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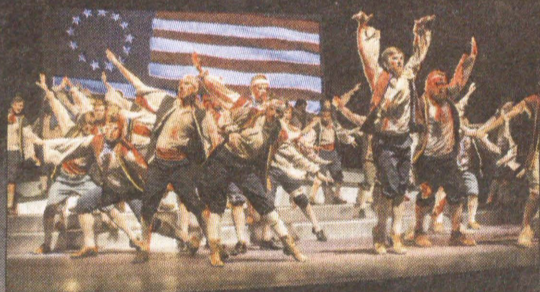
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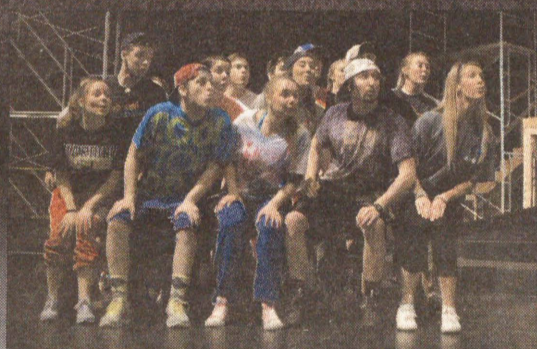
## SPRING SING 2014: 'NEW'

WITH A NEW PRESIDENT  
COMES A NEW ERA AND A  
NEW SPRING SING.

GRANT SCHOL | THE BISON



VIRGINIA "VIVI" VITALONE | THE BISON  
The Knights show, "The Show Heard 'Round the World," runs through a dress rehearsal on Tuesday, April 15. See the full story on page 1C



HENRY GONZALEZ | THE BISON  
The Spring Sing Ensemble practices on the Benson stage on Sunday, April 6. See the full story on page 2C



GRANT SCHOL | THE BISON  
Director Dr. Wesley Parker leads the jazz band during practice on Tuesday, April 8. See the full story on page 4C

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Faces of Spring Sing, a look at each club show's unique personality  
Knights return to Spring Sing  
Charities worth competing for

#### PAGE 2C, Leadership

Hosts and hostesses  
Judges: What are they looking for?  
Ensemble, building friendships for life

#### PAGE 3C, New

What does 'New' mean to you?  
McLarty's first Spring Sing as president  
Student trains to stage manage Spring Sing  
Photography from this week's rehearsals

#### PAGE 4C, Music

Jazz Band takes new spot on stage with new director  
Audio team brings sounds of Spring Sing  
"United We Stand"

## What's so 'New' about Spring Sing?

by Joshua Johnson  
editorial assistant

Excitement fills the air this year as Spring Sing takes over the Benson auditorium, promising to be "innovative and new," according to director Steven Frye.

"If Spring Sing is meant to be a great big party anyway, then this year is going to feel like a concert — a real high-end concert," Frye said.

The theme of Spring Sing is "New," and in keeping with this theme, there are several contemporary characteristics of the show this year. One of these new aspects concerns the music selection.

"Spring Sing's client audience has a wide age range — everyone from World War II to millennial," Frye said. "We try to have something for anyone. Our opening number is a hip-hop number, while our closing piece is from a current Broadway show. Our intro club songs are parodies from 'Frozen,'

so that should be fun."

Junior Sarah Harris, assistant Spring Sing director, said that while not all of the songs are "new," they each speak to the theme in a unique way.

"Each club uses somewhere between eight and 20 songs," Harris said. "(And) Dr. (Michael) Claxton has graciously written eight witty parodies for the hosts and hostesses to sing for the clubs' intro songs."

One of the most exciting new features of the show, according to Frye, is the incorporation of laser technology.

"Laser lights will be used in three of the numbers," Frye said. "This is our first time to use laser light in the Benson. We'll have 10 laser light units being used during the show, two of which are capable of vector animation."

Ben Jones, technical director for Spring Sing, said the lasers will definitely provide a new experience for the audience.

"We've done a number of different types of special effects in the past, such as pyrotechnics, fog (and) confetti, but the lasers will have the capability to reach out into the audience," Jones said. "Pyrotechnics and fog are normally limited to the stage. Confetti and streamers are momentary effects. The lasers will shoot up to the ceiling, over to the walls and out into the audience. The lasers will be prolonged effects that will change colors and patterns. I think it's going to be unlike any Spring Sing before."

Considering all the work put into Spring Sing, Frye said he hopes people will come out and support the Harding community.

"A goal I have for Spring Sing each year is to do here at Harding what other schools can't," Frye said. "So I want to be as innovative and new as possible. As far as I'm concerned, we have the most talented student body on the planet, and I love showing them off."

PICTURED ABOVE: Taylor Provencher, Jonathan Sherrod, Alden Harrell, Karli Blickestaff, Kali Bradford, Megan Hughes





## Safe



GRANT SCHOL | THE BISON

Freshman Dallas Herrmann slides under the tag to score for TNT's softball A-team. TNT beat Beta Omega Chi 15-0 on April 15 to advance to last night's championship against Sub T-16.

## Radio show to be on campus

by Bradley Cain  
beat reporter

Tales from the South, a multi award-winning weekly live radio show featuring Southerners reading their own true stories, will be taped for broadcast at Starbucks in Legacy Park on Thursday, April 24.

Dr. Jack Shock, chairman of the communication department, invited the show's creator and director Paula Martin Morrell because he believes in her mission to share stories. He and other Harding professors have been featured on the show.

"Paula is trying to keep the arts and the art of storytelling alive in communities around Arkansas," Shock said. "I submitted my story a few

years ago, and since then, Paula and I have become friends. When I saw she was doing this in Conway and Fayetteville, I thought we would be a great fit since we're an hour down the road. I think it will be a great way to celebrate storytelling for Searcy and Harding."

The show, a cross between a house concert and a reading, is taped live on Tuesday nights at Starving Artist Cafe in North Little Rock.

"It will be an entertaining evening with reading, music and art," Shock said. "Music and art will serve as the background to the storytelling. It's sort of an immersive experience with a 30 minute pre-show with music as well as an art display

behind the reader."

Tales from the South's home station is the University of Arkansas at Little Rock's KUAR, but it is also heard on multiple public radio stations across the country and satellite radio around the world.

Junior Natalie Heyen attended the show for the first time last summer with Honors Symposium.

"It will be one of those once-in-a-lifetime experiences," Heyen said. "How often does a radio show listened to around the world come to campus? Also, since it originates right here in Arkansas, we can take pride in it."

The 7 p.m. show is free and open for anyone to attend.

## Faculty open new chapter

### Professor, dean, director all set to retire

by Hannah Robison  
pr and marketing director

Graduation is approaching and, for some, this is the end of one chapter and a page turn to a new beginning.

A number of faculty are choosing to close their chapters at Harding in order to pursue new stages of life.

A few names to mention who have dedicated many years of service to the university include Dr. Arthur Shearin, Dr. Cathleen Shultz and Dr. Jimmy Behel.

Shearin has been a member of the music faculty for 36 years. He received his doctorate in musical arts from the University of Colorado at Boulder and his most recent title is teacher of voice, vocal pedagogy and diction.

Shultz most recently served as dean of the Carr College of Nursing and holds a doctorate in philosophy, is a registered nurse, certified nurse educator and a fellow of the American Academy of Nursing. She began her career at Harding in 1976, became the first and only dean of nursing, was named president of the National League for Nursing and also served as treasurer in the organization's Board of Governors.

Behel currently serves as director of business graduate studies and academic chair of the MBA program and has worked as director and professor of computer information systems for more than 20 years. He holds a doctorate in philosophy, Master of Business Administration, Master of Arts in Teaching and a Bachelor of Arts. He has been a member of the Harding faculty since 1981.

Behel said his most memorable experiences at Harding include attending Harding University in Australia in 2008,

**We lose their leadership, their institutional memory, their support of our mission and their friendship. The hole left in regard to the loss of the experience is immense.**

- Larry Long,  
provost

his three children graduating from HU and the "many, many great students and their accomplishments during and after Harding."

Each retiring faculty member is honored with a reception and a special gift from the university, and their time at Harding is recognized and awarded.

A new faculty member must be hired and a transition considered as these legacies leave. Provost Larry Long said the replacement of faculty members is a process which takes great consideration.

"We assess the needs of the department or college and try to choose a replacement in view of the holistic analysis," Long said. "We cannot replace the person or their existence; we hope to find a great teacher to replace the one leaving, but it might take years to reach the same level of contribution as the one who left. Experience is not an instantaneous achievement."

Similar to the commencement exercises and launching into the new, real world, the retirement experience is one full of fond memories, evidence of hard work and skill and the releasing of a family member from the Harding nest.

"We lose their leadership, their institutional memory, their support of our mission and their friendship," Long said. "The hole left in regard to the loss of the experience is immense."

## University works to improve, renew accreditation

by Lyndsey Ruble Nuckols  
editor-in-chief

After years of work and incremental change, the university will renew its accreditation in 2015.

Accreditation is a process by which individual colleges (such as the College of Business Administration or the College of Pharmacy) and entire universities (Harding as a whole) are evaluated based on standards set by a peer review board made up of faculty from other accredited colleges and universities.

University-wide accreditation runs in 10-year cycles and, according to Provost Larry Long, is a big deal for the university and its students as it allows transfer of credits, federal financial aid and national recognition of the validity of the students' degrees.

According to Associate Provost Marty Spears, accreditation on all levels seeks to prove that a university or college is pursuing and basing decisions, finances and changes on its mission. This means being very intentional about everything the university does as well as constantly seeking to improve, Spears said.

"Ultimately, it is a process by which we carefully examine ourselves and what we're doing and make sure everything we're doing comes back to our mission," Julie Hixson-Wallace, dean of pharmacy and assistant provost, said. "That's the bottom line. There are some rules and regulations we have to meet as part of that, but even with that, if we are trying to live the way God wants us to live, we are going to do the best job we can and do the job as if it were for him."

According to Spears, accreditation is a healthy process for the university. It provides a time of reflection on what the university is and what it is doing to improve.

"We are working hard on a lot of areas to confirm that our programs, practices and policies are appropriate," Long said. "Harding was chosen by the Higher Learning Commission to serve as a 'pioneer' to help establish new processes in the accreditation process; so we have been involved in this accreditation process for over two years."

On the university level, accreditation is essential for students to receive any sort of federal financial aid, Spears said. Additionally, a university's accreditation shows students' future employers that the students' degrees were meaningful and rigorous. Without accreditation, students would suffer consequences, according to Dean of College of Business Administration Bryan Burks.

Burks also said he seeks accreditation for COBA, although it is not necessary to do so.

"Students should be proud of the fact that they're at a college that took the time to go through that long and strenuous accreditation process to meet the guidelines, to put a plaque on the wall (that demonstrates) we are an

accredited program and to know they went to a program that had very high academic standards," Burks said.

Other programs, such as pharmacy, athletic training and education, are required to maintain accreditation for their programs.

According to Spears, accreditation standards for the university come from the Higher Learning Commission.

