

Chris Lawrence, of Springfield, left, and Kelsey Mooney, of Peoria, right, study in Lovejoy Library. The library is a popular place to study for students, but with the Office of Admissions temporarily moving into Lovejoy and the third floor receiving new carpet, space will be limited this semester. | Photo by Abbie Speiser/Alestle

Study spots can make the grade

JANICE DURAKO
Alestle Reporter

Both environment and technology play a role in productive, fruitful studying and writing for finals. There are plenty of places on campus that were specifically designed and are traditionally

used for completing large assignments and studying for final exams. The library is likely one of the most popular stops for students when they need to finish

up some work for finals. Computer access and quiet spaces are what make Lovejoy Library ideal for studying. The first floor tends to be a bit crowded and noisy, so the second or third floors may be a better choice. Opt for a cubicle desk or a chair and hit the books.

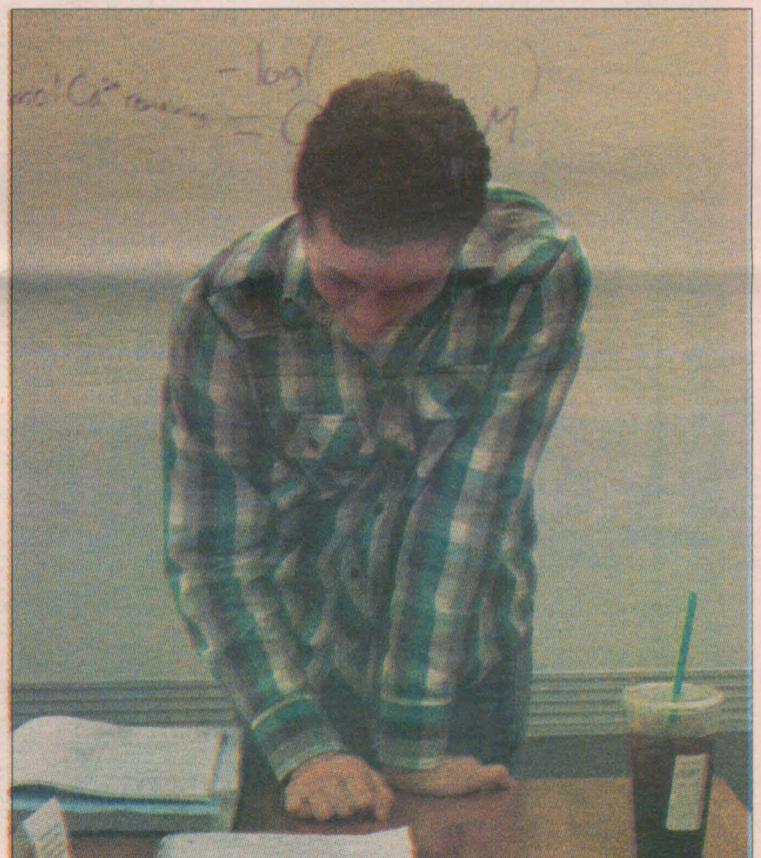
new carpet. Therefore, computer access is limited and seating space is crowded, making the library not as optimal for this semester's finals. The Student Success Center's large seating area near Kaldi's Coffee is another ideal spot for people who do not mind a little bit of bustling white noise while they study or finish up some projects. Senior English major Karly Baird, of Edwardsville, finds the SSC couches to be a great place for studying.

"I like sitting by Kaldi's," Baird said. "There is enough room for you to spread out all of your books, and if you are there for a long time, you get up and get some coffee to keep you awake."

There can also be some slightly unconventional spots to study on campus. The third floor

"I like sitting by Kaldi's ... There is enough room ... and if you are there for a long time, you get up and get some coffee..."

Karly Baird
Senior English major



Tyler Agnew works out his chemistry problems on a white board in Lovejoy Library. | Photo by Abbie Speiser/Alestle

STUDY SPOTS | pg. 2

Morris University Study Center open 24 hours next week

BEN LEVIN
Alestle Reporter

Finals week can be a hectic scene for some students, filled with all-night study sessions and mass consumption of energy drinks. This semester, the Morris University Center is doing its best to help relieve some of the stress of finals week with the Study Center Project.

Starting on Sunday, Dec. 8 the MUC will be open 24 hours during finals week, ending on Wednesday, Dec. 11. MUC Director Joseph Pearson said the idea of keeping the MUC open late during finals week has been up for discussion for a few years, and this year seemed like the right time to act.

