The Bison, February 7, 2003

Follow this and additional works at: https://scholarworks.harding.edu/thebison

Recommended Citation

This Newspaper is brought to you for free and open access by the Archives and Special Collections at Scholar Works at Harding. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Bison by an authorized administrator of Scholar Works at Harding. For more information, please contact scholarworks@harding.edu.
Tragic weekend claims lives, brings tears

Columbia disaster has university connections

DAANN THOMAS
Copy editor

While most students recognized the significance of the Space Shuttle Columbia's explosion Feb. 1, senior Trey Thompson and his family felt a more personal connection to the tragedy.

His father, Cliff Thompson, a flight dynamics officer and flight controller for NASA, helped train the seven astronauts aboard the Columbia how to use the orbiter's monitors and computer systems.

During the almost two-year training period, he said he got to know the astronauts very well.

"Here at NASA, everyone is family," Cliff Thompson said. "We have one common goal and that is to get the crew back alive. When that does not happen, we are not performing our duties as we have promised our astronauts."

Cliff Thompson said it took a lot of prayer to finally help him realize that the explosion was totally out of his control. The experience, however, has made him realize that the explosion was totally out of his control. The explosion was totally out of his control.

"I am more conscious now to how precious life is," he said. "I always tell my family that I love them. Now, I put much more emphasis into it. It is hard to be away from my son and his wife Christi until Trey finishes his training at Harding this May. I pray every day for their safety and their well-being, just like I pray for Columbia's families and their well-being."

Trey Thompson said he has been praying for the astronauts' families and his father as well.

"I was shocked when I heard about what happened," he said. "I know the explosion being a very difficult time for my dad, for the families of the astronauts and for everyone else who was involved."

Freshman Heidi Hipp was asked at home in Henderson, Texas, when the shuttle exploded.

"There was a loud boom, and the whole house shook," she said. "We didn't have any idea what was going on."

When they learned what happened, Hipp and her family drove to Nacogdoches, where they were surprised and saddened by the debris scattered everywhere.

"It was very solemn," she said. "All we could think about were the families who had been expecting [the astronauts] to return home soon."

Sophomore Christina Ryan, who lives in Lufkin, Texas, said her father, Kenneth, works for a forestry company and is volunteering to help NASA search for debris in the wooded areas around Nacogdoches.

The news of the shuttle explosion came as a surprise to freshman Josh Bundy, because it reminded him of the 1986 explosion...more.

Sophomore dies after fall from cliffs at Camp Wyldewood

JEREMY D. BEAUCHAMP
Editor-in-chief

The Harding community is mourning the death of sophomore Katie Jo Wessells, who died instantly after falling more than 80 feet from the cliffs known as B Rock Feb. 1 at Camp Wyldewood.

Her funeral is scheduled for 1 p.m. Friday in her hometown of Salisbury, Md.

Wessells, 19, arrived at the cliffs with sophomores Andrew Ingle and Lindsey Peebles. The three were planning to rappel with a group of friends when Wessells attempted to step down onto a lower rock along the edge of the cliff to get a better view of the scenery.

"She always tried to live life to the fullest," Ingle said. "That's how she [left us]: just trying to get a better view."

Ingle called 911 at 12:36 p.m. Senior Robin Vick was in the area and ran to check on Wessells. He then returned to pray with Ingle and Peebles while they waited for the paramedics.

According to her friends, Wessells, who enjoyed climbing, was familiar with the area. Hundreds of students and community friends attended Wessells' memorial Feb. 3, held at the Complete in Christ Church in Searcy, to remember their relationship with Wessells.

"Her smile showed everyone what she was thinking," Ingle said. "She made friends with anybody. She never hated anything."

Other friends will miss the unassuming friendship and conversations she gave them.

"No matter what she was doing, she always made time for you and treated you like you were the most important," sophomore Johan Muir said. "She was the most selfless person I've ever met."

Wessells was known for being active in portraying her faith.

"She was a kind of role model to me," senior Anibal Tamacas said. "She set a great example. You could see Jesus in her. That is what I am taking with me."

Sophomore Malease Evans had known Wessells since high school. She said Wessells' family appreciated all the prayers that have been offered on their behalf.

