which led to an entire show and I've never looked back," Richison said.

Richison gets to interact with a completely different audience at each location. He said he enjoys pulling people on stage to assist him with his tricks.

"Every show we do is completely different because of the audience," Richison said. "That's what makes it fresh for us."

Richison tends to involve the audience in his shows, adding that sometimes he chooses someone who is very enthusiastic and other times he will choose someone who gets so nervous they become a statue on stage.

Wildey manager Craig Leitner said Richison approached the staff about performing in Edwardsville after hearing about a recently re-opened theater looking for performers from a friend working in Edwardsville.

During his night at the Wildey, Richison picked audience member Christiana Mesle of Highland. It was her birthday and her boyfriend, Greg Kottwitz of Edwardsville, surprised her with tickets to Richison's show.

"He told me before we got here that he was going to get me on stage by yelling that it was my birthday," Mesle said.

Mesle was the second audience member chosen and said she was fairly nervous. Richison directed her to help with an

illusion where she had to shoot a gun at a large deck of cards across the stage.

The gun contained only blanks, but one member of Richison's crew pretended to get shot, falling headfirst from backstage. Richison added even more humor to this act when his assistant, Sheila, brought out a "Help Wanted" sign.

Richison said he is constantly thinking on his feet to keep the show entertaining for everyone. He prides himself in being comfortable with his art, and therefore being able to master an illusion quicker than many other magicians.

"One of the rules for magicians is you don't go out and buy a trick today and perform it tonight," Richison said. "You take it and practice it because you can't make it look real, but I have done that a couple times."

To come up with new tricks, Richison borrows from other magicians and adds his own twist. Some of his influences include David Copperfield, Doug Henning and Lance Burton.

"Magic is like jokes. There are



Photo by Michelle Beard/Alestle

Magician Terry Richison mystifies audience members with a levitation trick at the Wildey Theatre in Edwardsville on June 4.

no new jokes, just old jokes retold with a new window dressing on them. Magic is the same thing," Richison said. "There are a lot of basics of magic that make things work and what you do is you put together a new theme, new window dressing."

The theme of Richison's

show at the Wildey was, "It's Magic! Where Dreams Become Reality."

"I will take you through every emotion that you have, from laughter down to tears and back,"

MAGIC/pg.8

Review: 'Unbearable Lightness' sends heavy message

De Rossi opens up about past struggles and new-found happiness in a personal memoir

ASHLEY SEERING

Alestle A&E Editor

Former star of "Arrested Development," Portia de Rossi, reveals personal secrets and exposes her long struggle with anorexia in her new book, "Unbearable Lightness: A Story of Loss and Gain."

As an actress and model, de Rossi fell victim to anorexia in her teenage years after a series of rejections and criticisms from modeling agencies in her home country of Australia. They left her feeling depressed and self-conscious.

In the early chapters, de Rossi discusses her various modeling jobs as a 12-year-old girl, and how it felt to have her appearance picked apart by money-seeking executives.

Keep a box of tissues on hand as her detailed descriptions of these often-demeaning encounters come to life through her recounts of the events. De Rossi channels her pain through each word, and

her emotions paint each page, making for a beautifully written memoir.

The story is powerful and the unique mix of love, tragedy and triumph is captivating.

"Unbearable Lightness" is a story for survivors and those who are struggling to deal with their own issues.

The acute descriptions of her state of mind during her periods of bingeing and self-starvation allow readers to walk right through the doors of her mind and into the complexity of the disorder.

But the memoir is not only about de Rossi's personal struggles.

She also speaks of her first love, the realization and eventual acceptance of her sexuality and her marriage to comedian Ellen DeGeneres.