"We were interested in learning what we could do to help students with their finals," Pearson said. "This year, I

was approached by Student Government and asked what we could do. I let them know we were going to try this out this semester."

Pearson said the MUC staff has

groups to meet," Pearson said. "We'll have tables available all throughout the day and evening for students to study for their finals."

Pearson said students will not be

able to reserve spots in the study rooms. He believes this will not become a problem for anyone looking to study at the MUC.

"It'll just be first-come, first-serve," Pearson said. "I think we're

going to have enough rooms available with the conference center having all six rooms available, and in each room we are going to have round tables and chairs. All the meeting rooms will be

available as well."

This is the first year the MUC is trying out the Study Center Project, and Pearson said will be using semester's turnout to determine how the MUC functions during next semester's finals week.

One of the hardest decisions Pearson and other MUC employees had to make was when the MUC should start being open for 24 hours. Pearson said they chose to start on Sunday because they did not have enough students say they would study at the MUC on Friday.

"We were a little hesitant to have it open 24 hours over the weekend, over a Friday and Saturday night," Pearson said. "We asked students if they would

"If there's going to be free snacks, why wouldn't you take advantage of that?"

Connor Butler
Sophomore special education major

worked to make certain areas fit for studying.

"With the exception of the conference center, all of the rooms will be open and available for students and

MUC | pg. 2

'We did our homework on this:' MUC administrators try to help students study

SG | from pg. 1

be here on a Friday or Saturday night and they said 'no.' We did our homework on this. We asked some students and some of our student employees what they thought about this idea. Since it's our first time doing this, we thought we'd start small. We knew there would be students in the building on Sunday so we thought we'd start then."

Pearson said the MUC will open the Study Center Project with a free meal on Sunday. He said along with the meal, the MUC will have coffee and other snacks available throughout the week.

"We're kicking the event off with a late-night breakfast on Sunday from 8 to 9 p.m.,"

Pearson said. "There will be prizes, and we'll have some music down there ... by the center court. As we monitor the usage of the building, if we see there are enough people, when we do it again next semester we may consider keeping some options open throughout the night."

Starting at midnight during finals week, students will only be able to access the MUC through the doors located near the Student Success Center. Pearson said this is to ensure the safety of the students.

"We're going to have stu-

dent staff monitor the building throughout the night as well," Pearson said. "We just want to keep the environment safe."

Pearson said he hopes students take advantage of the MUC being open 24 hours

be able to provide that opportunity and we look forward to doing it in the future."

Junior business major Jared Ebel, of Springfield, said he is planning to use the MUC to study.

"It's open. It's convenient, and I can get a snack there," Ebel said.

Sophomore special education major Connor Butler, of Herrin, said the MUC offers benefits that other study locations do

not. He will use the MUC to study because he thinks it is useful to be surrounded by others.

"If there's going to be free

snacks, why wouldn't you take advantage of that?" Butler said. "If there's enough people down there, when you get tired of studying, you'll have someone to talk with."

Freshman nursing major Katie Sweeney, of Chatham, said she would rather study in her apartment than at the MUC.

"I feel it's easier to study in my apartment than to go to the MUC," Sweeney said. "I don't live on campus, and my apartment just feels like it would be quieter than the MUC."

For more information on happenings at the MUC, go to www.siue.edu/muc/.

Ben Levin can be reached at blevin@alestlelive.com or 650-3527.

"We hope students like having the opportunity to use the building for their study."

Joseph Pearson
MUC Director

next week.

"We hope students like having the opportunity to use the building for their study,"

Pearson said. "We are glad to

STUDY SPOTS | from pg. 1

of Peck Hall, an empty classroom and a basement table in Alumni Hall all have one thing in common: small amounts of traffic. Grab a backpack and explore a little bit; only a seat and maybe an electrical outlet is necessary, and anywhere could be the perfect, secret place on campus to get everything done before checking out for the semester.

While location is an important determinant of the studying experience on campus, there are other distractions that

make it difficult to stay on task.

McGraw-Hill Education did studies that revealed students relying on technology for schoolwork spent a significant portion of their study time involved in social media and leisurely web surfing with their phones, laptops, etc., as reported by goodereader.com. Baird suggests removing all of these possible temptations to fall into unproductive traps.

"If you don't need a computer, don't bring one to study with you," Baird said, "because you are probably going to get on Facebook or anything on the Internet

that isn't homework."

California State University at Fullerton states that the same amount of information is learned in several one-hour study sessions dispersed across several days than in one non-stop six-hour study session.

Consequently, senior music education major Randy Trisler, of Jerseyville, recommends frequent study breaks.

