Busy Homecoming weekend underway

Keri Biederman
Staff writer

A full-scale theatrical production, several class reunions, performances by campus based music groups and a pep rally preceding the Bisons’ Saturday match-up against the University of West Alabama are slated as part of Homecoming weekend at Harding.

The Homecoming musical, “Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat” will twice be featured in the Benson Auditorium, while a pep rally Friday at 10 p.m. on the soccer practice field adjacent to university’s main entrance on Burks Blvd. will get the weekend’s fun going. The pep rally, which has become a tradition in the last few years, will feature hot chocolate and cider and an appearance by a bison.

“Homecoming is a fun weekend because there are so many people around campus and there are so many different events,” junior Sarah Vaughan said. “Homecoming really shows what a social community Harding really is to many people.”

Throughout the weekend, many groups on campus will be performing, including Good News Singers, Bellies & Beaux, Pied Pipers and Theatre.

“I am excited for Homecoming weekend,” freshmen Melani Haispruet said. “This will be my first Homecoming at Harding and I have heard it is a fun weekend with a lot of different activities. I always enjoy the opportunity to meet more people on campus.”

Harding’s athletic community is scheduled to take part in the Homecoming festivities as well. The Lady Bison Volleyball team will play Ouachita Baptist University at 7 p.m. Thursday, then wrap up the regular season Friday with a nonconference match against Lyon College at 6 p.m. The football team will host West Alabama at 2 p.m. Saturday at First Security Stadium.

“Homecoming is always an exciting time, especially with family and friends there to watch. I am sure the whole team is ready. We hope to walk away with a win.”

Jeremy Schulz, junior

Nine members of the “West Dorm Gang” show off their caps and gowns after the spring 1968 graduation ceremony. From left to right, the graduates were Gerald Alles, Art Hudkins, Alan Eldridge, Bill Howard, Billy Dempsey, Al Fowler, Gill Clark, Ken Glass and Sam Hester. Many members of the group will gather on campus this weekend.

‘West Dorm Gang’ among Homecoming reunions

Chad Lawson
Copy editor

After the freight train heading through Searcy skirted along the fringes of Harding College near Park Street, slowing its loud horn to signal its usual morning arrival, most of the men who lived in West Dorm couldn’t help but rub their eyes and hop out of bed.

And if someone wasn’t awakened by the train whistle, he was most certainly roused by the sound of nearly 300 feet hitting the rickety floor of the old building as members of the “West Dorm Gang” prepare for classes, according to Al Fowler, who moved into the dorm as a freshman and accounting major in 1964.

“When it started getting loud, you knew it was time to get up and go to class,” said Fowler, who worked as a fund raiser for Harding before moving on to serve as an administrator at Searcy Medical Center. “We also had to deal with the saw mill across the street and the slaughterhouse that wasn’t too far from school.”

See Reunion, page 3
Southern life revolves around dinner table

The Cookie Jar
Ryan Cook
Editor

Before life became complicated by the slings and arrows and smoke and debris of terrorism and the retaliatory wars enacted to combat its stronghold on the entire world, I was a child growing up in the southeastern corner of Arkansas — a place where little boys and girls play in the mud and give their grandparents strange names. It's their job. My brother and I nicknamed our grandpa "Pop" when we were still in elementary school. Mamaw was always just "Mamaw." On no particular Sunday afternoon, Pop and I sit at the kitchen table as we meticulously watch the light from the picture window at the opposite end of the room filter in and reflect off the dishes Mamaw has stored in her built-in china cabinets.

Most of the time, there's usually a ball game playing on a small television set propped up against the wall, depending on the season, although no one really watches it. Instead, everyone talks while they wait for breakfast or dinner or supper, while they spend obscene amounts of time attempting to figure out if "so and so's" or "so and so's" dad was drafted. Mamaw and Aunt Judy took turns sitting at the table's far end, their chair resting against the low frame of the picture window. Pop sat across from Mamaw. Always.

My brother, Blake, and I took our two chairs from the corners of the room and pushed them up to the table when it was time to eat.

"I wonder what the poor folks are doing?" Pop would say, while he'd click stick the first batch of cornbread as fast as he could, over his entire plate with Tabasco sauce and Cayenne Pepper.

Mamaw would smile and shake her head at Pop's question. She was always dressed up, her hair fixed and makeup on, no matter what time of the day or night.

"Ain't he something?" she'd always say, nudging me in the side while she buttered my cornbread. "The younger boy walks up to the old man and sits down next to him. He says 'Hey man, your dog don't bite.' So the boy reaches down and pets that dog sitting next to the old man and, sure enough, it bites him."

My dad would clear his throat and ask either his brother or me to say the blessing. And, I think, as long as we did it at that table, we'd somehow get by. We'd somehow make it.

To break the silence, Pop waits for the opportune moment to slap his hands on the table and scare everybody. That's his trademark — besides his good attitude."