In the book, de Rossi credits DeGeneres with showing her that

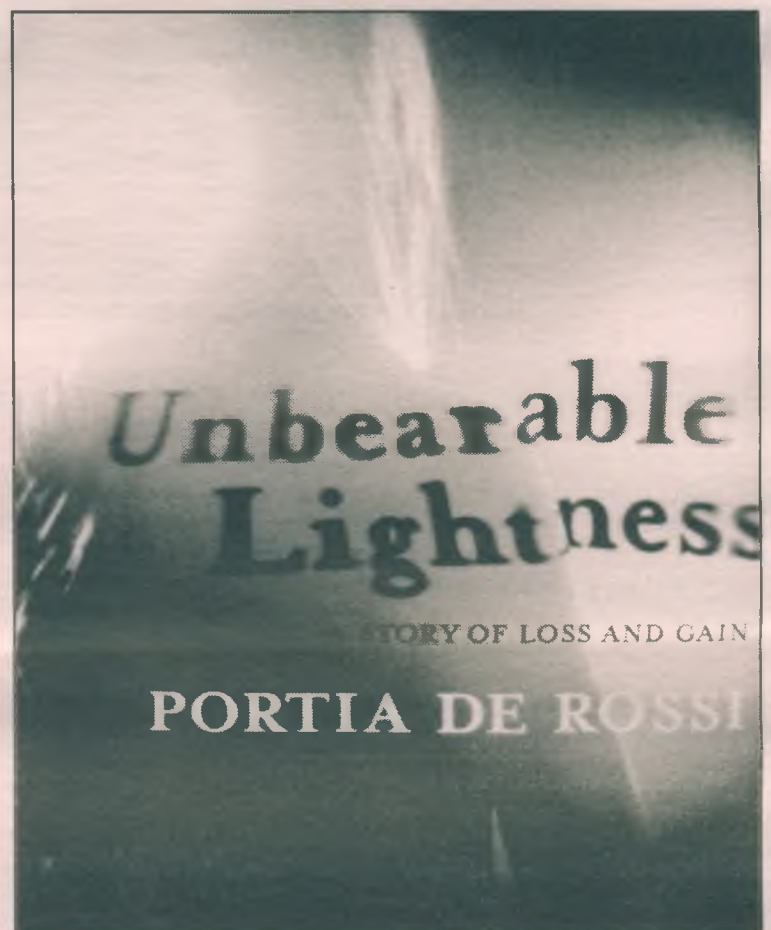
she deserves a life of happiness and says their marriage has "completely changed her life."

These lighter notes make the story a creative mix of emotional ups and downs, which makes it relatable and relevant to nearly everyone.

Leading up to the happy ending, "Unbearable Lightness" features a thorough day-by-day account of de Rossi's life during the height of her eating disorder, and exposes the difficulties she experienced along the road of the disease.

Her descriptions of her crazed binges, desperate purges, and everything in between sheds a light on the destructive lives anorexics lead.

This memoir applies to anyone teenage years and beyond who struggles with self-consciousness, hopelessness or those who simply want



Graphic courtesy of Atria

reassurance that there is always a light at the end of the tunnel.

"Unbearable Lightness: A Story of Loss and Gain" by Portia de Rossi is currently available in hardcover and will be available for purchase in

paperback July 5. It can be preordered on amazon.com and will be available in bookstores nationwide.

Ashley Seering can be reached at aseering@alestlelive.com or 650-3531. Follow Ashley: @AshleySeering.

Kansas City Royals take Patton

ALESTLE SPORTS REPORT

After waiting until the second day of the MLB draft, Spencer Patton finally heard his name called Tuesday.

Patton, the Cougars' senior pitching ace this past season, was selected by the Kansas City Royals in the draft's 24th round, 756th overall.

Patton led the team in wins with nine this past season, including throwing a

complete game shutout, while posting a 2.55 ERA. He also led the team in strikeouts with 109, which tied the second-highest total in a single season for the Cougars. He was second on the team in innings pitched with 88 1/3.

Opponents hit .219 off the righty out of Kimmunity.

Both the St. Louis Cardinals and the Royals brought Patton in for workouts last week.

The right-handed pitcher is the 57th player from SIUE to go on to play professional baseball, and the first player to be drafted since Clay Zavada was drafted in the 30th round by the Arizona Diamondbacks in 2006.

A full story will be available in next week's edition of the Alestle.

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



Graphic courtesy of the Kansas City Royals

Cougars sign five in hopes of improving Recruiting class includes transfer from Colorado State

ALLAN LEWIS

Alestle Sports Editor

Men's basketball Head Coach Lennox Forrester likes the direction of his program and said the Cougars are making strides towards building a championship program.

Men's basketball

Laying the foundation for success through recruiting has been difficult for the Cougars as a transitional Division I team, and early in the transition, SIUE lost four players because of it. Forrester admits recruiting has not been easy for the Cougars. Still, SIUE has added five new building blocks to complement early recruit Charles Joy of O'Fallon.

This year's recruiting class brings together a mix of high school and junior college players. Jerome Jones (St. Louis) and Derian Shaffer (Detroit) come to SIUE after taking the JUCO route, while Kris Davis (Detroit) and Michael Birts (Homestead, Fla.) join the Cougars as freshmen.