"She lived to tell people about God," Evans said. "She had no secrets. That is what she was about."

This most recent tragedy marks the second student death this school year. Senior Kelly Mueller died in an auto accident Nov. 3, 2002.

Mourning prayers

Drs. Carl Mitchell (left) and Tom Howard sit onstage in the Benson Auditorium during a special chapel service Feb. 3. During the service, the Harding community prayed for the families affected by the tragic weekend and for world peace.

Where does all that money come from?

FEBRUARY 7, 2003
Vol. 78, No. 12
www.harding.edu/thenibson
Do not mix Christianity and hypocrisy

Renee Lewis

Guest Room

I can’t pretend anymore.

I can’t pretend that I believe every­
one at Harding lives a Christian life all
the time. I can’t pretend that no one
goes to the club Friday night. I can’t pre-
tend that all organizations don’t have
rivalries that Jesus would not participate in.

I understand that no one admits to
being perfect. I understand that the admi­
istration would rather that what you see
in me is what you get. At the risk of
sounding like complete cheese, I’m real.
I don’t drink. I don’t smoke. I don’t
lie. I’m actually a Christian. I’m not hav­ing
sex. I do sin, yes. But I never said that I
don’t sin.

What I did say though, is that I am
striving to be a true Christian. I don’t
hide my “dark side.” I don’t even have
a dark side, except when I’m cranky.

A friend of mine once said, “If you
say you’re a Christian, be a Christian.”

Don’t be a Christian when it’s conve­
enient for you or when you are around
your Christian friends. Be a Chris­

ten when you’re at school and then go
home and take off your “Christian hat.”

I am tired of people claiming to be
Christians and then acting in an oppo­
site manner. For the sake of those of
us who are trying to be true Christians,
please stop. Please decide. Decide be­
tween Christianity and the other choice.

Hypocrisy has dominated our society.
This disease clings to humans like a tod­
der clinging to my mother’s side.

Every now and then I think about one of
my brothers or sisters giving in to the
temptation of hypocrisy and it breaks
my heart. I’m angry when I have a view
of someone because of what he portrays
and then I discover the truth — that he
is just another pawn in the game.

Hypocrisy. Please don’t be a pawn in
the game. We have an opportunity at Har­
ding to build a strong Christian founda­tion
for the rest of our lives. How can we build a Christian foundation if we are liv­ing a lie?

Please decide to not be of the world.
Please decide to be a Christian every
day. Please decide that Christianity is
the only way to live. Please decide to
stop trying to fool your brothers and
sisters with the hypocrisy game.

Maybe the people here in this small
conservative community are viewing me as
accept-able because I am living a lie.
Maybe the people here will start being
real and stop pretending.

Editor-in-chief
JENNY L. BEAUCHAMP
Business Manager
SARAH TEO
Copy Editor
DEANN THOMAS

The Bison is a campus newspaper written, edited and largely financed by students, seeking to provide high-
quality journalistic discussion of issues of concern to the Harding community. It also serves as an educational tool for
students, providing practical experience to enhance skills learned in the classroom. The Bison recognizes its respon­sibility
to provide balance and objectivity in its reporting while upholding the Christian ideals for which Harding University
stands. It attempts to serve as a forum for student perspectives, welcoming letters to the editor which adhere to ethical
and professional standards. Editorial appearing in The Bison are the views of the writer and may not reflect the official
policy of the Harding University administration. Signature columns represent the personal views of the authors, while
columnist columns represent the view of the editorial board. The Bison is published weekly (except during breaks, test weeks and
summer sessions) by Harding University, Searcy, AR 72149. Subscription rates: 80 per year. Periodical postage (USPS 3777600) is
paid at Searcy, AR 72149. Postmaster address changes should be directed to Harding University Box 11329, Searcy,
AR 72149-3290, Contact The Bison editors at 501-797-4399 or 501-797-4371 or send email to 501-797-4217. The Bison is on­
line at www.harding.edu/bison.
The play's the thing

February 7, 2003

CAIREY TAI
Staff writer

Organizers of this year's Day of Outreach, scheduled for March 5, hope changes they have made to the grouping process will help them plan the event efficiently and also create excitement among students. Senior Jeffrey Hubbard, Day of Outreach committee chairman, said students had the opportunity to group themselves in one of four ways with friends, a social club, an organization or by chapel seats.

