

Falcon Flyer

April 2016

Forensic Falcons Nationals Bound

By: Cassi Watkins

The Forensic Falcons have been a part of Southeastern Illinois College for 43 years. Founded by Gary Allan and George T. Dennis the team has established itself as one of the top programs in the nation, and ranked in the top 50 for both two-year and four-year institutions according to the SIC website. The Forensic Falcons are a



competitive Speech and Debate team that competes with other community colleges and 4-year institutions. Coaches include Paul Cummins, Dr. Tyler Billman, and Jenny

Billman.

This year's team has a full roster with 15 members, and is larger than the last several teams. Members include Caleb Abbott, Kelsey Bartok, Brooklyn Beckham, Preston Boone, Alli Haley, Rachel Hooven, Cassidy Maynard, Carrice McDaniel, Gabe Motsinger, Hayley Rushing, Zeb Sanderson, Britta Suits, Cassandra Watkins, Adam Wasson, and Shay Wood. Sophomore member Kelsey Bartok compares her team experiences saying, "Last year with seven people there was pressure to break at a tournament because we could not afford for events to not break. This year there is still pressure but it is nice knowing that there are more events and team mates to back you up".

The Forensic Falcon's compete in a number of tournaments throughout the year. This year the team has attended the Illinois Community College tournament, McKendree University tournament, University of Illinois tournament, and the State Tournament. Recently the team

won first place at the State Tournament. Coach Jenny Billman said, "I was pleased with how hard the team worked in preparation for the State Tournament, and pleased that it paid off."

Coming off of a win at the State Tournament the team continues to work hard in hopes of obtaining that coveted National title. Work ethic is something that the coaches try to instill in students.

Dr. Tyler Billman explains, "Every team has its own dynamic because different personalities bring their own set of advantages and challenges. This year's team is very teamwork oriented, and is capable of helping each other overcome obstacles."

For the rest of their 2015-16 season the Falcons will attend



Regionals and Phi Rho Phi Nationals. The Forensic Falcons have won the National

tournament three times first in 1986, second in 1997, and again in 2005. This year 14 team members will travel to Costa Mesa, California where they hope to add to that list. Sophomore Adam Wasson stated, "As we pass the State tournament, I can see nationals coming up very soon, and I can see this team doing very well. There is this feeling when nationals rolls around that great things are about to happen, and I am eager to share this with our current team. It is one of the most wonderful and shaping experiences, and that makes me excited."

Pictures provided by Sic Homepage

Bunburying and Humbug

By: Autumn Pritchett

Living a double life may sound wonderful to some people, but to Mr. Jack Worthing and Mr. Algernon Moncrieff living a secret life was what they did best. In “The Importance of Being Earnest”, a life of bun burying for these two friends is a daily occurrence until it gets complicated when the men’s love interests, Miss Cecily and Miss Gwendolen, gets involved. This comedy of witty manners was directed by twenty year old college sophomore Austin Mayhem.



Mayhem said he was “pleased with the final performance from the actors’ zeal from performing in front of a live audience.” He also stated that “being unexperienced as I am, I found it rewarding. Had I more time to work, it would’ve been more productive.” This young director informed me he had prior understanding of play other than reading them and two performances.

Mayhem is considering whether or not to direct another play but at a university level. Overall, the

experience gave Mayhem a sense of leadership that he has never underwent before.

Kimball informed me that the final show “is an unusual show”. This show will bring the audience back to the late 1800’s when P.T. Barnum (Kyle Upchurch) and James Baily (Jayden Roper) creates a partnership for the Barnum and Bailey Circus. Kimball said there would be incredible special effects such as lighting, magic tricks, stunts and possibly an unicyclist or two. This musical “is just a FUN show”, Kimball exclaimed “This will be the third time I have directed it and I have always enjoyed the story and the music.”

As practices begin, this spectacle will be one to see as it ties into the annual Drama-con for local high schools. Theatre, English and Art workshops will be aligned with the circus theme like “clowns and juggling for example”. For a night of fun at the circus, P.T. Barnum has nothing to hold back.

Needless to say, this journalist believes the theatre has done an exceptional job with bun burying and magic tricks thus far!

Picture provided by Caleb Abbott

Institutional Cuts

By: Stefanie Johns

Institutes of higher education have been forced to implement cuts all around the state, and our own college, SIC, is no exception, several students have expressed concerns about possible increases in the cost of their tuition, but teachers and faculty are experiencing these cuts first hand.



Brent Maguire, the only full time employee in the SIC Criminal Justice department, had his position eliminated by the cuts, "SIC still intends to have classes, in the Criminal Justice department, but as I was involved in recruitment and marketing, I'm not sure how it will affect the department

overall," he went on to explain the success of the department, "We have over a hundred enrolled in the classes overall, some of them are enrolled in multiple classes, but that's overall count."



