

Vandegrift addresses campus issues at forum

State pays SIUE final \$3 million owed from FY 2011, still behind payments for 2012



Chancellor Vaughn Vandegrift speaks at an open forum Dec. 5, fielding questions about international students, student recruiting process and more. SIUE received around \$7.8 million from the state Monday for Fiscal Year 2012. | Photo by Ace Moore/Alestle

JOHN LAYTON
Alestle Reporter

Chancellor Vaughn Vandegrift held an open forum on Monday afternoon and spoke to many of the university's administrators about several topics concerning the university

Campus Housing

Among the topics was the possibility of another residence hall and on-campus housing for fraternities and sororities.

Vandegrift said the university decided to wait this year to see what impact the Enclave development on Route 157 would have on the

university before moving forward with a new residence hall. He said if it does affect the on-campus housing, freshmen and sophomores could be required to live on-campus in the future.

"We've not had to do that. We don't want to do that. But if we ever are challenged in that regard by off-

campus housing, it's something we could do," Vandegrift said.

Vandegrift said the Enclave project is a compliment to the growth of SIUE.

"When private concerns come in and start building student housing around the campus, what they're really saying is 'We believe this university is going to grow and develop even more,'" Vandegrift said.

Vandegrift said the university is still trying to create Greek housing on campus after a plan to convert some of the units in Cougar Village into Greek housing fell through last year.

"One of the things we get asked all the time in admissions is whether or not there's any [Greek] housing on campus," Vandegrift said. "I think it's something that, with all the other pieces we've been putting together in the puzzle as we mature into a Division I university, it's something we really need to ask ourselves."

Financial situation

According to Budget Director Bill Winter, SIUE received approximately \$3 million the state owed for fiscal year 2011 on Monday, which completes the state reimbursement payments for FY

2011. He said SIUE also received approximately \$7.8 million from the state on Monday for FY 2012.

Vandegrift said the state is still behind its payments for FY 12.

"What they seem to be doing is running on an 18-month cycle or about 5 percent a month, more or less," Vandegrift said. "It still means we have about a \$14 million shortfall in 12 monies right now."

Vandegrift said the university has to be careful not to assume things are back to normal now.

"Some people are concerned the state could fall into another financial situation. We need to protect ourselves. We've managed things pretty well," Vandegrift said.

Winter said the state's cash flow problems are not resolved.

"They are ongoing," Winter said. "It's just that we're starting to get a little clearer picture of things now."

Winter said there are several ways in which the university managed the financial crisis. He said enrollment growth has helped.

"By having more students here every year, you have an increase in tuition and fee revenue coming in," Winter said.

According to Winter, another

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Clearing the air

Asbestos problem detected in Peck Hall

ROBYN KIRSCH
Alestle Reporter

Facilities Management Handling Peck Hall Asbestos Abatement With Caution and Care

Excesses of dust and debris within Peck Hall were found, leading to an investigation of the source of the mystery material.

Director of Facilities Management Bob Washburn said the University has employed two companies that have been pre-qualified by SIUE to tackle the project over Thanksgiving and winter breaks.

Washburn said the reports of dust in faculty offices, which he said was not actually asbestos, was not the only red flag leading them to evaluate a problem lurking in the ceilings. Washburn said the underlying asbestos issue was discovered while they were repairing

the temperature control systems as a part of a new retro-commissioning study the university is participating in. The temperature control for each room has a hot water coil and other associated piping which has asbestos in the fittings.

"What we've been having is an issue with that insulation failing and coming loose," Washburn said. "We've had two instances where our people went in to access those controls to deal with the temperature control problem and when they moved the ceiling tiles, asbestos was dropped which, of course, caused a cross contamination problem that had to appropriately be cleaned up."

According to Washburn in order to avoid further contamination to workers and avoid putting people at risk, SIUE brought in Cenpro Services, Inc., under the supervision of Farmer

Environmental Controls to go through the specific areas in the building to carry out asbestos abatement prior to repairing the initial pipe fitting dilemma. The total cost of the project is an estimated \$18,700.

Cenpro Services, Inc. is a full service, environmental contractor that specializes in asbestos, mold and lead abatement located in Madison. Farmer Environmental, a company based out of Edwardsville that has helped the university on several occasions, has provided oversight and environmental testing for the project. According to Washburn, asbestos is in every building that was built before the 1980s and is being managed to ensure it does not get out of control.

Office Support Specialist Lori Huntley for the department of historical studies in Peck Hall said the faculty and staff were not given



According to Director of Facilities Management Bob Washburn, asbestos is in every building on campus that was built prior to the 1980s. Washburn said he does not foresee the asbestos problem getting out of control. | Alestle File Photo

any specified grid of rooms that were to be affected by the asbestos abatement.

"I want to stress, Facilities Management couldn't provide details because they were not given details themselves [by the contractors]," Huntley said. "They were trying to make a bad situation as tolerable as possible."

Retro-commissioning Study

Assistant Director for Facilities Management Ed Matecki said the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity has a program that public entities can apply for free of charge called retro-commissioning. If the applicant is accepted, the DCEO awards a monetary contract and comes in to do a voluminous study on the buildings existing on

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Former Illinois Gov. Blagojevich gets 14-year sentence

Bob Sexter, Jeff Coen and
Annie Sweeney
Chicago Tribune

CHICAGO — Rod Blagojevich, Illinois' 40th governor, was sentenced to 14 years in prison Wednesday for the attempted sale of a U.S. Senate seat, illegal shakedowns for campaign cash and lying to federal agents.

As the sentence was pronounced, Patti Blagojevich buried her head in her husband's shoulder and the two embraced.

Blagojevich will have to serve just under 12 years under federal rules that say defendants must complete 85 percent of their sentence. Blagojevich doesn't have to report to federal prison until Feb. 16.

The sentence handed down by U.S. District Judge James Zagel is more than double the prison term given in 2006 to former Gov. George Ryan, who is serving a 6 1/2-year sentence in a federal prison in Terre Haute.

Zagel told Blagojevich he was responsible for the crimes, not his underlings, as he had argued.

"He marched them and ruined a few of their careers and more than that in the process," the judge said.

While Zagel said he was sympathetic to how the sentence would affect Blagojevich's daughters, he asked, "Why did devotion as a father not deter him? ... Now it is too late."

Zagel announced the sentence after a somber Blagojevich, his voice cracking with emotion, pleaded for a lighter sentence with a round of apologies to the judge, to the jurors who convicted him, to the public and to his family.