The deadline for groups of friends, organizations and social clubs to commit to serving in the Day of Outreach was Jan. 24. During chapel Jan. 31, Hubbard asked students to complete Scantron sheets indicating whether they would be participating in the Day of Outreach and with which group they planned to serve. Approximately 2,500 students committed to serving.

Hubbard said the results will allow the Day of Outreach committee to group students in an organized manner.

The grouping changes appear to be working well so far, Hubbard said.

"If the students are with people they know, they'll enjoy serving more," he said. "The ultimate purpose of the day is to show the community Jesus by addressing specific needs through service."

Among the social clubs and organizations already signed up to participate are TNT, King's Men, Trinity, Chi Omega Pi Delta, Gamma Rho, Knights, the American Marketing Society and the Social Work Club.

Many of the groups have served at other events and are looking forward to serving together March 5.

"I've volunteered with Hospice in the past and it's amazing the difference it makes in the patients well-being by just talking and spending time with them," sophomore Elizabeth Road, Social Work Club president, said. "A lot of these people are old and don't have anyone, so the time we spend is very special to them."

After all the groups are organized, Hubbard said the committee will assign a project to each group, unless the group has organized a project on its own.

Some of the projects include working with Sydney Deener Elementary School last year and read to students.

"I really liked working with the kindergarten class last year," Hintz said. "They are very receptive. Plus, they love to talk and will tell you their whole life story if you let them. I'm definitely going to be part of the Day of Outreach again, even though I don't know what project I'm going to do this year."

Anyone who is interested in participating but has not yet signed up should contact the Day of Outreach committee at ext. 4323 or e-mail dayofoutreach@harding.edu.

"The Day of Outreach is a wonderful opportunity for the Harding family to do what we say we do, and that is serve," Andrew Baker, coordinator of Church and Family events, said.

Paleontologist Paul Sereno has encountered some of the weirdest creatures that ever walked the earth. Yet some of the scariest things he discovered aren't likely to become extinct anytime soon. Sad to say, mutual fund management fees will probably outlast us all. That's why Dr. Sereno was afraid of getting eaten alive, so he turned to a company famous for keeping the costs down. That meant more money for him and less for the monsters.

Log on for ideas, advice, and results. TIAA-CREF.org or call (800) 842-2715

Managing money for people with other things to think about.

Charley's Pizza
809 S. Main

In memory of Katie Wessells
Our thoughts and prayers are with friends and family

News
The Bison

Day of Outreach organizers offer participants four grouping options

Jeffrey Hubbard, committee chairman

"The ultimate purpose of the day is to show the community Jesus by addressing specific needs through service."

Among the social clubs and organizations already signed up to participate are TNT, King's Men, Trinity, Chi Omega Pi Delta, Gamma Rho, Knights, the American Marketing Society and the Social Work Club.

Many of the groups have served at other events and are looking forward to serving together March 5.

"I've volunteered with Hospice in the past and it's amazing the difference it makes in the patients well-being by just talking and spending time with them," sophomore Elizabeth Road, Social Work Club president, said. "A lot of these people are old and don't have anyone, so the time we spend is very special to them."

After all the groups are organized, Hubbard said the committee will assign a project to each group, unless the group has organized a project on its own.

Some of the projects include working with Sydney Deener Elementary School last year and read to students.

"I really liked working with the kindergarten class last year," Hintz said. "They are very receptive. Plus, they love to talk and will tell you their whole life story if you let them. I'm definitely going to be part of the Day of Outreach again, even though I don't know what project I'm going to do this year."

Anyone who is interested in participating but has not yet signed up should contact the Day of Outreach committee at ext. 4323 or e-mail dayofoutreach@harding.edu.

"The Day of Outreach is a wonderful opportunity for the Harding family to do what we say we do, and that is serve," Andrew Baker, coordinator of Church and Family events, said.


ELIZABETH STEPHENS
Staff writer

Despite an unsettled economy, Harding has experienced an increase in total financial contributions for the third consecutive year, according to Tim Bruner, assistant vice president for advancement.

