Alton - East St. Louis - Edwardsville

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Unveiling hijab's hidden meaning: A day in someone else's scarf

KAREN MARTIN Alestle Lifestyles Editor

Students may have seen an unusually large number of women wearing headscarves, called hijabs, on campus Thursday, Feb. 27. While some of these women wear hijabs, on a daily basis, many others were participating in the Muslim Student Association's "Hijab Day Challenge.

This day-long event, open to Muslim and non-Muslim women, was organized by senior social work major Amina Musa, of Belleville, who is a member of MSA.

"The idea behind [the event] is raising awareness of what the headscarf is, how it feels to walk a day in the shoes and wear that and what kind of reactions you get and to actually consider why women choose to wear it on a daily basis," Musa

Hijab misconceptions

There are some misconceptions about Islam and the treatment of women who wear hijabs, as some people see it as a form of oppression and control.

According to MSA President Nasir Almasri, this is not a result of the religion, but the result of culture and politics.

"You look in places where we go past the hijab and go to the niqab, covering the face almost completely except for the eyes. That is a whole other level and that's not required in Islam," Almasri said. "A lot of the times, it's used as a tool, not only to oppress, but to control. It's amazing, when you have corrupt politics, how much all the sudden religion is a factor. It's amazing, how much religion gets twisted."

Musa said the hijab is ideempowering while allowing women to feel valued for something beyond their physical ap-

"I would like to break down that [negative] perception. [Women] are making a choice because they don't want to be valued on their sexuality, on their appearance, on their outer aspects," Musa said. "I want people to learn that wearing the hijab actually means that you re-

spect yourself more than the average person."

Choosing to wear the hijab

Wearing a hijab in America is a personal choice, Almasri said; though, in other countries there is more of an expectation to wear one.

"Let's just say if [America] was a Muslim country, all of the sudden you'd be required to wear the headscarf," Almasri said. "To force it on somebody develops no real connection with God. It's always supposed to have been a personal decision . Muhammad never said you

Musa said there is no easy explanation as to why she chooses not to wear the head-

"I'd like to get to that point where I wear it, but I think at this stage in my life, it's a choice of mine that I [don't] wear it,"

Junior biology major Raneen Taha, of Baghdad, chooses to wear hers on a daily basis.

"I've been wearing it since fourth grade. I was influenced by everyone around me back home," Taha said. "Then when I grew up, I understood the actual reasons for it and it made me [happier] to wear it and continue to wear it. It's totally optional."

Dressing up

Taha said the hijab empowers women to feel valued for their intelligence and heart; though, there are times, for special occasions with family, where she does take it off and get dressed up.

"We do take it off for weddings and special occasions if it's just with family or girls," Taha said. "We can still dress up [while] wearing a scarf."

The reactions

While the hijab does empower Taha, she said students are more reluctant to pair up with or approach her in her lab classes. Taha said she usually makes the first move to break the ice, but afterward, her experiences with her lab partners and on campus in general were pos-

Taha said she gets several looks on campus, but ultimately



Imman Musa, a graduate student from St. Louis University, gave a talk at an informational session on Wednesday, Feb. 26 regarding her personal experiences as a woman who has chosen to wear a hijab on a | Photo by Brian Armea/Alestle daily basis.

knows whether the looks are negative or simply out of curios-

"Sometimes I can tell some people are looking at me like it's something weird. Some people do actually ask me why I wear it. Some people nod and say, 'Hi,"

Diversity exposure

Musa said she wants there to be more conversation about what the hijab means for the women who wear it.

Students not only learned from the informational session held Wednesday, Feb. 26, but also from two speakers who led deeper conversation about the

The speakers were Musa's sister Imman, a graduate student from St. Louis University and philosophy professor Saba

According to Taha, Fatima spoke about the hijab's empowering qualities, and Imman Musa discussed her personal experience as a woman who has gone from not wearing one to wearing one on a daily basis.

While the "Hijab Day Challenge" was primarily focused on women wearing the headscarf, Almasri said the term really relates more to men and women dressing modestly.

"Generally speaking, it's understood as a headscarf that Muslim women, wear. Technically speaking, that's incorrect. But that's just the term we use [for the headscarf]," Almasri said. "Hijab means to cover the body modestly, which means it goes for men and women."

Almasri said for women, it means covering everything but the hands and face, and for men, modesty is covering themselves from their knees to chest.

Ultimately Amina Musa said she hopes this event resulted in a chance for the women on campus to not only relate better with one another, but also develop a sense of empathy and respect for hijabwearing women on campus.

"I think here in a community like the Edwardsville community, where things are a little homogenous, without being exposed to any diversity, people automatically fear it," Amina Musa said. "By exposing people to that diverse element, hopefully they'll be able to open their minds about it."

Karen Martin can be reached at kmartin@alestlelive.com or 650-3527.



... Without being exposed to any diversity, people automatically fear it.

