HUG students reach out to Iraqis

Refugee family flees homeland after Saddam Hussein orders father, son to join army

JEFFREY HUNTER
Correspondent

PORTO RAFTI, GREECE — Upon arrival at Harding University’s Greece campus, sophomores Jeremy Glover and Kendal Dean had no idea they would reach out to Iraqi refugees this semester.

So began their journey with the HUG dining room April 11, Glover introduced the group to the Havassans, Arab refugees who had befriended them during a semester of service and love. The Iraqi refugee family’s journey from the oil fields of Kirkuk in Northern Iraq to the streets of Athens captured the attention of Glover from the first time they met.

“We met [Moyed Hassan] our first Sunday when I was told to eat somewhere else,” said Glover.

Eight months earlier, Hassan was working as a successful geologist in a hometown. His wife, Tuniyaj, was teaching English at a local primary school, and his two children, Elele, 11, and Nuray, 11, were at the top of their class. Life was good for Moyed and his family at least, until bad things could be in Saddam Hussein’s Iraq.

The family fled Iraq April 1 after Moyed, a petroleum engineer and a geologist, was ordered to leave his homeland. Knowing what was happening, Glover decided to help.

“Tuniyaj Church of Christ in downtown Athens, where both refugee family and Harding students attend, is helping the family with expenses. Harding students have also helped.

“When they introduced him at church, they told how they didn’t have anything at all,” Glover said.

“We decided to help them.”

A collection at the Porto Rafti campus gathered more than $1000 for the family.

“Sunday after we gave him the collection, they kept thanking us over and over again,” Glover said.

“He is very humble, and he doesn’t like taking charity.”

Glover and Dean say they will take many lessons away from their new friends this semester.

“I’ve learned that you don’t know what opportunities God will put in front of you,” Glover said.

“I was intimidated at first, but I learned to be comfortable and reach outside of my comfort zone.”

The fact that he befriended a citizen of the country that was invading his homeland was not lost on Moyed. He frequently talked about the situation in Iraq and went out of his way to make sure the American students knew the Iraqi people were happy about what was happening, Glover said.

Always with a big smile, Moyed even jokingly called the American college students “the enemy” and referred to Iraq as the 51st state.

“Tuniyaj was a huge encouragement to know that the Iraqis really wanted us to help, despite what the world and the media were saying. I learned the hard way.”

Upon meeting Moyed provided HUG students with a unique perspective on the war, offering new insights on the world situation in general.

“Tunyaj is a true patriot. His love for his country is humbling. He's making America, some people are giving Arabs a bad wrap,” Glover said.

“They aren’t all radicals, though. Moyed is one of the most genuine loving people I’ve met. You can’t judge people by their stereotype.”

Editor’s note: Because of personal safety concerns, Moyed and his family asked not be pictured or interviewed for this story. Their full names have also been withheld. For more information, please see The Bison Web site.

Five candidates running for Student Association president

MICHELLE SCOBBA
Contributor

Five Student Association president hopefuls organized their campaigns in preparation for the SA elections scheduled for Wednesday.

Facing off in the upcoming election are seniors Michael Campbell, Troy Helton and Lauren Honea, and juniors Thomas Little and Junior Joe Seright.

Voting will begin at 9:45 a.m. in the Ormonia Church of Christ, and will conclude at 4:30 p.m. in the Werner Dining Hall. Students can vote by showing identification at the polls.

“Last year, I was afraid to speak up for things I believed in,” said Campbell. “I understand that voting is not a true representation of the student body, and I want to make sure that anything I did was really representative of the student body.”

His main goals include trying to open the GAC for longer hours, possibly by stationing a security guard in the building, and instituting a recycling program on campus.

“I’m running because I want to make the SA a truly representative governing body,” he said.

Little also wants to find more opportunities to serve the students and the community.

The ministry, which was initiated by senior Adam Kirkland two years ago, consists of 20-25 students who witness to the homeless community.