"Our 2002 fiscal year was an excellent year in terms of fundraising in a down economy," Bruner said.

The office of advancement brings to the university an average $8 million goes to unfunded scholarships, which includes academic, athletic, performance and activity-based scholarships.

"As a faculty member, I should not expect others to give unless I am willing to give to the same cause," Dr. Arthur Shearin, chairman of the Department of Music, said.

Bruner said donations of $100 or more are recognized by the University Builders Circle, who contribute more than $5,000 annually.

Both groups act as advisory boards and are by invitation only, with President David Burdick and the advancement staff issuing the invitations.

In addition to the faculty and staff, alumni throughout the world give back to the university regularly to reaffirm that they believe in Harding's mission.

"Though we have not always made each goal, there have been increases from the past year's giving," Bruner said.

The advancement office is now in the planning stages of a new five-year strategic plan that will bring further growth to the university.

"As a faculty member, I should not expect others to give unless I am willing to give to the same cause," Dr. Arthur Shearin, chairman of the Department of Music, said.

Bruner said donations of $100 or more are recognized by the University Builders Circle.

Both groups act as advisory boards and are by invitation only, with President David Burdick and the advancement staff issuing the invitations.

In addition to the faculty and staff, alumni throughout the world give back to the university regularly to reaffirm that they believe in Harding's mission.

"Though we have not always made each goal, there have been increases from the past year's giving," Bruner said.

The advancement office is now in the planning stages of a new five-year strategic plan that will bring further growth to the university.

"As a faculty member, I should not expect others to give unless I am willing to give to the same cause," Dr. Arthur Shearin, chairman of the Department of Music, said.

Bruner said donations of $100 or more are recognized by the University Builders Circle.

Both groups act as advisory boards and are by invitation only, with President David Burdick and the advancement staff issuing the invitations.

In addition to the faculty and staff, alumni throughout the world give back to the university regularly to reaffirm that they believe in Harding's mission.

"Though we have not always made each goal, there have been increases from the past year's giving," Bruner said.

The advancement office is now in the planning stages of a new five-year strategic plan that will bring further growth to the university.

"As a faculty member, I should not expect others to give unless I am willing to give to the same cause," Dr. Arthur Shearin, chairman of the Department of Music, said.

Bruner said donations of $100 or more are recognized by the University Builders Circle.

Both groups act as advisory boards and are by invitation only, with President David Burdick and the advancement staff issuing the invitations.

In addition to the faculty and staff, alumni throughout the world give back to the university regularly to reaffirm that they believe in Harding's mission.

"Though we have not always made each goal, there have been increases from the past year's giving," Bruner said.

The advancement office is now in the planning stages of a new five-year strategic plan that will bring further growth to the university.

"As a faculty member, I should not expect others to give unless I am willing to give to the same cause," Dr. Arthur Shearin, chairman of the Department of Music, said.

Bruner said donations of $100 or more are recognized by the University Builders Circle.

Both groups act as advisory boards and are by invitation only, with President David Burdick and the advancement staff issuing the invitations.

In addition to the faculty and staff, alumni throughout the world give back to the university regularly to reaffirm that they believe in Harding's mission.

"Though we have not always made each goal, there have been increases from the past year's giving," Bruner said.

The advancement office is now in the planning stages of a new five-year strategic plan that will bring further growth to the university.
Hollis, Savage chosen as 2003 Student Impact co-directors

ELIZABETH STEPHENS
Staff writer

The Office of First Year Experience announced Jan. 16 that senior Matt Savage and junior Rachel Hollis will serve as the 2003 Student Impact co-directors.

According to Butch Gardner, director of FYE, the co-director selection process began last November, and 30 applicants were interviewed.

"These two students were picked due to their outstanding student leadership and high faculty recommendations," Gardner said.

Savage and Hollis announced the 2003 Impact theme will be "Face to Face."

"The theme is based from a quote out of the song 'Righteous God' that will be sung throughout the year. "Face."” Savage said.

"I'm really excited about being involved with Student Impact one more time before I graduate," senior Kristi Lowery, a member of the Energy Group steering committee, said. "I love making new students feel welcome."