"Ain't he something?" my Aunt Judy says, nudging me in the side.

I'll never forget the day Pop was sitting in the chair against the picture window, the sun fading behind me. "He sure is."
Mott opens ASI series

A former Wal-Mart executive, Dell CIO has ties to Searcy

Chad Lawson
Copy editor

It takes a bit more than keeping up with emerging technologies to be successful in the field of information technology, according to Randy Mott, senior vice president and chief information officer for Dell Computer Corp.

Mott, who Tuesday initiated the American Studies Institute Distinctive Lecture Series for the 2001-2002 academic year, advised Harding students to prepare for their professional future by becoming familiar with the fundamentals while you’re at college. “We’re looking for your ability to learn. ... When do you stop the learning process?”

Mott attended a reception for computer science and information technology majors and described his work in the field as encouraging to him as he plans his future career. “Hopefully, the concentration of business in my major will allow me to move higher up the food chain in IT,” Mott said. “The presentation really gave me a better understanding of the field.”

In addition to Harding’s computer science program, the university instituted an information technology major last year. “He reinforced the fact that our field is not all based on technical skill,” junior Clint Lencher said. “The business aspect is really important.”

ASI Executive Director Bob Reely said Mott was a “professional role model.” “His presentation was really practical,” Reely said. “It was very student oriented. I was pleased that he took the time to meet with students to discuss their futures.”

Reunion planned for old dorm

Continued from page 1

Fowler and several other men who were part of the former Army bar- racks, which was torn down to make room for a laundry facility and parking lot, are meeting during Homecoming festivities to tell stories and reminisce about the “gang.”

“Last year at Homecoming, some of the men discussed having some sort of reunion this year,” said Liz Howell, director of alumni relations. “It wasn’t hard to put this together because of the bond those men share.”

Throughout the years, the “gang” of men has proved to be quite resilient, holding reunions in the Searcy area every five years or so, beginning in the early 1970s. This year’s Homecoming reunion, Fowler said, “We were a group that had a lot in common,” he said. It was interesting because not all of us were into the same things. Some of us knew each other from playing football together, but some weren’t athletic at all. We don’t commun- icate with each other all the time, but we enjoy meeting up and talking about old times.”

Because the dorm, which rested behind the Administration Auditorium, was a converted Army barracks, the men shared a com- munity bathroom — a small detail that Fowler said contributed to the group dynamic. “It,” Fowler said, “a May graduate who still lives in Searcy, takes a shot Oct. 22 during the Second Annual Beau Basketball Tournament. The tournament, which was won by Delta Gamma Rho, and the Queen Basketball Tournament, which was won by Titans, were held during social club visitation week to give potential inductees a chance to visit with club members. Admission fees from the two events raised nearly $600 to help dig wells in a mission effort in Uganda.

Induction Week to start Sunday

Cathy Benton
Staff writer

With the social club visitation process over, prospective pledges are now anxiously awaiting their club bids.

Bids, which serve as the first official notice of the club each inductee has the chance to join, are expected to be released at 7 p.m. Sunday — a change from previous years, when bids were distributed at 2 p.m. the same day.

During Induction Week, activities are planned to help inductees gain knowledge of the clubs and their members, as well as to promote the spiritual growth of the inductees. Clubs participate in service projects to aid in that growth.

“So far the induction process has certainly helped me grow both spiritually and socially,” said Michelle Shanklin, a freshman from Lafayette, La. “When I came to Harding, I didn’t really know anything about the clubs, but the open houses have helped me get to know people. No matter what the outcome, it’s been a great experience.”

Many clubs engage in activities with other clubs. Zeta Rho, Ju Go, Ko Jo K’ai and Tri-Kappa participate in “Silly Olympics.” According to OEGE beau Daniel Ryan, OEGE encourages a lot of “big sister little” so the girls can get to know each other, learn club history and read scripture together.

“There are a lot of unity building activities,” Ryan, a junior, said. Activities are large part of Induction Week.

“We clean the park at Riverside and then play with the kids at Searcy Children’s Home and have a barbecue,” sophomore GATA member Katrina Gunter said. “These activities are done with our brother club, Alpha Tau Epi­ lon.”

Unity between brother and sister clubs has proven to be an important part of club life.

Regina and Chi Sigma Alpha spend much of the week with each other. They hold activities such as an egg toss, a tea and princess and ca­ dets dinner, among other activities. The clubs also spend time discussing club history.

Each night ends with an all-club devotional in the Benson Auditorium. Each day of induction week had a specific theme to it for the inductees to write letters to specific people,” sophomore Regina member Hannah Elliott said.

Most club members agree building relationships is the most impor­ tant part of the club induction process.