The HLC recently published a document called "Assumed Practices" that gives minimum standards. The HLC also keeps accreditation faculty at participating universities aware of other changes to HLC standards. In addition, Spears said the accreditation team has to stay up-to-date on new government regulations.

For example, the recent change at Harding of summer credit hour limits is due to a new government regulation. Executive Vice President David Collins, who headed up the committee that founded the Center for Student Success, said HLC documents talked a lot about support services. The HLC assumes that universities are providing for students who may need extra resources outside of the classroom.

While Harding previously had several separated support service entities, the Center for Student Success drew them all together under one roof and one leadership, according to Collins.

"Our purpose in all of this is to improve," Collins said. "In the past, the purpose was to see if a university met the minimum standards ... but I think the approach to accreditation now is about a process and demonstrating that a university is effective, but also demonstrating that a university is seeking to constantly improve. That is something we're trying to do in the support services; we are always making sure we are doing the best we can and then looking at how we can even improve on that."

In order to implement changes such as internship requirements or the Center for Student Success, the accreditation team relies on feedback from faculty and students through several campus committees. Sometimes the changes dramatically affect the entire university, and sometimes the changes only affect a few departments.

"It's really great to work at Harding because everyone's a team player," Spears said. "If you visit other institutions, faculty can have a reputation of being really difficult to work with. The faculty at Harding are team players across the board, so they understand if the government is telling us we have to do something, then let's work together to solve the problem. Sometimes, what will happen is we will get that negative feedback, which is important because we need to hear it, and everyone puts their thinking caps on, and we come up with a solution that is not as bad as we thought it was going to be."

The academic leaders and academic affairs committees consist of members from all over campus, including

faculty and deans from each department as well as a few student representatives.

Senior Ethan Coburn is a student representative on the Undergraduate Academic Affairs Committee.

The committee votes on changes that will be implemented in the next school year and engages in conversation about what will be best for each student, faculty member and department, Coburn said.

In addition to participation of these committees, deans also do a "tremendous amount" of paperwork to prove to accreditation boards that their colleges or departments are meeting and exceeding standards, Burks said.

Burks said he tries to keep the paperwork in the "front offices" so professors can continue to focus on teaching and their students. Still, some of those challenges trickle down to the professors. One of the biggest changes the accreditation team is currently working on is a new standard that states that every faculty member is supposed to have one degree higher than what they are teaching or equivalent experience.

"There are some adjuncts who are not going to be able to work with us, as a result," Spears said. "It's not that they weren't good teachers, and we would stand behind them, but the minimum standards have changed. There are quite a few of them that have equivalent experience. We had to develop a protocol to approve someone with equivalent experience ... It's a hard conversation, but you make them know how valuable they are and that we hope they'll start working on their master's degree or whatever they're lacking so they can continue to teach at Harding."

Despite the tough decisions and challenge of implementing changes that affect an entire university, accreditation, at the end of the day, is about the students.

"When students receive their degree from Harding, (it) is going to mean something," Collins said. "It's going to be respected among graduate schools, professional schools, employers. They are going to look at Harding and know its reputation and know that it's an accredited institution and that students coming out of Harding are going to be very well prepared to enter future study or their profession."

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At the Bison, it is our goal to serve the Harding University student body with integrity, truth and open ears. However, we believe that meeting that goal is a two-way street between our staff and the public it serves.

We pledge to keep our eyes and ears open to what our community has to say and hope that, in return, that community will be an interactive audience, sharing its stories with us. We also pledge to do the basics: Report accurate and relevant information, check our facts, and share them in a professional, timely manner.

If you have any story ideas, questions, comments or concerns for the Bison staff, please email Lyndsey Ruble Nuckols, the editor-in-chief, at lruble@harding.edu.

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## Searcy Summers Are Not a Death Sentence

holly bohnett



guest writer

After the Benson lights dim following the final Spring Sing performance on Saturday and all participants are done washing glitter from their hair by Sunday (or Monday), then we can set our sights on summer: the light at the end of the tunnel.

Around this magical time of year, hype builds as students exchange summer plans, with talk of mission trips to Haiti, family vacations to Hawaii and internships in New York. What are my plans, you ask? I am currently planning the details of my third Searcy summer, but I do not mean that to be as sarcastic as it sounds. I am here to tell you all the reasons why I enjoy the unconventional qualities Harding's home offers during the vacant (and hot) months of June, July and August.

Coming from Seattle — a place where the sun shines only on select summer days — I think Searcy is a dream come true in the weather department.

Outdoor adventures are seldom postponed for rain and getting a tan is never a problem (unless you are as eternally pale as I am).

Two summers ago, my primary transportation device in Searcy was a bike. Biking around Harding's campus and the surrounding streets late at night is an indescribable feeling. The temperature drops significantly (but usually stays above 60), and you feel invincible while coasting through the silent, dark streets with friends. If I felt like braving the heat of the day, I would bike to Midnight Oil or the art building for my painting class.

In fact, if you find yourself "stuck" in Searcy for the summer, there are several fun classes you can take to fill time and help give purpose to your stay. In addition to the painting class, I took an intersession course that summer about the Beatles and their influence on media. I essentially got credit for talking about a subject I talk about anyway, watching Beatles films, listening to their music and eating pizza.

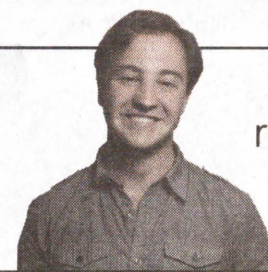
Outside of my strenuous academic lifestyle filled with paint and music, I spent much of my time on spontaneous road trips.

In all honesty, there were times I felt restless and bored in Searcy during the summer, but getting in a car to go to Nashville at 3 a.m. with a friend helped to curb the boredom significantly.

But often, the Midnight Oil porch was the perfect destination for me, my bike, a paperback fiction novel and an iced coffee. In settings like that, you see the same faces every day and become familiar with fellow Searcy-dwellers' schedules and life happenings. There is something relaxing about all of this, unlike the hectic nature of the fall and spring semesters.

There is often a visible and disappointed reaction to the claim, "I'm staying in Searcy this summer." But I stand confident in the fact that spending a summer in Searcy is something I enjoy and encourage. So if your summer plans are not yet set in stone, join me in July for a book publishing class, and we can frequent Midnight Oil and exchange head nods across the room.

**HOLLY BOHNETT is the asst. web editor for the Bison. She may be contacted at hbohnett@harding.edu. Twitter: @hollybohnett**



cole mokry

"I was raised by a television"

## Anatomy of an All-Nighter

The all-nighter is practically a rite of passage for every college student. Depending on your level of procrastination and your major, you could end up pulling more of them than you bargained for.

I've had my fair share during my four years — none that I looked forward to — but few things are more gratifying than finishing your work and crawling into bed as the sun rises to catch just a couple hours of sleep before zombie-walking to chapel, coffee in hand, praying that you remembered pants that morning.

The saving grace of any all-nighter is the promise that the following afternoon, you will take the sweetest nap of your life. Recently, though, one of these naps came back to bite me. I've learned the hard way to always set an alarm before laying down, but this time, I thought to myself, "I'll only be asleep 30 minutes, what could go wrong?" Six hours later, I awoke, terror-stricken at my mistake. It was 8 p.m., the sun had set and I had missed four meals — second lunch, snack time and first and second dinners.

As if that wasn't bad enough, the worst was yet to come. Strangely enough, it's not easy to sleep at night when you slept literally all day long. An all-nighter was ahead of me, but this was like none I had experienced before: this one lacked purpose.

Some people enjoy staying up to play video games or chat with friends until the sun rises. I have never been about that life; I value my sleep. So when I stay up all night, it's to get something done. For this particular occasion, however, I had nothing to do. I sat on my couch long after my roommates had gone to sleep, praying for a nonviolent home invasion because at least then I would be entertained. When that didn't happen, I had to figure out what to do for the next five hours. If you find yourself restless at 3 a.m., here are some good ways to fill your time that don't involve stalking your ex on Instagram.

1. Watch a "Cops" marathon. Late-night television doesn't get enough credit. I don't mean Kimmel, Letterman or Conan; they get more than enough credit. I mean late-late-night. "Cops" used to be something I looked at with disdain, but it's actually a very interesting and culturally enriching show.

2. Clean your kitchen. If you're anything like me, this is perpetually at the bottom of your to-do list. At the end of the day, I'm happy if I did half of what I wanted to do, so my apartment maintains a "neglected-chic" look. That can only last so long before rodents become tenants, so cleaning up is a smart decision, even if it is just once a month.

3. Look at apartments. Most days I'm comfortable ignoring my fast-approaching future, but the truth is, college doesn't last forever. That doesn't have to be sad, though. Nothing gets me more pumped about graduating than online shopping for apartments in the cities I want to live in post-grad. I'm still in the "I don't need to pay attention to price range" phase, so I have a couple more reality checks in store before I can consider this a serious endeavor.

4. Call your grandmother (or any elderly person in your life). The end of an all-nighter usually overlaps with when my grandparents' alarm clock goes off. If it's 6 a.m. and you're still not tired, give them a call. They appreciate it, and they'll probably send you a few bucks to prove it.

5. Write your weekly column for the Bison.

**COLE MOKRY is the opinions editor for the Bison. He may be contacted at jmokry@harding.edu. Twitter: @jcolmokry**

Interested in writing an opinion?  
Contact Cole Mokry at jmokry@harding.edu

## Introverts and Extroverts: Why Can't We Be Friends?

julie anne white



guest writer

One of the most defining aspects of our personalities is our inclination toward either introversion or extroversion. Even in the famous Myers-Briggs personality test, the first letter indicator is either an "I" or an "E." Both have a profound effect on the relationship between the following three letters. Regardless of which category we happen to fall under, we can all take comfort in identifying with a larger body of people who function like us. Whether we actually want to interact with them or if we would rather just read about them from the comfort of our solitude is up to us.

Extroverted personalities are typically glorified by society. Naturally talkative and charismatic individuals appeal to us; the bold and the vivacious appear to have the whole package. We are encouraged to be

loud and proud, to express ourselves, to mingle and socialize. While none of these things are inherently bad, they are sometimes outside the comfort zones of introverts, who often have just as much to offer as their extroverted counterparts.

Introverts are often stereotyped as shy, but in actuality, they are reserved. There is a significant difference between these two words. While one indicates self-doubt, the other just implies that introverts are selective about what and with whom they want to share. Solitude gives them energy because it provides them with time for self-reflection, but that doesn't exclude them from maintaining close, rewarding relationships. Introverts are often overlooked because they do not demand attention, when ironically they have had a larger amount of personal time to develop their ideas and personalities. Their roles as patient listeners are vital in order to balance out their extroverted colleagues.

On the other hand, sometimes the introverts

take such pride in their independence and taciturn approach that they fail to appreciate the value of extroversion for more than the surface-level attention it often achieves.