Former Gov. Rod Blagojevich, center, leaves his Chicago home, Wednesday morning for sentencing in his corruption trial at the Dirksen U.S. Courthouse in Chicago, Illinois. | Photo by Jose M. Osorio/Chicago Tribune/MCT

"I'm here convicted of crimes. The jury decided I was guilty. I am accepting of it. I acknowledge it, and I, of course, am unbelievably sorry for it," Blagojevich said.

"I want to apologize to the people of Illinois, to the court, for the mistakes I have made ... I never set out to break the law. I never set out to cross lines."

Blagojevich said he thought he was acting in accord with the law when he did things for which he later was convicted.

"I was mistaken. The jury convicted me and they convicted me because those were my actions ... I am responsible. I caused it all. I'm not blaming anybody. I was the governor, and I should have known better. And I am just so incredibly sorry."

Blagojevich expressed remorse for challenging the integrity of

prosecutors. Noting that Zagel said Tuesday that Blagojevich appeared to treat the process like a boxing match or a duel, Blagojevich agreed, even noting that he romanticized it like the duel between Alexander Hamilton and Aaron Burr.

Blagojevich said he acted in a childish and immature manner, self-centered and self-absorbed.

"I am accustomed to fighting back and I did and it was inappropriate," Blagojevich said.

He apologized to his brother, Robert, his former campaign chief, for dragging him into the criminal case, and he apologized to his wife and daughters for destroying their family.

"My life is in ruins," Blagojevich said. "I have nobody to blame but myself for my stupidity and actions ... I'm not blaming

anybody. I have accepted responsibility for it."

Blagojevich spoke for less than 19 minutes, and it was a very different man than the one who rambled for nearly an hour at his Senate impeachment trial two years ago lecturing lawmakers on why they were flatly wrong to try and boot him from office.

Wednesday, the former governor simply fell on his sword, admitting he had let everybody around him down, in particular his wife and children.

"My children have had to suffer," he said. "I've ruined their innocence. ... It's not like their name is Smith. They can't hide. I have nobody to blame but myself."

"I accept the people's verdict, judge," Blagojevich continued. "They found me guilty. All I can say is I never wanted to hurt anyone, most of all Children's Memorial Hospital. I am before you now as a person convicted of crimes. ... I would hope you could find some mercy."

The judge called for a 20-minute break before he is expected to return to the courtroom to impose sentence.

Before Blagojevich spoke, prosecutors opened a pre-emptive strike on the former governor's anticipated plea for

mercy in sentencing.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Reid Schar described the former governor as a habitual schemer who can never be believed.

"He is incredibly manipulative and he knows how to be," Schar said. "To his credit, he's clever about it."

In arguing for a lengthy sentence for Blagojevich, Schar pointed out how Blagojevich sprinkled his trial testimony last spring with references to things designed to appeal to individual jurors.

One juror was a Boston native, so Blagojevich referred to that city. Another was a librarian, so there was a reference to his love of library study, and so on and so on.

Schar noted that Blagojevich's lawyers appeared to argue on Tuesday that the former governor's crimes resulted in very little harm to taxpayers or institutions. The prosecutor sharply disagreed.

"The defendant in this case held up funding to every children's hospital in the state of Illinois for 30 days," Schar said. "It was only after his arrest that he let it go through. ... He left vacant a Senate seat during a time when significant votes were occurring in the U.S. Senate."

"The defendant's criminal activity corrupted the decision-making process of Illinois. His criminal activity has further eroded the public's confidence in government and government officials."

Schar also bore in on a defense claim that the laws Blagojevich broke were murky because his shakedowns involved campaign contributions rather than old-fashioned, pocket-lining bribes.

"The defendant was a lawyer, he was a former prosecutor. It apparently was not murky to the defendant when he was on tape ... Not murky when after George Ryan's conviction he said ... government was supposed to exist for the good of the people and not the other way around," Schar said.

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the property. SIUE applied for this last year and was one of a handful of applicants of the Southern Illinois region awarded the approximate \$80,000 to go toward this study to take place in Peck Hall, the Morris University Center and the East St. Louis campus.

"What they do is try to find low cost and short payback type of fixes to make your building operate better and lower your energy costs," Matecki said. "They look at how your building is operating now and how it should operate. They do that in a variety of ways: looking at original drawings, doing surveys, gathering data off the control systems, interviewing people in the building, as far as their thermal comfort, survey the lighting to see if there are savings that can be obtained."

When DCEO evaluated Peck Hall, they found that when the air valves and air volume boxes were retro-fitted sometime in the 1980s, there was either no sealant applied around them or it has deteriorated over time. Matecki said this causes air to flow around them, which is a waste of energy and makes it difficult to yield a level of control over temperature in the spaces throughout the building. Matecki said there are a total of 177 valves in the building and close to 70 percent are being dealt with.

"The asbestos abatement project came along because the heating pipes leading to these valves and coils have, in some cases, insulation around them [that] is deteriorating," Matecki said. "So, rather than go in there and disturb that, we decided to abate those areas before we worked on them."

Department of Philosophy's office support specialist Rhonda

Harper said the Philosophy Department has been without heating and cooling since the Peck Hall construction work began in May. The extensive work has included replacement of windows, ceiling tiles and the heating and cooling unit. Even so, Harper said the heating and cooling unit is still not operating correctly. Philosophy Department offices were scheduled to be worked on over Thanksgiving break, but will need to be finished over winter break.

"We are all kind of leery, I'm hoping somebody is watching what these guys are doing and that we don't have stuff floating around in the air," Harper said. "We are all putting our faith in these companies and it is kind of scary."

Through the retro-commissioning project, there were several energy conservation measures recommended by the consultants, which Facilities Management plans on addressing over the course of the next year. Some of the recommendations included upgrading variable speed drives on some of the heating and cooling pumps, lighting controls and installing occupancy sensors in all the classrooms, as well as the lobbies to avoid lights being on 24 hours a day.

Under a different contract with a different consulting company that is being financed privately by the university, Facilities Management is doing similar upgrades in Dunham Hall, the Vadalabene Center and Lovejoy Library.

Washburn said the existence of asbestos is an ongoing matter that the university maintains a vigil eye upon.

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freeze on staff positions.

"We continue to evaluate any requests to fill an existing position," Winter said. "We have had spending restrictions on things like travel and so forth."

