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## STATE OF THE UNIVERSITY



Photo Illustration by Sawyer Hite and Amanda Floyd

# President McLarty expresses high hopes for the University

By Kaleb Turner  
News Editor

Well into his third year as president of Harding University, Dr. Bruce McLarty said he has thoroughly enjoyed the job and feels comfortable in his leadership position, due largely in part to his comfort in the Harding community. "Since day one, I have been surrounded by wonderful people who are wonderfully competent," McLarty said.

The two and a half years have brought few surprises and no regrets, according to McLarty; however, he recognizes that there are circumstances in which he will know how better to handle certain

situations in the future.

According to McLarty, while higher education leaders today wrestle with many concerns, it is important for students not to be afraid. McLarty said that while there is certainly a long list of things people in higher education are concerned about today such as federal regulations, student loans and Supreme Court rulings, it is vital that we not be afraid.

"I think that would be one of my biggest messages to the community," McLarty said. "There's no reason for fear. We need to be vigilant, engaged and involved, but we don't need to be afraid."

The university is in the process

of implementing the strategic five-year plan crafted at the end of Dr. David Burks' presidency, according to McLarty. He said that while he will take a leading role in its execution, the plan is not simply "Bruce's five-year plan."

"The cabinet's consensus was that the strategic plan of Harding is much more than and much bigger than the presidency," McLarty said. "It is a plan of the university, and it has the input and the buy-in from students, alumni, faculty and all these folks we work with."

Most notably, the strategic plans include the demolition and reconstruction of the Ganus building, a project which has not yet started.

According to McLarty, the new three-story building will be rebuilt in its current location next to the Administration building and will house modern foreign language, history and political science departments, and likely the office of the Provost.

While ideas like an expansion of the Brackett Library or a renovation of the Hammon Student Center may become reality in the future, McLarty's focus reaches beyond structural growth and development.

"My big vision would be that Harding continues to deepen and to grow as a community of mission," McLarty said. "My job is to make sure we stay on key and on mission.

My job is to make sure that the things that are at the core of Harding University are the most attended to. Then, as we are on key, on point and on the mission of God, with these creative, talented people that I am surrounded by here, together we hammer out where we go. We dream new dreams together."

As his presidency continues, McLarty said he looks forward to continuing a resolute community of mission among the already strong and thriving Harding family.

"The state of the university is blessed and highly favored," McLarty said. "It's a good time to be at Harding. The university is in a strong position to meet the challenges of the future."

## Additions to First Ladies Garden coming in April

### 100 Women for Harding provides funds for three garden projects

By Zach Hailey  
Editor-in-Chief

Three features will be added to the First Ladies Garden and will be funded by the 100 Women for Harding. This fundraiser, coordinated by Vice President of Parent and Alumni Relations Liz Howell, gives university alumni the opportunity to make donations in honor of past generations of women from Harding. Howell said she wanted to give an opportunity for Harding graduates to honor family and friends who had inspired, encouraged and provided for them while they were students.

The goal of the fundraiser is to have 100 women donate \$1,000 each to purchase plaques and pavers, raising a total of \$100,000.

Howell said she called her friend who worked in the Advancement Office for over 10 years, Donna Helms.

"I loved the whole garden concept and the 100 Women was just a neat idea," Helms said. "I really didn't do any production work on it other than just give (Howell) feedback about what I thought about different aspects. I think she has more good ideas in five minutes than most of us have in five years."

Howell sent an email inviting Harding alumni to donate to the cause. According to Howell, the fundraiser was an immediate success.

"I posted my contact number on the invitation email because we launched this campaign right before Christmas break,"

Howell said. "My phone began ringing off the hook ... the response was incredible."

Howell said throughout the rest of the day multiple people called and donated to honor women who attended Harding. Before the end of the year, the fundraiser had met its goal.

"To see things go from a thought to a dream to an accomplishment is amazing," Howell said.

According to the First Ladies Garden proposal, an outdoor classroom, courtyard and secret garden will be added this semester. The classroom's amphitheater-like design will make it functional as well as fun, according to Howell.

BeaconSage, an app that uses Bluetooth and web links, will be another new feature of the garden. Through BeaconSage connectivity, the BeaconSage app will allow Harding's history to come to life. "Beacons" will be placed around several locations throughout campus and, when approached, a web link will show up on the user's mobile device. By clicking the link, students will be able to watch events such as Uncle Bud singing his favorite hymn, Dr. Neil Pryor lecturing, Dr. McLarty speaking about the history of the university and many more.

Although concept designs are not available currently, Howell said the final drafts are "nearly finished." According to Howell, the dedication to the additional projects will take place in the Benson Auditorium on April 28.



Courtesy of Al Fowler

An outdoor classroom, a courtyard and a secret garden will be added to the First Ladies Garden this semester. The 100 Women for Harding raised over \$100,000 to provide the funds for the addition.

## Obama issues orders on gun control

By Hannah Moore  
Beat Reporter

On Jan. 5, President Barack Obama held a press conference at the White House to unveil his executive orders dealing with gun violence.

"We do have to feel a sense of urgency about it," Obama said. "In Dr. King's words, we need to feel the 'fierce urgency of now.' Because people are dying. And the constant excuses for inaction no longer do, no longer suffice."

According to Dr. Steven Breezeel, associate professor of political science, executive orders have played a part in American politics since its inception.

"Fundamentally, what they represent are instructions given by the president to members of the bureaucracy or administrative side of government in terms of their actions to carry out the law," Breezeel said. "It's much like the direction a manager would give to an employee. The idea of an executive order is an implied power."

The executive orders

outlined in Obama's speech include requiring all firearms retailers to run background checks on all customers; hiring more people to work in the FBI's background check system to strengthen the existing gun laws; sending all mental health records to the background check system to protect the mentally ill, and developing new gun safety technologies.

According to senior Chord Cantrell, a public administration major, these executive orders could potentially alienate several groups of voters, especially in the south.

"I was born in Arkansas and raised in Arkansas," Cantrell said. "Where I'm from, everybody carries, everybody goes hunting, everybody just knows how to use a gun. Around here in the south, it aggravates everybody every time something is done — whether it's just a minute tweak of a background check or something as drastic as banning clips that hold more than 10 rounds. All

the gun control legislation is doing is taking guns out of the hands of people who know how to use them and are good people who don't do any harm. If you are looking at where the shootings are taking place and the places with the highest concentration of gun violence and criminal activity, they are in the states with the highest regulations on guns."

Senior Jennifer Wright said she supports gun control.

"I want gun control because I love the idea of a free country," Wright said. "I love the idea of unalienable rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. I think every life is worthy of protection, and I don't think we should make it easy for anyone to take another's life. I think people's civil liberties should cease to exist the second they intend harm."

Breezeel said that while the executive orders aim to reduce the number of mass shootings, they would not have had any effect in some violent shooter events.

"The guy that bought the guns and then transferred them illegally under current law passed a background check and most of the shooters would have passed a background check," Breezeel said. "The criticism is that these are policies that have been on the wish list for advocates of gun control for a long time but they themselves wouldn't have any bearing on any of the recent shootings that have happened in the U.S."

Obama, however, said he firmly believes that this batch of executive orders are worth implementing.

"Each time this comes up, we are fed the excuse that common-sense reforms like background checks might not have stopped the last massacre, or the one before that, or the one before that, so why bother trying," Obama said in the press conference. "I reject that thinking. We know we can not stop every act of violence, every act of evil in the world. But maybe we could try to stop one act of evil, one act of violence."



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Keith Cronk, page 3B

Harding CIO wins award as one of the top 20 in North America

Oscar Nominees, page 4B

Take a look at the 2016 Oscar Nominees



Softball, page 2B



EMILY EASON | The Bison

Provost Larry Long will retire at the end of this 2015-16 academic year. Long served in many capacities during his time at Harding and was pivotal in the implementation of the pharmacy and physical therapy programs.

# Long to retire after 40 years of service

Provost Dr. Larry Long to retire after serving in department of English, Honors College and College of Arts and Humanities

By Haley Anzalone  
Student Writer

After 40 years of serving at Harding, six of those years as provost, Dr. Larry Long is retiring.