Extroverts reach their maximum level of happiness and potential by drawing energy from other people. Their enthusiasm can be a powerful force for good because they can positively influence the people around them, and they aren't afraid to try. While introverts who cringe at the idea of small talk often perceive extroverts as shallow, in actuality extroverts are often just trying to open the doors of communication.

In spite of the sense of belonging we often feel from identifying with one category or the other, it is important to keep in mind that both types have equal value. The rule in this case is not "I before E," or vice versa. So rather than revering one and resenting the other, it's essential that we find the beauty in both.

**JULIE ANNE WHITE is a guest writer for the Bison. She may be contacted at jwhite15@harding.edu.**

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lyndsey ruble nuckols



The Lightbulb

## Do What Drives You

**M**otivation: it might not seem like you have any right now, but there is obviously something that keeps pushing us toward the end of the semester.

What is it for you? Whether it's a passion for your major and career aspirations or simply a fear of your parents finding out you wasted precious tuition dollars, knowing your source of motivation is vital. If you have a larger purpose in mind, the minutiae and the day-to-day challenges become meaningful. This process is one of the most important things you can do for your productivity, creativity and overall happiness.

In "Managing the New Careerist," an old book with a still-relevant message by C. Brooklyn Derr, the author explains several different careerists based on what they're motivated by. They include: getting ahead, which represents people who are motivated by upward mobility and power; getting secure, which represents people who seek predictability and comfort; getting free, which represents people who want autonomy and free reign; getting high, which represents people who want to feel engaged, creative and challenged; and getting balanced, which represents people who are motivated by finding balance between their work and other aspects of their lives.

No one type is better than another, and, for many people, life phases will require sliding between these different types. Still, knowing what motivates you now and identifying with a type can help you to go forward productively and with purpose. Many times, you just need to see your feelings written out and know you are not alone in your motivations and desires.

No matter what type you are, I want to prescribe some general tips for finding meaning in the mundane and recognizing the significance of the small pieces that make up your overall purpose.

1. Write a purpose statement. Dwell on exact points of focus, just like a business would. What exactly do you want, and what are you currently doing to get there? Taking time to actively focus on a purpose statement and then writing it down will make you much more mindful of its significance, which will make dedication to the purpose much easier.

2. Now, zoom in, and make goals for each week (or each day, if you are especially neurotic). Posting "weekly wishes" on blogs has become increasingly popular, and for good reason. Sitting down at the beginning of the week and mapping out your goals in doable chunks is good for your productivity and creativity. You know what to focus on, you know how it fits into the big picture and you have a plan to move forward.

3. Make a "done" list at the end of each day. I look for any excuse to make lists, but this idea is brilliant. At the end of your day, jot down a list of everything you accomplished that day. It can be as professional or as personal as you want. Either way, it's good for your mental state and gives you the optimism to tackle the next day's tasks and challenges.

While my focus here has been on individuals, most of these tips could also assist in helping groups, organizations and teams function better. We could all benefit from a little more purpose and a plan to stay optimistic and productive through these last crazy weeks of the semester.

**LYNDSLEY RUBLE NUCKOLS is the editor-in-chief for the Bison. She may be contacted at lruble@harding.edu. Twitter: @lyndseyrnickols**



## Enjoying the Mess of Life

jon oden



international programs guest

**I**'m in a country called France. You may have heard of it. The baguettes, the Eiffel Tower, the trains — sacrebleu.

An important thing to realize about Paris is that it's magical, but not in the way you think. There's actually a syndrome that involves mental degradation due to unrealistic expectations of Paris. The magic isn't some sort of sparkly sensation as you fall in love at

first sight with some incredibly suave French man, woman or thing. The magic is in the music of the cramped streets, the movement of vehicles on wet roads and the shuffle of people moving past you. But you'll never hear it unless you are listening for it, and once you do hear it, you become part of the performance.

To be honest, this trip tied me up, stuck me in a cannon and shot me clear out of my beloved comfort zone. It turned out to be a good thing, except for that one ambulance ride — I have a life-threatening dairy allergy, so instead of seeing the Versailles Palace, the director and I got to see a hospital.

Our first two weeks here consisted entirely of hopping from plane to

plane and from train to train, being in a new town day after day. I learned about myself, about the other people on the trip, about France and about life.

One thing I learned is that, much like this article, life is messy. People make messes. Families are messy. The world is messy. The French are messy kissers, Italians are messy planners, and Americans are messy eaters. I suppose my point is that messes can be incredibly annoying but quite beautiful in their own way.

*Next issue: Sophomore Sydni Sansom from HULA.*

**JON ODEN is a guest writer for the Bison. He may be contacted at joden@harding.edu.**

## Just the Clax

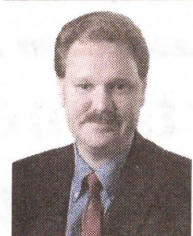
### The Heart of a Preacher

**O**ne of my favorite novels is "Gilead" by Marilynne Robinson. It's a fictional diary written by an elderly Congregationalist minister to his 7-year-old son, whom he sees as a blessing from God in his old age, much as Abraham saw Isaac. The letter is full of the gentle wisdom of a lonely man granted an unexpected second chance at love and fatherhood, a man whose joy vibrates on every page. He knows his time is limited, and that fact makes him all the more alert to the simple wonders of nature and family.

As John Ames reflects on his 50-year preaching career in the novel, he wonders what to do with the boxes of his old sermons in the attic. He has spent half a century in one place. He's not published any books, nor gone on any speaking tours. He's just preached for one small Iowa congregation week after week, year after year. And he has stacks of handwritten sermons that he has never thrown away — thousands of pages that contain a lifetime of thinking about God.

Ames wonders if anyone would ever want to read them, and he has to admit the chances are pretty slim. It pains him to think that his life's work will likely be thrown out someday — the fruit of his study and wisdom tossed to the curb. But he also realizes that a sermon's value doesn't reside in handwriting on a page, but in the changed hearts of the people whose faith he has nurtured by steady decades of teaching. His congregants may only be able to remember a handful of individual lessons, but his collective work is deeply imprinted in their lives.

I thought of John Ames when my preacher had a heart attack on March 30. Thanks to the mercy of God and the gifted professionals at two hospitals, Noel Whitlock made



michael claxton

it through open-heart surgery and is recovering. I imagine the prayers coming from the College Church and throughout Searcy jammed the divine switchboards. I am still sending quite a few myself. And I've realized — as people always do at these moments — that life is too precious and too fragile not to say what needs to be said.

Noel followed a very popular preacher when he came to College, but I've never seen a minister become so ingrained and beloved in a church family so quickly. College Church is a big place, and he seemed to know everyone within weeks. The children love him. The seniors love him. Even the English teachers who attend have warmed to him. And I for one am deeply grateful for the imprint his encouragement and teaching have made in my life.

Someday Noel may sift through his file cabinet of sermons. Maybe he'll recall the time shortly after he came to College Church eight years ago that he combed the church building and found every abandoned Bible, piled them high on the stage, and threatened to read the names in each one out loud as he preached on the importance of studying God's word. Or maybe he'll think of the dramatic monologue he gave as Eliab, David's oldest brother, helping us feel the tensions in David's family amidst his triumph over Goliath. Perhaps he'll glance over the notes from his series on dealing with stress, or his lessons from Nehemiah, or his study on how to be the kind of church

that will make people want to take a second look.

A sermon may seem like an ephemeral thing — spoken on Sunday and hardly remembered much beyond. But as I open my Bible, attendance cards fall out with sermon notes scribbled on them. In "The Fate of John the Baptist" (2008), I learned to pity King Herod, alone with his conscience. In "Three Levels of Giving" (2007), Noel showed me what I had to learn about generosity from three anonymous women in the Bible. And on two pink visitor's cards — front and back — I jotted down every point from "The Death of a Christian" (2011), a sermon that warmed my spirit just a few months after I lost my father.

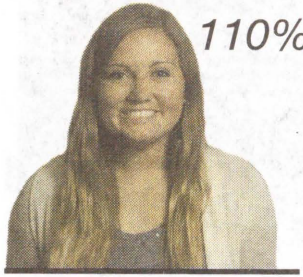
Every time Noel speaks candidly from the pulpit about his own struggles as a Christian, I hear my own difficulties echoed. Every time he calls our church family to stretch ourselves, I think of what spiritual muscles I need to exercise. And every time he cracks up the entire auditorium with one of his witty one-liners, I plan to steal it.

We surely are spoiled in Searcy. So many gifted ministers labor in congregations large and small here, and each one deserves thanks. But you don't need your own Bison column to say so — just tell your preacher and church leaders what they mean to you. And keep sending those prayers up for Noel and for his family. I look forward to seeing him back in the pulpit soon after he's had time to heal. His generous heart is one this town isn't ready to let go of anytime soon.

**MICHAEL CLAXTON is a guest writer for the Bison. He may be contacted at mclaxto1@harding.edu.**



Alex Ezell



110%

## The 18 percent

This is the conclusion to a three-column series about ethical issues in sports.

Do you know what the average Division I college football coach makes? According to USA Today, the average is \$1.64 million per year. That is just the average. Nick Saban, head coach for the University of Alabama, makes \$5.5 million a year.

Do you know the graduation rate for NCAA DI student athletes? According to the NCAA, student athletes who began college in 2006 had a graduation rate of 82 percent. This percentage was based off of athletes who graduated within six years. Doesn't sound too shabby, right? Well, what about the other 18 percent?

I bring up both of these topics because I find it interesting that college coaches get paid millions of dollars to recruit some of the best athletes in the country and win games. They are not paid to graduate their players.

This becomes an ethical issue, in my eyes. Granted, I know a lot of people disagree, and that is completely understandable. But, here is what bothers me — coaches placing more effort on winning than concentrating on what really matters, getting their players a degree.

I am not saying these coaches don't impact their players' lives. Trust me, I have seen SportsCenter specials about coach and player relationships that brought tears to my eyes.

In the grand scheme of things, students go to college to earn a degree. I know a lot of student athletes would disagree with me and say they went to school to be able to continue playing sports, but let's be real. We need to focus more on the school part and a little less on the sports part.

Don't get me wrong, I love college sports. The 18 percent of players that did not graduate are probably wishing they had spent a little more time studying for a test than studying their playbook. Now, their playbook days are over, and they need to have a degree.

I hope the Nick Sabans of the college coaching world can see the bigger picture. I want to see more of an effort to get student athletes graduated instead of pushing for a national title. A national title will not get these kids a job, but a degree will.

ALEX EZELL is the sports editor for the 2013-2014 Bison. She may be contacted at aezell@harding.edu.

## Lady Bisons use loss to prepare for next series



DJ LAWSON | THE BISON

Freshman infielder/catcher Kimmy Hendricks slides into second during the Lady Bisons game against Southwestern Oklahoma State University on April 5. Harding won the double header 4-1, 10-2.

by Kelsey Pierce  
student writer

The softball team fell 5-2 and 6-5 in their doubleheader against Henderson State University this past Saturday.

Freshman Courtney Derrick said the team is not perfect, but it is constantly growing and changing into a championship team.