“It’s all about unity,” Josh South, a junior member of Chi Sigma Al­ pha, said. “Everything we do is built around unity.” The Bison News 3

Beau Basketball Tournament

Shantich beau Matt Milligan, a May graduate who still lives in Searcy, takes a shot Oct. 22 during the Second Annual Beau Basketball Tournament. The tournament, which was won by Delta Gamma Rho, and the Queen Basketball Tournament, which was won by Titans, were held during social club visitation week to give potential inductees a chance to visit with club members. Admission fees from the two events raised nearly $600 to help dig wells in a mission effort in Uganda.

Jeremy Beaufchamp / The Bison

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After 18 years as vice president for academic affairs, Pryor teaches full load this fall

Matthew Bancroft
Staff writer

After 18 years as vice president for academic affairs, Dr. Neale Pryor decided to return to a full-time teaching career, which resumed at the beginning of this semester.

Pryor, who began teaching nearly 40 years ago at the age of 26, came to Harding with the intention of teaching Bible classes. Pryor had 21 years of classroom experience before taking the full-time vice president position in 1983—the same year he became chairman of the Bible department.

"I came here to teach Bible before going into administration, ... I want to give my time back to teaching before I get too old to do anything," Pryor said.

Recently turning 65 assisted in the decision to return to teaching, and the decision proved beneficial, he said. Last spring, Pryor, who lives in Searcy, was diagnosed with cancer. Pryor said his retirement from college administration gave him the chance to visit and support his son over the summer.

Pryor had two years of college experience at Freed-Hardeman University before he came to Harding and earned his master’s degree from Harding’s graduate school in Memphis. Later, he would preach in New Orleans for two years while earning his doctoral degree. Pryor received Harding University’s Distinguished Teacher Award two times during his first 21 years of teaching, but was not eligible for the award again until this year due to his administrative position. He also served as Lectureship director for a few years during the 1970s.

Pryor, who isn’t related to Dr. Joseph Pryor, his predecessor, said he hopes to teach as long as he is able. At this point, he said retirement is out of the question.

"I hope I do not over stay my visit, but retiring and running around does not sound like a fun thing ... you can get tired of that in a hurry," Pryor said. "When I do get to the age where I’m not effective, I hope I can get out!"

Harding students are excited to have Pryor back as a teacher. His teaching skills, as well as his individuality, seem to keep the students coming back for more. Classes other than Bible that Pryor has taught include history, English, archaeology, Greek and Hebrew.

"He encourages and motivates you in a personal way," freshman Geneva Zuccolo said. "He makes sure that you learn something new each day, and in a way that you are sure to remember everything that was taught."

This fall, Pryor is teaching two freshman classes and two upper-level Bible courses.

If students get to where they didn’t want to be in my classes I don’t think I would want to stay ... nothing pleases me more than for students to enjoy my class and want to be in it," he said.

Dr. Neale Pryor, professor of Bible, teaches his Eighth Century Prophets class. After 18 years as an administrator, Pryor resumed teaching full time this fall. In addition to two sections of freshman Introduction to New Testament, both with 90 students, he teaches two upper-level Old Testament courses.

Burks gets hole-in-one at River Oaks

Chad Lawson
Copy editor

Despite recently sinking a hole-in-one at River Oaks golf course, President David Burks has had a little trouble convincing some of his colleagues that he actually scored the lucky shot.

"I was sure it had gone in, even though it was hard to see the hole," Burks said.

Dr. Carl Mitchell, a professor of Bible who also serves as a consultant for Harding’s Institute for Church and Family, said he was a witness to the hole-in-one. Mitchell said Burks has greatly improved his golf game since taking up the sport a little over three years ago, after abandoning the fast-paced game of racquetball.

"I’ve been playing golf for a long time and I’ve never made a hole-in-one," Mitchell said. "This Course at River Oaks is very challenging because it has water on 12 out of 18 holes. Dr. Burks has taken a lot of ribbing from some other golfers on campus, but he’s handled it pretty well. There’s a lot of luck involved ... you could line up 100 profes-

Student hit while riding bike

Matt Mikkagen / The Daily Citizen

Harding security officers interview witnesses Monday afternoon following a car-bike collision on Park Avenue. Sophomore Kim Freeman was riding his bike back from the Reynolds Center when he was struck by a Ford Bronco going west on Park. The driver of the vehicle said he did not see Freeman because of the glare from sunlight. Freeman was taken by ambulance to Central Arkansas Hospital, where he was released Tuesday.

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Eight days at Ground Zero

Dr. Jack Shock called to NYC to help the Red Cross with public affairs

For Dr. Jack Shock, associate professor of communication, Oct. 2 started off like any other Tuesday. After chapel, he met with his Communication Law class on the second floor of the Reynolds Center. He had no idea that a message would soon be sent through the mail during the period that would change his life and send him on a difficult journey to the center of a disaster area.

The message was from Harding alumn Darren Irby, who is now the Disaster Communication Officer for the American Red Cross. His request? Be in New York City five days later to help the Red Cross as a public affairs technician at Ground Zero.