> Amina Musa Senior social work major

SIUE to receive quality checkup for accreditation

CAITLIN GROVE Alestle Reporter

This past Friday, Student Government met and discussed a quality checkup that will be performed on SIUE regarding the overall quality of the university. This would confirm the university meets necessary criteria for accreditation.

Accreditation certifies degree-based programs throughout the university and allows students to receive federal financial

According to Denise Cobb, assistant provost for Academic Innovation and Effectiveness, two people will be sent to campus within the next few months. They will observe university-sponsored events and classes to assure the school is compliant with federal regulations and to verify

information regarding these regulations.
"This is a way to celebrate things the university is doing well and to think critically about how to improve as an institution and move forward," Cobb said. "They place a rating on certain programs and say, 'These are doing good, but here's how you can do even better.'

In other business, the Student Social Association was approved \$3,330.89 to fund an event, which will bring awareness to homelessness in Madison County.

This event, titled "One Night," is scheduled for 3-11 p.m. Saturday, April 12 at the Intramural Fields located on

During this event, participants are encouraged to create cardboard homes and compete for most unique design.
According to Student Body President

Alexa Hillery, this event can reach out to many different organizations.
"We thought, 'Oh wow, this would be

a great way to get the organizations to work together on campus," Hillery said. This event is free, but the organiza-

tion would like a minimum donation from each team entering a box. Teams can be made up of as many or as few people as

SG Vice President Nasir Almasri said this is the type of event in which students can be an active part.

Senator Abbey Buxton suggested moving this event to the Stratton Quadrangle to provide easier access and visibility for students. The group is currently looking into this idea.

The English Language and Literature Association was approved \$1,600 to have poet and spoken word artist A.D. Carson recite works from two of his books at

This event will be held from 7-9 p.m. Thursday, April 10 in the Oak, Redbud Room. It will include a 45-60 minute reading followed by a question and answer session.

In addition, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Narbeth Emmanuel spoke about the National Student Survey of En-

This university-wide survey will be sent out to students at the end of March regarding many different aspects of cam-

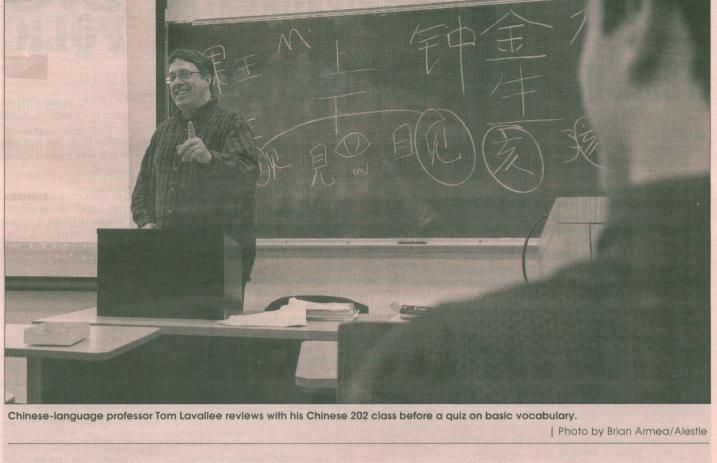
According to Emmanuel, administrators are including incentives for students to participate such as t-shirts, a parking pass and a drawing for an iPad.

Almasri announced a senate bill adding four members to the Senate. This would include two freshmen and two graduate student spots for a new total of

Also, this bill would eliminate summer senate. Therefore, all summer travel requests would need to be approved by the end of the spring semester.

If passed, this bill will be effective immediately. The four additional seats will only be added as a result of the election.

out knowing the language," Williams said. Anthropology professor Cory Willwith the language's deeper meanings. Chinese is a very poetic and metaphoric language. It has such a deep, long history of scholarly tradition of poetry and spiritual connection," Willmott said.



Foreign affairs:

Chinese language applies in anthropology, engineering, business

KAREN MARTIN Alestle Lifestyles Editor

Chinese-language professor Tom Lavallee said he is concerned about lower enrollment numbers in the Chinese language courses, and emphasizes its application in other majors.

Lavallee said higher enrollment numbers in first-year language classes are important in preserving the second-year and third-year classes because the amount of students who move on to advanced language classes thins out

"In order to sustain study in Chinese, you need to have, at the earlier level, high numbers so that people go on to do second and third year," Lavallee said. "At our university, there is a language requirement that runs one year, two semesters. The incentive for students to take second and third year isn't as high.'

Lavallee said learning Chinese can be valuable to other majors such as anthropology, engineering and international

While English is the language of business in China, computer management information systems professor Clay Williams said English is only spoken in international Chinese business dealings, not domestic dealings.

It is incumbent upon us to know how to communicate with those people that can be our allies and those that can be our competitors. And you don't know China with-

mott said the Chinese language is highly built into their culture, and it is important for students who want a well-rounded understanding of the culture to be familiar

One example of how language supports a culture, Willmott said, is the Chinese ting, which is a covered vessel, meant for ceremonial food or burning incense; however, it also represents nourishment:

how a family provides nourishment for its members, how a state provides nourishment for its citizens and how deities and people provide for each other.