"We played really well against Henderson State," Derrick said. "Although the outcome was not what we hoped for, we put up a strong fight."

Coach Phil Berry said the team tries to focus on playing one pitch at a time instead of getting tied up with the outcomes.

"We need to be more consistent on defense and making key plays when the opportunity is there," Berry said. "We are spending a significant amount of practice time on team defense in order to help us make better decisions and perform better in the game-changing moments."

Sixteen out of the 18 players on the team had no experience playing college softball until this year. Berry and Derrick both expressed the importance of teamwork in softball and said it is a huge contributor in making the team stay positive and play their best.

"It is a team game," Berry said. "A pitcher can't do much without a catcher and a defense behind her. One of the most rewarding parts of this year and this team is to see how they have bonded together. They are very close on and off the field, and it shows when they play."

Derrick said the collaboration and teamwork is an important factor for softball. She said without teamwork, accomplishing team goals becomes harder.

"We win as a team and lose as a team; it's never one person," Derrick said. "We are awesome at always picking each other up and letting each other know that no one is out there by

themselves."

The softball team will host Ouachita Baptist University for a four-game series this Friday at 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. and Saturday 12 p.m. and 2 p.m.

Freshman Carolyn Clayton said despite the loss, she believes the team played well against Henderson State and needs to carry the positive out of that series and bring it into this weekend against Ouachita Baptist University.

"I feel this weekend, personally, and as a team, we all played really well," Clayton said. "We fought really hard each game and played with intensity and at the level we needed to. Henderson has a great team and it was a great competition for us. I think if we keep practicing hard and practice with the same intensity we have been, we will have a great weekend against OBU, and that will also help us going into the conference tournament."

## Golf teams round out spring season

by Alex Ezell  
sports editor

Zach Hailey  
student writer

The women's golf team participated in the Great American Conference Championship this past weekend in Hot Springs, Ark. Junior Brittany Marquez shot 11-over 227, which broke the school's previous 54-hole record of 11-over 228 set by Emily Plyler last season.

"I am pretty excited about breaking another school record," Marquez said. "Last year I broke the 18-hole and 36-hole records, and it is awesome that now I hold the 54-hole record as well."

Individually Marquez tied for second in the championship's standings. The Lady Bisons finished eighth overall out of nine teams.

Marquez said the team played hard this spring. Personally, she said she has not played her best.

"I felt like I played my heart out this tournament and the results showed that I did," Marquez said.

For the men's golf team, senior Lucas Collins received All-Tournament honors. He finished with a 3-under 69, tying the best round of golf in his career. Collins placed sixth overall.

In the first round of the tournament on Sunday, Harding shot a 300. Due to a rain on Monday, the team played 36 holes on Tuesday. Harding shot a 306 in the second round. The team fired 290 in the

third round, which was the top single-round score for the Bisons in a conference tournament in the past nine years. Harding finished at 896 leaving them in sixth place overall.

According to sophomore Alex Williamson, the overall season went well, but there is always room for improvement in the coming years.

"It was a pretty good season from start to finish but not quite as good as we would have liked," Williamson said. "(We had) a lot of good first rounds, but bad second rounds kept us from really finishing good in a lot of tournaments. We won twice which was one short of our goal, but from start to finish, we had a good year overall."

Head coach Dustin Howell said Collins and Williamson rose to the occasion this season.

"Those guys have stepped up when it counts, and I couldn't be more proud of them," Howell said. "I put a lot of pressure on them at the end of the year, as they knew it would be their job to fire a low number and lead the team. Skill and experience was huge at Red Apple and our conference tournament."

Howell said the past season was filled with excitement as the team had two victories, the most in a season for the Bisons since 2010. He also said his favorite memory was the team playoff victory over Southeastern Oklahoma University.

"The guys wanted to defend our home tournament, and they gutted it out to the very end," Howell said.

## ANDREW AND DANIEL EVANS PROFILE

Senior Andrew and freshman Daniel are brothers who run on the track and cross-country teams here at Harding.

**When did you discover that you love to run?**

A: I played almost every sport as a kid, and I just realized that, hey, I can run fast and far and not get tired, so I guess it just came out of that.  
D: Whenever he decided to run, I did too.

**How long have you been running competitively?**

A: I started in eighth grade. I guess this is my ninth year running competitively.

D: Since seventh grade, so seven years now.

**What do you like to wear when you run?**

D: Short shorts and no shirt ...

A: (laughs) Yeah and maybe a hat. And some sunglasses and tall socks.

**What is your personal best? For cross country and track?**

A: For cross-country, I ran a 24:50 in the 8K, which is approximately five miles, each mile in just under five minutes. I was really excited to get under a

five-minute mile. And then for track, I ran a 14:56 in the 5K.

D: For the 8K, I ran a 26:20, and for the 5K, I ran a 15:47.

**What is your favorite running weather?**

D: Sunny and no wind ... I don't like the wind.

A: A little bit of a breeze is nice.

**What is your favorite running memory?**

D: Running in a different country is cool. Over Spring Break, I went to Honduras. I ran around in the mountains, and that was super cool.

A: Favorite race memory: in the Arkansas State Championship for track, I won the two mile event, and Daniel came in second.

**What is it like having your sibling on the team?**

D: Oh, it's fun. He pushes me sometimes; it helps a lot; my whole life I run to keep up with him.

A: I get to pick on someone. If I lose

to him though, it would be embarrassing.

**Nike or Under Armour?**

A: (laughs) Nike for sure. All the way, 100 percent.

D: I think I own one pair of Under Armour sweatpants from seventh grade that I break out from time to time.

**Why did you laugh so much when I asked the question?**

A: Everyone else on the team will make fun of me for how much I love Nike.

D: He does, he loves his Nike.

A: I'm embarrassed to be seen in anything else. Everything is Nike.

**NFL or MLB?**

D: NBA. Harding basketball. Harding women's soccer.

A: NFL New England Patriots. College sports, too.

D: TNT A-Team softball. We went to watch lots of Razorback games growing up — football and baseball.

Story by Marianna Woodruff. Graphic by Tyler Carmical.



# Tennis teams prepare for GAC Tournament

by **Shane Schock**  
asst. sports editor

**Elizabeth Harper**  
student writer

Harding's women's tennis team won the Great American Conference title Saturday against East Central University 6-3.

Both men's and women's tennis came away with victories in Ada, Okla. on Saturday, April 12 against the Central tigers. While the women took first in conference, the men are tied for second in the GAC.

The conference championship win by the women's team gives them their first conference title since winning the Arkansas Intercollegiate Conference in 1994.

The women's team finished with a record of 15-5 and ended the season on a 6-0 winning streak. Freshman Piper Huey gave the Bisons an early 3-1 series lead with a 6-0 victory and won her ninth straight singles match.

The women's team is the No. 1 seed for the upcoming GAC tournament on April 18 and 19.

According to Huey, the team was thrilled to win conference. She said it is crazy to think she was not alive the last time Harding's team won.

"It is great that we won," Huey said.

"Harding hasn't won conference for 20 years, so it was really exciting."

Huey said Harding has lost matches to ECU over the last few years, so they expected it to be tough competition. She said she predicts the University of Arkansas, Fort Smith to be their toughest competition at the tournament because of Fort Smith's No. 2 seed rank.

The men's conference victory over East Central gave them their first GAC victory in nine conference matches over the last three seasons.

"The win on Saturday was huge for our team," junior team captain Caleb McReynolds said. "Not only for the draw in the tournament, but also for our confidence as a team. That was our last big match before the tournament, so going in with confidence this weekend is a big plus."

The victory by Harding's men's team placed them in a three-way tie for second place in conference standings. Harding, Ouachita Baptist University and Henderson State University stand in second place at 1-2 behind Southeastern Oklahoma State University with the record 3-0.

According to McReynolds, the three-way tie means the team will play ECU again on Friday. He said he likes how the draw turned out, and he feels like they have a great shot at winning it all this weekend.



GRANT SCHOL | THE BISON

Freshman Mathaus Spiering and sophomore Yann Le Mat, doubles partners, defeated Chris Ramirez and Seth Laster of University of Arkansas, Fort Smith on April 10.

"On Friday, all our focus will be on ECU," McReynolds said. "If we win both matches this weekend, we have a chance of going to nationals. That is always in the back of our minds. I don't want us to get ahead of ourselves though. The most important thing right now is beating ECU. After that, we can look forward to the next match."

McReynolds said he predicts Southeastern Oklahoma State to be the men's

toughest competition at the tournament. He said that even though Southeastern won the conference this year, he feels like the team has a good chance of beating the Savage Storm if they play again this weekend.

The GAC tournament will be held today and tomorrow at the Memorial Tennis Complex in Bentonville, Ark. The tournament championship match is tomorrow at 2 p.m.

## 'Boston Strong,' one year later

Shane Schock



guest space

also helped a community grow stronger and a stand with an "I won't budge" type of mentality.

In attacks like these, we find out who the real-life heroes are. I believe, on the day of the attack we found Americans who weren't afraid to get dirty and dive into the danger zone to help rescue those who were affected by the explosions. I think in moments like these, we find that, even though times are tough, we still see our country display heart, compassion and true love for one another.

In times of need, we stand together as one nation and pour out empathy for the country we love so much.

I had never heard our nation's anthem sung so passionately than when the Boston Penguins had their first game back after the bombings. Not only was every person in the arena singing their hearts out, but all eyes were locked on the flag.

First baseman "Big Papi" David Ortiz gave a heartfelt

message at the beginning of the Boston Red Sox game that lit the crowd on fire. His message basically summed up the saying "Boston Strong," which took off into a stratosphere of its own and became the motto for how the city of Boston would respond to this dreadful event.

This will not stop our nation from running. No, it only makes us want to run harder and further to victory, not defeat. We take punches time and time again, but Lady Liberty always finds a way to get back up and fight another day.

I believe as Americans we grew stronger from what happened that day in Boston. It showed me there is still hope for a better tomorrow, that people still have pride in this "land of the free, home of the brave." We gather, united as one, to take a stand against those who try to bring us down or tear us apart. We are strong, resilient, powerful, passionate and God-fearing. We are the United States of America.

## Baseball

**"We really are a family and trust each other to do their jobs, and I think that is our biggest strength."**

**-Davis Richardson, catcher**

Check out Bison baseball on [thelink.harding.edu](http://thelink.harding.edu)

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# LOCKER TALK

## Spring Sing Edition

Our Athletes' Views on Pop Culture

## questions

**Michael Kessler** Track    **Mark Claiborne** Soccer    **JD Campbell** Football    **Larkin Hatcher** Soccer    **Savanna Jackson** Cheerleading



**Describe Spring Sing in one word.**

Revolutionary.

Exciting.

Crazy.

Extravagant.

I'll give you three: completely worth it.

**What's your favorite Spring Sing memory?**

Andrew Mauldin's moonwalk/facial expression.

The pre-dancing party before practice.

Making costumes with Parker Ogburn and laughing the entire time.