After getting approval from Dr. Mike James, communication department chairman, to pursue the offer, Shock returned the call and pledged his help to Irby.

"Our sum total conversation was about a minute and a half," Shock said.

Shock rushed to make arrangements and, in the early morning hours of Oct. 7, left Searcy with little more than some hastily-packed suitcases and faith.

"I just went to the airport, got on the airplane on Sunday, and flew to New York," Shock said.

His flight from Little Rock to New York’s LaGuardia International Airport stopped over in Atlanta’s Hartfield International Airport, where Shock learned that air strikes on Afghanistan had begun.

"The Atlanta airport was deserted," Shock said. "I think the woman next to me started crying. It was so tense; so upsetting."

Shock’s first visit to Ground Zero was the next morning.

"On the first day I was at Ground Zero, after about five minutes, they had found a fireman’s body," Shock said.

"That was my introduction to Ground Zero. It was a rude awakening to what I was going to see and experience for the next eight days."

Over the next eight days, Shock filled a variety of roles at the site while averaging 12-15 hour workdays. As reporters were not allowed in the site, one of his primary responsibilities was finding stories on the inside and pitching them to media outlets. He also took requests from various media, including USA Today, Redbook and The History Channel, finding interview subjects and information for their stories.

Shock’s time in New York came during a pivotal week in the coverage of the attacks and their aftermath, he said.

"The most exciting thing for me in terms of my profession was charting the news cycle," he said. "When I got there, the top story was, 'What's going on at Ground Zero?' That day, we began air strikes in Afghanistan. By the end of the week, it was another.

As a media professional who’s trying to place stories and deal with media for the Red Cross, that’s what I was dealing with.

"It was much more of a challenge, because, along with that shift came the shift from, 'Oh, look, the Red Cross has $300 million... to Now what are you going to do to spend it?'

"They were part of a pilot test to see if bringing in individuals with certain skill sets, but no Red Cross experience, would work in the future," Irby said. "The experiments worked and we’re looking forward to recruiting and utilizing college professors on future disaster operations.”

Irby, who graduated with a degree in public relations in 1993, said he approached Shock because he “had once lived in New York and was used to a fast-paced environment from working at the White House.”

Shock worked with another college professor from Texas.

"I’ve tried not to use my experience because he’s one of very few people who have Red Cross contacts all across the country now and I’ve already had students come talk to me.

"The concept of nonprofit, public service-type public relations jobs has always appealed to me. I hope that my experience with this will inspire my students to work in similar situations where they can try their craft professionally, but also serve people.

Since he returned from New York, Shock said several of his students have shown a deep interest in working for nonprofit organizations like the Red Cross, an association that provided him with the opportunity to help needy people in times of crisis.

"I’m aware of what a tremendous privilege it was to be able to go there," Shock said. "I’m one of very few people who can say, 'I stood at the base of the wreckage of the World Trade Center.' I'll never feel the same about that. I didn’t feel that until I actually saw it.”
A colorful experience

Upbeat ‘Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat’ highlights 2001 Homecoming, has large ensemble cast

Holly Henderson

Staff writer

Homecoming musical audiences this year will hear the story of a Hebrew boy and his dreams in the time of the patriarchs—complete with disco, country and Caribbean musical numbers.

Andrew Lloyd Weber and Tim Rice’s upbeat musical, “Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat,” comes to the Benson Auditorium stage in collaboration with the weekend’s theme, “Catch the Dream!”

The musical will be performed Friday night at 8 p.m. and Saturday night at 7 p.m. in the Benson Auditorium. Tickets are available at the Benson ticket window for $7.

“There are lots of factors that go into choosing a show,” said Robin Miller, associate professor of communication and director of the musical. “‘Joseph’ is very different from last year’s show [Man of La Mancha], which was a serious piece, very emotional.

This year, we wanted something lighter. The key word for this show is fun.”

One major difference between this year’s musical and last year’s is the volume of music to be learned by the cast. While “Man of La Mancha” contained musical numbers interspersed with dialogue, “Joseph” is entirely sung.

“Staging a song is much more involved than staging a scene,” Miller said.

Senior Cindy Collins, who plays one of the wives, Sawyer serves as the costumer, a job which required making approximately 76 costumes for the show.

“I have never sewn this much before,” Sawyer said. “It’s definitely been a learning experience. It helped so much with costuming to be in the cast. I could never keep up with who goes with what costume without knowing faces and scenes.”

Junior theater major Hannah Sawyer agrees that meeting the particular challenges of this show has been a learning experience. In addition to performing as one of the wives, Sawyer serves as the costumer, a job which required making approximately 76 costumes for the show.

“I love how the cast is like a family, We get together and have fun, but we know when it’s time to work.”