Gene Forster, who has worked as an instructor in the SIC chemistry department for 24 years, had this to say about the cuts, "My position was eliminated based on class size. Steve, the other chemistry instructor, he has a year seniority." teaching, as many know, is a unionized job,

unionization forbids a teacher who has been working at an institution for a greater amount of time being eliminated first. While Gene expressed some excitement about new prospects for his future, citing the University of Southern Indiana as a potential place of employment, he also expressed

concern for his wife, Lucy Logston, whom he helps around campus because of her disability, "It's going to be a big adjustment," said Gene, "We aren't quite sure how we're going to work that out."



Wendy Harris too, expressed some optimism about the change, "My hope is that the cuts will lead to something bigger and better for the state," but in the same breath, she emphasized the importance of full time workers. "I think when you're full time it just becomes a part of you, if they want to do something extra-- meet on the weekends, you do it. That's your job, you don't get that from part time workers. It's possible, but just not as likely." Wendy has been working in the cosmetology field for 26 years, and at SIC for 12 years.

Spring Blood Drive

By Heather McCully



This year SIC's American Red Cross Blood Drive will be sponsored by Student Government. The event will be held March 30th from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. in the Gym. Please join us and help save lives. Listed below are helpful tips and information for those wanting to donate:

- Stay well hydrated before going to donate.
- Bring a list of all of the medication you are currently taking.
- Remember to bring your donor card, driver's license or two other forms of ID.

- Wear clothing with sleeves that can be raised above the elbow.
- If you are a platelet donor, know that your system must be aspirin free for two days prior to donation.
- Get a good night's rest.
- After donating be sure to avoid heavy lifting.
- Drink plenty of water after donation.

Brick Campaign

By: SIC Press Release



Student Government, along with the college and SIC Foundation, will honor the victims

of the Feb. 29, 2012, Leap Day Tornado, as well as make lasting improvements on the campus for future students. We plan to build a memorial surrounded by bench seating near the Harry L. Crisp Conference Center patio, as well as to improve upon the current fountain structure on the adjacent patio.



How you can help, or why buy a brick?

- Recognize a special person in your life
- Honor a lost loved one
- Celebrate a graduation date
- Honor your campus organization
- Commemorate a retiree or employee
- Leave a legacy of your family name or business on the college grounds as having taken part in this historical endeavor

Costs:

- 4" X 8" Brick Paver (3 lines) \$75
- (2) 4" X 8" Brick Paver (3 lines) \$50 each
- 8" X 8" Brick Paver (6 lines) \$250

- 8" X 8" Brick Paver (with logo and 3 lines) \$350

SIC's Model Illinois Government Team Wins Third Consecutive Championship

By: SIC Press Release



The news from Springfield has not changed much in the last year. The budget standoff between legislative leaders has continued. So too has Southeastern Illinois College's dominance of the

Model Illinois Government (MIG) legislative competition at the state Capitol.

SIC clinched its record third consecutive MIG championship on Sunday, Feb. 28, marking its first three-peat in school history when it was named Outstanding Small Delegation at the simulation. "MIG has been around for almost forty years," said SIC political science instructor and advisor Matt Lees. "It is one of the oldest and most prestigious intercollegiate competitions in the country. This is the first three-peat I have seen in my 15 years as advisor."

During competition, students have the opportunity to debate bills in the actual House and Senate chambers in Springfield. This year, more than 300 students competed from 21 colleges and universities across the state. Southeastern Illinois College led all small schools in total points, leadership positions, and major awards.

"What is particularly impressive is that not only is SIC the smallest school in terms of enrollment at the simulation, but the team is the third smallest in

Pictures Provided by SIC Website

number of competitors,” said Lees. “To score ten points with just six students is truly impressive.”

Returning delegates on the SIC team include Jenny Pruitt of Broughton and Dana Hooven of Harrisburg. First-year delegates are Ryan Dennison of Harrisburg, James Eversole of Norris City, Stephanie Johns of Omaha, and Tracy Stokich of Galatia.

Pruitt served as head delegate and lobbyist and won the Robert Kent Award for Outstanding Lobbyist. As a returning team member, Pruitt has won a total of three major awards during state competition, making her the most awarded delegate in SIC team history. Hooven was selected as a committee chair and later won the David Hunt Award for Outstanding House Committee Chair.

In acquiring two positions and one award, she acquired three composite points leading the entire simulation in individual points and tied a school record. She also crafted her own original legislation, and successfully guided it from committee all the way to the governor’s desk.

Eversole was elected House Minority Leader, making him the first freshman in school history to secure a central floor leadership position. He also won the Outstanding First Year Delegate Award and was a finalist for the Donna Lennon Award for Outstanding Member of the House.

“There is no other club or organization I have been affiliated with that I value as much as my experience with MIG,” said Eversole. Delegates securing committee whip positions included Dennison, Johns, and Stokich. Hooven and Stokich were additionally elected as floor whips. Stokich was also a finalist for the Outstanding Person in a Committee Award.

When asked about her experience at the competition, Johns said, “It is always good to see other young people like myself that are interested and informed in state politics.”

In other exciting news for SIC, former team member, Jose Durbin, now a member of the Eastern Illinois University MIG team was elected governor at the simulation. “I couldn’t be any happier for Jose,” said Lees. “It is always a joy to see former students go on to accomplish great things.”

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