Davis Hudson as Cupid.

Starting off practices by singing and praying with my large-part group.

**Most embarrassing moment thus far during Spring Sing?**

Getting called out for making bad faces during rehearsals or my voice cracking.

Wearing the make-up around because I can't get it to come off.

Wearing a toga with only spandex under. Feels too free or something.

"The Legend" Woltman doing kick line.

I called a girl in my club by her Instagram name by mistake.

**Who do you think will win this year?**

That all-guys show is well put together.

Not sure. There (are) a lot of great shows this year. It'll be close.

Titans (JGJ/Kojies show).

Knights.

My group has put in the work required to be a contender to win, but the decision is up to the judges.

**If you could direct a show, what would the theme be?**

You have seven minutes: GO!

I would not direct a show.

Country something with hunting.

I probably wouldn't. I'm clumsy and can't dance. Plus, I'm not creative.

Monsters and kids.





## Walton program creates opportunities

### Helping Latino students receive U.S. education

by Henry Gonzalez  
asst. photographer

The Walton International Scholarship Program recruits students from eight different countries to academically equip them to have a positive impact on their countries.

During the 28 years of the program, Harding has been one of the three universities to have Walton scholars.

In 1985, Sam Walton and his wife Helen started a scholarship program which sends students from Central America and Mexico to learn about the benefits of a democratic government and free enterprise in the United States. The program provides an opportunity to complete a degree to students with impressive academic performance and limited financial resources. Some of the scholarship benefits include tuition, transportation, books and room and board.

Sam Walton in his book "Made in America," said: "We got the idea while we were traveling around down in that part of the world. And when we learned that the then-Soviet Union and Cuba had programs to teach their values to kids from other places, we decided Americans ought to be doing the same sort of thing with our values."

According to Chancellor Emeritus Cliff Ganus, president of the university at that time, Sam Walton met with him in Little Rock to discuss the scholarship. The program was initiated in May of the same year with a donation from the Walton family to three faith-based universities in Arkansas: Harding University, John Brown University and University of the Ozarks.

In total, the three universities have about 180 students enrolled every year from each of the seven countries in Central America and Mexico. Nicaragua was added to the recruitment process about two years after the program began at Harding.

"I remember visiting with one of the (Nicaraguan political leaders)," Ganus said. "I spent about 40 minutes with him, telling him about the program, what we were going to do and so on. And he said 'You are the first university to come and offer our students scholarships to go to America; and I'll let them come.'"

Ronald Johnson, the director of John Brown University's Walton International Scholarship Program, said in his book "Our Story," that more than 1,250 students have graduated since the beginning of the program.

The vision of the program is to give back. Currently, alumni from the program hold a wide variety of leadership positions in businesses in their respective countries.

According to Nicky Boyd, director of international student services, many of the alumni have committed to develop programs to help their communities. Others have started companies providing jobs to people.

Around campus, the recipients of the scholarship are best known as "Waltons." They have unique stories to tell about their lives and how the scholarship changed their lives.

For more information visit: [www.wispweb.org](http://www.wispweb.org).

### One Walton scholar's story:

## From city dump to college dorm

by Alexis Hosticka  
news editor

"I can see through my whole life how God put things together, and today I'm here (at Harding), and some days I can't believe it."

Freshman marketing major Katie Rosales' journey from living in the Guatemala City garbage dump to being at Harding was not an easy one. Rosales grew up in a house made out of wood, corrugated metal and cardboard, while her mother and two older siblings worked in the garbage dump, collecting items to sell to recycling companies. Rosales' father died when she was only 8 years old.

"My mom started working (in the garbage dump) when she was 12," Rosales said. "She left home at that age, and then she started working there because she had just finished elementary school. She was 12, so she wasn't able to find a job, so that was the easiest thing to do."

Until about three years ago, public education in Guatemala was not free, but Rosales had the opportunity to go to private school through a non-profit organization called Potter's House. Rosales said she began going to Potter's House for vacation Bible schools, then started attending the tutoring program and eventually began going to school there through donations from a sponsor. She was the first in her family to graduate high school, since her older siblings and parents were always working.

Rosales said she is extremely grateful for the opportunities she had at Potter's House and realizes how lucky she is.

"My older brother is only one year older than me, but he took the responsibility for being the man of the house and only finished elementary school," Rosales said. "I feel like in some ways, (my family) let me live my dreams."

One of those dreams was to learn English, which Rosales had the chance to do through tutoring at Potter's House. She said she wanted to be able to talk to her sponsors without an interpreter, and that, as well as her parents, is part of what kept her motivated through school.

"I was so proud of how my mom works, so I wanted her to feel proud of me because of all her efforts and

everything," Rosales said. "I just remember when my father was with us he would say, 'I want you to have the things I couldn't have, and you have to work hard in school, and I want you to have a different future.' So I always remember that, his words and everything."

Rosales was 10 years old when she became a Christian and said she remembers clearly why she made that decision. It was two years after her father's death, and Rosales said she was frustrated and confused about why God would take him away.

"At this summer camp, this person started preaching about God's love as a father, and I was like 'Hmm, I don't believe it, because I was really sad,'" Rosales said. "But I accepted Jesus into my heart and asked God to be my father, and I said, 'If you really are the lovely God you say, I want you to be my father.' That's the best decision I've made in my life. And God not only has been my father; he's been my provider and my counselor and everything."

In order to graduate high school at Potter's House, Rosales had to complete an internship, which she decided to do at Potter's House. She worked as a translator between the children and their sponsors. One of the Potter's House employees was a former Walton scholar and encouraged Rosales to apply for the scholarship and attend Harding.

"I was scared because my English was not very good," Rosales said. "I understand a lot, but I was afraid to talk; but when I started doing my internship, they put me with the groups, and I had to talk in English. I always prayed and said 'God, if this is your will, please open these doors, and if it is not, I know you will open doors here in Guatemala.' But it was God's plan."

Rosales was awarded the scholarship and said her goal is to go back to Guatemala after graduation and work for Potter's House.

"I really miss home because I'm really close with my mom," Rosales said. "She's like my best friend. I went to church with her. The churches here are different than the ones back in my country, so it was hard to adapt the first week, and I was homesick all the time, but I have met really nice people here—my Walton friends and the ones that are not Walton, but they are really nice people."



HENRY GONZALEZ | THE BISON

Freshman Katie Rosales, a marketing major from Guatemala, came to Harding with the help of the Walton International Scholarship Program. Rosales found out about the program while attending school at Potter's House.

## Town and gown part 3: Spring Sing and Searcy

by Matt Ryan  
features editor

With the significant influx of out-of-town guests to the area for this weekend's festivities, Harding's campus is hardly the only place to feel the weekend's impacts. Spring Sing weekend also poses both significant challenges and benefits to the wider Searcy community as well.

Because so many visitors fill Searcy's streets and businesses this weekend, Searcy residents may experience inconveniences. Corporal Steve Hernandez, the Searcy Police Department's public information officer, said although Spring Sing weekend is something the community enjoys and benefits from, it can cause difficulties for many Searcy residents.

"The issues that the Searcy Police Department or the city of Searcy may see as a result of Spring Sing weekend is the large increase of traffic," Hernandez said. "With the volume of traffic from Spring Sing, we will see an increase in calls like accidents and

vehicle unlocks. Having an event like Spring Sing is great for local businesses though. It is hard to find a restaurant without a long wait, an empty hotel, or even hard to find a short line at a local store. As frustrating as it may be for locals, it is a great thing for our economy."

Craig Robinson is the general manager and owner of Doc's Grill & Steakhouse, located on Beebe Capps Expressway. Although some residents may find traffic and long lines bothersome when in a hurry, Robinson said his restaurant plans for and looks forward to Spring Sing weekend each year.

"Spring Sing weekend is something we start planning for months in advance, and the influx of visitors in town really boosts business for us," Robinson said. "Doc's has always been supported by the local Harding University community, and we also very much appreciate the patronage of our out-of-town guests during Spring Sing."

This weekend's heavy economic impact is certainly good for business, but that impact also affects the

community on a much more personal level. Lori Sloan, an associate professor of marketing who has worked alongside many local businesses over the years, said it is important to remember that businesses and restaurants are not just about an exchange of goods or services. Businesses employ members of the community, and Sloan said customers should be careful to treat those members of the community with respect and dignity as they go out into Searcy this weekend.

"My advice to visitors and students, especially for church people, is don't be that family that (restaurants) dread that you are going to come in and let your child smash all their crackers in the restaurant and leave the table trashed and steal sugar packets and be rude and give a one dollar tip," Sloan said. "While that's not the majority, that's what church people are known for sometimes, and it's easy to lose track of that. As students and guests from Harding, we should be aware of what impression we are leaving on people who live and work in the community."





shelby daniel

## Small Campus, Big Style

Last week, after much demand, I wrote an article about my top five fashion tips for boys. Going off of this theme, I have decided to talk about one of my most recent obsessions: the boyfriend style. There are several reasons that I currently love this trend. One reason is I think dressing in male-influenced clothing has the odd effect of enhancing many girls' feminine features and making them stand out. Another reason is it makes it much easier to be lazy but still look like I thought a little bit about my outfit. (If you have not already picked up on it, I am much lazier than many of my outfits may suggest.)

This might leave a few of you wondering: "What exactly is boyfriend style?" By my definition, boyfriend style is when women wear clothing inspired by men's style. This can range from pieces that are oversized and comfortable to those that are clean-cut and well-tailored. A boyfriend-style outfit frequently consists of masculine colors and patterns, boxy silhouettes and longer lengths. While it can take some getting used to, this can be very flattering for all body types.

The boyfriend style kills two birds with one stone. It looks more modest and more stylish at the same time. Modesty seems to have become a serious issue for this generation. It seems that many girls simply are not interested in keeping any of their body parts hidden. While it used to not be one of my main concerns, I have recently started to notice just how striking modesty is on women. The specific item of clothing that fixes this problem best is the boyfriend short. This style tends to be loose around the legs, rather than skin-tight, and has about a four-inch inseam (translation: they are long).

If you are interested in transitioning into some boyfriend styles, there are two items other than the boyfriend short that I suggest you purchase: a graphic tee and a tuxedo-style jacket. The trick: actually purchase these things from the men's section. That way you do not have to try to find women's clothing that looks manly and buy it way too big. By buying from the men's section, you automatically have the masculine colors and boxy fits that might be more difficult to find in the women's section.

Modesty, style and less preparation time is a triple-threat that I find hard to pass up. With a few simple purchases, you can put together a very comfortable outfit that will enhance your feminine features and make you look like you just stepped off a fashion-blogger's website. So do not be afraid of shopping amongst the men to get those perfect boyfriend pieces. You will get used to the weird looks, I promise.

## FOOD

# Pastafina brings authentic flair to Searcy

by Virginia "Vivi" Vitalone  
asst. photographer

As I am graduating Harding, I feel like it's a sign from heaven that a new authentic Italian restaurant opened in town. I still consider myself the best Italian cook in Searcy, but since I am leaving, and I couldn't cook for a crowd anyway, I gladly pass down the keys of the Italian cuisine to Pastafina.