Long has held a variety of positions and leadership roles during his time on campus. From teaching in the department of English to serving as dean of the Honors College and College of Arts and Humanities, Long will complete his tenure after serving as provost for six years.

Throughout Long's many accomplishments, he said he aimed to help the students and the university as a whole. Long spearheaded the effort to delegate the university's academic leadership. What used to be one vice president for academic affairs has now transitioned to one provost with three assistant provosts. New programs such as physician's assistant, pharmacy and family nurse practitioner are here today because of Long's work.

According to Long, he came to Harding to follow his passion for teaching English. Long taught for 25 years, eventually moving into the English honors program and then into a dean position. That span of time proved to be the most rewarding for Long, because it involved interacting with students daily. Now a few levels of people stand between Long and students. However, according to Long, he still finds his position as provost rewarding, because he can play an indirect part in student success.

Dennis Organ, chair of the department of English during Long's tenure, praised Long's ability to relate to students of all spectrums.

"From the beginning of his career he was a remarkably gifted teacher, respected by and popular with struggling freshmen composition students and advanced English majors alike," Organ said. "He defined and set a high standard for advanced

composition, a core requirement for our majors. It was the best and truest kind of teaching, one that a generation of fortunate students experienced at his feet."

"Dr. Long is a huge supporter of faculty and students — he tries to do anything he can to help the faculty do their jobs and to help the students be successful.

-Marty Spears  
Assistant Provost

The replacement process is in the works, and Long said he hopes his replacement will enjoy working with the administration, faculty, staff and students.

Marty Spears, assistant provost, said he believes Long has lived out the true mission of Harding in his time on campus.

"When it was announced over at the faculty meeting that this would

be his last year, he got a standing ovation," Spears said. "Dr. Long is a huge supporter of faculty and students — he tries to do anything he can to help the faculty do their jobs and to help the students be successful."

Though Long said his time at Harding has been exceptionally rewarding, he said he looks forward to having days without a schedule, putting more time into his position as an elder with College Church of Christ, traveling and spending more time with his wife, kids and grandchildren.

"My happiest moment in my whole career is reoccurring, which is a blessing," Long said. "It is when I stand on the stage when we march into graduation. My job puts me in the front of the line, and Dr. McLarty and I walk up to the stage. We turn around, and we look, and I see all of these good people that I really respect. For years I have had the chance to work with those people."

# Administration addresses risks of hoverboards

By Zach Hailey  
Editor-in-Chief

According to The Washington Post, one hoverboard was sold every 12 seconds on Cyber Monday during this holiday season. The popular gift has since been placed under strict regulations at universities nationwide due to safety concerns. Assistant Vice President of Student Life Zach Neal said the Harding administration is taking action to insure the safety of students, faculty, staff and guests.

According to Neal, there are currently 12 students on campus with hoverboards.

"Residence life worked with RA's to communicate with each student who returned to campus with a hoverboard," Neal said. "Students have been asked to not ride one indoors. The hoverboard must be attended (to) when charging and is not to be placed on charge when occupants are sleeping."

According to NPR.org, several cases involving sparks, flames and combustion surrounding hoverboards have been reported. The article referenced that another incident culminated in a house being burned down.

Although Harding has chosen to regulate the use of hoverboards, according to an article by independent.co.uk, more than 20 universities across the U.S. have chosen to ban hoverboards altogether for fear of fires.

Neal said the university will continue to evaluate the current procedures and con-

sider including a handbook policy in the future.

Freshman Sydney Foster received a hoverboard for Christmas and said she has not had any problems.

"I'm not very concerned," Foster said. "When the board bursts into flames, then I'll be concerned."

However, Foster said she understands the regulation of hoverboards on campus because of the speed and potential clumsiness of the device.

"I see people riding around on them during the day, and that could be dangerous to others if you (fell) off of one," Foster said. "I think (hoverboards) should be seen as a toy rather than a transportation device."

Foster said that although the manual for the hoverboard says it is intended for transportation, she thinks fewer accidents would occur if people used them in less populated areas.

In an interview with NPR, Jay Whitacre, a professor of materials science and engineering at Carnegie Mellon University, said the problem with these spontaneous combustions lies in the lithium-ion battery. Whitacre said most of the lithium-ion batteries used in hoverboards are second-rate, and in turn are more likely to have problems when being overcharged or driven too much. Several hoverboard companies have issued recalls to replace the lithium-ion batteries with more reliable batteries.



EMILY EASON | The Bison

Freshman Sydney Foster sports her new hoverboard. Harding administration is asking students not to ride hoverboards indoors.

# Periodic table completed after discovery of new elements

By Josh Johnson  
Opinions Editor

The seventh row of the periodic table is complete after the discovery and verification of elements 113, 115, 117 and 118 by the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC). According to a Dec. 30, 2015, IUPAC press release, the four elements have working titles and abbreviations of Ununtrium (Uut), Ununpentium (Uup), Ununseptium (Uus) and Ununoctium (Uuo), respectively.

According to an NPR interview by Audie Cornish with Jim Roberto, a member of the research team that discovered elements 115 and 117, the experiments lasted about six months, and the scientists were able to view the atoms for the length of their entire respective lifespans: about 20 to 40 milliseconds.

"The new elements are synthetic, very unstable and extremely rare," Cornish said.

Dr. Burt Hollandsworth, associate professor of chemistry, said that efforts to synthesize

the so-called "superheavy" elements (elements 112-118) began in earnest in the 1990s. According to Hollandsworth, there has been a race between research groups in Russia, the U.S., and Japan, to produce superheavy elements by bombarding other very heavy elements with beams of lighter particles.

"If the combination of mass and energy is just right, the superheavy elements are produced a few atoms at a time, and they can exist for up to a few milliseconds before

decomposing into isotopes of more stable elements," Hollandsworth said.

Hollandsworth said that, while the discovery of these superheavy elements will generate some fleeting interest in high-energy physics, it is largely a politicized process focused on naming new elements; the particle accelerator experiments utilized by the research teams will likely not lead to any materials stable enough to be useful to humans.

"The organization already

had numbers there like they were expecting to find something, so it's possible that they just got really excited and jumped the gun to fill up the last row," senior molecular and cell biology major Emily Weldon said.

Weldon said that she feels the organization has put too much stock in something that cannot even be controlled.

"The nuclei of the superheavy elements barely exist long enough to become atoms, much less form compounds," Hollandsworth said. "(But)

there is something to be learned with every high-energy particle collision, and particle physicists are able to make better predictions of what to expect with future experiments based on all of these recent experiments."

Cornish said that, while there seems to be no practical application of this research currently on the horizon, it is an important step in the scientific understanding of the atomic world.

"Chemistry junkies, rejoice," Cornish said.

## “See you in the summer”

michael desalvo

guest  
writer



the subject line “summer internship.” My heart pounding, I moved my fingers across the screen as fast as humanly possible. As I opened the email, I read each line two or three times to make sure I wasn’t dreaming. A public relations firm in NYC wanted me to work for them during the summer. To say I was elated would be a vast understatement. I had less than 24 hours to accept the position, so I quickly responded and accepted the job. My future internship supervisor said, “See you in the summer.”

These five words left me feeling excited, joyful, fearful and anxious. Let’s just say I have a lot of planning to do.

This brings me to a more important aspect regarding the overall subject of my internship: the actual move to NYC and my plans after graduation.

After my internship is completed, I plan to live in the city to find a permanent job in the communications industry. I’ve sought advice from numerous blogs, watched Gossip Girl (I’m not afraid to admit that) and read lists about the 10 or so things I must know before moving to NYC (who doesn’t love a good list). Some people have wished me well, others called me crazy and a few naysayers told me I can’t survive in NYC. But ever since

I was a teenager, I have wanted to move away from “southern comfort,” as I like to call it. I often feel like I’m living in a bubble, mingling with the same people since childhood and experiencing the same mundane things every time I’m home on break. Don’t get me wrong. I love a glass of sugary iced tea, but I won’t let the comforts of home prevent me from following my dreams. People ask me why I would want to leave my family and move to a “concrete jungle” where I only know a handful of individuals. Why sacrifice comfort and leave everything and everyone behind?