Lavallee said this additional knowledge of language better prepares students of business to understand how to build relationships based on cultural fluency. It will also help students navigate linguistic subtleties to advertise more successfully and be aware of communication that can yield greater comprehension of complex mar-

I encourage students to

language because it is an

choose Chinese as a second

opportunity to really expand

taking a European language

your horizons in ways that just

guage is a foundation of culture.

"That's because we think in language," Willmott said. "For cultural anthropology, where our goal is to really get to the depth and breadth of human diversity, so much of what we know and think about is only 10 percent of what is really our culture. Learning Chinese can help delve into the other 90 percent of unconscious culture by raising awareness of variations in human

Another advantage to learning Chinese is that it provides self-learning, according to Lavallee

Lavallee said the words people choose in Chinese and the manner in which they write are all manifestations of their chi, which is regarded as a universal en-

"In traditional Chinese culture, there's this attitude that in understanding yourself or cultivating yourself, you really need to pay attention to this idea of chi," Lavallee said. "Whenever you produce any kind of writing or painting, essentially what you're doing is channeling this chi through

Cory Willmott Anthropology professor

Business students who know the language will also have more career options available, according to Williams.

would not.

'It will afford opportunities in different kinds of jobs. Instead of a traditional, Tm going to be a business analyst in company X, Y, Z,' I might have an opportunity for a different career path or different kind of job opportunity that would make use of those language courses," Williams said. "Not many first or second-year people come out of undergrad and have an opportunity to either engage with international partners or travel internationally because of their work."

Lavallee said it is sometimes harder for students to make the connection between a foreign language and their majors, but hopes other professors can help students see the application of other languages in

The knowledge of Chinese adds to the study of both cultural and linguistic anthropology, according to Willmott, because lan-

your body."

Chinese calligraphy is an art form, Lavallee said. The brush strokes that end up on the pages say something about a person. Therefore, learning Chinese teaches

Westerners more than just a language. "It's truly an opportunity for a lot of

different types of learning, not just processing a language for utilization in some future setting," Lavallee said.

If anything, Willmott said learning a language like Chinese while in college may be the only time students get immersed into a culture so different from their own.

"I encourage students to choose Chinese as a second language because it is an opportunity to really expand your horizons in ways that just taking a European language would not," Willmott said.

Karen Martin can be reached at kmartin@alestlelive.com or

Read more about Student Government's most recent decisions at alestlelive.com

Alestle brings home eight awards from Chicago media conference

ALESTLE STAFF

The Alestle staff recently won a total of eight awards during the annual college media conference of the Illinois College Press Association.

At the conference, held in Chicago, Feb. 21-22, the Alestle won second place for general excellence, a category in which the staff has not placed since 2009.

"It was exciting to see the Alestle recognized in all the categories in which they were, but especially in the in-depth reporting and general excellence categories," Alestle Program Director Tammy Merrett-Murry said. "It's a testament to the seriousness in which the staff approaches its work."

Lifestyles Editor Karen Martin and Online Editor Ben Ostermeier shared a second-place award for in-depth reporting for their series on campus wildlife, published last summer. Copy Editor John Layton won a second-place award for headline writing.

Former Sports Editor Roger Starkey won second place for sports news story for his reporting on former wrestling head coach David Ray's resignation. Former Editor-in-Chief Michelle Beard won second place for an editorial cartoon she designed on the board of trustees members' ongoing disagree-

ments last year.

The Alestle's recent lifestyles series, Metro East Eats, won a third-place award in the entertainment supplement category.

supplement category.

Layton and former photographer Andrew Rathnow both received honorable mentions at ICPA for news story and sports photo, respectively.

for news story and sports photo, respectively.

The entries in the competition were judged for excellence by members of the Illinois Press Association, as well as other working journalists in Missouri and across the country.

The Alestle competes nationally against many other newspapers from across the country. Statewide, the Alestle competes regularly against newspapers from such student newspapers and schools as the Bradley Scout at Bradley University, Chicago Weekly at the University of Chicago, the Columbia Chronicle at Columbia College, DePaulia at DePaul University, Chicago Flame at the University of Illinois-Chicago, the Journal at University of Illinois-Springfield, the Loyola Phoenix at Loyola University and the Independent at Northeastern Illinois University.

News can be reached at news@alestlelive.com or 650-3527, Follow @TheAlestle.

SIUCE BEOTTER

2-19-14

An officer responded to the University Center regarding a mother who reported she was unable to locate her son's bicycle which was parked somewhere on campus.

An officer met with Housing staff and a resident at the Cougar Village Commons. The resident found drugs in plain view in their apartment. Officers went with the resident to 503 Cougar Village, performed a consent search and found a small amount of cannabis. The incident has been forwarded to Housing and Student Affairs.

An officer contacted the occupants of a vehicle illegally parked in a handicapped parking spot at Woodland Hall Circle. Driver Amanda L. Trent was arrested for illegal possession of cannabis and for parking in a handicapped parking spot. Trent was transported to the SIUE Police Department where she was fingerprinted, processed and released after posting \$120 bond. Officers then transported her back to Woodland Hall.