Winter said the university learning how to manage its cash flow helped with the financial situation as well.

"What that means is we have on a temporary basis learned which types of accounts and funds that we can temporarily borrow money from to make payroll," Winter said.

Connections Now

Vandegrift also talked about the customer service training program Connections Now. The program, based on a university setting, is aimed at training staff members to be better able to help students.

Vandegrift said service to students is something everyone in the university should be concerned about.

"We'd like to sometimes, as faculty members or staff, say that these are adults now and they should figure it out on their own and if they can't figure it out on their own, well that's their educational loss," Vandegrift said.

Vandegrift said everyone needs to take the time to do all the things they can to meet students' needs inside and outside of the classroom.

"It could be either an inside the class or an outside the class experience that turns a student off and sends her or him away," Vandegrift said. "We all have bad

This is the first year we have upped our entrance requirements where automatic entrance to the university requires an 18 ACT or higher...

Vaughn Vandegrift
Chancellor

days, but by and large we ought to be thinking about what we can do to enable students to be successful. That's what it's all about."

Academic Preparation

The Chicago Tribune recognized SIUE as having the fourth highest average ACT score among public universities in Illinois.

Vandegrift said the university wants to ratchet up the academic preparedness of the freshman class through the ACT.

"This year is the first year we have upped our entrance requirements where automatic entrance to the university requires an 18 ACT or higher," Vandegrift said.

According to Director of Admissions Todd Burrell, the previous requirement was to have an ACT score of 17 or higher.

"That doesn't mean though if you had that 17, you were in," Burrell said. "Students could have had a higher class rank and still been considered."

Vandegrift said an academic reputation is built on having quality students in the freshman class.

"If you get good quality students coming into the university, over a period of time, good students follow good students," Vandegrift

said. Burrell said the university wants to reach those students who can not only meet admission requirements, but eventually graduate as well.

"We know that we want to reach out to those students in that range," Burrell said. "We know that may take some time but we're doing it because we want to make sure we're allowing the students that come in the opportunity to finish."

Division I Status

Vandegrift said the university continues to make progress toward NCAA Division I status. He said NCAA accreditation team visited earlier this semester and was pleased with the university.

"We fully expect that they will make a recommendation to the presidents of the NCAA that will enable us to be certified as Division I on July 1 of next year," Vandegrift said.

Vandegrift said competing in Division I is something that will establish SIUE as a mature university.

"As I tell people, even Harvard and Yale play Division I sports. They see that as an identity that's necessary for them to establish themselves as a major university," Vandegrift said. "I'm not saying we're Harvard or Yale, but if it's not bad for them I don't think it's bad for us."

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In honor of Non-Traditional Student Week, Nov. 7-13, Student Government salutes all SIUE non-traditional students

Student Government will recognize four non-traditional
SIUE students at the Dec. 9 Senate Meeting in the MUC Goshen Lounge

One student will be selected from each of the four categories below
Please join us on Dec. 9 to recognize these students

Nominees submitted by faculty and staff are:

Resilient Non-Traditional Student

Chandra Carlson
Sandy Harper
Michael Mueller
Jenny Norman
Rebecca Norris
Mark Veverka
Joseph Wolfrom

Outstanding Non-Traditional Student

Joshua Castillo
Damien Di Vittorio
Rebecca Norris

Esteemed Non-Traditional Student

Thea Dumas
Rebecca Norris
Sally Olson
Genesis Young

Prestigious Non-Traditional Student

Joshua Castillo
Catherine Dye
Sandy Harper
Rebecca Norris
Camilla Warning

The Illinois Board of Higher Education defines a non-traditional student as an undergraduate student who is at least 24 years old and also meets at least one of the following criteria: is a parent, is employed full or part-time, is married or has delayed enrollment in education.

NEWS *in brief*

Former student's trial postponed

Former SIUE student Sean Roberts received a continuance until Jan. 9, 2012, Monday in the state's case against him. Roberts, of St. Port Lucie, Fla., was arrested Dec. 9, 2010, from his Cougar Village apartment on three counts of child pornography possession.

He was released on bail on Dec. 15, 2010 and pled not guilty on Dec. 23. The case has received multiple continuances since then.

Continuances are not uncommon in court proceedings. Stephanie Smith, Madison County State's Attorney's Office spokeswoman, said a case can receive an unlimited number of continuances, as long as the defense complies. For this recent continuance, Roberts' attorney, Brian Polinske, filed the request.

Madison County dockets are normally held on the first Monday of the month at the Madison County Criminal Justice Center in Edwardsville.

Roberts was arrested by the Secret Service Electronic Crimes Task Force in conjunction with the state.

Witness steps forward in hit and run

Police have a description of the vehicle from a hit and run incident last Monday.

On Nov. 28, a student was struck by a vehicle as he was crossing North Circle Drive to Lot 12 around 5:30 p.m.

According to SIUE Police Lt. Kevin Schmoll, the same witness who drove the student to the hospital described the car as a white Pontiac Sunfire. Schmoll said they have no plate description and are looking for cars matching the description with damage to the front passenger side.

Schmoll said at this time, it is the only good lead they have in the case.

The student was treated for minor injuries and is now OK.

Anyone with information regarding the incident is encouraged to call Campus Police at 618-650-3324.



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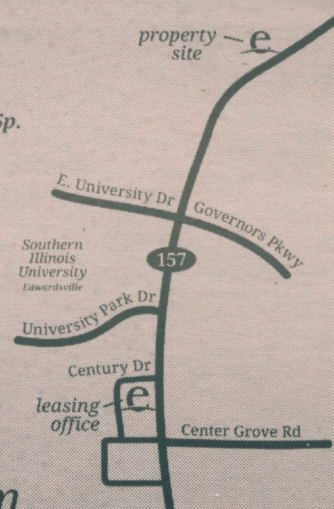
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All hard copy letters should be typed and double-spaced. Letters should be no longer than 500 words. Include phone number, signature, class rank and major.

We reserve the right to edit letters for grammar and content. 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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Big business holiday celebration deserves equal tolerance

Even if you're not religious by any means, chances are that you know what day December 25th is and the blessed story behind it. However, whether or not the teachings of old remain adhered to by the younger generations is now irrelevant. All



Joseph Scoggins
Online Editor

things Christmas seem to have gone commercialized, rearranged to be politically correct, and the true meaning behind all the presents Santa Claus brings has been left behind in a snowdrift.

