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Record number to spend break on mission field

Harding groups prepare to canvas country with message

Chrsissy Ingram
Staff Writer

F rom Hawaii to Canada and Alaska to New York, this spring Harding college groups are taking a different approach at doing spring break efforts.

"Daniel Cherry [graduate assistant to the president] has helped create a big push," said senior Steve Cloer, student director of Harding's spring break campaigns.

Cloer said that in the past, only six or seven groups would go on spring break campaigns. They are going to build 12-foot by 24-foot cinder block homes, as well as some temporary shelters. The group going to El Salvador will stay with church members. They also plan to build the same type of permanent housing.

"We hope to build at least two houses in Honduras and, if we follow a similar plan in El Salvador, maybe one house built," Bryan Phillips said.

The group will face long bus rides and the threat of an afterthought. Most of the El Salvador group, including junior Mark Omen and Bryan Phillips, have never been to Honduras.

"Initially, I really wanted to go back to Honduras," Oberheuser said. "But the more I realized the great need there is in El Salvador, the more I wanted to go there. This is an opportunity to serve when we are truly needed, right now, and that makes me very excited."

In the McNeel Bible building, the program runs until 10:30 tonight and will conclude at 12:45 tomorrow afternoon.

"Some churches have different needs, so we want to have a lot of different information and instruction for them to have a chance to digest," Norton said. "And even though the program varies from year to year, we always emphasize education and church leadership. Those seem to be the most popular areas of study for the churches that participate in the seminars."

The seminar is free to current Harding students and may be taken for one hour of credit. Contact the ICF at 4660 for more information.
Rethinking an old topic

Not so long ago women weren't considered equal to their male counterparts. A lack of a "y" chromosome kept them from voting, holding public office or owning property. But even today — in a society that often claims to be politically correct — women still fail to gain the equal billing they deserve.

According to a recent U.S. News & World Report article, women continue to earn less than their male counterparts. To earn less than their male colleagues, women still average 14 percent less money because of their gender.

This isn't just a woman's war. The wage war is just one of the many things to gain. We have slipped back into complacency. Early bra burners must be embarrassed. The idea that a woman's skills in the workplace are perceived as a derogatory term and grossly false and antiquated as the term "hero".

Women with shorn hair wearing pants, for all strides that have been made, there are many steps left to take. Historically, it is in times of war when the people of the United States typically band together and support those who choose to serve in the military.

Yet how many troops came home from Vietnam to reach "hero" status in our culture? How many parades were held in honor of them? How many citywide, statewide or even national-wide welcome home celebrations were held? I purposely overemphasized last questions to provoke your thoughts. However, I do not exaggerate in the least when I say that I believe our nation has done a huge injustice to our veterans — those who have fought for the principles that our country believes everyone in this world is entitled to. And I am not alone in this. They deserve much more than a hero's thank you on Memorial Day.

I have had the opportunity to talk to a friend who served in Vietnam. He made a statement that has stuck with me. I asked him whether he believed the United States had a reason or right to be in that conflict. "As long as we remember our purpose for being there, yes we did," he said. "But we forgot that purpose."

Letters to the Editor

Joe Chaffin.

Speak out: How will you spend spring break?

"I'm going to Destin, Fla. to stay with friends. It's my first time to go to the beach," Sarah Kovach, sophomore. "I'm going home to Rockford, Ill. for the week, so that I can make some money," Ashley Gregory, junior. "I'll be chillin' here in Searcy, when thousands live like million's wish they could," Jeff Irleinde, sophomore. "I'm going to West Virginia to stay with my mom, who has been in Italy all year," Kevin Chaffin, freshman.

"America is the best." If that is the case, then it didn't come about for free. We have paid in blood. Being a world power comes with obligation and responsibility.

The people who choose to accept that obligation and responsibility deserve more thanks and appreciation than they most likely will ever receive.

Many people don't know that the Vietnam Memorial was funded by veterans who served in the war. They were the ones who believed a memorial was necessary to remember their friends who had died.