2-20-14

A caller stated her roommate, Amanda L. Trent, threw bleach on all of the caller's clothes as Trent was moving out. Trent was arrested for criminal damage to property and taken to the SIUE Police Department where she was photographed, finger-printed and processed. Later, Trent was taken to Madison County Jail and placed on a felony hold.

2-21-14

Cahokia Police Department picked up Timiji J. Jackson on warrant for residential burglary with a bond set at \$60,000.00. An SIUE officer picked Jackson up from Cahokia and transported him to SIUE Police Department for fingerprinting, photographing and processing. Later, Jackson was then taken to Madison County Jail, as he was unable to post bond.

2-22-14

Amanda L. Trent was released from Madison County Jail after posting \$1,000.00 bond. Woodland Hall was notified to contact police if Trent entered the building without a police escort.

2-23-14

A caller stated her roommates brought cannabis into their apartment. Officers conducted a consent search but found nothing.

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The editors, staff and publishers of the Alestie believe in the free exchange of ideas, concerns and opinions and will publish as many letters as possible.

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

The name Alestle is an acronym derived from the names of the three campus locations of Southern Illinois University Edwardsville: Alton, East St. Louis and Edwardsville

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the paper without pouring bleach on all of your roommate's clothes.

Write a letter to the editor! Send letters to

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Modern diversity: Through media, Internet connection, societies grow closer

Diversity is a hot topic nowadays. Last semester, I was in an anthropology class where a student vehemently argued that everyone should be the same; human beings should be homogenous so we would not

have to learn about tolerate and others. It would be so simple.

Nathan Sierra Copy Editor

He said it was a hassle to have to learn about other people's religions and to treat people differently, and therefore, we should all conform to one single culture. It would get rid of so much violence and hatred in the world.

This notion sparked a debate in our class that eventually culminated into two sides. One that praised diversity and tolerance, and another that argued we should be as similar as possible, including, but not limited to, believing in the same religion and being the same skin

This got me thinking: Are we as a society having as much of an issue with diversity as I then encountered? Or are we growing to love and respect each other, not in spite of, but because of our differences? I then looked inward to try and identify any moments of adversity I have felt due to any of my religious beliefs. I could not find any.

I am not too far removed from reality to see the horrors that are sometimes inflicted upon minorities. We hear so much about religious wars on the news, but I believe that is because hatred and violence is

I believe society is moving forward with tolerance, be it religious or otherwise.

Everything I have seen so far is of us being more accepting. And truthfully, I think it is because of the media. We are able to peer more into the lives of people incredibly different from us and grow more as a culture. We have been gaining empathy at a strong, healthy

The Internet reveals to us,

through sites like Reddit or Tumble, that we really do have similar ways of thinking, similar desires and loves, similar religious beliefs. We all want to be successful. We all want to feel a part of the world, and we all want to be accepted.

Most of all, in Western nations at least, we want to be our own person. So, I humbly think diversity is important. Perhaps it is the most important quality we as humans have. We have the ability to respect and admire those different from us; an ability we should continue to nurture and let grow.

Nathan Sierra can be reached at nsierra@alestlelive.com or 650-3525.

Man on the Street:

How do you feel about the religious tolerance on campus?



"I think it's pretty good. I've been to a few Christian poetry events. A lot of worship events happen here. I'm not sure how often that's going on or if there's a situation where I've ever been denied. I'm not really

Shane Bracken Junior transfer student Edwardsville



"I think it's pretty open. I think it's pretty tolerant. I'm a Christian. There have been Christian groups I've been in. I think they're well supported. I haven't encountered any [religious intolerance]. I'm not all that familiar with other religious groups.

> Alex Lewis Senior biology major McLeansboro



"I'm a Christian, so I haven't really had anything come up that has been offensive to me. I've met people who were atheists, but I've never thought any less of them or tried to convert them to my faith. Where I come from is very diverse and I had a lot of friends who were Muslim and I had a lot of friends who were Catholic. I guess I never really judged people"

Sarah Cooper Sophomore human resource management major Algonquin



"I've been introduced to several religions. It's good to get different views. ... I'm understanding about how people have their own ideas, and they're entitled to what they believe."

Cody King Sophomore mass communications major Peoria



"I've never seen any issues or conflicts or anything so far on campus. And it's been amazing to date. I can see a lot of religious beliefs going around, you can see a lot of people doing that and everything, so nobody has any constraint or anything.

Kardhik Yenumula Civil engineering graduate student Hyderabad, India

How do you feel about the religious tolerance on campus? Answer our poll at www.alestlelive.com!

Lifestyles

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www.alestlelive.com

Questions or comments regarding this section? Contact the Lifestyles Editor at 650-3527 or lifestyles@alestlelive.com.

Thursday, February 27, 2014

METRO EAST EATS: WINGS

The Alestle staff visited five locations in the metro east and sampled the restaurants' wings. We reviewed the wings, giving a score out of 100, which was based on criteria including sauce variety, sauce distribution, spiciness, crispiness, greasiness, juiciness, customer service, the atmosphere and how long we waited for our plate.