Seright’s platform hinges on making the SA a truly representative governing body.

“I want to make sure that anything I did was really representative of the student body, not just what I wanted,” he said.

His main goal includes trying to open the GAC for longer hours, possibly by stationing a security guard in the building, and instituting a recycling program on campus.

“I would love to start a "Saturday of Service" program that will involve building houses with Habitat for Humanity in Little Rock. For the first year, 10 groups with 25 students each would participate in the program. If it elicited an enthusiastic response, additional groups would have the opportunity to serve.

Candidates for vice president include seniors Tim Davis and Brian Rice, junior Will Copeland and sophomore Paul Murphy are running for treasurer.

Spring Sing stumps in

Sophomore Jamie Crumbaugh perfects her moves for Ko Jo Kai and Ji Ge Ji’s performance of “FOLLOW the Yellow Brick Road” during dress rehearsal Tuesday night. This year marks the 30th anniversary of Spring Sing. With the theme “Reel Music,” the show features acts depicting classic movies performed on a stage that resembles a famous Hollywood landmark.

See pages 4-5
Senior Speech: The times they are a-changing

This week has been set aside by the powers that be as senior speech week in chapel. My invitation to impart something of import to future graduating students was apparently lost in the mail, so I will use my own medium to reach the masses.

I've seen change in my Harding quintessential, lots of it. When I was a freshman we dyed our baby chicks green and we still called our fries "French." We lodged in wading pools in our dorm rooms and we set up groups of cows to make barnyard animal noises at passersby in the quad. We had time for such wasteful activities back then. Where does the time go?

When I arrived we had TCBY and a bowling alley in the student center. Now we have Java City and Freshens.

I remember hearing most of the Harding myths in my first month at school. They told us "three swings and a ring" and "don't walk under the belltower by yourself or you will be single forever." I failed to heed the latter warning a few weeks later on a dare, no — a double dare.

Right after I did it I regretted it, but I fell in love later anyway and, although no rings have been bought, I'm still pretty happy.

I don't know what is the most important lesson I've learned at Harding. I do know that I have learned a lot of lessons.

Some have been hard, some obvious but absolutely every one of them has been beneficial. For the sake of reader patience and the quick loss of white space, I have narrowed them down to a few helpful nuggets.

First, focus your energy on developing a strong relationship with the Lord while you are young and independent. Recognizing you are really never alone is essential when you feel like your world is crashing in on you.

Second, develop a strong work ethic. It is more future oriented if you can handle and what you are capable of accomplishing in the "real world."

Third, squeeze all the information you can out of your favorite professors and staff members. We are paying them, so get your money's worth. It is worth a lot.

Don't be afraid to ask questions. Fourth, work on developing worthwhile relationships.

Don't look down on anybody because you aren't worth any more than they are and everyone has useful wisdom that can be beneficial to you.

Be good to everyone — displaying a Christlike attitude reaps benefits that are out of this world.

Finally, be a moral superhero. Stand up against wrong when you see it — whatever form it takes. Don't fear to question things either.

Also, on behalf of pure reason, I implore you to continue asking for the truth. When you want to waste your time, look for student-fitting sports and time during the day when it is over 85 degrees in the sweltering Southern heat. Isn't that a natural right?

With these thoughts I leave you. Don't listen if you don't want to. Just think about an old man ready to begin his young life.

Focus on God makes true love worth the wait

Renee Lewis

Guest Room

So I must offer a disclaimer before I really start my column. I am a girl. Shocking, I know. But as a girl, I am sappy. I have the right to be cheesy every now and then, however, being girly is just necessary.

So for all of you guys out there — most of you have already turned to page seventeen and read the sports by now and I'm not siding with the single, let's sit around and watch movies all weekend, type — although that description has been a perfect fit for me for almost 21 years. I cannot and will not tell a lie — I am perfectly content watching Brad Pitt and Hugh Grant every weekend.