While Christmas trees, Santa Claus and nativity scenes all have their roots in religion, they have evolved into a traditional repertoire of the holiday season, whether the meaning behind them is celebrated or not.

For instance, Santa Claus has his roots in the story of Saint Nicholas, a religious

man from the fourth century who became known for secret gift giving: the early origins of our modern-day Santa Claus rituals.

Christmas trees have their origins in 16th century Germany and have evolved to the modern, ornament laced, tinsel-strewn tree of today. It's still the tradition that brings us all together—that's a fact. Despite the commercialization around us, tradition and religion still comes to the forefront of many lives.

While we need to keep the tradition in Christmas, we also need to keep all others' religious and non-religious traditions as well. America, built upon Christian values and ideals, has evolved into a melting pot of people from all walks of life. Christians, Jews, Muslims and those who celebrate Kwanzaa all have the right to proclaim the collective "holiday" season in their own respective way.

We shouldn't allow the artificiality of commercialization to distract us from the meaning of the holidays. As long as we keep

our traditions close and our families closer, the meaning of the holiday season remains strong.

Over-commercialization is merely the big-business way of celebrating the holiday season. To be fair to all, while we respect other traditions we should also respect corporate America's decision to celebrate the holidays with commercialization. It should be up to individuals to celebrate in their own way and not be influenced or hindered by the goings-on of big business.

Getting back to our traditions, our roots — no matter what religion we choose to follow or if we even choose to be religious — should be what our respective holiday seasons are about. Embrace your family's traditions and respect those of others. Be happy that you get to spend time with your family during this wintry season and cherish the moments you have together. It's the love in the holidays that matter.

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Consumerism, American greed make Who's out of the holidays

'Tis the season again. 'Tis the season for complaining about the true meaning of Christmas being taken away. But the meaning isn't being taken away when a manger cannot be displayed in front of city hall. The meaning is taken away in all of the other ways we "celebrate" Christmas.



Jill Cook
Graduate Asst. Writing Coach

to buy real Christmas trees anymore. They're inconvenient. It seems appropriate that more people are buying fake Christmas trees; so much of the rest of the holiday has also become fake.

Look around, every Black Friday someone gets trampled to death or seriously injured. For what? An Xbox 360 on sale for

\$99? For the weeks that follow, far too many people are on their worst behavior, pushing and shoving their way through stores. For what? An iPad for just \$299.99? But wait, there's more.

When it comes to Christmas Day, when we should be celebrating and wishing others good cheer, we hole up in our homes and gorge on wrapping paper and ham. Funny how much like the Who's we are in "How the Grinch Stole Christmas." We've become completely wrapped up in our wasteful consumption and fake sentiment that we're blind to any other meaning or tradition.

Oh sure, we might travel to visit with family for the holidays, but when we get there it's the same thing. To do anything else would be inconvenient.

Other cultures, even cultures where the dominant religion is Islam, celebrate in a more meaningful way than Americans (many put up Christmas trees — real ones). In Bulgaria, going out and visiting with others in the community is custom and young people often

go house to house and sing. Even in Iran (one of those horrible "axis of evil" countries), Christmas is officially recognized and Iranian Christians fast from meat for 25 days, enjoying a major feast on Christmas Day.

These traditions aren't about buying a bunch of crap on sale and pretending to express love for your family by giving them cheap stuff. These traditions aren't about convenience or consumerism or demanding manger scenes littering every corner of public property.

Many other cultures recognize that Christmas tradition, the true meaning of the holidays, is about more than just stuff and symbols. It's about giving a smile, a little time, a friendly word.

But of course, Christmas tradition in the United States is about getting that 42-inch LCD flat screen television for \$200, and let no one get in my way.

Jill Cook can be reached at jcook@alestlelive.com or 650-3525. Follow Jill @jill_cook.

Correction: In the Dec. 1 issue of the Alestle, it was incorrectly reported in "Reversing the course" that 1/3 of SIUE students reverse transferred. Approximately 28 percent of SIUE students reverse transferred. The Alestle regrets the error.

How to prepare for finals

...and not lose your mind



LINDSEY OYLER & LEXI CORTES
Alestle Copy Editor & Alestle Opinion Editor

It's the week before final exams and the library is overflowing, Starbucks is cashing in and students are stressing out. Hopefully, you've already started studying. For those of you who haven't, here's the game plan. Find a place, a time and a mindset.

The place...

needs to be orderly, quiet and well lit. If you like background noise, don't go to a place where you can't control it, go to a quiet area so you can play music as you want to hear it instead of being vulnerable to environmental factors.

Junior special education major Heather Berkel of Staunton said she prefers to study at her house, but if she ever needs to find a place on campus to cram, she heads to the Student Success Center.

"There's just a lot of room so I don't feel like I'm sitting right next to somebody," Berkel said. "I always listen to music. I like upbeat stuff. I've been listening to Brand New pretty much the whole week when I've been studying."

Berkel said she cannot focus on finals at home if her room is a mess. If clutter bothers you, clean your study area right now. You do not want to start picking up 20 minutes after starting to study. You might lose your place in your notes and have to start all over. Make sure to do a massive cleanup before you even think about sitting down with your book.

If you want to avoid the cleaning, coffee shops like Starbucks and restaurants like St. Louis Bread Company may be more up your alley, as they are sometimes the number one spot for studying fiends, but be aware of the rules before you plop down on a couch for six hours.

St. Louis Bread Company manager Tracy Burns said loitering students are sometimes asked to leave.

"We always have a ton of people studying here," Burns said. "If there's nowhere else to sit, we'll ask people to leave if they haven't bought anything."

Once a year, the campus ministries sponsor a free soup lunch during finals week, offering students food and a quiet place to think and study. The lunches take place Dec. 12-14 at the Center for Spirituality and Sustainability. They also offer this event in the spring.

Sophomore nursing major Christopher Grim of Robinson said he went to the event last year, but not for the food.

"I was just there for the congregation, just to hang out with some of my friends before our finals," Grim said. "It was just a break for most of us, so that was nice."

The time...

needs to be scheduled and managed. Don't make too strict of a schedule in case you get distracted and start procrastinating. Give yourself a realistic time frame; make room for mistakes. And don't pick up extra hours at work.

While Grim said he prefers to have a loose schedule for himself, Berkel said she has learned from experience that she needs a fixed timeline.