"Work for about an hour and then take a break," Trisler said.

For straight memorization of math formulas, vocabulary for foreign lan-

guages or names and dates, limit study time to 20 or 30 minutes. Sophomore vocal performance major Sarah Paitz, of Staunton, suggests creating note cards for this type of memorization.

"I create note cards maybe a week and a half before the test," Paitz said. "All I do is spend 15 or 20 minutes going over them every day. It doesn't take long at all, and its always worked for me."

Janice Durako can be reached at jdurako@alestlelive.com or 650-3527.



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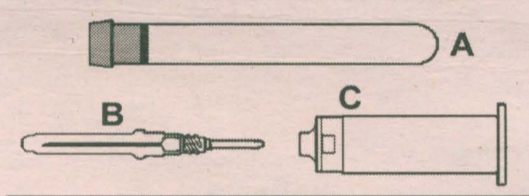
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Finals schedule

Type A classes are those that meet only on Tuesday and/or Thursday. All other classes except weekend are considered Type B.

Monday, Dec. 9

Type A classes starting at 9:30 a.m., exam time is 8-9:40 a.m.

Type B classes starting at noon, exam time is 10-11:40 a.m.

Type A classes starting at 2 p.m., exam time is 12-1:40 p.m.

Math 120, 125 and 150 common final exam time is 2-3:40 p.m.

Tuesday, Dec. 10

Type A classes starting at 8 a.m., exam time is 8-9:40 a.m.

Type B classes starting at 10 a.m., exam time is 10-11:40 a.m.

Type B classes starting at 1 p.m. or 1:30 p.m., exam time is 12-1:40 p.m.

Type A classes starting at 3:30 p.m., exam time is 2-3:40 p.m.

Wednesday, Dec. 11

Type B classes starting at 8 a.m., exam time is 8-9:40 a.m.

Type B classes starting at 11 a.m., exam time is 10-11:40 a.m.

Type A classes starting at 12:30 p.m., exam time is 12-1:40 p.m.

Type B classes starting at 3 p.m., exam time is 2-3:40 p.m.

Thursday, Dec. 12

Type B classes starting at 9 a.m., exam time is 8-9:40 a.m.

Type A classes starting at 11 a.m., exam time is 10-11:40 a.m.

Type B classes starting at 2 p.m., exam time is 12-1:40 p.m.

Type B classes starting at 4 p.m., exam time is 2-3:40 p.m.

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Fri & Sat: 11 a.m. - 10 p.m.
Sun: Noon - 9 p.m.

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Letters may be submitted at the Alestle office located in the Morris University Center, Room 2022 or via e-mail at opinion@alestlelive.com.

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.

About the Alestle:

One copy of the Alestle is free. Additional copies cost \$1 each.

The Alestle is a member of the Illinois College Press Association, the Associated Collegiate Press, Student Press Law Center, College Newspaper, Business & Advertising Managers.

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The Alestle
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Here are the results to our poll question: How do you feel about The Gardens fee?



Get your name in the paper *without* the speeding ticket.

Write a letter to the editor.

Send letters to

opinion@alestlelive.com.

Student Government must focus on research Student opinions should not trump knowledge resulting from studies

At its Nov. 15 meeting, the student senate voted against implementing a \$4.80 student fee next fiscal year that would supply funds to The Gardens at SIUE.

During the meeting, I heard first hand Student Government's discussion on the fee, and I was disappointed that it focused mostly on how the student population felt about the fee, instead of the results of the fee itself.



Ben Ostermeier
Online Editor

Student opinion is important, and SG ought to be applauded for getting so much feedback to learn how students felt about The Gardens fee. SG should place more emphasis on information about the issue as opposed to student opinion. Beyond simply discussing whether students would want to pay a fee for The Gardens, they

should also be considering the answers to questions like "How will revenue from this fee benefit students?" "What percentage of the student population would benefit from this fee?" and "Are these benefits worth the cost of the fee?"

The fact is, what students want is not always the same as what is best for them. Many students would probably prefer not to pay any fees at all, yet I'm sure they would not be very happy if they saw many of the university's services either become more expensive or disappear completely. Imagine having to buy your own textbooks at full price, not having the Student Success Center or having to pay a lot more for food to maintain the Morris University Center.

Students should be informed about issues affecting the university, but as busy college students, we do not always have time to know as much as we should. That is the reason we elect SG officials — to do

what students do not always have time for and to represent student interests to the SIUE administration.