Forrester also nabbed his first Division I transfer, Maurice Wiltz, who played his freshman year at Colorado State.

Wiltz brings some serious credentials from high school. Wiltz was a McDonald's All-American nominee his senior year at Stafford High School in Texas, where he averaged 21 points, 4.3 rebounds and 2.9 assists per game. He played in seven games for Colorado State last season, but will have to sit out next year as a requirement of his transfer from the NCAA.

"He is just another piece in the puzzle," Forrester said. "He is an explosive guard who can not only pass, but score. Being able to play a year at the level he did will help our program a lot, and he will have four years with us along with his redshirt year."

The redshirt year will be instrumental in Wiltz's



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The SIUE men's basketball team announced the signings of Derian Shaffer, Jerome Jones, Kris Davis, Michael Birts and Maurice Wiltz last week. The Cougars were 8-21 last season and play a full Ohio Valley Conference schedule in 2011-2012.

development at the college level.

"That's a year you can never waste and is something he will hear on a daily basis," Forrester said. "Players tend to take that year off and he cannot afford that. It gives him a chance to understand our system for when he is able to play so he can step in right away."

Things are looking up for the Cougars, after going 23-64 as an independent during their first three seasons in Division I. Wiltz will be eligible to play the first year the Cougars are eligible for postseason play, which includes the NCAA tournament.

"The light is there at the end of the tunnel and we are attracting better student athletes who I think can come in and help us compete in the Ohio Valley Conference," Forrester said. "Hopefully we can continue working hard and give our fans and institution something to be proud of."

The Cougars will rely heavily on their new JUCO recruits as

they did last season, although recruiting out of junior college has been a mixed bag for the Cougars. Corey Wickware and Cornelius Chatt played important roles on last year's team, but Abel Tillman, the teams' other JUCO recruit, was suspended early in the season for violating team rules and later released after seeing limited action.

It's not just the JUCO players the Cougars have to keep their eyes on off the court however.

"Whenever you are bringing a young man into the program you want to make sure it's a perfect fit, one on and off the floor," Forrester said. "Only time will tell with any player, whether it is a JUCO or a high school player. You have to do your homework to bring in quality guys who will be a huge part of our building process."

SIUE is the third destination for the 6-foot-6, 215-pound Jones who transferred to Indian Hills Community College last

season after he was first recruited as a freshman by Cuonzo Martin at Missouri State.

Jones averaged 12.7 points and 6.1 rebounds for Indian Hills and shot 40.7 percent from 3-point range. While at Missouri State, Jones played in 27 games, averaging six minutes per appearance. He scored 33 points with 33 rebounds, five assists, five steals and a blocked shot.

"[Jones] can score, rebound and is versatile," Forrester said. "Anytime you are starting out as a freshman it takes time to adjust and things may not work out as planned. We are not too concerned with his numbers at Missouri State and hopefully he builds upon what he did at Indian Hills."

Shaffer, the Cougars' other JUCO recruit, is a 6-foot-7, 230-pound post player from Detroit. He averaged 7.6 points per game and 5.8 rebounds per game while playing at Kilgore College in Texas.

"He is going to help us a lot playing the type of basketball we want to play, which is up-tempo and running the floor," Forrester said.

Detroit is a sort of pipeline city for the Cougars, who also recruited Kris Davis from the Motor City.

Davis and Shaffer were teammates for two seasons at Cass Technical High School.

Davis posted impressive numbers in high school, scoring an average of 19 points, three assists and six rebounds per game last year helping his team to a 15-7 record.

"We have built a few connections and relationships there as we continue to build," Forrester said. "Davis is a kid who can play multiple positions, has a great basketball IQ, shoots and passes well and is a team player."

Birts, a 6-foot-6, 200-pound power forward from Robert Morgan Educational Center in Miami, averaged 15 points, 11

rebounds and four blocks per game as a freshman. Birts was selected to play in the Dade vs. Broward All-Star game and was also selected to the ESPN All-South Florida team.

Despite his strong block numbers, Forrester said Birts is slightly undersized for his position, but has a high ceiling.

"He has a lot of room to grow, and that's why I am so excited about these young men," Forrester said.

With the transition wearing off, Forrester said the Cougars are having more luck on the recruiting trail, but they still have to work for their athletes.