"I plan it all like two weeks before just to make sure I have everything done," Berkel said. "I used to not do that, though, and it never turned out too well for me."

Finals week will be here before you know it and then it will all be over in a flash. Look forward to standing in line at textbook services again on Friday, Dec. 16.

Berkel said the feeling of dropping off her textbooks at the

end of a long semester is a huge relief and Grim said he is thankful to no longer worry about keeping tabs on all of his books.

Other than lost textbooks, another great enemy of a college student during finals week is procrastination. If need be, deactivate your Facebook for the week (you can reactivate it after a certain set time period), but only if you know it will not affect your mentality.

Berkel said she often gets bored with Facebook after about 10 minutes, but she could scroll through the pages of Pinterest, a photo-sharing wishlist website, for hours.

"I normally give myself like 15 minutes when I start to feel overwhelmed and then I go back [to studying]," Berkel said.

Giving yourself stress relief in small doses is never a bad idea. When you start to feel like ripping your hair out, a short walk, visit to Twitter or quick chat with a friend is an easy way to calm yourself down.

The mindset...

needs to be relaxed and clear. Make an agreement with friends, family and significant others to not start any drama and leave arguments and setbacks for after exams.

Health Fitness Specialist Chelsey Bradley said relaxation is absolutely necessary in order to focus and mentally prepare oneself for studying.

"That and exercise are necessary no matter what type of stress you're having," Bradley said. "You can relieve it through exercise and getting your heart rate up to reset your body."

The best way to study is with a relaxed mentality and general focus. In order to do that, getting your heart rate up depends on your fitness levels, and free assessments are done in the Student Fitness Center.

"Don't go out and do high intensity cardio because you might not be prepared physiologically," Bradley said. "Just get into the gym."

Other habits complement the exercise and fitness for focus and relaxation, such as good sleeping habits and eating well. Bradley said just doing something for yourself in the morning before studying helps more than people know.

"I know students aren't hip on morning classes," Bradley said. "Just getting their day started doing something for themselves is good. We offer yoga classes during finals week as well as spinning to burn off all that nervous energy."

The finals week schedule for yoga, spinning and other classes should be posted by Friday on the Student Fitness Center website.

To schedule an appointment with the Wellness Center, call them at 650-2935.

The reward...

you give yourself after making it through a grueling week of finals can be something as simple as going home to family or plans with your friends. No matter what it is, having something to look forward to will help you make it through the last of your exams, papers and presentations.

The end of a semester can be nerve-racking and leave you sleep deprived and feeling close to death, but at least you'll have the wonderful relief of winter break. Berkel said she has a set of tickets getting her through the last weeks of the fall semester.

"Normally I go and do something fun after finals," Berkel said. "I'm going to a hockey game next week as soon as I'm done."

Alestle Tunes finals week playlist

Explosions in the Sky, "A Song For Our Fathers"

-Kari Williams,
Editor in Chief

Motley Crue, "Girls, Girls, Girls"

-AJ Sanson,
Managing Editor

Everclear, "Santa Monica"

-Liz Spihlman,
Chief Copy Editor

Tom Petty, "Won't Back Down"

-Allan Lewis,
Sports Editor

Explosions in the Sky, "So Long, Lonesome"

-Lexi Cortes,
Opinion Editor

Joe Satriani, "Premonition"

-Joseph Scoggins,
Online Editor

Andrew Bird, "Plasticities"

-Michelle Beard,
Photo Editor

A Day to Remember, "Mr. Highway's Thinking About the End"

-Rebekah Blake,
Photographer

Tom Petty & the Heartbreakers, "Hometown Blues"

-John Layton,
Reporter

Local vendors offer intimate craft fair atmosphere

KARI WILLIAMS

Alestle Editor in Chief

From alpaca wool to decoupage, a multitude of ingredients created this year's craft fair concoctions.

School of Engineering academic adviser Alpona Simmons put her variety of work on display.

"I make a lot of stuff, a lot of jewelry," Simmons said. "I do fused glass. I do metalwork, and there's wood and enameling. I do decoupage [and] tie-dye, so there's a little bit of everything."

Simmons has been selling her work at craft fairs for about eight years, seven of those years including the SIUE craft fair. Her work ranges in cost from \$5-30, with the exception of a refinished guitar, which sits at \$125.

"It's a rescued guitar. It's a classical guitar from the '60s, and I found it in a sad condition," Simmons said. "It was pretty dinged up, so I decided to make it come back to life and put decoupage on it. It plays well."

Simmons got into craft fairs as a natural progression from when she started making jewelry.

"It's just somewhere where you can go and make a little bit of money doing what you love," Simmons said.

Because she works at SIUE, Simmons said this craft fair is like home ground for her.

"It's friendly, and it's kind of more intimate since it's in a small area as compared to general craft fairs," Simmons said.

Susana Hamilton of St. Louis is selling handmade items, such as finger puppets and animal hats, made out of alpaca wool.

"The materials come from South America, Peru," Hamilton said. "We choose the alpaca. It's warm and it's very soft."

Hamilton said the alpaca wool is chosen because of the Midwest

weather.

"It's very cold, [and] Edwardsville, I think, is colder than St. Louis," Hamilton said. "I know [alpaca wool] is very warm and it's soft so a lot of people like to wear these during winter."

Hamilton's creations range from \$10-50 and this is her fifth year at SIUE's craft fair.

"Every year is always something different," Hamilton said. "People [are] asking for more different things, so I'll try and always to have an open mind and see what they're looking for."

Hamilton goes to about 20 craft fairs per year, mostly in St. Louis and Illinois and said she enjoys the passion of meeting different people.

"The shows that I do in St. Louis, they are also fairs and festivals, which is in an open area in a park and it's during summer time," Hamilton said. "Now, when it's inside it's more cozy, you know, especially at universities. That's when we try to, I guess, reach the students, what actually they're looking for."

Jim and Blenda Newbury of Bethalto have been attending craft fairs, including some as far away as Florida, for more than 30 years. The Newburys sell handcrafted, hardwood toys that are all their own design. They got started making toys as presents for nieces, nephews and friends.

"It was [Jim's] idea," Blenda said. "He just wanted something to do besides working on computers so it kind of started out as a hobby and, actually, this is all we do now."

Blenda said the art and craft shows they usually do are in a different setting than the campus fair.