SG should look into issues that affect students and ensure the university system is considering students when making decisions regarding these issues, be it smoking on campus, the quality of food in the MUC or the speed of campus Wi-Fi.

This idea of electing representatives is the basis for the American system of government. Certainly not every American citizen can be an expert on complex issues like infrastructure development or health care reform, which is why citizens do not usually vote directly on legislation. Instead, the vote for candidates who they feel can make policy decisions in the interests of the people.

Government officials, whether in SG or the United States Congress, should still reflect the will of those they represent, otherwise

we would be victim to the whims of a select few. Finding the right balance between what the people want and what the people need is one of the central problems of representative democracy.

At one extreme, Nevada Assemblyman Jim Wheeler came under fire recently for saying he would vote for slavery if that is what his constituents wanted. Wheeler said, "If that's what they wanted, I'd have to hold my nose ... they'd probably have to hold a gun to my head, but yeah."

Members of SG should not become as weak as Wheeler made himself look. They should gauge student opinion, but at the same time they should also lead according to their experience and principles. That is, after all, their job.

Ben Ostermeier can be reached at bostermeier@alestlelive.com or 650-3527. Follow @bosterm93

Rethink re-gifting for the holiday season Reduce, reuse, re-gift: reconsider how you give to others

We've all been there. You were given a gift that is quite frankly awful, useless or otherwise not at all what you expected to receive. But what do you do with it now?



Bri Harris
Copy Editor

You obviously can't ask for the receipt because that would blow your cover. And you can't just throw it in the trash because even you aren't that coldhearted. But you do have this friend, and that pink-hearted ugly Persian kitten china tea set Grandma gave you is totally her thing.

Many people do not condone re-gifting because they believe it to be tacky, and they will claim that a re-gifted item can't be as sincere as one that someone shopped for with you in mind. Ignore those sentiments. Those same people would probably suggest that you throw away the gift or return it for something you would prefer.

The holidays are a time to appreciate kindness and thoughtfulness more than ever, whether or not you get exactly what you want.

Especially as a college student, I'm sure someone in your family probably will go out of their way to send you a care package for a holiday, containing

a box of peanut brittle, which they forgot you are allergic to, a hand-knitted wool scarf that is terribly itchy, an umbrella that is a hideous shade of moss green with lace frills, or any number of kindly packaged terrors.

Yes, you could send these things back, but that would probably appear ungrateful. If someone makes an effort to get you something they think you will like, you should refrain from sending it back or asking for something else.

Throwing away undesirables is a terrible waste when others can appreciate the gifts that you aren't overly fond of. So wrap them up, put a bow on them and stick them in your

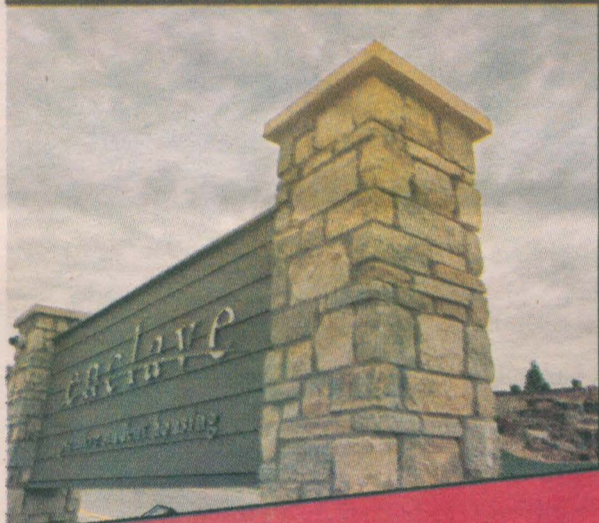
closet until the time comes when they can make someone else happy. If all else fails, they can also be used for white elephant gifts at holiday parties.

And if you really can't think of a single person you know who would like that gift, save them for charity presents or donate them to someone who can't afford to buy gifts for others. Give them to your local Salvation Army or Goodwill or give them to a local church for members who are in need. Bottom line: Put aside wasteful and greedy tendencies and make someone else's day with an unexpected gift.

Brianne Harris can be reached at bharris@alestlelive.com or 650-3527.

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MANAGEMENT

Gift-giving made easy for relationships, new and old

Photo via MCT

BRIANNE HARRIS
Alestle Copy Editor

You and your sweetheart have been dating a few months, but the winter holidays are now in sight: a joyful time, but also a time of gift-giving angst.

Exchanging gifts can be one of the most daunting aspects of a young relationship. Odds are you cannot yet say "I know exactly what he or she would like." Some couples who have been married for more than 30 years cannot even pinpoint exactly what to get their spouses. But not to worry, this kind of gifting nervousness can be conquered with just a little creativity.