Unfortunately, I envy the other type. I look forward to hopefully someday being the other type. I savor in the idea that someday I will find my Brad Pitt look-a-like and he will ask me how my day went. It makes me happy knowing that God most likely has someone out there that will fit me like ... well, my original line here was "like the glass slipper fit Cinderella" but that was too cheesy for print. So now I just want to say this, God most likely has a guy out there that will fit me decently.

Okay, Warning. The following contains a high level of crazy girl talk. Reader discretion is advised.

"I'll be attending law school at the University of Colorado ... Harding has prepared [me] for this future by allowing me the privilege of studying under [Dr.] Tom Statom." Nick Mayle, senior

"After grad school, I plan to church plant in Christchurch, New Zealand with a team that has begun to form at Harding. Harding has been my inspiration for reaching out to people in other countries ..."

Rachel Maul, senior

"I'm going to seminary or grad school. My time here has convinced me of my ignorance and need to prepare myself for ministry." Adam Kirkland, senior

"[I will be attending] University of Texas at Dallas for graduate school in speech therapy. Academically, I feel very competent ... I have learned to integrate God into my academic life." Angela Boyd, senior
Moving back in

DeANN THOMAS
Copy editor

Eight Harding students were among more than 70 college students gathered at the state capital March 31 to meet with members of the General Assembly in an effort to promote the reinstatement of the Arkansas Academic Challenge, Arkansas Governor’s and Arkansas Distinguished Governor’s Scholarships.

Arkansas Education Developers, an advocacy group led by college students who are lobbying to reinstate the state scholarships and to promote other higher education issues, organized the effort. Arkansas EDU was organized this year after the state stopped offering new scholarships to incoming students and increased the number of hours required for students to maintain scholarships that have already been awarded.

The group’s critical argument is that there is a strong correlation between attendance and the economic development of the state. Arkansas ranks 49th in the country in both percentage of population with a college degree and average family income, according to the Department of Higher Education. Only 16.7 percent of adults in Arkansas actually have a college degree.

Arkansas EDU claims that a lack of scholarship programs will worsen the problem by making it more difficult for students to afford college and caus[ing] students to leave the state for college.

A group gathered at Cougham, a restaurant near the Capitol, at 9 a.m. for a breakfast rally. Christian Hester, executive director of Arkansas EDU, Allison Sutton, chief of finance and campus relations, Stephen Bright, an Arkansas State Representative from Maumelle, and other higher education supporters spoke at the rally.

“I was very impressed with the whole group,” said junior Brittany Jamison, an Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship recipient who attended the rally. “Everything was organized by students just like us. They knew exactly what they were talking about and were very fired up about it. I think Arkansas EDU is going to get things changed.”

At a press conference later, students were given the opportunity to express their views to the media. Student Association President Zac Lambrecht talked to reporters from Channel 4 news.

“Among the state students are the most apathetic voters,” Lambrecht said. “They’re not going to be the first to come to the polls with their first chance to vote.”

Besides lobbying at the capitol, Arkansas EDU has been organizing a massive letter-writing campaign. Students who are currently receiving the Academic Challenge, Governor’s and Distinguished Governor’s scholarships can submit letters online at www.arkansasedu.org.

Arkansas EDU also encourages students, including those from other states, to e-mail or call Arkansas government officials to support scholarship programs.
Spring Sing

30th anniversary of show opens in Benson

Spring Sing 2003 takes its guests on a journey through the splendor of cinema in ‘Reel Music,’ a tribute to movie tunes.

Ko Jo Kai, Ju Go Ju go for three-peat

BETHANY THOMPSON

Staff writer

With back-to-back Spring Sing wins boosting their energy and con­ finedence, Ko Jo Kai and Ju Go Ju per­ formers are hoping they can con­ tinue their winning streak while other clubs seek new ways to take away the John H. Ryan Sweepsstakes award.

Sarah Salmin, a director of the 2002 winning show, “Did Some­ body Say McDonald’s?” said the reason the Ko Jo Kai and Ju Go Ju shows have been so successful is because the girls have been moti­ vated.