Junior Larry Hollman, who served as 2002 Student Impact co-director, is returning this year to work with the "fun police" steering committee. He said he loved his experience so much last year that he couldn't resist an opportunity to serve again. He said he is confident that 2003 Student Impact will be a success.

"Everything is going very smoothly," he said. "The committee has been getting along really well and has been having a lot of fun. We have started out with a bang, so I have really high expectations."

Applications for energy group leaders and "the crew" members will be available Feb. 13.

Student Lectureship undergoes change

MARINA SHANNON
Staff writer

In an effort to increase attendance at this year's Student Lectureship, scheduled Feb. 16-18, the Student Association's Spiritual Life Committee has made a few changes to the annual event's format.

This year's lectureship theme is "In the Eye of the Storm."

Senior Kera Kelso, Spiritual Life Committee chairman, said the biggest change is that the classes will be meeting in the evening instead of during the day. This will allow students to be able to attend their academic classes and not have to miss any student lectures.

"We thought more people would be able or willing to come," Kelso said. "We are hoping there will be a better turnout because it is at night."

Kelso said there will be a more diverse list of speakers than in past lectureships, including student speakers from different nationalities and more women speakers.

"We are trying to make it more diverse this year," Kelso said. "[Included are] people who you may not have heard speak before in places like chapel, but you know who they are."

Several other changes have been added to the lectureship to draw interest from students.

"We were going to do panel discussions and open forums," SA President Zac Lambrecht said. "We are trying to get more classes and a wider range of speakers to meet individual's needs."

The Spiritual Life Committee, which consists of about 10 people, chose this year's speakers.

"Last semester [the Spiritual Life Committee] came together and prayed about who we thought would be good speakers," Kelso said. "We tried to think of Godly people who are leaders on campus and are not necessarily up in front in chapel or other places.

Student opinions played a major role in choosing speakers, according to Lambrecht.

Kelso said she is especially looking forward to hearing junior Melissa Holley speak. Holley, who broke her spine in a car accident in June 2001 and is confined to a wheel chair, will address the topic "Why Suffer?"

"With the accident, I have had to reconcile God's presence in my life and involvement with suffering," Holley said. "Having an accident that shakes your faith will destroy your faith or make it grow stronger, and God has allowed it to strengthen my faith and I want to share that with other people while I can."

Being able to make connections from her own personal experiences makes the Student Lectureship important, according to senior Rebecca Brazle. Brazle will be speaking about how to find peace during the storm.

"I know learning to find peace during the storm is one of my greatest struggles in life," she said. "That's why it's important to me to be able to share my insights with others. It is important that we listen to our peers because we can share the things that God has placed on our hearts. We can all learn from each other."

PIZZA BUFFET !

$3.99

(Free drink w/ this coupon)

Sunday-Friday: 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Tuesday, Saturday and Sunday Night: 5 - 8 p.m.

268-9000

Delivery: Sunday-Thursday 'til Midnight Friday & Saturday 'til 11 a.m.

Searcy Dental Associates, P.A.
Tim G. Duke, D.D.S.

Valentine's Special

Professional Tooth Whitening $25.00

(2 $250 value)

Running all through the month of February...

White County Surgery Center
710 Marion Street, Ste. 302
266-3666
Campus gamers earn their wings

Todd Ramsey

Guest Room

Video games have been around for as long as most of us have been alive. From the early days of Atari, people spent a lot of time in front of televisions, zapping aliens or playing roving games of "Pong." Then came Nintendo, and people started jumping on mushroom-looking things and saving princesses. The games were so simple and so addictive.

Now the games are still addictive, but they are anything but simple. With the release of new systems that produce cutting-edge graphics and boast controllers that have more buttons than I know what to do with, the games are becoming more and more complicated, and more and more popular. Magazines, TV shows and an innumerable amount of Web sites are dedicated to the video game industry. Playing video games, which was once considered a somewhat "nerdy" pastime, has become mainstream.

Handling has felt the rise of the popularity of video games. One place where this is evident is the first floor of Harbin. A game called "Halo," a first-person-shooter action game for the Microsoft XBox, has become an addictive hobby for many of the residents. I went to Harbin to find out what this new craze was all about.