Not only gifts, but also the way in which they are given can have a large impact on a relationship, whether romantic or not. Psychology chair Paul Rose said the pressures associated with gift-giving extend back to mankind's very roots in trading for survival.

"One of the reasons [gift-giving is] so powerful is that human beings have always been traders," Rose said. "Because of this, our brains and our minds are actually shaped to process information about trade in an efficient way. What this means in our everyday interactions is that we're very sensitive to information about trade. When we're talking about a relationship, it's understandable that our mind is very, very focused on 'Have things gotten imbalanced here?' 'Does this gift send the right message about who I am and how important this relationship is?'"

These concerns are especially

noticeable in young relationships. Some SIUE students have very different expectations about gift-giving in new relationships, but many of them had one thing in common: They would prefer homemade gifts to something bought in a store.

Marketing chair Edmund Hershberger said gifts have at least two forms of value: the economic and what could be called the psychic value, which relates to the intentionality behind the gift, such as how much thought you put into the gift, or how hard you worked to attain it. In terms of gift-giving in young relationships, Hershberger said that the psychic value of a gift should not be overlooked.

"For people in a young relationship, I think the most important thing is to recognize the value of those psychic costs, and recognize that it's not just about 'How much money I have spent?'" Hershberger said. "It's just as much about 'How much thought and effort I've put into it.' ... There has to be a match between the value of the gift and what's expected by the other person."

Homemade gifts often appear to have more psychic value because of the effort put into making them. While most people would agree that hand-crafted gifts are desirable, not everyone has the know-how, confidence or creativity to make them.

Perhaps working on a project with your partner, like senior biology major Francesca Stockton, of Collinsville, is the best option for you.

"My boyfriend bought me the mannequin torso from a flea market, and he came up with the idea to turn it into a 'man lamp' after Christmas," Stockton said.

"Then we both got to work and built it together. We had lights coming out of where its head would be. We also added real washboard abs to it, as in we drilled a washboard to its abs."

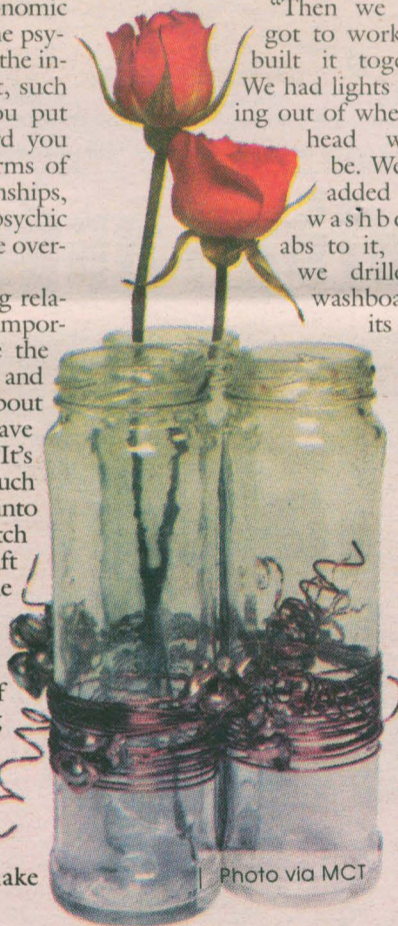


Photo via MCT

Rose said that when considering a gift to get for your partner, it is important to be honest with yourself about how much you can realistically spend and to realize that there are many gifts that cost very little if you are willing to be creative.

"I think, particularly for college students, it's hard to be serious about the financial constraints that a college student is under, and advertisers certainly aren't telling you, 'Hey, watch it this Christmas season, you've already got student loans' or whatever college student's constraints are," Rose said. "I think that college students who are in relationships could really take seriously the idea that there are things that a partner could really, really appreciate that cost almost nothing."

Perhaps the best gift is giving your partner the chance to share an experience with you because, expensive or low-cost, experiences give you both a chance to bond in a way that handing each other boxes of wrapped goods cannot.

Rose said the significance of these experiences can be very powerful and suggested creative ways that they might be arranged as a gift so as to make them extra special for a young relationship.

"Research clearly shows us that experiences are more powerful at creating happiness and also satisfaction in the relationship because the thing about experiences, especially when they're shared like that, is you're building memories together. Unlike products, which you sometimes use by yourself, or

they break and they get old," Rose said. "Experiences are things that you share together forever. If you want to make a gift out of it, then you write up a card and make it look like a coupon or something that says, 'This spring semester, I promise to go ice skating four times with you,' or 'I promise to go on two hikes with you' or something like that so that you can still give an experience, and they might be experiences that cost very little."