"We usually do art shows and travel all over, and it's just out on the street or in a museum or at a park or something. But when we used to do them [on campus], we did OK,"

Blenda said. "And then we started going to Florida this time of the year, [which] is why we kind of quit doing them, and then this year we aren't traveling as much, so we thought we'll try it and see. I think it'll work out."

Blenda said about 20 years ago they attended a spring craft fair on campus, but this is their first year at the Christmas craft fair.

They go to about 20 shows per year.

"Reaction from the people, the children and the adults [keeps us interested]," Blenda said. "They keep liking them and [Jim] comes up with new ideas all the time."

SIUE's annual craft fair began Wednesday and continues 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Thursday at Morris University Center.

Kari Williams can be reached at kwilliams@alestlelive.com or 650-3527. Follow Kari @Kari_Williams.



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Bringing culture to college

'A Mato Mosaic' is worth checking out

ASHLEY SEERING
Alestle Lifestyles Editor

Suriname's culture was brought to life last weekend during "A Mato Mosaic."

The play, which centers around the song, dance and movement of the Maroon people of Suriname, South America, offered the audience a type of

performance that isn't typically experienced on campus.

The actors took on the roles of Suriname people and were believable. They mixed an interesting concoction of humor, insight and culture that kept the audience interested.

At the beginning of the performance, a villager invited the audience to join in the fun at any

time.

My favorite part of the performance was the clever way the performers mixed modern references with the history of the Suriname culture. It was a great way to keep the audience interested in the performance while staying true to the originality of the story.

The speaking parts were

broken up nicely by a variation of songs and the actors used the fairly simple set, made up of two small huts and a camp fire, effectively with their convincing storytelling techniques and intriguing movements.

Sophomore theater performance major Thad Wilmore of Granite City, who played the role of the "outsider," stood out with his performance of a man who lost his way. He comes across the villagers who invite him to join in their storytelling. Wilmore is immersed in the

the best way to learn a new culture is from someone who has experienced it firsthand.

The songs and dances were also a strong part of the performance. After each narrative, the actors engaged in a tribal combination of song and dance, breaking up the speaking parts nicely. The play, which lasted for about two hours, managed to keep the audience interested and, at times, out of their seats. At one point, the actors selected random audience members to join them in one of their dances.

Because you deserve it...

- **Wednesday and Thursday, Dec. 14 & 15**
SIUE students can enjoy 1/2 off appetizers
3-6 p.m. & 9-10:30 p.m. with a Student ID
- **Thursday, Dec. 15 — End of Semester Party!**
DJ! \$1.50 Domestic Bottles! \$2 Well Drinks!
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- **Friday, Dec. 17 — Congratulations Graduates!**
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"The performance proved the best way to learn a new culture is from someone who has experience it first hand..."

Ashley Seering
Alestle Lifestyles Editor

Suriname culture and fits in nicely with the rest of the cast members' enthusiasm for their dialogue made what could have been a boring play interesting for the audience.

The cast members wore colorful costumes, which also played a part in keeping the actors true to Suriname culture. The simplicity of the costumes added a nice touch to the performance and stuck to the authenticity of the country. The actors seemed comfortable in their outfits and it definitely didn't limit their movement as they engaged in everything from cultural dances to flips.

The actors had firsthand training experience from guest artist and Suriname's own Jose Tojo, who directed the play. It was clear the actors picked up a lot from Tojo, and his culture translated well on the American stage. The performance proved

The performance may not be what someone who favors scene changes and variety will enjoy, but the actors pulled off believable performances that stayed true to Maroon culture.

I was glad to be a part of the cultural experience and walked away feeling like I knew a little more about the people of Suriname, which is a country that not many Americans could point out on a map.

"A Mato Mosaic" runs in the Metcalf Theater Dec. 9-10 at 7:30 p.m. and Dec. 11 at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$8 for all others. Students get in for free with a valid I.D.

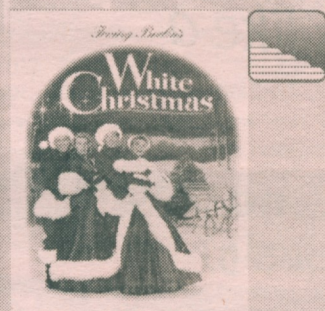
Ashley gives this performance four out of five stars.

★★★★☆

Ashley Seering can be reached at aseering@alestlelive.com or 650-3527. Follow Ashley @AshleySeering.



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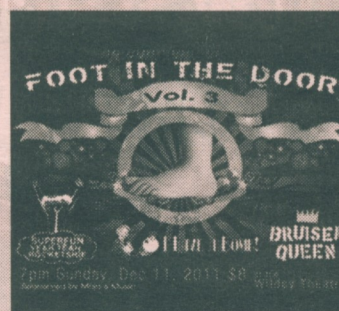
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Hors D'Oeuvres 6:00PM
Movie 7:00PM



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Celebration

DEC 10 7:00PM
DEC 11 2:00PM



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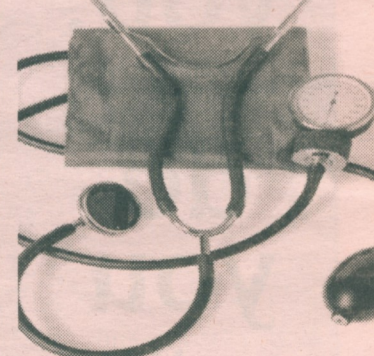
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Katie Hempen attempts to block a 3-point shot taken by Bradley's Katie Yohn during Tuesday's game at the Vadalabene Center. Bradley shot 35.3 percent from 3-point range in the win.

Photo by Michelle Beard/Alestle

Braves shoot down Cougars

JOHN LAYTON
Alestle Reporter

Women's basketball Head Coach Amanda Levens said her team's loss to Bradley Wednesday came down to two things.

Women's basketball

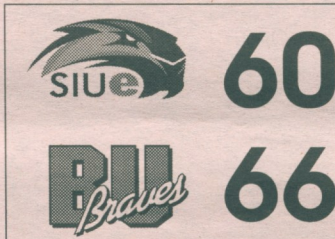
"They scored 28 points off our turnovers. They had 12 offensive rebounds in the second half and, honestly, that was the difference," Levens said. "We had 12 turnovers in each half and then the offensive rebounding on their end."

The Cougars, now 4-3 on the season, lost 66-60, in a tightly contested game. Despite the 24 turnovers, the Cougars, led by sophomore Jazmin Hill's team-leading 28 points, outshot the Braves in the game.