Pastafina opened two weeks ago and was pretty crowded on the Thursday night I went.

Pastafina's environment features Frank Sinatra in the background and paintings of mouth-watering Italian food on the walls. The hostess, Vlore, straight from Brooklyn, will sit you down at one of the booths or tables. The lights are dim and the room is spacious enough to make you feel like you are having dinner in your own home.

The menu includes appetizers, meat entrees,

seafood, pizzas, pasta, rolls and desserts. Lost among my reminiscent thoughts of food in Italy, I went for the simplest thing I could get. To try the authenticity of an Italian restaurant, there is nothing better than a classic, honest pizza.

I ordered a pizza with tomato sauce, cheese and black olives. One of my friends chose a calzone, a folded pizza filled with ricotta, while the other two picked pasta alla Bolognese and pasta alla Carbonara. The pizza was the smallest available, and it still could have fed two people. It was thin and crispy, as every Italian pizza should be, not like the soggy, thick and chewy pizzas you get other places. I tried my friends' dishes, and I was satisfied with everything but the pasta alla Carbonara dish. As other Italian-American restaurants I have been to, this dish was too creamy and heavy while the real pasta alla Carbonara only has



VIRGINIA "VIVI" VITALONE | THE BISON

The writer ordered a cheese and black olive pizza at Pastafina, a new Italian restaurant in Searcy. Pastafina is on Race Street and is open every day but Monday.

bacon, eggs and pepper in it. The calzone was filled with dense, rich ricotta, and if I had more room in my stomach, I would have probably ordered one myself.

Chicken entrees and pizzas start at \$10.95; homemade pastas start at \$7.95; cannolis are \$4.99.

One of the highlights at Pastafina was the warm, garlicky bread rolls to dip in oil and spices.

Like chips and salsa at Mexican restaurants, you will hate yourself for how many you eat before your actual meal comes. Even if these rolls are to die for, don't ruin your appetite with them.

Another highlight was the dark-chocolate-covered cannoli that I had for dessert. These cannolis, filled with sweet ricotta and chocolate chips, were the most authentic dish I

found in this new Italian restaurant. In addition to the dark chocolate cannoli, you can also order a classic plain cannoli. Of course I picked chocolate, but you really can't go wrong with either.

Pastafina opens at 11 a.m. and closes at 10 p.m. on Tuesday through Saturday and 9 p.m. on Sunday. It is closed on Mondays.

Buon appetito.

# Our picks for best Mexican food on Race

by Kristi Soto  
web editor

Every time my parents are in town, I stay far away from having meals on campus. This is the opportune time for me to show them the diverse selection of restaurants in town. By diverse, I mean the many different Mexican restaurants in Searcy. There is something about a bed of rice and chicken with cheese dip on top that keeps me coming back.

If you aren't familiar with the town of Searcy and want to stay on Race Street, you're in luck because there are four Mexican restaurants to choose from. The restaurant with a lot of student traffic is Mi Pueblito. The most popular item to order is "Arroz Mi Pueblito," which is a bed of rice topped with chicken or beef and white cheese dip. If you are feeling creative, you can order the plate mixed, which would include both chicken and beef. If you want to add some nutrition, ask for fajita vegetables. If you want to feel like you are a regular there, ask for a side of tortillas.

Across the street from Mi Pueblito is another Mexican restaurant from the same owner called El Almacen, or in English, "The Warehouse." This

is the upscale version of Mi Pueblito, but it includes the same menu and prices. It also offers a more authentic menu like the "Enmoladas," which are chicken, beef or cheese enchiladas topped with mole sauce, a traditional bittersweet sauce most commonly served in Mexican weddings. Other unique features include a second floor for dining and a VIP room for large parties.

Another restaurant on Race Street is Los Montano's, uniquely attached to the Days Inn. If you are looking for a meal similar to "Arroz Mi Pueblito," order the "Ranchero Special." Instead of chicken or beef, it comes with chicken or shrimp and fajita vegetables. Another delicious item served there is the fried ice cream.

The last Mexican restaurant on Race Street is El Paraiso Acapulco. A delicious item to order is "Tacos Al Pastor," thinly shaved pork tacos marinated with pineapple. My favorite thing to order is horchata, a sweet rice milk beverage.

Other Mexican restaurants in town include Casa Brava and San Diego, both located on Beebe Capps.

Whichever Mexican restaurant you choose in town, you can't go wrong. Each has its own unique atmosphere, and there is always something for everyone.



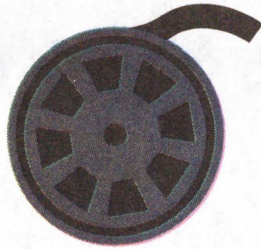
## ENTERTAINMENT

Searcy is a small town, best known by Harding students for having two main attractions: Wal-Mart and Sonic. However, Searcy and the surrounding areas have many hidden treasures that are perfect places to visit during Spring Sing weekend.

### TOP 5 THINGS TO DO AROUND SEARCY



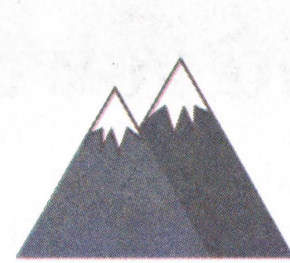
**GILLAM FARMS**  
Gillam Farm is located in Judsonia, Ark., a 15-mile drive from Harding. Gillam is open Tuesday-Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Gillam is a U-pick farm that is best known for its blueberries and blackberries, but they offer many other kinds of produce depending on the season, including asparagus, gourds, grapes, muscadines, okra, purple hull peas and squash. They also operate a store that sells fresh produce, canned items and home decor items.



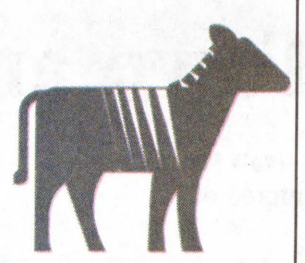
**RIALTO**  
The Rialto Theatre was first opened in 1923 and sits in historic downtown on Race Street. The Rialto has showings on Sunday, Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday at 7:30 p.m. and a \$2 ticket price. Showings on Tuesday and Thursday are also at 7:30 p.m., but tickets are only \$1. The Rialto also has two matinee options on Saturday and Sunday at 2 p.m.



**SEARCY ART GALLERY**  
Searcy Art Gallery is also located on Race Street. The building was the home of Captain Benjamin Clayton Black. The Victorian house was completed in 1874 and now serves as the center for art in Searcy. Searcy Art Gallery is open Tuesday-Friday from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. and Friday and Saturday 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and premieres local artists.



**SUGARLOAF MOUNTAIN**  
Sugarloaf Mountain is a natural setting to relax with your friends and family. It is located in Heber Springs, a 40-minute drive from Harding. The base of the mountain is nestled near Greers Ferry Lake, so after a hot climb you can cool off with a refreshing dip in the water.



**ZONKEY**  
Many people hear rumors of the famous zonkey, Trouble. Trouble is half zebra and half donkey and is owned by Don Paul and Dee Williams. Trouble lives on the corner of Searcy and Fourth Street in Kensett, Ark. Paul and Williams do not charge visitors to come feed Trouble apples, carrots and sugar cubes.

Graphic by Tyler Carmical, story by Colbie Phillips



# Spring Sing

A Harding University Student Publication

Leadership..... 2C  
New..... 3C  
Music..... 4C

April 18, 2014  
Vol. 89, No. 17

**"FRECKLES & FUR"**  
Clubs: Pi Theta Phi, Gamma Sigma Phi, Delta Nu  
About: A group of monsters and a group of kids that exist on the other side of each other's door.  
Numbers: 104 total participants

**"THERE'S GNOME PLACE LIKE HOME"**  
Clubs: TNT and Zeta Rho  
About: Garden gnomes that are seeking the true purpose of life.  
Numbers: 130 total participants

**"IT'S ALL GREEK TO ME"**  
Clubs: Ju Go Ju, Ko Jo Kai, Sigma Nu Epsilon  
About: Greek gods including Zeus, Hercules, Athena and Aphrodite.  
Numbers: 133 total participants

**"THE SHOW HEARD 'ROUND THE WORLD"**  
Clubs: Knights  
About: A rag-tag army that is fighting British tyranny in pursuit of their freedom during the American Revolution.  
Numbers: 63 total participants

**"LET THE GOOD TIMES ROLL"**  
Clubs: Delta Gamma Rho, Chi Omega Pi, Zeta Pi Zeta, Omega Phi  
About: A group of tourists visiting New Orleans.  
Numbers: 145 total participants

**"A WHOLE NEW DO"**  
Clubs: Iota Chi, Shantih, Phi Kappa Delta  
About: Hairdressers going through beauty school with a mean head mistress.  
Numbers: 75 total participants

**"JUST A BUNCH OF CELL-OUTS"**  
Clubs: Chi Sigma Alpha, Regina, OEGE, Sigma Phi Mu  
About: A feuding prison population that finds a common goal to unite.  
Numbers: 113 total participants

**"PREHISTORIC PERIL"**  
Clubs: Chi Kappa Rho, Omega Lambda Chi, Delta Chi Delta, GATA, Alpha Tau Epsilon  
About: Cavemen and the discoveries they make.  
Numbers: 41 participants



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY GRANT SCHOL AND TYLER CARMICAL

## After 14 year hiatus, Knights takes Spring Sing stage again

by Alexis Hosticka  
news editor

Knights is taking the Spring Sing stage for the first time since 2000 with an American Revolution-themed show.

Contrary to rumor, Knights was never banned from Spring Sing but made the decision themselves not to do the show again.

"The show (in 2000) was called 'A Disaster Waiting to Happen' and the title was an unfortunate, ironic and very real description of how tragically embarrassing the performance was," alumnus Chris Casey said. "After I cringed in my seat for seven minutes as an eyewitness to said travesty, I told myself I'd never join that stupid club."

Casey was a senior in high school when he saw the show, and said he "ironically" ended up joining Knights the following year.

"After pledging and hearing the story of the embarrassing failure of that last performance from those who were actually in it, we simply promised ourselves that we wouldn't do Spring Sing as a club anymore," Casey said.

In 2000, the show was performed with women's social club Tri-Kappa, which no longer exists, and friends.

After seeing the recording of the natural disaster-themed show, current director and junior Harrison Waldron agreed that the last time Knights did a show was "so bad." This year, Knights is attempting to make a comeback from the "disaster," performing an American Revolution-themed show without any other clubs or friends. Only members of Knights and their queens are allowed to participate.

"I chose to do Spring Sing because it's seriously a once-in-

a-lifetime opportunity," junior Hunter Beck said. "When Knights decides to do something, we go all out and make it awesome."

Waldron is the sole director of the show, but sophomore Kyle Johnson and junior Matt Erwin have been helping with the leadership role.