“The girls were very driven,” Salmin said. “They had a goal and went out there every single time and gave it 100 percent. As a director, you can only do so much. It really is up to the girls to perform it.”

While sophomore Jill Kemper and junior Sarah Ward, Ko Jo Kai’s directors, hope to con­ tinue the winning streak, they said just be­ ing part of the show and having fun is worthwhile despite the outcome.

“There is some pressure to win. We try not to push it too much so we can still have fun. We just try to make [the performers] do their best.”

Sarah Ward, Ko Jo Kai director

There is some pressure to win. We try not to push it too much so we can still have fun. We just try to make them do their best. We have some awesome girls, so whatever happens at the end, we’ll be happy.

Some other directors are following the examples set by the Ko Jo Kai and Ju Go Ju show in order to improve their own shows.

“I think Ko Jo Kai and Ju Go Ju put on a great show because they al­ ways have so much energy and ex­ citement,” senior Sarah Shields, a Zeta Rho direc­ tor, said. “We want to follow their example. The main thing we tell our per­ formers is that if they have energy, show a lot of fa­ cial expression, hit moves tightly and just let them­ selves enjoy put­ ting on the show, then we have a shot at winning.”

The Zeta Rho and TNT show, “Don’t Surf on My Turf,” is break­ ing the waves with a plot involving lifeguards, surfers and beach babies. Shields said everyone involved in the show is excited about getting to demonstrate everything they’ve learned.

“The main thing that has helped our show flow together is that each person, including directors, cast and stunts, has contributed immensely and has cooperated,” she said. “It has been a wonderful bonding ex­ perience — a teamwork effort.”

Junior Lindsay Holder, a direc­ tor for Shantih, said her club’s show has a different style than last year. She said “Help, We Need a Gamer” is expecting crowds to love it, “because the girls have been so focused on winning this year. While Rolen admitted the show has been very competitive toward Ko Jo Kai and Ju Go Ju in the past, she said everyone seems to be too focused on winning this year.

“I don’t feel a lot of competi­ tiveness with our show,” Rolen said. “I think we’re trying to improve our show every year, but I don’t think competing with other groups has been a focus this year.”

A group of new students at an academy compete with their more seasoned classmates in Chi Omega Pi and Delta Gamma Rho’s show, “Take It From the Top... 5, 6, 7, 8.”

“We have a great plot,” senior Carla Davis, a director for Chi Omega Pi, said. “It’s classic and at the same time surprising. The show is very engaging, and I know that the audience will have fun with it.”

Chi Sigma Alpha and Regina are trekking to California to dig up some gold in their show, “For Richer or Poorer,” during Tuesday night’s dress rehearsal. While each of the seven club shows are hoping to win the sweepsstakes award this year, many participants said they are not focused on the competition.

Members of Chi Sigma Alpha and Regina run through their show, “For Richer or Poorer,” during Tuesday night’s dress rehearsal. While each of the seven club shows are hoping to win the sweepsstakes award this year, many participants said they are not focused on the competition.

“Don’t Surf on My Turf,” a performance by Ko Jo Kai, is one of the highlights of this year’s Spring Sing. The show features a plot involving lifeguards, surfers and beach babies.

“Help, We Need a Gamer” is a performance by Shantih, which is expected to be popular. The show features surfers and beach babies.

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TODD RAMSEY
Staff writer

Without them, Spring Sing would just be a random series of clunk shows. They provide the audience with direction, transition and style. They are the hosts and hostesses of Spring Sing 2003, and they are about to see all of their hard work pay off.

This year, Jimmie Douglass III, Jennifer Driggers, Holly McDaniel and Trey Talley have stepped up to the mighty task.

Douglass, a senior health care management major, has been involved in theater since he’s been at Harding, participating in the Homecoming musicals and theater drama ministry.

He is a beau for Sharheth and was chosen as the male recipient of the Regina Spirit Award for 2003.