Jena Fritz, Junior

The cast of “Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat” includes 28 students. The crew and others bring the number involved to more than 50. The musical will take to the Benson Auditorium stage Friday and Saturday nights. Admission is $7 or free with the Pass.

“This year, we wanted something lighter. The key word for this show is fun.”

In addition to the 28 students in the cast, two faculty members will perform in “Joseph.” Laura Eads, an adjunct voice instructor who also serves as the vocal coach for the show, will play Mrs. Potiphar, while Dr. Mike Chance, associate professor of music and director of bands, will play Potiphar. The show also features a chorus made up of area children.

“Having the children’s chorus adds instant community involvement, not just with people in the community coming to see it, but in putting the show together,” Miller said. “It makes the musical a community event.”
Homecoming highlights

**Friday**
- 9 a.m.: Chapel
- 10 a.m.: Golden and Platinum Circle coffee
- 4 p.m.: Good News Singers
- 5:30 p.m.: Black and Gold Banquet
- 6 p.m.: Volleyball: Harding vs. Lyon
- 8:15 p.m.: Homecoming musical
- 10 p.m.: Pep rally

**Saturday**
- 7:30-9 a.m.: Complimentary alumni breakfast
- 8-11:30 a.m.: President’s Council meeting
- 9 a.m.: Alumni chapel (led by the class of 1976)
- 10 a.m.-noon: Social club fair
- 10:30 a.m.: Pied Pipers
- 11 a.m.: Family picnic with games
- 11:15 a.m.: Theatron
- 2 p.m.: Football: Harding vs. West Alabama
- 5:30 p.m.: Young Alum Mixer
- 7:30 p.m.: Homecoming musical

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**'Joseph' cast holds separate chapel**

Leah Risener  
**Staff writer**

During the final two weeks of preparations for the Homecoming musical, those appearing in the production held a separate chapel at 9 a.m. to free up space for faculty members seated in the orchestra pit in the Benson Auditorium.

The orchestra pit, which was covered up for the musical, "Joseph and Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat," had housed faculty and staff during chapel since the beginning of the fall semester due to a 15th consecutive record student enrollment.

The production will be featured tonight at 8:30 p.m. and Saturday night at 7:30 p.m. in the Benson.

According to Robin Miller, director of the production, the company used the musical as a theme for its daily devotions in Shores Chapel, but incorporated many other elements into the special chapel. Miller explained, "It gives us a unique experience as a company because it’s all performance personnel involved, in one place, worshipping together."

**Hannah Sawyer, junior**

that the people who spoke in university chapel on previous days also provided devotional thoughts in the special chapel for the cast of the musical.

The faculty appeared excited about the chance to sit in the auditorium, though their cooperation was strictly voluntary, Miller said.

Faculty members were even allowed to reserve a vacated seat for their personal use during the three weeks.

"The cast has been in many ways very excited about the opportunity to be together because, in the rehearsal process, it’s very rare that we are all together," Miller said. "The orchestra, for example, rehearses separate from the cast of the singers. We are also getting the opportunity to deal with subject matter specifically geared for these people."

Cast members, who began work on "Joseph" last spring, said the specially held chapel gave them the opportunity to spend time together before the musical premiers.

"I’m really excited about it [the musical]. It’s different," said junior Hannah Sawyer, who is playing the role of "Mrs. Gad." "It gives us a unique experience as a company because it’s all performance personnel involved, all in one place, worshipping together."

Attendance is being checked as the cast members enter the room. They will return to the Benson Auditorium chapel service after they return from Thanksgiving Break.

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DeAnn Thomas
Staff writer

For a few moments the field is chosen for battling only a few minutes before sweeps across the field. Where entire Harding family to come together to reminisce and re-unite. Homecoming is an unforgettable time for the seven students who have been selected to represent the school.

Class representatives

"It is such a blessing to me to be chosen for Homecoming," freshman representative Jessie Metcalf said. "I was home schooled for eight years, so I never had any kind of Homecoming. This is a very sweet and humbling experience for me."

Metcalf is pursuing a business and vocational ministry double major and is from North Little Rock. Along with many of the other representatives and nominees, Metcalf said she is very excited spending Homecoming with her family, especially her brother, Jacob, who will be escorting her during the ceremony.

Sophomore representative Allison Alexander is also looking forward to having her family at Harding. Her parents and other family members are traveling from Huntsville, Ala., for the weekend. Faught, a social work major, is a member of Zeta Rho social club and the Student Activities Council.

Junior representative Allison Alexander is an elementary education major from Plano, Texas. She is a member of Shantih social club and the Student Association Advertising Committee. She represented her class in Homecoming last year and said she is honored to repeat the experience.

Senior Emily Hughes, an early childhood education major from Mount Juliet, Tenn., is looking forward to Homecoming. "I was very surprised when I found out that I made Homecoming court," Hughes said.

"I'm looking forward to having all the visitors on campus, but, other than that, I really don't know what to expect."