Here is the simple answer: I’m young, I want to succeed and I have the opportunity to prove myself in the center of industry. While I may regret living and working in NYC, there’s an overwhelming possibility I might end up discovering who I am and whose I am. Why not take that risk?

So what if my journey in NYC is nothing short of horrible? I’ll never know the truth until I experience it first hand. Take a risk. You never know until you try.

**MICHAEL DESALVO is a student writer for the Bison. He may be contacted at mdesalv1@harding.edu.**

joshua johnson



don’t mind me...

## Saving Ben Franklin

My room was in shambles after a prolonged, desperate search for a red and green Christmas card envelope. Drawers I had pulled out lay empty on the floor. Empty grocery bags and wrapping paper floated down around me like deflating balloons, but it was nowhere to be found.

You can imagine my horror when I finally stumbled upon the partially shredded envelope — alongside two halves of a hundred dollar bill — lying at the bottom of my trash can.

The mystery was fairly easy to solve; nevertheless, I put on my Sherlock-esque trench coat and puffed on a metaphorical pipe for a while, purely for drama’s sake. The card was from my grandmother and had been placed inside another, larger envelope for safe-keeping. The culprit, upon discovering that the card in the larger envelope contained no tidings of college student Christmas joy, had ripped it in half and discarded it. Case closed.

Now I had a bigger problem. I was out a hundred bucks, and in this economy, or any economy, I needed that hundred bucks. I held the two halves of the bill, split right ‘twixt Ben’s ears, in my hand. Was it ruined forever? Was it still worth \$50 per half? Could it be repaired?

There was only one way to find out.

It only took several strips of transparent tape to bring the two pieces back together. Ben’s face looked relatively unbroken. I felt like a forger. To be honest, I took extra measures to generate this feeling; the coal miner’s headlamp strapped to my forehead was the only light in the dark room as I pieced the dilapidated bill back together. This gift was worth a dozen or so trips to Slader’s Alaskan dumplings — college student Christmas joy indeed.

However, I needed a less conspicuous place to make the exchange. Pulling one over on my favorite restaurant was not high on my to-do list that week, so I settled on a gas station instead.

My palms were sweaty as I handed the cashier, a 20-something with double lip piercings, my stitched-up Frankenstein bill. I asked for 10 dollars on pump seven, plus a package of Trident Layers. Her hand closed around the fragmented paper. It crinkled slightly at the seam, as only a strip of transparent tape will do. For a fleeting second I felt like the jig was up. My brain told me to run, but my legs said no sir.

Then she nodded her head, punched a few buttons on the register, put my gum in a bag and handed me my change — wholesome, legal sheets of currency, with no remnants of tape or shame to taint their soft green features.

The woman gave me a look, as if to ask why I was still there, leafing through my cash.

“You’re good to go,” she said, with more than a hint of judgmental amusement.

Oh sister, if only you knew, I thought. But I wasn’t going to blow this, not here at the 11th hour. After all, I had done it. I had pulled off the impossible.

It wasn’t until the next day that I learned the truth about my heist. Needless to say, I was quite torn up to learn that “mutilated” currency is perfectly valid, as long as at least 50 percent of the bill is present. The Federal Reserve Bank Services further explains that any “badly soiled, dirty, defaced, disintegrated, limp, torn or worn out currency note that is clearly more than one-half of the original note, and does not require special examination to determine its value, is not considered mutilated.”

Regardless of legal dictations, I will continue to tell this story my own way. I saved Ben’s life; that is all anybody needs to know.

**JOSHUA JOHNSON is the opinions editor for the Bison. He may be contacted at jjohnson4@harding.edu. Twitter: @joshjohnson146**

## FACES IN THE CROWD

“WHAT WILL YOU DO IF WE GET A SNOW DAY?”

Natalie Martin,  
Junior

Rebecca Bachelor,  
Sophomore

Grant Webster,  
Sophomore

Caleb Armstrong,  
Freshman



“Take my friend’s truck and try to flip it.”



“Stay inside and avoid the cold under hot blankets and watch Netflix.”



“Go to the parking lot behind the Lee building and play hockey.”



“Play Call of Duty or 2K with my friends.”

## Rey to the rescue

melissa hite

guest  
writer



a good story. But in “The Force Awakens,” the long-awaited return of the Star Wars franchise, director J.J. Abrams defies that cliché. He offers the little girls of the world Rey, a scavenger with a mechanical mind, a loving heart and a strong sensitivity to the Force. Like the girls who will look up to her, Rey “knows all about waiting” — for her family to return to her desert planet and save her from the oppressive monotony of her life. But as her character develops, she learns to stop waiting.

Some critics complain that “The Force Awakens” is, at its core, nothing more than an elaborate remake of “A New Hope” — and it may be a fair criticism. Comparing the two films beat-for-beat, it’s hard to ignore that they follow the same outline. However, this similarity makes the points at which J.J. Abrams’ take deviates from the original that much more striking. Here’s my favorite example:

In “A New Hope,” once Luke Skywalker and Han Solo have infiltrated Vader’s Death Star and disabled the shields, weakening the battle station for the coming attack, they move on to their ultimate task: the rescue of Princess Leia. And they do rescue her — they find her lounging in her cell, asking a little flirtatiously whether Luke is too short for a stormtrooper. Leia goes on to brandish a blaster and hold her own, but the narrative doesn’t allow her

to save herself. Until help arrives, she’s forced to wait.

“The Force Awakens” gives us a parallel scene. Han and ex-stormtrooper Finn invade Starkiller Base and disable its shields before turning their attention to Rey — their Leia, the girl they’ve come to save. But before they can even begin their search, they’re shocked to find her wandering the corridors of the base, having already mind-tricked her way out of her captors’ restraints. In the new galaxy, girls don’t have to wait for men to rescue them. This narrative establishes Rey as her own hero.

I’m excited about Rey’s impact on our expectations of female protagonists, about her beautiful combination of genuine strength and deep sensitivity. I’m excited that the highest-grossing film of all time champions a young woman as its hero. But more than anything, I’m excited for that little girl laying under a church pew somewhere, the girl who’s been captured by imaginary Sith Lords. These days, I don’t think she’ll wait for her Jedi friends to show up — she’ll know she’s more than capable of saving herself.

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zach hailey



hailey to the chief

## The man behind the 'Revenant'

Until you have spent any time in Yellowstone during the winter, you have no idea what cold is. The recent Oscar-nominated film "The Revenant" tells the story of Hugh Glass, a trapper in the 1820s who happened upon a little scuffle with Pooh Bear. The film claims to be based on true events, so when I researched Glass' actual story, I expected little resemblance to the film.

I was shocked to read that according to historynet.com, almost every detail about the physical hardships depicted in the movie were true. He really was slashed up by a grizzly bear no less than 250 miles away from his small team's fur-trading post. When his team found him, he looked as if he was seconds from death. After patching his wounds with ripped-up cloth, they waited for him to breathe his last — but he kept breathing.

Glass refused to die. His gashed throat sputtered with every exhale, but he never stopped breathing. Taking a few branches and crafting a splintered stretcher, the men carried Glass with them for two days. Still, through the cold and harsh weather, Glass continued to breathe. Eventually, the team of trappers were forced to leave Glass behind, fearing that the natives in the area would track and kill them for the pelts they were bringing back to the trading post. Two men from the group, John S. Fitzgerald and 19-year-old Jim Bridger, chose to stay back with Glass, being promised a month's wages to take care of him and, when the time came, to give him a proper burial.

Fitzgerald, driven by the desire for money, grew impatient waiting for his comrade to die. After two days, he convinced young Bridger to take the dying trapper's weapons and tools, 'cause hey — the dead won't need 'em, right?

But even after being left for dead, Glass refused to die. With each day, he found a way to survive. He had one uninjured arm and one uninjured leg. Through days of digging for roots and searching for wild eggs to eat, Glass learned to crawl — then he learned to walk. Driven purely by the desire for sweet revenge against the two goons who left him for dead, something inside Glass kept him alive. Some say it was the fact that he had claimed to have been in worse shape — in tougher conditions.

I hope I never find myself mauled by a bear 250 miles away from the nearest hospital. After reading about the strength of Glass, I put myself in his shoes, and wondered if I would be able to dig deep enough to find the courage to take one more breath, and then another. I finally came to a conclusion — no. Are you kidding me? No. I would be feeding myself to that bear and asking her to tell my mom that I loved her.