Even on this campus, there are men and women who deserve our respect, our attention and, more importantly, our thanks.

Seek them out. Listen to their stories, learn from them. Spend the 15 minutes of fame more than any sports figure or actor.
Harding students earn NASA research grants

Work may help in search for water on Mars

Sara Rabon
Staff Writer

Four Harding students are joining students from University of Arkansas at Little Rock, Lyon College, Arkansas Tech University and Hendrix College to aid NASA in two research projects. The schools have received grants totaling around $300,000 to fund projects within their science departments.

The grants are from NASA's Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research, the National Space Grant Program and the Arkansas Space Grant Consortium.

Between 1990 and 2000, Harding obtained 121 grants totaling $301,915 from EPSCoR.

Dr. Ed Wilson, professor of chemistry, said EPSCoR is designed to help schools in states which do not traditionally receive many research grants develop competitive research programs.

"We're building," Wilson said. "We started out with nothing, but we're getting more funds and doing more research.

Dr. Ed Wilson, professor of chemistry

We're building. We started out with nothing, but we're getting more funds and doing more research.

"We get to do everything, from researching using computers to actually building the equipment. I especially like machining," Williams said.

In another project, sophomore Bill Ganas and senior Jeremy Post, both biochemistry majors, are developing different types of sensor systems to test and characterize the exhaust plumes of hybrid rocket fuel burnout. The sensors, which measure things such as pollutants, include one single-beam laser and one laser using fiber-optic cable to split the beam into 12 parts. The information that is gathered from this project can also be applied to any type of combustion engine.

In addition to NASA, two Arkansas companies, Coors' Ceramics and Atlantic Research Corporation, will also benefit from the research.

"Over Christmas break, as part of the NASA grant, we got to visit the Jet Propulsion Laboratories in Pasadena, Calif. to see firsthand," Smeltzer said.

"It's fun getting to learn everything, and it's interesting getting a chance to soak it all in," he said.

The university and NASA, Williams and senior Matt Smeltzer are developing the laser in hopes that it might someday be used to help search for water on Mars.

Some NASA projects firsthand," Smeltzer said.

The students that took part in this trip were Smeltzer, Williams, Post and seniors Ben Osborne and Kelly Brown.

Traveling is only one of the benefits for participants of the NASA programs. Team members also had the opportunity to meet astronauts, congressmen and senators.

"I feel privileged to have the experience to gain a better understanding of what the scientists and astronauts do at NASA," Ganas said.

In addition to a gaining understanding, the research projects funded by NASA help students gain a better interest in the employment opportunities at NASA.

"This experience has been educational, fun and given me more of an interest in the projects that are going on at NASA," Smeltzer said.

The project is not all hard work, however. Williams said, "It's fun getting to learn everything, and it's interesting getting a chance to soak it all in," he said.

The university has also applied for a supplemental three-year grant that is renewable for an additional two years. If approved, these grants could total several million dollars.

Brown has also recently obtained a grant to study potential plant growth in a human settlement on the moon or Mars.
Help wanted
This second of a two-part series explores how to survive an eating disorder or help a friend who suffers from the disease.

Do not reject her, tell her she is crazy, blame her, gossip about her, follow her around to check on her eating behavior, tell her to quit it or have her hospitalized or feel compelled to solve her problems, the brochure said. "However, do give her hope that with patience she can conquer this disorder, listen to her with understanding, appreciate her openness and trust her in sharing her distress, learn more about eating disorders and support and be available for her." 

Approaching a friend can be a sensitive and stressful issue, and even if it is done appropriately, it can sometimes be harmful to friendships.

"When I approached my friend out of concern, she didn't want to talk about the problem because, to her, I was suggesting that she wasn't in control of her life," Harding said. "Our friendship grew apart because she wasn't willing to get help, but I wasn't willing to sit by and watch her kill herself."