Other creative low-cost experiences could include going to a free concert together or taking a carriage ride in St. Louis, or you could find out what kind of art interests your partner and surprise them with a trip to an art museum or gallery.

If you are having a difficult time coming up with ideas, you can always visit groupon.com, and find savings there. Pinterest is also chock-full of crafts, recipes and gift ideas.

There is no reason to break the bank to go to an overpriced dinner. Be creative and cook a romantic dinner yourself, or enlist the help of your roommates if need be. Write a coupon that offers your partner the chance to pick a movie to see in theaters. Pack a picnic or plan a stargazing venture. The possibilities are endless, as long as you are willing to try something new.

Read more about gift-giving at alestlelive.com.

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Sports

Questions or comments regarding this section?
Contact the Sports Editor at
650-3524 or sports@alestlelive.com

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www.alestlelive.com

Thursday, December 5, 2013



Men's basketball

East

Belmont	8-2	(0-0)
E. Kentucky	6-2	(0-0)
Morehead St.	7-3	(0-0)
Tenn. Tech	5-4	(0-0)
Jax State	3-6	(0-0)
Tenn. State	0-9	(0-0)

West

SE Missouri	6-2	(0-0)
Austin Peay	4-3	(0-0)
E. Illinois	4-3	(0-0)
Murray State	2-5	(0-0)
SIUE	2-6	(0-0)
UT Martin	2-8	(0-0)

Nov. 30 results

USC Upstate 73, Tennessee State 64
Southeast Missouri 102, Tulane 72
C. Michigan 66, Jax State 61
UNLV 85, UT Martin 55
Austin Peay 88, Youngstown St. 86
Tennessee Tech 74, Utah Valley 71
N.C. State 75, Eastern Kentucky 56
W. Kentucky 68, Eastern Illinois 53
Saint Mary's 89, Murray State 64

Dec. 1 results

SE Missouri 82, Texas State 74
VCU 81, Belmont 68

Dec. 2 results

Morehead State 74, Wright State 69
SIUE 55, Texas-Pan American 49

Dec. 3 results

Alabama A&M 66, Tenn. State 65
Belmont 70, Middle Tennessee 58

Schedule for Dec. 5

Eastern Kentucky at VCU
Tennessee Tech at Lipscomb

Schedule for Dec. 7

Tennessee Tech at Tennessee
SE Missouri at SE Louisiana
Austin Peay at Samford
Tennessee State at Drexel
Lipscomb at Murray State
Eastern Kentucky at Longwood
Northern Kentucky at UT Martin
Central Michigan at SIUE
Indiana State at Eastern Illinois

Women's basketball

East

E. Kentucky	4-5	(0-0)
Morehead St.	4-5	(0-0)
Tenn. Tech	2-4	(0-0)
Belmont	3-6	(0-0)
Jax State	2-6	(0-0)
Tenn. State	1-6	(0-0)

West

Murray State	5-2	(0-0)
Austin Peay	3-3	(0-0)
UT Martin	4-4	(0-0)
E. Illinois	2-5	(0-0)
SE Missouri	2-6	(0-0)
SIUE	1-6	(0-0)

Nov. 30 results

Ball State 76, Tennessee Tech 64
Delaware 71, SIUE 42
Northern Kentucky 70, UT Martin 61
Miss. Valley St. 68, E. Kentucky 58
UMKC 69, Eastern Illinois 62
Murray State 86, Lipscomb 79
Austin Peay 81, Central Arkansas 60
New Mexico 73, SE Missouri 55

Dec. 1 results

George Washington 100, Jax St. 71
Central Florida 68, SIUE 43
W. Kentucky 65, Morehead St. 52

Dec. 3 results

Eastern Kentucky 64, Marshall 55
Wake Forest 69, Belmont 49

Schedule for Dec. 5

Missouri State at Eastern Kentucky
Tennessee Tech at Alcorn State

Schedule for Dec. 6

Wyoming at SIUE
Tennessee State at North Florida



Senior guard Tim Johnson dunks against Greenville. The Cougars played in the Portland State Tournament to begin Thanksgiving break, where they lost three games. They lost another to Oregon State during break before ending their losing streak Dec. 2 against Texas-Pan American. | Photo by Brian Armea/Alestle

Men's basketball ends four-game skid

ALESTLE STAFF

The SIUE men's basketball team has two wins after eight games this season, but the Cougars ended a four-game losing streak with a victory Monday.