Maybe what kept Glass going was the fact that his goal was not to reach a destination 250 miles away. To Glass, the goal was just to take one more breath, no matter how hard it was — take one more breath. Perhaps our story isn't about reaching a goal, but rather about finding a way to take one more breath, no matter how difficult the circumstances. That breath might be a sigh of relief or a gasp for air. Yet somehow, we find a way, like Glass, to take one more breath.

**ZACH HAILEY is the editor-in-chief for the Bison. He may be contacted at zhailey@harding.edu. Twitter: @zach\_hailey**

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 Zach Hailey, the editor-in-chief, at zhailey@harding.edu. "The Bison" (USPS 577-660) is published weekly (except vacations, exams and summer sessions), 20 issues per year, by Harding University. Periodicals postage paid at Searcy, Arkansas 72143. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Bison, Harding University 11192, SEARCY, AR 72149-0001." BYLINE POLICY: The Bison provides an opportunity for class writers to contribute work under the byline "guest writers." Due to this arrangement, staff writers may rewrite a portion of the guest writers' stories as they deem necessary, while still identifying the work as the guest writers' own.

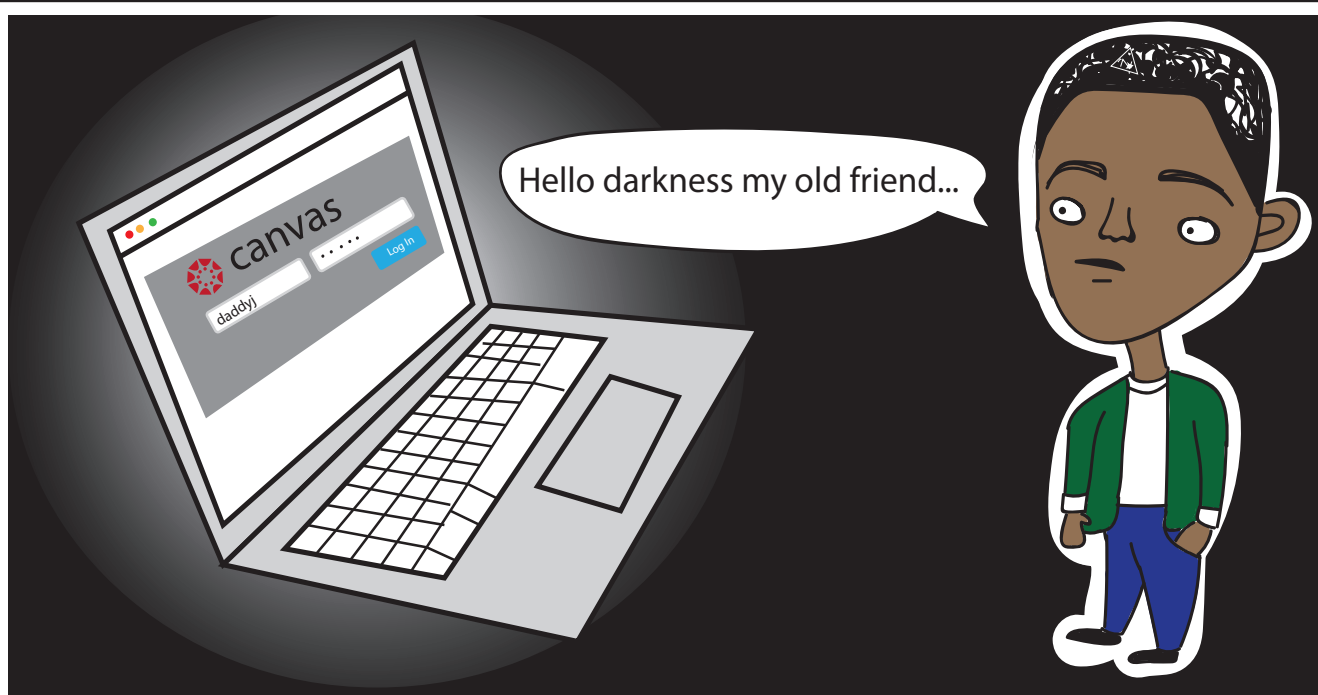


Illustration by RACHEL GIBSON

## The technology blame game

brooke kehl



guest writer

I must admit that it has become unsettling to walk into a classroom to see 25 college students' heads bent over their desks, eyes glued to their phones. Even more unsettling, I often find myself in that same position.

Though technological evolution has brought plenty of positive change, I have recently noticed increased concern about our cultural addiction to technology and its effect on our face-to-face interactions. This tool originally intended to connect humans to one another has built a wall of isolation, seemingly causing a decrease in social skills and an increase in loneliness. Every day I see myself and my friends becoming more and more dependent on a smartphone for human connection rather than physical interpersonal interaction. It was because of this observation

that I started to join the talk of how technology was negatively controlling our lives.

Technology and the era of smartphones have changed the way we connect, and we can reasonably say they have negatively impacted our communication. As a result, the classic flip phone is coming back into vogue, perhaps because it offers fewer distractions to real interaction.

I have seen many friends at Harding decide to make the switch from smartphone to flip phone in efforts to free themselves from the bondage of social technological norms. Some see them as campus heroes, but to those who can't imagine an hour without Internet connection, they seem like outsiders. I see the flip phone movement as an action against cultural expectations and an effort to restore a more rich and intimate communication style.

But after contemplating getting a flip phone because I was feeling guilty about my wasted time, I came to this conclusion: though some would say that technology controls us now, we have given it that control. While switching to a flip phone sounds like a good idea, I think the issue of technology's negative impacts speaks to a deeper problem.

We always need someone or something to

blame for our unhappiness or guilt, and I believe that technology has become a part of that blame game. It has helped us make excuses for our lack of motivation to connect with others.

Perhaps we should no longer allow technology to take the fall for our unhappiness and lack of connection. It is time to empower one another to take responsibility for our choices.

We control each decision we make with smartphones and other technology. Humans do not have to play the role of the victim to technology because we feel enslaved to extensive connection.

Maybe instead of spending energy raging about how technology is controlling our lives, we should consider how to reconnect with friends and family in simple conversations and quality time. By understanding that we don't need the crutch of technology — and that we can choose to look up from our phones — we might be surprised at the genuine connections we could make.

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Interested in writing a guest column?  
Contact Joshua Johnson at jjohnson4@harding.edu.

## Just the Clax

### The making of a canine criminal

The start to 2016 couldn't have been more dramatic at my brother's house in Georgia. On New Year's Eve, he and my sister-in-law went to a show to celebrate their birthdays, which both take place on Dec. 31. They left their Australian Shepherd, Rambler, in charge of the homestead while they were away. For much of the evening, things went well. Rambler roamed around the yard, chased a few butterflies and ordered a sausage pizza from Papa John's. But then the new year happened, and the neighbors started shooting fireworks.

Canines and bottle rockets do not mix. Assuming the house was under siege, Rambler followed the protocol of his guard-dog training and fled the scene. When the family came home, he was gone. It wasn't the first time the old boy had run away. After all, his name was "Rambler," and on a few occasions he had wandered off down the street, or to the lake, or deep into the woods. Once, he hitchhiked to Atlanta for a Braves game — but he always came back the same day. This time, though, something was different.

My brother and his family scouted the neighborhood for two days, and no Rambler. No one had seen the dog, and my sister-in-law was starting to get nervous. Of everyone in the family, she is closest to Rambler. He sleeps by her bedside, takes long walks around the lake with her and sometimes the two of them play a round of Scrabble. So she led the dog-hunt. Since these days he does more waddling than walking, we knew he could not have gotten far.

Every now and then, Rambler would go from house to house in the neighborhood to see what was for dinner. That was no big deal — sometimes I do the same — but none of the people nearby had spotted him



michael claxton

in the last two days. However, rumor had it that a man in a truck had been driving around asking if anyone was missing a dog. Unfortunately, no one remembered his name, or what the dog looked like, or what kind of truck he was driving. On New Year's Day, powers of observation among Georgians are not at their best.