"You get six guys, but at the same time we lost 12 players to places like Missouri State, Tulane, Northern Illinois, The [Mid-American Conference and The Horizon [League]," Forrester said. "I can name a bunch of different players we were in on and missed out on getting, but at the same time you are excited about the players we have coming in and we are definitely attracting better prospects who can be able to step in."

Forrester counts seven newcomers instead of six, because junior forward Mark Yelovich will be returning to the lineup after missing all but the season opener last year with a broken foot.

"With Mark, we have seven players coming in," Forrester said. "Even though he played two years, our record hasn't been great. It is going to be new to him too. I'm counting seven instead of six and I think we have some bodies coming in to where we can play with more depth."

Forrester hopes the building blocks come together as well in the gym as they do on paper.

"Hopefully sooner than later we can start winning championships," Forrester said.

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Photo by Rebehka Blake/Alestle

Jake Doyle, 10, of Fairview Heights works on a conditioning drill during the first day of SIUE's men's soccer camp Monday at Korte Stadium. Head Coach Kevin Kalish said nearly 400 campers will participate in SIUE soccer camps throughout the summer.

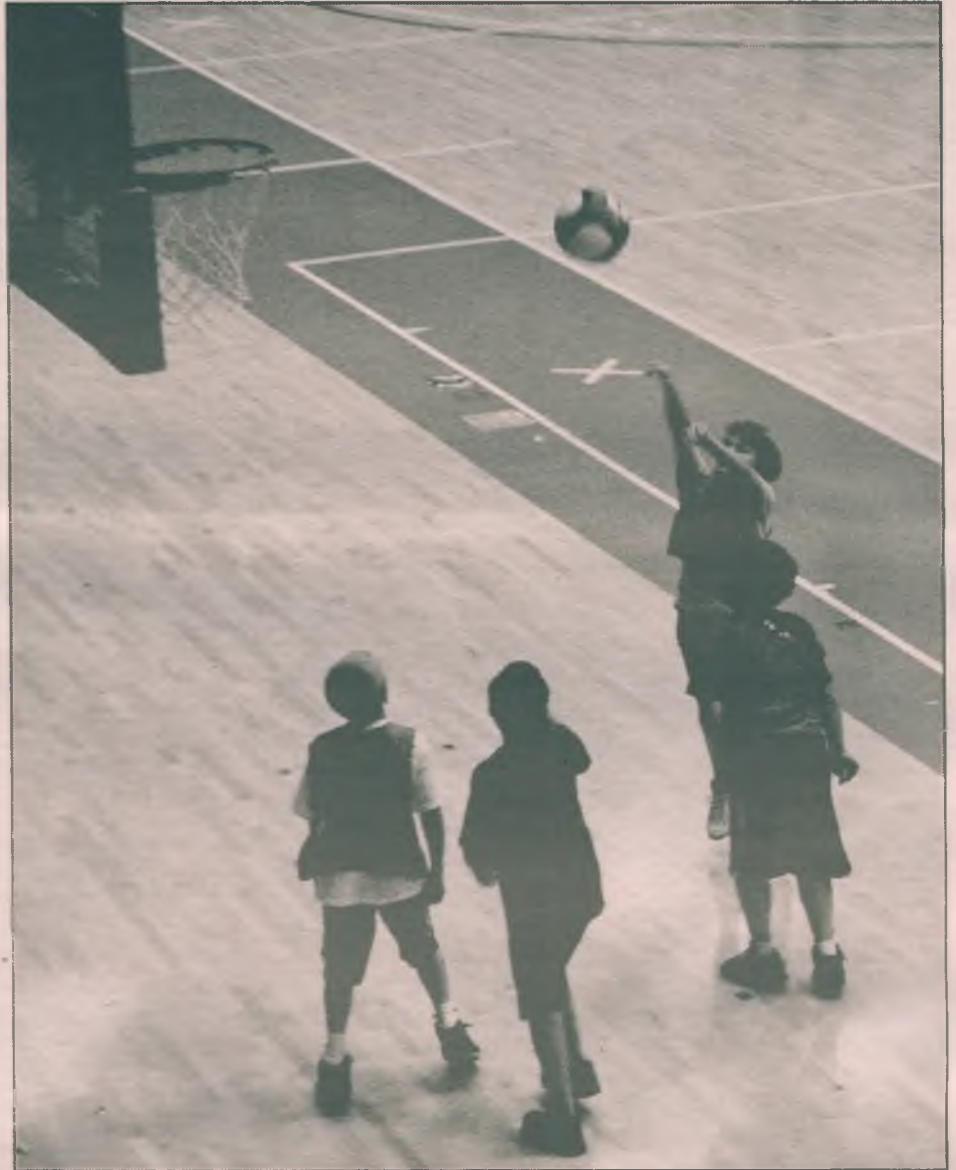


Photo by Derrick Hawkins/Alestle

Four young basketball players work on their shot Monday during the first day of men's basketball camp in the Vadalabene Center. More than 60 players are registered for the individual camp put on by the SIUE coaching staff.