In another instance, Harding was sitting in the cafeteria with a plate of food one day last year when two strangers approached her to tell her that they knew she had an eating problem and needed to get help. "The way I was approached was rude," Harding said. "It's ineffective to force help on someone with an eating disorder, especially if you don't know them. If people with eating disorders want help, they must seek it themselves." 

Ultimately, no one can make the decision to get help with anorexia or bulimia except the person dealing with the problem, but sufferers still need friends to help and support them.

Those with eating disorders need a friend to lovingly approach them out of concern, said Sherry Pollard, a counselor at the Harding Counseling Center. A team consisting of a counselor, a medical doctor and a dietitian sits down with the client and assesses the seriousness of the situation. This team setting provides a holistic approach to dealing with eating disorders, Pollard said. Dietitians show clients how to eat nutritiously in order to maintain proper body weight. "Being willing to change means making changes in your thinking and the way you deal with daily life," Harding said. "If you're not committed to change, then treatment isn't effective." 

The eating disorders brochure suggests a final step toward recovery is simply to live life. One way people with eating disorders can have a fulfilling life is to help themselves by helping others and to strive for balance in life.

For those who are seeking help within an eating disorder or any situation, they can receive help at the Counseling Center, which is on the third floor of the McTeer Building. Counseling is confidential and free for Harding students.

Food for Thought: eating disorder brochure

Patience paves road to recovery
Friends, family work with victim
Rachel McCuiston
Staff Writer

It has been said that behaviors associated with eating disorders are a silent cry for help. But what can concerned friends or family do to help? Or, more importantly, how can those with eating disorders help themselves?

Oftentimes, when people try to talk to someone who is suffering from eating disorders, they are unsure of what to say or how to act because of the seriousness of the situation.

Binging and purging, excessive exercising and starving yourself become an addiction to fill a hole in your life, said senior Sara Hardesty, a former anorexia sufferer.

On the surface, people may say their behaviors help them look different [thinner, prettier], but underneath, it's a medication to fill your life," she said.

According to "Food For Thought," an eating disorder brochure, there are several ways to help fill the void of a friend.

"Do not reject her, tell her she is crazy, blame her, gossip about her, follow her around to check on her eating behavior, tell her to quit it or have her hospitalized or feel compelled to solve her problems," the brochure said.

"However, do give her hope that with patience she can conquer this disorder, listen to her with understanding, appreciate her openness and trust her in sharing her distress, learn more about eating disorders and support and be available for her." 

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Faces in the Crowd
Professor spearheads new university program while adjusting to life away from Down Under

Editor's Note: This is the 14th in a continuing series featuring unique members of the Harding community.

Jalaina Tyree
Staff Writer

Imagine trying to turn on the light in a room, but the switch goes the wrong way. Imagine trying to get into a car, but the steering wheel is on the wrong side. Imagine driving out into traffic and cars are coming on the wrong side of the road. These are just a few of the many struggles that assistant professor of business Marguerite "Reet" Cronk encountered when she came to the United States from Australia.

Cronk, who heads the information technology program, said she was not intimidated by the new program.

"I knew what it was all about," she said. "I set about trying to do this." Cronk said.

She said the most difficulty of her job was educating the campus about the difference between computer science and information technology.

According to Cronk, computer science involves systems programming and resource management while information technology offers more of a business core.

"Information technology combines business and technology with a more pragmatic approach," Cronk said. "IT students teach companies how to use technology.

Senior information technology major Erica Busby has worked closely with Reet for the past year.

"She has been very helpful for me in training for my career as I make contacts and gain confidence," Busby said. "She is a wonderful Christian role model. It's been nice to see her as head of the program."

Before coming to Harding, Cronk helped develop the information technology program for Queensland University in Australia. She said Queensland still had more men in its IT department, but the difference was small. Cronk said an even split is the norm because women are typically better at the analytical and design areas, while men are better at mathematical and systems work.