When my sister-in-law had exhausted all her resources, my 20-year-old nephew Jimmy took over the case. Armed with only one clue, he bypassed the traditional pet-searching methods and went straight to the Internet. He did an online search for "guys with trucks" within a five-mile radius of his house. That narrowed things down to only 97 percent of the local population. Even Rambler owned his own Ford pickup. But amazingly, Jimmy managed to track the guy down.

Yes, he had found an Australian Shepherd matching Rambler's description the previous day. But since no one had claimed him, the man had taken Rambler to the pound. Now the game was afoot, and the family began a race against time. My sister-in-law headed straight to the city animal shelter, armed with a bolt cutter, just in case. There had not been time to bake a sawblade into a layer cake. Her worst fears were confirmed when she got there, only to find the pound closed. It was Saturday,

and a holiday weekend at that.

The determined woman called for Rambler, and from deep within the compound, he responded. He may even have barked a verse of "Swing Low." Immediately, my sister-in-law started to case the joint, looking for weak links in the fencing. That's when the police officer turned on his flashlight and said, "Can I help you, ma'am?"

The hour was desperate. Without missing a beat, she said that she had to get her dog out because Rambler had been two days without his medicine. She did not, by the way, clarify that she was referring to his multivitamins from PetSmart. But just between you and me, a fellow can get pretty droopy after two days without his Flintstones Chewables. So the officer made a phone call, and Rambler walked free. The bolt cutter, on the other hand, was confiscated.

Please don't misunderstand me. Generally our family does not tangle with the police this early in the new year. In 2015 we made it all the way to August. Incidentally, later that same day, my nephew used his Internet savvy to track down yet another missing Australian Shepherd. When the grateful owner gave him \$100, Jimmy asked his mother about the reward for finding Rambler. After some intense negotiation, I believe he settled for a grilled cheese sandwich. Meanwhile, Rambler has signed a deal for a Netflix documentary about his time in the joint.

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david salley

Salley  
Says

## Bisons start strong in GAC play

Harding jumps out to early conference lead, Morgan wins 400th game

By Sarah Dixon  
Student Writer

The men's basketball team kicked off the spring semester with two wins on the road in Oklahoma. On Jan. 7, the Bisons played against East Central University (ECU) in Ada, Oklahoma, where senior guard Blake McNair hit a 30-foot three-pointer at the buzzer, tying the game and sending it into overtime. The Bisons defeated ECU 96-93, marking the 400th career win for head coach Jeff Morgan.

"I do get a little reflective with each big milestone," Morgan said. "You're just so grateful and appreciative of not only the guys for

letting us coach them, but for their parents for sending them our way."

Sophomore guard Reggie Anthony scored a career-high 25 points against ECU. Anthony said everyone on the team has had to step up since losing senior Andraz Kavas for the rest of the season to an ACL injury. Kavas was averaging 26.4 points per game this season.

"You lose a great player like AK (Kavas) and a lot of people would tend to duck their heads and feel sorry for themselves," Morgan said. "These guys never once have. They've been committed to the process, committed every

day to come out and be the best they can be."

The Bisons finished out their trip with an 82-70 win against Southeastern Oklahoma State University (SOSU) in Durant, Oklahoma, on Jan. 9.

"It's tough to win two back-to-back on the road," Anthony said. "You've got to steal some on the road and try to win as many at home as you can."

After the two wins in Oklahoma, senior guard Jacob Gibson was named Great American Conference (GAC) Player of the Week for week nine of the 2015-16 season. Gibson reached the 20-point mark in both games and set a

career high of six assists against SOSU. Gibson said his success comes from dedicated practice and encouragement from his teammates.

The Bisons came home to split their next two games. On Jan. 14, they defeated University of Arkansas at Monticello 78-64 making it their fifth straight GAC win. On Jan. 16, the Bisons fell short in their attempt to take back the lead in the second half, losing to Ouachita Baptist University 62-58.

According to Gibson, playing so many games in such a short amount of time is physically and mentally demanding.

"It's going to be a busy stretch; practice one day, play the next," Morgan said. "We know it's going to be tough every night. This league is really balanced."

The Bisons earned another road victory on Jan. 18 against the Arkansas Tech University Wonder Boys. The Bisons won 102-83, setting the record for 3-pointers in a road game with 19.

The Bisons are 8-6 overall and 7-2 in the GAC. They are tied for first place with ECU and OBU. They will take on Henderson State University at home tomorrow at 7:30 p.m. in the Rhodes-Reaves Fieldhouse.

## More play, fewer fouls

I love college basketball. I always have. When I was a kid I memorized who won the national championship in college basketball every year from 1960-2008. No joke, come ask me sometime. It's safe to say I'm about as big of a college basketball fan as you can find, so what I'm about to write pains me greatly.

One afternoon over winter break I found myself watching the South Carolina vs. Memphis basketball game. The Gamecocks won (which really should be the main point here, especially considering we easily could have disbanded our men's basketball program five years ago without anyone blaming us), but that wasn't what stuck with me. It was the 68 combined fouls called and the 99 combined free throws shot. That's not a misprint. There were almost twice as many fouls called as shots made, and South Carolina had more free throws than Memphis had shots from the field. It was a prime example of why college basketball is almost unwatchable today.

For the 2013-14 season the NCAA passed new rules in college basketball. Dubbed the "freedom of movement" rules, they emphasize better fundamental defense; which, if you look at what a score-fest the NBA is, probably wasn't a bad idea. The problem is that the rules cut out just about any contact between a defender and the man with the ball. The thinking process was that a dribbler should be able to move freely and make an offensive move to score without getting bumped or hit in any way. Unfortunately, the rule has been taken to an extreme level in the last two years, to the point that it is hurting the college game.

Today if you go up and get touched in the paint, it's a foul almost 100 percent of the time. If you bump a ball handler 35 feet from the basket? Foul. It has almost completely eliminated the back-and-forth transition game in college because there's a whistle on almost every play. Instead of promoting better defense, the new rules reward terrible basketball. Players throw themselves wildly into the lane because they know they'll get calls, turning the game into a 40-minute free throw shooting contest. It's horrible.

Here's the bottom line: it's impossible to not touch people in basketball. Guys shouldn't get mugged going to the basket, but they shouldn't get bailed out just because they were touched, either. You shouldn't be allowed to grab someone dribbling the ball, but if you barely touch them with your hand, is that really a foul? Until the NCAA finds the happy medium between too rough and whatever it is we have now, the college game is going to suffer.

DAVID SALLEY is the sports editor for the Bison. He may be contacted at dsalley@harding.edu. Twitter: @dsalley24



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Senior pitcher Andrew Fiddler throws a pitch during the Bisons' 5-4 win over Missouri Western State University on Feb. 7, 2015. Fiddler is one of three returning players selected as a GAC All-Conference performer in 2015.

## Baseball reloads, aims for title in 2016

With eight starters back, deep pitching staff, Bisons ready for GAC's best

By David Salley  
Sports Editor

It may not be April yet, but for the Bisons baseball team, opening day is right around the corner.

After a competitive campaign in 2015 that saw them make the Great American Conference (GAC) Tournament for the third straight year, the Bisons are poised to take the next step in 2016 on the back of a roster loaded with talent and experience.

"It's huge," head coach Patrick McGaha said. "It makes such a difference to have that many seniors back. The majority of those guys have been together for three years, so the mentality of a club like that and the expectations that they have for themselves is very, very important."

The Bisons return 18 lettermen and eight starters from a team who finished third in the GAC in 2015, including three senior All-GAC performers: first-team catcher Davis Richardson, second-team pitcher Andrew Fiddler and honorable mention outfielder Harrison Hunter. Richardson, the 2015 GAC male scholar athlete of the year and the Bisons' returning leader in batting average, RBI and homeruns, said the sky is the limit for this year's team.

"Our team is really deep," Richardson said. "So we have big goals and expectations for this season. But we don't worry about the big picture much. We know if we go out and play the way we're capable of and give each day its due, we'll be able to win our last game."

The Bisons aren't the only ones setting the bar high in 2016. The preseason coaches' poll for the GAC ranked the Bisons third out of 12 teams, trailing only three-time defending GAC champions Southern Arkansas University and 2015 College World Series participant Henderson State University. McGaha said that while the team doesn't shy away from the predictions, they don't give it too much attention either.