Scores were determined by each staff member's happiness. If the wings were too much greasy, the score would be lower in the greasiness category because that would not make the reviewer happy. If the wait to get our order was short, the score would be higher in the wait category.

Price: \$\$\$\$ = pricey \$\$ = not bad \$ = cheap

WINNER! REIFSCHNEIDER'S GRILL AND GRAPE

SCORE: 99

SCORE SHEET

Price: \$\$
ADDRESS: 700 N. STATE STREET, FREEBURG
DISTANCE FROM CAMPUS: ABOUT 35 MINUTES

SAUCE VARIETY:	9
SAUCE DISTRIBUTION:	10
SPICINESS:	10
CRISPINESS:	10
GREASINESS:	10
JUICINESS:	10
THE WAIT:	10
SERVICE:	10
ATMOSPHERE:	10
DRTCF.	10

These wings are well worth the drive. Sitting 35 miles from campus, Reifschneider's Grill and Grape is a gleaming gem in the small, rural town of Freeburg. From its modern decor to the extensive beverage lists, this restaurant brings a city feeling for a non-city price.

Though the restaurant's specialty lies in brick-oven pizza, the wings are a close co-star. Reifschneider's offers wings in four flavors: sweet and spicy, hot, barbeque and fiery bleu wings. These wings can be ordered bone-in or boneless and come with a side of ranch or blue cheese.

Although all the flavors are great, the hot steals the show. The sauce is not so hot that it burns

tongues, but still packs enough heat to cause eyes to well. Both the bone-in and boneless are perfectly crispy without being hard. One of the best things about these wings is they aren't greasy, but still juicy enough.

The staff is beyond wonderful. Never once did we have to ask for a refill or our plates to be taken from our table. The wait was long enough that we didn't feel rushed out of the restaurant, but short enough that we were not counting the minutes until we were served.

If you're looking for great wings without the typical bar restaurant feel, take the drive to, Reifschneider's, and you won't be disappointed.

SCORE SHEET

Price: \$

ADDRESS: 3600 S. STATE ROUTE 159, GLEN CARBON DISTANCE FROM CAMPUS: LESS THAN 10 MINUTES

SAUCE VARIETY:	8
SAUCE DISTRIBUTION:	10
SPICINESS:	10
CRISPINESS:	10
GREASINESS:	10
JUICINESS:	10
THE WAIT:	10
SERVICE:	10
ATMOSPHERE:	10
PRICE:	9

APPLEBEE'S NEIGHBORHOOD GRILL AND BAR SCORE: 97

Applebee's has an all-encompassing menu, satisfying a multitude of appetites from Italian to Mexican to all-American cuisine. What cannot be passed up, however, are its classic hot buffalo wings. This basket is served as an appetizer, but is filling enough to be a meal for one. From a selection of only four sauces, hot buffalo stands alone as the hottest and tastiest sauce on

The wings enter your sight, still steamy from being tossed generously in the warm sauce. By generously, we mean that they receive 100 percent coverage, no sign of the naked wing. They aren't so smothered that they are sitting in their own pool of sauce, but substantially enclosed in the spicy blanket that you'll never miss out on the flavor. The hotness of the hot buffalo sauce will satisfy the spice-loving palate that gives a warming sensation, rather than a sharp one.

Don't let the blanket of sauce disguise

it: The wings are cooked to perfection, crisp on the outside while still juicy on the inside.

The greasiness of the wings is at an appropriate level; when tender, juicy meat and plenty of sauce is desired, you'll find the greasiness won't nauseate, but it will welcome you into a wing-eating experience.

Applebee's has gained a reputation for being filled with families and children at most any hour of the day. However, if you want to enjoy the wings in a fun, stress-free environment, bring some family or friends to Applebee's Trivia Night any Tuesday. Another factor holding these wings back is the price for the quantity. It may feel steep, but you could go out for a late-night date night and enjoy this impressive appetizer for half price. It might make it all the more deli-

There are simply no regrets when you order the classic hot buffalo wings. Even though it is merely an appetizer, these wings have obviously received the care and attention as if they were a meal for kings and queens. You just cannot say 'no' to wings of royal proportions.

HOOTERS

SCORE: 85

sound like the perfect combination for the all-American male. This dreamland can be found at Hooters in Fairview Heights.

Hooters gets customers by promoting its ambiance, and gets those customers to stay with fair-priced food and drinks. The wait staff, both male and female, seems to have a general interest in their customers, which most restaurants do not usually offer. The care of the wait staff, along with the availability of greasy, fried foods makes the Hooters experience enjoyable.

Hooters offers customers the two regular types of wings, traditional and boneless, and adds the option of naked wings and a

four different styles and 15 different flavors. Hooters' wings are pretty standard when it

comes to variation. One of the areas the wings struggle at Hooters with is sauce distribution. Some wings have almost no sauce on them, while others have so much sauce it makes the cus-

The wings at Hooters are above average and can fill a customer up if they order the right amount. SIUE students have to ask themselves if they want to take a 30minute drive to experience Hooters. The wings may not bring people to Fairview Heights but the atmosphere might.