"Harrison has put the team on his back and dedicated his entire year to this show, but Matt and I have helped with attending meetings in his place, coming up with some choreography and picking up the slack wherever he may need help," Johnson said.

Erwin said he has enjoyed the production of the show and what he's learned from it.

"Our show is built to have fun," Erwin said. "It has been an honor this semester to help out and see the guys enjoy this process."

Waldron is excited about how the production has turned out and said he didn't expect any less.

"Knights is by far the goofiest and most creative club on campus, in my opinion, and I knew that if we could come together to make this happen, then it would be amazing," Waldron said.



HENRY GONZALEZ | THE BISON

Freshman Justin Baker raises his fist triumphantly during the finale of the Knights show in Tuesday night's rehearsal. Knights' theme, "The Show Heard 'Round the World," focuses on the American Revolution.

## Local charities benefit from club shows

by Kristi Soto  
web editor

Until less than a decade ago, clubs kept Spring Sing prize money for themselves. But since 2006, Spring Sing groups have chosen charities to support as a way to give back to the community. Here's a little information about each show's chosen charity.

**Special Olympics Arkansas:** Chi Kappa Rho, Omega Lambda Chi, Delta Chi Delta, Alpha Tau Epsilon and GATA.

Harding University hosts Special Olympics Arkansas Summer Games, which provides opportunities for children and adults with intellectual disabilities through Olympic events. Sophomore director Erin Hasler said the organization gives opportunities to those who do not always receive them.

**Arkansas Children's Hospital Camp Sunshine:** Ju Go Ju, Sigma Nu Epsilon and Ko Jo Kai.

Camp Sunshine is a four-day camp where kids who survived burn injuries can have fun without getting questions or comments on their appearance. Sophomore director Peyton Templeton is a burn survivor and served at Camp Sunshine as a counselor.

**Ty2 Foundation:** TNT and Zeta Rho.

Ty2 is a memorial for former Harding student Ty Osman II promoting organ donation. Osman was a registered organ donor, and, following his death, he donated his heart, lungs, kidneys, liver, pancreas and eyes. Osman was a part of the TNT and Zeta Rho show in 2012.

**Cystic Fibrosis Foundation:** Knights.

The foundation funds research for finding a cure for cystic fibrosis, a disease affecting the lungs and digestive system. Knights chose the CF Foundation to support senior Taylor Lively, a member of Knights who is diagnosed with cystic fibrosis.

**Searcy Children's Home:** Chi Sigma Alpha, Regina, OEGE and Sigma Phi Mu.

The home provides foster care, adoption services and maternity services. Junior director Amber Walker loves how the organization strives to help improve the lives of children.

**Sunshine School:** Delta Gamma Rho, Chi Omega Pi, Zeta Pi Zeta and Omega Phi.

The Sunshine School is nonprofit that helps students of all ages with developmental disabilities. Chi Omega Pi social club also helps the Sunshine School through Santa's Helpers and Special Olympics.

**CASA:** Pi Theta Phi, Gamma Sigma Phi and Delta Nu.

Court Appointed Special Advocates for Children focuses on the safety of children. Sophomore director April Jones said it was an easy fit for them to choose CASA because the organization works with children and the theme of the show, "Freckles and Fur," is about children.

**Susan G. Komen Arkansas:** Iota Chi, Phi Kappa Delta and Shantih.

Susan G. Komen Arkansas helps women who are battling breast cancer. Sophomore director Meredith Sanders said breast cancer hits home to Iota Chi because members' moms are battling breast cancer.





# LEADERSHIP

2C | Friday, April 18, 2014



GRAPHIC BY JEWELYA WILLIAMS, PHOTOS BY GRANT SCHOL

The 2014 Spring Sing hosts and hostesses sophomore Jonathan Andrew, and seniors Blake Hunter, Lindsey Sloan, Dustyn Stokes and Austin Collum, share their favorite aspects of the show.

## Alumni return to judge club shows, help choose winners

by Matt Ryan  
features editor

One of the biggest concerns for students involved in Spring Sing is impressing the panel of nine judges who analyze and critique every element of their shows and who ultimately decide the winners of Spring Sing.

This panel of judges consists of a group of alumni who come from across the country and who specialize in areas like music, staging and visuals.

Katie Frazier, a 2006 graduate with a degree in music education, now teaches music at Middle Tennessee Christian School in Murfreesboro, Tenn. As a student at Harding, she was a cast member and a director

for Zeta Rho/TNT shows and a member of the Spring Sing ensemble for two years. Frazier said she believes she was among those chosen to judge this year because of her experience as a music teacher, as well as the variety of roles she held in Spring Sing shows during her time as a student. She said because of these roles, she understands how important it is to have knowledgeable judges.

"It was an honor to be asked by Cindee Stockstill," Frazier said. "I want to do my best to evaluate each show based on the rubrics provided."

Likewise, Brandt Roberts, a 2006 graduate who majored in theatre and vocational ministry and

also has a master's degree in performing arts, said he was selected because of his education and theatre experience. Roberts said he looks forward to being involved in Spring Sing this year because the show gives people a chance to enjoy an event together.

"Spring Sing means interpersonal communication on a large scale," Roberts said.

"It's nice to come together in one room, albeit a very large room. We laugh, we sing, we tap our feet. There is a wonderful synergy between audience and performer. For a short time, we are united."

Spring Sing judges strive for impartiality in their judging. According to Elizabeth Harrell, a 2009 graduate with a degree in vocal music education, judges must

demonstrate that they are far enough removed from their time as students that they no longer show bias toward any club.

Harrell said that while they make every effort to be impartial, judges are still there because they themselves have been deeply impacted by their experiences as students in Spring Sing.

"(As a student in Spring

Sing) I got to be Mary Poppins and fly," Harrell said. "I also made best friends through ensemble and hosting. It was the best time, and in 10 years, I bet you will still remember every dance move and every parody line to your songs. You will make great memories, and those lyrics will be burned into your brain forever. I can't wait to see the show."

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## Ensemble emphasizes process, not product, in preparation

by Grant Schol  
head photographer

The Spring Sing ensemble group is made up of various classifications and majors from every department on campus and widely different home backgrounds. Though each individual is set apart in their own way, they all come together to form one group with a unique dynamic.

Dottie Frye, director of the hosts, hostesses and ensemble, said that while preparation and good learning techniques are essential for a brilliant presentation, interactions with other people are just as important.

"It's a life lesson," Frye said. "We are putting a group of completely random people

together and telling them 'do something great,' and we have to figure out how to do that."

Senior Megan Hughes said Frye has accomplished her goal. After transferring to Harding as a freshman in the spring of 2011, Hughes was exposed to Spring Sing for the first time. She said she knew she wanted to be a part of the ensemble. Now in her third year of ensemble, Hughes has experienced much of what the process has to offer.

"I have seen three different groups of ensemble, and I can see how we all bond together, and we really do become a family with these people," Hughes said. "All of us are from different

worlds, but we all just come together and mesh. It's really special to see people who don't know each other at all be friends, though they are all so different."

Like Hughes, junior Taylor Provencher is also in his third year of ensemble. But unlike Hughes, he said he knew well before his freshman year he wanted to be a part of the group. Provencher said some of his favorite memories are not from performing but from sharing simple moments with the ensemble cast. Whether it be a short break between rehearsal numbers, a quick McDonald's run before curfew or laughing during practice, the small things are what are most

important to Provencher. "Little moments are what make up the process,"

Provencher said. "Those little shared moments with one another are what make the

memories, and those little moments are what make the performance better."



HENRY GONZALEZ | THE BISON

Ensemble performer senior Briana Midgley strikes a pose during a rehearsal on April 6 with hosts seniors Blake Hunter and Austin Collum and hostess senior Dustyn Stokes.



# McLarty starts new traditions in first Spring Sing as president

by Alex Ezell  
sports editor

It should come as no surprise that the theme of Spring Sing this year is extremely fitting. New to the presidential role this year, Dr. Bruce McLarty has only three short weeks to go in his first year as Harding's president. McLarty said he has dealt with many new activities this year, but Spring Sing is not one of them.

McLarty is not an amateur when it comes to Spring Sing. He first participated in Spring Sing while he was a student at Harding. McLarty said he was not in the actual show, but he was a part of the backstage crew that produced smoke using a homemade 55-gallon drum filled with dry ice and water. He said this turned out to be one of his fondest Spring Sing memories.

Heading into "Miracle Week," the week leading up to actual performances, McLarty said he had not participated much in any Spring Sing-related events. He said he wrote the welcome for the Spring Sing program, and it was a new adventure.

"I have not seen the show yet," McLarty said. "I know that it deals with the theme of 'New.' My only participation thus far (was) writing the welcome for the program, which, for a show called 'New,' was a new experience for me. It was all very appropriate."

McLarty will actually perform on stage this year, alongside other faculty members including Chancellor David Burks, in a short piece involving grandparents during one of the ensemble numbers.

Burks said he never participated in Spring Sing while he was president.

"Spring Sing did not exist when I was a student," Burks said. "I was asked a couple of times to participate in Spring Sing as president and I opted not to do that. That did not stop my name from being used, but nonetheless, I did not participate."

Even though Burks never participated in Spring Sing until this year, he still has a passion for the event unlike any other. He said he would put it in his top five activities he looks forward to every year.

"It is where I see camaraderie existing at the highest level," Burks said. "Spring Sing, the Homecoming musical, a football game, the Rhodes Rowdies during a close basketball game — that is where you can just sense this fellowship and the love that students have for each other. So, to me, it is a really special time."

According to McLarty, Spring Sing participants from years past always tell him how special it was to be involved in Spring Sing. He said he believes people always identify themselves by the groups they were a part of during their time as a student.

"In terms of the bigger picture, I think it all deals with the word 'community,'" McLarty said. "People always identify themselves by groups they are a part of. They went to Honors Symposium together; they were in the same Impact group; or they went to HUF together. 'We were in Spring Sing together' is something you hear all the time. People will carry that the rest of their lives."

## Rehearsals



VIRGINIA "VIVI" VITALONE | THE BISON



DJ LAWSON | THE BISON



VIRGINIA "VIVI" VITALONE | THE BISON

## WHAT DOES "NEW" MEAN TO YOU?

For me, "New" can only refer to the newness of life that I have in Jesus.

-Junior Jacob Nesbit

To me, "New" represents Harding this year. Not only are there new freshman and new people to meet, but the biggest thing this year is that there's also a new president. All of these things add up to new experiences and new memories to be made at Harding, and the Spring Sing show "New" encompasses all of that.

-Junior Rachel Weiss (Chi Omega Pi)

"New" to me means a touch of the old with a large splash of new flavor. Looking "back when," but creating it into a new show that no one has experienced before.

-Freshman Kaylie Ross (Iota Chi)

New to me is original and fun. It is eye opening and ready for anything and everything.

-Sophomore Peyton Templeton (Ju Go Ju)

"New" to me means something that keeps people on their toes, something that expresses a whole new take on things. It gives us another chance to start new, long-lasting traditions. Newness makes our faith current.