Driggers, a junior elementary education major, is a member of the chorus, Regina social club and is a queen for Chi Sigma Alpha. This is her second year as a hostess.

McDaniel, a sophomore vocal music major, has been involved in theater, playing in “Once Upon a Mattress,” and performs with Belles and Renoux.

Talley graduated in 2002 with a youth and family ministry degree and is working on his master’s of science in education. He is a member of Piad Pipers and Delta Chi Delta social club.

Dottie Frye, host, hostess and ensemble director, is excited about this year’s hosts and hostesses. They have been working together since November, and she is pleased with the way the group has bonded.

“These four people have been working together for almost six months now,” she said. “It’s neat to see how they have bonded and are really close now.”

McDaniel is glad she has been a part of Spring Sing this year.

“The four of us have bonded really well, and that’s what has made it so great,” she said. “I love working with the other hosts and hostesses. We’ve been a lot closer than we were last year, but the show is a lot different and we’ve had a lot more time to work on it.”

Frye expects a lot out of the hosts and hostesses. She expects them to be leaders not just in word, but also in deed. They have extra practices and are encouraged to learn the choreography well enough to teach it to the ensemble.

“Practice has been a lot of work, but the people involved make it great,” Talley said. “I never knew how much more work the hosts and hostesses do. I have a great respect for both the hosts and the ensemble now.”

Graduate student Trey Talley performs a number surrounded by female ensemble members. Talley is one of four students hosting Spring Sing 2003.

The Bison
A night with Gertie the ghost

Student visits Lee Academic Center to test decades-old legend

TODD RAMSEY
Staff writer


Most students have heard about old Gertie the ghost, who supposedly haunts several buildings on campus. This legend dates back even before Harding was in Seavy, back to the days when Galloway College was in its prime, a young girl named Gertrude attended school there. One November evening, she came home from a small party, said goodbye to her date and went to her room. On the way to her room, she thought she heard a noise and headed toward the abandoned elevator shaft. A blood-curdling scream rang through the hallways, waking the other girls. The dorm mother called the police, and they found Gertrude at the bottom of the shaft, dead.

Several years later, girls from the dorm claimed to see Gertie's ghost in the elevator shaft and on the first floor. Even after the dorm was torn down and Galloway College closed, the legend of Gertie lived on.

Many students have claimed they have seen Gertie's ghost in the elevator shaft and on the first floor. Even after the dorm was torn down and Galloway College closed, the legend of Gertie lived on.

10:00 - I'm was kind of nervous. I thought that this place was going to be scary. It looked a lot like the hallway from "The Shining," with two windows and a door at the end. I quickly pushed that thought out of my mind.

10:50 - "The Shining" thought came back. I had to think happy thoughts.

11:05 - After 15 minutes of sitting, my first scare came: I forgot my peach! What would I do? As the brave reporter I pressed on, determined to face Gertie.

11:10 - I heard a really loud scream. It took me a moment to realize that Spring Sing practice was over.

11:30 - I kept seeing something out of the corner of my eye. I think I was just getting tired.

11:40 - I heard a low banging noise. I'm not sure where it came from, but it kind of sounded like the low notes of a piano.

11:41 - I saw something in the window down the hallway from me. I bet it was just a car. Please let it just be a car.

11:57 - I heard the banging noise again. I also thought I saw something moving in the classrooms across from my door. I got up to look in the window and saw a face staring back at me. I was scared until I realized it was a mirror window and I was looking at my face. I really need to shave.

12:04 - The banging returned and lasted longer this time. I also thought I saw something in the building. I really need to shave.

12:27 - The stairs started creaking, but nobody came up them. I'm pretty scared right now.

12:31 - Something just slammed downstairs. I kind of want to leave, but I don't want to go downstairs. I'll just wait a few more minutes.

12:50 - A noise just broke the silence. The Lee building phone started ringing. I think I'm on edge right now.