The Cougars (2-6 overall) beat the University of Texas-Pan American-55-49 in the first game at the Vadalabene Center since Nov. 16.

The majority of the scoring came from two players on each

team. For the Cougars, junior guard Rozell Nunn and senior guard Christian Salecich had 15 and 16 points, respectively. Senior forward Ray Lester, the next highest scorer, had nine points.

For the Broncs (4-6 overall), Shaquille Boga and Javorn Farrell led the way with 17 and 15 points, respectively. UTPA's next highest scorer had just seven points.

With about five minutes left in the contest, the teams were tied at 42. For the next few minutes, the teams swapped one-point leads back and forth until Nunn hit a jumper with two minutes to go, taking the lead 47-46. Less than a minute later, he hit a 3-pointer to put the Cougars up 50-46, which was all SIUE needed for the victory.

Before Thanksgiving break officially began, the Cougars took a trip out west to compete in the Portland State Tournament.

The trip proved unsuccessful, as they lost three state games to the University of California, Davis, Portland State and Loyola University Chicago. However, the Cougars lost each game by a combined nine points.

On Nov. 22, SIUE lost 80-75 to UC Davis (3-6 overall). Nunn also led the Cougars in scoring this game with 17 points. Junior guards Michael Messer and Kris Davis each added 11 points for the Cougars.

The Cougars led the game 38-36 at halftime, but were outscored 44-37 in the second half.

Despite having three players who scored in double digits, SIUE's defense allowed UC Davis' Josh Ritchart to score 35 points. Corey Hawkins added 11 points.

One day later, SIUE fell 77-74 to Portland State (4-2 overall). Senior guard Tim Johnson led SIUE in scoring this time with 17 points. Sophomore guard

Donivine Stewart added 16 points, and junior forward Keaton Jackson had 11.

Again, the Cougars led at halftime. However, their 43-33 lead was down to a slim 51-48 lead after four minutes of play in the second half. Portland State was not able to take a lead until six minutes left in the game, when Andre Winston made two free throws to make it 64-63.

SIUE's final game in Portland was another close loss, this time 73-72 to Loyola (3-5 overall). Once more, SIUE held a halftime lead of 35-33, but failed to come away with the victory.

Stewart led the Cougars with 22 points, and Messer added another 14 from the bench. The next highest scorer was Lester, who had seven.

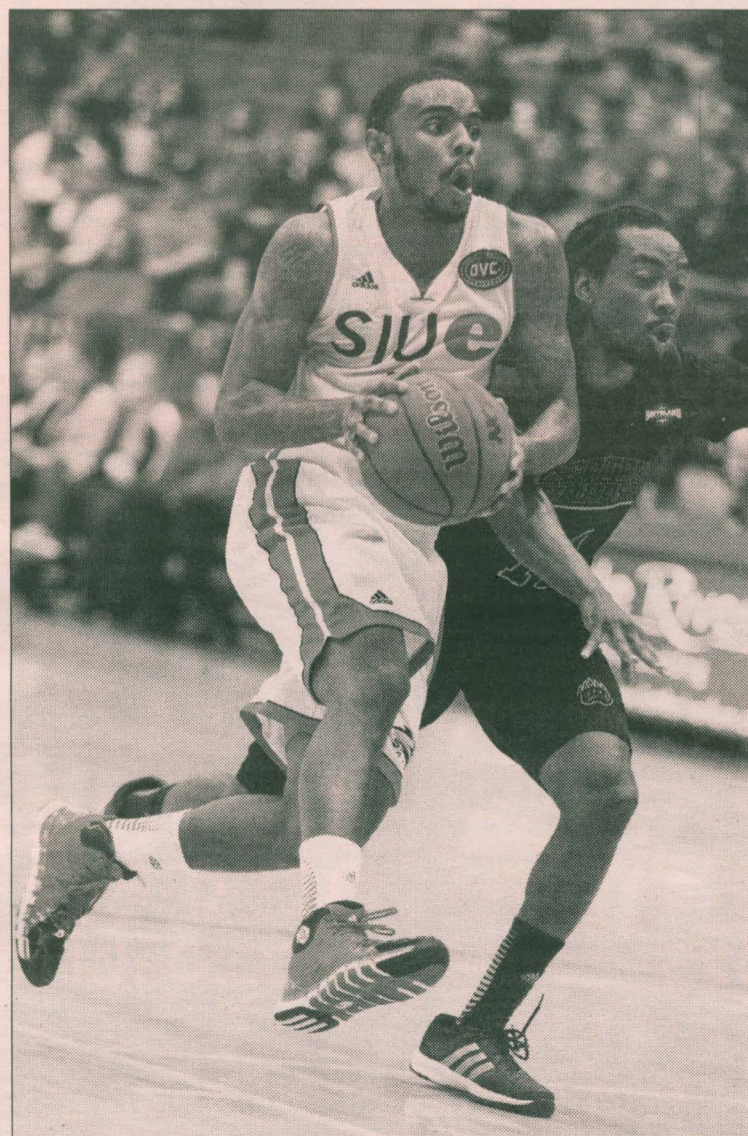
Loyola's scoring was balanced, with Christian Thomas, Jeff White and Matt O'Leary all finishing with 14. Nick Osborne added 10.