Athletes teach skills, teamwork in camps

First day of soccer camp kicks off despite heat

Young players shoot, pass, dribble in camp

ALLAN LEWIS
Alestle Sports Editor

More than 40 kids braved the sweltering heat Monday to step foot on the artificial turf at Korte Stadium and participate in SIUE's first men's soccer camp in years.

"We did some overnights 4-5 years ago, but with raising a family we took a little bit of hiatus," Head Coach Kevin Kalish said. "We are going to be back at it and it is a part of giving back. We are excited to grow the brand of our program as well."

Throughout the summer, SIUE will have around 400 campers participating in its various camps. Aside from the day camp kicking off Monday, the Cougars will host a camp for high school varsity and junior varsity players as well as a senior academy camp, preparing high school players for college soccer and beyond.

It just so happens the camp is taking place during the hottest week of the year thus far. Temperatures reached the high 90's Monday, and the weather is expected to stay hot throughout the week.

The heat may be an inconvenience, but Kalish hopes it does not dampen the camp. Campers spent some time Monday in the air-conditioned press box cooling down.

"Basically we try to give them as

many breaks as possible and keep them out of the heat for extended periods and monitor them," Kalish said. "Anytime you run camps you know you have to run some precautions and make sure the kids are taken care of. We do a good job with that."

The day camp featured players between the ages of 8 and 12, about 10 years younger than the group Kalish is accustomed to teaching.

"With the college players you have more in the way of player management to deal with, while this is just pure teaching," Kalish said. "I think it is soccer at its purest."

Two players, Kevin Stohl and Peter Kelly, are helping the coaching staff put on the day camp, which runs through Thursday.

"The campers look up to those guys [Stohl and Kelly] more than us [coaches] actually," Kalish said.

Youth soccer has been a part of American culture, although it is perceived differently throughout the population. In the St. Louis area, soccer has always had a following, despite lacking a Major League Soccer team. At the collegiate level, both SIUE and Saint Louis University have storied histories.

"It's inexpensive and simple; all you need is a ball," Kalish said. "I think soccer has grown over the past 10 years with

ALLAN LEWIS
Alestle Sports Editor

No matter your age, basketball is the same game. All it takes is a round ball, a court with baskets on each end and for men's basketball Head Coach Lennox Forrester, the desire to get better every day.

SIUE began hosting its annual basketball camp for players between second and ninth grade Monday at the Vadalabene Center. The all-day camp runs through Thursday.

Sixty-five children participated in day camp, the first of four at SIUE.

In this day and age, becoming a successful basketball player starts early.

"We have some young kids in here who aren't doing anything different than the bigger kids, they just go at a different pace," Forrester said. "We try to get them working hard and try to get them to become a better basketball player all around."

The basketball camp is one way the team reaches out to the community. During the season, the Cougar men's basketball brought more than 400 children to games through its reading program.

"They both help build our fan base with area youth and help support our program," Forrester said. "Hopefully, we can build something special sooner than later."

The campers receive lunch, a basketball, t-shirt and autographs from the team as a part of the camp.

Having fun is also a part of Forrester's camp. around 3 p.m. Monday, the campers were playing a game of knockout. The two finalists were wearing the jerseys of their favorite NBA players: John Wall and Blake Griffin.

"We have some guys in here who have great aspirations," Forrester said. "I was in their shoes when I was young and that's just a part of it."

Many young players learn basketball from watching the NBA. While children may be amazed by the athleticism, skills and star power of their favorite players, Forrester said players need to learn how to grasp the fundamentals of the game first. It is hard for them to see their favorite NBA player execute the fundamentals because they do it so flawlessly.

The fundamentals can become a struggle for some, no matter how easy they may look.

"A lot of kids want to go out there and do what the NBA guys are doing, but you have to master the fundamentals first and have a good foundation to build on," Forrester said.