When I arrived at the dorm, it was eerily silent; I didn't hear the expected sound of gunshots and explosions echoing off the tile walls. Apparently the gamers were resting. It wasn't long before I found some guys who were able to tell me a little about this video game obsession.

Everyone in the room I entered was openly addicted to "Halo." Wondering how addicted I was, I asked how many hours a week they spent playing the game. One guy admitted to spending seven or eight hours a week. Another fellow said he played "around 12 to 13 hours a week, maybe more. Probably more." (For reference, I am taking 12 hours of classes.

As much time as I spend in class, he spends playing a video game.) They informed me that most people only play an average of four or five hours a week.

The guys in Harbin have figured out how to hook four Xboxes together and have up to 16 people playing at once. Apparently, the action can get pretty intense with this many people, and tempers can flare during the heated battles. I was told about one guy "punching another in the back of the head." However, this behavior is not typical. In fact one player said that playing "Halo" actually "enhanced" his social life.

The group in Harbin is not alone in its craze for gaming. Other people spend a considerable amount of their lives in front of the television playing "Halo" as well. Every Tuesday, 10 friends get together after chapel and play until 1 p.m.

"It may sound like a long time to play video games," senior Mike Baur said. "But it's not really that much playing. And plus, that's really the only time that we play. The rest of the week I'm going out with my fiancé or studying."

"Halo" isn't the only game that people spend time playing. Other popular games are "Grand Theft Auto Vice City" for the PlayStation 2, and "Metroid Prime" for the Nintendo Gamecube. Neither of these games support any type of competition between humans, so they aren't quite as popular as "Halo."

Sports games are also played frequently. Games like Sega's "NBA 2K3" and EA Sports "Madden 2003" and "Tiger Woods 2003." Sports games are more enjoyable for some gamers than action games because of the realism the sport and gaming provide.

Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS
1. Crossword brain
2. Foreign Korean name
3. Genetic letters
4. Dollars
5. Editor root
6. Upper South
7. Having (adj.)
8. Having (adj.)
9. Formula
10. With on the surface
11. Bad habit root
12. Had a session of time
13. Trouble
14. More of a better
15. Indian the Missouri River
16. College
17. Month abbr.
33. Polish
34. Fundamental
35. Income
36. Ingredient
37. Boyce
38. Without (Ger.)
39. Muslim divorce
40. Protestant
41. Norse letter
42. Class '97
43. Rubbish: Brit slang
44. Food and Drug Admin.
45. Buddhist monk
46. Anecdotes
47. Work (Sp.)
48. United States
49. Ten decibels
50. Wampum
51. Agriculture (abbr.)
52. Mortar beater
53. Pressure (pre!) (abbr.)
54. Or deity
55. Ingredient
56. National (abbr.)
57. Portable
58. Evergreen, gold
59. National (abbr.)
60. Former Korean abbr.
61. Public vehicle
62. Male
g

DOWN
1. Greek letter
2. Celtic
3. Card game
4. Above (Sp.)
5. Queen (Fr.)
6. Star
7. Down
8. Edition
9. Count
10. Year
11. Soul or spirit
13. Fish with bait
14. Electric catfish
15. Fiap
16. Hug
17. Prime
18. Having
19. Situation
20. Formula
21. Auto: Vice City
22. Marketing
23. Baptist
24. Candela
25. Pouch
26. Bag
27. Ricoh (adj.)
28. Fir (adj.)
29. Mortar loader
30. Romantic
31. D.A. cloth
32. Five 8 words
33. Religious term
34. Mathematical sign
35. Seafood: Brit slang
36. Secret: Brit slang
37. Electric current
38. Great Lakes
39. Fish life
40. 1p.m.
41. Public vehicles
42. Or best offer
43. Food and Drug Admin.
44. Hispanic
45. Cigarettes: Brit slang

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

1. Body of water
2. Many
3. The Horse's Head
4. Nathan Dyer
5. A month
6. City of the neck
7. A month
8. A number
9. Land
10. A number

©2003 Satori Publishing

The student's pharmacy is the...