Queen candidates

For the second consecutive year, the football team has nominated sophomore Melanie Glass as a queen candidate. Glass loves the "entire process that goes into the actual Homecoming event."

She comes to Harding from Sherman, Texas, and is majoring in elementary education. She is a member of Ko Jo Kai social club and is active in supporting the football team.

"I'm extremely dedicated to letting the football team know that we're cheering them on," she said. "It's all about spirit. I attend every game and I love to get as rowdy as I can with my bullhorn, shakers and dew-rag."

Originally from Houston, "I really enjoy being a part of the Harding community. I transferred here last January from Boston University, and it is great to be at a school where it really feels like home."

Kerri Biederman, junior

sophomore Racquel Collins now lives in Searcy with her daughter Jasmine and her husband, Santiago, who is a wide receiver for the Bisons. She said she feels privileged to be chosen for Homecoming and to be living in the Harding community.

"I like Harding because it's friendly," Collins, a sophomore, said. "It's a good place to raise my daughter."

Living at Harding is also special to queen candidate Kerri Biederman. "I really enjoy being a part of the Harding community," she said. "I transferred here last January from Boston University, and it is great to be at a school where it really feels like home."

Biederman, a junior, is a public relations major from Plymouth, N.H. She is an intern in the public relations office, a member of the Radio, Television and News Directors Association and a staff writer for The Bison. Like the other nominees, she is looking forward to Homecoming.

"Being part of Homecoming royalty will give me a chance to meet people and to know some students that I didn't know before," she said. "I am also looking forward to the game. I hope the team wins a great game and comes out with a victory."

The 2001 Homecoming Court includes, from front row left, class representatives senior Emily Hughes, junior Allison Alexander, freshman Jessie Metcalf and sophomore Natalie Faught; from second row left, attendants Abby Goinney and Mitchell Kirby; from third row left, queen candidates junior Kerri Biederman, and sophomores Melanie Glass and Racquel Collins; and, from fourth row left, seniors Chad Eason, Les Polk, Jimi Holden and Dennis Cardoso.
Soccer season ends; teams looks ahead

Brandi Kelly
Staff writer

Despite an overall losing season for the Lady Bison soccer team, coach Greg Harris said the team has a lot to build upon for the next couple of years.

"This team took some hardships on the field, but they have great chemistry," Harris said.

He said the team established strong friendships, and an even stronger foundation for the future.

The team will be short six seniors next season. Andrea Richmond, Judi Beserney, Heather Gray, Amy Walker, Tricky Tarole and Lauren Hensley will graduate before next season. Harris said that he wishes them the best in the future and that they will be missed.

Although the team is losing players, sophomores Brooke Cockrell, Courtney Saul, Laci Boren and freshman Lindsey Garner will all be returning next year for the Lady Bisons. Harris said that having this strong group of returning players will help aid the team's solid foundation.

The men's soccer team managed to improve on last season's record with a 6-11 record this season.

"Their level of play was raised significantly," Harris said.

Michael Hovater and Mike Rainbolt are the Bisons' only graduating seniors. Junior Jeff Ireland led the team with 15 goals.

Harris said the men's team is young and has room to improve. He added that Harding has one of the only non-scholarship funded teams in the nation and he is moved to see them be able to compete with the larger, scholarship-funded schools of the NCAA.

"You don't always know because of it being a non-scholarship funded team, but as long as 80 to 90 percent return, the team will be a much better team, record-wise and quality-wise," Harris said.

There will be a lot of off-season work with both teams as they prepare for the spring games, Harris said.

GSC playoffs await Lady Bisons

With one match remaining, the volleyball team begins preparing for a postseason appearance

Rodney Keeton
Sports editor

The volleyball team finishes up its regular season tonight at 6 with a non-conference match against Lyon College after defeating Ouachita Baptist last Monday.

The ladies had the chance to put their first place in the Gulf South Conference Tuesday night when they lost to Arkansas Tech.

"They just played us tougher and stronger than they did the last time we met," coach Keith Giboney said. "We were short a defensive player and we made a few key errors that cost us the game, but we played with them right up to the end."

The Lady Bisons took on Ouachita Baptist Thursday, but results were not available at press time.

The ladies had the chance to ward off the first place team in the western division of the GSC Oct. 25, but service errors plagued the Lady Bisons in a 3-0 loss to Henderson State.

Harding led 29-27 in game one when the first error occurred, allowing Henderson State to come back to win the game, 33-30.

After falling behind early in the second game, the Lady Bisons rallied to tie the match at 24-24.

Henderson State played off Harding's errors in game two to win 30-27.

Harding again fell behind to begin game three, but soon closed the score to 28-25. The Lady Bisons were on a four-point run when junior Leslie Hollingsworth missed her serve. Henderson went on to win the third game, 30-26.

Harding recorded 49 kills in the match and had more digs than the Lady Biddies, 75-66, but were out blocked eight to five.