Most of the early days in the camp are spent working on dribbling, passing

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and shooting form, as well as how to become a good teammate rather than just playing a few pickup games as most kids are accustomed to.

"At any position you play, the fundamentals are important," Forrester said. "Instead of just rolling the ball out and letting them play, we teach them."

The campers are not just learning from the coaching staff, but several players as well. David Boarden, Mark Yelovich, Reggie Reed and LeShaun Murphy will assist with teaching throughout the course of the camp.

The campers particularly look up to the players.

"Here is a Division I player they may have seen on TV or came to the game and saw play

and today they are playing one-on-one with them," Forrester said. "Our guys can help them understand what playing basketball at the next level is about."

Forrester remembers when he was at the same point in his career as many of the campers.

"I never knew where basketball was going to take me, but I am very fortunate for what it has done for me over the years," Forrester said.

"My main goal was trying to get better on a daily basis. I didn't have aspirations as far as where I wanted to play, I just wanted to work as hard as I could."

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Photo by Derrick Hawkins/Alestle
Men's basketball Head Coach Lennox Forrester addresses anxious basketball campers on the first day of camp Monday at the Vadalabene Center.

SOCCER CAMP

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Major League Soccer and the level of play right here in St. Louis. It is a popular game and I think kids enjoy it."

Kalish said the camps provide young players with a chance to get away for a few hours a day and just have fun with the game of soccer.

"It's a more relaxed environment," Kalish said. "We want them to have a good time with the game and learn a few things at the same time."

For the most part, Kalish said the young campers came eager to learn.

"Their attention level varies from player to player, but for the most part, they are coming in here to have a good time and are very excited to be here," Kalish said.

Kalish hopes the camp can generate a few new, young fans for his team.

"Anytime you can build relationships and spread the brand, it is good for the program," Kalish said. "Hopefully we can get these families to come out and watch us in the fall."

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Photo by Rebekha Blake/Alestle
SIUE men's soccer assistant coach Jeremy Alumbaugh talks to soccer campers Monday at Korte Stadium.

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Richison said.

The sentimental portion of Richison's show came just before intermission when he gave a tribute to the Army, Navy, Marines, firefighters and police officers by explaining the meaning of the Pledge of Allegiance. He said the tribute was added to his act after Sept. 11.

Another emotional moment followed when Richison explained he and his father used to attend magic shows together when he was young, but his father died before seeing Richison perform.

He then brought out his daughter, Alexa, and announced they would be doing a levitation illusion dedicated to her grandfather.

Richison's career as a magician has become a family affair as both his son and daughter have participated in the show. Alexa has been performing for eight years. Richison added it was not easy to convince her to join the

family business.

"I basically had to bribe her," Richison said. "I said I would take her to Six Flags. She thought about it, she rolled her eyes up towards the sky and she said, 'Alright, I'll do it one time.' After she did it the first time, we're taking a bow and she's hearing that applause, she loved it."

Richison enjoys a different part of the show. He always watches for the surprise on the audience members' faces.

"I like to watch them light up whenever I'm performing and they are watching and being amazed," Richison said. "That's the fun part; whether they're young kids or adults."

Richison's favorite illusion is one that constantly stumps audience members. At the end of every show, he vanishes off stage and appears in the back of the audience. When fans ask Richison how he does it, he simply responds, "real well."

Richison refuses to give

away any of his secrets, except to his assistant, Sheila, but even she does not want to know. According to Richison, she thinks it will take away the fun of watching him perform.

Besides performing for audiences nationwide, Richison also hosts a three-day magic convention every year in St. Louis where he brings in hundreds of professional magicians from all over the world, the furthest of which comes from Japan. The Midwest Magic Jubilee takes place August 11-13.

Richison said he hopes more people will come out to support the arts of all kinds, especially magic.

"Magic is a wonderful art form and a wonderful form of entertainment," Richison said.

For more information on the Midwest Magic Jubilee visit www.mmjubilee.com

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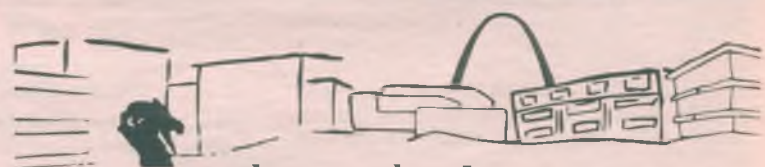
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