Cronk and her husband Keith, chief information officer, were part of the Toowoomba Church of Christ in Australia. Many Harding campaign groups have gone home, there led by Rich Little, assistant to the president. Little asked the Cronks if they would start the distance education program at Harding and stay for a few months. After about eight months, Harding offered them permanent positions as part of the IT department.

Cronk was born in Queensland. Much of her time as a young child was split between the country and the city Most of Australia's population lives on the coast, so Cronk members and misses many days spent on the beach.

Cronk's association with Christians from America started at an early age.

The Australian school system requires every student to take a molecular genetics.

When she and her husband moved to a smaller area, however, there was nowhere for her to work using her educational skills. So Cronk decided to get another master's degree in information technology because the job market was much more open. She is currently working on her doctorate in information technology, but Cronk said "my first love will always be science."

Cronk and her husband have three children. Matthew, a senior at Harding Academy, will attend the university in the fall. Penny is in ninth grade and Christina is in seventh grade.

Ashley Johnson/The Bison
Reet Cronk, head of the information technology program at Harding, advises junior Kristy Holsombake, above, and answers a question during class for junior Kia Garner, right. Cronk and her husband, Keith, the university's chief information officer, came to Harding in August 1999 from Toowoomba, Australia, to start a distance education program. Although they had only planned an extended visit, the Cronks accepted Harding's offer for permanent positions after eight months.

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To understand another culture without ever meeting someone of that culture, one must experience where they live or read facts or history about that culture, is difficult. In fact, Morgan said, "The Mutant Message, Down Under" by Marlo Morgan, I would have said that it is impossible. But Morgan's story made the impossible possible.

The book is the story of one woman and her journey into the tribe of nomadic Aborigines. The story is told in a fictional account to protect the tribe that took her on the journey. As I read the book, I asked myself whether I believed to protect the tribe that took her on the journey. As I read the book, I asked myself whether I believed to protect the tribe that took her on the journey. As I read the book, I asked myself whether I believed to protect the tribe that took her on the journey.

Morgan's journey begins in Kansas City, where the diorama worked in health care. One day she received a call from a man in Australia requesting that she come help start a socialized health care system. Morgan goes and gets involved in a rescue effort for Aborigines half-breed and gets involved in a rescue effort for Aborigines half-breed. Her efforts do not go unrecognized by the Aboriginal community, and soon she is invited to what she believes is an award banquet. Little did she know that she was in for the surprise of her life.

Morgan was taken into the middle of the desert where she met the tribe. She was disrobed and moved around, acting out his directions. He combines this audience participation with music from Motown to rhythm and blues.

"Rick is going to be great," SAC co-chair Jaren Page said. "He gets the crowd involved in what he is doing and makes the whole evening an interactive night."

"I think that a low-cost event like this one gives students a great alternative to regular weekend expenses. It's a fun, free night. You really can't go wrong."

Jaren Page, SAC co-chair

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Tennis teams find unity in diversity; start off hot

Jaren Page
Staff Writer

The men's and women's tennis teams will face Henderson State University at home today. The match begins at 1 p.m. Both teams have already defeated HSU in previous matches this season.

The women's team played Ouachita Baptist University for the first time yesterday in a home match against the conference powerhouse. The results of the match were not available at press time. The men played OBU March 2 and were defeated by the nationally-ranked team.

"We have a few teams that we would really love to beat," junior Beth Bonbrisco. "Henderson State and Ouachita Baptist University are big rivals for us. Delta State University is also a very tough team. They have beaten us before, but if we work hard we can beat them when we match up again in the Harding University Invitational Tournament," Bonbrisco said.

Coach David Elliott, in his 27th season, said the teams' main focus is to perform well against the leaders in the conference such as Ouachita Baptist and Delta State.

"Everything comes down to how well we do in season matches against other conference teams, which will determine our seed in the tournament at the end of April," he said. "Beating Gulf South Conference teams is key for the whole season."

Elliott says that both teams will qualify for the conference tournament, but their record during the season will decide their fate in the tournament, which is a gathering of the top four teams in the east and west divisions.

