VARSITY CENTER FOR THE ARTS

Several people gathered Sept. 21 at the Varsity Center for the Arts in Carbondale at a reception for artist Robert Ketchens, who grew up in New Orleans but now calls Grand Chain his home.

1. Ann Knewitz (from left), Kat Shaffner, and Mary Campbell, all of Carbondale.

2. Judy Ashby of Carbondale (left) and artist Robert Ketchens.

3. Nancy Stemper (right), executive director of Carbondale Community Arts, chats with Anne Hill of Carbondale.

4. SIU student Nike Nguyen (from left), Carolyn A. Snyder, chair of the Varsity Center for the Arts public relations committee, SIU student Lucas Dickerson, and Najjar Abdul-Musawwir, SIUC professor of Fine Art.

LITTLE BLACK DRESS PARTY

The Little Black Dress Party was Friday, Sept. 10 at Great Boars of Fire in Anna. About 2,000 women attended the event, which was expected to raise $50,000 for the Women’s Center of Carbondale. It was the fourth year for the event.


2. Paula Torres of Carbondale (from left), Sarah Panici of Carbondale, Ann Panici of Carbondale, Katelyn Lewis of Mount Vernon and Melissa McMahan of Mount Vernon.


4. Julie McAlpin (from left) of Marion, Kelly Alongi of Carterville, Sandi Griffith of Carterville, Jennifer Meyer of Carterville and Maria Jessup of Carterville.
1. 2010 Southern Illinois Start! Heart Walk Chairman Rex Budde speaks to walkers.

2. Ben Hill (older brother Matt in the background). Ben is a survivor of a Congenital Heart Defect.

3. Terra Wece, 'Hearty' and Angela Henson pose together at the Heart Walk. Terra and Angela are from the Franklin Hospital Heart Walk team.

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**Start! Heart Walk**

Southern Illinois Start! Heart Walk was Saturday, Oct. 2, at John A. Logan College

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‘Spring Awakening’

More than 700 people attended the Tony Award-winning Broadway musical ‘Spring Awakening’ on Thursday, Oct. 14 at SIU’s Shryock Auditorium.

1. Jim and Barbara Lynch (from left) and Cecil Miller, all of Benton.

2. Tyler Kearns and Jessica Kossina (SIUC alumna) of St. Louis.

3. Carl and Stephanie Daly (from left), Abi Cowser, and Cheryl Barrett, all of Carbondale.

4. Diane and Dennis Poshard of Carbondale.

5. SIUC Students Angie Fisher of Herrin and Nick Nylen of Chicago.

SIUC Homecoming

Faculty, students and alumni celebrated Homecoming at SIUC on Oct. 9.

1. Chancellor and Vice-Chancellors: Kevin Bame (from left), Administration and Finance; John Koropchak, Research and Graduate Dean; Chancellor Rita Cheng; Rickey McCurry, Institutional Advancement; Larry Dietz, Student Affairs; Don Rice, Provost and Vice Chancellor.

2. Homecoming Queen candidates Brittany Cheves (left) and Shantell Meuth.

3. Han-Lin Hwang Chen (from left), emerita, wife of Juh Wah Chen (center). Juh Wah is a former Dean of Engineering and Technology. Roy Heidinger (right), emeritus and former chair of the Fisheries Department.

4. Homecoming Queen candidate Taylor Poore with some of the Saluki dogs.

Hundreds gathered at Rent One Park in Marion on Wednesday, Oct. 20, to raise money for the Coaches vs. Cancer fundraiser.

1. Donn and Kay Hammer (from left) of Lawrenceville, Lance and Chelcee Brown of West Frankfort and SIU Assistant Basketball Coach Marcus Belcher.

