Above: Rodriguez poses with roommate, sophomore Joanna Balcerzak.

Far above: SALSA members support the runners at the finish line.

Care and community center in for Casa de Los Angeles, a day care and community center in Mexico, their work holds a high priority,” said Nancy Vasquez, Assistant Director of Administration and SALSA faculty advisor. “They felt even more privileged to run a marathon. This is such an opportunity since we have several members that are of Mexican-American descent. “The organization creates safe havens for mothers and children and helps improve the lives of poor families in Mexico,” Rodriguez added. “I admire this because I am Mexican-American and have been to Mexico and have seen how harsh conditions can be.”

And while the race was pain-ful and grueling—“at mile 17 I literally wanted to cry,” Abassi said—the group agreed the marathon was an unforgettable life experience.

“It challenged me mentally and physically. To see the various types of people running was such an inspiration,” Rodriguez said. “Toward the 20th mile, I was passed by a 75-year-old woman—she was amazing!”

For Abassi, the energy of the Chicago crowd was the most uplifting part of the race. “People were so eager to hand you water or food. Seeing them cheering and motivating all the runners was so fun. They were shaking their cow bells, drum- ming and screaming,” she said.

Abassi especially enjoyed the diverse cultural music as she ran through neighborhoods like Little Italy. Images like the street covered with Gatorade cups will remain in her memo- ries forever.

Posters bearing such mes-sages as “One day you won’t be able to run,” and “Don’t poop your pants” also stuck out in Abassi’s mind. “The moti-vating, funny displays helped me keep going,” she said.

Photos COURTESY OF VANESSA RODRIGUEZ

SALSA members run marathon

HANNAH GRIFFIN
NEWS EDITOR

On Sunday, Oct. 9, four Illinois Wesleyan University students endured one of the un-ultimate tests of human strength: the marathon.

For sophomores Janette Abassi, Melissa Ramirez, Vanessa Rodriguez and Jairo Rosales, the knowledge that their sweat and tears would benefit a good cause helped them persevere.

The group, all members of the Student Spanish and Latino Student Association (SALSA), ran the Bank of America Chi-cago Marathon to raise money for Casa de Los Angeles, a day-care and community center in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico. Together, they were able to raise close to $3,000 for the organization.

According to Abassi, all funds raised by the runners will go di-recly to the operation of Casa de Los Angeles, which provides daycare, meals, medical services and transitional housing for mothers and children.

Because the group operates in Mexico, their work holds special meaning for the SALSA members. “SALSA students are passionate about social justice issues, and supporting under-resourced communities is a high priority,” said Nancy Vasquez, Assistant Director of Administration and SALSA faculty advisor. “They felt even more privileged to run a marathon. This is such an opportunity since we have several members that are of Mexican-American descent.”

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New internship breaks IWU bubble

KIRSTIN FIELDS
STAFF REPORTER

Fifteen years ago, Associate Professor of Political Science James Simeone and Profes-sor of Political Science Tari Renner dreamed of creating an internship that would give stu-dents job experience working for the city of Bloomington—an arrangement they hoped would be mutually beneficial for both parties.

But the right opportunity did not present itself at the time, and the project remained only a vision.

Today, the professors are watching their dream become a reality as Illinois Wesleyan University, Illinois State Uni-versity and the City of Bloomington join together in creating a new internship for six stu-dents.

According to Renner, the in-ternship will provide a hands-on experience for students focus-ing on a specific project, such as developing a social network policy for the city, re-searching the best practices of other cities and making recom-mendations for Bloomington to adopt.

Renner believes the intern-ship is a prime example of ac-tive learning consistent with the purpose of a liberal arts educa-tion.

“This new internship is an ex-citing opportunity for students to get serious responsibilities in the policy-making processes of our community,” Renner said. “It’s a win-win program as far as I’m concerned. The city gets more solid information to make critical decisions without ex-pensive outside consultants, and students are able to get hands-on learning and become more marketable.”

The professors creating the internship began when junior political science major Ted Deli-cath and senior political science major Steve Lessar suggested setting up a city internship to break the “Wesleyan Bubble.”

For 10 years, eliminating this bubble has been a goal of fac-

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CCS releases report

COURTNEY KEENAN
STAFF REPORTER

Counseling and Consultation Services (CCS) recently published a report detailing the concerns of their clientele over the past year, as well as high-lighting their programming ef-forts on campus and comparing these statistics to national pat-terns among college students.

According to Bob Rogers, counselor and alcohol educa-tion coordinator at CCS, this report includes some signifi-cant changes in data from pre-vious years.

The developments can be attributed to new programs on campus designed to increase safety and educate students about alcohol and substance abuse as well as a general im-proved awareness on campus of CCS and what it has to offer students.

“Last year, we began to col-laborate our efforts between the four universities in town, the community and the Bloom-ington-Normal police force to increase safety on campus. I think the overall decrease in alcohol consumption and sub-stance abuse this past year can be attributed to this combina-tion of programs and tools that we were not utilizing before,” Rogers said.

The statistics back Rogers’ claim, as the IWU student’s average number of drinks per week has decreased signifi-cantly since last year, and has in fact decreased by almost two full drinks since 2002. IWU stu-dents also consume on average 4.2 drinks per week, compared to the national average of 5.2.

Perhaps more surprising is that 39.7 percent of IWU stu-dents reported they do not con-sume alcohol. The next high-est group was 1 to 5 drinks per week at 34.9 percent, with only 2.3 percent consuming 21 or more drinks per week.

“What is unique about IWU students is that their statistics for alcohol con-sumption are lower than on many other college campuses, but that these numbers have re-mained consistent for the past few years,” Rogers said.

Rogers also stressed that stu-dents are held to an IWU code, not just while they are on cam-pus but also in the Bloomington-Normal community. “Older students warn first-years of the consequences of drinking at IWU, especially since the new

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