12:45 - That's it, I'm leaving. I just heard door open and close downstairs. I also heard a routine sound. It's been fun, but I'm leaving.

12:47 - I'm an idiot. The banging and rustling were just two jokes taking out the trash.

12:50 - I left the Lee building at about 12:50. I had too much of sitting in the darkness. And I was scared. So in Gertie reality I don't know. All I know for sure is that sitting in a dark hallway, late at night, with no Propel, can be a little frightening, even for us who don't believe in ghosts.

Patriotic play to fill Spring Sing bill

ELIZABETH DIETZ
Staff writer

Hold onto your flags; the "Star Spangled Girl" will bring down the house in the Administration Auditorium April 18-21.

Show times on Friday, Sunday and Monday are at 7 p.m. Saturday's performance is at 3 p.m. Tickets are $4 or $6 with the Pass and will be sold at the door.

The play, a comedy by Neil Simon, takes on some of the idiosyncrasies of being American. Andy, Norm and Gertie, two Dartmouth graduates, publish a protest magazine called "Fallout" that picks at the sickness of American society. Life is simple for the pair until Sophie, the epitome of an all-American girl, moves to their hometown of San Francisco from a town where they sing "all four verses of the Star Spangled Banner." Norm falls hopelessly in love with Sophie, who sees the comedy unfolding into an avalanche of one liners and interpersonal quips.

The directors, junior Ryan Board and senior Liz Baiocchi, are excited about catering to a larger audience with "Star Spangled Girl."

"Last year's show was "Dorian Gray," and all the cast was murdered," Baiocchi said. "We wanted a lighter tone. I think this show is appealing to more than the theater-going crowd... In the "Star Spangled Girl," the humor appeals to a broader spectrum."

Junior Nathan Melson plays the role of Andy, the driven editor of "Fallout." Although this is his first major role, Melson brings a sense of ease to the stage. An oral communications major, he turns Andy's bantering into a political oration and nearly buries Sophie for her provincial and old-fashioned patriotism.

Norman, played by senior Adam Sullivan, is hyperactive, obsessive and brilliant. His rantings are quixotic, and his junior-high-type obsession with Sophie takes him over the edge.

Sophie comes in as the attitude of the gentlemen's philosophy and lifestyle. Senior Hannah Sawyer plays Sophie with style and grace.

The value of the show is that the humor is multiseceded. According to Dr. Morris Ellis, professor of communication, the script is one that each audience member can take something different from.

"It's a fundamental of the field that you can make any word mean anything," he said.

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Running for Harding has taken Haavikko far away from home

CAIREY TAI
Staff writer

It's been a long run for senior track star Hanna Haavikko, who, according to coach Steve Guymon, has helped to make Harding's program one of the top Division II programs in the country.

Although Haavikko started running competitively at the age of 8 in her hometown of Hameenlinna, Finland, she says her career in track was a gradual development.

"When I was a little kid, I was really fast and good at games that involved running," Haavikko said. "I think it was my grandmother who first noticed it and said to me, 'you're going to be a runner.'"

Soon, teachers also noticed how fast Haavikko was. One of them entered her in a race, and soon after she found she liked competing and joined the track and field club at school. When she was 16, Haavikko began distance running and was ranked in the top three at the Finish National Championships.

In the spring of 1999, Haavikko moved to the United States on her first athletic scholarship, from Tulane University in New Orleans. Her scholarship was only for 18 months, and she went back to Finland when it ended.

Haavikko thought that it was the end of her time in America and summed up the experience as a chance to learn English. But in the summer of 2000, a call came from Bryan Phillips, then the track coach at Harding, asking Haavikko to join the Lady Bisons.

"At first, it was hard for me to adjust with the language problems, but I'm glad I made the decision," Haavikko said. "I like the Christian environment here better, and it's more homey than it was in New Orleans."

While at Harding, Haavikko has qualified in the Nationals to run in the 1,500 meters, and according to coach Guymon, has been doing well in practices with recent times of 2:06 for the 800 and 4:23 for the 1,500.