SIUE's only game during Thanksgiving break was played Nov. 26 in Corvallis, Ore. against Oregon State (3-2 overall). The Cougars lost again, but this time, it was not close. The Beavers came out on top 101-81.

Junior guard Maurice Wiltz led the Cougars in scoring with 16 points, Jackson and Stewart added 13, Nunn had 12 and Salecich had 10.

Oregon State answered the Cougars' offense with its own. Devon Collier scored 20, Angus Brandt had 19, Roberto Nelson had 17, Victor Robbins had 12 and Olaf Schaffenaar had 11.

SIUE's next game will be at 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 7 at the Vadalabene Center against Central Michigan.



Junior guard Maurice Wiltz drives to the lane. The Cougars are 2-6 overall this season. | Photo by Brian Armea/Alestle

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





Junior guard Tierny Austin finds the edge and drives to the basket. | Photo by Christian Lee/Alestle

Women's basketball loses three games during break, dropping to 1-6 overall

BEN LEVIN
Alestle Reporter

The SIUE women's basketball team fell to 1-6 during the break, losing all three games the team played. The Cougars are currently on a four-game losing streak, with the team's only win on Nov. 16 against Kansas City.

On Tuesday, the Cougars lost to Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne (4-4 overall) 91-74. The Cougars had a five-point lead late in the first half before IPFW hit three 3-pointers and ended the half with the lead, 43-35. In the second half, IPFW came out strong and took SIUE out of the game early, hitting seven of its twelve 3-pointers in the half.

Freshman guard Alexis Chappelle led all SIUE starters with nine points, but it was freshman forward Micah Jones who led the Cougars in scoring. Coming off the bench, Jones dropped 25 points and grabbed seven rebounds.

IPFW shot 51 percent from the field, led by Amanda Hyde's 41 points, the most any individual has scored at the Vadalabene Center. Hyde shot 10-12 from the field and grabbed eight rebounds.

On Saturday, SIUE traveled to Orlando for the University of Central Florida Thanksgiving Classic and lost to Delaware (6-1 overall) 71-42. After the first half ended with Delaware leading 20-14, the Blue Hens scored 51 second-half points, which included a 24-7 run in the final nine minutes.

The Cougars were able to get 18 percent of their shots to fall, going 9-50. Junior forward Allyssa Decker led all SIUE scorers with 11 points, and was

assisted by junior guard Tierny Austin, who grabbed 11 rebounds and scored nine points, missing a double-double by one point.

Delaware had three starters finish in double-digit points. Center Kelsey Buchanan led all scorers with 17 points, going 6-10 from the field. Guard Akeema Richards and forward Joy Caracciolo finished with 16 points and 13, respectively, for the Blue Hens.

On Sunday, SIUE continued play at the Thanksgiving Classic, opposing host UCF (6-1 overall), and lost 68-43. UCF started the game on a 14-3 run. The Cougars were unable to find a way back and went into the locker room down 29-16. SIUE played the second half close but were outscored 29-27.

Austin just missed a double-double for the second consecutive game, scoring a team-high 15 points and grabbing nine rebounds. Austin also led the team with four assists. Senior guard Valerie Finnin was the only other SIUE player to finish in double-digit scoring, totaling a season-high 10 points.

UCF's Zykira Lewis came off the bench and led all scorers with 16 points. Briahanna Jackson, Sara Djassi and Stephanie Taylor also finished with double-digit points for UCF.

The women have five road games before they return to the Vadalabene Center for the start of Ohio Valley Conference play. The Cougars' next game is at 5:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 6 at the Air Force Classic in Colorado Springs, Colo., versus the University of Wyoming.

Ben Levin can be reached at blevin@alestlelive.com or 650-3524.

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