MEDICAL CENTER PHARMACY
2900 Hawkins Drive • 268-3311

Harding alumni serving Harding students

Boyce Arnett, P.D.
Class of '66

Casey Lutrell, P.D.
Class of '97

Curtis Seright / The Bison
Senior Kiley Keener plays PlayStation 2 with friends in Cone Hall Feb. 5. Many students choose to spend their free hours playing video games. One of the most popular titles this year is "Halo."
Coach says tennis could be best ever
CODY USHER  Staff writer
Both the men's and women's tennis squads qualified for the NCAA Division II South Regional last season. If coach David Elliott's assessment is correct, both teams could be on their way back.
Both teams opened their seasons this week against Hendrix College in Conway. The men took a 7-2 win Tuesday, but the women's result from Thursday was not available at press time.
The Lady Bisons are ranked 26th in the Dixie Tennis Online poll. They will put four seniors, one junior and two freshmen on the court.
"This team could be the best we've ever had," Elliott said. "We have lots of seniors and experience, and two new solid players. We are very good at one through six." Senior Laura Tollott is the leader for the Lady Bisons. Tollott currently ranks seventh on Harding's career wins list with 56. Tollott, along with freshmen Catriona and Garado, will make up the top three and two positions.
The rest of the team could play in any of the four remaining spots. Seniors Daniela Corrales, Carolina Banuelos, Michelle Shimpock and junior Sarah Schmidt bring a lot of experience to the Lady Bisons. Corrales is Harding's career winning percentage leader. In three seasons she has compiled a 50-30 record, a winning percentage of .625. Banuelos ranks 12th on Harding's career tennis list with 63 victories. Campbell ranks 11th on the list with 47 career wins. Shimpock has a career 23-9 record in limited playing time for the past three seasons. Freshman Margaret Dijovic rounds out the lineup for the Lady Bisons.
"We are better than last year," Tollott said. "Our two new players improve our team. Team spirit is very high, the team is pretty cohesive."
Harding's women's tennis program is expected to improve on last year's 17-6 record. The Bisons return two seniors and four sophomores and pick up a junior.
"We should be a little better than last year," Elliott said. "Everybody has improved, despite the loss of Jacobo Martinez."
Seniors Leslie Echols and Artur Sikora bring experience to the Bisons. Between the two, they have compiled an 84-47 record. The tandem should both break into Harding's top 25 in career wins.
Sophomore David Ferreira is coming off one of the most impressive seasons for a Bison freshman. The South Africa native went 14-1 in 2002. Ferreira and sophomore Andrew Giron, who went 9-1 last season, will anchor the Bisons. Sophomores Stephen Payne and Derek Schmidt round out the returning Bisons.
Junior Taylor Tinsley walked on for the team this season and has been a hard worker for Harding.
"Elliot has been concerned about the men's pressure," Elliott said. "We've had a tough beginning." Elliot said "the weather hasn't cooperated, plus we've had a few nagging injuries."
I've got 'Sunshine' on my schedule

The date was Feb. 2, 2002. It was the only time in the last several years that I sat in the upper deck at Rhodes Field House. It was the game that Dr. Barks promised to grow a beard if the Rowdies broke the school attendance record.

We fell short of the record, but the Rowdies stymied Central Arkansas by a score of 83-64. On Feb. 17, the Bears will return to the Rhodes for the first time since that night. Accompanying them will be senior Luke Rowan, who was known to many of us as "Sunshine."

Clad in purple and sporting a pseudo-hairstyle (a pony tail on top, with the bottom half of his hair shaved off), Rowan was given the derisive name early in the evening. Every time he touched the ball, his name would echo from the rafters. He didn't brandish it when he hit his freshly-coined name echoed from a chorus of "Sunshine.

However, in Harding's game at UCAR a few days later, he was relieved of his duties following the Bisons' 4-0 loss. He's No. 40.

UCAR is a team on a roll, winning three in a row after a 1-14 start. He's No. 40.

Bisons kicked off the second half of Gulf South Conference play Friday night against Delta State.

The result was a game, which was third-place in the West Division, was not available at press time.

"The biggest thing she brings to the team is her offensive ability," Francis said. "She's very versatile. People are keying on her, which helps her teammates get open for shots and become better defensive players. We have much more offensive punch this year than teams in the last few years, and she's a big part of that."