SCORE SHEET

ADDRESS: 301 MARKET PL., FAIRVIEW HEIGHTS DISTANCE FROM CAMPUS: LESS THAN 25 MINUTES

SAUCE VARIETY:	8
SAUCE DISTRIBUTION:	7
SPICINESS:	8
CRISPINESS:	9
GREASINESS:	7
JUICINESS:	8
THE WAIT:	10
SERVICE:	10
ATMOSPHERE:	10
PRTCF:	8

SAVE ROOM FOR MORE! NEXT COURSE, METRO EAST DRINKS: Coffee



* All standings are as of noon Wednesday, Feb. 26

Men's basketball

East	OVERALL	ovc
Belmont	21-8	12-2
Morehead St.	19-10	10-4
E. Kentucky	19-9	9-5
Tenn. Tech	15-14	8-6
Jax State	10-20	4-11
Tenn. State	4-24	3-11
West		
Murray St.	17-9	12-2
SIUE	11-17	7-7
SE Missouri	15-13	6-8
E. Illinois	10-18	6-9
Austin Peay	11-17	5-9
UT Martin	8-21	3-11

Feb. 13 results

E. Illinois 83, Austin Peay 88 E. Kentucky 66, Tenn. Tech 72 SIUE 72, Murray State 82 Morehead St. 69, Jax State 67 Tenn. State 71, Belmont 73

Feb. 15 results
SIUE 83, Austin Peay 68
E. Kentucky 86, Jax State 65
E. Illinois 60, Murray St. 72
Morehead St. 79, Tenn. Tech 53

Feb. 20 results

E. Illinois 63, Belmont 82 Jax State 70, SE Missouri 86 Tenn. Tech 91, UT Martin 83 SIUE 61, Tenn. State 66

Feb. 22 results

SE Missouri 77, UT Martin 74 Jax State 57, Tenn. Tech 69 Morehead St. 58, Murray St. 69 E. Kentucky 96, Austin Peay 75

Schedule for Mar. 1

Austin Peay at UT Martin Belmont at Jax. State E. Illinois at SIUE Murray St. at SE Missouri Tenn St. at E. Kentucky Tenn, Tech at Morehead St.

Women's basketball

East	OVERALL	OVC
Belmont	13-15	10-5
E.Kentucky	15-10	9-5
Tenn. Tech	11-16	8-6
Tenn. State	10-17	7-7
Jax State	11-17	7-8
Morehead St.	11-16	5-9
West		
UT Martin	20-7	13-1
E. Illinois	12-13	7-7
SIUE	10-18	6-9
Austin Peay	9-19	6-9
SE Missouri	9-19	5-10
Murray St.	11-16	4-11

Feb. 17 results

Morehead St. 45, Jax State 43 E. Illinois 65, Austin Peay 63 SIUE 73, Murray St. 61 E. Kentucky 74, Tenn. Tech 70 Tenn. State 65, UT Martin 104 Feb. 22 results

E. Illinois 54, Belmont 48
SIUE 74, Tenn. State 66
Murray State 67, UT Martin 84
E. Kentucky 79, Austin Peay 71
Jax State 48, SE Missouri 59
Schedule for Mar. 1

Eastern Illinois at SIUE
Austin Peay at UT Martin
Belmont at Jax State
Murray State at SE Missouri
Tenn. State at E. Kentucky
Tenn. Tech at Morehead St.





Junior foward Allyssa Decker tries to shake a UT Martin defender on Saturday, Feb. 8. Decker has had an impressive February, averaging 8.4 points per game. Decker and her teammates are on a three-game win streak, with one game remaining in their regular season. | Photo by Brian Armea/Alestie

Women's basketball on a three-game win streak

BEN LEVIN
Alestle Sports Editor

The SIUE women's basketball team shot a season-high 56.5 percent from the field and had four players finish in double-digits to win its last road game of the season 74-66, topping Tennessee State (10-17 overall, 7-7 Ohio Valley Conference).

Head Coach Paula Buscher said the Gentry Center gave her team some trouble, but the athletes fought hard to get the crucial road win

"It was a tough game in the tremendous environment they have," Buscher said. "The band is something else. They were so loud you can't even hear in timeouts. We came out with a quick start. Tennessee State is a very good, athletic team. It was one of those games where we battled back and forth. Even though it was a close game, they only took the lead once. We ended up taking care of business late in the game and coming up big on the road."

Junior guard Tierney Austin led all SIUE scorers with 15 points, and grabbed five rebounds while

coming off the bench. Austin just recently came back from an injury that kept her out of the first four games in February. Buscher said Austin's comeback has helped spark the team, but it has not been easy to get her back on the court.