The Lady Bisons have managed to secure a number three spot in the GSC playoffs and will face the second place team from the GSC East in the first round.

"I'm not sure about the level of competition, but I know that we're capable of beating anyone if we play our kind of game," Ashley Kellum, freshman said.

"I'm not sure about the level of competition, but I know that we're capable of beating anyone if we play our kind of game," freshman Leslie Hollingsworth said. "If we just go out there and take care of business, we'll go far."

The ladies will have a week off before the playoffs begin Nov. 9.

Editors Note: Sports Information contributed to this report.
Bisons prep for Homecoming game

After back-to-back GSC victories, football team aims to win last home contest

Emily Sane
Staff writer

The centerpiece of Homecoming weekend will be the Bisons' match-up against the University of West Alabama. Taking on the Tigers, the Bisons are looking to add another victory to their two-game winning streak. The game will be played at First Security Stadium at 2 p.m.

The Bisons are optimistic about their game against the University of West Alabama. Although the Tigers defeated the Bisons last season, Harding hopes to turn the ball around.

"We cannot take them lightly, but we must approach the game with confidence and realize that we are more than capable of beating them," sophomore wide receiver Kevin Redd said.

Riding a seven-game losing streak, UWA is 1-8. The Bisons currently post a 3-5 overall record and a 3-4 Gulf South Conference record.

"I hope the Bisons can continue their current winning streak by defeating West Alabama," junior defensive tackle Phillip King said. "It will be a great win for us because we will be playing in front of a large group of visitors and returning Bisons.

The Bisons defeated the University of North Alabama two weeks ago, winning 17-14 at Braly Municipal Stadium.

"I'm proud of the way we battled," head coach Randy Tribble said. "We battled bad field position the entire game, but our offense was able to run the ball and control the clock."

Last week, the Bisons continued their winning streak by defeating 11th-ranked State University of West Georgia 43-31 at home. This victory marked Harding's first win over a ranked NCAA opponent since moving to NCAA Division II in 1997.

"The entire team came together, and we played like we are capable of playing," King said. "This was only West Georgia's second loss of the season."

Crushing the Eagles' hopes for a conference title or a chance to compete in the playoffs, the Bisons took a quick lead, outscoring West Georgia 17-0 in the first quarter. The Bisons held the lead for the entire game.

On the defensive side of the ball, the Bisons forced five West Georgia turnovers. But the Eagles continued to battle the Bisons, managing to outgain Harding 413-346 yards.

"We have suffered a few setbacks, but all good teams suffer setbacks, and they will only make us stronger and better in the future."

Kevin Redd, sophomore wide receiver

School-record breaking events and season achievements dominated the game. Sophomore wide receiver Santiago Collins became Harding's single-season reception leader with seven receptions for 90 yards in the game. Totaling 63 receptions for the season, Collins topped Gerald Payne's record of 63 receptions from last season.

Senior linebacker Les Polk scored Harding's first defensive touchdown of the season in the first quarter.

"If we continue to get together and put all the little things together, we will finish the season strong and have a good record to show that we are a good team."

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Cross country teams repeat as GSC champs

Kerri Biederman

Staff writer

The Bison and Lady Bison cross country teams are the champions of the Gulf South Conference for the second year in a row after winning the championship meet last Saturday at Plough Park in Memphis.

The Bison became the third team in GSC history to successfully defend its conference title, landing runners in the top five positions, and seven of the top eight, to finish with a perfect score of 15 points.

And the Lady Bison did just as well. The Lady Bison became the fourth team in GSC history to successfully defend its conference title topping the field with 39 points.

Both teams are looking to highlight their seasons with wins at the South Regional in Atlanta, which would qualify them for the NCAA Division II National Championships at Slippery Rock, Pa. The National Championship meet is scheduled for Nov. 17.

"I really enjoy working with both teams," coach Bryan Phillips said. "I am proud of their hard work and how they have given their best effort when representing Harding in conference, regional and national competitions."

Phillips' success only added to the Harding's excitement as he became the fifth coach since 1995 to earn back-to-back GSC Women's Coach of the Year awards. In addition, he became the fifth coach in conference history to win back-to-back Men's Coach of the Year honors.

"I couldn't have asked for a better coach," senior captain David Schaeff said. "There is not a member of the team who doesn't like coach Phillips. He is a coach who cares about our physical growth, but more importantly, our spiritual growth."

Phillips believes that the expectations of the team contributed to their success.

"They won the conference last year and both teams were confident going into the conference this year," Phillips said.

And that confidence paid off. "The season has gone really well," Schaeff said. "We have had some big competition and our team has finished anywhere from sixth or seventh, to tenth."

Sophomore Sarah Shields wins in pain as she finishes at the Ouachita Baptist Invitational Sept. 8. Sarah placed 14th out of 93 runners at that meet. She went on to finish 51st out of 153 runners at the Rhodes Invitational.