Levens said Hill willed the team back into the game after the Braves opened up a 12-point lead early in the second half.

"[Hill] hit a lot of threes in the second half. She made some big baskets," Levens said.

Hill tied the SIUE single-game record for 3-pointers made with eight. Five of her 3-point baskets came in the second half.



Another part of getting back into the game was slowing down Braves sophomore Catie O'Leary. O'Leary had 15 points, including three 3-pointers, in the first half.

"Coming into the game, I would say 3-point shooting wasn't necessarily the best part of her game. But she shot it really well in the first half and then in the second half, I think her strength is really putting it on the floor and being hard to guard that way," Levens said. "We were in the zone and I think that slowed her down a little bit in the second half."

Levens said it was good to see Hill get back her scoring form from her freshman year.

"Honestly, as coaches, we weren't concerned because we see her everyday in practice and know it's not like her ability went

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Men's basketball

Murray State	9-0	(0-0)
Eastern Illinois	5-2	(0-0)
Eastern Kentucky	5-5	(0-0)
Morehead State	4-5	(0-0)
Southeast Missouri	4-5	(0-0)
Tennessee Tech	3-4	(0-0)
Tennessee State	3-6	(0-0)
Jacksonville State	2-6	(0-0)
UT Martin	2-8	(0-0)
SIUE *	1-6	(0-0)
Austin Peay	1-9	(0-0)

Dec. 6 results

UT Martin 55, Lipscomb 70
Tennessee State 62, Belmont 75
N. Carolina Central 62, E. Kentucky 75
Ball State 76, SIUE 55

Dec. 5 results

Arkansas St. 82, Austin Peay 86 (OT)
Southeast Missouri 72, C. Arkansas 88

Dec. 4 results

Dayton 58, Murray State 75
Mid Continent 57, Morehead St. 83

Schedule for Dec. 10

Austin Peay at Tennessee
Central Michigan at Tennessee State
Southern at Jacksonville state
UT Martin at Middle Tennessee State
Georgia Southern at Eastern Kentucky
South Dakota at Morehead State
UMKC at Southeast Missouri
Hannibal LaGrange at SIUE
Lipscomb at Tennessee Tech
Eastern Illinois at Western Illinois

Women's basketball

Eastern Illinois	5-1	(0-0)
SIUE *	4-3	(0-0)
UT Martin	4-3	(0-0)
Eastern Kentucky	4-5	(0-0)
Tennessee State	4-5	(0-0)
Murray State	3-5	(0-0)
Jacksonville State	3-6	(0-0)
Austin Peay	2-6	(0-0)
Tennessee Tech	2-6	(0-0)
Morehead State	2-7	(0-0)
Southeast Missouri	2-7	(0-0)

Dec. 6 results

Belmont 46, Eastern Kentucky 60
Bradley 66, SIUE 60
Morehead State 66, Xavier 71
Austin Peay 63, Middle Tenn. St. 69

Dec. 5 results

Western Illinois 55, Eastern Illinois 88
Lipscomb 66, Tennessee Tech 61

Dec. 4 results

Troy 54, Jacksonville State 65
UT Martin 69, Memphis 90

Schedule for Dec. 9

Austin Peay at Bowling Green
SIUE at ²¹DePaul

Schedule for Dec. 10

Eastern Kentucky at Miami (Ohio)
Southeast Missouri at W. Michigan
Murray State at Evansville
UT Martin at Central Arkansas
Tennessee Tech at Samford
Tennessee State at Jackson State
Indiana State at Eastern Illinois

* SIUE is not eligible for postseason

SIUE Athletics Upcoming events

Dec. 9	WBB at DePaul	7 p.m.
Dec. 10	MBB vs. HLG	7 p.m.
Dec. 11	WBB at IPFW	2 p.m.
Dec. 11	Wrestling vs. Indianapolis at Northwestern	1 p.m. 3 p.m.

The SIUE basketball sing from the Alestle



Cougars go two straight without a lead at home Ball State punishes Cougar mistakes, SIUE drops record to 1-6

ALLAN LEWIS
Alestle Sports Editor

SIUE had the same problems Tuesday they have had throughout the season.

Men's basketball

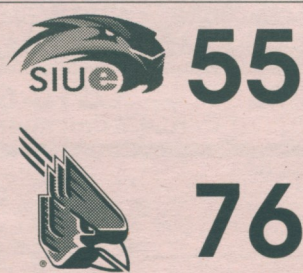
The Cougars were out-rebounded 38-28, fouled too much, shot 35 percent from the field and were outmatched from the start in a 76-55 loss to Ball State in front of 1,708 spectators at the Vadalabene Center.

SIUE (1-6) got off to a sluggish start, trailing 13-2 early and 38-24 at halftime.

Head Coach Lennox Forrester said the Cougars were not ready from the outset.

"I think slow starts come from how hard we are playing," Forrester said. "A couple of shots didn't fall for us, and then we made some mental mistakes, but I thought our guys picked it up and played pretty hard."

Matt Kamieniecki scored his only two points on Ball State's first possession, and a pair of free throws by SIUE junior Mark Yelovich tied the game at two. That was as close as SIUE was going to get. The Cougars missed their next four shots from the field while Ball State made their next four and got a three-point play



from potential NBA Draft pick Jarrod Jones.

Jones scored seven points in the first half, and Forrester said his team did a good job eliminating Jones from an offensive standpoint. Still, the 6-foot-9 center ended the game with 22 points.

"Our goal going in was to eliminate their best player in points and I thought our guys did a good job with that," Forrester said. "We gave him some easy baskets because we made some mistakes helping on defense."

Jones is a dual-threat. Aside from his ability to be a dynamic presence in the post, he can step back and hit the three. Jones was 1-1 from beyond the arc, and is a perfect 5-5 on the season.