-Megan Alder (Iota Chi)

Fresh. Exciting. Ready for adventure.

-Cindee Stockstill (Producer)

Since I am a freshman, the whole year has been new. New place, new friends and new experiences. I have been blessed to experience God in a whole new way, while being surrounded by my awesome new club, Shanthi. I am excited to show off our A Whole New Do Spring Sing show.

-Freshman Kailyn Willis (Shanthi)

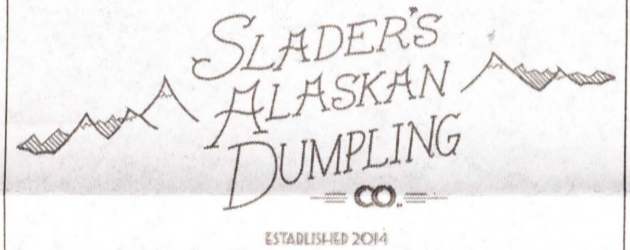
To me, "New" means discovering something for the first time. It's always been there, you just weren't looking in the right place for it.

-Freshman Garrett White (Knights)

In general, I think "New" refers to an object, emotion or activity that is different from what a person is accustomed to or has experienced previously. For Spring Sing 2014, "New" refers to new opportunities, new directions, new outlooks on life, trying something different and letting go of the things that hinder us as we strive to be a new creature in Christ. The irony is that even though it is not a new idea, it is an important concept to be made new every day.

-Susan Shirel (Music Instructor)

Story by Hannah Robison and Shane Schock  
Graphic by Tyler Carmical



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# Student asst. director sets sights on stage managing Spring Sing

by Jesse Hixson  
business manager

When thinking of Spring Sing and the production team that puts together the annual spectacle, one would normally think of 20-year veterans like directors Steve and Dottie Frye or producer

Cindee Stockstill. However, in a year dedicated to the "New," junior Sarah Harris, a theatre major, rose to the rank of assistant director and officially secured her place in Spring Sing history.

Harris began her work at Harding as a nursing major because of its practicality as

a career and her passion for helping others. Harris said that as the oldest child in her family, she felt called to follow in her father's footsteps in the medical field, but soon realized it did not have the creative outlet she was looking for in a career choice. After

many prayers and difficult decisions, Harris said she decided her sophomore year that she would switch her major to theatre and pursue a career as a professional stage manager.

Harris said she decided to set to work at gaining all of the knowledge she could during her time here at Harding. She immersed herself in the theatre curriculum and began taking large jobs almost immediately, such as stage managing the homecoming musical, "Pirates!?! A Pillaging of Gilbert and Sullivan," last fall.

Just in the last semester, Harris decided to try her hand at lighting and assisted in the lighting design for Harding's "Macbeth" and "Radium Girls" and will direct her own one-act at the beginning of May. Even with all of this experience under her belt, Harris said she understood that Spring Sing was a different task entirely.

"When I first changed my major to theatre, I mentioned to Steve (Frye) that I thought stage managing Spring Sing would be fun, and he just gave me this look like I was crazy," Harris said.

In the entire history of Spring Sing, Harris said that a student has only taken on this role once before, allowing Frye to sit in the audience and watch rather than call the show from the light booth in the balcony. Harris was therefore determined to become the second student to ever call the show.

The production team selected her for the role of assistant director this year to prepare her for her work as stage manager next year. This year, as Harris learns the ropes, she has been attending regular production meetings as well as designing and setting the light cues for all eight of the club shows. On top of this, she has also been writing a how-to manual for Spring Sing, in case anything ever

happened to one of the major production team members.

"The manual talks about what your thought process should be with the show and when to make certain decisions in the process," Harris said. "We're not trying to put a ring around it so it can't move, because Spring Sing is a moving target, but it will give a more solid outline and structure to those that come later."

Harris has already been selected to stage manage Harding's homecoming production, "Shrek the Musical," as well as continue her work with Spring Sing. Regardless of what happens next, Harris said her first priority is to always make sure she is honoring God with her work and the rest will follow suit.

As the lights go down for Spring Sing: "New" this year, make note of Sarah Harris in your program, because in years to come, she might just be running the entire show.



GRANT SCHOL | THE BISON

Junior Sarah Harris sets lighting cues from the light booth on April 6 in the Benson. Harris was responsible for creating all lighting effects in the club shows.





## Jazz band to serve as house band on stage this year

by Haleigh Edge  
asst. copy editor

In this year's Spring Sing show, the jazz band will add a few additional elements to the theme "New." According to Wesley Parker, assistant professor of music and jazz band director, the jazz band will be serving as the house band for Spring Sing. The jazz band provides the live background music for all of the host and hostess and ensemble songs between club acts. According to Parker, this year there are 18 participants in the jazz band. The jazz band will also have two features — one in the first act and one in the second act.

"While the jazz band has always played a variety of musical styles, we will focus on funk music for this year's Spring Sing features," Parker said. "It has been a blast learning these tunes, and they have really been pushed outside of their usual jazz band comfort zone."

According to sophomore music education major Austin Westjohn, the jazz band will be on the Benson stage the entire time. Westjohn said the jazz band's presence is a major part of what will bring the show together.

"I think (the performance) will be smooth," Westjohn said. "It's going to be good because the jazz band's role in Spring Sing, when it's not doing the feature pieces, is accompanying the hosts and the ensemble. That's really fun because without the jazz band, it wouldn't all come together. Just like without the club shows it wouldn't come together. It's just a big part of how Spring Sing works every year."

Julie Harvey, a junior music education major and trumpet player, said that even though the jazz band has played on stage in the past, this year is the first time for all the players.

"None of us have played on stage before," Harvey said. "We would be in the pit and no one could see us. There's something blocking our view a little bit, but still, (the audience can see us)."

According to freshman exercise science major and trombone player Drew Howerton, the timing will be the trickiest part of their performance.



GRANT SCHOL | THE BISON

Director Wesley Parker instructs the jazz band during a rehearsal in the Benson on April 8. The professor who normally directs jazz band, Dr. Cynthia Carrell, is currently overseas, so this show will be Parker's one and only.

"Dr. Parker has to conduct us based on how the (ensemble, hosts and hostesses) sing," Howerton said. "Because they can't see Dr. Parker, they have to sing at their own tempo, and he has to have us go with it. People can have good days and be excited and the tempo can be up a little bit, (or) it could be down. So we just have to follow Dr. Parker and lock it in and know that he'll stay with the singers, and it'll work out."

Westjohn said that because Parker is a percussionist, he is really good at keeping the pulse together.

"The tempo is always really steady, and he's made it easier on all of us to play together as one group. He brings a level of energy to the group as well," Westjohn said.

"I really like Dr. Parker because of the way he interacts with the students, and he has a great sense of humor. He's definitely much appreciated."

Harvey said that having Parker as jazz band director is an exciting part of Spring Sing. She also said the jazz band is an important part of Spring Sing, but is one group among many in the show.

"It's always a positive experience; it's never not," Harvey said. "We still interact with the other (participants). It's not like we're just a separate group. There's at least a thousand people on campus that are in this performance, and so we interact with a lot of them; it's a whole community."



GRANT SCHOL | THE BISON

Audio engineer David Robison operates the audio board during a practice on April 10. Robison has been assisting clubs with this year's music since Thanksgiving break.

## Audio engineer brings Spring Sing sounds to life

by Taylor Gleaves  
asst. web editor

Although most people in the audience during Spring Sing performances this weekend will leave remembering the music and choreography, there is more to the show than what meets the eye. A wide variety of vital components have gone into the work behind the curtain of each Spring Sing show. This work behind the show gives way to the key component of the production: the audio that makes it come to life.

According to David Robison, audio engineer for the university and sound design/director for Spring Sing, the Spring Sing process began during Thanksgiving break when clubs began recording tracks. That process continued into the spring semester.

"All the music is generated by music arrangers (made up) of students, former students and myself," Robison said. "If I do my job right, nobody notices. People don't leave a performance saying, 'That was a great sounding show.' But, if the sound is not right, or a microphone is not working, they always remember that."

Robison said the greatest challenges when managing audio for such a large production are figuring out how to make the audio fit into the time allotted and ensuring it comes together smoothly. Although it can be difficult to coor-

dinate so many elements of the show, Robison said the process has been very rewarding.

"Music and sound are just one part of the equation," Robison said. "The lighting, costumes, staging, props and other technical aspects merely serve as a basis so the real stars of the show can shine, and the thousands who attend feel they have been treated to a unique experience of more than 1,000 people working together to make it happen."

There will be 48 channels of audio and 29 microphones in use during Spring Sing. The majority of these microphones will be located on the hosts and hostesses, ensemble members and stage singers.

Sophomore Matthew Shafer, student assistant to David Robison, manages the audio for chapel every Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

"I work for Mr. Robison purely for the opportunity to learn about audio from one of the most experienced men I have ever met," Shafer said.

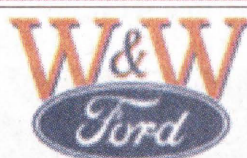
Shafer works alongside Robison by helping to cable, position, connect and check all the mics used for the jazz band and all the connectivity involved.

"It is well worth the time and effort to provide an entertaining show for those who attend, and to help the students who direct, produce and participate in the shows to realize their vision," Robison said.

## UNITED WE STAND

There's nowhere in the world that I would rather be, than with you my love. And there's nothing in the world that I would rather see, than your smile my love. For united we stand, divided we fall. And if our backs should ever be against the wall, we'll be together, together, you and I. For united we stand, divided we fall. And if our backs should ever be against the wall, we'll be together, together, you and I. And if the world about you falls apart my love, then I'll still be here. And if the going gets too hard along the way, just you call, I'll hear. For united we stand, divided we fall. And if our backs should ever be against the wall, we'll be together, together, you and I. For united we stand, divided we fall. And if our backs should ever be against the wall, we'll be together, together, you and I. There's nowhere in the world that I would rather be, than with you my love. And there's nothing in the world that I would rather see, than your smile my love. For united we stand, divided we fall. And if our backs should ever be against the wall, we'll be together, together, you and I. For united we stand, divided we fall. And if our backs should ever be against the wall, we'll be together, together, you and I. And if the world about you falls apart my love, then I'll still be here. And if the going gets too hard along the way, just you call, I'll hear. For united we stand, divided we fall. And if our backs should ever be against the wall, we'll be together, together, you and I. For united we stand, divided we fall. And if our backs should ever be against the wall, we'll be together, together, you and I.

AS PERFORMED BY TONY HILLER AND PETER SIMMONS GRAPHIC BY TYLER CARMICAL



## Is Proud to Announce

the addition of Tanner Brown to our sales staff.



Tanner is from Denton, Texas and recently graduated from Harding. He will be a graduate student at Harding in the fall. He and his wife Claire live in Searcy. Claire is a second grade teacher at Rosebud public schools. Tanner welcomes anyone who is looking for a vehicle or knows anyone that is looking for a vehicle to stop at the dealership and see him.

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