"I am proud of their hard work and how they have given their best effort when representing Harding in conference, regional and national competitions."

Coach Bryan Phillips

Sophomore Sarah Readton finished sixth place in the conference. "We really came together and worked as a team, and we ran very well," Readton said. "We have a great team. Not only do the seven of us love running together, but we are really good friends."

Readton was also excited about Phillips' honors at the meet. "We had a few minor injuries and setbacks and coach Phillips was out there every night and every morning at 8 a.m. to help the team get back on our feet," Readton said. "He has gone above and beyond for us. He really goes out of his way completely."

A pack of Bison runners press on towards the finish line in a recent meet. The Bisons finished in the top five spots at the Gulf South Conference championship meet last weekend. Senior Linus Chepkwony, junior David Scharff, sophomore Jacob Rotich, junior Japheth Langat and sophomore Scott Wietecha finished first through fifth respectively.
Millions of years ago, cavemen used clubs to savagely beat each other in an attempt to gain rule over tribes and territories. When hunting, these cavemen would use treachery and stealth to lure their prey in close, then they would pelt helpless animals with rocks and spears until they died. (Unless it was a wooly mammoth or saber-toothed tiger, then it would shake off the rocks and spears like they were fleas and toothpicks, and make short work of those cavemen).

These tactics were known as survival.

Then, the ice age set in. Granted I don't believe all this million years ago stuff but, hey, it makes for a nice intro, so indulge me.

As a result of the ice age, all the cavemen died, and the animals withered away in the cold icy grip of death. The End.

Present day:

Tens of thousands of people flock to stadiums and arenas to watch men savagely beat each other with "clubs" that we call hockey sticks and baseball bats. They watch as men wrestle each other to capture a little brown ball, all in an attempt to gain rule over a "tribe" we call the NFL. We watch as competitors use treachery and stealth to lure their opponent in and then crush them in defeat. "Cavemen," you say? But wait! This is the 21st century! This is not survival, this is sports! (Crowd cheers, "oohs" and "aahs" accompany.)

But why would the players of today exhibit the barbaric characteristics of our primitive friends? Most would argue it's a competitive drive that pushes a player towards an athletic goal. Some would say that it's getting caught up in the moment and playing hard. Those people would quote the saying, "If you can't play with the big dogs, get off the porch." But I'm asking, where is this porch? And why would I want to play baseball or football with dogs?

So while we may not be able to explain all of their actions, what we do realize is that the "caveman-esque" personas is alive and well in today's athletes (No, "caveman-esque" is not a word, but I used it, so now it is.)

Fighting has become an integral part of the sporting world. Baseball players rush the mound to pummel a pitcher after a high and tight fastball. Football players assail opponents after an unfair call or in jealousy of a celebratory dance. (Note that celebratory dances are also closely associated with tribal rituals.) I'm in constant awe of the violence in sports. I went to a hockey game one time and had to wait 20 minutes while officials scraped up blood from the ice after a prolonged fight.

Now, don't misunderstand me. I am fascinated by fighting in sports. After all, there's nothing like watching two professional millionaires humiliating themselves on national television. It's wonderful. My pet peeve is that, no matter how violent a fight, those involved only get a penalty, or have to sit in a little box and have "time-out" until they're allowed to return to the game and bash more people. And then you think, "Hey, if I were to do that on the streets of America, I'd be arrested for assault." But, do it on the playing field, and you're the MVP.

I don't want this to seem like a political discussion or a soap opera; stop hitting them when they fall down; wear gloves; wear mouthpieces; stop every time a bell rings to "wash up" and then go again.

Then you watch hockey. When they fight, they get right to it. "Throwing off equipment, and throwing any punch they can, they'll beat a guy senseless. Then the officials will "penalize" him (which basically amounts to a slap on the wrist and "don't you do that again, mister!" approach). The great Jedi Master Yoda said "anger leads to the dark side," (or something like that). But, unfortunately, a talking blob of guacamole dip named Yoda doesn't count as inspiration for ending violence. The point is that there is no point. All this useless history and rambling will amount to nothing. I don't want to get too "touchy-feely" on all of you and tell you to hug each other and get along because that's not necessary my point, either.

Actually, I really don't have a stance on this issue. I just figured I could rouse your interests on the topic, tell you a few jokes, and then maybe you'd be inspired to laugh instead of fight.

But, in the interests of social and political correctness, here is my final thought.

The real point is that if you're going to inflict bodily harm on another individual, do it on the playing field. That way you can get away with it. Why do you think rugby has flourished for years? Actually, you really shouldn't fight with anyone. Imagine the hours saved by simply playing a good hard ballgame without taking time out to attack someone out of competitive anger.

So, take care of yourself, and each other.

And if you have a problem with that, you can meet me in the parking lot after class, and we'll settle this!