"We talk about the fact that anything that goes on outside of our baseball family doesn't really matter," McGaha said. "People may say we're going to be successful or not, but we don't worry about those things. We preach that if we take care of our business, and if we go through the process

and do things the right way, that the results will take care of themselves."

Although they did not lose many players from 2015, one loss the Bisons will have to overcome is that of pitcher Collin Campbell to a right elbow injury that will cost him his senior season. Campbell, the team leader in strikeouts last season with 51, played an integral part of the Bisons' success the last three years. McGaha said now is the time for some of the Bisons' young pitchers to show what they can do.

"Losing a young man like Collin Campbell, who has done so many things for you the last three years, is tough," McGaha said. "It is going to change things (in the pitching rotation) a little, but it's also going to give some young pitchers a chance

to step up."

Despite the loss of Campbell, there will still be plenty of players to choose from in the Bisons' pitching staff, as they return eight pitchers who pitched 10 innings or more last season. That depth in the bullpen, coupled with the strength of 13 seniors, has set the bar high for the Bisons in 2016, but it is a bar Richardson says they are ready to take on.

"We've all worked very hard in our time here to better the culture of Harding baseball," Richardson said. "Winning a conference championship would be a great way to put our seal on our time here."

The Bisons open 2016 with a doubleheader against St. Edward's University at noon and 3 p.m. on Jan. 30 at home.



BRITTNEY GARRINGER | THE BISON

The major renovations to the Ganus Athletic Center as well as construction on the new basketball and volleyball practice facility made major strides during winter break. Both projects are expected to be finished and ready for student use by the beginning of the 2016 fall semester.

## Lady Bisons overcome injuries with fight, spirit

By Melissa Hite  
Editorial Asst.

By Brooklyn Billner  
Student Writer

On Saturday, Jan. 9, head women's basketball coach Tim Kirby won his 200th game with the Lady Bisons in overtime against Southeastern Oklahoma University. Following a hard loss to East Central University (ECU) on Jan. 7, the win began a 3-1 streak that would make the team 7-2 in the Great American Conference (GAC).

Junior guard Andi Haney led the team to victory, scoring a career high 30 points. In overtime, three players scored 20 points to bring in the 103-95 win.

"I was really proud of the way we battled," Kirby said. "It was very positive for our team mentality.

We've got to be able to handle adversity."

Following the initial triumph, the Lady Bisons went on to defeat the University of Arkansas at Monticello (UAM) in the Rhodes-Reaves Fieldhouse on Thursday, Jan. 14. Junior forward Mackenzie McNamara led the team by scoring 15 points, securing the 82-50 victory. The team continued its streak on Saturday, Jan. 16, at home against Ouachita Baptist University (OUA), winning 71-53.

Arkansas Tech University (ATU) finally slashed the three-game winning streak on Monday, Jan. 18, saddling the Lady Bisons with a 80-52 loss. However, the team is staying positive. According to Kirby, after losing freshman center Sydnie Jones and junior forward Corey Moyer to injury over winter break, with nine eligible players, the team's

main goal is to get a little better every day. Haney agreed, adding that the team is working towards cohesiveness.

"We are focusing on togetherness — being together and playing as a unit, not individually," Haney said.

Despite an injury keeping her from playing this season, Moyer is helping with this team vision of unity. Moyer said she hopes to do her part by cheering from the bench and being a source of encouragement for her teammates.

The Lady Bisons play tomorrow against Henderson State University at 5:30 p.m. in the Rhodes-Reaves Fieldhouse and will then travel to Magnolia, Arkansas on Monday to play their rescheduled game against Southern Arkansas University.

## Experience, leadership guide softball into third season

By Caleb Rowan  
Asst. Sports Writer

The Harding softball team, led by 11 upperclassmen, has high expectations for the 2016 season in its third year as an intercollegiate program. Head coach Phil Berry will rely on a loaded junior class as the Lady Bisons search for their first Great American Conference (GAC) title.

"That original class that came in are juniors now and they have some experience under their belt," Berry said. "They are doing a great job providing leadership so we expect to build on the progress of the last two years."

According to Berry, the team has focused on improving its play on the mound after losing its top two pitchers last year.

"We know that the area we're going to have to pay the most attention to is our pitching staff,"

Berry said. "We're definitely younger and more inexperienced in the circle."

Berry said he believes the Lady Bisons' strength will be their offense, which averaged over 5 runs a game last season and hit 36 home runs.

Senior infielder Kinsey Beck, who finished last season with a .346 batting average and 21 runs scored, said they plan on taking it one game at a time.

"I think we're going to do really well this year," Beck said. "Our main focus is taking it day by day because we can't go 10-0 until we're 1-0."

The preseason poll landed the Lady Bisons 6th in the GAC, which had three teams in the post-season a year ago, but Berry and Beck both foresee a higher finish.

"We obviously want to win the conference, but we want to start with game one," Beck said. "It's not where you start, it's where you finish."

Berry believes the unity of the team will ultimately spell the difference between victory and defeat for the Lady Bisons.

"We know it's a very strong conference, and every weekend we go play a conference series it is a battle," Berry said. "But I like the team chemistry that we're building and I like the effort and energy that comes to practice every day."

As the Lady Bisons look toward their first game on Saturday, Jan. 30, against Christian Brothers University in Memphis, Tennessee, Berry said that, most importantly, he wants his team to enjoy the opportunity to play.

"It's been a tremendous opportunity for the university, for myself personally, and for the players to help restore (the program)," Berry said. "We're just looking forward to getting out on the field and making the university proud."

# LOCKER TALK

Our Athletes' Views on Pop Culture

## questions

Most exciting thing you did over winter break?

Went shooting for the first time.

I didn't do much, we stayed on campus for the most part because of basketball practice.

Won two conference games on the road.

Watch four seasons of "One Tree Hill".

I went to Nashville, Tennessee, for the first time.

New Years resolutions you've already broken?

I didn't do any New Year's resolutions.

My New Year's resolution was not to drink Cokes...but I broke it January 2.

Eat chocolate.

Drink soda.

I am so bad at keeping them that I stopped making them.

What's your dream car?

Ferrari Enzo.

My dream car is a Ferrari.

A cool truck.

Range Rover.

Acura NSX.

Peanut butter or Nutella?

Nutella big time.

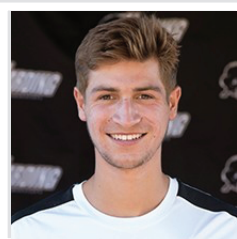
Definitely Nutella.

Nutella.

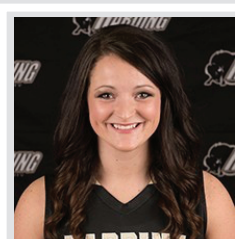
Nutella.

Peanut butter.

Neto Cacace  
Tennis



Sydney Layrock  
Basketball



Will Francis  
Basketball



Falan Miller  
Basketball



Matt Brashear  
Baseball





## Harding CIO earns award after survey

By Lexi Bybee  
Student Writer

He had just moved towns and began knocking on departments' doors to find a job. About 40 years later, Keith Cronk, chief information officer (CIO) and vice president of information systems and technology (IS&T), was named one of the top 20 CIOs in North America in November of 2015 by Info-Tech Research Group, a research and advisory company created to help IT leaders and teams improve efficacy.

According to Keith Cronk, Info-Tech Research Group requested Harding to participate in a Business Vision survey in July 2014 to evaluate usage of technology on campus. The results were compiled by the organization from an information technology perspective and returned to the IS&T department.

He said the survey has benefitted the IS&T department, and it was able to adjust some of its priorities based on the feedback that was received.

"We got some really good information," Keith Cronk said. "(The survey) gives us an idea of where we were headed, what people were thinking and how we could improve."

According to Keith Cronk, the IS&T department surveys, which were sent out to 900 Harding employees, had a 48 percent response rate, one of the highest compared to other institutions. Keith Cronk said the return surprised not only him, but also the Info-Tech Research Group. Keith Cronk said receiving the award was a surprise because the Info-Tech Research Group works with organizations around the world.

"I had no idea that anything like this (award) was attached to this survey," Keith Cronk said. "They use the results from the survey to determine who they give the awards to, so it's really the Harding community that provided the information."