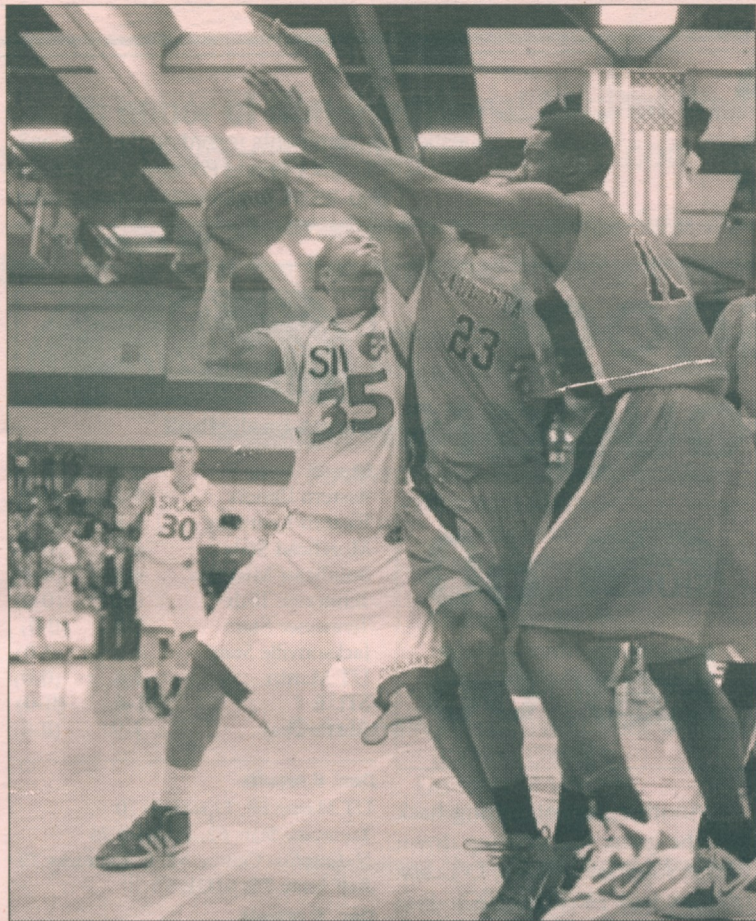
"We knew he could shoot and he is great on the block," Forrester

MBB | pg. 10



Ball State players make a traveling motion to the referees after junior forward Derian Shaffer hit the deck following a rebound in an SIUE loss Tuesday night at the Vadalabene Center.

Photo by Michelle Beard/Alestle



Junior forward Jerome Jones attempts to score in the paint while met by a double-team during Tuesday's game against Ball State.

Photo by Michelle Beard/Alestle

MBB | from pg.9

said. "So, our game plan was to double him whenever he got the basketball. I thought our big guys did a good job of not letting him get the ball so easily in the post, but [Ball State] did a good job ball screening and popping him to where we can step out and shoot the basketball."

Because the Cougars keyed so much on Jones, it allowed Jesse Berry to find looks and give SIUE even more problems. Berry led all scorers with a season-high 25 points. Berry was 4-8 from beyond the arc, going 2-4 in each half.

"Whether we were in the zone or man [defense], they made some tough shots," Forrester said. "Sometimes, that's how it goes."

While Ball State was hitting their shots at a 47 percent clip, the Cougars struggled, shooting below 40 percent for the fourth time this season. SIUE was 4-24 on their 3-point attempts, and started the game 1-10.

Kris Davis, who entered the game leading the nation in 3-point

"I thought we missed some open shots, but also, our threes were not falling, but we continued to take them..."

Lennox Forrester
Men's basketball Head Coach

percentage, was just 1-5 in his first collegiate start, scoring seven points on 3-8 shooting. Corey Wickware was 0-5, Charles Joy was 0-4 and Jerome Jones was 0-3.

"I think we missed some shots tonight because we weren't ready to shoot the basketball yet, and we were shooting it. I always tell the guys those are considered bad shots. If you aren't ready to shoot it, don't shoot it," Forrester said. "I thought we missed some open shots, but also, our threes were not falling, but we continued to take them."

Yelovich scored in double-figures, as he has in each game this season with 10 points, but Forrester said he was unable to get into a rhythm because of foul trouble early on.

"I thought Mark took himself out of the game because of fouls," Forrester said. "He wasn't ready to play defense and that's one thing he has to learn. You have to be ready all the time and he wasn't ready. They made him pay by fouling and he couldn't get into the flow of the game because he was on the bench."

Jones and Michael Messer were the other Cougars in double-figures, each with 12 points. Derian Shaffer, Davis and Joy had seven.

Fouling has been an issue all season, and it's not just Yelovich. The Cougars committed 22 personal fouls, and have fouled more than 20 times in all but one game this season. They sent Ball State to the free-throw line 29 times, where they converted 22 shots into points. Jarrod Jones was 9-11.

Forrester said defense is the root of the problem.

"We have to do a better job playing defense without fouling," Forrester said. "We are trying to be aggressive and pick guys up and not just let them come down and run whatever they want to run."

The Cougars play their fourth consecutive home game at 7 p.m. Saturday and look to get back on track when they host Hannibal LaGrange of the NAIA.

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

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Friday & Saturday
2 p.m. - 2 a.m.

Must be 21 To Enter



Freshman Katie Hempen goes up for a layup and scores two of her 10 points in the Cougar's 66-60 loss to Bradley Tuesday. | Photo by Michelle Beard/Alestle

WBB | from pg.9

anywhere,” Levens said. “We knew it was just a matter of her having kind of a wake-up game, a coming out party [like] she did tonight.”

Levens said the team did many good things overall, but they were not consistent enough.

“The ball didn’t bounce our way necessarily and then we didn’t do enough either to take advantage when we got stops,” Levens said. “I thought we should have scored better,” Levens said.

Levens said the team did not help themselves from the free-throw line, either. The team was 7-

13 from the line.

“That’s not a good percentage to shoot,” Levens said.

While junior Raven Berry had just five points, she grabbed a game-high 15 rebounds and had five assists. Levens said Berry played a great defensive game.

“She had nine defensive rebounds,” Levens said. “She did a fantastic job.”

Levens said Bradley played great post defense on the night.

“Give Bradley a lot of credit. They came around and knocked away post entry passes,” Levens said. “Our posts needed to just do a better job of using their feet to

catch the ball and not leaning to pick it up.”

Freshman Katie Hempen had 10 points for the Cougars. Levens said Hempen is going to get better every game.

“Her intangibles are just amazing. I just think her best basketball every-day for the rest of her career is going to be ahead of her because she gets better every single day,” Levens said.

The Cougars’ next game will be 7 p.m. on Friday, when they travel to Chicago to play DePaul.

John Layton can be reached at jlayton@alestlelive.com or 650-3524. Follow John @Hnkamnckl.



Sophomore Jazmin Hill led all scorers with 28 points and set a school record for 3-pointers with 10 on Tuesday.

Photo by Michelle Beard/Alestle

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