The two teams have been practicing all year for the spring season.

A few matches are played in the fall, which count towards the teams record. Most of the players, however, view it as a pre-season to get familiarized with their teammates. The women had their first match of the spring season on Feb. 2 and the men on Feb. 6.

Both the men and women have had successful seasons thus far with their records at 6-3 for the men and 8-2 for the women.

"Overall, I think that they are a better team than last year," he said. "They are probably the best team that I have seen come through here when it comes to academics, attitude and determination."

Bonbrisco said one of the advantages the women's team has this year compared to previous seasons is their communication.

"Our entire team is very dedicated and having the same goal draws us closer to each other," she said. "We communicate very well and that makes us a tight team. We are all pretty close.

A unique quality that is seen on both tennis teams is the geographic diversity. With team members on the men's and women's teams from Sweden, Mexico and Honduras, that diversity has brought together two strong teams.

"Everyone on the court is equal. Everyone can earn a point and help us win a match," Bonbrisco said. "Playing on the team is hard work," Bonbrisco said. "We practice a lot and it is tough sometimes but when you win and play well with others it makes you feel great. Winning especially makes for a really fun time."

Offense leads the way for Harding as Bisons best conference rivals

Sara Rabon
Staff Writer

With a current record of 9-2 overall and 2-1 in the Gulf South Conference, the Bisons travel to Arkansas-Monticello this weekend for three conference games.

The 2001 baseball season got off to a rainy start. After two consecutive rainouts at Arkansas State in Jonesboro and LeMoyne-Owen in Memphis, the Bisons finally had a chance to play some ball.

The Bisons split a doubleheader against former Lone Star Conference rival East Central Oklahoma Feb. 20. Junior Matt Thomas earned his first career shutout with a 12-0 victory. They lost the second game, 4-0, but senior Phill Gisel's five Ks made him Harding's all-time leader in strikeouts at 202.

After three rainouts the Bisons returned to action Feb. 26 with a doubleheader against LeMoyne-Owen. In the first game, Harding mounted the Magicians 16-3 by posting 18 hits, three of which cleared the fence.

Sophomore Matt Walter claimed the win in his first start for the Bisons. In the second game, junior catcher Gary Albritton blasted the first homer of his career and was responsible for three runs in Harding's 7-3 victory.

Thomas picked up the victory for the Bisons after a rough start for sophomore Jon Nedly.

On yet another cold, rainy game day, the Bisons gave up their first GSC game this season to Christian Brothers last Saturday, 7-2.

The loss broke the Bisons' five-game winning streak at home. Sophomore Matt Walter took the loss after throwing five innings and giving up eight runs.

With Saturday's second game rained out, the Bisons faced the Bucs for two more games Sunday.

The 6-0 and 10-4 wins came on the arms of Gisel and freshman Mark Connet.

Gisel pitched a complete game shutout, the fourth of his career. He struck out 11 and only gave up four runs.

Junior Michael Drennon led the offensive attack for Harding with three RBIs. Also in the game, senior Seth Watson moved up to second all-time in career stolen bases at Harding after he stole second and third in the fifth inning.

In the second game, senior Jon Neely went only 1.2 innings and gave up four runs. Connet was called in.

This proved to be a positive move for the team. Connet pitched 5.1 innings, the longest of four appearances as a Bison. He allowed only five hits and struck out five in his first win of the season.

Harding got off to a quick start in the game, scoring seven runs off the Bucs in the first inning. The Bisons scored more runs in the third to dash the Bucs' chances and cruised to their second victory of the day.

"We showed a lot of spine [last weekend]" senior Mike Huesber said. "With the weather, injuries and a tough loss in the opener against us, those two wins Sunday were really big."

On Tuesday, the Bisons played Freed-Hardeman University in Tennessee. Things looked grim for the Bisons, as they came into ninth inning down 12-6. Harding scoring three runs with two outs in the inning.