Mike Chalenburg, the assistant vice president of information systems and technology, worked closely with Keith Cronk on the Business Vision survey.

"I think it's a reflection on the whole department in addition to him," Chalenburg said.

Keith Cronk started working at Harding in 1999 and has been Harding's CIO for 15 years.

Not only have Keith Cronk and the IS&T department helped to improve Harding using the Business Vision survey, but his wife, Management Information Systems Director Dr. Reet Cronk, said Keith Cronk is also involved with talking to the students in her classes.

"I teach a class called Systems Planning and Management and it's great to have him come over," Dr. Reet Cronk said. "The students ask question after question ... it's just wonderful for the students to have that opportunity."

Keith Cronk works directly with the library and e-learning areas of the IS&T department. IS&T also works directly with networking such as Pipeline, DormNet and Canvas. According to Keith Cronk, the Business Vision survey reported a 90 percent satisfaction and a 90 percent value rates for the IS&T resources. Dr. Reet Cronk said she hopes for more technology students to become more involved in the IS&T department.



AMANDA FLOYD | The Bison

Keith Cronk, chief information officer (CIO) and vice president of information systems and technology (IS&T) was named among the top 20 CIOs in North America in November 2015. He was chosen after the Business Vision survey was conducted through the IS&T department.



Courtesy of Haley Anzalone

Fashion merchandising students stand near the fountain in Central Park during their time in New York City over the last week of winter break. Students also traveled to Washington, D.C., and toured the White House.

## Fashion students travel to New York City and Washington, D.C.

By Erin Hanson  
Student Writer

Colorful confetti drifted lazily off of rooftops, police barriers were tossed casually on sidewalks and hundreds of people with zombie-like expressions were met on New Year's Day by a wide-eyed group of college kids ready to experience New York City.

Over the last week of Christmas break, Harding's fashion merchandising department offered an hour credit to those interested in an educational trip to New York City and Washington, D.C. Rebecca Boaz, assistant professor of family consumer science, organized the trip with Dr. Jim Miller, chair of the communications department, and public relations professor Dr. Jack Shock.

"The first time I went to New York was right after I graduated from high school with the fashion department," Boaz said. "I was 18 and loved it, and

this is the first time that we've done it since then."

The communication, business, theatre and fashion departments collaborated to plan the nine-day trip for the 101 students that attended. Boaz said that traveling with such a large group of students posed a challenge while planning the trip.

"I didn't over-plan us on purpose because I didn't know how complicated it was going to be to get from point A to point B," Boaz said.

While in New York City, the trip was structured around meetings with professionals, iconic tours and free time to explore the city.

"One day we walked along 5th Avenue and looked at all the Christmas windows because we had been taking classes on visual display, so that was neat," junior Kenzie Mitchell, a fashion merchandising major, said. "We met with different designers as

our own group and then did the big tours with the whole trip."

The students visited NBC Studios, Radio City Music Hall and the 9/11 Memorial. Mitchell said her favorite part of the trip was going to Mood, a designer fabric store featured on the TV show "Project Runway." Boaz also said she enjoyed visiting Mood and had to buy an extra suitcase to fit the new fabric she bought.

Mitchell was one of 10 students who made up the fashion group. Freshman Colton French, a fashion merchandising major, said the trip renewed his love for New York City.

"I would love to live there," French said. "If I have to live in a tiny apartment with five roommates, I don't care, that's where I want to be."

The students also traveled to Washington, D.C., where they toured the White House and visited with officials from the U.S. Department of State.

## Director appointed for student services

By Phoebe Cunningham  
Asst. Copy Editor

In August 2015, Tiffany Byers was appointed as the director of multicultural student services, a new position in the Center for Student Success. Byers works closely with minority students to connect them with resources necessary to their academic and social success.

A native of nearby city Augusta, Arkansas, Byers came to campus in 2006 as a staff member in the finance office working with bi-weekly payroll. She later became the administrative assistant in the Center for Student Success.

As a first generation college graduate in her family, Byers said her own trials as a college student prepared her to relate with students. Byers graduated from the University of Arkansas with a business degree and said she remembers the financial and academic struggles she faced.

According to Byers, her day-to-day responsibilities involve connecting students to tools that will improve their Harding experience. She spends time meeting with students to discuss challenges they are facing and introducing students to academic services such as advising, tutoring and career counseling.

"There are students from all over the world, a long way from parents and friends, and when I cross their paths, it's my desire to be what they need at that very moment," Byers said.

Dean of Student Success Dr. Kevin Kehl, who works closely with Byers, said she brings several advantages to her new role, including her knowledge of Harding culture. According to Kehl, Byers has an insider view of students because of the various roles she has played and her involvement on campus.

"Anyone who's ever interacted with Mrs. Byers has found she has a very gentle spirit, yet she is quick to perceive what is going on and able to connect resources that are needed by the students," Kehl said.

Kehl said Byers' outreach on campus has brought more people to the Center for Student Success and has connected students with new opportunities. Byers said she hopes to make new cultural experiences available to students on campus by bringing more multicultural events.

"Arkansas is not just Harding is a big part of the experience for students to be here, but there is a very rich culture here," Byers said. "There is a wealth of talent and abilities right here in Arkansas. I would love for students all over the country and all over the world to see that."

Byers said she believes it is important for students from other countries to interact.

"We won't always see eye-to-eye, but we all have wonderful things to bring to the table," Byers said. "We just need the opportunity to share them."

Byers offers students with unique experiences through her work with the Multicultural Student Action Committee (MSAC). Byers provides planning and executing ideas, events and trips for participants to connect with other cultures and students.

Byers said she has other goals for her position, including starting a mentoring program in the coming years. Byers said the mentoring program would match students, especially incoming freshmen, with faculty, staff or fellow students to help them in their college journey.

Byers said the most gratifying part of her new role is when she hears success stories from students she has worked with.

"The most rewarding (part) is when students come back and tell me they did something they thought they couldn't do, (whether it's) pass a class or get a certain grade in a class," Byers said. "When they come back and say, 'Mrs. Tiffany, thank you, you were a big help, I didn't think I could do it; thank you for taking the time to talk with me.'"





## 2016 BEST PICTURE OSCAR NOMINEES

By Jordan Doyle

Beat Reporter

### “The Big Short”

Christian Bale, Ryan Gosling, Steve Carrell and Brad Pitt star in this latest movie about the 2007 financial crisis. When four financiers closely examine stocks and the housing market, they predict the 2007 financial depression and find a way to take advantage of this discovery. “The Big Short” follows these four men as they attempt to profit from not only the inevitable market collapse, but also the banks’ ignorance of the situation. [R]

### “The Martian”

Astronaut Mark Watney is presumed dead on Mars after encountering a fierce storm, and is left behind by his fellow astronauts. Once Watney wakes up, he realizes he has been left alone with few resources. “The Martian” follows Watney’s journey of survival alone on Mars, and his attempts of signaling Earth before his depleting supplies run out. Other nominations for this film include best production design, sound editing, sound mixing, visual effects and adapted screenplay. [PG-13]

### “Brooklyn”

In the 1950s, Irish native Eilis Lacey decides to leave behind her homeland and move to Brooklyn. After navigating through a new country and trying to make a place for herself in New York, she falls in love with an Italian plumber. A new man pops into Lacey’s life, though, when she returns to Ireland for a visit. Lacey then must choose which life she wants for herself. [PG-13]

### “The Revenant”

Hugh Glass is on a fur trading expedition with a hunting team in the 1820s. After a bear mauls Glass, he is abandoned by his team and is left for dead in the middle of the wilderness. When Glass awakens, he treks through the uncharted lands to find his team and his family, all the while trying to survive with his brutal injuries. This film has the most nominations out of the others in its category, including best cinematography, costume design, directing, film editing, makeup and hairstyling, production design, sound editing, sound mixing and visual effects. [R]

### “Bridge of Spies”

When a Soviet Union spy is arrested in the height of the Cold War, an American lawyer defends him in court. As this happens, an American pilot is captured by the Soviets. The lawyer is then flown to Berlin to negotiate the trade of the two captured fighters. The attorney must figure out a way to make two countries work together at a time when war surrounds every aspect of life. [PG-13]