"[Austin] is one of the best guards in the conference, and it's just unfortunate when you see a healthy young person get injured like that and have to sit," Buscher said. "Basically, with [Austin] right now, she's in the boot and we can take that off for the games, and she can play in the games. That's it. For her to be able to do that and adjust, it speaks volumes of her as person and, more importantly, as a competitor. Keeping her healthy is the most important thing."

Since the start of February, junior forward Allyssa Decker has helped take over some of the scoring the team missed with Austin out. With Austin back, her numbers continue to impress. Buscher said she was happy to have another presence down low to help fireshman forward Micah Jones.

"[Decker] has always been a tough defender," Buscher said. "She'll go in and battle the big post players, and she's got a high basketball IQ. The biggest thing she has given to us is the ability to come in and make shots. She gives us another post player with [Jones], who can score well for us."

While the game ended in victory for the Cougars, it did not come without some concerns. Tennessee State, who has a 2.6 turnover ratio per game, got SIUE to turn the ball over 20 times in the game. Buscher said she was disappointed with the turnovers but was impressed with the team's ability to come out on top.

"Tennessee State gets people to turn the ball over," Buscher said. "I was concerned with how Tennessee State was defending on the ball, and we didn't take care of the ball like we needed to. Those are the games where you have to continue to play and grind it out. The bottom line is you have to get the win on the road."

The team's last game of the season is at 1 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 29 at the Vadalabene Center, where the Cougars will take on Eastern Illinois University. With only eight spots available in the OVC Tournament, SIUE needs a victory over the

Panthers if they hope to continue their season.

Buscher said the team cannot look at its previous missteps; the players must focus on what they can do to get themselves into the conference tournament.

"We've had an up-and-down season," Buscher said. "We lost some games early on, and you can't take those things back. All you can do is look forward, and that's what we've been focusing on. We knew we were in a scenario in the last few games where we have to win, and we are in the same scenario on Saturday. We're looking forward to it. It's pressure. It's stress, but it's why you play the game. We're going to need to our student body and our fans to come out to help us get this win."

Quick Note

Buscher said doctors have not cleared sophomore guard CoCo Moore (concussion) to play against EIU Saturday. Moore is the second-highest scorer for the Cougars, averaging 11.6 points per game.

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

Cougar Highlights: Baseball earns first victory

Baseball

The SIUE baseball team got its first victory of the season at New Mexico State, but lost its next three games. The team's record stands at 1-6.

On Friday, junior left fielder Nick Lombardo scored on a wild pitch in the 12th inning to give the Cougars its first victory of the season, 4-3. Junior Brett Thomas (1-0) got the win for SIUE, pitching the last two innings of the victory. Junior starter Ryan Daniels was given a nodecision after going five innings and giving up one hit.

On Saturday, the Cougars lost their first game 16-12. Freshman designated hitter Keaton Wright and senior right fielder Devin Caldwell hit home runs in the 5th inning for the Cougars. In the second game of the day, the team lost to New Mexico State 12-2. The game ended in the 7th inning due to the 10-run rule.

In the finale of the road trip, the Cougars lost 4-1 to New Mexico State. Freshman Evan Martens (0-1) was saddled with the loss, giving up two earned runs during

The Cougars' next game is at 3 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 26, when it will play Indiana State at Simmons Baseball Complex. The game will be the team's first home game of the season.

Men's Basketball

The SIUE men's basketball team fell to Tennessee State 66-61 Thursday. Despite the loss, the Cougars remain in second place in the Ohio Valley Conference

West with two games remaining.
Junior guard Kris Davis led the Cougars with 14 points, going 6-10 from the field. Junior forward Keaton Jackson scored 12 points and secured seven rebounds in only 17 minutes of play. Having an uncharactisically poor night, sophomore guard Donivine Stewart went 2-11 from the field to put up

Despite the loss, the men's team not only finds themselves in second place in the OVC West, but also have clinched a spot in the upcoming OVC Tournament, held in Nashville, Tenn. If the team is able to win the tournament, it is automatically qualified into the NCAA tournament. Making the tournament would be a first in the programs short history at the Division-I level.

The Cougars have two games remaining, both at home, before the start of the OVC tournament. The team's next game is at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 26, when it takes on Belmont at the Vadalabene Center.

The SIUE softball team went 2-3 at the Jackson State Tournament, finding its only success of the weekend against Southeastern Louisiana University.

On Friday, the Cougars kicked off the tournament with a 4-3 loss to Kansas in a 10-inning game. The team followed that performance with its first victory against Southeastern Louisiana, winning 7-0. Senior pitcher Erin Greenwalt (1-4) gave up two hits in seven innings to get the victory.

On Saturday, sophomore pitcher Hayley Chambers (2-7) gave up one earned run in seven innings to help the Cougars win 5-3. In the second game of the day, SIUE lost to host Jackson State 4-3. Greenwalt was saddled with the loss.

On the final day of play, SIUE lost to Kansas 5-0. The Jayhawks scored four runs off Chambers in the fifth inning to help the team secure victory.