"The hardest thing about working with Hanna is that she expects perfection," Guymon said. "She competes very hard and doesn't back down to anybody, so it's fun to watch her."

Haavikko, a Health Care Management major, hopes to find a job where she can combine her love of working with children and track. In the future, she would like to run for the Finnish National Team again and run in some road races in the United States.

"It's hard to leave these people, and I don't really think I've realized it yet — I don't want to think about it," Haavikko said. "But it's been an honor for me to represent the university and I'm thankful for all their support."

Track schedule
Saturday
Alabama-Huntsville Invitational
April 25-26
Drake Relays
May 3
University of Texas-Arlington Relays
May 10
Emporia State
May 22-24
Division II Indoor National Championships
(Edwardsville, Ill.)

MADD DASH
5K, 10K, and 1/2 mile run
Saturday, April 26

- Overall male and female winners in the 5K and 10K get a free six-month fitness membership at Healthcorp
- All sponsored runners raising $925 or more run free and get a shirt. Special prizes are given to those who raise the most money (first, second and third place)

- Lots of faculty members run... come watch 'em sweat!

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Bisons swing for GSC tourney bid

**Key series at Central Arkansas opens today**

**CODY UHNER**
Staff writer

The baseball team is in the postseason hunt for the second consecutive year. The Bisons are looking to clinch their second-ever bid to the Gulf South Conference Tournament, to be held this May 3-6 in Millington, Tenn.

But for the Bisons to reach the tournament, they must finish in the top three spots in the West Division. The Bisons stand 13-9 in GSC play, tied for third place with Arkansas Tech. The Wonder Boys hold the tiebreaker.

The road to Millington is not easy. Harding (32-13) has a four-game set against fifth-place Central Arkansas starting today in Conway. Next weekend, the Bisons continue GSC play at home with a four-game series against the No. 2 team in the GSC, Delta State. Arkansas Tech plays at Delta State this weekend and closes at home against Arkansas-Monticello.

Despite the tough road ahead, coach Shane Fullerton is confident in his team.

"The conference race is very exciting," Fullerton said. "You can't ask for more from a team with such a competitive nature, for the race to come down to the wire." The Bisons are 12-5-1 in GSC play, tied for second with Arkansas Tech at 13-5.

The GSC features six of the nation's top 30 teams in Division II, the most ranked teams in one conference. In one national poll, Delta State ranks second, Southern Arkansas is 11th, West Florida is 24th and Valdosta State is 26th. In another — a top 25 list sponsored by the National Collegiate Baseball Writers Association — Harding broke in at No. 25 this week.

"It's an opportunity to earn a spot in a tournament as prestigious as ours," Fullerton said. "It's a conference that I think is the toughest tournament as prestigious as the GSC."

Despite the difficult road ahead, the Bisons have a three-game set against Central Arkansas this weekend. It's a pretty big series.

Central Arkansas comes into this weekend with a 10-13 record in GSC play and an 18-22 overall mark. The Bears feature one of the top offenses in the conference, hitting .325 as a team, in the third in the GSC. They are led by Zak Clark, who is hitting .401. UCA's pitching, however, ranks 15th in the Gulf South. The Bears have a team ERA of 7.35.

Harding, on the other hand, boasts one of the GSC's elite pitching staffs. The staff ERA is 2.88, second behind only West Florida. Three of HU's regular starters rank in the top 10 in GSC ERAs.

The Bisons are coming off of a four-game weekend sweep of Ouachita Baptist. In that series, sophomore Justin Cone set a new single-season school record for most home runs in a season, by hitting his 11th and 12th of the year. He broke the record he tied last season by hitting a grand slam to give the Bisons the lead in game two on Saturday.

"I'm really proud of him," Fullerton said. "The record should be his. He should be the most prolific home run hitter we've ever had. But he's just not a home run hitter; he's a consistent hitter and a clutch hitter."