### “Room”

All 5-year-old Jack has ever known is the one room in which he has been held captive in with his mom. One day, his mom decides it is time to escape their kidnapper and the prison he has forced upon her and her son. Based on one of New York Times’ top 10 books of 2010, “Room” tells the story of Jack’s first encounter with the real world. This film has also been nominated for best directing and adapted screenplay. Brie Larson received a nomination for best actress in a lead role for this movie. [R]

### “Mad Max: Fury Road”

The fourth movie of the “Mad Max” franchise, “Mad Max: Fury Road,” returns to the life of Max Rockatansky, a post-apocalyptic road warrior. When a warlord captures apocalypse survivors, Imperator Furiosa manages to escape. Furiosa and Rockatansky form an alliance to take down the enslaver before he wipes out more people. This movie is also nominated for best cinematography, costume design, directing, film editing, makeup and hairstyling, production design, sound editing, sound mixing and visual effects. [R]

### “Spotlight”

Winner of the Critics’ Choice Award for outstanding film of 2015, “Spotlight,” follows the true Pulitzer Prize-winning investigation of the Catholic Church. When Boston Globe journalists begin delving into child molestation allegations, they discover corruption that reaches far beyond Boston and the church. The year-long investigation uncovers worldwide abuses from both corrupt clergyman and from legal establishments. [R]

Graphic by Sawyer Hite and Rachel Gibson

## College of Pharmacy to provide free health screenings, tips

By Abby Kilgore

Student Writer

According to statisticbrain.com, the number one New Year’s resolution is to lose weight. The fifth most popular New Year’s resolution is to stay fit and healthy. However, most people do not know where to begin. Getting a health screening is the perfect first step towards completing the New Year’s resolution goal of staying healthy.

The College of Pharmacy will hold free health screenings for students and the community on Feb. 13 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Monica Prince, a fourth year student of the College of Pharmacy, is leading the project.

Prince said the screenings will offer blood pressure checks, blood sugar checks, body mass index checks, exercise suggestions and nutritional information. Pharmacy students will also answer any questions that patients have about medications.

These health screenings will take place in the Clinical Skills Lab, located on the corner of East Park Avenue and Jimmy Carr Drive.

Those who register for this event, can sign up to win free

tickets for non-students to a Bisons basketball game.

Ellen Jones, a fourth year pharmacy student, encouraged everyone to come to the health screening.

“The health screenings will involve discussions on health and nutrition, so it is beneficial to come, even if you do not have serious health problems,” Jones said.

Health screenings also provide opportunities for pharmacy students like Prince and Jones to use their knowledge about health and nutrition.

“One of the best ways to stay active in college is taking a

cardio-based exercise class each semester,” Prince said. “This is an easy way to incorporate daily exercise into your routine.”

Jones said she feels the most important way to stay healthy in college is to make sure to take time for sleep and exercise.

“College students usually never get enough sleep,” Jones said, “However, getting adequate amounts of sleep is one of the best ways to stay healthy.”

Senior Rachel Autrey, a general studies major with an emphasis in science, said staying healthy in college means “starting small.”

“Get in a pattern of making small, healthy decisions,” Autrey said. “These will lead to bigger and better decisions.”

Autrey said that doing something as small as giving up soda or other sugary drinks can help improve your health.

“Being consistent is the hardest thing about staying healthy in college,” Autrey said.

Autrey said that it is important to establish a consistent pattern and try to maintain it.

Students can stay informed about the health screening by going to [www.facebook.com/HUCOPSYF](http://www.facebook.com/HUCOPSYF).

## Harding Alumnae on ‘The Bachelor’

By Lauren Hargett

Student Writer

What if someone were to tell you that you would become the next winner of “The Voice?” Or get accepted to compete on “The Amazing Race?” While these things may seem far beyond our reach, alumna Rachel Tchen is changing the way we think about life after graduation. This 2014 Harding graduate was chosen to be one of the 28 contestants on ABC’s 20th season of “The Bachelor.”

Tchen’s appearance on this hit reality TV show has many students asking how this Little Rock, Arkansas, local from a small Christian college got accepted out of the hundreds of women that applied. According to alumna Kinzie Morris, a friend of Tchen’s, one

of their mutual friends submitted Tchen’s application.

“There was a group of 11 or so of us that used to always watch ‘The Bachelor’ together all throughout college,” Morris said. “We always used to joke with Rachel about signing her up and then one day, someone actually did it.”

Senior Erin Davis became friends with Tchen through her older sister and alumni, Emily Davis. After graduation, Emily Davis and Tchen both accepted jobs in Little Rock, Arkansas, and became roommates. Erin Davis said she has been able to spend lots of time with Tchen because her sister brings her around the family so often.

“It always surprises me when I see her face (on TV),” Erin Davis said. “I kind of like freak out for a second,”

Tchen’s “little sister” in Ju Go Ju, junior Amy Davis, said that Tchen is her “claim to fame” right now, and that she loves bragging about it to everyone she knows.

“She was the best big there ever was,” Amy Davis said. “I just want everyone to know how great she is and that she’s not just another pretty face.”

According to Amy Davis, the biggest reason for watching this season of “The Bachelor” is to support Tchen.

“It’s just really fun seeing a down-to-earth, awesome, hilarious, cool girl that I know on there,” Amy Davis said. “Everyone should get to meet Rachel Tchen.”

Keep up with Harding’s very own bachelorette, Rachel Tchen. “The Bachelor” airs on ABC every Monday at 7p.m. CDT.



AMANDA FLOYD | The Bison

The College of Pharmacy is providing free health screenings on Feb. 13 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Pharmacy students will also provide tips for a healthy lifestyle, like cutting down on soft drinks.

## Don’t Bother with these New Year’s Resolutions

A series to help keep you safe from unnecessary television, holiday failures and other time-wasters

By Rachel Brackins

Head Copy Editor

### I’m going to be a better person.

Not long ago you took a good, hard look at yourself, made note of all the imperfections riddling your personality and pledged to change every single one of them. You promptly wrote this life-changing decision down in your leather-bound journal and posted an inspirational photo on Instagram. It’s now Jan. 22, and you’re lying on the cold floor of your dorm room in the fetal position realizing how absolutely ridiculous it was to think that a complete personality overhaul would be so easy. It’s unattainable — it’s unhealthy. Making a vague commitment is worse than

making no commitment at all. So start small — the term “baby steps” doesn’t just apply to infants. Be kind to yourself and set small, reachable goals. Use the cashier’s name. Walk to class without looking at your phone. Pay for someone’s chicken biscuit. It doesn’t have to be earth-shattering, just a small step up from what you did last year.

### I’m going to cut back on things.

“Stop spending so much time watching Netflix.” “Don’t get on social media.” “Avoid complaining.” These aren’t bad aspirations, but negative language feels limiting rather than liberating. Focusing on what you can’t do is depressing. Change your mindset and

focus instead on what the changes will allow you to do. Be honest with yourself. Do you feel alive, refreshed and positive after spending five hours watching Netflix? Does scrolling through social media bring you peace and a sense of accomplishment? Probably not. Let’s take a trip back to when you were a 12-year-old. What did you do to pass the time? Did you read? Climb trees? Draw? Sing? Write? Swing? Make bracelets? Shoot basketball? As you begin to remove negative elements from your life, remember that it frees up time to do the things you love (and have maybe forgotten about). “Start reading.” “Get on a swing.” “Embrace

encouragement.” You have a lot to look forward to.

### I’m going to travel the world and see new places.

Again, this isn’t a terrible idea. It’s easy to become disenchanted with a town you spend a large amount of time in — you drive the same roads, eat at the same restaurants and see the same people. And while traveling to foreign lands has been known to bring positive, life-changing experiences, sometimes it just isn’t practical. We are students. We have homework and loans and responsibilities. But the same town we’ve grown tired of is full of roads we’ve never driven on, small cafes we’ve never visited and people

we’ve never met. Instead of dreaming to see new places, try to see old places with new eyes. Live each day, each drive to Tropical Smoothie, as if you were a tourist. Notice the

smells, stores, people, parks and events as if you were noticing them for the first time. If you are living with a sense of adventure, you won’t have to go very far to find it.



Graphic by Tori Strother