With two men on, Smith came up big once again for Harding as he knocked in both runners with a double to tie the game at 12-12.

Walter came on to pitch a perfect ninth inning for the Bisons.

Harding scored three more runs with two outs in the inning. On Wednesday, Matt Thomas was named GSC Western Division Pitcher of the Week.

Thomas has held batters to a .155 batting average and has started the season 3-0. Thomas also has 21 strikeouts in only 17 innings of work.
Knees to numbers. That's the new strike zone in Major League Baseball. It's not really new though — the umpires already started this process a few years ago until 1998, when Mark McGwire smacked 70 and Sammy Sosa hit 66.

Offensive numbers have stayed hot and earned run averages went through the roof, especially last year. Are pitchers just that bad, or are batters just that good? I say neither. Nothing has changed as far as the ability of the players is concerned. What has changed is the stance of the owners. They're sell outs.

Rewind to the early 90s. Cecil Fielder cranks 50 dingers and gets front page coverage. It was billed as the rebirth of the serious home run hitter. Homer totals hovered around 50 for the next few years until 1998, when Mark McGwire and Sammy Sosa notched 66.

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It's all about the Benjamins.

That's the new strike zone in Major League Baseball. It's not really new though — the umpires are just going to start enforcing it.

Previously, the ump's called strikes between the knees and the waist, which led teams to posting bowling scores instead of the traditional single-digit outcomes of regular season contests.

So why the change?

Here are a chance for you, Joe or Jane Harding, to match your sports knowledge against the Sports Challenge box outside the Post Office window by 5 p.m. Friday. GOOD LUCK!!!

Name: ____________________
Box #: ____________________
Phone #: ____________________

MLB Spring Training
(all games Saturday, March 10)
- Baltimore vs. Texas
- Boston vs. Toronto
- Mets vs. St. Louis
- Anaheim vs. Oakland

NBA Basketball
(all games Sunday, March 11)
- Philadelphia vs. Boston
- Utah vs. Sacramento
- Miami vs. New York
- Seattle vs. Lakers

NHL Hockey
(all games Saturday, March 10)
- Colorado vs. Dallas
- New Jersey vs. Philadelphia
- Detroit vs. St. Louis
- Chicago vs. Los Angeles

HU Baseball
Guess the exact score of Sunday's game
- Harding vs. Monticello

Score: ____________________

* Editor's picks are in bold.

OK, so what is more important, a Cy Young winner or a home run champ?

So, who will win a Cy Young, or hit the most home runs?

The high strike helps a select few, and those few do not even need the help. If your last name is Johnson or Martinez, you just may be in luck.

The high strike helps flame throwers who only need to toss the ball as hard as they can in the general direction of a batter.

What about Maddux, Brown and the rest of the finesse pitchers who like to hang curves outside of the plate?

The other caveat about the new "strike zone is that the ball must touch some part of the plate, so the common "grace calls" are supposed to be demolished.

All-in-all, the league hopes that the calling change will lead to lower scores and much shorter games.

Whether or not it works remains to be seen. Spring training has shown some improvement in these categories, but can the Umps be consistent in the regular season?

If the change works, it can be good, but it can also be bad. A strike looms in the future as an owner and player relations continue to erode.

Which side will the rule help?

Will fans pay for homers or strikeouts?

One thing is certain: 2001 will make for a very interesting season of Major League Baseball.

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Join us for the following events:

Cheerleading
Tryouts for 2001-2002 season Saturday, March 10 at 1 p.m.

Baseball
Overall: 9-2 GSC 2-1 Next Game: Saturday, March 10.
Doubleheader at Arkansas Monticello

Men's Tennis
Overall: 6-3 Next Match: Friday, March 9 vs Henderson State

Women's Tennis
Overall: 8-2 Next Match: Friday, March 9 vs Henderson State

Track
Next Meet: Thursday, March 15 at Southern Arkansas University

Golf
First Match: Sunday through Tuesday, March 11-13 at Henderson Invitational