2. Lesley Cranick (from left) of Makanda, Jennifer Badin of Marion and Deana Hale of Marion.

3. George (from left) and Janet Kao of Carbondale, Andy Bjornbegat and Colleen Lawler of Carterville.

4. Dan Reid (from left), Bridget Lawler-Reid of Marion and Mike and Sherri Lawler of Marion.

5. Melodi Sheffer (from left) of Herrin, Megan Weber of Champaign, Kitty Davis of Carbondale, Erika Lowery of Carbondale and Nancy Cook of Carbondale.

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Inspiring Women

The 2010 Inspiring Women Gala Saturday, Oct. 23 at the SIUC Student Center.

1. J. Phil (from left) and Gail Gilbert of Carbondale, SIUC Alumni Jim Minton and Pam Gilbert Minton of South Carolina, Gail Gilbert Malott and Kai Malott.

2. Tibretta Reiman (from left) of Pinckneyville, Virginia Richart of Pinckneyville and Bonnie and Tom Hudgins of Pinckneyville.

3. Faith Miller (left) of Carbondale and Tasha Coney of Carbondale.

4. Bill (from left) and Linda Schuh of Springfield, Rachael Berbano of Carbondale and Ben Althoff of Carbondale.

5. Jill (left) and William (right) Ehling of Herrin along with Marlene Dietz of Carbondale.

6. Doris (from left), Emma and John Kiesling of Carterville.

7. Aura Woodruff (from left) of Carbondale, Callynn Pearl of Evansville, Ind., Pam Pearson of Marion and David and Tamra Moore of Goreville.

8. Martha Campbell (from left) of Murphysboro, Sharn Benton of Carbondale, Pat Cheniae of Cobden and Sharon Williams of Makanda.
Southern Illinois University Carbondale head men’s basketball coach Chris Lowery leads the most nationally recognizable sports program in the school’s athletic department. The Salukis built their hard-nosed defensive reputation against top tournament teams and by playing in a loud and difficult SIU Arena. The Arena has gotten a facelift and Lowery, the seven-year leader of the Salukis, lets us peek inside his new office.

— D.W. Norris

photography by Steve Jahnke

Lowery keeps photographs of his wife, Erika, and their four children on his desk. He said of all the things in his office, those photos are items he could not live without. “Pictures of my family are No. 1,” he said.

A copy of John C. Maxwell’s 2006 book, “The 17 Essential Qualities of a Team Player.” Lowery: “He puts things in perspective. Everything is leadership, but there are also Christian points of view.”

Lowery has a subscription to the coaches’ magazine, “Winning Hoops.”

Bruce Weber autographed a basketball celebrating the University of Illinois’ 2004 Big Ten championship and trip to the Sweet 16 of the NCAA tournament. Lowery was an assistant on that team.

Two souvenirs from former center Nick Evans’ 2008 basketball trip to China. The first is a crucifix with Chinese symbols (Lowery isn’t sure what they mean); the second is something similar, a small paperweight with Lowery’s last name inside.

Lowery lean on an atlas covers a calendar on Lowery’s desk. Lowery leans on both during recruiting. “Those are pretty much how I’ve been running around,” he said.

With the remote on his desk and his computer, Lowery can transform the flat-screen TV on his wall into a mini movie theatre showing YouTube highlights of recruits.

For all the information you need about SIU basketball, the new Arena, ticket info, games, chat and the Dawg Blog, go to www.salukimania.com, sponsored by The Southern Illinoisan.
Saluki Basketball

The Southern Illinois University basketball team opened play in the newly refurbished SIU Arena with an exhibition game against Quincy University Oct. 30.

Regular season play opens Nov. 16 when the Salukis play at 9 a.m., yes, 9 a.m., against Northeastern.

The Salukis open Missouri Valley Conference play at Drake Dec. 29.

Season and individual tickets are available. Call 877-725-8547 or 618-453-2000.

Lowery coached the Salukis to a 29-7 record and trip to the NCAA tournament’s Sweet 16. This ball is signed by the Salukis and their coaches.

Lowery is refurbishing the Salukis’ first MVC championship trophy. Mike Glenn led the Salukis to the 1977 league title.