The Cougars travel to Orlando, Fla. to play in the University of Central Florida Classic next weekend. The team's first game is at 9 a.m. Friday, Feb. 28, when it will play the hosting UCF. The team's first home game of the season is 1 p.m. Saturday, Mar. 15, when the team plays OVC oppenent Austin Peay.



Junior hurdler Jatavia Wright (pictured center) jumps hurdles at the Gateway Classic last year. This season, Wright has been on a tear, winning three Ohio Valley Conference weekly awards and breaking school records in the hurdles and triple jump.

Track and Field prepare for good showing at OVC Indoor Cha

BEN LEVIN

Alestle Sports Editor

The SIUE men's and women's track team will face its first big test of the indoor season this weekend, as the it travel to Nashville, Tenn. to compete at the Ohio Valley Conference Championships.

Without regularly scheduled meets against other OVC teams, this meet is one of the few times SIUE athletes can compare themselves to their conference counterparts. Head Coach brings a little extra out of

everyone.
"The conference meet is different from any other meet you'll go to," McAllister said. "It's really about who wants it more, and who is willing to sacrifice themselves to get it done. More so than any other meet, it's just gritty and hard. People dive for the line. People get every last inch out of everything. It's high intensity, high energy and a great atmosphere

A little more than a month

Eileen McAllister said the meet has passed in the spring season, but SIUE athletes have looked strong, already having torn down 13 school records. McAllister said this is not a new for the

competitors. "It's been happening the last couple of years," McAllister said. "I think it has to do with the whole D-I move. The track team can get the right athletes and better resources since the jump. We didn't have too many people graduate last year, so the people that had success last year are continuing to have success

For the men, junior sprinter Braxton Klavins and junior jumper La'Derrick Ward have both put together impressive seasons. After the team's last meet Feb. 15, Ward was the eighth-ranked long jumper, which gives him one of the 16 available spots in the NCAA Championships. McAllister said both athletes have improved by setting their standards for this season high.

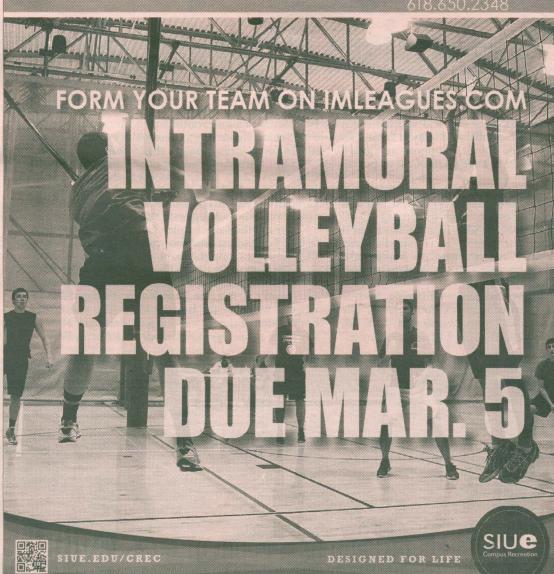
"Both of those of guys are leaders and top competitors for us," McAllister said. "They are

going to go out there and compete week in and week out. [Klavins] is a key part of our relays and does more events than [Ward], so he is more visual on the track. [Ward] has gotten it done on the jumps. They both work really hard and are dedicated to their sport. Both of them want to get to the national meet and do things nationally, such as being named All-Americans."

For the women, four female athletes have helped lead this

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CAMPUS RECREATION



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year's team in the right direction. McAllister said senior sprinter Hilary Conrad, junior hurdler Jatavia Wright, sophomore runner Jessica Oranika and senior runner Claire Brown have guided the team with their performances.

"With [Conrad] being a senior, she is one of the hardest workers you'll ever meet," McAllister said. "She's always been like that. I think this year everything has just clicked. I think the idea that this is her last year has pushed her into that next realm. She just looks awesome every time she steps on the track. [Wright] has gotten stronger and stronger with each year, and this year has been her healthiest year. We've focused on some of her strengths and pinpointed those areas to lead to success for her. [Oranika] is building off her success from last year and growing. [Brown] is one of the senior distance runners who has also been a leader off the track."

McAllister and the SIUE

athletes have set the bar high for this year's conference meet. The team came in fourth place at last year's meet, but McAllister said she expects better from the team this time around.

"In our conference, we are looking to be top three on both sides," McAllister said. "We go in there with the attitude that we can win the championship, and top three is a realistic goal for us. Last year was our first year there, and it was a shocking experience for some of our athletes. The big test will be this weekend to see the attitude and level of competition our athletes show this weekend. I feel we are more prepared this year."

The OVC Indoor Championships start at 10 a.m. Friday, Feb. 28, for the men's and women's teams. Live scoring of the event can be found at ovcsports.com.

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



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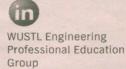
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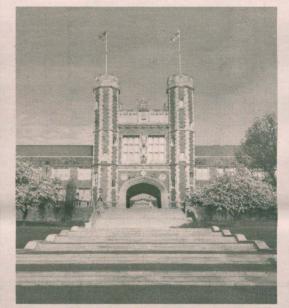


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